making an attempt, Natalia Martínez (Argentina) and I climbed Cerro Gorra Blanca to complete our reconnaissance. Two days later, on the 9th, we climbed Cerro Falso Ilse in exceptionally fine weather.

Starting at the col below the west ridge of Cerro Gorra Blanca, we moved north to reach the south ridge of Falso Ilse. Because we were unable to tell which summit was higher, we visited the nearer (south) summit first. Following a straightforward snow arête, we arrived below the last two pitches, which provided the only serious difficulties on the route. The first crossed mixed terrain up to 60°; the second, over 5th class rock, took us to the top. We could see that the south summit was the higher but only by a meter or so.

Camilo Rada, *Chile*

Volcán Reclus (1,425m). On April 13, 2008, Natalia Martinez (Argentina) and I established base camp at the head of Amalia Fjord, on the west side of the Southern Patagonian Icefield. The camp was nine km west of Volcán Reclus, one of five volcanoes in southern Patagonia (south of Taitao Peninsula). Hidden in the inaccessible and stormy western flanks of the Icefield, Reclus was found to be a volcano only in 1987. In 2005, during a period of very high temperatures, ashes were observed on satellite images, probably emanating from an eruption in the previous 12 months. It was that satellite picture that prompted us to explore the area.

Reclus is a modest mountain, with no technical difficulties. The main challenges are access, being surrounded by glaciers, and chronic bad weather. There is a poorly formed crater, the volcano being a snow-covered ash cone continually eroded by Patagonian weather. Difficult access, via the fjord, probably explains why the peak remained unclimbed. A geological expedition had flown into the area by helicopter, but no members reached the summit.

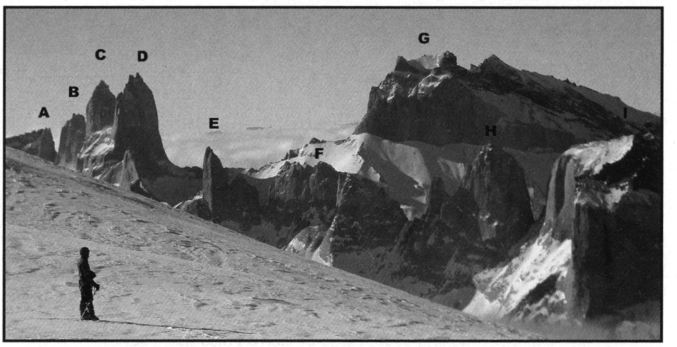
After two weeks of reconnoitering and waiting for better weather, we got a chance on April 26 and reached the summit on a rainy, misty day. A few days earlier we climbed a secondary cone three-and-a-half km west of the main summit and named it Volcán Mimi.

Camilo Rada, *Chile*

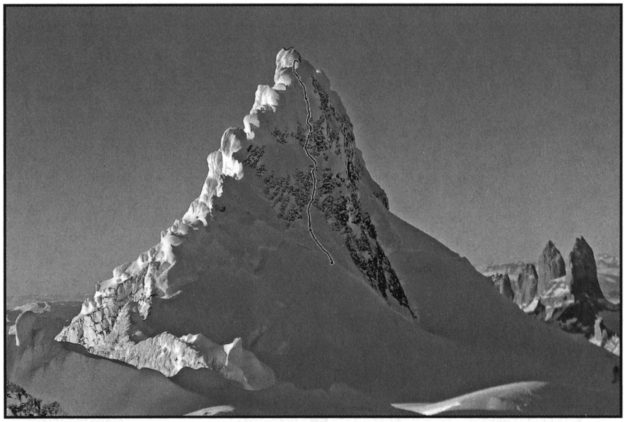
Torres del Paine

Cerro Paine Grande (3,050m, 2,884m GPS), first winter ascent. On August 14 María Paz Ibarra (Chile) and I summited Paine Grande, the highest peak in the Torres del Paine Group. This was the third overall and first winter ascent.

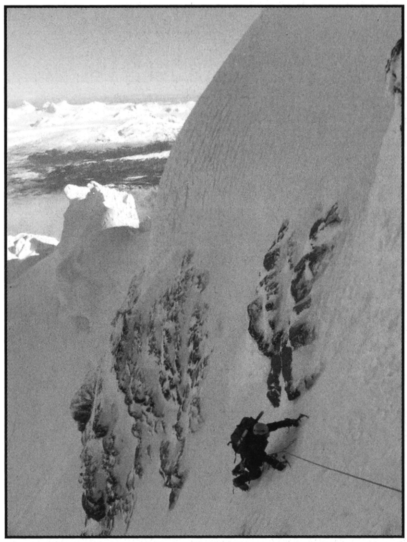
With Sebastian Irarrazabal we established base camp on August 4 at an altitude of 70m, close



Looking northeast from plateau. (A) Peineta. (B) Torre Norte. (C) Torre Central. (D) Torre Sur. (E) Espada. (F) Hoja. (G) Paine Chico. (H) Máscara. (I) Cuerno Norte. *Sebastian Irarrazabal*



South face of upper pyramid of Paine Grande with route of first winter ascent. First ascensionists (Italians, 1957) climbed right skyline ridge. *Sebastian Irarrazabal*



Sebastian Irarrazabal climbing third pitch (60m, 70°) on south face of Paine Grande. *Camilo Rada*

to the shore of Lago Grey, west of Paine Grande. On our first attempt, in July 2010, we followed the Italian route to the plateau and climbed five pitches up the final pyramid before retreating. This time we took the same route and on the 7th, despite deep snow, managed to set up Camp 1 at 1,491m (GPS).

Strong winds then pinned us down. Although the wind in Patagonia is generally weaker in winter, and in 2010 and 2011 we certainly experienced more calm days than in summer, when it got wild the winter winds seemed every bit as strong as winds I've experienced in summer. Access to the plateau is by a couloir that normally has several sections of blue ice in winter. This time we found the couloir partly covered by hard snow, making for faster progress than in 2010. On the 12th we three made Camp 2 at the 2,311m col between Cumbre Central and Punta Bariloche (south summit).

Next day we set out at 5 a.m., reaching the final pyramid in two hours. After three pitches up the south face, Irarrazabal felt unwell and descended. Ibarra and I lowered him to the bergschrund, then resumed the climb, more or less following the same line as Rolando Garibotti and Bruno Sourzac during the second ascent in the summer of 2000. At 3 a.m. on the 14th we reached the summit, having completed eight pitches of very hard ice of 60-90°. [Garibotti and Sourzac climbed this section in six very long pitches, up to WI5.] The last couple of pitches involved unconsolidated snow/ice on the summit mushrooms. Our GPS registered an altitude of 2,884m.

Meanwhile, once back on the plateau Irarrazabal's health improved, and he climbed to the Central Summit (2,730m)—the first winter ascent—reaching the top at 5 p.m. on the 13th. At noon on the 14th we were together at Camp 2 and began the descent next day, reaching base camp on the 17th.

Generally we experienced typical Patagonian poor weather, including heavy snow at the start and strong winds. However, our summit push was favored with perfect conditions: little wind, low temperatures (extrapolating from National Park records, possibly approaching -30°C), a full moon, and no cloud cover until midnight of the 13th, when a small cloud surrounded the summit and produced localized snowfall.

CAMILO RADA, *Chile*