



AAC Publications

La Flama, Buttkicker

Bolivia, Quimsa Cruz

On April 29, 2012, Gregg Beisly, Chris Clarke, and Robert Rauch climbed a partially new route on La Flama, a fine spear of granite northeast of Muralla Grande. The route starts up the northwest face, ca 30m before the pass between La Flama and El Obelisco de Araca (the small adjacent needle to its north, sometimes referred to as Pico Penis), before eventually moving left to the north arête. The other route here starts below and further south on the west face. All six pitches were completed using natural protection, and three or four were independent of the older line. Pitches two (a vertical crack) and three (an overhanging offwidth) provide the cruxes. On pitch three Rauch had to climb into the offwidth, fix a sling around a small nose, climb down, and then back up the edge of the crack, which was rather run-out. Better would be to carry a very large cam. Although relatively short, it is a great route. Rauch named the route Buttkicker (6a+/6b).

From the summit, on which there is barely room for a person to straddle, one long airy rappel on the opposite side, then some scrambling, leads to the trail below El Obelisco.

Information provided by Chris Clarke, Bolivia, and Robert Rauch, Bolivian Tours

Images



Robert Rauch leading the offwidth on the third pitch of Butt kicker.



La Flama, showing the line of Butt kicker, and to its left El Obelisco de Araca (Pico Penis). The higher formation to the right has no name; at least one route (5c) climbs the west face to the summit block, but there is no information that the 15m block has been climbed.

Article Details

Author	Chris Clarke and Robert Rauch
Publication	AAJ
Volume	88
Issue	56
Page	212
Copyright Date	2014
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions