

and his condition was stabilized as much as possible; nevertheless Scott never regained consciousness. He died in the helicopter while in transit between Androscoggin Valley Hospital in Berlin, where he was first taken, and Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover. (Source: Douglas George, AMC)

Analysis: When snow conditions are as described above, persistent skiers would be well advised to use a racer's crash helmet. (Source: Douglas George, AMC)

FALL/SLIP ON ICE, BAD WEATHER—*New Hampshire, Mt. Washington, Huntington Ravine.* Rick Welch (21) had soloed Pinnacle and was descending. He wanted to descend Lions Head to Tuck Trail but wind was so strong he decided to descend Central Gully. One-third of the way down Central, just as he was going to place an ice screw, a gust of wind took him off his feet. He was in a controlled self-arrest until he hit an ice bulge. The ice axe was ripped from his hands and he fell over the bulge, breaking his legs. He decided to fall head first to prevent further injury to lower extremities. Fortunately he had a helmet (an Ultimate by trade name) and sustained only contusions of the upper extremities in the rest of the fall. He fell 500 to 600 feet and landed in a boulder patch half way down the fan. I helped him from the exposed boulder patch to a more protected area and collected his gear. We belayed three times to reach the bottom of the fan where we met the rest of the litter party, and littered him to the Wildcat Snowcat at the junction of Tuck Trail and Huntington Fire Trail and evacuated by cat. On the way down Don Dercole of USFS sustained a broken leg in a fall on ice in the Tuck Trail.

It is fortunate that no one else was injured by the icy conditions and that no one was spiked with crampons, as many were worn in the evacuation and descent. It was also fortunate that Welch had the foresight to fall head first to prevent cartwheeling, which seems to cause much more severe injuries. (Source: Chuck Boyd, AMC)

• **PARTY SEPARATED, STRANDED**—*New Hampshire, Mt. Washington, Huntington Ravine.* To the left of the main gully (Central Gully) in Huntington Ravine are several precipices, the lower of which is known as "The Pinnacle." Several technical climbing routes are established on the Pinnacle, although to this writer's knowledge no official written description of the routes exists.

Edward Wuensch (in his late 20s) of Penfield, New York, and Don Berens (mid-20s) of Rochester, New York, hiked to Hermit Lake Shelter Area on Saturday, July 3, to spend the night. Their intentions were to climb the Pinnacle the next day and return to Hermit Lake for the night. Wuensch was described as an "intermediate climber with three years' experience" by Berens, who said he himself had climbed "seriously for a year and a half."

Sunday, July 4, was predominantly sunny with a light breeze blowing all