



(1) Veronica y Seis Hijos, on La Mesa (dots for hidden portions). (2) St. Jean de Passy, on Peak 5,700m (Pico Franco-Argentina). (3) The Serac Route on Pico Polaco. The first two were new routes, and (3) a repeat. *Anibal Maturano*

camp we established two camps on the Italian Glacier to reach the base of La Mesa, distinguished by its long summit ridge. We climbed a direct route to its central summit (6,130m) on December 15, gaining 1,130m on the northeast face near a ridge, difficulty D-/D. It was 45°/50° max, with a final 10m of 60° to reach the ridge. In the absence of previous known ascents, we named the route Veronica y Seis Hijos, dedicated to my wife and six children. The best time to climb this mountain is usually November and December; November could be colder, and in January the Italian Glacier can be impassable and the faces icier.

HENRY BIZOT, *France, AAC*

*Aconcagua (6,962m), 2009–10 overview.* This season had fewer climbers and more trekkers than last season, with 3,712 attempting the summit, compared to 4,048 last year. Foreign climbers rose to 89%. The first two weeks of January 2010 were the busiest for climbing. There were fewer evacuations and only one death. The historic summit cross was stolen. On past occasions the wind had taken, but it was found. This time anonymous thieves made off with it. Now there is a new one.

In addition to Chad Kellogg's solo (below), the massive south face saw other ascents. Young Argentine climber Mariano Galván soloed the Messner variation of the French Route, beginning February 11, 2010, and taking 34 hours. He went without a tent, in very low temperatures. Also in February, Argentines Gabriel Fava and Anibal Maturano ascended the original 1954 French Route.

MARCELO SCANU, *Buenos Aires, Argentina*