

*Cuerno Oeste, Mas Ricas No Hay; Cuerno Chico, Hurly Burly.* My partner Mark Davis and I arrived in Torres del Paine National Park in the first week of February 2003. Our initial objective was a new route on the west face of Torre Norte. We waited eight days at Campamento Japones, during which we twice tried to climb but were twice turned back by wind and snow. We then aborted the Towers and headed to the Bader Valley, also known as the Pingo Valley, which is reputed to have a better microclimate. Our luck changed, and our first day there was beautiful. We spied a nice-looking 1,200' line on the southeast face of Cuerno Oeste and began climbing at 10:30 a.m. on February 12. The route starts just to the right of an obvious 20' overhang (where we bivied) near the mouth of the valley, with 200' of class 4 and a 30' 5.6 dihedral. We traversed a ledge to the right, to a 5.7 corner. There we roped up and simul-climbed for 300 feet of 5.6-5.8, moving through crack systems and heading gradually

left. At another ledge the climbing became more difficult, so we climbed the final 750-800' in pitches. This section begins with a 5.8 crack, traverses left through a 5.10 roof into a dihedral, and traverses left again, under a hanging flake into a chimney. After the chimney the climb moves out left through another roof to a crack that peters out. An A0 move was required to bridge a four-foot blank section to another crack, which leads to a ledge with rotten rock above. The route stops where the rotten rock begins. *Mas Ricas No Hay* (IV 5.10 A0).

A few days after climbing Cuerno Oeste we put up a 600' route on the east face of Cuerno Chico. We called the route *Hurly Burly* (5.9). Toward the end of February we tried a new line on Cuerno Oeste just to the right of Flight of the Condor. After 400' we hit a section of crumbly rock, so we descended and traversed to Flight of the Condor. We climbed the first third of that route before a storm rolled in, and we descended in the rain. We had three climbing days during our month-long visit.



Chris Belczynski on Self Right To Suicide.  
*Boguslaw Kowalski*

JOHN REYHER, AAJ

## SOUTH OF PAINE

*Mt. Burney, second ascent.* Mt. Burney (1,768m) is a volcano that stands near the northwest corner of the Muñoz Gamero peninsula, which is about 2,000 square miles in area. Though it is a familiar landmark seen from ships passing through Smyth and Union channels between Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales, very little is known about this mountain, beside Eric Shipton's first ascent on March 10, 1973.

On March 6, 2003, after 2-1/2 days on the Pacific Ocean, the Pinguin dropped us off on a sandy beach in Puerto Muñoz Gamero. The expedition included 15 students and 4 NOLS instructors, including myself, carrying 600kg of food, 100kg of equipment, and 70 liters of fuel.

During 18 days of consistently bad weather, incessant rain and snow, we worked to get in position and be ready. On March 21, late in the morning, stable good weather suddenly arrived. After 8-1/2 hours of tricky glacier travel and a short section of steep ice, we reached the summit. The semicircular summit ridge was crowned by a number of spectacular ice pinnacles formed on an agglomerate of the tuff and lava blocks of which the crater rim of Mt. Burney is composed. The descent at night, after five hours of traveling, took place under a clear sky, with beautiful stars everywhere.

After the second ascent of this remote and historic mountain in the Magallanes region, we traveled east toward the sea and accomplished another goal, traversing the Muñoz Gamero peninsula west to east, finishing at Caleta Suarez. We covered 63km mostly of turba (Magallanes swamps) in 27 days, before being picked up by the Pinguin and her captain Conrado Alvarez.

Our group consisted of American students Zachary Blaylock, Drew Collins, Matt Citadin, Lucy Donaghy, Jen Gray, Lindsay Long, Tobias McDougal, Alex McLawhorn, Conner Mulvee, Evan Olson, Christopher Robin, Will Thames, Louis Urvois, and Tom Wilson, Chilean student Fiorenza Marinkovic, and instructors Ignacio Grez and Christian Steidle (Chile), Kat Rudert (Canada), and Chris Manges (U.S.).

CHRISTIAN STEIDLE, *Chile*

## TIERRA DEL FUEGO, ARGENTINA

*Isla de los Estados, inland traverse.* This island was discovered in 1615 by Le Maire and afterward visited by many explorers, including James Cook. Many ships have wrecked on its difficult coasts. Because of difficult terrain and bad weather, no one had traversed the island. To commemorate the Argentine explorer Luis Piedrabuena, who was active on the island, a group of civilian and Argentine navy personnel crossed the island from west to east. The group consisted of civilian females Julieta Rimoldi and Verónica Schro and Argentine navy men Guillermo Tibaldi (chief), Antonio González, Gustavo Pérez, and Adrián Nuñez. They traversed many ridges and cols, many of them previously unvisited, although no summits were ascended. The expedition lasted for 22 days, the traverse ending on February 16, 2004 in the lighthouse that inspired Jules Verne's novel, *The Lighthouse at the End of the World*.

MARCELO SCANU, *Buenos Aires, Argentina*