

1996 season. Perhaps most noteworthy was Richard Aschert and Bryan Becker's ascent of a new variation to the 1981 Buscaini/Metzeltin Route on the southeast face. The Buscaini/Metzeltin route takes the left-hand finger of a prominent three-fingered glacier on the eastern aspect of the mountain. On January 31, Becker and Aschert climbed about six new pitches of low-angled rock right of the finger, before joining the Buscaini/Metzeltin Route about 1,000 feet up. Becker reported rock moves up to 5.9-5.10 and some excellent mixed climbing. The pair climbed the entire route free. On February 8, Americans John Catto and Peter Gallagher also climbed Guillaumet by its regular route, which follows the right finger of the three-fingered glacier on the east face. At least one Argentine party climbed this route as well.

CAMERON M. BURNS

*Aguja Guillaumet, North Face.* On December 8, 1996, Luca Maspes (Italy) soloed the complete northwest pillar (400 meters, 6 A1).

*Ascent of Guillaumet, Normal Route.* On February 27, 1997, Tom Douglas, Gabe Schlumberger and I climbed the normal route on Guillaumet (in the Fitz Roy massif). We left the Paso Superior at 9 a.m. and hiked through two feet of new snow to the base. The climbing consisted of four pitches of snow, ice, and easy mixed up to 70 degrees, followed by six short pitches of very clean rock up to about 5.6/5.7. We reached the summit at 4 p.m. in deteriorating conditions, with light snow and 50-m.p.h. winds. We rappelled the route and were back at our snow cave at the Paso Superior by 7 p.m.

HANK MIDGELY

*Aguja Poincenot, Various Ascents.* Several ascents were made of Poincenot in the 1995-1996 season, all by the classic 1962 Whillans-Cochrane Route. On January 13, during a brief spell of good weather, three teams crowded onto the route and summited at 10 p.m. in a snowstorm. They included the Spanish team of Javier Carrasbal Onieva and Ayustine Rodriguez, the Catalan team of Alfonso Vizán and Javier Gomez Santos, and the Anglo-American team of Julian Fisher, Charlie French and Cam Burns. Descent was made throughout the night in a snowstorm that deposited several feet. On January 30, Poincenot was climbed by Americans John Catto and Peter Gallagher by the Whillans route. The pair made something of a circular tour of the mountain, traversing far onto the west face and climbing 16 pitches above the shoulder before summing. (Most groups climb 10-12 pitches.) In February, an Italian team also climbed Poincenot by the Whillans route.

CAMERON M. BURNS

*Aguja Poincenot, Whillans Route.* On March 1, 1997, Tom Douglas, Todd Hoffman, Gabe Schlumberger and I climbed the Whillans route on Poincenot. We left our snow cave at the Paso Superior at 4 a.m., and were at the base of the climb by around 7 a.m., having spent an hour crossing the bergschrund at the bottom of the east face. We climbed seven pitches of snow, ice, and easy mixed terrain (at about 70° for the first pitch, then 50°-60° for the remaining pitches), and reached the beginning of the rock at about 10 a.m. The weather remained beautiful, sunny and clear, with temperatures around 50°F, for the entire day. We reached the summit at 8 p.m. after ten pitches of rock, mostly 5.6/5.7 but with a few pitches of 5.9/5.10, and immediately began our rappel. Since the route traverses substantially from east to west, we had trouble reach-