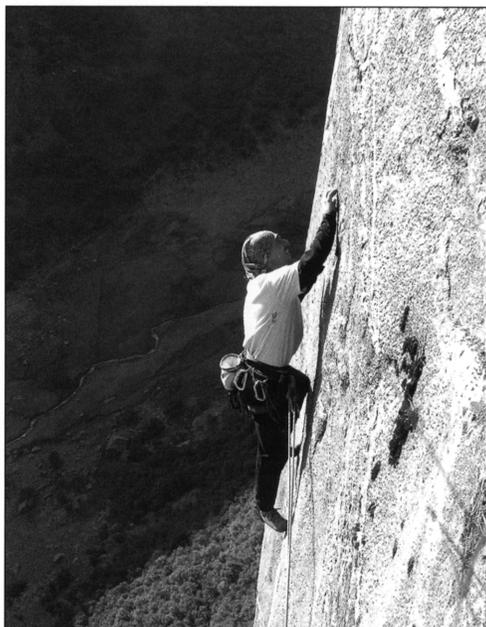


my tracks on the glacier. I was back in Huaraz 28 hours after leaving. I was happy with the climbing, but disappointed that the last few easy meters eluded me. With so many beautiful mountains here, I will surely come back. I thank the AAC for its generous support with a Mountain Fellowship Grant.

DAVE TURNER, AAC



Simone Pedefferri on pitch 10 of Qui lo Vado Ancora.
Fabio Palma

Chaupi Huanca, Qui lo Vado Ancora (to junction with Caravaca Jubilar). Italian Ragni di Lecco climbers Simone Pedefferri (leader, age 34), Andrea Pavan (26), and I (41) explored the granite walls of Peru's Quebrada Rurec, where on July 12 we made the first ascent of Qui lo Vado Ancora (7c max, 7a oblig with two pitches of A1), on Chaupi Huanca [a.k.a. Punta Numa, but the native (Quechua) name is correct and preferred. Also see note on naming, *AAJ* 2006, p. 241]. We named the route for the song "Here I Go Again" (Whitesnake, 1987), because it explains well why we are so alone chasing our passions. Thanks to David Coverdale, the singer, and Adrian Vandenberg, solo guitar, for that song! We love free-climbing, and free-climbing at high altitude is for us a dream.

We arrived in the Rurec Valley on July 1 and left on the 12th. The valley is 12km of easy, lovely walking from the village of Olleros, which is 30 minutes from

Huaraz. The route starts 20 minutes from the bottom of the valley, at 4,050m.

The route is 15 pitches long (540m), starting 50m right of the Spanish route, Caravaca Jubilar (5.11 A4). We freed all the pitches except the 10th (because it's dirty; with a day of cleaning it could become maximum 6c) and the 14th (too cold that day, but it could be a fantastic 7c). We suggest one set of Friends, from the small yellow, and doubles in sizes 1, 2, 3. The Friends are mainly useful/necessary from pitch 10 onward. Some micronuts could be used on the slab pitches. Ratings of the 15 pitches are V, V+, 6b, 7a, 7a+, 7a, 6b+, 7b, 7a+, 6b A1, 6c, V, 6c+, 7a A1, 7a. The last pitch ends, at 4,600m, with a fantastic crack that needs Friends #4 and #5 (minimum #3).

The route is mainly slab climbing, often with distant protection. Pitches 4, 5, and 6 are exposed; there are bolts, but falling is not an option! Runouts are as long as 12m, with 6c/7a mandatory, compounded by the facts that before 11 a.m. it's too cold and dark arrives at 6 p.m. However, belays are easily established, so it's not a problem to stop and come down during the evening. It would be a worthy goal to try to on-sight the route in a day and to free the 14th pitch—surely possible for a strong team. The climbing is not physical but often very technical.

We finished the route in seven days, in stable weather, with only three days of cold wind and one day of snow. Some pitches are really nice; maybe the best are the last three. From the exit it is possible to try to reach the top of Chaupi Huanca by Caravaca Jubilar, maybe freeing its dihedral, but we didn't have enough time. There are other possibilities, though not easy, and the granite has few cracks.

Our route represents part of the "Liberi in Libera" project, a sort of exploratory journey to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Ragni di Lecco association.

FABIO PALMA, *Ragni di Lecco, Italy*

Cashan Este, Southwest Ridge. An Andes [commercial group] expedition, led by Martin Akhurst, was in the Cordillera Blanca in June. Between June 23-25 they made an ascent of Cashan Este (5,716m) by the southwest ridge (from the col with Shacsha). Apparently this route had not been recorded—the route of the first ascent in 1948 lies on the southwest glacier and west ridge. The group climbed from a base camp in the Quebrada Rurec, with higher camps at 4,700m and 5,000m. After a half-day scouting and trail-breaking, Peruvian guide Damian Aurelio, with David Galloway and Ray Tennant, reached the summit at 12 noon on June 25. The grade was about Alpine AD; the route involved complicated route-finding through crevasses and a steep pitch to gain the summit.

JOHN BIGGAR, *U.K.*

Huantsan Norte, The Wayqui Way. Rolando Morales Flores, Beto Pinto Toledo, Michel Bernuy Qiuto, and I (all International Federation of Mountain Guides aspirants from the Casa de Guias in Huaraz, Peru) entered the Rajucolta Valley on July 11 and set up base camp on the west side of Huantsan, at 5,175m. The next day we climbed the west face of the col north of Huantsan Norte (6,113m), with only a half-liter of fuel, food for two days, two sleeping bags, two mattresses, five Friends, seven Stoppers, five ice screws, and six pitons. We climbed in pairs, 3m apart, sharing a rope on the exit pitch. We started with 240m of a new route. The first pitch contained mixed climbing on thin ice patches over rock, with hard-won protection, followed by two pitches of vertical ice and snow up to 90°. The fourth pitch had vertical ice and mixed climbing over rock slabs and 4m of vertical rock and ice that allowed us to exit the face.

We dug a snow cave and waited for morning to make a summit bid, but bad weather kept us cave-bound, and we ate the remaining food. On day 4 we left our bivy at 2 a.m. and started the Northwest Ridge with just a liter of water and two Power Bars for the four of us. We climbed 10 runout pitches, using only deadmen as anchors. The most difficult part required crossing from the west face of the ridge to the east face, over cornices and mushrooms. At 6:34 a.m. in perfect conditions, we became the first all-Peruvian team to reach the summit of Huantsan Norte. Fourteen rappels later, down the northeast face, leaving seven snow stakes, four pitons, and all the cordelettes we had, we reached the glacier and our bivy at 5:30 p.m. Our supplies exhausted, we kept going, and at 11:30 p.m., after 21 hours on the move, we feasted on the remaining food in base camp and drank from a nearby water hole, having finished our almost-epic ascent of the The Wayqui Way (850m, TD+ WI4 M4 90°; in Quechua, *wayqui* means "brothers").

CHRISTIAN ANDREAS STOLL DAVILA, *Peru (adapted from www.alpinist.com)*