



Roraima as seen from the west. ZAC BARR

Carrying all the gear to the “triple point” (the border of Venezuela, Brazil, and Guyana), we spent six futile days searching for the ramp down the backside that would lead us to the base of *The Prow*. Conceding defeat, we abandoned our dream of climbing *The Prow* and instead did the more accessible German Route (IV 5.12), which begins near the hiker’s trail. Climbing the steep featured sandstone, gazing out over the jungle, our minds wandered back to *The Prow*. Hanging at the belays, we chatted about returning someday and actually arriving at the bottom of the route, and maybe even climbing it as well.

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*Recipients of a Helly Hansen Mountain Adventure Award

PERU

CORDILLERA HUAROCHIRÍ

Cordillera Huarochirí, Various First Ascents. This range, known locally as the Cordillera Pariacacca, is located south of the mining town of La Oroya. Names for the range, such as Cordillera Central and Nevados de Cochabamba, that have been applied by expeditions are unknown to local inhabitants. The range contains some 100 rock and ice peaks from 5000 to 5751 meters. About half of them have seen ascents. The most common route of access is La Oroya-Pachacayo, but in the last few years, Peruvian mountaineers have also opened a new Lima-San Mateo-Yuracmayo approach, which yields access to the western side of the range.

In July, the Peruvian climber Alberto Murguía and I inaugurated the northern approach from La Oroya to the San Cristobal mine; it is very good for mountaineering among the northernmost peaks of the range. All three approaches involve driveable roads. In May, 1999, alone, using the Pachacayo approach, I made the first ascents of Cerro Surao (5150m), and Uchuctunshu (5050m). A week later, Murguía and I made the first of Cerro Chuctuc (5000m), and an attempt on Cerro Entabladas (5100m). A year later, in July, 2000, Murguía and I put to use the hitherto untried north access via the San Cristobal mine. We made the first ascent of the fine ice peak of Jatun Jaico (5302m). Murguía then had to return to Lima. After three days marooned in my tent by snowstorms, I climbed Nevado Chujupucro (5150m) and the unnamed 5200-meter nevado that I christened Yurachucclju ("White Cricket"). All three were first ascents. A week later, in mid-July, I entered the mountains by the San Mateo-Yuracmayo approach and made the first ascent of the rocky peak of Riguis (5000m), and climbed two other peaks higher than 5100 meters that were crowned by cairns erected by local highlanders. In late July, Murguía returned to the western side with Guillermo Portocarrero and climbed Nevado Paccha (5350m). Two weeks later, Murguía returned alone and made another first ascent, that of a ca. 5300-meter ice peak located between Paccha and the massive Nevado Vicuña (5500m).

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

CORDILLERA BLANCA

Alpamayo, Ferrari Route, Crowding. Heading to the Blanca for a classic route? Get ready to take a number and wait. After climbing the Ferrari Route on Alpamayo one day in early July, Jordan Campbell, Rick Leonadis, Charlie French, and I were astonished to watch close to 30 people crowd the route the following day. From conversations with other climbers, these massive numbers seemed to be a daily feature on this particular route, and many parties who planned to attempt the route were turned away. We also heard a third-hand report from another Colorado climber that during one day in August an estimated 60 people crammed onto the route.

CAMERON M. BURNS, *Basalt Bigfoot Coalition*

Huascaran Norte, Attempt and Tragedy. On July 12, Peruvian mountain guide Marco Perez and Duncan Elliot, a South African mountaineer, left Huaraz to climb the north face of Huascaran Norte (6654m). The chosen route for the climb was the Paragot Route, established by a French team in 1966. In reality, however, their climb turned out to be a combination of the French route and the Northwest Ridge, climbed by an Italian team in 1974.

On the evening of July 17, Perez and Elliot were surprised by an avalanche just one pitch below the Northwest Ridge at about 6400 meters, from where the summit could be reached easily. Perez was hit by blocks of ice, and Elliot was severely injured by a serac that hit him on the back. They fortunately had cellular phone coverage and were able to call for help immediately. This triggered a huge rescue effort that involved many people and institutions. However, despite hard and coordinated work, the stricken party could only be reached on July 20, unfortunately too late for Elliot, who had died the day before. Perez, weak and dehydrated, was hauled off the wall and brought back down to safety. Elliot's remains were left on the mountain per the wish of his family, who had been contacted in South Africa. Two weeks