

weather window on December 8. We reached the summit around 6 p.m. and rappelled in a storm. It was a high experience for us. We were forced to make a light bivy at the base of the route because of storm. Hasta luego, Patagonia!

LAURENCE MONNOYEUR and BRUNO SOURZAC, *France*

*Argentine Patagonia, Various Activity.* We stayed in Patagonia from December 2, 1998, to February 16, 1999. In this time we climbed the following peaks: Cerro Solo, December 8; Aguja Guillaumet, *Via Amy*, December 20, in seven hours from Paso Superior and back, on our second attempt; Fitz Roy, Franco-Argentine Route, January 10, 1999, in 19 hours from Paso Superior and back, on our third attempt (we descended in a storm); Poincenot, via the Whillans Route, on January 14, in about 12 hours from Paso Superior and back, on our third attempt; Mermoz, via *Vela y Viento*, the new route by Kurt Albert and Bernd Arnold on the Red Pillar, on January 16 on our first attempt, a wonderful climb and an excellent line. We also made two attempts to the Shoulder/Ice Cave of Cerro Torre between January 27-February 10.

The weather conditions this season was very unstable, so we are really glad that we were able to climb so many peaks without any accidents. We enjoyed our stay and will come back soon.

ANDY MAAG and ILONA BLEULER, *Switzerland*

*Argentine Patagonia, Various Activity.* Charlie Fowler (U.S.) was in the area from late November until mid-February. With various partners, he climbed the following. Right French Couloir (TD-5.9 60° ice mixed, 400m) on Guillaumet, December 5, 1998, with Steph Davis; the Argentinian Route (TD, 5.10-, 500m) on the west face/north ridge of Aguja Mermoz, December 21, 1998, solo; a variation to the Pippo Frasson (line to the left of the French Gully, TD, 300m, 80° ice, mixed) on Guillaumet, January 2, 1999, solo; *Bienvenidos a Patagonia* (5.11b, mixed, 550 meters) on the north face of St. Exupery, January 10, 1999, with Nathan Martin; the Whillans Route (5.8 mixed, ca. 650m) on Poincenot, January 21, with Nathan Martin, in January, 1999, with Nathan Martin; *Vela y Viento* (5.12 A0, 500 meters, third ascent, with new variant) on Mermoz, February 10, 1999, with Nathan Martin. A full account of his productive stay appears earlier in this journal.

*Argentine Patagonia, Attempts and Ascents.* My objective was to attempt the unclimbed west face of Torre Egger with two French climbers, David Autheman and Antoine Noury, and a Norwegian climber, Trym Saeland. When Trym and I arrived at Base Camp, David and Antoine were already there. They had used two days of good weather to start fixing a route on a sub-pillar of Cerro Stanhardt (see description of their efforts above). This took the west face of Torre Egger out of our plans, because they had used a number of bolts on fixing the sub-pillar. With the bolts we had left, we felt Torre Egger's west face would be impossible.

After another four weeks of waiting out bad weather, Trym and I decided to attempt the route *Todo o Nada* (5.9 AI WI5X) on El Mocho during a marginal weather day. The formation was sheltered and low enough that we were able to summit. The climbing was scary because it had been warm and we were often on vertical snow, not ice.

After climbing El Mocho, Trym and I attempted a continuous push on Cerro Torre that was stopped in the middle of the night as bad weather moved in. We descended to our advanced