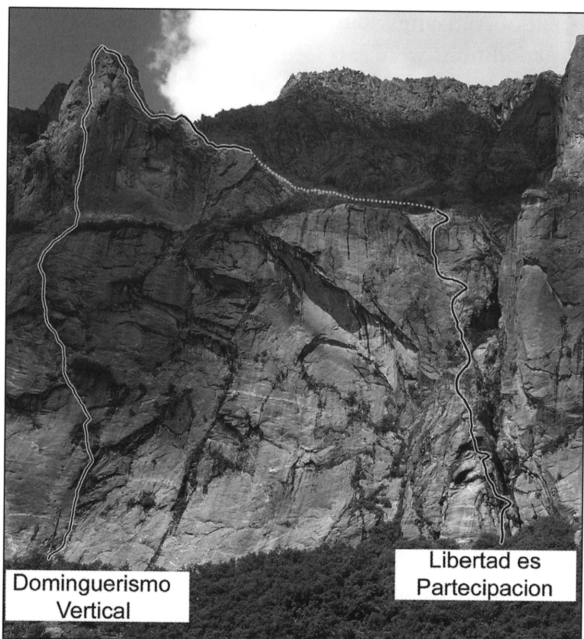


rates Itsoc Huanca from Punta Numa to its right. It is 1,600m long (6c+ A2), but only 600m (13 pitches) involve difficult rock, the rest being easy ground. The pair started up a slanting dihedral, followed by a crack system with two prominent roofs, then continued on more compact slabs. Higher they crossed a huge amphitheater of rock and vegetation to reach a short headwall, which they climbed in one long pitch to the top of Itsoc Huanca. A full rack is required (RURPs to #5 Camalot). The climbers placed five protection bolts, plus a bolt on every stance. The route took four days, with one bivouac on the wall.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*  
Editor, *CLIMB* magazine, AND  
ROBERTO IANNILLI, *Italy*



Itsoc Huanca's 2005 routes, thought to be the only lines on the face.  
Roberto Iannilli

*Rurec, Caravaca Jubilar.* After installing base camp in mid-July 2003 below Rurec (5,080m) and fixing the initial pitches, we began our first capsule-style attempt carrying food, water, and gear for three weeks. The team: Alfonso Cerdan Sandoval, my brother Juan Carlos Garcia Gallego, and I. After climbing 250m Alfonso came down with gastroenteritis and Carlos suffered from a respiratory infection, so we descended to base camp to recover and get medical attention.

By early August we were on our second attempt. Alfonso remained sick and abandoned the climb. Carlos and I continued, and on August 23 we reached the top. The new route (1,000m, 21 pitches, VI 5.11 A4) climbs the central part of the wall. The first half is abundant with blind seams, while in the upper half we encountered numerous expanding flakes.

JOSÉ LUIS GARCIA Gallego, *Spain* (translated by Bean Bowers)

*Shaqsha Sur, southeast face.* In June Peruvian guides Elias Flores and Miguel Martinez, with Cesar Rosales and Italian Tiziano Orió, made the first ascent of the southeast face of the slightly lower South Summit (ca. 5,697m) of Shaqsha. The elegant, narrow, triangular snow-and-ice face rises 350m above the bergschrund and gave climbing up to 70-75°. Shaqsha (occasionally referred to as Huantsan Chico) lies southwest of Cashan and could be climbed in a long day from Huaraz via the Rurec Valley and South Ridge (350m, PD+ 45-50°, Maardalen-Martens, 1988).

In mid-May, 2004, Martinez, with Michell Araya and aspirant guides Quique Apolinario, Maximum Efraim, and Elias Flores, from the Don Bosco School, are thought to have climbed a new route to the main summit of Shaqsha (5,703m), above Laguna Azulajacocha. After weav-

ing through 250m of serac, they found the final 150m snow-and-ice face to involve climbing up to 60°.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO Editor, CLIMB magazine*

*Huaketsa Punta, Eder Sabino Cacha.* On June 11, 2004, Mauro Floret, Massimo Sacchi, and Marco Sterni, from Trieste, reached the summit of Huaketsa Punta (a.k.a. Amahuagaychu, 5,134m) after completing the first ascent of the west face. Huaketsa Punta is a steep rock formation set amongst pleasant, grassy meadows east of the well-known Olleros-to-Chavin trail. From Olleros, close to the Rio Santa Valley south of Huaraz, it is possible to take a 4WD for 15-16km to the village of Sacracancha, from where a three-hour walk south leads to the foot of the rock wall, at 4,740m (S 09° 39.49'; W 77°). The rock is porphyry and therefore not always perfect, but allows natural protection throughout. The route follows a prominent dihedral in the center of the face. The climbing was largely free up to 6c, with a 60m section of A2 in a right-facing dihedral close to the summit. Every belay was equipped with one 10mm bolt. The 500m climb, Eder Sabino Cacha, was named after a young Peruvian guide who was killed in an avalanche the previous day while skiing Tocllaraju. The climbers recommend the area as being easy to reach, generally dry, and having little vegetation compared to, say, the Paron Valley.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO Editor, CLIMB magazine*

*Cordillera Blanca, other activity.* The following information supplements the new routes individually reported above.

In addition to their climbs on La Esfinge (above), Polish climbers Arkadiusz Grządziel, Bogusław Kowalski, and Jerzy Stefański added a 300m variation, to the right of the Normal Route, on the upper portion of Artesonraju (6,025m).

In the Ishinca Valley in early May, Jamie Laidlaw made two extremely steep ski descents, likely firsts. He climbed and skied (same line) the West Face (750m, D+) of Tocllaraju (6,032m), and two days later climbed and skied the 800m North Face (D+) of Ranrapalca. For Ranrapalca he climbed a ridge on the east side of the hanging face to minimize rockfall exposure. He climbed to the 6,162m summit but skied down from just below a short band of 5.5 rock that guards the summit plateau, and skied farther to climber's right than his ascent.

Also in the Ishinca, on June 18 Americans Wayne Crill and Kevin Gallagher returned to their 2004 route on Hatun Ulloc, Karma de los Condores, to make its first free ascent at 5.11d. One week later Americans Andy Wellman and James Woods repeated the route, free, and continued up Ulloc's previously unclimbed upper tiers on rock up to 5.9R. About 60m from the summit they retreated due to dirty and vegetated cracks.

On August 15 Wellman and Tyler Anderson climbed the south face of Mururaju (a.k.a. Nevado Pongos Sur, 5,688m), likely making the second ascent of the 1999 Argentine-Israeli route, the South Face Direct (600m, TD WI3). They made some minor variations while climbing the face in 10 hours (16 hours roundtrip from base camp).

Wellman made many impressive repeats during the summer, including a 6:32 trailhead-to-summit solo of Artesonraju (6,025m) via the Normal Route.

The prolific Spanish climber Jordi Corominas made several speed solos, including the Ecuadorian Route on Santa Cruz (6,259m) in six hours, and the 1979 route on Sarapo (6,127m,