



The line of Pico Navarro Norte's first winter ascent, the east face and north ridge. Pablo David González



The Southwest Ridge route on Cerro Palo Plantado. Elvis Acevedo

*Pico Navarro Norte, first winter ascent and possible new route.* Named after a famous miner from the 19th century who discovered gold and copper, the beautiful Navarro Valley is situated south of Las Cuevas Village. A group of four peaks stands on the west side of the valley. The name of the northern peak is Santa Elena, a classic training summit for Chilean and Argentinean climbers. Santa Elena can be climbed in one day from Cristo Redentor Pass. The second peak is difficult, unnamed and with no recorded ascents. The last two peaks are usually called Navarro. Javier Gutiérrez and I climbed northern Navarro (4,660m) on September 14 by the east face and north ridge (50° snow and UIAA III/IV rock steps near the summit). The last climbers known to reach its summit were Carlos Sansoni and Jorge Crescitelli on April 14, 1977. Ours was the fourth ascent and the first in winter.

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*Cerro Palo Plantado, Southwest Ridge.* The weekend of June 4–5, the G.A.M (Grupo de Alta Montaña) de los Perros Alpinos went to the sector Queltehues – Las Melosas, near Santiago but very seldom visited by climbers, mostly due to private companies prohibiting access.

On the map we had found an interesting summit in Cerro Palo Plantado (3,497m)—low compared to others, but without recorded ascents—and we decided to try its southwest ridge. We wanted to try an unclimbed peak, and open a much neglected sector for mountaineers to visit more frequently.

On Saturday, Roberto Toro, Jaime Wastavino, Juan Carlos Caro, and I ascended easy terrain to install base camp at the base of the ridge. The next morning we started climbing, advancing on easy terrain along the narrow ridge, traversing a stretch of gendarmes (El Filo de las Jorobas) and a section of mixed with some rock-fall, and powder on slopes of 70° that seemed ready to collapse at any time. We overcame the mixed stretches and were soon on summit.

The difficulty of the 1,000m route seemed to be D-, with grade IV rock, ice, verglas and unstable snow slopes.

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