

A more unpleasant effect was the creation of nieve penitentes, especially on eastern slopes. Climbers had to weave through them with their ropes getting caught all over the place. There were also a number of short periods of bad weather during what is normally extremely stable and good weather through the austral winter (June to September).

Liam O'Brien published a new improved second edition of his *A New Map of the Cordillera Real*, the only map to cover the whole of the cordillera and the only map to cover the section running southeast from Cocoyo (access for Ancohuma from the east) to Jankho Laya, which is still unmapped at 1:50,000. Mapping in Bolivia faces a slightly uncertain future after the decision by the U.S. State Department-funded National Imaging and Mapping Agency (formally the Defense Mapping Agency and before that the InterAmerican Geodesic Survey) to close their La Paz office. The office helped the Bolivian Instituto Geográfico Militar produce maps, training local personnel and supervising mapping in the country, which is still not completely covered by 1:50,000 sheets.

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#### CORDILLERA REAL

*Pico Gotico, West Face, New Route.* On August 26-27, Erik and Grigota Monasterio established the highest pure rock route done in Bolivia. From a high camp at 5250 meters, one hour west-southwest of Laguna Glaciar (5038m) on the moraine directly below the west face of Pico Gotico (Pico Gotico is marked Pt. 5750 on the DAV Illampu map), they fixed the first three pitches, including the crux third pitch (F6c/A2), a sustained 50-meter, four-centimeter crack with featureless walls on either side and a series of overhangs which were aided. The next day they juggled the fixed lines, then climbed another seven pitches to summit two hours after the agreed turn-around time and rappelled back down in the dark. They reached the bottom of the route at 8 p.m. They encountered difficult end-of-season conditions, cloudy, cold and windy with temperatures never much above freezing. It began snowing half an hour after they completed the route.

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*Tres Marias group and Chachacomani, Various Ascents.* Britons Phil Amos and Adam Thomas spent three weeks in this area of the central Cordillera Real. The Tres Marias is a triple-peaked ridge east of the distinctive Chachacomani (6074m), a.k.a. "Chisel Peak." Apart from some poorly documented expeditions organized by the American Alpine Institute, not a lot has been done in the area in recent years. On July 16, Amos and Thomas made the fourth ascent of the West Ridge (AD) of an unnamed peak (ca. 5500m), the northernmost of the Tres Marias. The route was 500 meters with rock up to 60°; the last 30 meters was ice up to 40°. They then continued to Wampa (ca. 5550m), the middle of the Tres Marias, by walking along the snow ridge linking the two summits, then descending to Base Camp via the col between the Tres Marias and Chachacomani. The pair got avalanched in dry snow and went 50 meters before managing to stop.

On July 19, they climbed a new route (TD, 12 pitches, 700m) on the south face of Coco Rico (ca. 5600m), the southernmost peak of the Tres Marias. They descended to the northeast and then to the col between Coco Rico and Pico Elena to the south. They then continued