

many days of hot conditions had substantially weakened the bridge, and by the time Bob and Tony descended, it was ready to collapse. A short belay over this gaping bergschrund, with the rope that they carried, probably would have prevented Bob's fall and saved them a cold night on the mountain. It is all too easy to assume that because you are following the tracks of other climbers that you are out of harm's way; in fact, eliminating your own decision-making process from your climbing makes you a more likely candidate for an accident.

Once Tony and Bob found themselves in trouble, however, they proved themselves well equipped to deal with the situation, and responded well. They carried a first aid kit that was adequate to care for Bob's facial lacerations, and enough layers to bivvy—though they were fortunate to have a calm, clear night. In the morning, Tony roped up with Bob for the remainder of the glacier and rock descent, and safely assisted him to a low point on the mountain. It is worth noting that to Tony the situation seemed serious enough to warrant a radio call when he left Bob to find us in the morning, but that after a survey of Bob's injuries this was deemed unnecessary. Food, water, and friendly faces greatly reduced the apparent severity of their situation. In the end, despite their fatigue, Bob and Tony were able to walk, with assistance, over the pass that separated them from their camp and waiting companions. After a rest day, they continued out of the mountains on their own. We were happy to be able to provide the perspective and manpower to avoid a time-consuming and costly rescue effort. (Source: Richard Morse, NOLS Instructor)

Further comments from the victim: I landed nearly head first and was almost completely buried but for part of one leg. Tony saved my life by making me an air hole and then spending the next 45 minutes digging me out. I had a concussion and a large gash on my left temple. We had no choice but to spend the freezing night on the mountain.

The next day we began the climb down the mountain with the thought of having to ascend up Bonny Pass and down to our camp at Titcomb Basin where our friends and my day-old fiancée were waiting and wondering what had made us so late. On the way down we ran into three young climbers who told us of a NOLS group camped at the base of the glacier. Tony left me in a safe spot and went to them for help. And help they did.

NOLS leaders Ian and Richard, along with four of their students, rushed to us like the cavalry. They tended to my injuries, fed and hydrated both of us, and helped us over the pass. It was hard enough with their help; without them it would have felt impossible. Please tell Richard, Ian and all the NOLS students who helped us, thanks.

I had sustained a concussion, at least four broken ribs (I'm still waiting on the results of a CAT scan and a bone scan), and a rather large gash. Thanks to Richard and Ian, that is healing nicely. I'm going to have a scar to help me remember that mountains teach hard lessons. Doctor Johnson in Pinedale approved of their handiwork. Pass along a thank you to Richard, Ian and all the students. Again, thanks for all the assistance. (Source: Bob Farley)

FALL ON SNOW, UNABLE TO SELF-ARREST

Wyoming, Grand Tetons, Middle Teton

On August 20 around 1400, while descending the Southwest Couloir of the Middle Teton, Paul Schladensky (34) fell on a snowfield just above the Middle/South Teton Saddle. He initially attempted to arrest using only his hands and heels (while on his

buttocks). After a while he tried to use his ice ax. He was unable to arrest and slid about 100 feet on snow into talus, hitting his right hip, chest, and ribs on the rocks first. He did not lose consciousness, but experienced difficulty with breathing, and was unable to continue on his own due to the soreness and pain, especially in the back.

Matthew Rusher, Schladensky's partner, provided him with additional clothing and water, and went for help. He contacted campers in the South Fork of Garnet Canyon. Two of the campers continued below in search of help, while Rusher and two other campers returned to the accident site. In the Garnet Meadows, the campers contacted Forrest McCarthy, Exum guide, who cell-phoned Jenny Lake Rescue about 1530. A rescue operation was then initiated.

At 1445 Ranger Lanny Johnson, who is also a Physician's Assistant, was informed. At 1610, the Bridger-Teton Long Ranger helicopter arrived at Lupine Meadows Rescue Cache. After a briefing, Rangers A. Byerly and R. Johnson were flown to the area for an initial evaluation and landed at the knoll just above and to the north of the saddle. Four additional rangers were flown to the same landing zone.

After informing medical control about the patient's status, a shorthaul evacuation to a lower landing site was suggested by L. Johnson and supported by all involved rescue personnel. About 1800, the shorthaul litter and other equipment were long-lined to the accident site, and the helicopter landed at the lower landing zone while the patient was packaged for shorthaul. Shortly afterwards, the helicopter returned to the site and shorthauled the patient to the lower landing zone, where he was then loaded into the helicopter. The patient was flown to St. John's Hospital, arriving at 1920.

Schladensky was diagnosed with five broken ribs, a fracture/dislocation of the third sacral vertebrae, a hemo/pneumothorax, a pulmonary contusion, and several abrasions and lacerations. He was later flown to St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings, Montana. (Source: George Montopoli, SAR Ranger)

(Editor's Note: This was one of the seven incidents that happened as a result of a slip or fall on snow. Five of these victims—four females, one male—were inexperienced. This is an unusually high number of "unable to self-arrest" cases. But it was also a year when the snow pack was considerably above normal.

Additional incidents in the Grand Tetons include two leader falls on The Snag in Death Canyon that resulted in fractures, and one Ichabod Crane-like sighting. The latter was a report from a climber on the summit of Teewinot around noon on September 7. Looking at the North Ridge route on the Grand through binoculars, he thought he saw a rope and a body hanging on the end in a belly-up position, with arms and legs dangling. He watched for 30 minutes, and was "80% sure" it was a body. A fairly thorough investigation did not turn up any evidence to substantiate the report. When this kind of imagery occurs—especially when one is awake and alert—one should consider trying a different sport for awhile.)

ROCK DISLODGED—CAUSING FALL ON ROCK

Wyoming, Devil's Tower National Monument

On August 20 at 1445, Jeff Pettenger (21) was leading a variation of the Bailey Direct finish to the Durrance Route when he fell approximately 100 feet, receiving fatal head injuries. Jeff's father, Noel Pettenger, summoned help from other climbers. Immediate assistance was provided by Markus Silpala and Jim McDermott, who climbed up to the