

Monte Pissis and Cerro Bonete Chico. On March 23, Greg Horne climbed Pissis via the northwest slopes, a possible new route. Summit records of J. Reinhard, L. Gadenz et al. and S. Aarseth were found. Using a surveyor's hand level it appears the west summit is the high point of the multi-topped peak. GPS measurements were also collected on the summit and from a base station set up in Copiapo. Differential correction and averaging of 1015 positions determined the height of Pissis to be 6871.77 meters above mean sea level (WGS-84). The 1991 Argentine 1:250,000 topo map, *Fiambala, 2769 IV & III*, lists a height of 6882 meters. One of the objectives of this expedition was to determine if Pissis might be the second highest mountain in South America after Aconcagua. Ojos del Salado has long held the number two position, with a current height of 6893 meters according to the Instituto Geographico Militar de Chile. It appears to retain its standing. Cerro Bonete Chico (6759 meters) was climbed alone by Horne five days later. Regarding the long standing confusion about Cerro Bonete Chico and Cerro Bonete Grande, it is absolutely certain the Chico is the higher peak by over 700 meters. Grande is only 5943 meters and it seems like just a large hill when situated between Pissis and Bonete Chico.

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ARGENTINA

Central Andes

Aconcagua Attempt and Ascent. On December 14, Brian Asbury and Glen Frank started up from the normal route's 14,000 foot-basecamp in an attempt to make the second (?) ascent of the Estiban Escaiola route on the west face of Aconcagua. Day one ascended very loose scree slopes to the left of the original line, which lay on the crest of a ridge. The scree slopes apparently consisted of slightly poorer quality climbing at a much easier grade. A bivy was made around 17,800 feet. Day two left the scree slopes and entered a snow- and ice- filled couloir. Rock fall was a concern while in the couloir. The couloir started off at 35° to 40° and became steeper with elevation. The day finished with a pitch of unprotected mixed climbing, up to vertical and 5.6. A bivy was made, in the couloir, at about 19,000 feet. Day three kept ascending the couloir through steep sections up to 80 feet in height. Difficulties of high quality WI4- and steep mixed climbing with 5.7 rock were encountered. A bivy was made at the high point (approximately 21,000 feet). Day four the party descended back to basecamp. This was due to Brian Asbury having a stomach illness. Glen Frank summited via the Normal Route three days later.

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