

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

the Lupine Meadows heli-base. During the final hour of remaining daylight, I at least wanted to conduct an aerial reconnaissance of the primary hiking routes available from this trailhead.

In the rapidly diminishing daylight, about 1815, the subject was found in the upper reaches of the couloir immediately west of the Southwest Ridge of Symmetry Spire. We were able to confirm that he was injured, and made the decision to attempt to insert one rescuer and then short-haul the climber out via “screamer” suit. The operation was completed by 1855, and Lachmar was transferred to a ground ambulance for evaluation of his injuries. Lachmar was given strong recommendation to seek initial treatment at St. John’s Hospital, but he declined, and was taken to his car. He drove home and was admitted to Logan Regional Hospital, where he received treatment for a fractured left clavicle and three separate fractures to his pelvis.

### **Analysis**

Lachmar’s intention was to do a day climb of the East Ridge of Symmetry Spire, and then descend via the rappels from the notch on the upper portion of the Southwest Ridge. He had successfully completed the first long rappel and was in the process of down climbing to the second rappel when he fell about “five to seven feet.” The accident occurred about 1545. He spent the night there, and then started making his way down the next day.

Climbers will continue to be encouraged to let someone responsible know exactly where they intend to go and when they are expected to return. Lachmar was well equipped for a day climb. He is fortunate that the injuries he sustained were not life threatening. (Source: From a report by SAR Ranger Renny Jackson)