

ascent, which we called *Barriga Patagonica* (6a+/A1- V+, 650m). At 6 a.m., we stood at the base of the wall. We took a rest at the bivy for three hours, then left for BC with all the gear.

Four days later we left for Guillaumet, thinking to climb a new line on the west face. The weather was bad again. In bad weather, we climbed the Northwest Ridge (V A0, 400m) (Comesaña-Fonrouge) in three and a half hours. We departed BC on February 20, 2000.

KLEMEN MALI, *Slovenia*

*Aguja Guillaumet, North-Northwest Ridge, Free Ascent and Other Activity.* Bruce Miller and I arrived at Chalten at the end of November with the intentions of trying the *Supercanaleta* on Fitz Roy. After our first and only attempt on December 3, we decided against it, for it was in poor shape. During our seven-week “super-expensive camping trip,” we refined our camping techniques, bouldered much, got fat and managed to get some hand jams on the lesser summits of this proud range. We climbed the North-Northeast Ridge on Guillaumet for possibly the route’s first free ascent, for Bruce sent the A2 pitch at .10+ tight handies. The climbing was excellent, but the summit was not obtained; high winds forced us to retreat. We rapped the route.

We tried to climb the Franco-Argentine Route on Fitz Roy for several weeks with no great height gained because a four-week storm did not give us a window of opportunity. During our last days in, we managed to climb the Kearney Route on St. Exupery (IV 5.10), the Anglo-American Route with the Kearney Variation on Innominata (IV 5.11-), *Medialuna* (III 5.11), and Bruce and Bruno Sourzac linked up and climbed a new route (III WI4) on Cerro Solo.

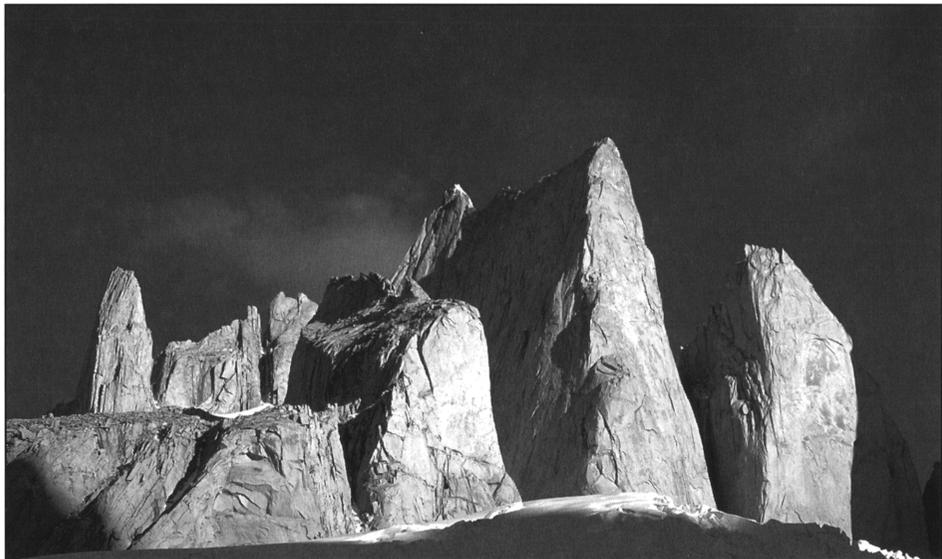
KENT McCLANNAN

*Aguja Guillaumet, East Face, Attempt.* Dave Hesleden and I went to attempt the West Face of Fitz Roy in November and December, 1998. In actual fact it was quite snowy and icy, so we switched to the east side. After one attempt at the Franco-Argentine Route on the big Fitz (all the cracks were full of ice), we realized that we would be better off trying to climb on mixed routes. We did 450 meters of good climbing on the [400-meter] east face of Guillaumet, abseiling off two to three rope lengths from the top due to constant spindrift. The climbing was good and hard: Scottish VI/VII-ish with poor protection on the second half.

ANDY CAVE, *United Kingdom*

*Torrecita Tito Carrasco, First Ascent, and Cerro Pollone, West Pillar, A Fine Piece.* In November, 1999, I went back to Patagonia with Jim Donini with no fixed objectives but hopeful of finding some good unclimbed terrain above the Marconi Glacier. Armed with info provided by my hero, Rolando Garibotti, and after some reconnaissance, we settled on a pair of decent prospects.

At our first opportunity, we climbed a beautiful virgin tower that is the first peak on the ridge north of the main summit of Cerro Pollone and named it “Torrecita Tito Carrasco” in honor of a friend of Jim’s wife, Angela. Tito died in Angela’s arms after he was struck by rockfall while sport climbing at El Portrero Chico, Mexico, in 1997. We followed the path of least resistance with sections of snow, ice and mixed, capped by a few nice pitches of moderate rock. The last few meters of rime and rock to the absolute summit were spicy. In all, an excellent day outing.



*Torrecita Tito Carrasco is the small pillar on the left. The Crouch-Donini route roughly follows the sun/shadow line. The prominent formation in the center is the west pillar of Pollone. A Fine Piece ascends the sun/shadow line. The sun-lit formation to its right has no known routes. GREG COUCH*

A week or so later we got a second opportunity and went after the West Pillar of Cerro Pollone, which had been attempted by Michel Piola and Daniel Anker of Switzerland some years before. We took two days and 16 pitches to get to the top of the pillar, which featured tons of high-angle free climbing on superb rock. The summit view from the top of the pillar is astonishing: all the peaks of the Fitz Roy massif, an incredible angle on Cerro Torre, both the east and west faces of Piergorgio, and stunning views out over the ice cap—probably the best I've had in Patagonia.

After limited discussion over a quart of whisky decanted into a plastic Coke bottle, we decided to name the climb *A Fine Piece*, as revenge for the gruesomely politically correct name *Greenpeace*, a nearby route that an Italian team did up the nose of Piergorgio's west face. I whole-heartedly recommend *A Fine Piece* to anyone interested in an alternative to the madding crowds on Cerro Torre's *Compressor Route* or on Fitz Roy's Franco-Argentine route. *A Fine Piece* has a very straightforward approach, much less objective hazard than that found on the approaches to those standard routes on Fitz or Torre, lots of quality freeclimbing, several killer bivy ledges and a better summit view. I think the whole route would go free with just a few short sections of 5.11 (and maybe not even that). The right team should be able to peel the whole thing off in a single day.

GREG COUCH

*Cerro Piergiorgio, West Face, All You Need is Love.* Michel Bordet and I put up the tent at the foot of Piergiorgio: 600 to 900 meters high and two kilometers wide, one part facing northwest, the other, west. Both aspects had only one route.

A brief look at the west face and our route is traced, beginning with a small, 50-meter