



An unclimbed mountain of the Dos Hermanos Range. CARLOS COMESAÑA

Our small fishing boat had problems picking us up in March due to the icy seas; we had to wait until wind conditions settled down enough before we could leave the area. By mid-March, we finally returned to Puerto Eden, from where a coast guard of the Chilean Navy took us to Puerto Natales.

The region is still an adventure paradise for traditional exploratory mountaineering and probably will continue to be so due to the extremely harsh weather conditions (mainly winds and heavy snow fall) together with the absence of any human presence.

CARLOS E. COMESAÑA, *Centro Andino Buenos Aires*

Hornopiren National Park, Exploratory Mountaineering. In January, 2000, I led an exploratory mountaineering expedition to climb a group of unnamed, unvisited peaks located within the boundaries of Chile's Hornopiren National Park (latitude 42° S; topo map H-73: Rio Traidor). The peaks surround an extensive glacier area in the northeast quadrant of the Park, ten kilometers southeast of Lago Pinto Concha. The team of five North Americans included Randy Earlywine, Daniel Collins, Susan Detweiler, Rich Henke and myself. We spent 25 days in the area and made the first known ascents of several peaks and numerous minor summits ranging in elevation from 1859 to 2342 meters. The long complicated approach, thick temperate rain forest, and, more than anything, stormy weather have discouraged most

andinistas from exploring this area.

We approached the peaks from the east by small boat via Lake Tagua Tagua and the Rio Puelo and then on foot with pack horses up the Rio Traidor Valley. Fortunately, we had good weather early in the trip while we were scouting out the approach and climbing routes. Once above timberline, all climbs had glacier approaches with rock scrambles or climbs to the summits. The rock was granitic (decent to good quality), though sometimes capped with a schistose metamorphic rock (friable). Provisional names and elevations of the peaks we climbed are as follows: Peak 2186, Cuernos de Pirén (Horns of Snow); Peak 2080, Banded Peak (striped geology); Peak 2033, Cerro Improbable (Improbable Peak); Peak 2342, Morning Star Peak; Peak 1890, Vizcacha Peak; Peak 1859, Florentina Peak.

After a delightful climb of Morning Star Peak, the highest in the park, we got hammered by a three-day storm that, at its peak, kept us in the tents for 36 hours straight. Note: not all summits are clearly marked on the topo map due to 50-meter contour intervals. If you are interested in a more detailed summary of the expedition, please contact me directly: gperless@yahoo.com

GARY PERLESS, *Washington Alpine Club*

Tierra del Fuego

Monte Sarmiento, South Face, Attempt. Sergio Echeverria and I had the honor to meet Mr. Jack Miller, the person who knows more about the amazing Cordillera Sarmiento and the Canal de las Montañas than anyone else. He came to Patagonia to try to preserve this cordillera and canal as a National Park. In a five-day trip to explore the area (March 1-6), we (Jack Miller, Christian Regenhart, Sergio Echeverria and I) tried to make the second ascent of the South Face on Monte Sarmiento (2123m). After three days on the mountain with an advance camp at 1300 meters, 90 m.p.h. winds and a lot of snow forced us to go down.

SERGIO ECHEVERRIA and HERNAN JOFRE, *Chile*

Grupo la Paz, Various Activity, Previously Unreported. We met up with Andy McAuley and Vicky O'Malley in December, 1997, in Puerto Natales. Our plan was to make a first ascent on a mountain from the Grupo la Paz (a.k.a. Torres del Diablo). We waited a day until a fisherman could take us the 50 sea miles with him. He passed the Canal Kierke and took the next channel to the right, dropping us off in the Canal Santa Maria. The peninsula between the Canal Santa Maria and the Canal de las Montañas is called Peninsula Roca or Cordillera Riesco. The kayaks made us independent and helped us to discover untouched virgin climbing from the fjords and the shores. After two days of seeking a sheltered base camp, we were lucky to find an overhanging rock with enough room for two tents and a kitchen-place all in a row. The main problem in this region is the ever-pouring rain and the soaked ground—extreme conditions for clothing and man's motivation.

Carsten and Andy found a way over the two passes to the easternmost of the Grupo la Paz. After we transported all the material to the bottom of the mountain, the waiting period started. We made one try to climb up, getting to the snow field, but the weather was not stable, so we had to return. While waiting for the day without rain, we paddled in the fjords, went fishing, crossed heaps of rivers and enjoyed being alone with nature.

Punctual with the full moon (in accordance with the Indians' belief), the weather changed