

Camp. We then switched our energy to the 1965 *Supercanaleta* route, which we climbed from December 30-January 1, arriving back at Campo Rio Blanco at midnight.

Most parties have approached *Supercanaleta* from Piedra del Fraile on the Rio Eléctrico and arrived at the Glaciar Polone via Paso del Cuadrado. Unless you are already based in the Torre Valley for other ascents, it is our opinion that this traditional approach would remain the best option for parties attempting any route on the northwest side of Fitz Roy. As for the descent, you remain on your own to figure it out.

JOE JOSEPHSON, *Calgary Mountain Club*

*Fitz Roy Area, Various Ascents.* On February 11, 1998, Rainer Treppner and two partners (all from Germany) summited Fitz Roy via the *Royal Flush* route (second ascent). On February 12, German Jens Richter and Jack Tigle (Scotland) climbed the Franco-Argentine route after five attempts. On February 14, three parties summited Fitz Roy: Slovene Klemen Mali and Argentine Monika Kambic, Sandi Kelneric and Bostjan Sterbal from Slovenia via the Franco-Argentine route. Two Spanish Basques climbed the *Supercanaleta* route.

There also were several repeats of the Willans route on Poincenot, and two parties did Carrington-Rouse route on the same peak.

FACUNDO JOSE, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Torre Egger and Cerro Standhart, Attempts.* Hugo Biarge, Pere Vilarasau and I tried an alpine-style ascent of *Badlands* on Torre Egger on December 15-16. We were unsuccessful. January was awful: there wasn't a single day of good weather; our ice cave got buried by snow with all the gear in it and it took us several tries to find it. During our last try on February 1 (five days before the plane was leaving), the weather improved a little so Hugo, Santiago Palacios and I went for it. We wanted to link *Tomahawk* and *Exocet*, so we started to climb at 9 o'clock at night. The route was in very bad condition but we kept going anyway. At sunrise, we reached the snow slopes on the middle section of the wall. The day was gorgeous and we were super-motivated to go on, but as soon as we climbed the first pitch on the upper goulotte of *Exocet*, the day got warmer and huge blocks of ice started to fall everywhere off the wall. The couloir was one of the most dangerous places to be because all the falling ice was funneled down it. We were only seven pitches below the summit. We went down and suffered an epic descent, rappeling off shitty gear while being hit by chunks of ice all over. It took us the whole day to reach the ground, but when we got back to the ice cave we were the happiest men on earth just because we were alive.

We still think alpine style is the right way to climb mountains, even if you have to push the limits, even if you have to fail like we did.

SIMON ELIAS, *Spain*

*Cerro Torre, Ferrari Route, and Cerro Standhart, Tomahawk and Exocet Routes, First Link-Up.* Laurence Monnoyeur and I have been to Patagonia two times, once in 1996 and the second time last year. In 1996, we climbed El Mocho via the Goulotte Grassi (IV 4+, 250m), Cerro Polone via *Mastica e Sputa* (V 5+, 650m), a route established four weeks before by Luigi Crispa and Lorenzo Nadali, and made two attempts on Fitz Roy, via the *Supercanaleta* and Franco-Argentine routes. In 1997, we arrived with good weather at Chaltén with the goal of climbing the west face of Cerro Torre. We decided to climb *A La Recherche du Temps Perdu*, which finishes at the Col of Hope (VI 5, 800m), to get on the Ferrari route. We climbed it in