

Chile—Central Andes

Marmolejo, North Face. In 1982 we climbed a route on the north face of Marmolejo directly to the summit. Our new route in 1985 went much more to the right of the summit. On January 4 four of us left our Base Camp at 3500 meters, climbed *penitentes* under a wall of rotten rock, where we had the threat of rockfall, and went diagonally up to camp on ice on a small terrace at 4500 meters. As the weather on the 5th was bad, we remained there to acclimatize. On January 6 we climbed 40° to 55° ice to the west ridge. Since the climbing on the ridge was hard, one climber quit at 5300 meters and another at 5900 meters. Hans Grosse and I kept on to the summit (6100 meters, 20,013 feet).

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San Gabriel, South Face, Winter Ascent, 1984. On September 1, 1984 Christian Thiele and I made the first winter ascent of this route, first climbed by Colombians in 1982. (*A.A.J.*, 1984, page 216). It is one of the few granite faces in central Chile. The ten rope lengths vary from 5.7 to 5.10 and usually follow well defined cracks.

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Punta Zanzi, North Face, 1984. Christian Thiele and I made the second ascent of this route first climbed by Chileans in 1980. (*A.A.J.*, 1984, page 215). However we climbed alpine-style in contrast to the fixed-rope previous ascent, completing the first three rope-lengths to bivouac on a small ledge. The next day we had overcome the difficulties by four P.M. and arrived on the summit at 7:30. The 300-meter wall presents difficulties from 5.6 to 5.9 and A2 and A3 on moderately good, vertical rock with a very exposed summit ridge.

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Cerro Sierra Bella, South Face, Cerro de Orientación, South Face and Other Peaks. Organized by the Club Alemán Andino, Santiago, our 11-man expedition climbed eleven peaks in the Río Colorado region, two of them 6000ers., between February 1 and 24. Christian Thiele and I made the first ascent of the south face of Cerro Sierra Bella (5230 meters, 17,159 feet). Beginning at 3980 meters the route ascended some 1000 meters of ice, which averaged 50° with passages of 60° and 70°. The route on the face reached the normal east ridge 300 meters below the summit. We also made the first ascent of the south face of Cerro de Orientación (5005 meters, 16,419 feet), 400 meters of ice, which varied between 50° and 60° and ended directly on the summit. This peak lies on the border north of Tupungato, while a second mountain of the same name lies wholly within Argentinian territory. Other climbs were Tupungato itself (6550 meters, 21,490 feet), Nevado Sin Nombre (6000 meters, 19,685 feet) north and south summits, Cerro Rabicano II (c. 5300 meters, 17,389 feet) and other less known peaks.

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