

gan calling on a CB radio, blindly relaying their location and that there was an emergency. The message was received by Annie Duquette at Kahiltna base camp, and a bush resident near Bald Mountain outside of Talkeetna. Between making frequent broadcasts on the radio, Tom and David were able to set up the tent, bandage Richard's chest, and administer Demerol to Jim.

AT 0020 the Park Service received the call of an emergency on the Ruth Glacier. At 0459 both patients were loaded into a Pavehawk helicopter and transported to Alaska Regional Hospital.

Analysis

The weather in the Alaska Range this season was unstable. There were many storm days resulting in loaded slopes. The South Buttress expedition, although cognizant of avalanche hazard and having taken some definite precautions, were caught in an avalanche. It is difficult to say whether waiting several more hours would have allowed the snow to bond well enough to prevent what appeared to be a wet slide. The long Alaskan day oftentimes prevents sufficient freezing of the snow pack over night. The slope may have had a long term unstable characteristic, in which case waiting several hours would have been useless. (Source: Kevin Moore, Mountaineering Ranger, Denali National Park)

(Editor's Note: On May 25, with an accumulation of seven feet of new snow in five days, a Cessna 185 flipped over on takeoff from the Kahiltna base camp.)

FALL INTO CREVASSE—SNOW BRIDGE COLLAPSE, POOR POSITION, INADEQUATE PROTECTION—NO BELAY OR FIXED ROPE

Alaska, Mount McKinley, West Buttress

On June 28 at 1900, Dominic Marshall (25) and Reggie Perrin fell into a crevasse at 13,600 feet while ascending the West Buttress. Perrin is disabled and Marshall was assisting him to walk when the two broke through a bridged crevasse. Marshall held Perrin from the surface while Perrin went in about three feet. They were extricated very quickly by their party. Perrin was unhurt while Marshall experienced a lot of pain to walk. Marshall was sledged into the 14,200 foot ranger station at 2130. Marshall complained of pain in his pelvis and lower back. A thorough exam was conducted by Canadian Rescue Medic John Oaks of the NPS patrol with assistance from Dr. Dunken Gray and Dr. Anthony Osborne of the Unseen Steps party. It was determined that Marshall should be evacuated by helicopter. Marshall's continued pain left speculation of a potential fracture of the lower pelvis. Marshall was released on June 29 with a torn pelvic cartilage.

Analysis

John Barry stated the following: "I was part of a rope of six, moving from a camp at about 12,100 feet to the plateau at 14,200 feet. The visibility was good and the weather fair. One of our party, 'Reggie' Perrin is disabled—partially paralyzed in the left arm and leg and 75% blind. This means that when moving roped on glaciated terrain, we have to configure the rope so that, whilst everyone is joined in the normal way, Reggie—who needs a shoulder adjacent his arm on all but the easiest ground—has a fellow climber immediately alongside. This I achieve by means of a doubled rope and sling.

"We were rounding a corner about 13,600 feet near the end of a pleasant but uneventful day when the rope tightened. Looking back I saw that Reggie and his helper of the day, Dominic Marshall, had fallen through the path. Marshall was only waist deep;

Perrin was about three feet into a crevasse. I organized a hoist and in ten minutes or so we had pulled them clear.”

If traveling with a person who needs assistance means that normal practices have to be abandoned, then one must be prepared for the consequences—or make adjustments to the procedures. In this case, a fixed line and/or a belay may have compensated for the two climbers being side by side. (Source: Jed Williamson and Roger Robinson, Mountaineering Ranger, Denali National Park)

RAPPEL ERROR—FAILED TO THREAD BOTH ROPES THROUGH FRICTION DEVICE, NO BELAY

Arizona, Cochise Stronghold

On October 28, John Payne, Jr., Mark Plassman, and Bruce McKenzie set off for “What’s My Line,” a three-pitch 5.6 in Cochise Stronghold. The trio topped out in the early afternoon and had lunch. After lunch, they set up the rappel and Bruce headed down to the first ledge, a mere 30 feet down and as big as a living room. Next came Mark. John started his descent and screamed. He hadn’t threaded both strands through his tuber. He fell just past the ledge, glancing off, and disappeared, taking not only the rope he was tied into with him, but also the second line which he had strapped to his back. We will never know what happened to John when he roped in—he screwed up and it cost him his life. If he had started the rap eight feet to the right, he would have had a 30 foot fall.

Bruce and Mark were left on the ledge with some extra food and some webbing. The next morning they signaled some hikers and tried to get them to do the route using John’s gear; neither of them were climbers, however and the weather had become inclement: rainy and windy. The hikers left to get Search and Rescue—a six hour hike at least. After ten hours, SAR came in. It was still rainy and they were unable to get a rope to Bruce and Mark. At this point a chopper was called in. It’s unclear what the original purpose of the chopper was, because after hovering for a while it left to get some rope and coats to drop to Bruce and Mark.

When the chopper returned with 200 feet of rope, Bruce and Mark had been on the ledge for over 30 hours. The rope was delivered and Bruce and Mark rappelled the rest of the way down. They did have extra clothes and rain gear, but it was at the base of the climb. Both Bruce and John had done the route numerous times previously. The choice of route was made because it was known by both quite well and Bruce and Mark had never climbed together. Ironically, John did check Mark, who was using an ATC, before he rappelled. (Source: Brian McKenzie)

DARKNESS—LATE START, DEHYDRATION, HYPOTHERMIA (CARRIED NO WATER), INADEQUATE CLOTHING, CREATING A HAZARDOUS CONDITION

California, Yosemite Valley, Manure Pile Buttress, Nutcracker

On March 30, at 2310, Reza Tabrizi (22) called NPS dispatch from the Camp 4 pay phone to report that his two climbing partners, Mark Bradford (23) and Sarah Rich (20), were stranded by darkness at the top of Manure Pile Buttress.

While driving back to the Manure Pile parking area with Ranger Mike Archer, Tabrizi stated the following: The three had reached the top of Nutcracker after dark, with no lights. The way down was known to be dangerous in the dark, so he had left the others on top with a rope and a rack of hardware while he rappelled alone with the other rope down