

Bishop years before. He was committed to the climb of that particular route in his mind, at least, as evidenced by Fred Donich, his climbing partner of many years, as well as that of a Jenny Lake climbing ranger, with whom he had had a discussion a few days before in the Blacktail Butte climbing area parking lot. Donich indicated to me that he thought that Bishop would have likely been free-soloing as opposed to roped soloing. Donich also felt that he would have likely taken a rope to facilitate certain portions of the route, such as the descent of Peak 11,840+, the first obstacle between the plateau to the west of Teewinot and the traverse over to Mount Owen. It was presumably Bishop's intention to get a very early start on the 16th, as evidenced by the fact that his alarm clock, which was found in his vehicle, was set for 2:00 a.m. Also found in the vehicle were a pair of crampons that Bishop had presumably left behind on the day of the climb.

Based on all of the information, it is likely that Bishop was free-soloing when he fell. Derived from photographs obtained during an aerial reconnaissance conducted the day after the recovery operation, it is also likely that Bishop fell from somewhere on the North Ridge route of the Grand Teton. The North Ridge route, as opposed to the "Italian Cracks," is the classic route of ascent of the Grand Teton during the course of a Grand Traverse climb. If Bishop fell from anywhere above the top of the normal second pitch of the North Ridge route, it is highly probably that he would end up on the west side of the Grandstand, which was indeed where he was found.

The free-soloist sacrifices the safety that is normally afforded the climber who is belaying or who is being belayed by a partner, for a lighter-weight and swifter style of climbing that has its own set of unique advantages. However, if anything goes wrong, the results are usually catastrophic. A momentary distraction, a hand or foot hold breaking, a slip on an unnoticed wet or icy spot, or an objective hazard such as rockfall, can all contribute to a loss of the all important focus that the free-soloist relies upon for success. (Source: Renny Jackson, SAR Incident Commander)

FALLING ROCK AND SLIP ON SNOW—UNABLE TO SELF-ARREST DUE TO INADEQUATE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT AND INEXPERIENCE **Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Middle Teton and Disappointment Peak**

On July 28th, rangers made two rescues of injured parties—one from a point between Middle Teton and South Teton, the other from Disappointment Peak. The first occurred on Wednesday morning. Mysha Miskin (30) of Rexburg, Idaho, had been hit by falling rocks around 5:00 p.m. the previous evening while climbing the Chouinard Ridge on the Middle Teton with her husband, Garon Miskin. Although Mysha was injured by a rock that struck her just below the back of her climbing helmet, she and Garon continued to climb and summit the Middle Teton so that they could safely descend an easier route via

the Southwest Couloir on the Middle Teton. By the time the climbers reached a point just below the saddle between Middle Teton and South Teton, Mysha was not able to continue. Garon hiked back up to the saddle and made a 911 call for assistance late Tuesday evening. Two rangers with emergency medical gear began hiking from Lupine Meadows trailhead into the South Fork of Garnet Canyon within an hour of the emergency call and reached Mysha at about 2:45 a.m. on Wednesday morning. Four other rangers packed in extra medical equipment and camping gear to care for the injured Mysha until the park's contract helicopter could fly with early morning light.

On Wednesday morning, the rangers carried Mysha by hand-litter to a helicopter landing spot just east of the Middle and South Teton saddle. She was flown out, then taken to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for treatment of her injuries. Garon applied emergency first aid to his wife and the two climbers practiced good self rescue procedures until park rangers could reach them. They were well prepared for their climbing excursion and had extra clothing and rain gear with them.

The second helicopter-assisted rescue and evacuation took place at 4:30 p.m. Elizabeth Messaros (22) dislocated her shoulder while attempting to stop herself from sliding after she slipped on hard-packed snow in the Spoon Couloir on Disappointment Peak. Messaros slid about 150 feet before running into rocks and sustaining additional injuries. Teton Interagency dispatch received a cell phone call from Messaros' hiking partner Steve about 11:40 a.m. Rangers were just completing the transfer of equipment and rescue personnel from the South Fork of Garnet Canyon after the morning evacuation. The park's contract helicopter shuttled six rangers to a landing spot on the flanks of Disappointment Peak near the Grand Teton. The rangers then descended the Spoon Couloir, provided emergency medical care to Messaros, and lowered her to the bottom of the couloir after placing her in a climbing harness affixed to ropes. They helped Messaros walk to a spot just above Amphitheater Lake, where the helicopter landed and picked her up for a flight to the Lupine Meadows rescue facility. Messaros was then transferred to a park ambulance and transported to St. John's Medical Center for treatment of her injuries. Messaros was wearing tennis shoes and using ski poles, rather than an ice ax, at the time of the accident. (Source: From an NPS Morning report submitted by Jackie Skaggs, Public Affairs Specialist)

Analysis

Two contrasting stories. As for the latter, Ranger Renny Jackson said it above in the March 12 incident: Loss of control in a slide on snow is the most common incident in the park, and usually involves the lack of proper gear. (Source: Jed Williamson)