

to get our butts down. We drilled nine two-bolt anchors for 60m rappels (starting just right of the route and heading straight down; some of the rap anchors correspond with belays). Juan Tarrditti and I returned to add a really sweet three-pitch variation, El Cicatriz (The Scar), that branches left at a bolt on a ledge after the sixth pitch. It's a slightly overhanging dihedral to a flaring roof, then splitter hands in a corner before regaining Gracias por el Aguante.

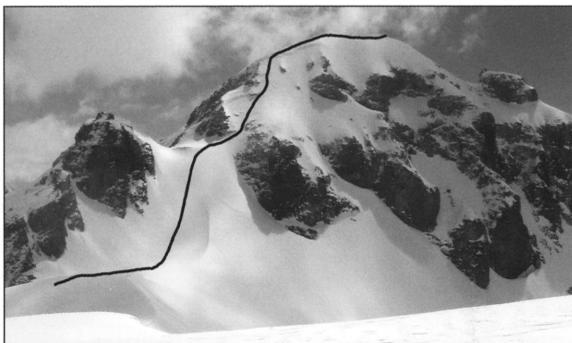
CRYSTAL DAVIS-ROBBINS, AAC

## CENTRAL PATAGONIA

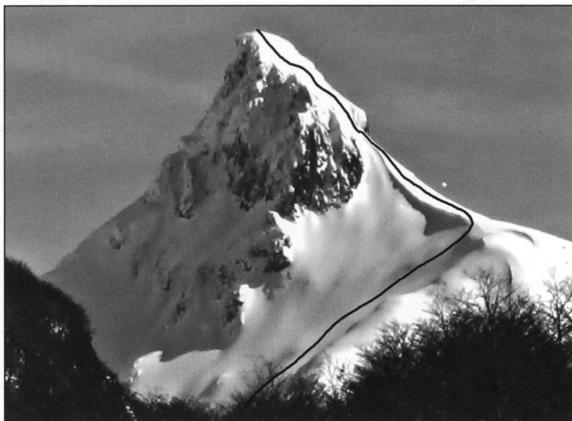
*Cerro Condor, first ascent, and other climbs and exploration.* In mid-September, near the end of calendar winter, a group of 17 students and Jose Luis Troncoso, Pedro Binfa, and I, instructors from Patagonia Alpine Guides, mounted an expedition to several Chilean valleys, glaciers, and peaks that had had few, if any, visits and about which there was little information.

Spring took an extra month to arrive, with furious winter conditions persisting. Temperatures fluctuated between  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $12^{\circ}\text{C}$ , snow was generally dry, and snowshoes made for efficient travel. Approaching from the south side of Monreal Lake, we spent a month covering terrain, going past Aislado Peak, and popping into the far end of the Orqueta Valley. We started with 10 days of food and at Orqueta got a 10-day resupply, before going onto Peñon Glacier, east of Cerro Castillo. On our way to this impressive, narrow glacier tongue, we were distracted by a gorgeous 1,753m peak far to the northwest. We decided to try it and went with four days of food, caching the rest, intending to return and continue with the original plan.

On September 27 Jose Luis, Pedro, and I climbed Peak 1,753m, starting from the west, gaining the shoulder, climbing the south ridge, and gradually moving onto the southwest face and following it to the summit. The climb gained 3,300' of elevation, and, climbing unroped, we took three hours round-trip from camp. The last 1,000' had consistently  $60^{\circ}$  snow, with a



The new route on Peak 2,143m. *Christian Steidle*



The route of first ascent on Cerro Condor. *Christian Steidle*

small section of ice, taking us to the end of the ridge and a perfect summit platform. We named Peak 1,753m “Cerro Condor,” an admittedly popular name given to several other Patagonian peaks. On September 28, another perfect day, all the students and we instructors repeated the climb. This time we protected the terrain and simul-climbed throughout.

The following day we returned to our cache and continued on our original way. On October 4 we reached the New Zealand Camp, where porters brought us 10-days food and fuel. Here, instead of going through Cerro Palo Pass and looping north and down-valley, we camped for 10 days and got familiar with the area. On October 6 seven students and we three instructors climbed Peak 2,050m from the north (not likely a first ascent). On October 11, 10 of us climbed the southeast aspect of Peak 2,143m (probably the second ascent), another pretty mountain, with 900' of consistent 70° snow on the face we climbed. We broke through an 80–85° corniced ridge, gaining a beautiful knife-edge ridge, and arrived on the rocky summit. We did most of the ascent and descent under strong winds and cold snow, making the fire back at camp even more enjoyable.

On October 15 nine of us attempted Peak 2,237m, in front of Cerro Palo, retreating from 2,150m after seven pitches of 65–75° hard snow, with a 20m section of 60° ice. The final portions of the summit ridge, a mix of snow and loose rock, remained. On October 17 we left the mountains, thankful for a good trip and with dreams of future projects.

CHRISTIAN STEIDLE, *Chile*

## NORTHERN PATAGONIA

*Cochamó, Pared de los Placeres, Hay Que Disfrutar and Erotica.* In early February, Zoroastro Eduardo and I established two new routes in Cochamó, on Pared de los Placeres: *Erotica* and *Hay Que Disfrutar*, each 500m, 8 pitches, 5.10b. We placed no bolts, and the descents are walk-offs.

THIAGO C. PORTO, *Brazil*

*Cochamó, Señor Cara de Papa, La Cara de Decepción.* Mid-January, 2010, after two weeks of consistent rain, Matt Othmer and I established the first route on the last formation before the pass to El Monstruo, across the valley from Trinidad Sur. We called it *Señor Cara de Papa* (Mr. Potato Head), and our line, *La Cara de Decepción* (5.11+ A2+), climbed the beautiful north face on what looked to be perfect splitter granite cracks. Cochamó's face of deception was quite ugly. The splitter cracks turned out to be moss-covered and flared as hell, the moss creating an illusion of deep splitters. We placed four bolts on



Pared de los Placeres: *Hay Que Desfrutar* (left) and *Erotica*. *Thiago C. Porto*