

December 23 they climbed the Torre Norte del Paine in 12 hours, the first French to do so. [The Editor is not sure which mountain Peineta is. No such name appears on the maps available to him. The French have in different reports given at least three different spellings for the peak. The Editor has chosen "Peineta," which means "comb" in Spanish.]

Tierra del Fuego

Roncaglia and a Summary of Climbs in Tierra del Fuego. A full article on this climb and a summary of climbing in Tierra del Fuego appears earlier in this volume.

Cordillera Darwin, 1987. Geof Bartram, Steve Amstutz, Pete Getzels and I converged on Punta Arenas, planning to explore the Canal Beagle and the southern fjords of the Darwin Range by sea kayak and to try climbing routes in the vicinity of Monte Darwin. We received tremendous help from the Chilean Navy who generously found a spot for us on the coastal patrol boat *Cástor*, which transported us from Puerto Williams to Seno Pía. On January 5, 1987, we were deposited onto a beautiful sheltered beach with views of both Monte Darwin and Monte Shipton. We explored the two arms of Pía in search of ways to climb the constantly calving glacier termini and to become familiar with the rush of icebergs which ride the impressive tidal surges. The east arm of Pía proved to offer very poor access to Monte Shipton and so we concentrated on routes up the two main glaciers below Monte Darwin. We spent five days on a ridge of incredible black granite spires which pierce 1500 feet through the icecap southeast of Monte Darwin. We called it Cerro Cástor. From January 15 to 20, we explored by kayak the west arm of Seno Pía and two unnamed fjords farther west up the Channel. In fine weather we climbed the small granite peak on the ridge west of Pía, where we were afforded our first panorama of the Cordillera Darwin, dominated by Shipton and Darwin and other peaks with icy faces and jumbled glaciers tumbling into the sea. The ice plateau extended above a narrow band of deep green beech forest. Snow-capped islands dotted the view to the south. We selected a feasible route on Darwin and retreated to our kayaks and the comfortable Base Camp. The dilemma with starting a climb from the beach is choosing between hard, blue teetering séracs and impregnable thickets of gnarled beech. In two days of stormy climbing, we reached an exposed bowl at 4800 feet below the summit ridge of Darwin. While waiting for clearing weather, we climbed a rock spire which turned out to be the westernmost of the Cástor group. Darwin peeked through the clouds, exposing its southeast summit ridge, composed of enormous ice mushrooms piled one on top of another. After a stormy morning, we set out for the summit at one P.M. Once on the ridge, we waded through piles of powder snow and bashed up mushroom after mushroom. The summit was guarded by overhanging ice. The moment all of us were on top, the entire ridge cleared and we could see in succession the knobs of other of Darwin's summits to the northwest. That night we were battered by the worst

storm of the trip. We spent the following nine days paddling 150 miles back to Puerto Williams, mostly with the strong incessant wind at our backs. Our two biggest concerns, rough seas and limited load capacity, proved manageable. At the onset of the trip, we could not have fitted all our gear and supplies into the two small boats, so the Navy transport was the key. After the climbing, our volume was small enough. Only on one occasion did the sea toss us onto a rocky shore. It was best to head to shore when the weather turned bad, since the water was dangerously cold — about 38° F.

MICHAEL ANDRÉ

Monte Darwin, 1989. Our expedition had as members Takamori Kobayashi, Hiroaki Kino, Yoshiharu Sekino, Taijiro Maeda, Chilean Eduardo García and me as leader. We were a filming crew from TV-ASAHI of Tokyo. For the first of three months, we traveled by ship along the west coast of Patagonia and made an unsuccessful attempt to climb Aguilera from an unknown glacier. We then went to Tierra del Fuego and climbed Monte Darwin. García was on the mountain for the second time, having climbed it 27 years ago with Eric Shipton. He said that there had been big changes, the glaciers being smaller and the forest more extensive. We made our Darwin Base Camp on October 25, 1989. Because of the complicated terrain, we repeated the 1962 route. We ascended two glaciers to reach Camp III at 1600 meters, having camped at 430 and 750 meters. On November 4, from Camp IV at 2400 meters we had to descend 1000 meters before we could climb Monte Luna (Darwin III; 2300 meters, 7546 feet). Deep snow fell. We had to work very hard on November 6 to get to the top of Monte Darwin I (2469 meters, 8104 feet), getting there at 2:30 P.M. The summiters were Kobayashi, Kino and I. [There is considerable confusion about the Darwin peaks. Yagán (the highest), Monte Luna and Cresta Blanca are official neames. Two peaks vie for the name of Monte Darwin: P 2469, climbed by Shipton, García and others in 1962 and P 2438 to the south, climbed by New Zealanders in 1970-1. —*Editor.*]

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ANTARCTICA

Antarctica Traverse by Messner and Fuchs, 1989-1990. From November 13, 1989 to February 12, 1990, Reinhold Messner and German Arved Fuchs crossed Antarctica entirely on their own power except for two supply depots. Fuchs is the only person to have gone on foot to both Poles in the same year. He traveled to the North Pole in April of 1989. The pair left the Ronne Ice Shelf and got to their first supply depot in the Thiel Mountains 23 days later. They arrived at the American Amundsen-Scott Base at the South Pole on the last day of the year. They had their other supply depot there. They set out for McMurdo Sound on