

their expertise, I would most likely be paralyzed from the waist down. Support your local Rescue Group! (Source: Jeff Wright)

HYPOTHERMIA, FROSTBITE, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE

Washington, Mount Rainier, Liberty Ridge

Two climbers from Colorado Springs, Jon Spangler (32) and Cathy Proenza (28), left Isput Creek on Saturday, June 1, 1991, to climb Liberty Ridge. Both were experienced rock climbers and Spangler had done some alpine climbing in Mexico. Sunday afternoon two rangers from Joshua Tree National Park, Debbie Benchley and Todd Swain, who were climbing the ridge behind them, found them at the 12,400 foot level extremely dehydrated and hypothermic. They had drunk only a quart of water between them. It seems they had belayed each other up the ridge using rock climbing techniques. They explained to Debbie that they didn't think they could make the summit, so she decided to help them up to Liberty Cap.

Debbie worked last year as a seasonal ranger at Mount Rainier and had a park radio from the rangers at Carbon River. When they reached the summit, she called down to alert the park to the problem. It was decided by the park to get a helicopter to the summit to lift them off. They obtained two helicopters, a small six seat Long 208 and a Chinook from Ft. Lewis. When the helicopters arrived they discovered that the party had descended to the 12,800 foot level on the Emmons Glacier. The helicopters were unable to land due to the steep terrain; it was decided to drop a bag with extra supplies to them. After several tries the bag was dropped. It took two bounces and fell into a crevasse. Darkness was fast approaching and no other attempts were made. The climbers would have to spend the night with the gear they had.

The smaller helicopter spent the night at the park and lifted two park rangers and two TMRU members, one at a time, to Camp Schurmann to climb to the stranded party. An Army Chinook would arrive later to lift the remaining team members to Schurmann. When the two park rangers arrived at Schurmann, they started to climb up to the subjects. An hour and a half later the two TMRU members followed them. While this was happening, the subjects had started to descend to Schurmann.

Around 2030, the Army Chinook arrived and the rest of the team was loaded to be lifted to Camp Schurmann. By this time the rangers had reached the subjects and given them food, water, and dry clothing. It was then decided to turn the Chinook helicopter around and return the team to Kautz Creek. After the two TMRU members reached the subjects, they were escorted to the cabin at Schurmann. The standby team had arrived at the park about the time the Chinook was returning.

After the subjects reached Schurmann, the Chinook launched again to pick them up. TMRU members Ed Hrivnak (EMT) and Pat Lillie (Paramedic) were on board as a medical team. The Chinook went to Schurmann, picked up the subjects, and then went directly to Madigan Army Medical Center. Jon Spangler had a broken rib where he had fallen on his ice ax. Cathy Proenza had frostbitten feet and hands. Jon was treated and released, and Cathy was transferred to Harborview Hospital and was released Thursday, June 6. Her feet and hands were thawed and she did not lose any portion of either. (Source: From Mount Rainier ranger reports)

Analysis

Jon Spangler said that he felt the main reason for their troubles were as follows: inexperience on glaciated peaks; not enough fuel for their stove (one quart was all they

had); progress was slowed by too much protection and belaying; the loss of their map; they forgot to pack their compass; allowing their sleeping bags to get wet; and underestimating the difficulty of the route.

Cathy Proenza added to this list: starting out the trip very tired after a long drive; and picking a route that was above their skill level. She said they had read about the route in *Fifty Classic Climbs*, and had not felt it would be as difficult as it was.

FALLING ROCK, NO HARD HAT

Washington, Whitehorse Mountain

This is to report a climbing accident that occurred on Whitehorse Mountain on June 9, 1991. I was the climb leader. Tony Baird was the injured climber. Other climbers were Andy Doppel and Steve Zsitvay. All of the above climbers are Everett Mountaineers. There was a fifth climber that I allowed to join our party because he was alone on the mountain, and I didn't want him to climb unroped on the glacier.

Just before noon our party summited Whitehorse Mountain after an uneventful ascent. Following a lunch break, we began our descent. Since the first part of the descent is on very steep snow, we set up a belay at the summit. We decided that the best descent route was a few feet to the left of our ascent route, in order to avoid a short traverse which was necessary on the ascent in order to get from the snow finger onto the rock summit block. Tony was the first climber to descend. About 30 feet below the summit, while he was on belay, he fell about five feet into a hidden crevasse. He was not injured by this short fall, but was unable to extricate himself. Since he was on belay, two of the other climbers who were on the summit pulled on the belay rope to help him out of the crevasse. In pulling on the rope, one climber accidentally dislodged a rock. Everybody yelled, "Rock!" and Tony saw the rock coming at him. He ducked into the crevasse in an attempt to avoid the rock, but the rock hit him in the back of the head anyway. He was not wearing a helmet, which would have prevented the injury.

From the summit, we all yelled down to Tony to see if he was alright. About one minute passed before he responded. (We determined later that he was temporarily unconscious.) When he finally did come out of the crevasse and responded, we saw the blood. As quickly as possible, Andy descended (on belay) to administer first aid. By the time Andy reached Tony, the bleeding had stopped. Andy bandaged the wound. Tony appeared to be OK, in spite of the bloody head.

After we were off the glacier, we lightened Tony's pack somewhat to help him descend. We also kept him roped up on some steep snow in case he fell. We made it back to camp without problem. The last few miles back to the trailhead were the hardest for Tony. Physical fatigue from the climb coupled with the head injury made him very clumsy. He fell several times, despite traveling slowly and taking frequent breaks. As soon as we reached the cars, we took him to Everett General Hospital Emergency Room, where his wound was examined and treated. His skull had been slightly chipped, and he required some stitches, but he returned home that night. In subsequent examination, his doctor diagnosed concussion. (Source: Chris Johnson)

FALL ON ICE, UNABLE TO SELF-ARREST, CLIMBING UNROPED

Washington, North Cascades, Glacier Peak

On June 30, 1991, elated veteran mountaineer Steve Studley (27) stood above the clouds at the 10,568-foot summit of Glacier Peak in the North Cascades Mountains.