

particular person (the buddy). In this case, Rescuer #1 moved into the accident situation before someone noticed. There is also a responsibility on the individual student to listen carefully to techniques explained and ask any questions about material in which there is the least bit of confusion. The students were told to keep hands on the Jumar handles, except for the retying of safety knots. (Source: Jim Detterline, Ranger, RMNP)

FALL ON ARTIFICIAL ROCK WALL, HANDHOLD AND FOOTHOLD BROKE OFF AT THE SAME TIME

Colorado, Denver

On June 11, 1991, I came home from work and went out to work on my artificial climbing wall in the back yard. The wall is approximately 20 feet long by 13 feet tall. The "holds" are natural rocks that were glued on the wall with "highway reflector" cement. I've had the wall for three years. I used to do "laps" of traverses and ascending and descending laps. The highest difficulty on the wall would be 5.8.

I'd done a number of traverse laps and started doing the up and down laps. Along the top of the wall I'd glued some larger chickehead blocks. As I got to the top of the wall, I grabbed a large hold (six or seven pounds) with my right hand. As I pulled up, the hold broke off at the same time. My left foothold broke off too. I couldn't recover and hang on to my left hand hold. I fell about eight feet to the pavement. I landed squarely on the heel of my right foot. I sprained my ankle and broke the right heel bone. I was surprised how painful an injury this has been.

Analysis

I highly doubt that mine is the first or last accident on a man-made climbing wall, but, I was able to take care of myself, in keeping with the doctrine of self-rescue. (Source: Halsted Morris)

FALL ON ROCK, EXCEEDING ABILITIES

Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park, Petit Grepon

On July 6, 1991, at 1200, Mike Dobry (24) took a lead fall on the 5.8 crux of the South Face of Petit Grepon in Rocky Mountain National Park. He sustained an open fracture of his right ankle. His partner/belay, Jon Stewart (22) was unable to lower him back to the belay ledge due to the long length of rope already paid out this far on this pitch. Rangers Keith Hayse and Scott Wanek, who had just completed the route and were rappelling off the backside of the formation, heard the calls for help and responded to Dobry's position. Hayse and Wanek did a solo rope rescue of Dobry, lowering him to be belay ledge and stabilizing his injuries.

Rocky Mountain National Park's rescue team was flown to Sky Pond by helicopter. They lowered Dobry by tragsitz 600 feet to the base of the formation, and continued another 1,000 feet with scree evacuation maneuvers utilizing a stokes litter. At 1946, the patient was picked up at the Sky Pond helispot by Flight for Life air ambulance, which flew him to Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Analysis

The South Face of Petit Grepon, immortalized in Steck and Roper's *Fifty Classic Climbs of North America*, has become one of Rocky Mountain National Park's most