

There is still a tremendous amount to climb in this area, from big-wall style to easy alpine and everything in between. It still feels remote, and with care, it will remain unspoiled. Whether you travel by helicopter or boat, it's expensive getting to the area once you arrive in Greenland, so it's best to book in advance. Some parties have been known to lose a week sorting out their transport once they have arrived in Greenland.

TONY PENNING, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Nalumasortoq, Central Tower, Vertical Dream. It was reported that Christian Dalphin, A. Castella, R. Lehner, A. Truffer and N. Zambetti climbed a mostly new line on the Central Tower of Nalumasortoq in June. *Vertical Dream* begins by sharing six pitches with *Cheese Finger at 3 O'Clock*, a route Dalphin helped create in 1996. These pitches were almost freed in their entirety at F6c and 7a; one section of A2 remains on the second part of pitch three. Where *Cheese Finger* moves right to the beginning of the big dihedral, *Vertical Dream* climbs left in a crack system left of the crest of the pillar. The climbing went at A1, A2 and 6a, but the climbers think it could all be freed at 7b or 7c.

The team then climbed the 15-pitch, 500-meter *Temps Sont Durs* on the slabby east-northeast face of Half Dome. The climb, which begins 80 meters to the left of the sheer north face, went all free at 6c. (*High Mountain Sports* 197)

MEXICO

El Potrero Chico, Overview. The First Annual Potrero Chico Clean-Up and Trail Day in El Potrero Chico, Mexico, took place on New Year's Day. A small turnout of 30 climbers helped remove two truckloads of trash from the base of *Space Boyz*, a popular spot for the locals to hang out, drink beer, and watch the crazy gringos.

David Hume had a productive trip to the Potrero, quickly ticking many classic lines. He did the second ascent of *Time for Living* (13a), on-sighting all six pitches, on-sighted *Devil's Cabana Boy* (13a, five pitches) and sent the *Mothership Connection* (13a, two pitches) second try. At the nearby area Culo de Gato, Hume also did the first ascent of an open project named *Snake Belly* (13d), one of the hardest lines in Mexico. Also at the Culo, Guadalajara climber Andres Mueller sent *Avenida de Pina* (13d), the hardest ascent by a Mexican climber.

This winter, about 30 new routes graced the walls of the Potrero, many of them in the moderate range. Kurt Smith, Elaina Arenz, and Andres Mueller developed the wall Avenida de la Revolucion, with six lines ranging from 11- to 12+. Magic Ed and Rodman bolted the dihedrals left of the Surf Bowls, which yielded seven routes in the 5.9 to 5.11+ range, including trad, bolted cracks, and face climbs. A group of Italians also contributed several routes on the Mileski Wall and in the Virgin Canyon from 5.9 to 5.12.

Highlights from last year's season included the 20-pitch project *Mi Regalo Favorito* on the Outrage Wall. This line took two months to bolt ground-up by Kurt Smith and Jeb Vettters. The pair spent 21 nights living on the wall to push this line up the left side of the Outrage Wall and up to the summit of Cerro San Miguel. A serious finger injury sidelined Kurt this winter and he hopes to complete this monster project in time for the new millennium. Later that same season, Magic Ed and Dane Bass put up the mega-long *Black Cat Bone* (5.10+) to the right of *Space Boyz*. This nine-pitch line sports mixed jungle climbing and a classic roof

for the crux. Last winter also saw the largest development of single pitch lines from 5.8 to 5.12 with 40 new routes in three months.

KURT SMITH, *unaffiliated*

Cerro El Gavilan, Spanish Harlem. It was reported that Albino Pon and Rodman and Marcus Garcia put up the 11-pitch *Spanish Harlem* (a.k.a. *The Prow*, 5.11+ A1) over 13 days on Cerro El Gavilan near El Portrero Chico. The route was established ground-up and is mostly naturally protected. (*Rock and Ice* 86)

El Gigante, Simuchi. In the Basaseachic Waterfall National Park, Chihuahua, Carlos García Ayala (Mexico) and Cecilia Buil (Spain) made the first ascent of *Simuchi* ("The Hummingbird," VI 6c A4, 1000m) on the northwest face of El Gigante from April 5-25. A complete account of their climb appears earlier in this journal.

SOUTH AMERICA

VENEZUELA

Roraima Tepui, El Mundo Perdido. Tony Arbones (Spain) and I established the route *El Mundo Perdido* (VI 7b+ A2, 480m) on the southwest face of Roraima Tepui in February in Venezuela. The expedition lasted two weeks—one for trekking and another of climbing. The route wanders up a 460-meter sandstone face that overhangs all the way. We established the route from the ground up. The high level of the climb was the result of a mistake: we wanted to put up a sport route with hard free climbing and good bolts, but after our powerdrill broke, the route turned into a traditional-style route with natural protection.

The route's 17 pitches went as follows: 6a, 6b+, 6c+, 7a+, 7a, 7a, 5+, 7a+, 6b+, 7a+, 7a, 7b+, 7a+, then three meters of aid on hooks, then 7b, 7a, 7a+, 7a+, 6c. All the pitches were freed except pitch 12, which was not linked up, and pitch 14, which includes a short section of aid. We swapped leads, and left nine 10-mm bolts (on pitches 3 and 4) and some 20 pegs.

We also found 17 hand-drilled 8-mm bolts without hangers. Once back in Europe, we learned the bolts were from an aid route that met our climb in places. *Gorilas de la Niebla* ("Gorillas in the Mist," VI A4) was put up over 11 days by Xabier Izagirre and Raul Alava at the end of 1996. While on the wall, we didn't even know that the hangers were those of a finished route, as climbers from Caracas had told us no one had climbed this main wall of Roraima. When we found the first hangers on pitch 6, we didn't follow their path but only tried to reach the top by the most logical way for us. On some pitches we found several more hangers, on others, none. It appears that we followed a line close to *Gorillas*, but didn't free climb their route.

JEAN-MINH TRINH-THIEU, *France*