

Eastern Torssuqatoq Spires, New Routes. In August, John Bracey led a British group that included Ian Renshaw, Virginia Cooper, Steve Powel, Matt Goode, Vicky Barret, Charlotte Manwiring, and Alex Messenger to the cirque of peaks north of Ujarasugssuit Qaqa (1320m), near the head of Torssukatak Sound. The team established seven new routes; notable new routes include the Southwest Arête (ED, 700m) of Whaleback Peak, by Goode and Barret, and *Sunnyside* (ED, 490m) on the Breakfast Spire, by Renshaw and Powel. Further details are lacking.

IAN PARNELL, *United Kingdom*

Kungmiut Area, New Routes. Sabine Krol and Eduard Birnbacher visited the area south of the small village of Kungmiut in March. There are a lot of mountainous rocky island south of Kungmiut; our goal was to climb new routes on the rock peaks of these islands. But to reach these islands was not possible, because there was no ice on the sea (normally at this time of the year, there is good ice and you can walk to the islands). We were forced to change our goal and walked instead to the mountains north of Kungmiut.

In the first side valley north of Kungmiut (a steep walk of about six kilometers), we established a new route on a steep rock peak (ca. 1100m) (the peak is the first rock peak in this side valley). We climbed the left side of the south face to the southwest ridge. From this ridge, we down climbed and rappelled the route of ascent, which we called *Pitera*q (UIAA V-, 65°, mixed, 350m).

In this same side valley, we made another first ascent on a second steep rock peak (ca. 1100m) that lies directly east of the first one we had climbed. We climbed the middle south pillar on the south face of this peak. After 300 meters of mixed climbing, we reached the first summit of the pillar. From this point, we down climbed and rappelled the route of ascent, which we called *Issi* (UIAA V, ice to 70°). We left some pegs for the rappel.

In the first long valley east of Kungmiut (a walk of about seven kilometers), we established another route on a rock peak in the middle part of the valley. We climbed the left (southeast) pillar on the southeast face of this peak. After 320 meters of mixed climbing, we reached the first summit of the pillar. From this pillar's summit, we down climbed and rappelled the route of ascent, which we called *Pujo*q (UIAA V A0, ice to 75°). We left some pegs for the rappel.

Most of the rock faces on this part of the coast have poor-quality, friable rock. For mixed climbing, the best time is the end of winter and spring.

EDUARD BIRNBACHER, *Germany*

MEXICO

CHIHUAHUA

Basaseachic Waterfall National Park

The Cascade Wall, Subiendo el Arcoiris. Though about the size and depth of Yosemite, the immense and expansive area of Basaseachic Waterfall National Park hosts almost no routes. El Gigante, the major wall of the area, is up to 1000 meters high and has seen only two ascents, both by Cecilia Buil and Carlos Garcia. Apart from these expeditions in the

Candamenia Canyon, there are only a few other routes.

The Cascade Wall, home to Cascada de Basaseachic (Basaseachic Falls), has three routes now. In the 1990s, either a Yugoslavian or a Mexican team is thought to have climbed a large corner system that is about 350 meters long. A blank-looking wall in between the corner and the main arête has bolts linking some thin seams; this appears to be either an aid line or a rap-pel route.

In winter, 2001, Germans Dierk Sittner and Pete Daumeister and I climbed a 300-meter, ten-pitch sport route on a prominent steep buttress to the right of the other lines. Though we did not free the route, we estimate it will go free at 5.13. *Subiendo el Arcoiris* (IV 5.12c A0 or 5.13b?) ascends a prow left of a huge waterfall for 900 feet. Our route is farther right than other routes on the wall, and climbs through sequences of andesite and rhyolite. The climbing in this remarkable canyon is excellent and steep. A sport crag with about 50 routes exists just outside the park at Rancho San Lorenzo.

LUCAS LAESER

The Cascade Wall, Lluvia de Plata, New Route. In April, I opened a route on the wall of Basaseachic Falls. I named the route *Lluvia de Plata* because the waterfall, in the morning, looked like silver bits in the sun. It was eight pitches long: 5.9 (45m), A2+ (40m), A3 (45m), A3+ (35m), A3+ (40m), A4 (35m), A2+ 5.10 (55m), A2 (62m). I fixed the first two pitches, and spent a week on the wall.

Another person was supposed to come from Spain but he didn't—and he was supposed to bring the ropes (mine and those of Carlos Garcia, who was going to climb another route solo). (*It appears that Garcia climbed the route La Danza del Sol on the same wall, but further details are lacking-Ed.*) He sent them to Chihuahua, and due to the disastrous Mexican bureaucracy, they arrived nine days before my return home. I spent five days opening the route solo and I had to ask for a belayer in order to finish the route in time. It is easy to rap-pel down the wall, so Ruben from Chihuahua spent one night on the wall and belayed me on the last two pitches. When I finished, I had to travel directly without even a shower to Chihuahua, and from there to Mexico City and Madrid.

The route shares the characteristics of the other walls in the canyon: a lot of hooking and small overhanging cracks for copperheads or short knifeblades. The rock is very good. It overhangs all the way, and the line is only visible in the afternoon, when the sun is not on it directly.

CECILIA BUIL, *Spain*

SOUTH AMERICA

ECUADOR

Antisana Sur, Northwest Face, New Route. On February 14, 2001, Tim Connelly and I left our base camp below the moraines (4600m) at 3 a.m. for Antisana Sur. We crossed the bergschrund below the northwest face at 5:30 a.m. and took the right of the two couloirs. We mostly simulclimbed the 65-degree snow-and-ice face to the ridge, where we encountered