

and Beal had “climbed quite a bit” and that Belinda and her son had joined them for some easy scrambling to the top of the ridge.

In an interview at the hospital two days later, Dugan said he’d been climbing since he was 17 years old, first in the Catskills, later in the Adirondacks, and more recently in the Shenandoah National Park. (But he’d never heard of the Gunks, of known climbs in northern New York, and only recently had he heard of Seneca Rocks.) His preference in climbing rope runs to surplus military rappel (static) line and not much other gear, though he’s been working on a combination seat harness/rucksack. He’s a skydiver but said he can’t see sense in spending money on climbing gear. (Source: Jim Underwood, Tactical Skills Team, Franklin, WV)

*(Editor’s Note: Unfortunately, this is one of those cases that can be picked up by the media, National Safety Council, federal and state agencies, etc., as an example of how dangerous the sport is—and how incompetent the participants are.)*

### **FALL ON SNOW, OFF ROUTE, INEXPERIENCED** **Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Middle Teton**

On May 30, 1992, a climber (20) and his partner were on the way down what they thought was the Southwest Couloir of the Middle Teton, at 1630 and fell about 800 feet down a steep snow slope and over two 40 to 50 foot cliff bands. Both are unclear if the two to four foot avalanche debris they were caught in was started by the fall or caused the fall. Arms was unconscious for about five minutes after the fall and had a fractured heel. Walter went to Garnet Meadows to get their tent and sleeping bags which he used to stabilize Arms before Arms was flown out by NPS helicopter at 0800 on May 31, and was taken to St. John’s Hospital where he was treated for a fractured talus.

#### **Analysis**

The pillow of snow around Arms and the fact that he was wearing a helmet probably saved his life. He told ranger Springer he remembers hitting his head several times during the fall. The climbers’ relative inexperience, lack of route finding skills, and soft snow conditions probably caused this accident. (Source: Scott Berkenfield, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

### **LOSS OF CONTROL—VOLUNTARY GLISSADE** **Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Owen Couloir**

On June 9, 1992, H. Kammeyer (33) and his partner departed from a high camp at the Lower Saddle for an ascent of the complete Exum Ridge route on the Grand Teton. They completed the route, reaching the summit of the Grand around 1200. They then successfully descended to the Upper Saddle.

Both then started down the standard descent in the Owen Couloir below the Upper Saddle. Kammeyer elected to descend the snow in the couloir while his partner descended a rock rib. The snow near the top of the couloir was described by Kammeyer as being soft and wet.

Kammeyer passed his partner in a sitting glissade. He watched as Kammeyer appeared to accelerate in his glissade about 50 yards below the Upper Saddle. He approached a cliff band in the couloir about 100 feet high and attempted to use his ice axe to self-arrest,