

than 14 aren't allowed on Aconcagua. Jordan asked for the seven summits as a gift at his ninth birthday party, and in 2006 he ascended Kilimanjaro and Elbrus.

Frenchman Francois Bon approached Aconcagua in early winter conditions. He then made a speed-flying (free skiing and high-speed paragliding) descent of the south wall in four minutes and 50 seconds. "With the altitude it goes so fast!" Bon said. "I fell from the sky along the walls." He has also descended Mont Blanc and the Eiger.

MARCELO SCANU, *Buenos Aires, Argentina*

*Aconcagua, possible new route or variation.* Various sources, including [www.alpinist.com](http://www.alpinist.com) and [www.czechclimbing.com](http://www.czechclimbing.com), reported that Czechs Josef Lukas and Leopold Sulovsky climbed an alpine-style new route on Aconcagua's west face. The route is right of the Normal Route and left of the West Face (1965) route (which it crosses at the Gran Acarreo) but seems to climb substantial portions of other routes, particularly Guías Mendocinos (1992) and Flight of the Condor (2002). Exactly how much of the route is new remains



Aconcagua from the west, showing the Lukas-Sulovsky line, which shares substantial terrain with existing routes. The main summit (6,962m) is hidden from view, while what looks like the high point in this image is actually the south summit (6,930m). *Mauricio Fernández, [www.summitediciones.com.ar](http://www.summitediciones.com.ar)*

unclear and, due to language barriers, getting information proved difficult. Regardless, Lukas confirmed the route line shown here and added, "We were on top on January 29, 2008, at 7 p.m. after three days of climbing. One day back to base camp. Our first camp was at 5,200m, second at 6,200m. Maximum UIAA 5. Bad rock with a lot of falling stones."

Thanks to Vlado Linek, Damian Benegas, and Mauricio Fernández (author of *Aconcagua, La Cima de América*) for information.

*Mt. Tupungato, first winter ascent.* Mt. Tupungato (6,570m) stands in front of Santiago, Chile, on the border with Argentina. It is famous for its bad weather, being swept every day by furious western winds, moistened by Santiago's smog.

After an investigation in both countries showed no previous winter ascents, we planned to go for it and film a documentary. The group was comprised of five Argentinians: Diego de Angelis, Fernando Garmendia, Guillermo Glass, Rolando Linzing, and me.

We approached Tupungato from Argentina, even though it demands crossing the Cordillera Frontal, a lower range directly to the east, then descending to the Tupungato Valley. On August 31 we departed from Refugio De la Plaza, a military post at 2,090m. Our backpacks weighed 45kg, as we needed to take filming and mountaineering gear, including glacier, skiing, and avalanche equipment, in complete self-sufficiency.

After some days acclimatizing in lower valleys, we followed the Las Tunas, Pabellón, and Grande rivers and crossed the Cordillera Frontal through the Portezuelo del Fraile col (4,746m). Then we followed the Tupungato Valley to its source at the mountain's southern glacier. A couple of stormy days followed, but on September 13 at 4:45 a.m. we left our last camp, pitched at 5,500m on the southern ridge, and starting climbing the southern route, a glacier up to 45°. At night the weather got stormy once more, and this time also very cold. We kept climbing and, at 10:30 p.m. Glass, Linzing, and I reached the main summit in a storm with -50°C temperatures, while DeAngelis and Garmendia reached the 7m-lower eastern summit.

Two days later we trekked to Tupungato's eastern glacier, where a plane disappeared in 1947 and was discovered by Garmendia and Pablo Reguera 51 years later, at 4,500m. Despite the amount of snow, we found a tire, still inflated.

We returned to Refugio de la Plaza 18 days after leaving it, having climbed 7,200m total and walking 95km.

DARIO BRACALI, *Argentina, CAB, AAC*

## NORTHERN PATAGONIA, CHILE

*Volcán Michinmahuida, West Face.* The icy dome of Michinmahuida Volcano (8,071'), near the town of Chaiten in northern Chilean Patagonia, is rarely visited because of bad weather and a long approach trek through the cold jungle. In three days, finishing on January 16, 2006, Chileans Cristian Stephens, Juan Pablo Ortega, and I opened the West Face (PD). The route starts



The West Face route on Volcán Michinmahuida. *Rodrigo Ponce*

just left of the West Glacier and climbs moderate slopes through large crevasse fields. The crux of this route is finding the right way through the crevasses.

RODRIGO PONCE, *Club Andino Universitario, Santiago, Chile*

*Cerro Pico Moro, first ascent, Normal Casanova.* After my return from Cochamó, Jose Datolli, Felipe Opazo, and Marcelo Cortes organized an expedition to Cerro Pico Moro, near Palena, Chile. With the help of the Chilean Air Force and the Municipality of Palena, we embarked for this Patagonian city. From Palena we were transported to the nearby Valle el Azul, where Datolli and I set off without a stove or bivy gear for a trip that we supposed would take two days, up an unclimbed peak. After getting whipped by bad weather, we waited for the support of the rest of our team and some locals who were bringing in supplies for an advanced base camp. After a day of waiting for good weather, Datolli and I set off again without bivy gear, climbing three pitches and descending to a bivy at the base of the wall. Early the next morning we started again, freeing