

that involved placing a number of fixed ropes, we completed the first 11 pitches, but I was hit by rockfall and we retreated.

The second part of the Up Project Patagonia adventure took Italians Giovanni Ongaro and Matteo Bernasconi and Swiss Lorenzo Lanfranchi to Cerro San Lorenzo. It early March they met Barmasse, who was waiting in the town of Perito Moreno. They had intended to approach the mountain via the Rio Oro Valley, but since Mario Sar, the owner of a piece of land one needs to cross to reach it, demanded \$1,200 per person, they changed plans and approached from the Chilean side instead [but climbed on the Argentine side; San Lorenzo is a border peak—Ed.]. They crossed the border and traveled to Cochrane.

It took two days hiking to reach base camp, which they established next to a small glacial lake at the base of the mountain's northernmost flank. Barmasse, Bernasconi, Lanfranchi, and Ongaro originally intended to attempt the northeast face, but due to continuous precipitation its gullies and snow ramps were not in condition. They changed their objective to the massive couloir in the north face, which leads straight to the summit. Two weeks of continuous bad weather kept them in base camp, allowing only one outing, during which they dug a snow cave near the foot of the face.

On March 26, in spite of the bad weather, the foursome moved up to the snow cave, breaking trail through more than three feet of new snow, only to find no trace of the cave or the equipment they had left. Unable to find their shovel, they dug a new cave using their cook pot. On the morning of the 28th, although the sky was covered, the barometric pressure was high, so they made an attempt. They left the snow cave in the early hours and climbed two pitches of 80° ice to reach the gully itself, following the line climbed by Americans John Hauf, Timothy Rawson, and Tom Walter (see *AAJ* 1988, pp. 173-174). After 1,000m, where the Americans veered right toward the north ridge (from where they retreated along the De Agostini route without reaching the summit), Barmasse, Bernasconi, Lanfranchi, and Ongaro continued straight up toward the summit headwall. Here lies the crux of the climb: a short but difficult S-shaped gully that brought them to the summit mushroom. After 10 hours of climbing they reached the summit, having completed a line that they christened Café Cortado.

LUCA MASPES, *Sondrio, Italy*

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA

CHALTEN MASSIF

Patagonia summary. [Note: this summary supplements the individual route reports below—Ed.] Unlike the past few years, this season did not offer an extended good weather period in late January and February, which climbers had come to expect and rely upon. There have been no major changes in the National Parks Service policy regarding climbing permits, which are still free. A definitive review of the measure enacted in late 2004, which established permit fees, is still pending. This season was characterized by several important repeat ascents, particularly on Cerro Fitz Roy, where during February five of its longest climbs were repeated. These included the second complete ascent of Ensueño on the west face, climbed in two days by Slovenes Rok Blagus, Tomaz Jakofcic, and Miha Valic; the fourth ascent of the Slovak Route on the southwest

face, climbed by Slovenes Boris Lorencic and Urban Azman; the second ascent of the French route on the northwest pillar, climbed over two days by Argentine Gabriel Otero and Brazilians Edemilson Padilha and Valdesir Machado; the first free ascent and first one-day ascent of the Casarotto route (Kearney-Knight variation), by Americans Bean Bowers and Josh Wharton in 15 hours bergschrund-to-summit (24 hours roundtrip from Paso Superior), at about 5.11+; and the first female ascent of the same route, by 23 year-old American Crystal Davis-Robbins, with Canadian Jon Walsh in a 27-hour push, bergschrund-to-summit. Davis-Robbins' ascent is particularly significant because, unlike some "first female ascents," she shared equally the leading duties. Just three days later American Helen Motter, also swinging leads, climbed the Franco-Argentine route with Bowers (his second Fitz Roy ascent in 72 hours), completing the third or fourth female ascent of the route. Elsewhere on Fitz Roy, veteran American Jim Donini, who first visited the Chalten massif in 1974, attempted a new route on the west flank of the Goretta (north) Pillar with Tom Englebock. They climbed 14 pitches before retreating in deteriorating weather. They intend to return next year to complete it. Elsewhere in the massif, Americans Sean Leary and Bean Bowers did a nine-hour, no-falls ascent of the Red Pillar (550m, 5.12b) route on Mermoz, with both climbers climbing all pitches.

Cerro Torre continues to be climbed almost exclusively by the Compressor Route, but ironically this year the long-disputed first ascent route was both disproved and climbed, and the true first ascent route, the Ragni di Lecco west face route, was repeated. In early December a Franco-Argentine team led by Bruno Sourzac and including Ramiro Calvo, Walter Rossini, Max O'Dell, and Gabriel and Luciano Fiorenza completed the fifth ascent to the summit of this route (previous ascents to the summit: Chiappa-Conti-Ferrari-Negri, 1974, now known to be the true first ascent of Cerro Torre; Bragg-Carman-Wilson, 1977; Bearzi-Winkelmann, 1986; Elias-Merino, 1997).

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche*, AAC

Cerro Torre, El Arca de los Vientos. On November 12 and 13, Alessandro Beltrami, Rolando Garibotti, and Ermanno Salvaterra became the first to climb Cerro Torre from the north. Their route, El Arca de los Vientos (1,200m, 37 pitches, VI 5.11 A1 90°), starts with the Bragg-Donini-Wilson (1977) Torre Egger line on the lower east face to the Col of Conquest, then moves onto the northwest face, and then the north face to the west ridge to the summit. See Salvaterra's feature article on their historic climb, earlier in this *Journal*.

Cerro Torre, The Long Run; and Cerro Standhardt, Extreme Emotions. On January 3, 2006, Stephen Koch and I went to Chalten and the next day to the Agostini/Bridwell Base Camp at Laguna Torre. The weather was unstable, as described in many Patagonian reports. Our first idea was the Marsigny-Parkin to the Ferrari route to the summit of Cerro Torre. At the Noruegos camp we met Dean Potter, who was waiting for weather to improve. He wanted to BASE jump from Cerro Torre. After we returned to BC together, I suggested that Dean join us on the climb. He was happy to.

After several days of bad weather we returned to Noruegos, but on the way up the glacier we noticed that conditions on the Marsigny-Parkin were not good for safe and fast climbing, so we decided on a route we'd previously considered as a second option.

On January 17 we started to climb from the glacier up the 250m El Mochito via new