

## **Expedition to Tramen Tepui by Alberto Raho**

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<http://www.escaladamutante.com/escalada-tepu/expedicion-tramen-tepu-fede-errata/>

Last month, our editor and author Alberto Raho, received a message from the adventurer Stephen Platt, where he claimed to have made the first ascent to the Tramén Tepuy in 1981, referring to the Polish-Venezuelan expedition that was credited for the first time of the Tramén Tepuy in 2012, where Alberto participated in the opening of the road. In the following text, Alberto makes a mistake of the Tramén Tepuy.

On Monday, November 13, I received an email from Stephen Platt stating that he and his wife Scharlie had conquered the top of the Tepuy Tramén on November 24, 1981. I was part of a multidisciplinary expedition in January-February 2012 at Tramén Tepuy along with Michal Kochanczyk, Izabela Stachowicz, Marek Arcimowicz and Mario Osorio, other members preceded our adventure in 2009 and 2011 and one of the achievements we were credited with was the First Ascent to that mountain. The following article is to inform the escalation community of Venezuela of the two stories, I see the whole thing quite clearly after multiple emails that show a series of evidences that Stephen has presented documenting his expedition in 1981 and many others for the explanations of the expedition in which I was part in 2012. Stephen lived in Venezuela during the period 1970-76 and met and climbed with authentic living legends of the Venezuelan climb, Kike Arnal and Ramon Blanco are mentioned in their emails.

To read the full story of the Ascent of Stephen and Scharlie Platt in 1981 can be directed to the following link: <http://leveretcroft.com> (Download .pdf in English)

Given that the 2012 expedition was sponsored and looking for different purposes, it was published in more than one medium or website. We annexed to the time all the means that were behind the expedition in an informative article. Polish-Venezuelan Expedition conquers the Tepuy Tramén, however today the one that has more information is <https://tramentepui2012.wordpress.com/> because the organizers of the expedition were Michal Kochanczyk, Izabela Stachowicz, Marek Arcimowicz practically all the Articles are written in Polish.

Almost a month after Stephen's first mail all the members of our expedition have exchanged mails and we have clarified some things and others not so much, that we will list so that it is much easier to confront the two stories.

1. Stephen and Scharlie Platt had not published anything on the Internet of their promotion until 2015, despite Stephen adding a note of his rise in Wikipedia, he says it was not made before 2013, obviously Michal

Kochanczyk, Izabela Stachowicz, Marek Arcimowicz (Poland) the organizers of the expedition could not get any data of the rise. Mario Osorio and Alberto Raho tried by other means, asking among Venezuelan colleagues without any results, before or after the expedition. The two teams (year 1981 year 2011) choose the Tramén tepuy because "no one" had climbed it before.

2. Stephen and Scharlie Platt insist on calling the Tramen Tepuy with the name of Ilu Tepuy, the massif is well known as ilu-tramen massif on many maps but by the time of 1981 things were not so clear, the internet did not exist and access to maps of the area was very poor, Stephen is an anthropologist and explorer who worked for the Public Ministry and for the Border Commission marking the boundaries of Venezuela with Colombia, Guyana and Brazil, however Izabela Stachowicz PhD in Biology, member of our group in 2012 and the one that has more field hours in the area has made it very clear that the Tepuy in mention bears the name of Tramén.

3. Stephen and Scharlie Platt presented us with a series of images from their personal archive that they could compare with images that they downloaded from the internet of the ascent in 2012 (Poland-Venezuela), for me it is incredible to see that they chose the same route as we did, both for the access road to the wall and the most marked line on the last step of the mountain, we even shared two shelves as a meeting in which we found the only evidence of its rise in 1981, a tubular tape tied to a stone embedded in a fissure and another tape hanged to a kind of stalagmite. We attribute the finding of the tapes to the innumerable spelunking visits that the tepuys had in the 70s and we assumed that someone could have rappelled after reaching the summit in a helicopter, but now I am sure that both climbs have at least two lengths in common , a supported plate and the last dihedral to the pre-top. On YouTube we got an idea of how you can arrive by helicopter to Tramén Tepuy with this video.

Video Gran Sabana to the Ilu Massif -Tramén Tepuy - With Stewart McPherson

4. My personal reflection is basic: why would someone after 36 years appear to be credited with a false promotion? It does not make any sense to me. The Tramén Tepuy is super important for me, I lived intensely every day and I did things for the first time that I did not believe I was capable of doing and that opened up a host of future adventures that I already lived. The Tramén has such a powerful energy that even after 5 years it reappears and inserts me into one of those classic "I climbed first" discussions of which the vertical story is full, showing me how ephemeral things can be. The expeditions were very different but both achieved incredible goals, in 2012 they registered species of nocturnal moths for the first time, this gave Izabela his title, Marek took great photos that were published, Michal concluded his adventure started in 2009 with his 62 years of life and Mario and I climbed and opened a variant to the top of the Tepuy Tram in the worst conditions that I have faced to this day.

Expedition Tramen Tepuy 1981 - File Stephen Platt Expedition Tramen Tepuy  
2012 - Archive Marek Arcimowicz

I have to give a great "Chapeau" to the ascension Stephen and Scharlie Platt, for me it is incredible that two people without harness, helmets or any type of hollow or fleecer could have climbed those walls so fast and in the year 1981, with so only two ropes a pair of carabiners and some tubulars, but other times I have put to the test with open roads the last century with similar styles, I respect much the guts that had in other times people were different, so to speak.

I hope that this erratum will serve to remind us how important it can be for some to report an ascension. I tried to be as objective as possible and I placed myself on both sides to highlight the positive of each expedition while the emails continue their Come and Go.

Alberto Raho.