

big cracks. We reached the summit in a good day. We changed all the rappel gear for the benefit of other climbers.

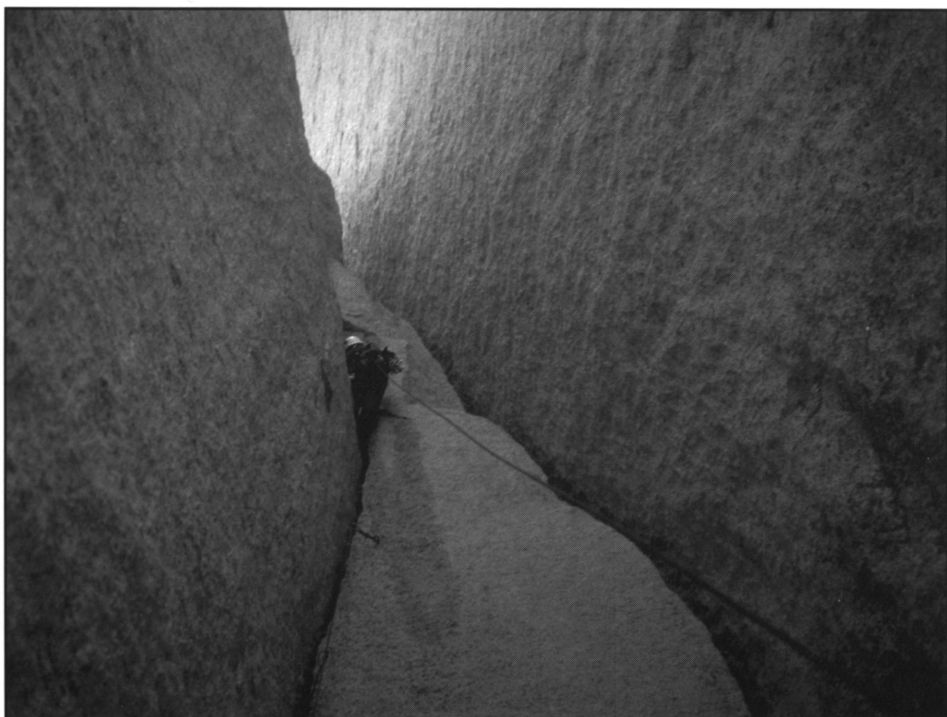
PABLO BESSER J., *Club Alemàn Andino*

*Aguja Saint Exupery.* On December 27, 1996, a two-man Russian team climbed a new variation on the right side of the east face to join the upper pitches of the Buscaini route (600 meters, 6 A2 60°).

*Cerro Pollone, East Face, New Route.* Italians Lorenzo Nadali and Luigi Trippa climbed a 550-meter new line on October 19. The route climbs an obvious ice runnel that in certain sections is only two feet wide. They named the route *Mastica e Sputa* (TD 90°). In early December, French Bruno Sourzac and Laurance Monnoyeur completed the second ascent.

*Fitz Roy Area, Various Ascents.* In mid-January, Steph Davis and I climbed *Rubio y Azul* on Torre de la Media Luna, and in mid-February, the Piola route on El Mocho. We also attempted Fitz Roy from the west, joining the American route at the Col De la Silla twice (5.8 + WI4 + to there). We climbed the American route to the ridge, but retreated due to ice conditions (too slow going) and approaching weather.

CHARLIE FOWLER, *unaffiliated*



*Steph Davis leading the crux pitch of Rubio y Azul, Torre de la Medio Luna. Charley Fowler*