

No name for the route, which we give the Bolivian grade of two llamas and a chicken.

BRENDAN CUSICK

*Apolobamba, Various Activity.* Team members Simon Cooke (leader), Toby Spence, David Gerrard, Andrew Naslas and Kate Ackroyd arrived in La Paz on July 26. Traveling through Charazani, Lagunilla, Jatunpampa, and Incachani, we reached Sunchuli on the 31st. Base Camp was established next to a small lake where the watercourse is diverted for the mining village.

On August 3, all members had an acclimatization day up the "small rocky summit" (Pt. 5490m, a.k.a. the Nubbin) next to Pt. 5680m. The ascent was made by a gully formed between the rock of the south side and the snow slope, with an escape made from deep powder onto rocky ramps, before returning to finish with a wade up the gully. All members reached the ridge; Simon and David carried on up the 100-meter ridge via a scramble to the summit. On August 5, Toby and David climbed a new route (AD) on Cuchillo 1 (5560m) via the southeast buttress/face (initially III rock then mixed) to join Simon and Kate (who had climbed up the normal route) at the top of the buttress. All four then continued up snow patches to the summit. On the 7th, all members made an easy plod up the glacier on scree and snow slopes to the top of Pt. 5600m southeast of Cavayani. On the 10th, Toby and David made a first ascent (PD+) of the rock needle (which we called the "Aiguille de l'Index Finger") east-northeast of Pt. 5680m. The route involved a glacier slope to the ridge, rock (III) to avoid seracs, then Scottish II to the ridge. The needle was III+ and loose. On the 12th, David and Andrew climbed Cuchillo II (5450m) via the south ridge (PD) from Paso Sunchuli. On the 13th, Toby, David and Andrew attempted Corohuari (5668m) along the west ridge from Paso Sunchuli (PD), but failed due to bad rock. On the 15th, Toby and David made the first ascent of Pt. 5680m (we'd suggest the name Huay Huari). The route went up a gully and buttress via the west face (rock III, ice Scottish II). They then continued to traverse over Pt. 5600m and Cavayani (D). The team left BC the next day.

The area is definitely worth further visits with several possible unclimbed lines and a few virgin tops.

SIMON COOKE, *United Kingdom*

*Various Ranges, Various Activity.* Luke Aspinall, Toby Johnson, John Marsham and I planned a three-month expedition to Bolivia, with the intention of climbing in the Cordilleras Apolobamba, Real and Quimsa Cruz. However, things very rarely go to plan.

After establishing ourselves at the usual Condoriri Base Camp on July 8, we ascended Pequeño Alpamayo (normal route), Illusion (normal route), Ala Izquierda (west to east traverse) and attempted the southwest face of Piramide Blanca. On approaching Cabeza de Condor, I was hit by rockfall, which resulted in a severe skull fracture and a two-week stay in the hospital before returning home with Toby. Luke stayed in La Paz working, while John climbed with non-expedition members for the remaining two months.

On August 28, John, Sam Maffett (Australia) and Gina Tent (U.K.) took the bus to Pelechuco in the Apolobamba and set up BC east of Chapui Orco (6044m). Over two days, they climbed two peaks on the ridge extending east from Chapul Orco Norte (PD and D-). They then failed to climb Chapul Orco by its east ridge due to poor snow. After moving BC to the lake shore on the west side of Chapul Orco, "Flora de Roca" was attempted by its south ridge; the party came within 15 meters of the summit. Finally, Chapul Orco was climbed by

the west ridge (PD).

All these routes with the exception of "Flora de Roca" were probably new routes, but only Chapul Orco is a peak large enough to be marked on the Paul Hudson map. It should be noted, however, that there is a color topographical map of the Apolobamba, though the IGM insisted it either did not exist or was not available.

On August 21, John and Sam set up a high camp at the foot of Pico Schulz and ascended it by the southeast ridge. The following day they climbed Illampu by the Southwest Face route and Huayna Illampu by the Northeast Ridge. With unseasonable snowfall during mid-September that made rock climbing almost impossible in the Quimsa Cruz, John and Dana Witzel (Canada) managed to climb nothing in these splendid Aiguilles.

MARK CRAMPTON, *Edinburgh University Mountaineering Club*

*Cordilleras Quimsa Cruz, Various Activity.* In July, after a visit to the Cordillera Apolobamba, I joined Scotsman Russell Small and Australian Sam Maffett in La Paz for a trip to the Cordillera Quimsa Cruz. We took public buses to the village of Rodeo and backpacked up the jeep road to Laguna Altarani at 4850 meters. (The summit UTM [1000-meter] grid locations mentioned below are as shown on the Bolivian IGM maps "Mina Caracoles" and "Yaco.") Russ and I climbed the previously unclimbed east ridge (PD) of Cerro San Luis (5620m) [678,000m E, 8120,400m N] by hiking around the north side of Laguna Altarani, then climbing northeast up a glacier to its head at the low point of the east ridge. We followed the ridge west on moderately steep snow and loose rock to the summit. We descended by the south and southwest ridges.

After an ascent of Cerro Santa Fe (5210m) [ 677,300m E, 8116,900m N] via the northeast ridge, Sam, Russ and I climbed a peak shown as "Cumbres Khasiri" [678,900m E, 8119,300m N] on the Yaco map (5410 meters on the map, 5320 meters by altimeter). This peak is 0.9 miles southeast of Cerro San Luis, and 1.3 miles east-northeast of Cerro Monte Blanco (Don Luis). We hiked around the north side of Laguna Altarani, and climbed the left side (AD) of a moderately steep (30-50°) glacier on the west face of the peak. This is a distinctive and attractive peak, which I had thought might be the "Altarani" of other expeditions, but there was no evidence of a previous ascent. We built a cairn and descended the south edge of the same glacier that we had ascended.

I returned to La Paz, while Maffet and Small climbed Gigante Grande (5748m) via the glacier north of Laguna Congelada and the south ridge, and Jacha Cuno Collo (5800m).

CRAIG PATTERSON



*Cerro San Luis, showing the route on the east ridge climbed by Patterson and Small. CRAIG PATTERSON*