

**RAPPEL FAILURE, DRUGS****New York, Shawangunks**

On April 5, a male climber (age unknown) fell to the ground while trying to rappel from a climb called Minty. The climber was too stoned to walk or write and refused first aid. (Source: Brad Snyder)

**Analysis**

Although the use of drugs is not entirely uncommon within the climbing community, very few drug related climbing accidents have been reported over the years. This is an observation from which no conclusions may be drawn. (Source: J. Williamson)

**FALL ON ROCK, FAULTY USE OF EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE****New York, Shawangunks**

On June 21, a female climber (21) was being top roped on Squiggles when she fell. The problem was that rather than clipping a carabiner onto the knotted loop at the end of the climbing rope, she clipped it directly onto the rope. When she fell, the carabiner slid down the rope and the knot pulled through the carabiner. The fall to the ground resulted in a possible broken back. (Source: Brad Snyder)

**Analysis**

Some climbing schools have used the technique of having students clip in from their harness to a pretied loop on the climbing rope. The idea behind this method has been that it is a foolproof one. However, this is not the first case where the climber has made a mistake such as the one reported, even when the guide or belayer could see the climber. Unless an experienced person is watching from close by (or is the climber), tying the climbing rope directly to the harness or around the waist is a safer practice. When it is not possible for the experienced climber or guide to see the neophyte climber, it is advised that the neophyte be tied in before leaving him. (Source: J. Williamson)

**WASP****New York, Shawangunks**

On June 22, while leading Direct Erection, a male climber (47) was bitten by a wasp. He went into shock but no fall occurred. He was treated by his doctor. (Source: Brad Snyder)

**Analysis**

This is the first climbing report involving a wasp where no ensuing fall occurred. Once again we emphasize that enduring a wasp or snake bite until a safe position can be secured is more advisable than jumping. (Source: J. Williamson)

**FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION****New York, Shawangunks**

A male climber (19) was belaying his second. The second fell, pulling the belayer off a ledge. The belayer was not clipped in properly. (Source: Brad Snyder)