

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).

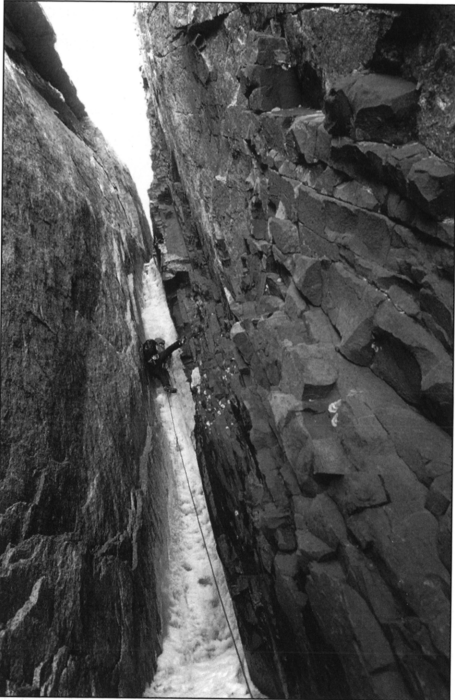
ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche*, AAC

*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



Stephen Koch on pitch 9 of *Extreme Emotions*. Marko Prezelj

ground (F6a), and then joined the Piola-Anker route on El Mocho to reach its top. We used a single rope, the leader climbed without a pack, and the seconds carried small packs. We were climbing fast and started to rappel down the north side of El Mocho around midday, when the weather turned bad. After 150m of rappels we climbed snow and ice slopes toward the Col of Patience and luckily missed a big wind-slab avalanche. The crux of this section was a steep mixed pitch 150m below the col. It took me almost an hour to free-climb it, though I took a fall on the exit slab: my first leader fall in the mountains in ten years. Very interesting and challenging pitch with wet snow and rotten ice.

We reached the Col of Patience in unmotivating weather and spent an uncomfortable, wet, cold night in a crevasse, before descending in the wind and rain the morning of the 18th. At Noruegos the next day, the weather improved.

On January 20 we started again with the same idea and same tactics. Before dawn we climbed El Mochito and at 1 p.m. reached the

Col of Patience, where we rested and prepared water before continuing up the Compressor Route. The climbing there is nice, and we found plenty of mixed sections before complete darkness set in, two pitches below the ice towers. The weather had been perfect—no wind and no clouds. After midnight we cut a small ledge in an ice bridge [a short snow/ice feature linking the tower and the headwall] under the headwall, where we sat and prepared water. At first light we started climbing the headwall and the infamous bolting monument, reaching the windy summit around 1 p.m. We spent more than an hour taking pictures and looking for a good BASE jump spot, but Dean decided that Cerro Torre isn't steep enough for a safe jump and joined us for 10 hours of a more "classic" descent of the Compressor Route.

On January 29 Stephen and I went up to study some possibilities on Torre Standhardt, finding an interesting new line on the bottom half of the east face. At first light the next morning we started up the rock buttress just left of Tomahawk, following steep cracks and logical passages. Atop pitch eight we rappelled 15m into a deep chimney, which we climbed in "interesting" mixed conditions. It was late in the afternoon, and a small waterfall ran over the steepest section, where the ice was thin and rotten. At the top of the chimney, luckily we caught the last half hour of sun. We waited there until 3 a.m. for cold temperatures before continuing. In the dark, windy morning with fog, we missed the start of the Exocet chimney, but soon found the right way and climbed Exocet to the summit ridge, where we noticed that the weather had gone (wind, clouds, rain). However, the cold temperatures kept the ice in place. We continued up one short rock pitch to the summit snow and ice. It took two more ropelengths to reach

the bottom of the summit mushroom. The 30m mushroom was quite challenging, due to poor snow conditions on the upper half. It took me almost an hour to reach the top, at 3 p.m. February 1.

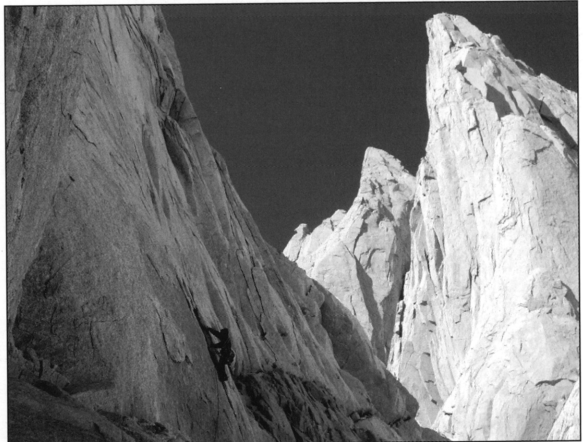
The descent was a story in itself; we were under time pressure because we had a bus to catch early on the morning of February 3, and a flight that same day. We rappelled, and after about eight rappels our rope stuck, and the sheath was destroyed. We had to climb back 150m to the ramp on Exocet, by which we descended. We reached the couloir at midnight and continued the descent with 30m rappels. We made it to our tent at Noruegos around 4 a.m., slept for four hours, and descended to BC.

It was interesting trip, with most of the elements an expedition needs to stay in my memory. We were motivated and ready to climb most of the possible climbing days, which were rich and intense with new experience.

MARKO PREZELJ, *Slovenia*

*Fitz Roy, Linea di Eleganza, second ascent and first free ascent.* In a single push from February 22 to 24, 2006, Tommy Caldwell, Topher Donahue, and Erik Roed made the first free and first alpine-style ascent (second overall) of Linea di Eleganza (1,250m, 33 pitches, VI 5.12+ M8, Codo-Fava-Orlandi, 2004) on the east face of Fitz Roy. For the story of their incredible ascent, see Donahue's feature earlier in this *Journal*.

*Aguja Rafael Juarez, Blood on the Tracks; and Desmochada, The Sound and the Fury.* In December, Taki Miyamoto (Japan), Freddie Wilkinson (New Hampshire), Paul Tureki (Alaska), and I (Maine) established a new route on Cerro Innominata (also known as Aguja Rafael Juarez). We climbed the steep, 2,000' north face, following a continuous crack system up its western side near the skyline. Our first attempt was thwarted by strong winds, but, during an unusually stable period of weather around Christmas, the four of us returned and finished the route,



Freddie Wilkinson on pitch five of *The Sound and the Fury*.  
Dave Sharratt

using some aid. I then returned with Taki and Fred and free-climbed the aid pitches, creating *Blood on the Tracks*: 11 long pitches, 5.12. The route is characterized by steep, clean crack climbing and is quite sustained until pitch nine, which is the free-climbing crux, then eases into 5.10 terrain. [For the route line, refer to Jon Walsh's *Aguja Rafael Juarez* photo on p. 297, *AAJ* 2005. Where the line for *Comono* begins to angle slightly left, *Blood on the Tracks* continues up, traverses slightly right to the left side of the shaded, triangular roof, and then continues straight up to the summit.—Ed.]