

Analysis

Simon had not brought a hammer. I realized the potential difficulties of removing pitons and chose not to place any, thus limiting my ability to protect the route.

I was facing difficulty in climbing and protecting the route. Neither of us had climbed this pitch before, and although I could not see likely protection spots and my muscles were fatigued, I continued to move upwards. I did not retreat to consider a second or alternate approach.

Better judgement based on our circumstances could have prevented this accident. (Source: Bob Boonstra)

FALL ON SNOW

British Columbia, Coast Mountains, Powder Mountain

On May 26, 1983, Scott Hagarty (21) was ski mountaineering with three friends on the Powder Mountain snowfield. He fell while skiing down a 30 degree corn snow slope. His ski bindings released and he attempted to slow his fall with the picks on his self-arrest ski poles. As he rolled over onto his right hand, the diamond shaped foregrip of the ski pole handle was pressed onto the top of his hand, breaking the center metacarpal. He later had to have an operation to correct the fracture. (Source: S. Hagarty)

Analysis

This is the first reported accident involving the use of the relatively new self-arrest ski poles. (Source: R. Reader)

FALL ON ROCK, FAILURE TO TEST HOLDS

British Columbia, Coast Mountains, Stawamus Chief

Jim Brennan (20) and Bruce Macdonald, both experienced climbers, were climbing Uncle Ben's route (5.8, A3) on Stawamus Chief on August 1, 1983. They were nearing the top of the route on the 300 meter face and Brennan, who was leading, had moved out of his etriers to grasp a narrow ledge above, when both handholds broke away. He fell five meters before being held by Macdonald, and sustained a broken wrist, cuts and bruises when he bounced against the face.

An impromptu rescue team, composed of six other climbers in the vicinity, ascended the backside trail, traversed Bellygood Ledge and raised Brennan 30 meters to Dance Platform. Three other climbers were helicoptered to the south summit. They dropped down the trail to the south end of Bellygood where they fixed ropes across to Dance Platform. Brennan, whose arm had been splinted, was belayed fore and aft and clipped into the fixed rope for crossing the ledge. A short Tyrolean was necessary at the south end. The helicopter was summoned by radio and picked the injured climber off the slabs above Tantalus Wall. He arrived at Squamish Hospital at 1800, about six hours after the accident. (Source: I. Kay from press reports, A. Ourom BCBC News Letter)