

Alvaro Novellón near the top of Asamblea de Majaras, Cerro Adela.  
Dani Ascaso

After a day of rest we tried a new route on the east face of Cerro Adela. At 12:30 a.m. on October 10 we began walking in the dark from our snow cave on the glacier immediately below Adela's and Torre's south faces. By sunrise we had climbed 600m of ice with maximum steepness up to 85°. Later, with the sun warming up, we simul-climbed 200m of easy snow and mixed ramps.

When we arrived at the base of last the 200m steep step, we decided that

each party would take a different line, so we would not have to wait for each other. Alvaro and Oscar climbed a line just left of the gully, while Santi and I climbed a more direct finish, which involved tenuous mixed climbing on bad rock. This final section was the crux of the climb, with poor rock and ice making us nervous. After 15 hours of climbing, we climbed the summit ridge and shortly after were on top of Cerro Adela.

For our descent, we did not know the terrain very clearly. We headed south along the ridge and then dropped east, toward the Torre Valley, via the col before Cerro Ñato. On the hanging glacier below Ñato we dug a hole inside a crevasse and spent the night. The following afternoon we arrived at El Chaltén. The descent was not difficult but was fairly involved.

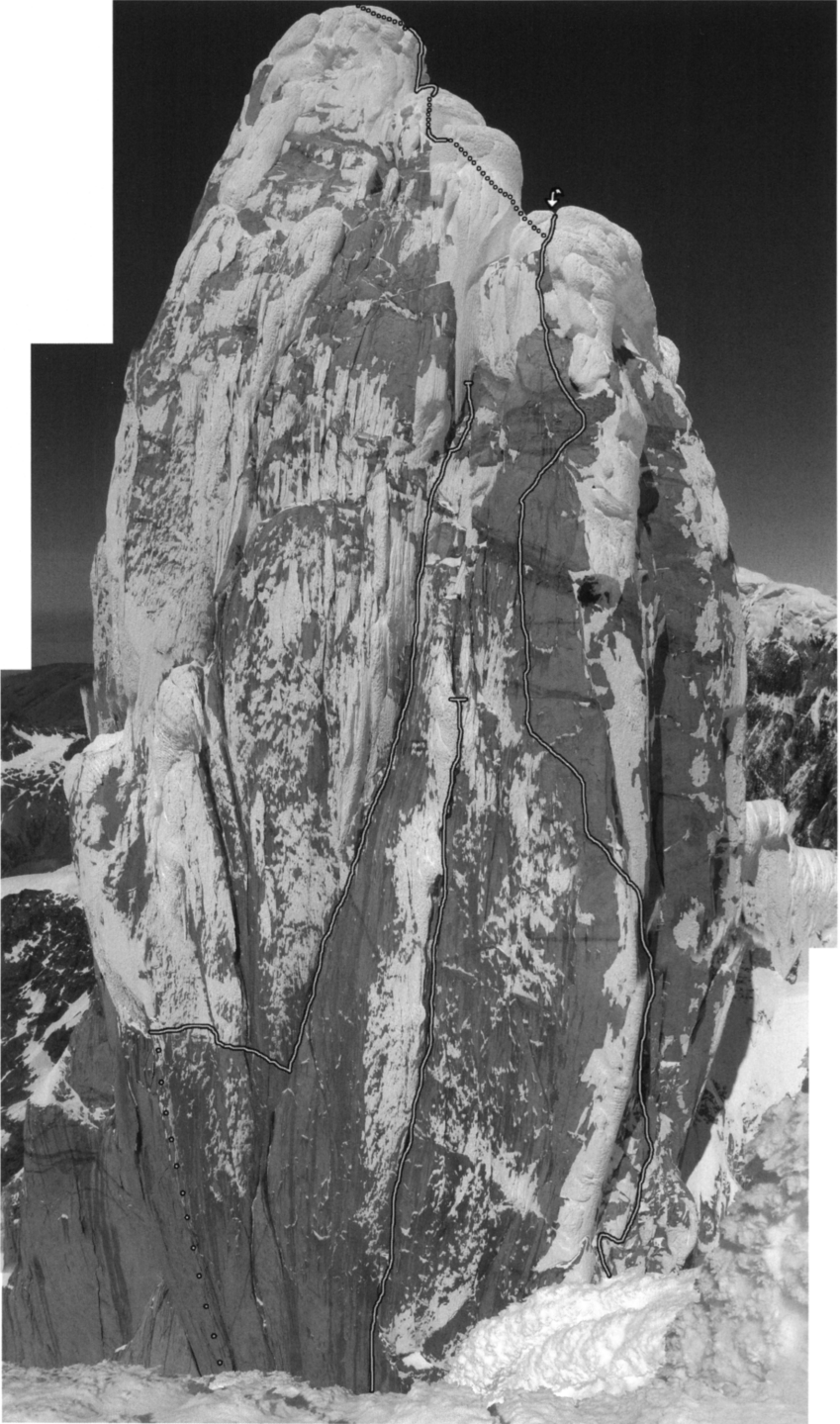
This expedition celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Peña Guara club of Huesca, to which Alvaro, Oscar, and I belong. Without its support this climb might not have been possible.

Asamblea de Majaras (1,000m, ED 95°[max] M5+).

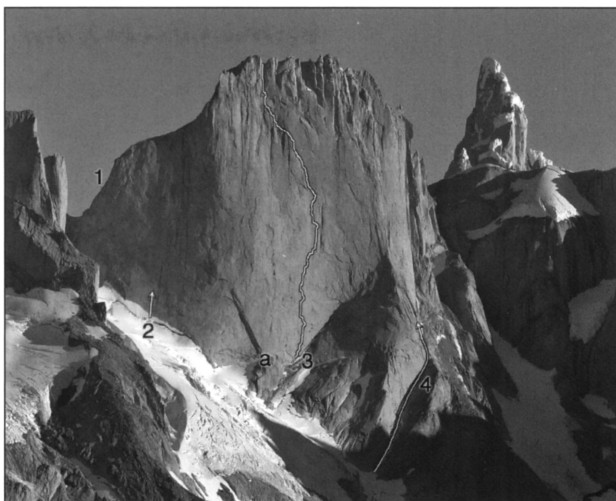
DANI ASCASO, *Spain*

*The Torre Traverse (Cerro Standhardt, Punta Herron, Torre Egger, and Cerro Torre).* From January 21–24, 2008, Rolando Garibotti and Colin Haley made a phenomenal first enchainment of these towers in a continuous alpine-style push, climbing from north to south in a four-day roundtrip. The Torre Traverse had been coveted by leading Patagonian climbers for nearly 20 years. See Garibotti's feature earlier in this *Journal*.

*Cerro Piergiorgio, La Ruta del Hermano to summit ridge.* In early 2007 we fixed 400m of rope up Piergiorgio's 950m northwest face. We decided to use fixed ropes after hearing that a group of Germans climbers had tried the face with portaledge, only to have them shredded by the wind. On our last day of climbing we were forced down by a storm and had to leave the fixed ropes in place. Leaving the ropes motivated us to return to try again. We at least wanted to clean the ropes.



Early this year (2008) we returned to Chalten, and while we waited for Cristian Brenna and Mario Conti to arrive [Conti, a member of the 1974 Ragni di Lecco team that made the first ascent of Cerro Torre, was there as support, not part of the climbing team—Ed.], Giovanni Ongaro and Herve Barmasse reclaimed to our previous high point. Since many of the ropes were frayed, we had to re-climb the pitches. We did not have new fixed ropes, so we re-used the old ones, knotting over frayed sections. We fixed a further 60m from our high point, to a point at the base of a chimney, where during our first summit attempt Giovanni was hit by rockfall, hurting his hand, forcing him to retreat and return to Italy. On our second attempt the wind forced us to retreat, and finally our third attempt was successful.



Piergiorgio's northwest face: (1) Esperando la Cumbre (Giordani-Maspes, 1996), follows skyline to the leftmost summit. (2) Pepe Rayo (DalPra-Girardi-Nadali-Sarchi, 1996), stops at ridge. (3) La Ruta del Hermano (Barmasse-Brenna, 2008). (4) Greenpeace (Manica-Vettori, 1985) to a summit on the far right. (a) start of 1995 attempt (Giordani-Maspes) that retreated high on the wall. The narrow, rime-capped spire to the right is actually an in-line view, from north to south, of the Torre group. In front of the Torres, to the right of Piergiorgio, is Domo Blanco. The pillar just left of Piergiorgio is unclimbed. Left of it, going off-screen, is Cerro Pollone. *Martin courtesy Herve Barmasse*

We, Christian and Herve, set off from our tents at 2 a.m. on February 7, juggled our fixed ropes [460m], and reached the summit ridge at 2 a.m. the following day, descending back to our tents at 11 a.m. in a blizzard. While descending in the middle of a storm, we were unable to retrieve our fixed ropes.

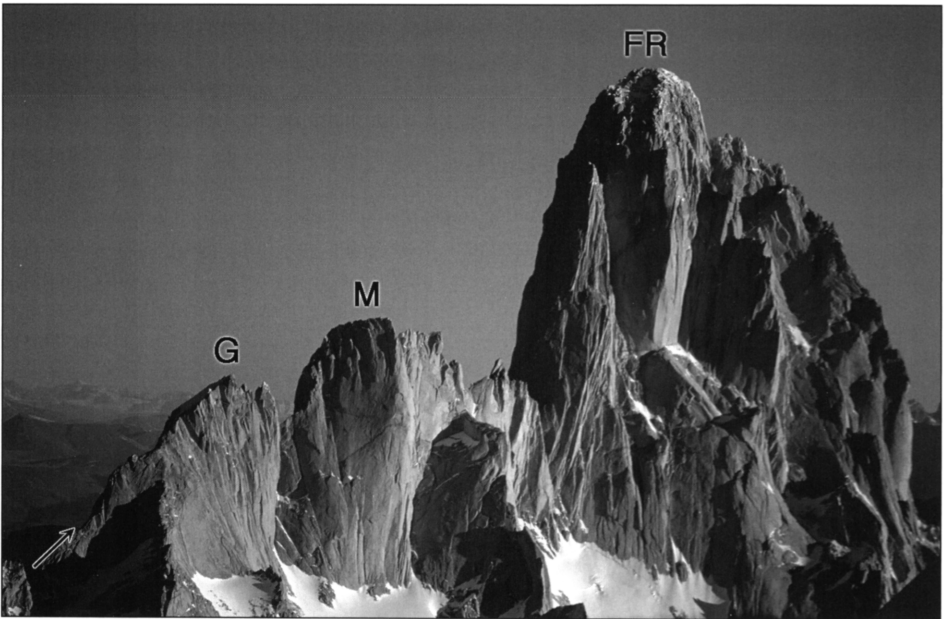
Our route climbs an inobvious line that is exposed to rockfall, as Giovanni's accident proves. In the first 600m the climbing is mostly aid, involving expanding flakes on dubious rock, with many blank sections that we overcame by drilling approximately 40 bat-hook holes. We climbed pitches on the second part of the route both aid and free. The majority of the belay stations have one bolt, while on the 29 pitches we placed six progression bolts. Our climbing style was not ideal, but not unlike the ascent of Cerro Murallon by Robert Jasper and Stefan Glowacz. [Glowacz and Jasper abandoned 500m of fixed rope on the wall—Ed.] We called our route "La Ruta del Hermano" and dedicated it to Agostino Rocca and his family, since they made this project possible. The route follows the 1995 Ragni di Lecco's attempt, led by Casimiro Ferrari,

A rare and complete view of the upper aspects of Cerro Torre from the north, showing the two significant attempts and the complete route, which was the key to Garibotti and Haley's Torre Traverse. From left to right: Burke-Proctor 1981 attempt (dots represent hidden portions), Ponholzer-Steiger 1999 attempt (high point is approximate), El Arca de los Vientos (Beltrami-Garibotti-Salvaterra, 2005; joins the upper Ragni di Lecco route in the huge mushrooms). The Col of Conquest is hidden, just below the foreground snow. This shot is a composite of three photos taken from the top of Torre Egger. *Rolando Garibotti*

up the center of the wall and then angling left to the summit ridge. Due to rockfall, not much is left of the Ragni attempt—only three pitches. It was impressive to find 15m blank sections below old belay stations, where rock and cracks climbed years before had simply caved off.

*Compiled from e-mails from CHRISTIAN BRENNIA and HERVE BARMASSE, Italy*

*Care Bear Traverse (Guillaumet, Mermoz, and Fitz Roy); Guillaumet, The Lost Men; Fitz Roy, Hoser Chimney.* Dana “Mad Dog” Drummond and I hit the soon-to-be-paved streets of Chalten on January 16, 2008. With a promising forecast, we quickly repacked and hiked in the next day to the Piedras Negras bivy on the north side of the Fitz Roy massif. Following a tip from Colin Haley, we headed for a new line on the west face of Guillaumet that Colin had attempted the week before. After a false start, we finally got going on the right line at 11 a.m. The climb went in eleven pitches, with a touch of 5.11 and a few aid moves around iced cracks. The highlight was undoubtedly the final two pitches, where Dana navigated us up the Fissure Mad Dog, a burly offwidth and squeeze chimney system that topped out only 15m south of Guillaumet’s true summit. On the pitch above Colin’s high point, we found a single European-style piton with sun-bleached bail tat tied to it. On the same pitch I noticed a German candy bar rapper, expiration date 1993, wedged into a crack. Perhaps we had joined with Padrijo, the only established route on the face (which was indeed established in 1993), although the topo and photo on [www.climbinginpatagonia.freesevers.com](http://www.climbinginpatagonia.freesevers.com) shows Padrijo taking a crack system right of our line. A more likely scenario, given Padrijo’s traversing nature, is that the team rappelled down our corner system. The last possibility, though the resident experts in Chalten have no record of it, is that this line received an undocumented ascent or attempt. Anyhow, we’ve named it The



View from the northwest, with the Care Bear Traverse starting at the arrow and climbing the approximate skylines of Guillaumet (G), Mermoz (M), and Fitz Roy (FR). *Rolando Garibotti*