

we returned to Chalten to drink a beer and have a few days of rest.

On our second attempt, on January 29, we started from Paso at 2 a.m. and, finding good snow, reached the “jammed block” at the base of the Goretta Pillar by 7 a.m. We started climbing at 8 a.m. and by 3 p.m. reached the tenth pitch of the Kearney-Knight variation to the Casarotto Route. We felt that our pace for a team of three was not bad and therefore decided to climb the Chimichurri y Tortas Fritas (Locher-Pedrini, 1985) variation on the upper west side of the pillar. After a few unsuccessful attempts to find the right line, we bivied. The following day we climbed our own variation (400m, 7a A1), following a crack system just right of Chimichurri y Tortas Fritas, to the top of the pillar, which we reached by 3 p.m. Icy cracks slowed our pace above, as we continued on toward the summit of Fitz Roy. We made a second bivy 200m below the summit, which we reached the following morning by 10 a.m. We descended via the Franco-Argentine, traversing the mountain and returning to Paso Superior by 5 p.m.

Our ascent was done in alpine style, with no fixed ropes. We called our new variation on the upper half of the pillar the “Young Jerks” (400m). Ours was the fourth ascent of the Goretta Pillar to the top of Fitz Roy [Previous ascents: Casarotto 1979, Kearney-Knight 1984, Harvey-Donahue 1993—Ed.] One day later, British Leo Houlding and Kevin Thaw made the 5th ascent.

Around the same time, Aljaz Tratnik and Jason Lakey (USA) climbed the Red Pillar (Albert-Arnold, 1999) on the east face of Aguja Mermoz but were turned back two pitches below the top by strong winds. Later Rok Zalokar, Aljaz Tratnik and Tanja Grmovsek (Slovenia) climbed the Italian Route (Buscaini-Candot-Metzeltin-Romano-Sinigoi, 1968) on east face of Aguja Saint Exupery.

Later yet, Klemen Mali and I climbed Guillaumet and traversed south along the ridge to the col between Guillaumet and Mermoz. [Guillaumet had been traversed by Carrington and Rouse in 1976 (from north to south) and by Bresba, Dominguez, and Luthi in 1990 (from south to north)—Ed.] From the col we climbed Mermoz via the first ascent route (Cuiñas-Olaechea-Vieiro, 1974) to reach the summit. By adding the Mermoz, this was the first link up of Aguja Guillaumet and Aguja Mermoz. From the base of Guillaumet’s northeast pillar (Paso Guillaumet) to the summit of Mermoz took us 11.5 hours.

Everything was a great experience, with great climbs and good parties in Chalten.

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Saint Exupery, correction. In the photo of Aguja Saint Exupery’s west and northwest faces, on p. 315 of the 2004 AAJ, the route lines are reversed. Chiaro di Luna is actually the line on the left, and Tical is on the right.

HIELO CONTINENTAL

Cerro Dos Cuernos, first ascent. The Cordon Mariano Moreno is a range located in the middle of the Southern Patagonia Icecap, 25km southwest of Cerro Torre. During October and November, Karen McNeill, Amy Bullard, and I skied in to this range and climbed Cerro Dos Cuernos (3,074m). We believe this was the first ascent.

Our goal was a ski traverse of the Southern Patagonian Icecap from Paso Marconi to Estancia Christina on Lago Argentino, with three weeks spent on the east side of the Cordon

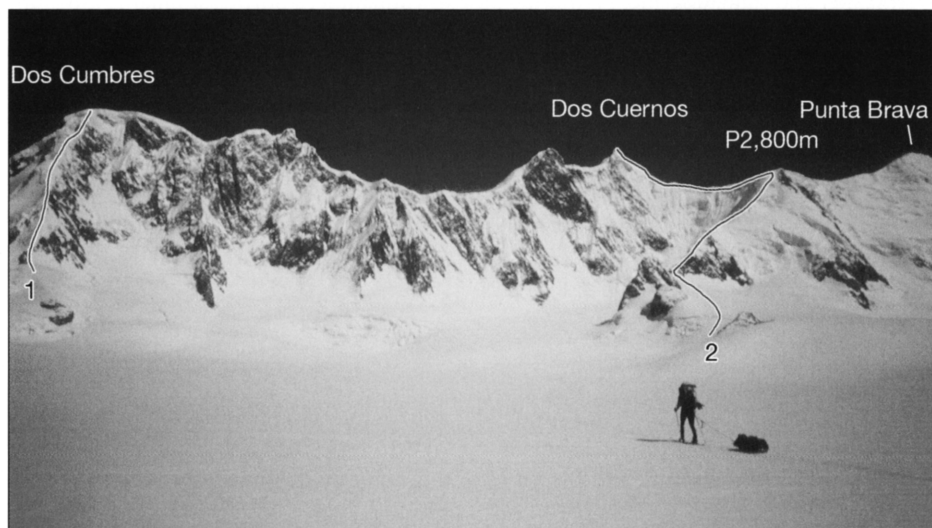
Mariano Moreno, attempting three new routes on the Dos Cumbres/Dos Cuernos face. We chose these routes based on Rolando Garibotti's photos. A Swiss/German team climbed the East Pillar to the South Summit of Dos Cumbres in 2000. We altered our plan in Chalten after Park Ranger Adrian Falcone showed us recent photographs of the icecap, revealing vast expanses of bare ice along the southern portion of our route.

On October 22 we began shuttling our gear up to Paso Marconi from Piedra del Fraile, then spent several stormy days in the shelter of the new Chilean refugio located at 490942S, 730822W on the north side of the pass. From the pass we traveled on skis, pulling sleds for 32km, to our base camp between Nunatak Viedma and the Cordon Mariano Moreno.

This season the east side of the range from Dos Cumbres to Punta Brava was composed of steep, loose rock, with numerous ice lines and nearly continuous seracs guarding the ridgeline. On sunny days temperatures reached nearly 60° F in the shade at our camp, and the range was continuously active with falling debris. We decided on the only safe route we could see: up the southeast ridge of unnamed P2,800m and up the north ridge of Dos Cuernos to the summit.

Although many days had fine weather, we experienced a couple of storms at our camp, with high winds, snow, and even rain. We retreated from several attempts before being successful on November 15. The route we took, although long (1,524m elevation gain and 5km long), was relatively safe, scenic, and moderate. We encountered chossy rock to 4th class, snow to 45°, and ice to WI2. We found passage through the summit mushroom on the northwest side. It took us nine hours for the ascent from our camp, and five hours to descend the same way. We left our base camp on November 16, retraced our approach route through Paso Marconi, and arrived back in El Chalten on the 20th.

PETER CARSE, AAC



Dos Cumbres (3,049m): (1) Dauer-Siegrist-Warthl, 2000. Dos Cuernos (3,074m): (2) Bullard-Carse-McNeill, 2004.
Peter Carse