

reached the Polish Base Camp in Tres Quebradas. A group led by my father, Orlando Bravo, explored the long Polish route to the Nevado Pissis. Meanwhile Agregui, Mantelli, Villagra and I on January 29 climbed P 5980 (19,620 feet), which sits on the border with Chile. This had first been climbed in 1965. This is the western of the twin peaks of Nevado de los Patos and is also called Cerro de Tres Quebradas. The higher summit (6250 meters) lies entirely in Argentina.

CLAUDIO BRAVO, *Club Andino Tucumán, Argentina*

Agua Negra Region, New Peaks. Using as a base a small populated place called Guardia Vieja, situated at 3000 meters on the new international road to Chile, we climbed for 20 days among the peaks near Agua Negra Pass. We were Miguel Beorchia, Luciano di Giovanni and I. On January 11, we hiked up the Quebrada de las Trancas and placed camp at 3500 meters below the northwest ridge of P 4221 (13,848 feet). On the 12th, we climbed the ridge, shifting near the top to the southwest side. We christened the mountain Bífida de las Trancas. We then traversed to the south summit (c. 4210 meters) and descended to Guardia Vieja. On the 14th, we drove to the abandoned hut of Quebrada Sarmiento, near the Chilean border. That same day we climbed P 5058 (16,595 feet), which we named Cerro de la Quebrada Sarmiento. Descending southward to a col, we then ascended P 4700 (15,420 feet). All were first ascents. Beorchia had to return to San Juan, so 16-year-old di Giovanni and I climbed Cerro El Bronce, a second ascent from the frontier police checkpoint. Descending eastward, we also climbed El Bronce Central (4000 meters, 13,124 feet), a first ascent and continued on to the next peak El Bronce Oeste, a third ascent. I then pushed on alone and reached the top of yet another peak, Cerro de la Fortuna (4376 meters, 14,358 feet), by a new route from the southeast, a third ascent. I descended to rejoin di Giovanni and for a rest at Guardia Vieja. On January 18, we climbed a c. 5000-meter (16,404-foot) peak northeast of the Agua Negra Pass. On the summit we found a solid cairn but no documents of the previous visitors. [This may have been Cerro Andrés, (5025 meters, 16,486 feet), climbed by the boundary commission in 1904.] Near Guardia Vieja we examined petroglyphs.

MARCELO SCANU, *Grupo de Montaña Huamán, Buenos Aires*

New Altitudes in the Northern Argentine Andes. Various peaks in this region have new officially corrected altitudes, generally lower than previously given ones. In Salta, we have new altitudes for the Volcán Socompa, 6031m; Volcán Salín, 6022m; Volcán Arácar, 6095m; Volcán Quehuar, 6102m; Cerro Acay, 5716m; Cumbre del Libertador General San Martín o Cachi, 6380m. In Cajamarca, Volcán Antofalla, 6409m; Volcán Gallán, 5912m. In the region of the Ojos del Salado, Cerro El Muerto, 6488m; Cerro Solo, 6205m; Cerro El Fraile,

6062m. In La Rioja, Volcán Veladero, 6436m; Cerro General M. Belgrano or Nevado Famatina, 6097m. In San Juan, Cerro El Toro, 6160m; Cerro Olivares, 6266m; Cerro Olivares del Límite, 6220m.

MARCELO SCANU, *Grupo de Montaña Huamán, Buenos Aires*

Argentina—Central Andes

Cerro San Juan, 1991. This high peak lies northwest of Cerro Alma Negra, in the Mercedario group. Silvia Tejada, Humberto Campodónico, Luis Gómez, Mauricio Manzi, Manuel Maurín, Iván Nobre and Fabián Olivieri from the city of San Juan placed camp in the upper valley of the Colorado River. On January 8, 1991, they headed for Alma Negra, but having mistaken the route, they climbed instead P 5850 (19,197 feet), a first ascent. They named the peak Cerro San Juan.

MARCELO SCANU, *Grupo de Montaña Huamán, Buenos Aires*

Aconcagua, Northern Valleys, 1991. From January 13 to 18, 1991, Austrian Theo Dowbenka and Germans Josef Hümmer, Josef Knott, Rolf Thorenz and I as leader climbed and traversed Aconcagua, but we took a long way over desolate valleys to do so. We started at the Plaza Francia at the foot of the south face of Aconcagua. We then crossed the 4800-meter-high pass, the Portezuelo Relinchos, and dropped northeast down the Relinchos Creek. We contoured part of the Relinchos Glacier, headed north to cross a gap between P 5116 and Cerro Ameghino, finally to descend into the dry Quebrada Vieja Alta. Ascending this valley, we met the former Ventisquero de las Vacas Sur, a glacier that has now disappeared. At 5700 meters, we found the wreck of a rescue helicopter. We then climbed Aconcagua up the Polish Glacier and descended the normal route to Plaza de Mulas and Puente del Inca.

HERBERT ZIEGENHARDT, *Bayerische Naturfreunde*

Argentina—Chilean Patagonia

Cerro Catedral, Bariloche. In the lake district near the Chilean frontier, Bariloche enjoys a much more favorable climate than further south in Patagonia. The Cerro Catedral massif has a multitude of rock towers (up to 250 meters in height) of excellent granite, which have made this the rock-climbing center of the Argentine. After Daniel Anker and I stopped by when returning from southern Patagonia in 1989, there has been an explosion of new routes, many established by Rolo Garibotti.

MICHEL PIOLA, *Club Alpin Suisse*

Cordillera Sarmiento. A full article on this nearly unexplored range that rises from Chilean tidewater appears earlier in this *Journal*.