

Aguja Guillaumet's west face: (1) Rayo de Luz (Pitelka-von Birckhahn, 2009). (2) Disfrute de la Vida (Pitelka-von Birckhahn, 2009). (3) Lost Men (Drummond-Wilkinson, 2008). (4) Padrijo (Gatt-Gatt, 1993). Carsten von Birckhahn

anchors and slings for an easy descent. The rock on both lines is solid and compact.

CARSTEN VON BIRCKHAHN,  
Switzerland

*Aguja Guillaumet, Hard Sayin' Not Knowing.* On the morning of January 22, 2009, with a marginal weather report, Kate Rutherford and I left El Chalten and continued to the east face of Aguja Guillaumet. We looked at the Anker-Piola route, but it had too much snow and ice. However, I noticed a lower-angle ramp system cutting left across the lower part of the face; in those conditions, the ramps looked more climbable than anything else.

The first pitch led up a 5.9 icy squeeze chimney with no pro, followed by enjoyable mid-5.10 fingers and hands that trended up and left. A short ramp again led up and left to a spot where I tunneled behind a pillar. Kate then led straight up until we were forced left. A short face traverse across a gully led to a snow-filled corner system. Kate led a ramp to a splitter hand crack and then a pitch of snowy 5.8 corner, until she reached mixed terrain. I took over and led us up and left to an arête that looks down into the couloir of Terre de Hommes. I continued up to the base of a depression filled with nasty, steep, rotten water ice. After much contemplation, much cursing, thrashing, and chopping got me to the top of the horrendous A2 pitch, putting us at the bottom of the easternmost part of the huge snow ramp that leads to the summit ridge. After 180m of thin névé, devoid of protection and in the dark, we reached the summit ridge around midnight and promptly started descending. We returned to the base around 4 a.m.

When we started, we didn't have a picture of the face, nor did we know if it would be a new route. Hard Sayin' Not Knowing (550m, 5.10 A2 75°).

MICHAEL SCHAEFER

*Hvit Linje and other ascents.* On November 25 Marius Olsen and I climbed a new ice line below and northeast of Poincenot. Hvit Linje (600m, WI5 85/90°) is visible from way out on the pampas as you approach Chalten by bus, the line melting down from Glaciar Superior below Fitz Roy and Poincenot. It is thin, straight as a pencil, and sustained, no ledges, 85° throughout, with 20m and 40m vertical sections. We climbed it in a narrow little weather window, as it's sheltered from the wind, and might have been the only climbers out that day.

The approach via Lago de los Tres was easy this year, but it was important to rope up on the glacier above Lago Sucia. We branched left above Lago de los Tres and headed straight for the line. The serac might look scary, but it isn't. It overhangs to the left of our line, and if you're lucky it might rip while you are on the sharp end—while Marius was leading, a big load fell

silently and exploded on the glacier below. Directly above the line, the serac lays back and is safe; it gave us an easy exit to the top of the serac and a magnificent panorama.

Marius then had to return to Norway (earlier we'd crammed in Exocet on Standhardt and Benitiers on El Mocho), and then the first two weeks of December turned out fantastic. Luckily I teamed up with Ramiro Greco (Arg) and climbed the Supercanaleta on Fitz Roy, and then teamed up with Cullen Kirk (U.S.) and climbed the Red Pillar on the Mermoz and the classic Ferrari/Ragni di Lecco Route on Cerro Torre as a grande finale. The conditions on the Ferrari were outstanding, allowing us to go in one push from Niponino (via Standhardt col) to the top in only 15 hours [Likely a speed record for the route—Ed.]. Other climbers had already opened the last steep mushroom, allowing rapid progress. We spent the night on top, savoring every drop of the experience.

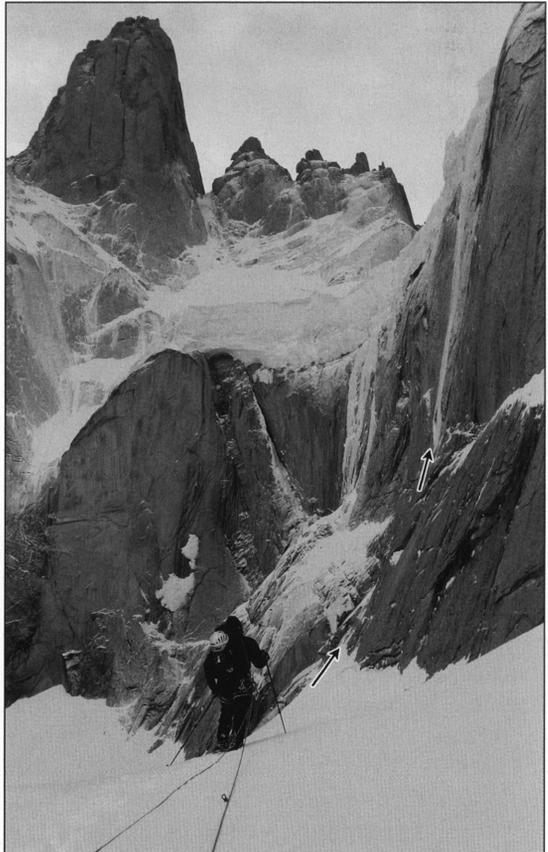
Patagonia was generous, giving so much. The voodoo-like asado that our Argentinean climbing friends put up in the end was the best ever!

*BJORN-EIVIND AARTUN, Norway, AAC*

*Cerro Moyano, variation, and Cerro Norte, new route.* From February 16 to March 3, 2009, Benno Wagner, Markus Kautz, Paul Sass, and I, all German, visited these remote mountains in Los Glaciares National Park, southwest of Lago Viedma. We entered the area at Estancia Helsingfors, a 4-5 hour drive from El Chaltén or El Calafate. From there a two-day hike, with horrible bushwhacking,



Marius Olsen climbing the last steep pitch on Hvit Linje. *Bjorn-Eivind Aartun*



Marius Olsen approaching what would become Hvit Linje, with Poincenot rising on left. *Bjorn-Eivind Aartun*