



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

Volume 42 Number 9

September 1988

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING

Well, they were here. As part of the Seattle/Tashkent sister city exchange (see the latest issue of Mountain #122) nine Soviets stopped over in D.C. for a whirlwind tour of electronics shops before returning home. Many thanks to people who helped out, especially the hosts/hostesses and big big thanks to John Dunn who translated.

Ken Andrasko opened his doors and threw a big pot luck bash, with about 40-50 people attending despite torrential rain storms. Intercultural exchange was at a peak, complete with Europeans, Iranians, Americans and the Soviets. As there were a good number of non climbers present, people talked about a variety of subjects. Language barriers were overcome by translators and beer.

While the Soviets were in Washington they managed to squeeze in a tour of the Capitol Building, a walk down the Mall, and visits to various shops. Their tour of the Capitol was especially poignant; while listening to the proceedings in the Senate Chamber, Senator McCain of Arizona offered a resolution condemning Soviet policy concerning the human rights of Armenia. After brief debate the resolution was passed unanimously. The Soviets were incredulous that the Senate could

conduct its business in such a manner.

During the last evening that the Soviets were in town gear exchanges took place. Eager to rid themselves of heavy, homemade equipment, the Soviets unloaded bits and pieces in return for lighter, more modern gear. From the samples of gear that we saw, it was evident that they still climbed under the concept "The leader (or anyone else in the party) shall not fall."

Among the group was the local Trade Union leader, a radio announcer for Tashkent Radio (the second largest station in Russia), and the present Soviet woman speed climbing champion. The latter, curiously, is a Lynn Hill clone size wise, and pumped Karen for information concerning women climbers here in the States. The Soviets were surprised that we climbed together, swapping leads and sharing responsibilities. Evidently, men climb with men and women climb with women for the most part, and husband/wife teams are rare.

Next year the Seattle climbers will try to visit the Soviet Union again, and at least one of the organizers is planning trips through REI's new travel service. Check with Stuart for details if you'd like to learn more.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting will be held at the regular place (PATC) at the regular time (7:30). We will show Ken Andrasko's spectacular slides of his recent expedition to Nepal's 23,700' Annapurna South. Ken and three friends attempted the unclimbed 12,000 foot high south face. In addition, while in Nepal Ken worked on a World Wildlife Fund project investigating the possibility of managing the Annapurna area as a Nepalese national park. Come see the magnificent show and gain a better understanding of climbers' and trekkers' affects on the Nepalese mountains.

GOOD DAY AT BLACK ROCK JULY 3, 1988

This "comeback" stuff may be harder than I thought. Being stuck in town over a three day weekend, Tom Russell and I laid plans for a short outing. My curiosity had been piqued by some hikers at Annapolis Rocks who asked if I had climbed at Black Rock; they said it looked much higher. I never had, so we were going to give it a look see.

The hardest part of the day was meeting up! I was so far out of shape that when Tom said to be at the Roy Rogers, I couldn't find it! I first went to the McDonald's we used to meet at (evidence of hearing loss, no doubt), then finally to Roy Rogers, but the wrong one (there are three Roy's in the area). After much embarrassing confusion and about an hour we met...

Black Rock is about one mile north of Annapolis Rock on the AT. It faces west, has a terrific view and one of the finest looking scree slopes around. The central section is easily 150 feet high with huge overhangs, but is unfortunately not continuously vertical, being broken up by large ledges.

After poking around to find a way to the bottom, we set up the anchor with slings and large chocks on the southernmost block. The route started at an oak with a chockstone in its branches. It was about 60 feet high, with a small and a medium overhang, maybe 5.5-5.6. The second route was on the southwest face to the right, 45 feet high, 5.2-5.3. Alas, that's all we had time for, but I think it's well worth another trip to see what could be done.

Charlie Dorian

CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT SENECA

Did we have fun this weekend or what ? After talking about lead climbing all week, Eric and I did the drive on Saturday in exactly three hours just in time for sunset. All my energetic juices seem to go to my foot when in route to fun climbing areas (and I don't even have a Mazda). We did stop once in a town I can't remember because the sign went by so quickly. I locked up the brakes and power slid into a High's so Eric could get some body fluids. His skin was starting to dry out from how fast we were going. we landed at the camp site on the hill and enjoyed the view of the rocks with what daylight was left. Rich and Hal pulled in right about this time. They came out to get a final workout in their rigid boots before going out west.

Sunday started rather early with tea and biscuits, before we knew it we were looking up at the first pitch of Conn's East Direct. Eric was very impressive on the bottom moves which are known to be hard for their rating. My first lead was the second pitch of Alcoa Presents, a fun one indeed. Next up was Soler. The second pitch was much more interesting than the ramp first pitch. After a good first day on the rocks, the afternoon ritual of beers and a long soak

at the water hole was met with no argument. We started Monday on a climb that we both talked about that had to be done on this trip. You might say this was the climb that brought us out--Triple S. Stuart P said it was one of the classic routes at Seneca. As I got through the first twenty to thirty feet there were lots of good placements. The first time I looked up to scout out placements higher up the fun started. Eric, there's booty up here!! This was a great classic, it came with gear too. Without going into too much detail, this was the first time that my rack got heavier as I went up the route. Eric came up in fine fashion, puffing slightly as he said, I was really pushed on that one but it was great - how much gear did we get! We scrambled down Old Ladies Route to get one last look at the route and the line of climbers waiting to get on what we just finished. It must be a classic if there is a line. Next on the hit list was Pleasant Overhangs Traverse. If you like exposure this is one that will let you know if your heart is beating. I wouldn't say it's real bad, but you better pay attention or you'll put a couple of notches in your flight log.

Madeleine Carter and Gary Prince were also out for the weekend. They had fun on Prune, Le Gourmet and Neck Press. Madeleine made mention that their were parts of Neck Press that she definitely did not like, terrified was the word that came up to describe the feeling. Seneca does have those kind of climbs if you are looking.

Michael Mergi

TUOLUMNE QUICKIE

Suffering from an extended period being stuck indoors--due in equal parts to tendonitis and an excess of work--I needed a respite, however brief. My tendonitis dictated that any

climbing involve a minimum of hard cranking. Notwithstanding my philosophical opposition to such styles, I travelled to Tuolumne Meadows (just uphill from Yosemite), land of miles of thin face climbing and ungodly runouts. The routes there are easy on the arms but tough on the brain.

My partners were two college friends who had no climbing experience. I loaned them some gear, reviewed a few knots (I get by with one, so why confuse them?), hit the REI rental counter, loaded up the Hertz and we were off. The hard rains and full campgrounds convinced us to spend the first night in the Hertz Hotel.

After a miserable night in the back seat, I woke early and we dashed off for Daff Dome. There were a few puffy morning clouds which, according to Tuolumne lore, still guaranteed afternoon showers. (In the summer, the morning must be completely cloudless to predict no afternoon rain.) We started on Glee (5.3). I found the topo largely incomprehensible and wandered all over the place--climbing in all four directions--before finding a 5.5 sequence (no pro) to a lousy stance. To my, and their, amazement, Steve and Chris flashed the pitch. I finally found the second pitch (the bolt is misplaced on the topo by at least 50 feet). I guess one piece of pro in a rope length is better than none, even if it's only 5.3. We all made it up the last pitch, with the cameras doing more work than the climbers, whereupon it began to rain. The standard descent is a 400 foot friction slab which, under the wet circumstances, seemed like a lousy initiation for my partners. We circumnavigated the dome but found no satisfactory rappel point. Luckily, the clouds broke and we scooted down the slabs.

We left the National Park and found a great campground at Saddlebag Lake, just beyond Tioga Pass. Unlike the Tuolumne campgrounds, this one is spacious, scenic, free, and seemingly without bears or RV's. Unless you're desperate to meet people, bears, or borrow someone's Bachar ladder, you're much better off camping outside the Park during peak summer months.

The next day we set off for the more ambitious, if unassumingly named, Easy Day--a lovely five pitch 5.5 on Marmot Dome. The topo shows the start of the second pitch but does not explain how to get there. This is not the Gunks where route finding is a matter of counting the number of feet from the last inside corner facing left. It's not the Karakoram, either, but there were no other climbers on the dome to use as reference points. Anyhow, I found a poorly protected 5.6 sequence leading to a nasty belay. An inexperienced partner cost me a 1.5 Technical Friend but the thing was about to be recalled anyhow. We cruised the next few pitches taking many breaks for photos, both staged and real. Buoyed by the two days of climbing without any falls, Steve and Chris decided to have me lead the 5.7 finish variation. Alas, they met their match (I suspect it's really 5.9) and they resorted to aid in lieu of taking their first falls. Rain threatened again and we rushed down the back slabs.

Turning a few good friends on to climbing in the splendor of Tuolumne was a true pleasure. All things considered, Tuolumne has the best face climbing in the U.S., at least if you're not too up tight about pro. Perhaps as much as anything else the beauty of Tuolumne may inspire climbers to raise their ethical standards which drastically reduces the number of bolts.

A few notes:

1) Showers are available in the Lodge from noon to 3:30 pm only. Climb early if you want to get clean. The only real supper is also at the Lodge. Make reservations before you start climbing.

2) If you must camp in the Park arrive early in the day but don't even bother looking for an empty space if you arrive on a Friday or Saturday. [Ed. note--Ticketron now accepts Yosemite and Tuolumne reservations, a situation that the AAC is trying to reverse, as it completely obviates any spontaneous camping by anybody!]

3) Don't press your limits on your first Tuolumne route. The pro is often marginal and the ratings seem less generous than those in Yosemite.

4) Start early. Afternoon rain is very common, escape is often difficult and downclimbs are generally fourth or low fifth class.

5) Bring a camera.

6) If you want solitude, avoid Lember, Pywiak and Stately Pleasure Domes. You can climb on most of the others and not see a soul.

7) If you want to do the hardest route possible, there are better places to go. But if you want to spend time enjoying a beautiful climbing environment, Tuolumne has few rivals. I know of no other place in the U.S.--save perhaps Lumpy Ridge--which combines Tuolumne's alpine setting (the meadows are well over 9,000 feet) with short hike-ins and great quality rock.

Tom Isaacson

FILM FESTIVAL

Organization of the 1989 Washington Film Festival has begun. People interested in being involved with this important event should contact Madeleine Carter (202-362-5036) or Ken Andrasko (202-337-0498).

BOOK REVIEWS

CLOUDS FROM BOTH SIDES by Julie Tullis 1987 \$17.95 306 pages
The Mountaineers Seattle
Hardcover Illustrated

This is sort of a hybrid review; I've got the British edition, but the American edition has an added chapter written following Tullis' death. So I've sort of combined the particulars as to cost and page numbers...

Julie Tullis was the first British woman to climb K2, and one of the country's leading high altitude climbers. She was also a reasonably accomplished rock climber.

Tullis' biography encompasses her climbing life, her personal views on a wide variety of matters, and also includes a few prophetically disturbing statements with respect to K2 and death. Climbers more interested in numbers than substance will scoff at many of Tullis' views, but if you appreciate questioning our place here on the planet, Clouds will make for a good book to read.

Its first British printing sold out almost immediately; the Great British Public wanted to know more about their late heroine, and reviewers gave it good notices, remarking that it would be appreciated by the general reader as well as the climbers. Indeed, this is a good book to give someone who is a non climber if you're trying to explain what the sport is all about. Just make sure they understand it has a sad ending.

Another aspect of Clouds that will be appreciated is that it discusses frankly Tullis' place in the mountaineering world. She openly talks about the pluses and minuses of climbing at altitude with a bunch of men. Although her usual partner, Kurt Diemberger, was clearly a sympathetic partner, many of those around Tullis weren't.

Clouds is one of the books that you hate to read; it's just great until you get to the end. Still, pick up a copy and read it, and maybe we can all learn a little something from Tullis' experience.

PAINTED MOUNTAINS by Stephen Venables 1987 \$18.95 232 pages
The Mountaineers Hardcover
Illustrated

Stephen Venables, a rising British climber, writes in Painted Mountains of two trips to northwestern India. He writes interestingly and well, and his tales are not just of the climbing. I especially appreciated the diversions into regional fauna and flora.

Venables, famous now for his recent ascent of Everest via a new route on the Kangshung face, claims not to be a gifted climber, but his love of the sport comes through on each page. He also imparts knowledge of how one goes about the daily routine on a mountain without letting the lecturing get in the way of the narrative. Dedicated to small alpine style parties, Venables also gives the reader good adventure. These smaller parties are subject to much more risk, and he proves that it isn't the height of the peak involved, it's how you go about getting there that counts.

Good photos and some excellent appendices round out Painted Mountains. This is one of the better expedition books to come out recently. Well written, nicely put together, it should make a good addition to anyone's library.

FOR SALE

One pair of Fire's, size 7, used, still usable, \$30. Call Stuart Pregnall, 202-543-3988.

TRAINING REPORT

Just a quick summary of recent training efforts. Tom Isaacson and Stuart Pregnall tried to give lead training to two newcomers on a day that registered 104 degrees in Washington...John Yanson also managed a day of training instruction for three beginners at Great Falls recently...Stuart Rosenthal and Charlie Dorian gave some impromptu training to a few Israeli visitors one day at Great Falls.

Pete still needs instructors for the fall training schedule. Both beginner training and lead training help are needed. Get in touch with Pete (703-960-6033) if you can help out.

DISCOUNT GEAR PURCHASE

The Mountaineering Section will organize another discount gear purchase from International Mountain Equipment of North Conway, N.H. this fall. IME will give us 15% off their catalog prices for an order of \$3,000 or more. Tom Kawecki will again coordinate this effort--call him at 202-767-6997 (w) or 703-237-7227 (h) before September 15th if you are interested in participating.

MAKALU SLIDE SHOW

Glenn Porzak of Denver, Colorado will be showing his fabulous slide show of a recent American ascent of Makalu. It's one of the best slide shows I've ever seen on the mountains, their environment, their peoples, and climbing. It will be announced in greater detail later. Don't miss this one!

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Come one, come all. This is where the real work (and fun) takes place. If you want to say something about how the MS is run, get in touch with Jeanette Helfrich (301-585-9119) or Rich Cunningham (202-332-7931) and come to the next Executive Meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP

Art Karp was spotted at Wolf Trap one evening...Schooner Fare, Tom Paxton and the Kingston Trio were playing...REI friend Corky Wachter is now in Berkeley...Doug Braswell is still our REI contact...PATC MS members have travelled widely this summer, and everyone seems to have had good trips...the American Alpine Club's Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta December 2-4...cost is \$85 per person, \$75 if you're a member...rooms are \$55 a night...contact Ed Cummings, Madeleine Carter, Tom Russell, or Stuart Pregnall for details...lots of MS members moved this year...James and Nori, Stuart and Karen, and Tom Isaacson all have new addresses...anyone else who has moved please make sure that Gary Prince gets the necessary information...the Washington Post Sunday Magazine may want to take a group photo of the MS this fall for the inside back cover of the Magazine...if you're interested, call Stuart for details...Dr. Charles Houston, dean of high altitude specialists, will deliver a lecture on high altitude physiology at Sibley Hospital September 30...Check with Karen Pregnall or Andy Kauffman for details.

CLIMBERS CALENDAR

Sept 3-5	Gunks**	Pete Grant	703-960-6033
Sept 3-5	Great Falls	????	
Sept 7	Executive Meeting	Rich Cunningham	202-332-
7931			
Sept 10	Great Falls	Rich Cunningham	202-332-
7931			
Sept 11	Annapolis Rocks	Jeanette Helfrich	301-585-9119
Sept 14	Monthly Meeting	Slide Show: Ken Andrasko on an attempt of Annauprna South	
Sept 17/18	Bellefonte PA	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
	(Fabulous face/crack climbing, lots of moderates, on LIMESTONE!!)		
Sept 17/18	Gunks	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
Sept 18	Great Falls	????	
Sept 24	Old Rag	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Sept 25	White Oak Canyon	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Sept 30	High Altitude Lecture	Sibley Hospital (see notice)	
Oct 1/2	New River	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
Oct 1	Sugarloaf	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
Oct 2	Hermitage	Tom Isaacson	202-332-3710
Oct 5	Executive Meeting	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Oct 8/10	Gunks	????	
Oct 8/10	Great Falls	????	
Oct 12	Monthly Meeting		

PLEASE NOTE: Call trip coordinators mid-week to make arrangements and contingency plans. In the absence of published trip leaders, call Rich Cunningham or Stuart Pregnall. Trips noted ** are to lead climbing areas. Please arrange for your own partners; the trip coordinator can help with arranging rides and other logistics.



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