

## Mexico

### CHIHUAHUA

#### PARQUE NACIONAL CASCADA DE BASASEACHIC



*El Gigante, Faded Glory.* In November Alard Hüfner (South Africa) and Brent Edelen (U.S.) established a 14-pitch wall route on El Gigante's nose (between the northwest and southwest faces). Jakub Gajda (Czech Rep.) began the climb but descended due to rockfall concerns. The route was climbed ground-up with minimal fixing and minimal bolts. The team was on the wall for 14 continuous days, and named their route Faded Glory (VI 5.9 A3). An article on this climb is part of an El Gigante feature earlier in this Journal.

*El Gigante, Logical Progression.* Over a seven-and-a-half-week period in spring Peter Baumeister (Germany), Luke Laeser (U.S.), and Bert van Lint (Belgium) established an entirely bolt-protected 28-pitch route on El Gigante's northwest face. All of the moves were climbed free, but not every pitch was redpointed. The route, Logical Progression (800m, VI 5.12c A0), has become highly controversial because it was rappel-bolted as a sport climb on a big wall. An article on the climb and a sampling of the ensuing discussion are found in the El Gigante package earlier in this Journal.

*El Gigante, La Conjura de los Necios, second ascent.* In May Slovenians Tanja Grmovsek (formerly Tanja Rojs) and Andrej Grmovsek took a prehoneymoon trip to El Gigante, where they repeated the 2001 German route, La Conjura de los Necios (The Conspiracy of Fools, 800m, 23 pitches, 5.13a). They report serious and "interesting" climbing, heavily vegetated, with poor rock and very long runouts. Andrej freed the entire route, onsight, reporting the hardest pitch to be actually around 5.12c but emphasizing the danger and overall difficulty of the route. A short article on this ascent is part of the El Gigante package earlier in this Journal.

### DURANGO

*El Peñón (Cerro) Blanco, El Vedauwoo.* In March, on the 800'+ south face of Cerro Blanco, Todd Skinner and I established a new line to the right of the rightmost line pictured on p. 290 of the AAJ 2002, joining this existing line at the very top of the wall. El Vedauwoo ascends the huge, obvious crack in five 180' pitches. On pitch three, at the crux unprotected 5.11+ offwidth, vertical plates of shit rock were falling off in our hands, then delicate climbing with no pro for a hundred feet, a tied-off dirt clod for the belay. Yet the first two pitches were gorgeous white granite, 5.9-5.10 crack climbing through giant yucca plants, and the last two pitches on similarly stellar stone—a 5.7 chimney followed by a 5.10 water-groove face pitch which Todd couldn't protect for the first 50'. Bivied on top with no food, no water, no extra clothes. Perfect little adventure for old Vedauwoo craggers.

MARK JENKINS, AAC