



Huaraca, with the Northeast Face (left) and North Ridge routes.
Carl Reilly

"Was it my fault?"

"No, I am pretty sure it wasn't," Graeme said, and he was pretty sure it wasn't.

We looked at Martin, who was still in the land of the fairies, and regrouped in the ice cave as the storm worsened. It would be impossible to descend that day.

Our poorly made snow-hole within the ice cave left our upper torsos and heads exposed, and the four of us lined up ala spoons. On a positive note, we could all fit in the hole, but on a negative note, it had no heat-retaining qualities whatsoever. While none of us are

particularly huggy sorts, it is fair to say that nobody was trying to be the alpha male. Graeme even reports that he had never been so glad to be sandwiched between two strapping young men.

After we suffered 12 hours of utter misery, the sun began to creep over the horizon. Suddenly Martin seemed liveliest of all; clearly the lightning strike had charged him up. We descended the northeast face by a series of rappels and downclimbing.

After recovering from the electrifying experience, we put up two routes on the north side of Huaraca. Tom and Martin established the North Ridge route from the col between Huaraca and Jaurau. The route follows the narrow snow ridge, which is corniced in sections, through rock bands until an overhanging rock wall forced them into a series of gullies and slabs on the northeast face. These led to snow slopes and the summit. Grade: D (UIAA 4+).

Graeme and I climbed the Northeast Face route, starting from an obvious snow cone and following a right-trending but wandering line through a series of cracks and chimneys, leading to steeper chimneys, 45m left of the ridge, which we climbed to snow slopes and the summit. Grade: D (UIAA 5).

We all descended by downclimbing the east ridge for 100m, before making two rappels down the south face to reach the glacier between Huaraca and Quesillo.

CARL REILLY, U.K.

Trapezio, Los Viejos Roqueros Nunca Mueren, and tragedy. On August 2, 2006, José Manuel Fernández and Miguel Ángel Pita climbed the southeast face of Trapecio (5,653m) via the couloir systems to the right of the July 2005 route by Slovenians Pavle Kozjek, Miha Lampreht, and Branko Ivanek and Basque Aritza Monasterio (AAJ 2006, pp. 244-246). The Spanish pair climbed nine initial pitches, with 60m ropes, including a middle section of moving together for 150m and some 70m pitches. They overcame a frozen waterfall (70°, then 80°-85°) on the ninth pitch and then descended [highpoint unclear] after naming their climb Los Viejos Roqueros Nunca Mueren (Old Rockclimbers Never Die, ca 750m V/4+). See *Desnivel*, no. 51, 2007, p. 104.

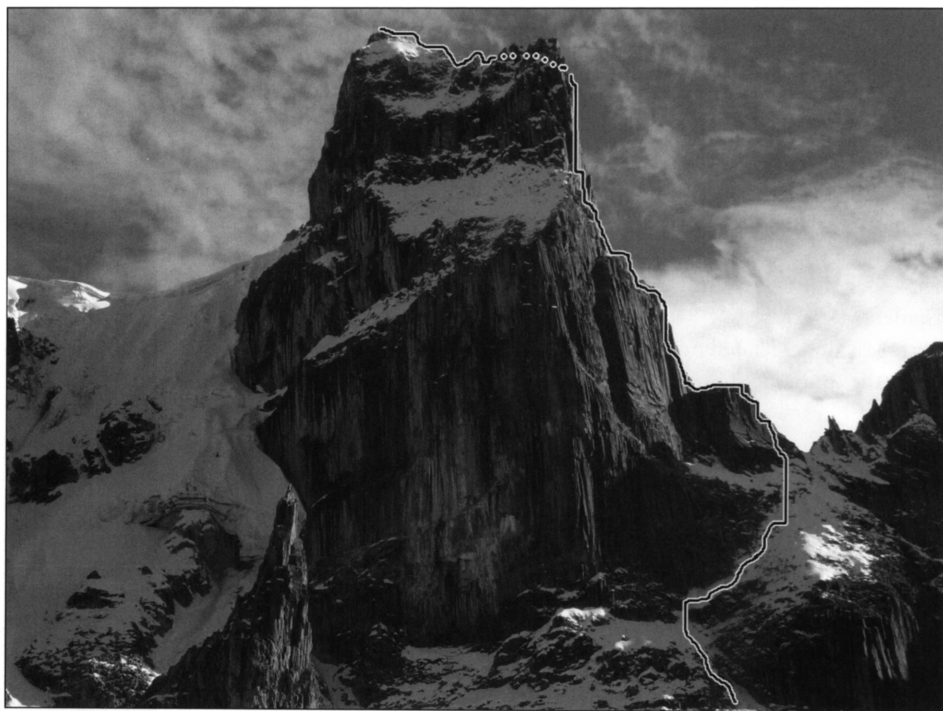
They rappelled twice from rock pitons and once from a single camming device. On their fourth rappel, their snow stake pulled from the sugary snow and Fernández died in the fall. Pita bivouacked for 12 hours, sitting on a small ice ledge, before climbing unroped to the summit and descending via the northwest face.

ANTONIO GÓMEZ BOHÓRQUEZ (SEVI BOHÓRQUEZ), *Andesinfo, Spain, AAC*

Puscanturpa Este, Stonehenge. Grega Kresal and I, who climbed Chacaraju's 700m east face (VII A2) together in 1993, returned to Peru for the east face of Puscanturpa Este (5,410m). The peak is located in the extreme southeast corner of the Huayhuash, a great distance from the standard western approaches. Our new line, Stonehenge (600m, 10 pitches, VII+ 70° ice), ascends a wall that had not been attempted for over twenty years. In 1986 a set of loose blocks turned around Nixon and partner, the first and only team to attempt the face, only half a pitch up the ridge. (We found one of their abandoned carabiners 20m up.) Ours is likely the second ascent of the peak. We completed the climb in 14 hours roundtrip on July 6, in pure alpine style.

We drove 11 hours from Huaraz to Cajatambo, from where we trekked two long days to the south side of the peak. Here we established base camp. Starting at 4 a.m. on July 6, we made a one-hour approach to the base of the east face. We climbed 200m of moderate ice to reach the steep wall of lithic tuff, typical Puscanturpa rock. (Several rock routes have been established on the west face of Puscanturpa Norte.)

Climbing on volcanic rock was something special, with excellent friction, clean cracks,



Stonehenge, the only route on this side of Puscanturpa Este. *Pavle Kozjek*