

-Linea de los Suenos Sultos (470m, 13 pitches, 6b A3), Torre Grande. A beautiful line, but with loose rock in the first seven pitches, it climbs the obvious first large, straight crack system right of the Gandalf route, with a dangerous start due to serac exposure. Descend by 60m rappels.

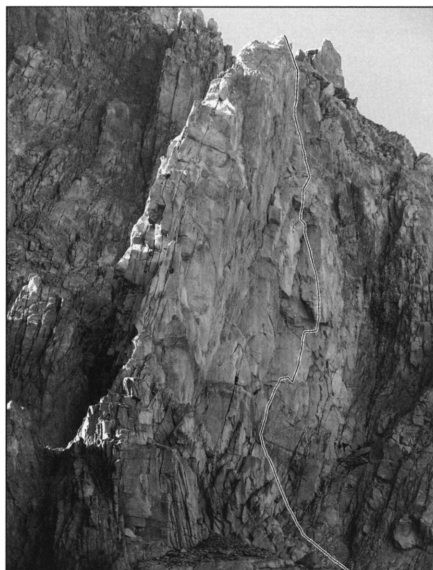
-Un Mantra para Machos (400m, 6 pitches + scrambling, 5.12b), on Torre 3. A beautiful line, on often perfect granite, and with an awesome fist crack in the middle. Upper pitches sometimes blocky, but good rock on the crux pitch. It's the first good line right of the huge dihedral. Some serac danger on the glacier approach. Rappel descent, max 63m but 60m ropes will work.

-Deceleracion (430m [250m climbing], 7 pitches plus scrambling, 6c+), on Torre Universidad. Superb route, excellent rock, good intro to the area. Begins in rounded dihedrals just right of Un Rato Para Maltrato. Descend by scrambling north to below a col, then continue easily to 65m above the snowfield and rappel (60m) from jammed blocks.

-Ahab (320m [200m climbing], 6 pitches plus scrambling, 7b), on Torre Universidad. Begins 50m above Deceleracion. Same descent as Deceleracion.

AARON RICHIGER, *Switzerland*

Cajon de Arenales, El Cohete, Gracias por el Aguante. El Cohete, known for its splitter cracks and the longest routes in Arenales, has a frequently climbed east face, but the other faces are practically unexplored. Its north face had no known routes until, after four days of vertical gardening and rock-tumbling in November, Ignacio Elorza, María-José Moisés, and I completed Gracias por el Aguante (600m, 7a+ (5.12-) [6b obligatory]). The route meanders up crack systems in the middle of the north face, beginning with a few ropelengths of easy climbing. Then one chooses between a 5.10 dihedral (recommended) and a slightly easier fist crack just to the left. A few more ropelengths of moderate climbing traverse leftward, to the base of a prominent dihedral that splits the face into two. We climbed the dihedral for 20m, then followed a thin crack that splits right and turns the corner for another 20m (5.10). A lot of weed pulling exposed a great 5.10+ finger crack that dies after 30m; the pitch ends with memorable slab moves out right to another system. Next comes the crux, a finger crack out a small roof, with a pocket of crystals that offer a salvation hold after the most difficult moves. Majo and Nacho dubbed the pitch El Techo de las Faldas (The Roof of Skirts), when, on the onsight attempt, I yelled out that I was wearing my skirt. Above are four more quality pitches, including El Paseo de los Cristales, where the wall has a sea of crystals embedded in the cracks. The last pitch is a strenuous, slightly overhanging fist crack in a red dihedral. As we were finishing the route with the last light, it started snowing—time



Gracias por el Aguante, likely the first route on the north face of El Cohete. *Ignacio Elorza and María-José Moisés*

to get our butts down. We drilled nine two-bolt anchors for 60m rappels (starting just right of the route and heading straight down; some of the rap anchors correspond with belays). Juan Tarrditti and I returned to add a really sweet three-pitch variation, El Cicatriz (The Scar), that branches left at a bolt on a ledge after the sixth pitch. It's a slightly overhanging dihedral to a flaring roof, then splitter hands in a corner before regaining Gracias por el Aguante.

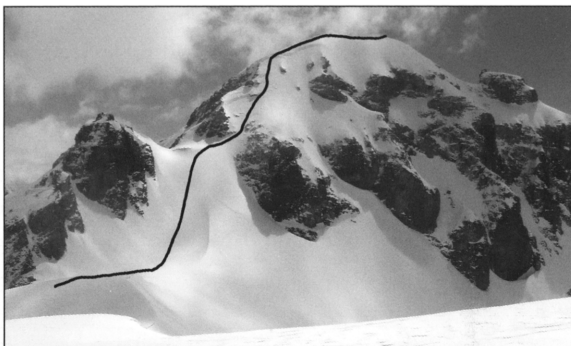
CRYSTAL DAVIS-ROBBINS, AAC

CENTRAL PATAGONIA

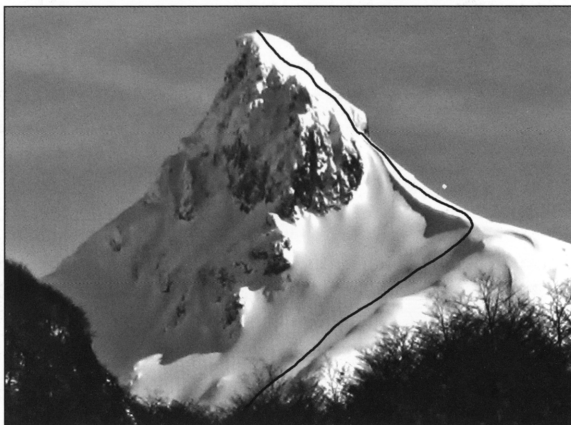
Cerro Condor, first ascent, and other climbs and exploration. In mid-September, near the end of calendar winter, a group of 17 students and Jose Luis Troncoso, Pedro Binfa, and I, instructors from Patagonia Alpine Guides, mounted an expedition to several Chilean valleys, glaciers, and peaks that had had few, if any, visits and about which there was little information.

Spring took an extra month to arrive, with furious winter conditions persisting. Temperatures fluctuated between -15°C and 12°C , snow was generally dry, and snowshoes made for efficient travel. Approaching from the south side of Monreal Lake, we spent a month covering terrain, going past Aislado Peak, and popping into the far end of the Orqueta Valley. We started with 10 days of food and at Orqueta got a 10-day resupply, before going onto Peñon Glacier, east of Cerro Castillo. On our way to this impressive, narrow glacier tongue, we were distracted by a gorgeous 1,753m peak far to the northwest. We decided to try it and went with four days of food, caching the rest, intending to return and continue with the original plan.

On September 27 Jose Luis, Pedro, and I climbed Peak 1,753m, starting from the west, gaining the shoulder, climbing the south ridge, and gradually moving onto the southwest face and following it to the summit. The climb gained 3,300' of elevation, and, climbing unroped, we took three hours round-trip from camp. The last 1,000' had consistently 60° snow, with a



The new route on Peak 2,143m. *Christian Steidle*



The route of first ascent on Cerro Condor. *Christian Steidle*