

My brother Weston arrived, along with Patagonia weather. But years of climbing in Patagonia have turned Donini into a walking weather station, and Jim saw a small window opening, so Weston and I paddled 6km down from the bridge at the mouth of Lago Bertrand. After a rough landing we stashed our inflatable kayaks near a gaucho's hut and hiked toward the twin peaks labeled 2,254m. We followed a drainage up through a beautiful untrammelled forest; when we reached tree line the wind literally blew us off our feet. The next morning we lucked out and had good weather. Above the glacier we climbed a six-pitch route, Take Your Flota and Go to Pluto, up the center dihedral of the block-shaped peak. It was moderate climbing with a 5.9 summit pitch up a nice hand crack. The next day we climbed the higher, pyramid-shaped peak. Starting at the top of the glacier, we climbed four moderate pitches on the northwest ridge and then scrambled to the summit. The following day we descended and paddled out; upon our pickup at the bridge we learned that my father's best friend, Peter "Cado" Avenali, had passed away while we were climbing. Cado was a larger-than-life alpinist, skier, and fun hog whose lifelong passion for adventure brought us all down to this stunning part of the world that he loved. We named the higher peak Cerro Cadito for our dearly missed friend and mentor.

MORGAN BOYLES, AAC

San Lorenzo, Nord Africana to foresummit. From September 30 to October 1 Spanish climbers Jordi Corominas and Oriol Baró established Nord Africana (1,500m, ED-) on the previously unclimbed northeast face of Cerro San Lorenzo (3,706m), Argentina. They joined the 1986 South African route on the east ridge and continued above the face to atop the first mushroomed foresummit, east of the true summit. They rappelled their route, returning to their bivvy below the face in a 30 hour round-trip. See Corominas' feature article in this *Journal*.

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA

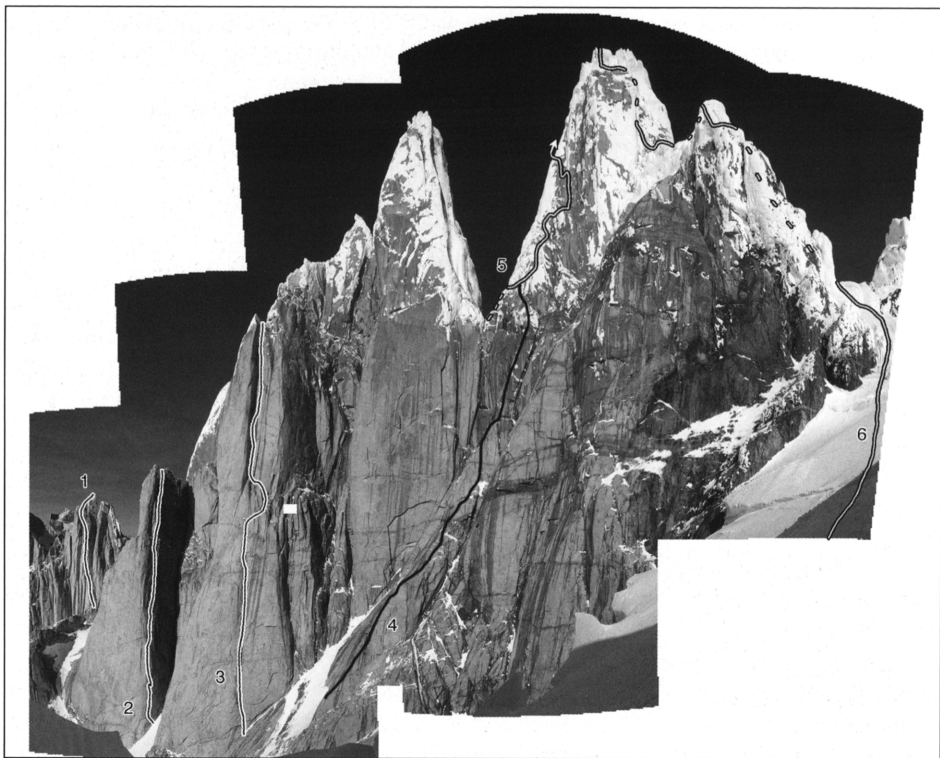
Chalten massif, summary. The 2008–09 season had only one extended period of good weather, for almost two weeks in early December. Surprisingly, in spite of such a prolonged window, little new or "creative" climbing was done. The two most significant new ascents, a waterfall below Glaciér Superior and a link-up on Cerro Torre are described in reports below.

That said, the big news was that the Ragni di Lecco Route on the west face of Cerro Torre had six ascents (19 climbers), more than all previous ascents of the route combined. In contrast, the season saw only one ascent of the Compressor Route. It is as if overnight everyone stopped climbing Everest with oxygen, fixed rope, and Sherpa support. While Maestri's hundreds of bolts remain in place, the climbing community appears to have finally given them a cold shoulder. The list of non-Compressor Route ascents of Cerro Torre has now grown to 14.

Among the many ascents of the Ragni route, on December 9 Swiss guide Walter Hungerbühler completed the route's first solo (Cerro Torre's four previous solos were all via the Compressor Route), and German Doerte Pietron became the first woman to climb the route.

In two days in December, Colin Haley and I repeated the Care Bear Traverse (Drummond-Wilkinson, 2008). We climbed much of the way with young Argentines Jorge Ackermann and Tomy Aguilo, who completed it right behind us in two and a half days. With more than 50 pitches of immaculate rock from Guillaumet to Fitz Roy, and with no objective danger, it is one of the best rock climbs in the area.

On the north face of Fitz Roy in January 2009, Slovenes Boris Lorencic and Urban Azman made the second complete ascent of Tehuelche, climbing alpine-style from base to summit in



Plenty left to do—a view from the west. Aguja Bifida: (1) Hielo y Fuego (Cavagnetto-Giovanetto-Motto-Predan-Ravaschietto, 1996). Punta Shanti (a pillar on Standhardt): (2) Leonardo Da Vinci (Autheman-Noury, 1999). Punta Herron: (3) Gracias a la Vida (Giarolli-Ravizza-Sarchi, 1992); not visible just left is La Gioconda (Giovanazzi-Salvaterra, 1998); both end at Col dei Falchetti. Cerro Torre: (4) attempt (Giarolli-Orlandi-Ravizza, 1994; retreat from where (5) disappears from view). (5) El Arca de los Vientos (Beltrami-Garibotti-Salvaterra, 2005; starts on other side). (6) Ragni di Lecco (Chiappa-Conti-Ferrari-Negri, 1974; first ascent of Cerro Torre). *Rolando Garibotti*

44 hours. Italian Marco Sterni and partners put up the line in 1986, using many fixed ropes and retreating 150m from the top. Doug Byerly and I completed the route in a 32-hour alpine-style effort in 1996.

Also noteworthy was Colin Haley's solo ascent of Supercanaleta on January 7. His was the route's second solo, and the ninth solo ascent of Fitz Roy. Later in the season there were a few repeats of classic routes such as the Supercanaleta and Franco-Argentine, as well as a few minor variations on some of the smaller towers. Jer Collins, Renan Ozturk, and Cedar Wright climbed a likely new line on El Mochito, reporting excellent, sustained climbing and calling it No Bad Weather (IV 5.11+ R).

On a side note, the seasons within the climbing season have become far more marked in the last few years. In January and February the mountains warm up and dry out (usually), making certain objectives very dangerous due to rockfall. For example, the approach gully to the Franco-Argentine is often Russian roulette in late summer, and the ice ramp on the classic Whillans route on Poincenot all but disappears. Climbers should beware and choose their objectives accordingly.