

wearing fleece and blue jeans—not prepared. It just doesn't make sense to me.”
(Source: Robert Speik and Jeff Scheetz)

(Editor's Note: On June 17, Corwin Osborne, an older and more experienced climber, also disappeared in the Three Sisters Wilderness, prompting a search that ultimately involved about 250 people, 28 agencies, and more than 6,000 hours. Corwin Osborne, a Washington resident, without ice ax or crampons, had planned to traverse the summits of South, Middle, and North Sister—an elevation gain of more than 10,000 feet, and hike almost 40 miles across country in one day.

Again, we present these cases of hikers who get into mountaineering situations in the hope that there will be some educational value.)

FALL ON FROZEN SCREE, FALL INTO CREVASSE, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE, CLIMBING ALONE, INADEQUATE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE

Oregon, Mount Hood, South Side and Cathedral Ridge

In late August, Bob Considine (38) was visiting Oregon from Missouri. He had a guidebook and intended to climb the “Sunshine” route on Mount Hood. He parked his truck at Cooper Spur Ski Area and hiked up to the stone hut above Cloud Cap, spending two nights there waiting for the weather to clear.

On Saturday morning he crossed the Elliot Glacier and headed up the Snow Dome until he got stuck in the crevasses below Anderson Rock. He then descended back to the top of Snow Dome and spent the night. On Sunday he traversed and ascended until he made Cathedral Ridge, using a “big Bowie knife” to cut steps in the ice, then followed the ridge to the summit where he set up camp.

On the summit he used his guidebook to discern a route down the Southside of the mountain. Unfortunately he picked the wrong gully for his descent, instead doing a variation of the Steel Cliff that comes out just above the Devils Kitchen. He stated he thought he had “messed up” when he saw the Devils Kitchen, but he did not want to ascend back to the summit, so he kept descending off of the snow and on to a scree slope where he fell, ending up in a small crevasse above the Devils Kitchen. He explained he was able to crawl out of the crevasse and from there it looked best to him if he descended the east side of the White River Glacier. He then hobbled and slid from about 10,200 feet down to 8,900 feet.

Upon hearing voices on the west rim of the glacier, he called up for help. A passing hiker/skier made the initial contact and then contacted a ski resort groomer who was able to get a call out for a mountain rescue.

Analysis

Mr. Considine had some experience climbing in the Rockies, but never on a glacier. He attempted the climb without the use of crampons, an ice ax, mountaineering boots, or a helmet. He was climbing on a glacier and steep ice without the proper tools or knowledge for a safe ascent.

Mount Hood is notorious for poor rock and is extremely prone to rock fall during the summer months. In fact, Mr. Considine stated that at one point during his ascent, a microwave-sized boulder went flying by. It is for this rea-

son that climbing Mount Hood during the summer months or when the loose rock is not firmly frozen together is not recommended.

Mount Hood summit climbers are requested to complete a registration form and a Wilderness Permit located in the Climbers' Register in Timberline Lodge. The Climbers' registration form provides rescue crews with important information in the event that a rescue is needed. (Source: Robert Speik and *The Oregonian*, date unknown)

(Editor's Note: This is another example of a hiker trying to become a climber. He was lucky to have been rescued. As Sgt. Nick Watt said, "He's the kind of guy when he gets down and out of the hospital, he ought to play the lottery.")

FALL ON FROZEN SCREE, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING, INEXPERIENCE

Oregon, Three Sisters Wilderness, Middle Sister

On September 29, Pete Acker (39) and Jeff Soulia (22) were descending a steep snow and scree slope north west off the 10,040 foot summit of Middle Sister when Pete lost his footing and slowly started to slide. He was unable to stop himself and rapidly picked up speed. Rocketing down the rough slope, he "hit a rock outcropping hard and began to tumble through the air," according to his companion. He came to a stop in talus, with a shattered wrist, four fractured ribs, and a fractured clavicle. Jeff carefully made his way down the 300 feet to his fallen companion who was unable to move.

They used the meager clothing they had to keep Pete warm, and Jeff left for their car and cell phone, four hours distant. After about an hours descent, Jeff was able to attract the attention of hikers and a skier who was able to descend quickly down the Collier Glacier. The skier in turn came upon a hiking group that had carried a cell phone. Hours later a SAR team of four was inserted by helicopter on the east side of the ridge on the Hayden Glacier, about two hours distant from Pete. He was stabilized and finally evacuated about 2:00 a.m. on Sunday after a painful and cold afternoon and night high on Middle Sister.

Analysis

It had snowed about two to three inches on the prior Tuesday. While the weather was nice enough to entice the climbers to wear shorts on a sunny Saturday, the high elevation and wind had iced the snow and scree and made a dangerous slide a possibility. An ice ax quickly used could have stopped the initial slide. Ultra-light ice axes are a good companion on high summer hikes and climbs.

Had the climbers carried available light-weight aluminum 12 point crampons, they could have descended more safely and easily on the hard remaining snow of the season.

Jeff Soulia asks that climbers be advised to carry enough extra clothing to wait in one place overnight. Luckily, Jeff was able to borrow the extra clothing they needed before he returned to his injured friend.

Pete Acker, who has returned to work after four months, notes that while the cell phone they had left at their car would not work in the low lying trail-head location, the cell phone carried by the others worked very well on the slopes of Middle Sister. (Source: Robert Speik)