

After some days acclimatizing in lower valleys, we followed the Las Tunas, Pabellón, and Grande rivers and crossed the Cordillera Frontal through the Portezuelo del Fraile col (4,746m). Then we followed the Tupungato Valley to its source at the mountain's southern glacier. A couple of stormy days followed, but on September 13 at 4:45 a.m. we left our last camp, pitched at 5,500m on the southern ridge, and starting climbing the southern route, a glacier up to 45°. At night the weather got stormy once more, and this time also very cold. We kept climbing and, at 10:30 p.m. Glass, Linzing, and I reached the main summit in a storm with -50°C temperatures, while DeAngelis and Garmendia reached the 7m-lower eastern summit.

Two days later we trekked to Tupungato's eastern glacier, where a plane disappeared in 1947 and was discovered by Garmendia and Pablo Reguera 51 years later, at 4,500m. Despite the amount of snow, we found a tire, still inflated.

We returned to Refugio de la Plaza 18 days after leaving it, having climbed 7,200m total and walking 95km.

DARIO BRACALI, *Argentina, CAB, AAC*

NORTHERN PATAGONIA, CHILE

Volcán Michinmahuida, West Face. The icy dome of Michinmahuida Volcano (8,071'), near the town of Chaiten in northern Chilean Patagonia, is rarely visited because of bad weather and a long approach trek through the cold jungle. In three days, finishing on January 16, 2006, Chileans Cristian Stephens, Juan Pablo Ortega, and I opened the West Face (PD). The route starts



The West Face route on Volcán Michinmahuida. *Rodrigo Ponce*

just left of the West Glacier and climbs moderate slopes through large crevasse fields. The crux of this route is finding the right way through the crevasses.

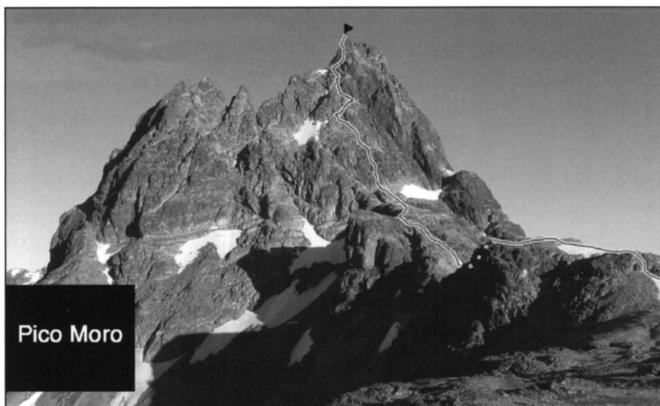
RODRIGO PONCE, *Club Andino Universitario, Santiago, Chile*

Cerro Pico Moro, first ascent, Normal Casanova. After my return from Cochamó, Jose Datolli, Felipe Opazo, and Marcelo Cortes organized an expedition to Cerro Pico Moro, near Palena, Chile. With the help of the Chilean Air Force and the Municipality of Palena, we embarked for this Patagonian city. From Palena we were transported to the nearby Valle el Azul, where Datolli and I set off without a stove or bivy gear for a trip that we supposed would take two days, up an unclimbed peak. After getting whipped by bad weather, we waited for the support of the rest of our team and some locals who were bringing in supplies for an advanced base camp. After a day of waiting for good weather, Datolli and I set off again without bivy gear, climbing three pitches and descending to a bivy at the base of the wall. Early the next morning we started again, freeing

the first three pitches and continuing to the summit, which we reached at 2 p.m. By 4 p.m. we had returned to the base of the wall, where the rest of the team awaited us, and we all returned to advanced base camp.

The route, Normal Casanova, climbs the southwest face in eight pitches, beginning with a finger and hand crack, which contains the only

5.10. From here to the top the climbing is relatively easy, but with a lot of loose blocks. Though we climbed in summer, mid-February, I recommend this part of Chilean Patagonia for winter [southern hemisphere winter] ascents. It is virtually unexplored and full of unclimbed glaciers and peaks.



Normal Casanova, the first route on Pico Moro. *Michael Sánchez Adams*

MICHAEL SÁNCHEZ ADAMS, *Chile (translated by Adam French)*

COCHAMÓ

Summary. Cochamó's highest number of both international and Chilean climbers visited the area this season, and the number of new routes surpassed the last few combined. The spectrum grew to include not only big walls, short multi-pitch cracks, and sport routes, but deep-water soloing too. (Though at least 20 single-pitch routes went in, only the longer routes are reported here, to supplement the individual reports below.)

The Amfiteatro (Amphitheater), a gigantic granite bowl with almost a dozen big walls, received the newest and most classic big-wall ascents. Chilean Michael Sanchez and Germans Martin Waldhor and Achim Mink made several impressive climbs, reported below. Chilean Jose Ignacio Morales and Brazilian Roberto Sponchiado completed their 10-pitch La Hora Es Ahora (400m, 5.11b/c C1+) on the left side of El Espejo, in the Amfiteatro. "It has a little of everything," said Morales, "long cracks, technical faces, flakes, and dihedrals—varied and entertaining...over excellent rock."



Superb climbing on Excelente Mi Teniente, El Espejo. *Michael Sánchez Adams*