

tion to deteriorate more (or cause greater harm) than a wait for outside assistance with greater resources.

Second, in Oregon, Search and Rescue is the responsibility of the County Sheriff. The Ski Patrol is responsible for assisting injured skiers within the ski boundary and is not prepared to assist injured climbers high on the mountain. If an accident occurs on Mt. Hood, it is important to call 911, which can route the call to the appropriate resources in an efficient manner. Calling the ski patrol or a ski resort instead of 911 can complicate and extend the time needed to assemble a rescue team. (Source: Steve Rollins, Portland Mountain Rescue)

FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED OUT

Oregon, Smith Rock, Crack of Infinity

On June 3, Rod Lucas (45) was leading Crack of Infinity, a 5.10b trad route rated three stars, requiring gear to three inches, according to Alan Watts' *Climbers Guide to Smith Rock*. Rod released his hold on the overhanging crux just three feet above his last solid piece and to his surprise, blew a #3 and a #2 stopper from the rock, falling 25 feet to a ledge and then another 15 feet to the deck, landing on his back.

With a broken ankle and pelvis, Rod was placed on a stretcher and lowered to the path by Redmond Fire and Rescue and a host of helping hands from fellow climbers. He reached the hospital about four hours after the fall.

Analysis

Rod Lucas lived near Smith Rock and climbed regularly with the pioneers through the 1970's and 80's. He has climbed Crack of Infinity several times in the past. He knows that he was not off route on the adjoining Friday's Jinx (5.7 R), described by Alan Watts as follows: "This sinister route put a half a dozen people in the hospital during the 80's. Oddly, the rock is solid and the protection reasonable, but for unknown reasons gear-ripping falls are a common occurrence on the first pitch."

Later, his friend Chris, a climbing instructor, inspected the route on Crack of Infinity and reported a double fist sized hole where Rod's first solid piece blew out of the rock. His second piece was deeply scored.

This is Rod's first serious accident in nearly 30 years of climbing, including all of the major peaks in Washington and Oregon. However, "Climbing is a sport where you may be seriously injured or die," as stated in the "Climber's Guide." (Source: Robert Speik)

FALL ON ROCK—POOR POSITION, INADEQUATE PROTECTION

Oregon, Smith Rock, Zebra

On June 23 Grant Pease (38) was leading Zebra, a 5.10a trad route rated three stars and requiring gear to three inches, according to Alan Watts' *Climbers Guide to Smith Rock*. Grant was high on the wall on a near horizontal traverse of a thin crack leading to the Zion route finish. He found that he was not able to protect the crack with his gear. He was about 15 feet out when, uncomfortable, he started to make his way back toward his last secure protection. He slipped off the traverse and made a 23 foot pendulum fall into the rock dihe-