

north of the Condoriri Valley and requires three hours of desperate off-road driving to reach. Another two hours of hiking is required to reach the base of the glaciers.

On July 8, I left my camp at the base of the glaciers and climbed the west face of Cerro Ventanani (5400m) for the first ascent. A two-hour approach on the moderately crevassed glacier led to the 500-foot west face. I climbed the smooth 50-degree headwall to the summit, enjoying perfect névé conditions and blue Bolivian skies. I descended via the gentle south ridge, the only route previously climbed on this peak. I called the new route *Ruta de Los Amigos* after a friendship I developed with my camp guard, Felix, a local Aymara Indian.

On July 9, armed with technical tools, a rope, and a few ice screws, I climbed the West Face Hanging Glacier route on Cerro Sancayuni (5400m) for the first solo ascent. This route was first climbed in 1983 by Stanley Shepard, Dave Bishop, and Frank Zaftan. A short glacial approach led to the beginning of the real climbing. A ribbon of 80-degree water ice led elegantly through a daunting serac band, providing access to 1,000 vertical feet of steep névé on the upper face. I climbed a pitch of brittle ice through the narrow passage and gained the long, smooth slope above. Once on the face proper, I found the 50- to 60-degree angle and styrofoam conditions ideal for pied troisième technique with two tools, and the consistent steepness lent awesome exposure. One and a half hours after leaving the talus, I crossed the bergschrund and pulled onto the summit ridge. A short walk along the knife-edge crest put me at the north summit. I descended via the ascent route, down climbing the upper face and rappelling the water ice pitch.

I spent July 10-11 exploring adjacent valleys. I discovered a plethora of new route potential on neighboring 5000-meter-plus peaks.

MATT WADE

Condoriri Area, Various Ascents and Map Correction. The 2000 Cordillera Real Expedition from the Colorado State University Outdoor Adventure Program climbed a number of peaks in the Condoriri area, and made an ascent of a rarely climbed, but spectacular, glaciated peak. Our eight-person team was comprised of Rodney Ley (co-leader), Jim Davidson (co-leader), Roger Boyd, Aaron McEntire, Lawrence Pollack, Darrin Sharp, Rachel Steeves, and Shawn Zeigler. We first spent five days in the Condoriri getting acclimated by climbing several standard routes from a base camp at Laguna Chiar Khota (Black Lake). We climbed Austria (5000m), Tarija (5060m), and Pequeño Alpamayo (5370m) and made an unsuccessful attempt of Illusioncita (5150m). We then moved east over an unnamed 5000-meter pass just south of Aguja Negra and made camp at 4700 meters just south of Cerro Zongo Jisthaña (ca. 5140m). Our mule driver and base camp guard, both local Aymarans, said they had never seen any alpinistas climb Cerro Zongo Jisthaña, even though it is just two kilometers from an established trail between the popular Condoriri and Huyana Potosi climbing areas.

On May 25, we approached Cerro Zongo Jisthaña over moraine, and crossed the lightly crevassed glacier on its southern flank. At an elevation of about 5000 meters, we ascended the left-hand (western) edge of the glacial headwall on a long, narrow prow of consolidated snow (protected with pickets). After 120 meters of snow up to 60 degrees, we emerged onto a flat plateau. From here, a low-angle ridge of firm snow rose northward to the summit (5140m). We descended via the southeastern ridge of the glacier. Though we have found no published accounts of previous ascents, we did find a cairn on top.

Several peaks on the popular 1:50,000 topographic sheet of the Condoriri by Walter Guzmán Córdova are mislabeled. Cerro Zongo Jisthaña appears to be mislocated on the map and mislabeled as a non-glaciated peak four kilometers due east of Laguna Chiar Khota. It is

more accurately shown on the recent (1999) 1:135,000 topographic map by Walter Guzmán Córdova as a glaciated peak that is four kilometers northeast of Laguna Chiar Khota.

JIM DAVIDSON and RODNEY LEY

CORDILLERA QUIMSA CRUZ

Mocoya Valley and Eastern Taruj Umana Valley, Various Ascents. On July 22, Will Hair, Bobby Model, Dave Shewell, Kevin Fredrick, and Rai Farrelly left La Paz on an exploratory rock climbing trip to the Cordillera Quimsa Cruz. Beth Malloy joined the group a few days later. Although the Quimsa Cruz Range is the smallest, lowest and least-visited of Bolivia's four main cordilleras, it is easily accessed and offers a stunning array of climbing. The southern portion of the range consists of glaciated peaks, though none higher than 5800 meters, and the northern portion of the range is an area of granite peaks and spires.

A seven-hour jeep ride from La Paz brought the group to the dusty and lonely mining town of Viloco. Four miles beyond Viloco, the character of the range changed dramatically, and towers of granite could be seen high in the mountains. The first valley past Viloco is the Mocoya Valley, and we based our climbing activities here for the next 13 days. We hoped to establish a number of first ascents, but we weren't sure what to expect. The granite in the area is of exceptionally good quality, but upon closer inspection many of the cracks tend to be discontinuous, flaring, and dirty. Also the south-facing walls, by far the most impressive and potentially unclimbed, saw very little sunlight and were often icy with patches of snow. The rock on the high ridges (generally above 4800m) was amazingly featured with knobs for face climbing, but lacking much for natural protection. Two Argentineans camped in the valley informed us that quite a bit of climbing had been done in these valleys over the last few years by a variety of South American parties.

We were able to climb two towers in the Mocoya Valley. The first was a spire on the west face of what is called Middle Tower (5297m), which we climbed via five pitches of 5.10 to 5.11 wide cracks. The second spire (4796m) was located directly above our camp. Since we found no evidence of any previous ascent, we assumed it to be a first ascent (Urban Dog Spire, 5.10).

The majority of our climbing took place in the Eastern Taruj Umana Valley, the next valley north of our camp. A well-used miners' trail climbs up to the col that separates the valleys, providing easy access to a number of beautiful spires and walls. Referring to names given by the German expedition of 1988, we climbed Pico Penis, several routes on the west side of Grobe Mauer, and Peak Pelao.

Although most of the major lines and peaks have been climbed, the area is a wonderful place to explore, with miles of spires and jagged ridgelines. The valleys are filled with lakes and provide beautiful camping among huge granite boulders. As a note to the new generation of climbers, the bouldering is phenomenal, and we established a number of fine problems in the Mocoya Valley.

During July and August the weather is stable with brilliant blue skies, although the days are short and cold. Local climbers from La Paz suggested April and October as being much warmer months to climb rock in the Quimsa Cruz.

WILL HAIR*, *unaffiliated*

*Recipient of an AAC Lyman Spitzer Climbing Grant Award