

prominent feature of the route: the Keyhole. This is an alcove/roof that is 30 feet wide at the top, pinches off 60 feet below and is recessed 20 feet. With sharp cracks all around, a more sheltered portaledge bivy could not be manufactured.

After a full day of hauling our two pigs into the Keyhole, we spent a marginal weather day in the comforts of the abode. We expected to fix several pitches on January 21; instead, we thoroughly enjoyed clean cracks on dry granite in the sun, and at 6 p.m. found ourselves straddling the knife-edge summit. On the descent that evening we left three ropes hanging and the next day enjoyed top-roping stellar cracks 2,000 feet off the ground.

We had finished more quickly than anticipated, and our descent was exciting due to the weight of the bags. After dumping 22 liters of water we still had 100-plus pounds going down! Eight more rappels, with only one stuck rope, found us back on the ground enjoying our mail in the comfort of the woods.

Over the next ten days Gardner and I packed our loads down from Cota, leaving only the rappel anchors. We made an attempt on Aleta de Tiberon and the *Caveman Route* but were weathered off both. *The Keyhole Route* (VI A4 5.10, 2,200 feet, 14 pitches) is the second route on the east face of Cota 2000.

JOE REICHERT, *Unaffiliated*

Aleta del Tiburon, Ascent. In November, 1996, Hugo Mieraga, Jaime Sapunar, Victor Munoz and Cristian Oyarzo, all from Puerto Natales, Chile, climbed *Nuestro Primer Rayo* (14 pitches, 5.9 A1) in three days. The team fixed ropes and bivied 30 minutes from the wall in a site with no water.

HERNAN JOFRE, *Amerindia, Chile*

Aleta del Tiburon, West Face. In March, 1997, a Chilean expedition called Amerindia II climbed two variations to the normal route in two teams. Team A, Claudio Retamal and Danielo Benavente, climbed *Ilusión Para Dos* (5.8) in 15 pitches from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. from a nice, well-protected base camp two hours from the wall. Team B, Hernan Jofre and Nacho Grez, climbed *Indigo* (5.8), also in 15 pitches, and also from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., on a beautiful blue-sky day. We could see the whole valley and the Hoja, Escudo, Mascara, Catedral and Cota 2000 walls. There are good anchors for the rappels.

HERNAN JOFRE, *Amerindia, Chile*

ANTARCTICA

Mount Foster, First Ascent. In January, Bruce Dowrick, Dan Mannix, Roger Thompson and Greg Langreth made the first ascent of Mount Foster on Smith Island in the Shetland Islands of the Antarctic Peninsula. A full account of their ascent and the involved approach used to get to the mountain appears earlier in this journal.

Solo Unsupported Continental Crossing. It was reported that Borge Ousland departed Antarctica's Berkner Island in the Weddell Sea on November 15 and arrived at Ross Island's New Zealand Scott Base in McMurdo Sound at 23:45 GMT, January 17, 1997, having trekked 1,764 miles in 64 days. During his crossing he pulled a 408-pound sled. Three other men also