

We left camp at 9 a.m. and traversed technical glacier terrain for an hour. After assessing the ridge above, we fixed three lines to the summit. The 110m, 5.4 ridge gave a great climb to both instructors and students. We rated the entire ascent from camp at PD. Next morning Kai Girard and I repeated the route before a communal breakfast event at 8 a.m. We left camp at 5 a.m. and returned at 7.55 a.m.

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Cerro Colmillo. Northeast ridge and route of first ascent is right skyline. Rock quality in this region appears good, and there are a few attractive alpine granite walls. *Betsy Winston*



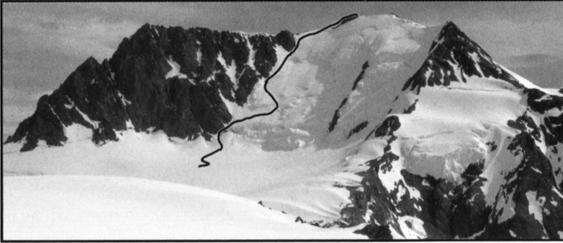
Looking northwest from summit of Meliquina, over Lagos Leones and Fiero. (A) Cuerno de Plata (3,725m). (B) Cerro San Valentin (3,910m). (C) Cerro Rendondo (1,504m). (D) Cerro Helbling (1,962m) and Exploradores region. Foreground ridge continues off-picture right to Cerro La Torre (2,337m). *Betsy Winston*



Looking northeast from Meliquina over the unclimbed La Torre Group (2,337m) to Cordon las Parvas. *Betsy Winston*

Cordillera Meliquina, Cerro Meliquina (2,602m), northeast face. Our group of eight NOLS instructors left Coihaique on December 24, reached Rio Leones, then turned west and traveled up the Leones Valley toward Lago Leones, as far as Rio Meliquina. We now headed south up this side valley, and after a walk of two and a half days, reached the east side of Cerro Meliquina (approximately $46^{\circ}49'51''$ S, $73^{\circ}04'12''$ W), where we established base camp. There appears to have been little travel in the Cordon Meliquina, northwest of the Cordon Contreras. To our knowledge Cerro Meliquina remained unclimbed, though two of the group, Michel Raab and Betsy Winston, had attempted the mountain with students.

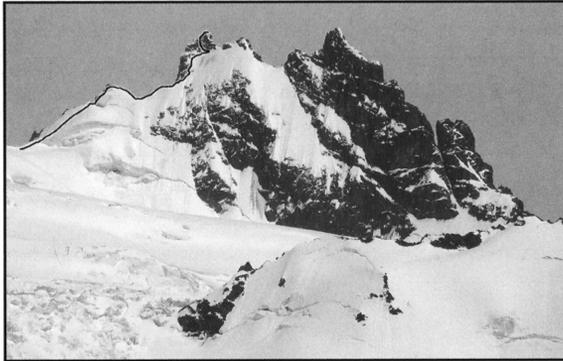
On the 27th the group made an unsuccessful attempt on the north ridge. On the 28th we split into two groups, with one trying the south face and the other the northeast face. Again neither was successful. On the 29th, while other members of the group moved camp, Michel, Betsy, and



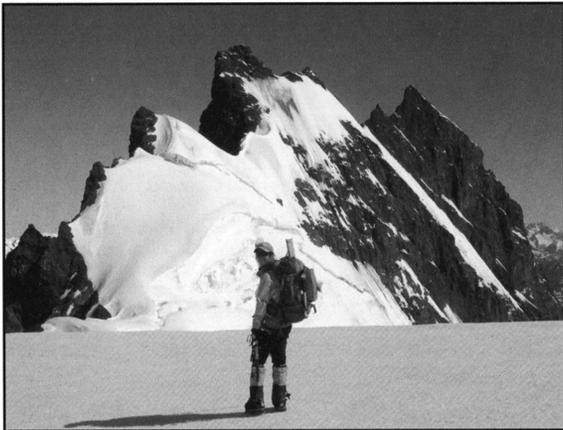
Northeast face of Cerro Meliquina, with route of ascent. Party descended right skyline. *Betsy Winston*

Patagonia style. Wind and soft snow made for slow travel. Once united with the rest of the team, we dropped off the glacier onto rock to escape the coming weather, though it turned out to be not as harsh as anticipated. We regained our vehicles on the 31st and returned to Coihaique.

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Cerro Falso Ilse, from Valle Milodon to east, showing line of ascent. *Camilo Rada*



Natalia Martinez approaching south ridge of Cerro Falso Ilse. Highest point is directly above her. North summit, to right, is slightly lower. *Camilo Rada*

I cached our gear and made another attempt on the northeast face. The bergschrund proved to be the crux, after which moderately steep glaciated slopes led to the summit ridge and highest point. We rated the 600m route D AI2 5.7.

We descended the north ridge, to collect our gear at 1 p.m., by which time wind had started to blow

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA

Cerro Falso Ilse (2,512m GPS). Located on the eastern periphery of the Southern Patagonian Icefield, 3.7 km northwest of Cerro Gorra Blanca, Cerro Falso Ilse is mistakenly labeled Cerro Ilse on several old maps. The correct Cerro Ilse is farther north, well within the Icefield. Because of this the double-summitted, pointy, unnamed and previously unclimbed peak has recently been referred to as Cerro Falso Ilse. For the many people who access the Icefield via Paso Marconi, Falso Ilse is hidden from view behind Gorra Blanca. However, its rocky tops have attracted the attention of climbers summitting Gorra Blanca. It was Carlos Comesaña, a veteran Patagonian climber, who made us aware of this peak.

On December 2, 2008, I made a reconnaissance up Valle Milodon to assess whether the highest point was the north or south summit, but the difference was too small to be distinguished from afar. Prior to