

He sustained a concussion, but no serious head injury. He is unable to recall any of the events before or after the accident.

Analysis

Jeff Steinmetz, Kruse's partner, stated the following. We reached the top of Baxter's Pinnacle, and Larry rappelled off first. Kruse called up that he was off rappel and as I started clipping in, I heard him yell, "Rock." About four seconds later I heard what sounded like rockfall. I called to Larry but he didn't answer. I rappelled down to the notch and didn't see Larry. I called but received no reply. I pulled the rappel rope and started to down climb the descent gully. After climbing down about 80 feet I heard him moaning. I climbed to a tree about 30 feet above him and set up an anchor. I rappelled down to him and clipped him into the rope due to his precarious position. I started yelling for help, and two climbers rappelled down from Baxter's to help. I didn't see Larry fall and think he may have rappelled into the gully to the west of the notch instead of stopping at the notch.

Steinmetz stated that Larry had been climbing for 12–15 years. He is a solid 5.10 leader. He has climbed in Yosemite, Red Rocks, and many other places but never in Grand Teton National Park. (Source: Mark Magnuson, SAR Coordinator)

(Editor's Note: Though we don't know the exact cause of Kruse's fall, this accident is worth noting to provide a warning for even the most experienced who climb and descend Baxter's Pinnacle. Loose rock, especially on the descent, is a known hazard here, and has caused many injuries or near misses.)

FALLING/DISLODGED ROCK

Wyoming, Wind River Range, Easy Day Peak

On August , 9 at 1100, while following the first Pitch of the North Face route on Easy Day Peak (11,660 feet), Mark Gallagher pulled a large block off onto himself, and sustained injuries to both of his lower legs. His climbing partner, David Oka, lowered Gallagher to a ledge, fixed him to an anchor, and then rappelled to provide assistance. Two of Gallagher's companions, who were at the group's campsite at Shadow Lake, came up with first aid and other equipment to help with the rescue effort. Together they managed to splint one of Gallagher's legs and lower him off the technical portion of the climb. At this point Oka ran out to Big Sandy trailhead and then drove to Big Sandy Lodge and reported the accident via cellular telephone to Sublette County Sheriff Hank Ruland. Sheriff Ruland, IC for the incident, then requested the assistance of Grand Teton National Park SAR personnel from the Jenny Lake sub-district about 1800. The initial report of the accident indicated that the injured party was 500–1,000 vertical feet above Shadow Lake and at least one technical climbing pitch up on the route. Three Jenny Lake rangers (Larson, Byerly, and Guenther) along with the Bridger/Teton helitack foreman (Stailey) were flown to Shadow Lake, where the injured climber and his party were spotted during an aerial reconnaissance. All of the equipment required to accomplish both technical and non-technical lowerings as well as the emergency medical

and helicopter shorthaul gear to stabilize and evacuate the patient were on board the aircraft. Due to weight restrictions and the high altitude, the helitack crew member was flown to the 8,000 foot level and dropped off. Rangers Larson, Byerly, and Guenther were then flown to a meadow below Easy Day Peak, setting down at 2030.

Once on the ground, the rangers were met by a member of the party and apprised of Gallagher's injuries and overall condition. The rangers then climbed up to Gallagher's location, arriving at 2100, and met the rescue party at the start of the non-technical terrain. After assessing the patient's condition the group began a series of non-technical lowerings down the slope. Gallagher was placed on a backboard and belayed down five rope lengths as the rangers and other climbers carried the litter. At 2215 the patient and rescuers arrived at the meadow below the peak, and a decision was made to set up camp.

As camp was being set up, a more thorough assessment revealed a possible fracture of the right tibia, a laceration on the right foot, and a laceration/avulsion of the medial left ankle. The injuries were cleaned and rebandaged and the right leg resplinted. A request was made to Medical Advisor Lanny Johnson for the antibiotic Ancef, due to the nature of his wounds. Permission was granted, an IV was inserted, and 1.5 grams of Ancef were given with no complications.

At 0855 the following morning Helicopter 6AH picked up the patient and ranger Byerly and they were flown to Pinedale Airport, where they were met by the Pinedale ambulance. Helicopter 6AH then returned for rangers Larson and Guenther. The patient was taken to the clinic in Pinedale, then transported to St. John's Hospital in Jackson. X-rays found a comminuted fracture of the right tibia, a hairline fracture just distal to the right knee, and no fractures to the left leg. All SAR personnel were back in Grand Teton National Park by 1500 on August 10. (Source: Renny Jackson, SAR Ranger)

(Editor's Note: It wasn't too many years ago that a rescue like this in the Wind River Range would have been more difficult and complicated. It probably would have taken several days, and would have been without the benefit of antibiotics.)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING ALONE

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Symmetry Spire

On October 12 at 1600, I received a call from Barbara Lachmar of Logan, UT, who stated that her husband Tom Lachmar (45) had not returned from a climbing trip to the Tétens. She was only able to give me information on the vehicle he was driving, and that he had left on the night of the 10th with a plan to climb the next day and drive back that evening.

I called Teton dispatch and requested that a road patrol ranger begin looking for Lachmar's vehicle at the numerous trailheads in the South District of the park. Additionally, I requested that the Permits Office search the computer database for any record of a backcountry overnight permit or a Voluntary Mountaineering Registration. The vehicle was located at the String Lake trailhead at 1650.

At 1737, I requested that the Bridger-Teton contract helicopter report to