

time they realized they were in fact in the middle of the Andes and not on the western edge as they had thought for more than 60 days. In spite of this realization, and showing incredible courage, they headed west in a 10-day expedition and reached civilization 71 days after the crash.

Eduardo Strauch and I, along with many of the survivors, are now planning an exploratory expedition and documentary film to the site, in search of more evidence and a repeat (by me and possibly Roberto Canessa) of the historical climb and trek out to Chile. This is with the purpose of clarifying the events and honoring and commemorating the 35th anniversary of this incredible event.

RICARDO PEÑA



Eduardo Strauch's wallet, lost in 1972 and found in 2005.
Ricardo Peña

NORTHERN PATAGONIA, CHILE

Cerro Trinidad, Velebit. This route was fun, but not as hard as others in this region. Ivica Matkovic and I were in the area for only a short time in January, and began with six days of constant rain. Nearing the end of our time limit, we decided not to start working on a really big route, and found the north face of Cerro Trinidad. It was interesting enough and looked climbable in the time we had.

We started the route twice. On January 26 we climbed 150 meters and rappelled off in heavy rain. Returning from this attempt, Seb Grieve told us that it was dangerous to be on the face in the rain, especially in crack systems and chimneys, because these features quickly transform into waterfalls.

On January 31 we had better luck and climbed the route in one long day. Velebit (550m, V 6c+ [5.11c] A1), is mostly free with a short aid section in a chimney. We placed bolts at the belays and placed five more for protection on the route. The aid section, when a party has more time, will be possible to climb free.

BORIS CUJIC, *Sveta Nedelja, Croatia*

Adapted from Alpinist magazine, www.alpinist.com

San Lorenzo, first winter ascent. In July Chilean andinistas Pablo Besser, Camilo Rada, and Manuel Buguëno completed the first winter ascent, by the Agostini Route, of Monte San Lorenzo (3,706m), Patagonia's second-highest summit, in Chile's XI Region. The team established a base camp at the Tony Rorhen Hut (next to the old Agostini Hut), after pulling heavy loads on snow sleds through the native alerce woods for six days. They then established an advanced camp in Brecha de La Cornisa at 2,400m. They intended to establish an advanced camp before the

summit push, but the continuing good weather prompted them to go for the top from La Cornisa, alpine style.

The next morning, after several hours of hiking in fresh snow, expedition member Marcelo Camus had to turn back due to a knee injury. Pablo, Camilo, and Manuel continued, passing an exposed serac barrier en route to the north summit ridge. To reach the main summit they had to surmount the north summit and descend to a snowfield before climbing up again. Alas, they encountered the huge summit ice mushroom as darkness fell. Encouraged by good weather, they descended to the snowfield below the summit and bivouacked in a snow cave. Temperatures dropped as low as -30°C during the night. The next morning they went back up, climbed the mushroom, and finally gained the summit on July 16 at 1:30 p.m. It was Pablo Besser's third attempt to climb San Lorenzo; with this ascent Camilo Rada has ticked Patagonia's two highest summits in winter (the highest being Monte San Valentín, 4,058m).

Reported by PABLO BESSER to JOSE IGNACIO MORALES for Escalando

Adapted from Alpinist magazine, www.alpinist.com

NORTHERN PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA.

Lake District, Bariloche, Cerro Catedral. The granite spires around Refugio Frey in Cerro Catedral provide great rock climbing, with routes ranging from one to ten pitches in a beautiful alpine environment. Routes tend to be mixed, requiring an average rack and having bolts in featureless sections. Many routes tend to be run-out and adventurous. Between mid-February and mid-March 2005, I replaced 270 old self-drive bolts, many of which had homemade hangers, with new 12mm stainless steel bolts and hangers (Triplex-Fixe combo). Euro-style self-drive bolts are notorious for being unreliable and having low holding power. These kind of bolts have been used in this area since the late 1980s and continue to be used by a few people. I hope that this bolt-replacement initiative will help first ascensionists realize the importance of stainless steel bolts and hangers instead of self-drives or zinc-plated bolts, which have a short life span. I replaced bolt-for-bolt, not adding extras, and in several instances chopped bolts that had been added after the first ascent without the first ascensionist's consent. Many thanks to Fixe USA for selling me the bolts and hangers at wholesale cost, and to my friends Lynn and MFT for loaning me drills and extra batteries.

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *Club Andino Bariloche*

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA

CHALTEN MASSIF

Season overview. The Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre massifs saw a ferocious amount of activity this season, particularly during a long spell of good weather in late January and early February. This is the third time in the last few years that an unusually long good-weather spell occurred, always around the same time of year. This might be another indication of global warming. Despite George Bush's denial of human responsibility for global warming, weather conditions in Patagonia, and elsewhere, are changing at a pace that hardly seems natural.