

Steve House scratching his way toward the first icicle, low on Cayesh.  
Marko Prezelj

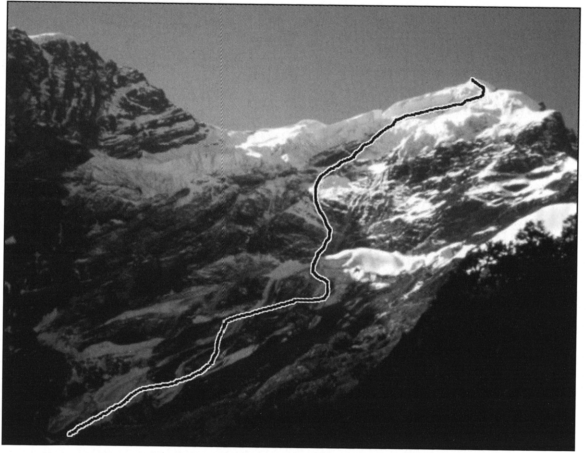
conditions were not so good: deep sugar snow on steep slabs and dry parts. Overall the terrain left the impression that we had to use every trick in the book to route-find (and climb) this rig. Super-fun.

The first night we bivied in a strange flat-floored ice-box, which required minimal chopping. The multiple chambers were hidden inside the cornice that forms on the crest of the spur. During the second day, we reached the long summit ridge, which was very corniced with poor-quality snow and

ice. It took a lot of energy and some dangerous snow-climbing/crawling to get to the summit mushroom, where we made our second bivy just 15m below the top. We crossed the summit the next morning and descended the other side of the mountain, having freed the entire route.

STEVE HOUSE, *Bend, Oregon, AAC*

*Andavite/Chopiraju Central*, Fight Club. In the summer we, both 21, spent several weeks in the Cordillera Blanca. During our first stay in the Cayesh Valley (climbing Maparaju, San Juan, and Andavite's South Ridge) we got a good view of the south face of Andavite (a.k.a. Chopiraju Central), which looked really nice. We then left, but a few days later returned to Cayesh base camp. After a day of bad weather, on July 27 we started at 2:30 a.m. from base camp, and two hours later roped up and started climbing. The face was quite dry, and we followed an intermittent line of frozen waterfalls leading to the big snowfield halfway up. (Here an

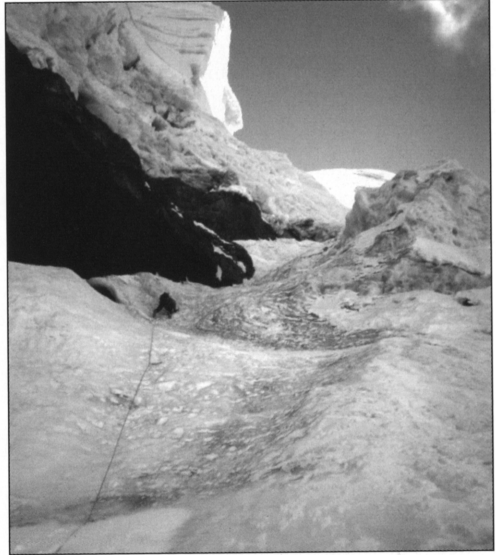


Fight Club, on the south face of Andavite (a.k.a. Chopiraju Central).  
Moritz Wälde

escape to the south ridge would be possible.) Then the crux followed: steep, bad rock covered with thin ice, difficult to climb either with or without tools, poor protection. Pitch after pitch of steep snow brought us close to the final serac barrier. It looked frighteningly big and unstable, but we found a narrow couloir and, three pitches of steep, hard ice later, we reached the snow slopes leading to the summit. It was noon; the 800m face had taken seven hours. What a climb! We called the route Fight Club and, based on the information we got in Huaraz, it was the first

ascent of Andavite's south face. We think that conditions were extraordinarily dry, and under different conditions the seracs might be even more dangerous. The difficulties were varied, and we climbed most of the route simultaneously. We descended the southwest ridge, with one rappel from snow anchors.

TOBI LOCHBÜHLER AND MORITZ  
WÄLDE, Germany



Tobi Lochbühler near the top of the final serac barrier on Fight Club. Moritz Wälde

*Editor's note: Antonio Gómez Bohórquez reports that Peruvian guide José A. Castañeda and his Swiss client Catherine Bertui climbed a route on Andavite/Chopiraju Central in 2000 that may be similar to the above route. Further details could not be verified.*

*Itsoc Huanca, Dominguerismo Vertical.* The wall is situated in the Quebrada Rurec. To get there obtain transport to Ollereros. Here you can get burros to carry gear to base camp, four hours' walk from town. Three hours into the hike the walls become visible, and Itsoc Huanca [a.k.a. Risco Ayudin—see note below] (4,700m) is located to the right as you ascend the Quebrada, the third of three small peaks (the second is Punta Numa).

The rock quality is exceptional, though perhaps a little dirty at the beginning where it is hard to get in pins or camming units. We (Jordi Barrachina, Daniel Gutierrez, Jorge Ferrero, Maria Lopez, and I, all from Spain) put in 13 days in July to climb 700m up the west face, 10½ days spent actually climbing, using five bivy sites. We placed bolts, and from the top we descended the route, using the same anchors as on our ascent, apart from pitches 17, 12, 5, and 4. Gear: two sets Camalots, 1½ sets Aliens, 10-15 pitons, a variety of small hooks. We named the route Dominguerismo Vertical (ED- 6b A2).

RAMON PEREZ DE AYALA, Spain (translated by Bean Bowers)

*Note on naming: Antonio Gómez Bohórquez reports that Itsoc Huanca is the native (Quechua) name of the crag reported above and below. The reporting climbers, presumably unaware of the original name, called the formation Risco Ayudin.*

*Quebrada Rurec, Pietrorrrago: Vaffanculo; and Itsoc Huanca, Libertad es Participacion.* On August 12, after some preparation, Italians Enzo Arciuoli, Giulio Canti, and Roberto Iannilli put up Pietrorrrago: Vaffanculo! (420m of climbing: 6a/6a+) up the middle of the northwest-facing compact slabs that lie at the start of the Rurec Valley (on the right side, upon entering, under Cerro Pumhauagangan). The route is sustained and on perfect granite, but with little in the way of protection (13 bolts were placed; take quickdraws and small wires and RPs).

Beginning on August 15 Canti and Iannilli put up Libertad es Participacion on Itsoc Huanca's northwest aspect. The route ascends the wall immediately left of the corner system that sepa-