

sometimes overhanging terrain below. Patchett rappelled the route to rejoin the two, after which McIntyre went for help. More than 40 members of Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council, Sandia Search and Rescue and the 1550th Combat Air Crew Rescue School responded, pulling Kilgore up the steep terrain of Chimney Canyon to Sandia Crest, where Kilgore was loaded into an ambulance at 1630 the day after the accident. (Source: Steven Patchett, Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council)

Analysis

Kilgore was off route on much more difficult terrain than the normal route. He was climbing at the top of his ability and with questionable protection behind him. We all do it. Most of the time, we get away with it, and come away pumped with another great story. He didn't get away with it this time.

All the individuals involved are active members of Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council and experienced mountaineers. They had the equipment and knowledge to quickly evacuate the injured man to the base of the climb. Pick your climbing partners well!

One might consider one of the benefits of membership in a Search and Rescue organization. No one turns down a call when it's "one of our own"—probably for the chance to "rib" the subject during the evacuation! (Source: Steven Patchett, Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council)

VARIOUS FALLS ON ROCK, MOSTLY NO OR INADEQUATE PROTECTION

New York, Shawangunks

In 1990, there were 20 climbing accidents, one of which was fatal, 12 of which resulted in fractures. The fatality resulted when a 15 year old boy slipped while at the top of the Cliffs and fell over 40 meters. He and his father were there for "recreational rappelling." Again, lead climbers with inadequate protection constituted the majority of the injuries—12.

Among the unusual occurrences were (a) a 56 kg person attempting to lower a 91 kg male—resulting in a 15 meter fast ride and burned belayer hands; (b) a man dislocating his shoulder from trying to reach out and stop a friend who was falling; (c) a woman being hit on the lip by falling protection that a leader on an adjacent climb had dislodged; and (d) a man falling 12 meters because he thought he was being belayed when he was being lowered off a 5.13. He was not. (Source: Mohonk Preserve)

(Editor's Note: The case where the climber thought he was being lowered may happen more frequently, both on natural climbs, which are extremely difficult and being attempted several times by the same climber, and on artificial walls. Belaying in these circumstances is usually done totally without using the standard climbing calls—in fact, it is usually done with no calls. The assumptions made are not always correct.)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE BELAY, NO HARD HAT

North Carolina, Moore's Wall

On June 9, 1990, as a party of four, we were planning to lead and follow the route, Golden Earring, a 5.7. The first two members of the party had already led up a short 15 meter pitch. Joe was then belayed up from the top. Since the difficulty was very

minor, Joe belayed Cameron up the same climb. The rope was properly anchored at the top. In a standing position, Joe proceeded to belay Cameron with a figure eight connected to his harness. He was not separately anchored. Cameron climbed with an extra rope. He slipped on a wet spot about two meters up from the start of the climb. Cameron's fall pulled Joe off balance. Joe fell face first over the rock. Cameron fell to the base of the climb. Cameron's weight held Joe from sliding down the slope. (He was still attached to the rope by the figure eight.)

Cameron fell and swung into a small tree, with no injury. Joe skinned his left arm and left leg and hit his head just above the left ear, immediately resulting in double vision. Joe never lost consciousness and was soon able to right himself and secure himself. With the aid of the rope Cameron was able to safely climb to Joe and lower him to the base of the climb. (Source: Joseph Hanna)

Analysis

First of all, we both decided that the accident was caused by a lack of common sense, but more because of the lack of difficulty involved. Seeing no present danger, we overlooked the obvious in eagerness to continue the latter half of the climb.

Nevertheless, the system was not checked with understanding. A helmet would have eliminated the seriousness of the injury but would not have prevented the accident. The belayer should have been secured separately, regardless of whether or not he felt secure.

The Climbers Guide to North Carolina and previous knowledge of the area allowed us to reach medical care within a reasonable amount of time. We will continue to be aware of medical services in the area in which we climb and in the future, helmets are a must! (Source: Joseph Hanna)

WEATHER, HYPOTHERMIA, AMS

Oregon, Mount Hood

On June 9, Cassandra Kelley (38) was transported from the 3000 meter level on the south side of Mount Hood to Timberline Lodge. She was with a Mazama group, and was experiencing altitude sickness and hypothermia symptoms on the ascent. The group continued to the summit, where they experienced high winds and blizzard conditions. Clackamus County searchers were called at 1330 and found the group at 1608 using a locator unit which fixed on the beeper being carried by the group. (Source: from a story in the Sunday Oregonian, June 10, 1990)

(Editor's Note: No information on how or why a rescue team was called in was included in the report. Beepers are being used by many groups on Mount Hood now, as a result of the 1986 blizzard in which nine persons from the Oregon Episcopal School died.)

FALLS, FALLING ROCK, NO HARD HAT

Pennsylvania, Delaware Water Gap N.R.A.

There continues to be more climbing and off-trail hiking in this reservation. Two of the three reports we received involved rappels. In May, a 17 year old female was climbing up a hill with several other members of her group to do some rappelling