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NEWS OF THE P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Volume 35, Number 10

October 1980

Shawangunks -- Labor Day

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As usual, the Washington, D.C. area climbers--including Mountaineering Section members--had a noticeable representation at the Gunks over the three-day weekend. In spite of warm weather the climbing fared quite well.

Members of the Section enjoying the last days of summer climbing were June Lehman, Marjorie Prochaska, Don Barnett, Joe Farness, Don Benson, Ken Houston, Charlie Dorian, Tom McCrumm, Sallie Greenwood (who joined a group from Long Island for Mello Yello and cognac next to a blazing Duraflame log fire -- the fire's extinction was toasted), Steve Jensen, Tim Fox, and Martha Hale.

ANNAPOLIS ROCKS -- September 14

This trip was supposed to be to Bull Run, however permission to climb didn't arrive from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. We went to Annapolis Rocks instead. John Teasdale started the climbing by arriving at the Safeway parking lot via the U.S. 270 chainlink fence. He said it was an interesting boulder problem. We moved onto other routes and had a crack at trying both easier and harder climbs. Those attending were Don Barnett, Joe Farness, Jack Smith, James Eakin, Bob Berger, Bill Hieronymus, Cliff Jones, Charlie Dorian, Ian Cruickshank, John Teasdale, Donna Gray, and Martha Hale.

ECHO CLIFFS -- September 28

The group was small (leader John Christian, Joe Wagner, Joe Ney, and Al Rosen, a new climber from Annapolis), in part because the leader discouraged several beginners from coming because there aren't really any good beginners' climbs. We had to look hard to find even some clim

other than Socrates Downfall.

Joe and Al started to climb a 60-foot face on Echo Cliffs proper, as distinguished from Cowhoof Rocks. The climb was in a recess just downstream from the prominent oblique, slanting ledge about 15 feet above the water. The crux was getting up onto a ledge near the top. Al then did a nice 18-foot crack on the rocks close to the river. Then Joe and Al persisted on Socrates Downfall. John's comments that it could be done by chimneying the lower portion didn't help. Joe Ney arrived and climbed it in his characteristic good humored manner.

Around the corner and upstream from Socrates Downfall was another inside corner which was covered with that climber's pollutant, chalk. At least Joe Ney only dusted his fingertips; whoever was here before must have been a barn painter. (If someone has to use chalk why not respect the environment enough to use colored chalk -- gray on local rocks, buff or yellow at Seneca, etc. Or do some people need it to remind them where the holds are?)

By now the climbers had pretty well wasted their arms and were being unnerved by cliff-plunging, nubile maidens (one of whom reacted to the Potomac's temperature: "f--- water's cold!" and by the belayers' distraction due to above maidens. However, the climbers worked on the corner but were faced with "overlapping cruxes" as Al put it. John had excused himself from climbing because of a bad back, but finally felt he had to justify his chimneying advice and being unwasted. He climbed the corner.

Publications

Mountaineering and Its Literature: A Descriptive Bibliography of Selected Works Published in the English Language, 1744-1976. W. R. Neate. The Mountaineers, Seattle, 1980.

Mountaineering literature has reached the point where a general bibliography is highly desirable. This book, a reprint of the English edition, is a useful beginning and will be of great utility to would-be expeditioners beginning research as well as to collectors of mountaineering literature. The book is divided into three sections: a subject index, a mountain index, and an author index. Appendices contain additional information on bibliographies, library catalogues, mountaineering journals, novels, and guidebooks. The book calls itself a selective bibliography and, indeed, it is by no means exhaustive. The author index lists some 950 works. The mountain index proceeds by range and/or country with a convenient listing of major peaks, their height, the date of the first recorded ascent, the name of the members of the party, and references to literature included in Section 3.

The subject index is bibliographically oriented. The choice of topics for inclusion tends to reveal the work's English provenance. For example, there is a long section on the Alpine Club but nothing on the American or Canadian Alpine Clubs. The mountain index will need considerable updating if it is to be regarded as complete. The author index is the best part of the book, as it is actually a catalogue raisonné with brief bibliographical notes on major authors, particularly British ones, and descriptive notes on the works included.

A note by the publisher informs the reader that the author is presently collecting material for an updated and enlarged edition.

Opinions will no doubt vary, but the part this reviewer would most like to see enlarged is the bibliography section, together with the appendices. It is also hoped that readers will accede to the author's request to correct errors and supply missing data, as this is a valuable undertaking and a difficult one for a single individual.

--reviewed by T.C. Price Zimmerman
(Price Zimmerman is president of the American Alpine Club.)



UP ROPE

UP ROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, D.C. Climbing articles, letters, and comments are welcome and should be addressed to Lin Murphy, 2314 N. Harrison Street, Arlington, Va. 22205. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. The annual subscription price for nonmembers is \$4. Current PATC members interested in receiving UP ROPE may obtain a subscription at no charge. MS members must belong to PATC. Applicants for membership and PATC members can join the MS by obtaining sponsorship from a current MS member. Send subscription and address changes to Mountaineering Section-Secretary, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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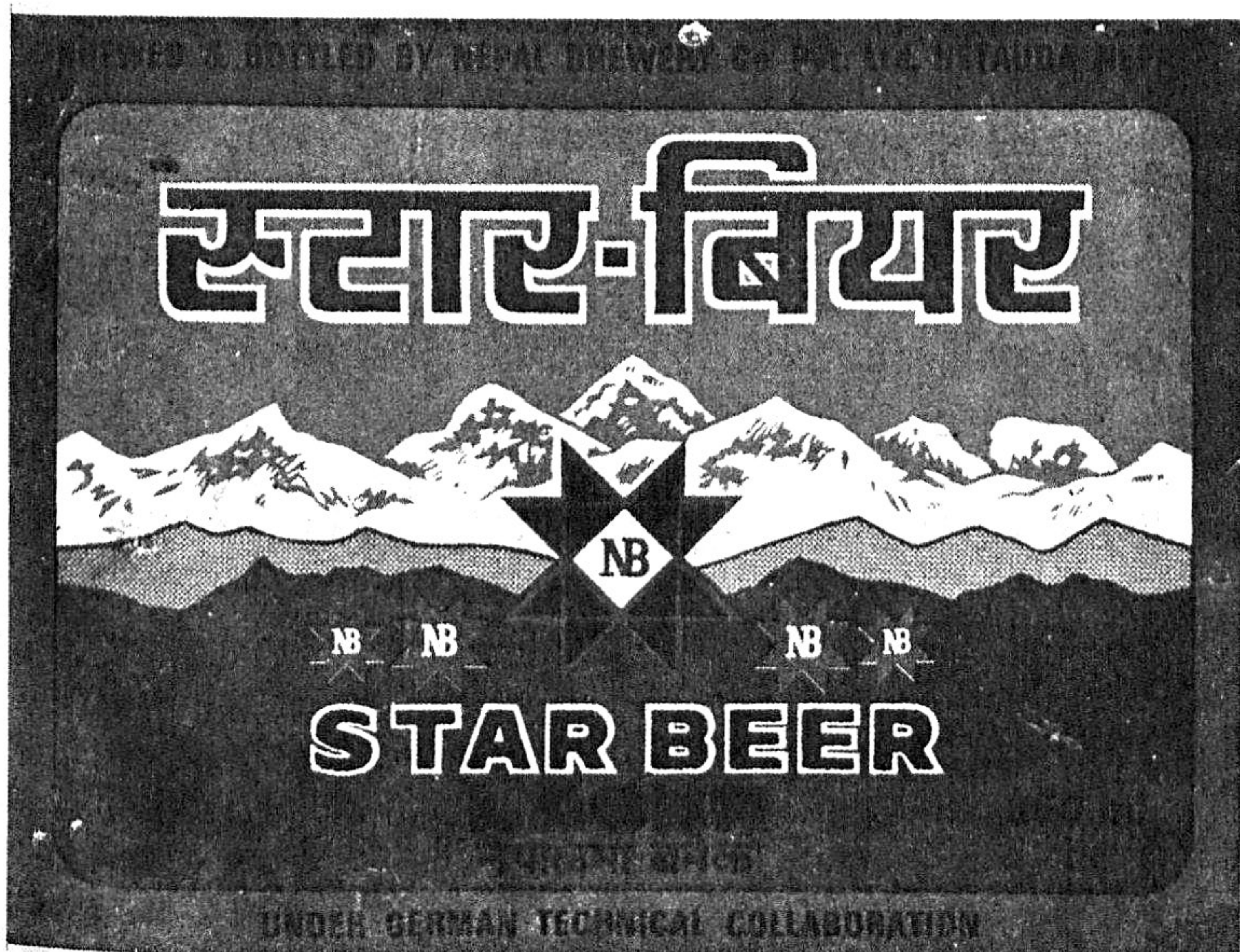
MOUNTAINEERING SECTION ACTIVITIES

The MS holds meetings at PATC headquarters (1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.) the second Wednesday of each month except August. There is a brief business session followed by a slide show, film, or other form of entertainment. Sunday trips to nearby climbing areas and/or weekend trips to more distant areas are sponsored every weekend. Check the climber's calendar for scheduled trips.

Beginning and intermediate training are offered once a month. Anyone is welcome to participate in MS activities, although some restrictions may be placed on participation in club trips. The Sunday trips are usually to areas where there is a complete range of top rope climbs. However, we ask that you have some experience or training prior to the trip. The weekend trips are usually for lead climbers only, and you are expected to find your own climbing partner.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

The sobering news from Nepal is that a bottle of Star beer costs 20 rupees in Kathmandu (20 rupees is about \$2.00) and 30 rupees in the northern pilgrimage town of Muktinath. And, Star is the only brand of Nepalese beer. A bottle of this warm, heavy, strong-smelling, and costly brew causes homesickness to those used to chilled Michelob light.



According to Serki Tshering, my Sherpa guide, the Kathmandu government passed a law about nine years ago forbidding the private production of alcoholic drink from grain. This enactment was not the result of moralistic ferment, as in the case of our 18th Amendment. Rather, the government said, it was designed to insure adequate supplies of grain for eating.

The day after our liquor-law conversation and on the way to breakfast, I passed a Thakali woman building a fire under an enormous copper cauldron. Wash day? Perhaps an autumnal hog-butchering? By the time breakfast was over, the cauldron was full of simmering rice destined to

become the local beer, chang. Serki had said that the Kathmandu law was rarely observed and even less often enforced.

My only drink of chang was at a party in the Tibetan conclave of suburban Kathmandu. Two little girls with one glass and a large tea kettle filled with chang greeted each guest, giggled, and topped the glass, which was then conservatively sipped by the gastronomically wary. This chang, whose full potency remained untested, was warm, milky, and slightly fizzy.

Not outlawed nine years ago is the popular production of alcoholic drinks from fruits. Locally produced wines and brandies are available from the Kali Kandaki town of Marpha southward. I can recommend the apricot brandy of Om's Home, a Thakali inn. This brandy was more like dry sherry than cognac and cost about \$3.50 for as much as Mr. Om could pour into a used Star bottle.

Rākshi is the third spirit in the mountain kingdom's moonshine trinity. Judging from its effects, this local whisky is by far the most potent, producing -- during at least two late-night parties at 15,500 feet -- multiple choruses of bawdy Sherpa songs and marathon dancing (both folk and disco). A 40-pound load carried by a tumpline is supposed to help with the morning-after headache.

Lin Murphy

New address:

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EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

The PATC Peru trip is offering an R.E.I. Solarium 3-person expedition tent for sale. It is a low profile tunnel shape that stands up well to high winds. Features include ripstop rainfly, cookhole, two entrances, shock cords, stakes, cord, and stuff

sacks. Weight with fly: 9 lbs. Original price was \$289.95. Excellent condition and seam-sealed. Contact Don McIntyre or Steve Jensen. Highest offer gets it prior to our auctioning it at the November MS meeting. Call 536-6122 or 972-1341.

Climber's Calendar

October 19	Hermitage, Pa. or Bull Run, Va.	Gary Roan (460-4837)
26	Harpers Ferry, Md.*	Neil Arsenault (997-9606)
November 1-2	Seneca Rocks, W. Va.*	Jeff Brown (232-1548)
2	Great Falls, Va.	
9	Annapolis Rocks, Md.	Bill Hieronymus (280-2667)
10	PATC Annual Dinner	
12	MS Meeting, 8 p.m. PATC Headquarters	program: MS Peru trip
16	Sugarloaf, Md.	Jeff Grove (656-5240)

For trip information call the leader or Martha Hale. Day trips are generally to top-roped climbing areas. Trips designated * are to lead climbing areas: Please arrange for your own climbing partner.

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