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## Cordillera Blanca 2001-2002

Translated from the Spanish by José Luis Bermúdez

### Cordillera Blanca 2001

**Huandoy Sur (6160m)** On 4 July Pavle Kozjek took five hours to climb the right side of the NE Face by a 900m new route, *No fiesta hoy día* (ED+). The Slovenian alpinist began on rock and continued on snow and ice. After reaching the summit at 12.50 at night he spent a further five hours and some abseils descending to the left side of the same face. The first 200m were climbed with Urban Golob who subsequently had to descend with altitude sickness.

**Cerro Parón (5325m)** The E Face of this granite peak, better known as **The Sphinx**, was climbed by Zack Martin and Joe Vallone. Over a period of 14 days in June and July the American pair connected up sections of new route with existing routes up the centre of the face, reaching the summit on 7 July. They called their route *Gringos* and graded it VI, 5.12-, A3+. The 700m climb had several sections of A2 through vegetated cracks that they cleaned. Subsequently Martin and the Peruvian guide Michel Israel climbed the 1985 *Bohórquez-García Route* in a single day, grading it V 5.11a.

From 11 to 29 July Andrej Grmovsek, Tanja Rojs and Aleksandra Voglar climbed a new route of nearly 800m on the same face. They graded *Mecho Tag Inti?* ('Where are you, Sun?') VI 7a A2+ (approx VIII A2+ in UIAA grades). The Slovenian trio spent five chilly days fixing 360m of rope, descending each night to base camp to rest. They subsequently climbed in a single push from the end of the ropes leaving 25 bolts and some pegs in the route, which takes a line on the left side of the face between the 1987 Spanish route *Volverás a mí* (Olivera/De la Cal/Madrid/Polanco) on the E Spur and the Italo-Slovenian route *Cruz del Sur* climbed by Bole and Karo in 2000. A week later (probably on 12 August) Rojs and Grmovsek freed the 15 pitches of their route, regrading it VI 7b (7a obl.). They then repeated the *Bohórquez-García Route* and made the first repeat of the 2000 Italo-Slovenian route, which they considered overgraded.

**Quitaraaju (ca. 6040m)** On 21 and 22 July Nick Bullock and Al Powell put up a new route about 800m long on the S face. The route had sections of ice at 75°, 80° and 90° and some mixed ground near the rimaye. It took them seven hours to negotiate the sérac barrier at the base of the face, and they climbed to the right of the line taken by the Slovenians Svetici and Trusnovec in July 1986.

**P. 4800m (ca.) in the Cerro Pumahuacanca Sur (or Pumahuagangan ca. 5050m)** Roberto Iannilli and Luciano Mastraci climbed a new route on the NW Face of this rocky tower better known as **Punta Numa**. During a five-day period of bad weather they fixed 12 pitches on the right side of the face, climbing the remaining 11 pitches on 2 August. They called their route *Hasta luego zorro*,

and graded it 7a A3+ (VII+ A3+ in UIAA grades). The route is probably 1200m long and its last two pitches are shared with the *Catalan Route* climbed by Eloi Callado and César Pedrocchi in August 1997.

**Churup (5493m)** Ricardo ('Richard') Hidalgo climbed on 4 October 2001 a 300m route, either a new route or an important variation, on the right-hand section of the central portion of the SW Face, starting up the first section of the 1982 *Lorenzo-Palacios Spanish Route (Princesa Malinche Route)* and then taking a direct line to the SE Arête and then for 50m to the summit. The Peruvian guide climbed sections of 70°, 80° and 85° on excellent ice and named his route *496 Spasmos*.

**Taulliraju S or Taulliraju SE, c. 5400m** *Middle Earth*, the route climbed by Topher and Patience Donahue in 2001 and reported in the 2002 *American Alpine Journal*, is not on Nevado Tuctabamba, the peak climbed in 1960 by the Italians Andrea Farina and Nino Poloni. The peak climbed by the American couple, and which may not previously have been climbed, is somewhat closer to, and immediately to the SE of, the main summit of Taulliraju and should be known as **Taulliraju S** or **Taulliraju SE**. The peak is marked on sheet *0/3a* of the 2002 edition of the Austrian Alpine Club map, where it is shown with an altitude of 5400m (see also sheet *18-h* of the Instituto Geográfico Militar del Perú map). The peak was attempted by two Slovenians in 1995, who found evidence of a previous attempt (which may have been successful). The two Slovenians climbed the left side of the NW Face to the SE Ridge, which they then descended without reaching the summit. The American route is to the left of the line taken by the Slovenians.

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**Alpamayo** SW Face to the N Ridge. On 8 August the Catalans Josep Escruela and Tino Tain climbed the gully on the right of the *Ferrari Route*. From the Alpamayo-Quitaraju pass they reached the start of the *Spanish-Chilean Route*, subsequently climbing to the left along the base of the rimaye before crossing it at the start of the *French Gully*. They climbed 120m leftwards across *pendientes* of 45°-50° to reach the left-hand gully. Precarious curtains of ice at 90°-95° with poor belays led to a narrow gully between the *Ferrari Route* and the *French Gully* that was climbed on ice and snow at 60°-75° to the N Ridge. They descended the *Ferrari Route* without continuing to the summit. The team estimated that the route was 400m with a UIAA grade of ED, 45° 60° 95°. They called it *Sensations of History*.

**Huandoy Sur (6160 m), S Face** The French climbers Yann Bonneville, Benoit Chanal, Françoise Dupety and Pierrick Keller, assisted by T Daboïs, climbed the S Face of Huandoy Sur in capsule style between 31 July and 21 August, fixing 600m of rope. They climbed the overhanging granite wall to the left of the 1972 *Desmaison Route*. Above the granite wall they followed the 1976 *Casarotto-Da Polenza Route* on vertical mixed ground with poor quality rock to the SW ridge 100m vertical below the summit, which they reached in cloud. The French team cleaned the route, which they called *Crisis de fe* (1000m, ED+, VI, A4, 6a, M5).

**Cerro Parón (The Sphinx ) 5325 m, E Face** On 26 July 2002 the Colombian Agni Morales, the Catalan Isaac Cortés and the Basque Kepa Escribano made the fifth ascent of the *Bole-Karo Route*, reporting that the correct technical grade is 7a+ (7a obl.). Mauro Bole and Silvo Karo had climbed the route, which they called *Cruz del Sur*, in July 2000 with the photographer Boris Strmsek. They graded it VI, 7c+ UIAA. The route was repeated in July 2001 by Tanja Rojs and Andrej Grmovsek who downgraded it to 7b (7a obl.).

**P 5375 m (P 5350 m), E Face** According to the Spanish magazine *Desnivel* Alberto Urtasun climbed 'the E Face of an unnamed peak of 5375m or 5400m (depending on the map) close to the giant Ulta' in the Ulta valley. The climb took three hours. The 'instability of the summit mushroom' prevented the alpinist climbing the final 10m to the summit and he descended to the north glacier. Urtasun called his 500m route *Turmanyay* ('Rainbow') and gave it a UIAA grade of TD, 80°/85°, III. In my opinion this peak is the mountain called **Allco (5454m)** in the *Revista Peruana de Andinismo*. This was recorded in Ricker's guide *Yuraq Janka* in 1977 and referred to as **Nevado Perro** (although Ricker did not point out that Allco – or Alco – means 'dog' in quechua). It is possible that the S Ridge of this mountain was climbed by Erhard Erdmann and Christian Schield on 7 July 1961. The peak is given an altitude of 5375m in the 1932 German and Austrian Alpine Club map, while sheet *19-h* in the map published in 1972 by the Peruvian National Geographical Institute records it as 5350m.

**Nevado Ulta 5875m** The W Face received its second ascent and first solo on a possible new line by Nick Bullock on 8 June. Two days later the NW Face was climbed by Al Powell and Owen Samuels.

**Note:** Contrary to the suggestion on p.302 of AJ 2002 that Santa Cruz Chico is unclimbed, it was ascended for the first time on 2 July 1958 by David 'Georgia' Michael, Irene Ortenburger and Leigh N Ortenburger by the NE Face and the N Face.