

their shoulders in fear of another unwanted guest. At 2 a.m. they arrived at Campo de Agostini, where they collapsed into the depths of a big pot of spaghetti before eventually crawling out of it and into their sleeping bags.

They were full of praise for the fine effort of the Slovak climbers in 1983, who, considering the objective dangers, were very brave to undertake fixing ropes on such a long line. Although the vertical gain is 2300 meters if one starts from the Cerro Torre Valley, the first 1000 meters is actually easy terrain and should be considered part of the approach. There are a few sections of bad rock, but overall the climbing is very easy, rarely more difficult than 5+. They considered the route to be ED- 6b/A0 65°, 2300 meters. With the exception of four pitches that were jumared by the second, both climbers climbed the entire way.

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Aguja Saint Exupery, South Face, Petit Prince, Variation and South Face, Attempt.* Etienne Fine and Philippe Driel (France) completed the third ascent of *Petit Prince* between January 12-25, 2000. They fixed ropes on the lower half of the face and then completed the ascent climbing alpine style. From the top of the 14th pitch, instead of climbing left to the col between the two summits to join the Austrian South Pillar route, they climbed a four-pitch direct variation to the summit (A3). They thought the route was superb and fairly well protected from the strongest winds.

Marcelo Galghuera and Horacio Gratton (Argentina), with support from Jorge Garcia and Fernando Garmendia, made an attempt on the south face in early 2000. They attempted a line to the left of *Petit Prince*, climbing 60 meters of ice to 60°, followed by 80 meters of poor quality rock (black basalt band) and 130 meters on the wall itself (A2). They used fixed ropes on their attempt.

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*Aguja Poincenot, East Face, Patagonicos Desperados.* Italians Giuseppe Comino and Cesare Ravachietto attempted to make the second ascent of the 1989 Anker-Piola route, *Patagonicos Desperados* (6c A3, 550m), which takes a magnificent line straight up the east face of Aguja Poincenot above the start of the Whillans route. On January 16, they climbed the first seven pitches and bivouacked. On the following day, they climbed a further six or seven pitches, completing almost all the hard climbing, but bad weather forced them down three pitches short of the summit.

On the first ascent of this route, D. Anker and M. Piola climbed the upper section of the route by slanting up right from a point halfway up the Whillans Ramp and returned two days later to add the lower seven pitches. The route still awaits a continuous ascent.

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*Aguja de la Silla, West Face, Attempt.* In January, 2000, Tommy Bonapace and Christian Zenz (Austria) attempted the west face of Aguja de la Silla in alpine style, spending six days on the wall. They retreated 300 meters from the summit. Bonapace had previously attempted this line between February 16-24, 1995, with Toni Ponholzer (Austria). The two had climbed alpine style and retreated after 23 pitches, some 450 meters from the summit.

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