

Kanger and Michael Lunden (Austria) in late November, 2000; Tanja Gionettoni and Jean Morelli (Switzerland) on November 28; Karen Wagner and Alexander Issler (Germany) in January, 2001; Mich Platter and Klaus Schwarz (Italy) in January, 2001; Dave Turner and John Culbertson (U.S.) in February, 2001; Dave Anderson and Andrew Chapman (U.S.); Billy Ceballos and Marcelo Rodriguez (Argentina), and Andreas Frank (Austria) and Ty Mack (U.S.). The Northwest Spur (40° 6b, 350m) saw one ascent in late October by Swiss David Gottler and Daniel Bontgler. Germans Dietmar Kastring, Kai Bunhe, Ralf Marala, and Andreas Ratka climbed to the end of the technical rock climbing difficulties some time in late February.

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Cerro Fitz Roy, Various Activity.* The classic Franco-Argentine Route appears to have had just one ascent, by Philippe Wheelock and Brad McMillon (U.S.), with Markus Pucher (Austria), on December 2, 2000. *El Corazon* on Fitz Roy's east face was attempted by a large team composed of Steve Bechtel, Justin Bowersock, Ty Mack, Peter Malamo, Bobby Model, and Mike Lilygren (U.S.). They arrived in the area in early December with the intention of attempting a free ascent, but iced-up cracks and bad weather forced them to desist after fixing the first seven pitches. Later in the season, a team of four Swiss climbers from the Ticino region attempted the route as well, fixing 15 pitches before giving up.

Italians Fabio Leoni, Rolando Larcher, and Elio Orlandi attempted a new route just right of *El Corazon*, following a line that had been previously attempted by a large team of Japanese climbers led by Tsuneo Hasegawa in early 1982. Continuous bad weather forced the Italians to desist after climbing 500 meters, two pitches higher than the Japanese high point. Leoni, Larcher, and Orlandi spent eight days on the wall, using portaledge on their final attempt. Sometime in March, John Bragg (U.S.) attempted to solo the *Supercanaleta* route, but iced-up conditions forced him to retreat from the base of the Bloque Empotrado. This was his second attempt to solo this route. His previous was in 1978.

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Poincenot, North Face, New Route.* Dean Potter and I went to Patagonia in early January, 2001. Last season we'd had a summit frenzy in a brief weather spell, climbing fast routes to reach the summits of Saint Exupery and Innominata, both from the west side, and then running to the east side to climb Poincenot. Our plan this season was to wait on the east side for another two- or three-day spell, and blast Fitz Roy by whatever route seemed most in condition.

By early March, the locals were calling it "the worst season in years." Almost all the climbers had left in disgust. Apart for one 12-hour spell, there had been no decent weather since late October. Every crack was choked with ice, and the ice routes were unconsolidated.

A bit mentally impaired by now, Dean and I extended our plane tickets to wait for the final full moon on March 9. We'd been there two months and had summited only the standard route on Guillaumet.

The full moon brought two days of the worst, snowiest storms we'd seen yet. But the following morning looked pretty good. We immediately left our snow cave at Passo Superior for the Red Pillar on Mermoz, knowing the big peaks would not be in condition. We wallowed across the glacier and up the first snowfield in a sudden blizzard, but the weather cleared as we reached the first rock pitch, which turned out to be an ice pitch. Not a big surprise. The next pitch was too ice-choked to get up in any fashion. We descended and got back to the