

*Taruca Umana Valleys, New Routes, Previously Unreported.* In August, 1999, Britons Roger Barton, Mark Bramidge, Jim and Sue Savege, Catrin Thomas, and Iain Wright established 18 new routes in the Taruca Umana valleys of the northern Quimsa Cruz. They initially climbed from a base camp at the confluence of the Laguna Chillhua Khota (eastern) and Laguna Barras Khota (northern) valleys, then later from a camp at the abandoned mining village below Laguna Chillhua Khota, at 4420 meters. New routes, all climbed onsite with only wires and cams (no fixed gear), included the north and east faces of Erste Mauer, the large southeast-facing slabs of Taruca Umana (4852m) and Nuevo Zongo (4920m), a route on Cuernos de Diablo (5271m), and Tower IV of the Mama Okilo Group (4900m).

New three- to six-pitch routes on the excellent granite of the Cerro Taruca Umana pyramids were climbed, including *Day In Day Out* (E2 5c, four pitches, Bramidge-Savege-Savege) on the northeast face of the Red Pyramid. Four new routes were established on Erste Mauer's steep north face, including *Cuts Like a Knife* (E1 5c, four pitches, Bramidge-Sue Savege-Wright). To the 1987 German Route on the north face/northeast ridge of Gross Mauer (ca. 4900m), VS 5a variations were climbed, while on the peak's eastern side, *Lejos Lado* (HVS 5a, Barton-Bramidge-Thomas) was put up to the col between Cuernos del Daiblo and the Grosse Mauer. Barton and Thomas made a long, complex new route (TD-, HVS 5a) on the north face of the Diablo, the final 200-plus meters finishing on the northwest ridge.

Also climbed were the northwest ridge of Cerro Torrini (5131m, D+ V+) and a small tower (5021m) they called Pico Sally at the northern head of the Laguna Barras Khota Valley. These were assumed to be repeats. (*High Mountain Sports* 215)

*Taruca Umana Valley and Cerro Auchuma, Various New Routes.* Based on a conversation with Sue Savege, we decided to concentrate on further exploration of the Taruca Umana valleys and of the unexplored Cerro Achuma and Cerro Jankho Willkhi ranges. We were in Bolivia for the whole of August. The team, mostly from Wales (Cymru), comprised Mike Rosser, John James, Wayne Gladwin, Sharon Abbott, Paul Westwood, and Brian Cummins (expedition doctor).

After a few days in La Paz acclimatizing and buying food, we traveled in two jeeps to the Quimsa Cruz area. We eventually arrived at a base camp in the Taruca Umana Valley. We were not entirely where we wanted to be, but a six-hour walk, mostly on old mining tracks, led to an ideal campsite next to a laguna (lake) at 4400 meters.

From where we were now situated, some of our objectives in the Taruca Umana Valley could be achieved, but disappointingly, to establish any routes in the Jankho Willkhi Range (one of our objectives) was now out of the question. The maps did not show the small mountain range that separated us from the Jankho Willkhi. On the positive side, the potential in our new surroundings in Taruca Umana Valley was absolutely mind-blowing. The question was which line to attempt first.

After a day spent acclimatizing, the group focused their climbing efforts on the fantastic granite slabs of the pyramids of Taruca Umana. A 40- to 60-minute walk led to the base of the cliffs. John and Wayne climbed *The Poachers*, a four-pitch, 105-meter VS that followed a brilliant crack line, in three hours. Over the next two weeks, ten routes with grades up to E2 5c were produced on the pyramids, including *Crack Araca*, a 100-meter HVS; The Corkscrew, a 175-meter VS that contains one of those unusual twisting moves through large boulders; *Valley Boys* (E2 5c), an excellent 112-meter route that combined excellent slab and crack climbing with occasional runout sections.