

Huaytapallana II. After an easy introductory pitch the climbing got interesting, and soon we arrived at an enormous wedged block on the col, to the right of a large tower. A narrow chimney led to the top of the block, where a steep flaky wall brought us to a perfect belay perched on the edge of the east ridge. The next pitch was the crux and the best pitch—perfect granite with just enough gear. The rest of the ridge was delightful, exposed, and airy but not too difficult. On the summit (the slightly lower east summit, 5,025m), as with the previous year's climb of Huaytapallana I, we found no evidence of prior passage. A short scramble back the way we came brought us to a large terrace from where four rappels took us to the foot of the face just left of our previous rappel descent. Last Exit (375m, 7 pitches, TD E1 5a or 5.9R).

We have just scratched the surface, and many interesting objectives remain, some on the equally interesting-looking opposite side of the quebrada. The beauty of this area includes ease of access, perfect camping, and wealth of opportunity for moderate to difficult new routes on perfect granite in a gorgeous setting.

ANTHONY BARTON, U.K.

*Huascaran massif, unnamed wall, Entre Boires.* From July 23 to August 9, after seven days carrying loads, acclimatizing, and fixing the first 200m of the route, Yuri Capps (from Switzerland but living in Catalonia) and I climbed a new route on a rock triangle along the east face of Huascaran Norte. It seems that this was a virgin wall; we found no information about other routes. Yuri had no big wall experience and had never used ice axes but wanted to experience the joy of living high on a wall for days, without any connection to phones, radios, or people at our BC.

From ABC at 5,200m, accessing the base of the wall at 5,350m was dangerous due to serac avalanches from between the two Huascarans. We spent 18 days (17 bivouacs) on the wall, climbing capsule-style with three wall camps: at pitches 5 (5,500m), 10 (5,750m), and 14 (5,950m). Although we had sunny moments, not one day was entirely good. We almost always had heavy fog and some snow, hence the name Entre Boires (*Inside the Fog* in Catalan). Intense cold froze our water bottles and caused us much trouble. On several days Yuri stayed in the portaledge while I soloed pitches.

The first part of the route had many roofs. The middle part, with snow and ice to 80°, was extremely laborious when hauling and rappelling with haulbags. The final wall was very overhanging and our route here direct, but the rock quality was



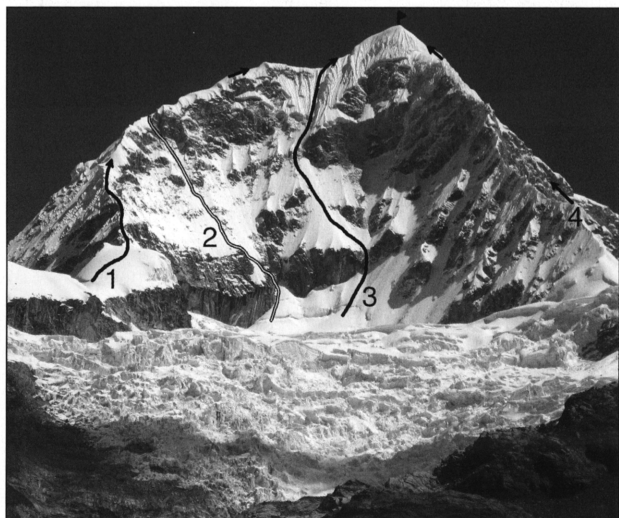
Entre Boires, with Huascaran Norte rising above. Baro-Corominas photo

variable—really good or really bad. Some of the rock was like flour.

Above the rock spire (6,150m) we wanted to make an alpine attack on the summit of Huascarán Norte, but weather and black sugar ice made it impossible. We climbed 970m, with 800m of vertical gain, with difficulties up to 80° 6a+ A3.

Rockfall from the middle section hit the base of the wall, cutting our fixed ropes. [They removed all of their fixed ropes—Ed.] But the route is pretty safe due to the big roofs and the overhangs. The climbing was difficult and complex but even more complex to descend.

SILVIA VIDAL, *Spain*



Chopicalqui: (1) Southeast Ridge (Clarbrough-Wayatt, 1969). (2) Burros Eslovenos (Ferjancic- Glesic-Makarovic-Obid, 2008, no summit). (3) East Face Direct (Johnson-Pohmajevich, 1988). (4) East Ridge (Arizzi-Chappaz-Desmaison-Vagne, 1982). *Matic Obid*

*Chopicalqui, Burros Eslovenos to Southeast Ridge.* On June 26 Matic Obid, Pavel Ferjancic, Jernej Arcon, Vladimir Makarov, and I (all Slovenian) approached the east face of Chopicalqui via the Quebrada Ulta, as described in Brad Johnson's *Classic Climbs of the Cordillera Blanca*. This special part of the Cordillera Blanca has beautiful lakes and mountains, no people, no base camps filled with tents, and no pollution. At 2 a.m. on the 28th we left our tents at 5,000m. Because of a toothache, Jernej didn't come. After three hours we reached the face. We started left of the East Face Direct and climbed 100m

of 50° snow, followed by 100m of rock on the left side of small couloir. We then angled slightly left to avoid rockfall and climbed 400m of 50-70° snow. For orientation, there is a big tower on the ridge, and we stayed to its left. The last 50m to the ridge was mixed climbing. The route ends on the Southeast Ridge route at 6,000m. Because of deep snow on the ridge we did not go on the summit and descend the normal route, as planned, but rappelled our route (12 60m rapels on pitons and snow pickets). From tent to tent we needed 21 hours. Burros Eslovenos (600m, M5 50-70°).

MITJA GLESCIC, *Slovenia*

*Nevado Ulta, Andinista-Rifnik, to summit ridge.* On July 18, after two failed attempts in 2006 and 2007, Slovenian Viktor Mlinar and I made the first ascent of Nevado Ulta's south face. The whole climb took four days from Huaraz. The first day, after crossing Punta Olimpica pass (4,950m) in an old bus, we descended to 3,885m where, at a bridge before the town of Pompey,