

fall that it could be removed by a gentle finger pull) accounted for his incurring only abrasions of the knee and ankle in the fall. It should be noted that, had the belayer positioned himself at the base of the chimney, the falling chockstone would have caused serious injury to him as well as loss of the belay.

Rope: Edelrid red perlon 150 feet 11 mm

Pitons: Choinard chrome-molly angles

Carabiners: DMC aluminum

Helmet: Buco

*Source:* Skip Bailey and Michael Mertaugh.

*Colorado, Front Range, Indian Peaks, Niwot Ridge.* On 26 January Darvel T. Lloyd (26), and his brother Darryl were returning to a research station on Niwot Ridge from a research site on Isabelle Glacier. They had headed straight up the ridge via the rocks until it became very steep and seemingly impassable. Against their better judgement, they decided to cut across a snow-filled chute approximately 50 feet wide. With no rope for a belay Darvel started across. He sank waste deep into the snow. About a third of the way across, he realized he was moving down on a large snow slab. He had no time to jab in his ice-axe or to escape from the slide. He did manage to remain or get on top of the slab which rapidly picked up speed. He spread himself out with his feet down hill. About half way down, or some 500 feet, the slab began to break up and he went underneath the mass and was completely turned around with his face down. A few seconds later he was on top again and back to his original position. The avalanche stopped shortly thereafter with the front of the slide some 100-200 feet below him. When he was underneath the surface, he felt his ice axe twisting around the strap attached to his wrist. Fortunately it caused no injuries. He did receive a badly bruised right knee and minor bruises to his other knee, left elbow, and right thumb. The slide lasted between 10-15 seconds. His brother started down the slide to help out, but he soon realized that Darvel was not seriously injured. Darvel climbed back up the ridge. They continued on to their research station from where they were evacuated to the main research station by snow-cart.

*Source:* Darvel T. Lloyd.

*Analysis:* Conditions were ripe for an avalanche. The old snow surface on the chute had probably developed depth hoar, so with 2-3 feet of fresh snow, the slope probably would have slid eventually, even without anyone on it. However, I undoubtedly released it, as tension on the snow was great, especially toward the top.

*Colorado, Parnassus Peak.* On 7 September a group from the Colorado Mountain Club was ascending Parnassus Peak, an above timberline climb. They were aware of a storm in the distance, and some of the group turned back about 500 feet below the summit. David Hart (43) could see lightning across the valley from one to two miles away. The wind was not blowing the storm in their direction; hence, they thought it safe to continue on to the summit. As they descended, the storm still seemed at a safe