

**Bolivia**

*Ala Norte, Condoriri, West Ridge, Cordillera Real.* Beautiful Condoriri's two outspread wings give the image of a great bird in flight. The wings are separate from Condoriri itself. We climbed the Ala Norte (North Wing), which actually lies rather more west than north of the main peak. We believe that its west ridge had not previously been climbed. The prior five days saw successful climbs of Ilusión (5330 meters, 17,487 feet) and Pequeño Alpamayo (5370 meters, 17,618 feet) between unseasonably heavy snowfalls of three feet. We moved camp to 16,500 feet on the southern edge of Condoriri's west glacier. One attempt on Condoriri proper was repelled by avalanche danger. The next day, June 8, a smaller team of four began the climb of the Ala Norte. We postholed across the glacier in three feet of fresh snow to the westernmost point of the wing. An unsuccessful attempt was made to ascend an obvious couloir leading to the ridgeline. Bottomless snow and avalanche danger forced a retreat. We then climbed two pitches over rotten rock and traversed to the couloir above the deep snow. A 100-meter wind-blown snow ramp led to the ridge crest. Two pitches of hardpack and two of steep, rotten ice followed. One member had to drop out because of fatigue; he awaited our return on a well protected platform. Geoff Bartram, Robert "SP" Parker and I climbed the corniced, exposed ridge in worsening visibility and got to the summit (5532 meters, 18,150 feet) at 1:30 P.M. As we began the final abseil off the ridge, our heads throbbed and ice axes hummed from the electrical storm. On the glacier, new drifting snow had covered our steps.

MARK NAWROCKI

*Huayna Potosí, West Rib, Cordillera Real.* In July of 1989, my wife Julie and I repeated the Lyon route on the massive west face of Huayna Potosí. Our attention was held by the 3000 feet of 50° to 65° ice, but we couldn't help noticing the distinct rock-and-ice arête that bounded the northern side of the west face. In August of 1990, we returned and did what we believe is the first complete ascent of the entire west rib. Our climb began with 55° ice, rock and mixed climbing at about 16,400 feet. After three hours on the rib, we chopped a ledge out of the ice and snow at 18,000 feet at the last major snow rib on the route for a bivouac. The next day, August 25, we encountered progressively more difficult mixed terrain with rock moves up to 5.8. Continuous snowfall made the climbing more tedious. Julie led a thin ice-veneer pitch that involved down-climbing 75° water ice with only a tied-off Lost Arrow for protection. Several more pitches of 60° to 65° water ice led us to the final major rock buttress at 19,400 feet. Rock climbing (5.8) on rotten blocks was protected by a single tied-off screw. Spectacular, steep ridge-and-cornice climbing with rapidly fading light found us simul-climbing the final 70° ice arête in the dark. We descended to 19,500 feet on the normal route to spend a stormy night.

MATT CULBERSON, *American Alpine Institute*