

## **FALL ON ROCK—HANDHOLD BROKE OFF**

### **Kentucky and Tennessee, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area**

Shelly Buchanan (49) of Norris, Tennessee, was bouldering on the Twin Arches formation on the afternoon of November 11th when a handhold broke off from a rock causing her to fall in a horizontal position six feet to the ground. The impact fractured her pelvis in four places and caused bruising to her ribs. The caretaker of a nearby backcountry hostel reported the accident via cell phone and remained with Buchanan throughout the incident. Ranger/EMTs Jimmy Barna and Randy Scoggins, ranger/parkmedic Kevin Moses, and four volunteers from the park rescue team stabilized Buchanan, which included the administration of IV fluids and pain medication, and evacuated her via wheeled litter. A LifeStar Bell 430 helicopter took advantage of a five-minute window amidst deteriorating visibility and weather conditions to land and fly Buchanan to University of Tennessee Medical Center, where she was admitted in stable condition. (Source: Chief Ranger's Office)

### **Analysis**

We don't get many reports from this area, so it is included to indicate that there are several climbing spots in this part of the south. This report was gleaned from the NPS Morning Report. (Source: Jed Williamson)

## **FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING ALONE AND UNROPED**

### **Maine, Camden, The Ramparts**

I think of the accident described here as the case of the wet ladder. On March 17, my girlfriend's dog, Kaya, and I, Ryan J. Howes (22), went on a 1.0 mile hike to a local climbing area called "The Ramparts," in Camden, Maine. I have soloed here on many occasions. I know the climbs here well and have taught climbing as an Assistant Instructor for a college climbing class. My first climb of the day, called Natural History (5.7), was approximately 70 feet in length and was accomplished without difficulty to the rappel anchors. I rappelled off using a rope that I carried as a butterfly coil on my back while climbing.

The second climb was another story though! The Fireman's Ladder (5.6) is a corner that was wet in some areas because it had snowed the day before and the snow had melted. The thought did cross my mind that I was over confident, but I climbed anyway. As I approached the top at about 30 feet above the ground, I found myself on wet rock. I realized that I should down-climb and get off the climb. I now feel that continuing the climb would have ultimately kept me from writing this article.

While hanging off a hand jam in a wide crack, I turned 90 degrees away from the rock to wipe off my left foot with my left hand. During the rotation, the hand jam slipped and I continued to rotate free in the air and found myself facing outward while plunging down the vertical climb. After