

Pata de Indio and Cerro Agua Negra, Central Andes. The newly opened international pass of Agua Negra, connecting San Juan, Argentina with La Serena, Chile, has made for easier access to the mountains. Alfredo Ceballos and I walked from the hamlet of Las Flores to the base of remote Pata de Indio. On October 7, Ceballos climbed it by a variant of the normal route while I ascended the steep ice gully of the south face. We met near the summit (5205 meters, 17,076 feet) and had a cold bivouac on the descent. On December 5, Fabio Pascual and I made another new route, that of the rocky north-northeast ridge of Agua Negra (5484 meters, 17,991 feet).

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Cerro Morro Overo, Central Andes. A number of medium-sized but bold rock peaks near the Mendoza frontier with Chile remain unclimbed, in part because of poor rock. In late December, I entered several relatively unexplored valleys north and south of the international highway to Santiago. On December 26, above the Quebrada Mistay on its northern rim, I climbed P c. 4400 (14,436 feet; "Cerro Peñas Amarillas"). Four days later, I ascended P 4180 (13,714 feet), south of beautiful Lake Potrero Escondido. I named this "Cerro Peñas-coso." Above Quebrada Navarro, south of the highway, on January 10, 1989, I climbed the striking rock pyramid adorned with black-and-yellow bands of P 4437 (14,558 feet), which was christened "Morro Overo." The route was up the north face and north gully and was extremely unstable.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Argentine—Chilean Patagonia

Southern Summer in the Fitz Roy-Cerro Torre Region, 1988-9. Until now (January 26, 1989), there has been little news except for the accidents which have occurred. On November 4, a rubber boat capsized in the Río de las Vueltas below the Madsen ranch. A park ranger, a fellow called Ruiz and the well-known climber Eduardo Brenner were drowned, though the other three, including the climber Silvia Fitz Patrick, were saved. (Elsewhere in Argentina, two died in an accident in Bariloche, one on Monte Olivia near Ushuaia and one on Aconcagua.) In the south, the weather has been very bad. In November, two Spaniards from Valencia climbed Fitz Roy and Aguja Poincenot by a new route, other Spaniards and two Californians ascended Cerro Torre by the Maestri bolt route and two Italians made the ascent of the Argentine route on Fitz Roy. Before he died, Brenner had been planning to climb Cerro Torre by its west face but he was surprised to find that the ice on the whole face had peeled off and left a rock wall, not the ice face which Bonatti, Ferrari and others had had on the side of Cerro Torre which rises from the Continental Icecap.

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