

to Byerly's full report of the patient's condition. A group decision was made to move Wojnar approximately 60 feet down to a ledge where he would be extracted via short haul.

After a thorough reconnaissance check flight of the extraction site, a group decision was reached that a short-haul operation was appropriate and a litter and additional medical equipment was short hauled to the site at 1830. The patient was packaged and extracted from the site at 1915. He was flown without a litter attendant to the Lower Saddle.

With the patient at the Lower Saddle, the helicopter returned to Lupine Meadows, where it was changed from a short-haul to an ambulance configuration. It returned to the Lower Saddle where Wojnar was placed into the helicopter and flown to Lupine Meadows. He was transferred to an ambulance, which departed for St John's Hospital at 2015.

Analysis

I interviewed Matej Bosak during the evening of August 15 at the Rescue Cache at Lupine Meadows. He stated that he and his uncle, Vladimir Wojnar, had camped at the Meadows in Garnet Canyon the night of August 14. They departed the Meadows at 0700 on August 15. Without incident, they climbed the Grand Teton via the Owen Spaulding route. They reached the summit at 1430. During the descent they decided to rappel Sergeant's Chimney. They only had one Figure-8 descending device, which they planned to share. Bosak rappelled the chimney without incident. He attached the Figure-8 to the end of the rope and Wojnar began pulling up the rope. Bosak heard a noise, looked up and saw Wojnar sliding down the rope only using gloved hands. Bosak then saw him let go of the rope and fall approximately 15 feet.

I later interviewed Vladimir Wojnar, who was at St. John's Hospital at the time. He wasn't quite sure what happened, but he seemed to recollect slipping while pulling up the rope with the attached Figure-8. He believes he grabbed the rope when he fell and doesn't remember anything after that. He wasn't wearing a helmet and wasn't attached to the rappel anchor. Wojnar stated that he had climbed the Grand Teton six times.

Perhaps if Mr. Wojnar had been securely attached to the rappel anchor he may not have fallen while pulling the rope with attached Figure-8. Perhaps wearing a helmet may have prevented his head injury. (Source: Ron Johnson, Ranger and Incident Commander)

FALLING ROCK—DISLODGED BY CLIMBER, OFF ROUTE, BENIGHTED, EXCEEDING ABILITIES

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Mount Owen

On August 29 at 1300, I received a report via park dispatch that a climbing party on Serendipity Arête (Mount Owen) reported (via cellphone) hearing

calls for help from the area of the North Ridge of the Grand Teton. The park contract helicopter and available rescue personnel were dispatched to the Lupine Meadows Rescue Cache. The subsequent recon flight of the area located a climbing party adjacent to the Third Ice Field in the area of the Black Ice Couloir. Initially the party was observed to be moving and did not obviously indicate a need for assistance. No other parties were observed in the search area. An additional flight, confirmed via a message board used in the helicopter, that the above party was indeed in need of a rescue and that one of the party members, Robert Campbell (65), was injured. Ranger Visnovske was inserted via shorthaul to the rescue site from a landing zone in Valhalla Canyon at 1901. Visnovske assessed the climbers and found that Campbell had a severe injury to his right hand and various bruises sustained in a leader fall. Visnovske determined that a shorthaul extraction via screamer suit of both climbers was warranted. Visnovske and the two climbers were then extracted in a single load and delivered to the Valhalla Canyon landing zone. The climbers were flown internally, accompanied by Ranger Byerly, to Lupine Meadows. Campbell was transported to St. John's Hospital by ambulance.

At the Rescue Cache, the climbers told me that they had left the Lower Saddle at 0700 on Tuesday with the intent to climb the North Ridge of the Grand Teton via the Valhalla Traverse. They got off route and while climbing in an area of very loose rock, Campbell pulled out a large, loose block that struck his legs and severely injured his right hand. The party attempted to climb to a suitable bivouac ledge, but was benighted at a confined and uncomfortable belay. On Wednesday morning, they attempted to ascend, but were unable to do so because of Campbell's injuries. They then decided to traverse and then descend to a larger ledge below them. They heard voices and began to yell for help. They felt that their cries for help were understood, which was confirmed later by the arrival of the helicopter. Though their need for help was not initially apparent to rescuers, fortunately it was confirmed, and they were rescued.

Analysis

In a debriefing with Campbell and his partner Ullmann, they told me that they met at the AAC Climbers' Ranch in the park and decided to climb the North Ridge of the Grand Teton. They camped Monday night on the Lower Saddle and left for the Valhalla Traverse at about 0700 on Tuesday morning. They came around the Valhalla Traverse and descended the ramp, but "somehow missed the first ledge." From their description and location, they likely traversed higher than they should have to reach the Grandstand, instead ascending to the left of the Black Ice Couloir toward the west face. The area where they were climbing is known to be very loose with poor quality rock. Sometime in the evening while Campbell was leading, he pulled

on the large boulder that released. Ullmann climbed to him and they tried to bandage his hand and stop the bleeding. Ullmann then tried to lead a pitch to a ledge where they could spend the night. Campbell, unable to use his hand, could not climb and at some point hung in the rope for about 30 minutes unable to move. Ullmann rappelled to him in an effort to assist. Ultimately, they rappelled some distance farther and spent the night in a confined and uncomfortable bivouac location.

In the morning, they tried to ascend with Ullmann leading. Campbell was still unable to follow. Then Campbell led a traversing pitch because he felt that he could see the Grandstand. They heard voices and began to yell for help. Hoping that help would come, they began descending to a large ledge. When the helicopter came into view, they told me that they waved. When the helicopter came close, Ullmann told me she was pointing to a ledge below her where she expected to meet the helicopter. When I asked her if she thought a helicopter could land there, (it could not), she said that she didn't know if it could land, but thought that a person might be able to get out. She did say that she told Campbell he needed to look more in need of assistance when the helicopter was in view. Ultimately the helicopter returned, and they were able to communicate their need for assistance.

Campbell and Ullmann were off route. Without prior knowledge of the route, crossing the Valhalla Traverse and climbing to the North Ridge requires significant route finding. Many parties find themselves off route in this area. Once Campbell was injured, they attempted to provide appropriate first aid and to affect their own rescue. Movement was difficult, and not knowing where they were, they were forced to bivouac. Campbell was the more experienced mountaineer, and Ullmann a self-described 5.7 leader. (Source: Scott Guenther, Ranger and Incident Commander)

FALL ON ROCK—DISLOCATED SHOULDER

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Symmetry Spire

At 1330 on September 11, the Exum Mountain Guides' office received a call from Guide Gary Falk, guide, on Jensen ridge of Symmetry Spire. Falk stated that a client had a dislocated shoulder and a helicopter would be needed at the base of Jensen Ridge at 1430. SAR coordinator Jim Springer was contacted by phone. In a later call Falk stated that the accident occurred at 1130 on the second pitch of the route. The subject had taken a short pendulum fall, belayed from above, and while trying to hold himself, dislocated his shoulder. Falk lowered the subject and a second client to the base of the climb.

At 1430, contract helicopter 20HX flew to the scene from the Lupine Meadows Rescue Cache for recon. Helicopter 20HX inserted Ranger Chris Harder via short-haul to the base of the route at 1502. The patient was packaged, placed in a screamer suit, and, with Harder attending, was short-hauled