

when he was following on Jackie (5.5). (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

### **FALL ON ROCK, WASPS**

#### **New York, Shawangunks**

On July 27, 1986, a man (21) fell ten meters from Ursula (5.5) in wet conditions while being attacked by wasps. He suffered a compound fracture of one ankle, lacerations, and a possible head injury. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

*(Editor's Note: In other critter incidents, one climber was bitten by a snake on top of Three Pines, and another climber received about 40 stings when he climbed into a wasp nest on Fancy Idiot (5.6). Neither fell, and so did not become climbing accident statistics. The snake and wasp population has obviously not decreased here.)*

### **PROTECTION PULLED OUT, FALL TO GROUND**

#### **New York, Shawangunks**

On August 30, 1986, a man (23) leading Jean (5.9) was being lowered when the highest piece of protection, a nut, pulled. He dropped six meters to the ground, resulting in a possible ankle fracture. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

### **FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED—IMPROPER PLACEMENT**

#### **New York, Shawangunks**

On October 10, 1986, a man (26) fell three meters from Matinee (5.10+) when all his nuts pulled out due to no directional. He suffered facial lacerations and a possible skull fracture. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

*(Editor's Note: No mention is made as to whether the victim was wearing a hard hat. It would appear not.)*

### **FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION**

#### **New York, Shawangunks**

On November 9, 1986, a man (36) fell 20 meters after his protection pulled on Grease Gun Groove (5.6). He fractured his femur. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

*(Editor's Note: Of the 23 accidents reported from the Shawangunks this year, 16 happened on less than 5.8 terrain. There were no fatalities here this year.)*

### **LOSS OF CONTROL—RAPPEL, NO BELAY, NO HARD HAT, INEXPERIENCE**

#### **North Carolina, Table Rock**

On August 16, 1986, a father and two sons were top-roping and rappelling at a popular training area. Their equipment was a few carabiners and some Goldline rope. Seat harnesses were made using Goldline ropes. I observed from about 100 meters east at the

top of another climb. Older son (12) clipped in to Goldline to rappel using a single wrap around a carabiner. Clearly nervous. Under direction from father, he backed over the edge out of sight. About ten seconds later, there was a long scream (two or three seconds), then a thud. A few seconds later the screaming started again, much to my relief. My climbing partner and I ran over to find son and father together, both shaking very much. Son started to go into shock, father lost as to what to do.

We got the victim out of his seat, determined that his ankle was badly sprained and then dressed a variety of abrasions. His back was badly abraded crosswise, indicating that he had been out of control during the rappel. After all were calmed down and injuries temporarily dressed, the father took off with the son, carrying him. Other son took gear. (Source: Stephen Perry)

### **Analysis**

The victim fell 12 meters. He was wearing shorts and running shoes, but no helmet. He was not belayed. The boy's father was using the old U.S. Army rappel, but with only a single wrap and no gloves for the rappeller. As Stephen Perry, the climber who reported the accident pointed out, "Somebody—anybody—briefing them on rock could have prevented this." But they were isolated from other groups, set up fast, and then the accident happened quickly.

This accident is included in the data base, though clearly the leader and victim are not climbers. The equipment and techniques used suggest that the father may have learned some climbing while in the military, or from an out-of-date field manual. (Source: Stephen Perry and J. Williamson)

## **SLIP ON ROCK, IMPROPER TECHNIQUE, IMPROPER INSTRUCTION, EXCEEDING ABILITIES, NO HARD HAT**

### **North Carolina, Table Rock**

(On September 20, 1986, Elizabeth Crosscope [35] was climbing with two friends [35 and 32] in an area known as "The Devil's Courthouse." Her accident report contained the following narrative.)

After successfully making a 20 meter climb rated 5.6 by the members of my party, I attempted to rappel down. This was my first experience with rappelling, and I was given no instruction other than to trust the rope. Scott had rigged me for the rappel in such a fashion that the belaying line was in my hand with the safety line. There was too much friction. When it was necessary for me to traverse left to get around an overhang, I slipped on a lichen patch because there was still too much tension on the lines in my hand. I pivoted and crashed the rock with my jaw. Tim belayed me immediately and I came to with no safety line in my hand. I was stunned and bleeding from a deep cut in my jaw and I was very confused. I reduced the dislocation while hanging there, and after resting for a while, recovered the lines and started over. Again I pivoted and crashed, this time abrading my right shoulder. Tim's quick belay had pulled both lines out of my right hand. After a rest I recovered and made it down the third time. (Source: Elizabeth Crosscope)

### **Analysis**

I was very glad not to have died on this climb. I had never made a climb requiring a top rope before, but am okay at scrambling and friction climbing. I think my friends assumed