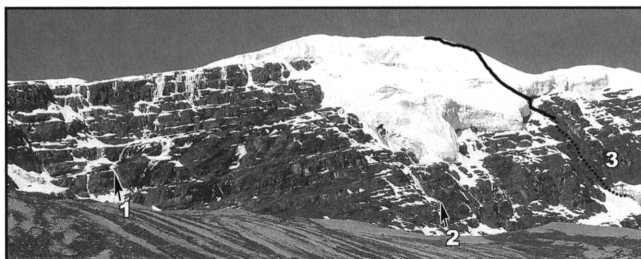


a hard pitch without hesitation, as for his unprejudiced capacity to trust a climber on crutches. Topping off on Serkhe Khollu marked the end of our new route, “The Birthday of the Broken Leg” (TD+/ED-), dedicated to Peter, who didn’t return from Ala Izquierda. But for me it also sealed a friendship.

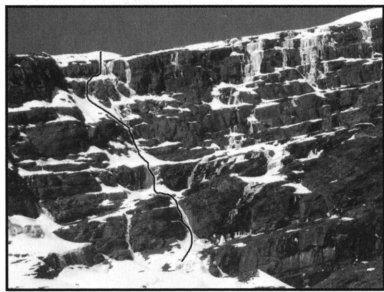
However, another big challenge was yet to come: After walking down the normal route there remained an authentic crutch quest. I didn’t doubt that we would find our cache—simply because we had to find it. I needed my crutches for the descent because the horizontal dimension does not grant my foot as much freedom as verticality does.

ISABEL SUPPÉ, *Germany/Argentina*

*Editor’s note: Peter Wiesenekker died from the fall that broke Suppé’s leg in 2010. The Rauch-Suppé route and the 2010 Berger-Hill-Rauch route, Chamaka, lie close together on the left side of the face and coincide for their initial ropelength (see AAJ 2011).*



Complete southwest face of Serkhe Khollu. (1) Start of Tears of Pachamama. (2) Start of Birthday of the Broken Leg and Chamaka. (3) La Vengenza del Don Gringo. Normal route follows snowfield at extreme left, then gentle slopes behind ridge to summit. *Chris Clarke*



In 2011 Tears of Pachamama was only route on this far-left section of Serkhe Khollu’s southwest face. *Chris Clarke*

Complete southwest face of Serkhe Khollu. (1) Start of Tears of Pachamama. (2) Start of Birthday of the Broken Leg and Chamaka. (3) La Vengenza del Don Gringo. Normal route follows snowfield at extreme left, then gentle slopes behind ridge to summit. *Chris Clarke*

Based on Robert’s 20+ years of guiding in the Bolivian mountains, we believe that this type of ice is becoming more common in the country, where warmer temperatures are melting summit ice caps during the day and forming water ice during the night. So while Pachamama’s tears allow us to enjoy ephemeral routes today, we worry for the future.

CHRIS CLARKE, *Bolivia*

*Hampaturi Group, Serkhe Khollu (5,546m,) southwest face, Tears of Pachamama.* On September 15 Robert Rauch picked me up in La Paz at 4 a.m. The first crux was driving to the trailhead for Serkhe Khollu in Robert’s vehicle. The approach followed llama paths from 4,600m to 5,000m over gentle but steadily rising terrain, toward the left-hand

end of the broad southwest face. The last few hundred meters found us in a snow storm, ascending firm snow unroped to the base of a classic water-ice gully. We followed it to the crux vertical icefall, which had options from WI5+ to WI4. We opted for the latter. Several more enjoyable ice pitches of around WI4 led to the top. Thunder and heavy snow caused us to decline walking the last few hundred feet to the summit, but this option is easily available for other parties. Descent was via standard route (the only one that gets traffic, maybe a few parties per year), which climbs a snowfield at the left end of the southwest face to gentle slopes, with no obvious