

SOUTH AMERICA

Peak-Route Sketches, A.A.J., 1986. The excellent peak-route sketches of Aconcagua and Pumori in A.A.J., 1986 were done by Dee Molenaar. Unfortunately the credit lines were cut off. Also the dotted line for the French route on the Aconcagua sketch was omitted.

Venezuela

Pico Bolívar, West-Northwest Rib, Sierra Nevada de Mérida, 1985. In a 13-day round trip from Britain, Jan Solvov and I were able to make the first complete ascent of the west-northwest rib of Pico Bolívar (5007 meters, 16,427 feet), the country's highest peak. The rock was disappointingly poor except for the summit ridge. However, the snow and ice, together with the weather, proved excellent. We bivouacked twice and reached the summit on December 29, 1985. We descended the Ruta Weiss on the south face. On New Year's Day I followed the main Toro-León crest, a seven-kilometer classic ridge traverse with continuously exposed scrambling and some more difficult pitches on excellent granite.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Pico Bonipland, Northeast Face and Ascents in Southern Venezuela. Although the northeast wall of Pico Bonipland (4882 meters, 16,017 feet) is only 1000 feet high, it offers difficulties of the 4th and 5th grade. Dora Ocantó and I made the climb by new route in early March. In a South American region wholly unrelated to the Andes, the remarkable peaks locally called *tepuyes* represent a new, interesting field. Climbers from Caracas have been particularly active in this area and have opened new routes on the north ridge and the west face of Cerro Autana (difficulties up to 5.9 and 5.11). Other climbs in the same district have been those of the *tepuyes* of Marahuaca, Aratitiope and Salto Ángel.

JOSÉ BETANCOURT, *Club de Andinismo Universitario, Mérida, Venezuela*

Ecuador

Frailes Group, Altar, 1985. The two showy peaks of Fraile Central and Fraile Oriental (both c. 17,000 feet) had been climbed for the first and only time in 1974 and 1978, respectively. On December 6, 26 and 30, 1985, Fraile Central was ascended by parties belonging to the clubs of Cumbres Andinas, Intiñán and Ascensionismo San Gabriel. Fraile Oriental was climbed again on December 27 by four members of Cumbres Andinas and on December 31, by F. Almeida and C. Román.

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