

Appalachia

Volume 63
Number 2 *Summer/Fall 2012: The Lure of
Alaska*

Article 12

2012

Accidents

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Recommended Citation

(2012) "Accidents," *Appalachia*: Vol. 63: No. 2, Article 12.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol63/iss2/12>

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Accidents

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.—*William Arthur Ward*

POSSIBLY THE BIGGEST NEWS OF 2011 ABOUT THE TRAILS AND BROOKS of the White Mountains was the damage that Tropical Storm Irene caused. Downgraded from hurricane status just before reaching the area on August 28, the storm produced record-breaking rainfall in New Hampshire and Vermont. The results were disastrous for many White Mountain trails. It could have been disastrous for people as well, but forecasters predicted the storm well in advance, and the media made a consistent push on storm preparedness for three days before New England saw a drop of rain. The White Mountain National Forest and all New Hampshire state parks closed before the storm with intentions to stay shuttered for multiple days. Officials closed nearly all public lands from 6 P.M. Saturday until Tuesday morning.

U.S. Forest Service employees posted Closed signs at almost every trailhead and facility around the White Mountains on Friday, August 26. Most people respected the closures, and this likely prevented unknowing people from being hurt, killed, or stranded in some unfortunate predicament. As always, some disregarded the closures. Two such hikers ended up on the summit of Mount Washington on Saturday after dark. They called 911 shortly before 9 P.M. to report that they were close to the summit but had no flashlight and could not proceed. They had no food or proper clothing either, but that was beside the point. The two Massachusetts men eventually were coached out to the Mount Washington Auto Road, where a New Hampshire Fish and Game conservation officer picked them up. The state deemed both men negligent and issued each \$188.55 bills to cover rescue costs.

When Tropical Storm Irene finally rolled into the White Mountains on August 29, her winds had relaxed, but the rain was relentless. Most areas received between 5 and 7 inches of rain in less than 24 hours. A number of spots received more than 10 inches of rain when monthly precipitation totals were already above average. Extensive flooding occurred around the

mountains along both small streams and major rivers. Personal property damage was not that bad compared with our neighbors in Vermont, but road damage was extensive. President Obama declared the storm's aftermath in New Hampshire a major disaster on September 3.

There was little in the way of blowdown cleanup in the wake of the storm. Instead, the U.S. Forest Service staff turned all of their focus to damage assessment. With the assistance of volunteer trail adopters and partners such as the Appalachian Mountain Club, USFS staff hit the trails and found a predictable pattern of damage. Any trail with extensive sections near streams or rivers below 3,500 feet was likely to have sustained damage. Irene damaged many trail bridges from one side of the National Forest to the other, and this presents a challenge to hikers. Many of these bridges were repaired quickly, but others were damaged beyond repair. Replacements will not arrive overnight, if at all. In some of these areas, these weren't the first bridges to wash downstream. Or even the second. It sometimes turns out that some rivers are not meant to be bridged.

We will continue to feel the effects of Irene well into the future, and White Mountain hikers will have to hone certain skills to deal with these effects. Many trails received significant makeovers. Return visitors might not recognize landmarks they once used for navigation. New information will force hikers to adjust and adapt their plans on the fly. Those who maintain heightened awareness will avoid twisting ankles in one of the numerous sinkholes or washouts that now dot the trails. Stream banks and other steep slopes have slumped in many locations, and unsuspecting hikers may walk on undermined earth as they approach what looks like a perfect viewpoint. Stream crossing skills will undoubtedly come in handy, but most important, hikers must choose whether to cross a stream or river at all. It is wise to analyze the *need* to cross before assessing *how* it might be done. Such is the case with all risks we face in the backcountry.

Better Than the Zipper or Tilt-a-Whirl?

On Saturday, July 9, 2011, Allen G., age 54, of Center Conway, New Hampshire, was descending Spur Trail on Mount Adams, when he slipped on wet rocks and smashed his knee into a tree. Unable to bear weight on his injured leg, Allen and his hiking partner assessed their situation. They were not far below the Randolph Mountain Club's Crag Camp, but they were probably

two and a half miles from the trailhead. It was early afternoon, but there was no way that Allen could walk down. After running through the options, Allen's partner used his cell phone to call 911 at approximately 2:30 P.M. Rescues don't happen quickly, so the pair put on their extra clothes, took stock of their packs' contents, and waited.

By 2:40, an NHFG conservation officer was on the phone with the hikers. Lt. Doug Gralenski began organizing the ground forces necessary to carry Allen out. The crew from the AMC Madison Spring Hut was the first organized rescue group to reach the hikers. The local Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue and the USFS field staff responded. While boots were hitting the ground, Gralenski called the New Hampshire National Guard base in Concord and learned that a Blackhawk helicopter crew was available and could fly north in short order. As the helicopter crew readied to leave, the ground forces continued climbing the north slope of Mount Adams just in case the situation changed and the helicopter couldn't be used.

While Gralenski coordinated logistics for the incident, conservation officers Mark Ober and Matt Holmes drove to a field just down Route 2 from the trailhead. Here, they waited. The NHNG ship appeared in the southern sky, and then touched down right in front of them. Ober and Holmes grabbed only the necessary gear and joined the pilot, copilot, crew chief, and medic on the helicopter. Thick trees hampered their initial efforts to find Allen. They zeroed in on a general area based on the limited clues they had obtained and live communication with ground crews. The canopy was too thick to send down any rescuers, so pilot David Breton crept his way down the mountainside looking for an opening large enough that he could insert at least one person. When he found the opening at Cascade Falls, he put the helicopter into a low hover. One by one, the NHNG medic and the two conservation officers strapped in to the "jungle penetrator" and were safely lowered to the ground. (The jungle penetrator is a bullet-shaped device with three small flip-down seats. It can lower or raise passengers through small holes in forest canopies.)

Once on the ground, the three men hustled up the trail to where Allen and a whole group of volunteers waited. It was 6 P.M. and they needed to quickly move Allen back to a spot where the helicopter could reach him. When the volunteers reached a small clearing, they activated a smoke grenade to direct the pilot, but a strong wind erased their sign. The flight medic then activated a second grenade, which worked. The pilot quickly found them. Within a few minutes, Allen and the rescuers were all inside the Blackhawk and headed for

the valley bottom. When they reached Route 2 around 6:15 P.M., they were met by an ambulance from Gorham, which quickly took Allen to the hospital. When Allen was asked how he enjoyed his ride through the sky on the jungle penetrator, he replied, "I'd rather pay \$120 at the Fryeburg Fair."

Comment: Bad luck seemed to get the better of Allen early on. He is an experienced hiker and was well prepared for his hike on 5,774-foot Mount Adams. The second highest peak in the northeastern United States is not a mountain to take lightly with its vast alpine area, crag-filled headwalls, and lengthy trails, none of which is especially gentle. Allen and his partner made a good choice when they turned around in poor visibility. They were up to the challenge, but a little slip ended Allen's hiking season.

Wet rocks have gotten the better of most of us at one time or another. A number of factors can help us stay on our feet when the footing is tricky, but good footwear is paramount. Many hikers focus primarily on ankle support (or maybe fashion) when choosing their footwear, but the sole is where the rubber meets the road. The rubber used in outdoor footwear has evolved into a variety of specialized compounds during the past twenty years. Vibram currently lists 18 sole compounds in its 2012 line of footwear. Some are soft and designed primarily for dry, rocky travel, and others excel in wet and slippery places. If you're going to buy something new to build your chest of hiking goodies, focus on your feet.

Other factors in remaining upright on slick days include knowing your limits but moving with confidence. There's a fine line between confident and overconfident, but indecision is not our friend when momentum and gravity become tangled up with a low-friction coefficient. Slips while descending often occur when we hesitate or suddenly change direction. Take a lesson from trail runners, who seem to skim over the tops of slippery rocks and muddy slopes. These folks seem not to look where they're going to step next. This is because they already know. Their attention is three or four steps out, where they analyze the terrain and commit to a line.

Trekking or hiking poles can help. The traditional walking stick, although it does the job, has fallen out of favor with more serious hikers. Poles are now all the rage. These collapsible and sometimes shock-absorbing devices were originally designed for aging hikers, but the leading U.S. pole manufacturer, Leki, reports that 70 percent of its annual sales are to those between 25 and 45. Trekking poles are less common with day-hikers and more popular with backpackers. More than 90 percent of Appalachian Trail thru-hikers are estimated to use hiking poles on their 2,180-mile adventures.

If the most hardcore and determined are using hiking poles, shouldn't everyone? Cost is one factor—walking sticks are far cheaper. Poles are also a pain when you need your hands to scramble up a steep section or pull your hood up over your head. Hiking poles also can break or crush vegetation, disturb soil outside the treadway, and scar rocks with their carbide tips. I suggest using rubber tips when conditions warrant, removing the baskets when you're not traveling through snow, and putting the poles away when you don't need them.

Bad luck may have put Allen on the ground, but his preparedness helped him make it through the ordeal in a more comfortable manner. Good cell reception sped up the time of his rescue, but it was still almost four hours from phone call to ambulance. There are always items in your pack that you could probably leave at home, and there are others that should be along for every ride but they're not. There's nothing like an emergency to make you take a close look at your packing list. Short of blowing out your knee high on Mount Adams, how do you have that same type of critical look at your gear? Try asking yourself, "How would I respond and persevere if I broke my leg right now?" Walking through the answer to such a question helps me decide what *must* be in my pack.

The Age-Old Appeal of White Mountain Waterfalls

On Friday, July 22, 2011, Cal B., age 17, of Brentwood, New Hampshire, and friends parked off the Kancamagus Highway and started the mile and a half hike into Champney Falls. The group made quick time and was soon exploring the waterfall loop off Champney Falls Trail. Below Champney Falls proper is Pitcher Falls, a remarkable hallway of rock with a waterfall cascading down one vertical wall. The rock formation is similar to the Flume in Franconia Notch, but with far less water flowing through the bottom. Though no official maintained trail accesses the far end of this natural hallway, it is a popular spot. Incidental boot-worn paths are numerous. At around 5:30 P.M., Cal followed one such trail to the back of the corridor and then scrambled around to the top of the waterfall to take a picture.

The rock corridor's walls get higher as one walks from the back of the hallway toward the entrance and Champney Falls Trail. As Cal moved that way toward the edge to get his shot, he slipped on the water-polished granite, fell about 50 feet onto rocks, and lost consciousness. His friends rushed to

his side. Although he regained consciousness, they quickly realized that he was badly hurt. They tried to use a cell phone to call for help, but there was no reception.

Cal's friends made a plan in rapid fashion and one stayed behind while the second beelined for the trailhead hoping to find cell reception at the road. He didn't, and he drove 10 miles toward Conway before he could get a signal strong enough to get a call out. At 6:16 P.M., he made a 911 call to the Carroll County dispatch.

The dispatcher first called Conway Rescue and NHFG, which put in a request for additional help from SOLO Wilderness Medical School, one of the area's volunteer search-and-rescue groups. Because of Cal's likely head or neck injury, the dispatchers believed he ought to reach a Level I trauma center in either Hanover or Portland, Maine. A helicopter was in order. The conservation officer requested LifeFlight of Maine, but it would not be able to land at the Champney Falls trailhead. They began to search for an alternative site.

Other hikers were mobilizing at the accident site. A large group happened upon the scene, and the group's leader provided important medical assistance. Rather than move Cal and risk further damage to his neck or back, they persuaded him to stay still. They provided him with warm, dry clothes and then wrapped him in a tarp. This helped him retain heat and remain largely dry despite being in the spray of Pitcher Falls.

Shortly after 7 P.M., NHFG Sergeant Brian Abrams arrived at the accident site accompanied by Conway Rescue. They brought with them a rescue litter and a detachable wheel for the litter that could be used on much of the trail. The rescuers packaged Cal very carefully, because he complained about pain in his pelvis and had visible jaw injuries. Once moving, the team made steady progress down the trail. A group of twenty volunteers from SOLO arrived to assist in a rapid and safe descent to the trailhead. North Conway Rescue assisted with a transfer to a waiting ambulance, and Cal was driven 2 miles down the road to the Rocky Gorge parking lot, where the LifeFlight helicopter idled. It took Cal directly to Maine Medical Center in Portland.

Comment: Every year many people are hurt in water-related accidents in the White Mountains. Most of them slip, and many of them are seriously hurt or die. Barely a year before Cal's accident, a young man died after slipping at the top of a waterfall in Tuckerman Ravine (see Accidents, *Appalachia*, Summer/Fall 2011, LXII no. 2, pages 105–106). Others slip at a river's edge

and are swept away. The eastern half of the Kancamagus Highway has been an area with a history of water-related injuries and deaths. The Swift River has claimed a number of lives and the nearby waterfalls, Champney and Sabbaday, have a history of accidents. All of these accidents could have been prevented if people just stayed away from the edge. The AMC *White Mountain Guide* warns hikers specifically about the slippery ledges around Champney Falls, noting, “There have been many serious accidents in this vicinity.”

Champney Falls are a series of cascades that have attracted visitors for more than a century. They’re named after influential nineteenth-century White Mountains landscape painter Benjamin Champney and are certainly impressive with their moderate-to-high water flows. Even during the low flows of late summer, many visitors leave the crowds of the “Kanc” in search of the quieter, wilder experience at Champney Falls. It’s easy to reach the falls on an old logging road. This same gentle grade is what allowed rescuers to use the litter wheel. Most White Mountain trails are too steep for this tool, but in appropriate terrain, it’s worth its weight in gold. A good guideline is whether expert-level mountain bikers would ride the trail. Occasional obstacles are no big deal, but cobbled or excessively root-filled trails are friend to neither bikers nor rescuers.

Cell phones now play a key role in backcountry search and rescue. Where they work, they are far better than personal locator beacons or SPOT devices for incident planners to gather critical information. Lack of cell phone coverage prevented this rescue from being initiated when the accident occurred, but the extra time added amounted to only 45 minutes. In many locations, the time required to travel from the backcountry to cell service would be triple that. A quick look at the coverage maps by the region’s largest service providers shows a pronounced gap that is strikingly similar to the size and shape of the White Mountain region. Coverage is spotty in most locations and absent in others. As a result, the prudent cell phone-carrying hiker should act as if his phone will not work—and thus be pleasantly surprised if it does. The constant searching for service is a huge drain on the battery of your phone so, for goodness sake, turn it off unless you think you need it. If you choose to bring your phone with you, charge it up on the way to the trailhead; when you arrive, power it down and store it away in the pack. This saves the precious battery power for when you really need it.

A helicopter played a key role in this young man’s care and in the care of many like him. Over the years, helicopters have become an increasingly larger

part of rescue in the White Mountains. Most of the time, the NHNG performs the aviation component of rescues in the White Mountains. Occasionally, other partners perform the role including two outfits that focus on in-flight medical care—LifeFlight of Maine and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Advanced Response Team. These helicopters have far more medical capabilities than the Blackhawk, but they don't have the Blackhawk's jungle penetrator and need an open landing zone. It wouldn't be unrealistic to have a transition of a critically injured person from a Blackhawk used for extraction to one of the air ambulances waiting in the valley below.

With all of the helicopters in the air these days, the question often arises: How much are these rescues costing taxpayers? The answer is, it depends, but the aviation costs are not borne by the state. Dartmouth or LifeFlight respond to calls as medical services, and they bill injured individuals through their insurance just as would any ambulance. The services are provided without regard for the patient's ability to pay, and the helicopter services sort out the costs with those who cannot pay the bills the same way emergency rooms do.

When the NHNG takes part in search-and-rescue missions, it typically does so under its mission to support domestic operations. When the missions are short, and the operations fall within New Hampshire, the fuel and maintenance costs come from training dollars. The Blackhawk based in Concord is available for search-and-rescue support as long as nothing more urgent conflicts. There have been periods during the last decade when such a high level of support was absent because of the deployment of most Guard units. The search-and-rescue community is ecstatic to have them home, and the Guard is grateful to have a chance to help. The missions Guard members are being asked to perform in the White Mountains resemble those they would do should their unit be deployed. If they are deployed, the mountains of Afghanistan are their likely assignment, so flying humanitarian missions on their home turf is understandably a welcome training program.

As Luck Would Have It

Robert O., age 56, and his wife, Monika, both of Munich, Germany, were visiting the White Mountains during the height of the 2011 foliage season. Like many autumn visitors, they chose to drive the Kancamagus Highway, and the weather couldn't have been better on Thursday, October 6, 2011, when

a high pressure system was busy pushing some rain and unsettled weather out to sea. The combination of brilliant color and recent rain seemed perfect for visiting a New England waterfall, so the couple decided to take the walk in to see Sabbaday Falls.

Although Sabbaday Brook Trail goes all the way out to the Tripyramids, the falls are an easy 0.3-mile stroll from the trailhead. Just before 10 A.M., the couple started up the trail, but Robert began feeling ill. Initially, it was only pain in his right arm, but it soon spread into his chest. The onset was rapid, and Robert quickly lost consciousness and collapsed on the trail. Monika and several other hikers rushed to his side. As luck would have it, two of the others were doctors from Germany. They checked for a pulse and, finding none, began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Meanwhile, another bystander was sent to the trailhead for help. The whole area is a dead zone for cell phone coverage, so everyone assumed that they would have to drive to get a call out. The lucky streak continued when the messenger encountered a school bus at the trailhead. The driver made a quick call over the bus's radio and alerted emergency services of the likely heart attack. Conway Village Fire and Conway Ambulance Service both responded to the call and paramedics were out the door with a defibrillator in quick order. The initial radio call came through at 10:12 A.M., and within 30 minutes, paramedics were delivering the first shock from the defibrillator in the hope of jump-starting Robert's heart. The second shock did, and Robert began breathing. Additional rescuers from the USFS assisted in loading Robert into a litter. They carried him the short distance to the parking lot to a waiting ambulance. The rescuers had saved a man's life, transitioned him to an ambulance, and it wasn't even 11 A.M.

Comment: This is a fine example of how things sometimes fall into place when it really matters. After Robert suffered his heart attack on the trail, luck began to operate on his side. The CPR performed by the doctors who happened on the scene was a critical life-saving measure that all adults and teenagers should know. It doesn't always take a doctor to save a person's life. The CPR standards have been changing over time, so if you haven't been to a class in a while, I suggest attending. Many communities and hospitals offer free or low-cost CPR training.

When the doctors performed CPR on Robert, he showed no signs of life. A couple of weeks later, he was boarding a plane to return to Germany. Although the defibrillator caused Robert to begin breathing again, the CPR prevented brain damage by delivering oxygenated blood to the brain tissue

while awaiting the arrival of a defibrillator. Automated external defibrillators are valuable tools that have saved thousands of lives. Occasionally, they work perfectly, as one did with Robert. Often, they cannot shock dead people back to life. But when used along with CPR, they increase the survival chances of a sudden onset heart attack victim from 5 percent to 40 percent. The units can be operated by people as young as age 11. Anyone taking CPR is trained in the use of these units.

An Unplanned Bivouac on the Edmands Path

On the morning of Saturday, November 5, 2011, Sergio M., age 41, of Brookline, Massachusetts, started up the popular Crawford Path intending to follow a loop over Mount Eisenhower. It was 9 A.M., and the weather was expected to be beautiful. He made it to the summit without incident and with enough time to relax and take in the view. Other hikers were enjoying the lack of snow and perfect fall weather, but Sergio was the last one to descend. He was only a third of the way down Edmands Path when he slipped and injured his ankle. It was late in the day, and he couldn't bear weight on the ankle. His phone had no service. Sergio stayed in place hoping that someone would come along, but as darkness approached, he began to realize that he'd be spending the night.

Temperatures dropped below 20 degrees Fahrenheit that night, but Sergio was well prepared. When he set out for his hike, Sergio anticipated being out for six to eight hours, not an evening. Nonetheless, he carried what he needed to make it through a night in the woods. It was a long night, but in the late morning, a hiker happened upon Sergio and was able to make a 911 call from nearby. NHFG, Twin Mountain Fire and Rescue, and the USFS all responded. The first rescuers reached Sergio just after noon. He was anxious to get off the mountain and after relinquishing his pack was able to walk down with the assistance of rescuers. It wasn't until after 5 P.M. that they reached the trailhead and an ambulance waiting to take Sergio away.

Comment: This story had a happy ending because Sergio carried what he needed to spend the night. This includes what was in his pack and what was in his head. Our experiences, our learned skills, and our attitude all contribute to our ability to successfully endure an unexpected night out in the mountains. When our main plan goes awry, we must establish a new one and run with it. Sergio accepted the fact that he'd be spending the night and began inventorying what was in pack and how it could be used.

Was his night comfortable? No, but he made it through with nothing but some extra discomfort.

If I had been in Sergio's situation, I might have spent the night skitching my butt down the trail. It's not that I disagree with his strategy, but I wouldn't want to find myself in the same spot 24 hours later without having seen anyone. The trade-off would be an increased risk of further injuring myself while sliding. There is no right or wrong in how we respond in an emergency. What matters is that we focus on the singular priority of personal survival and use our energy and resources in a smart and strategic fashion.

Lost without the Essentials

At 10:00 A.M. on Monday, December 12, 2011, Joshua H., age 26, and Emily S., age 27, left their vehicle with the intent to climb Mount Chocorua. The pair had driven from Shapleigh, Maine, and the forecast was for beautiful weather. Little snow lay on the ground, and the hikers kept a good pace up Piper Trail. Around 2:30 P.M., they reached the summit and took in the amazing view. They decided not to linger because darkness was only a couple hours away.

When Joshua and Emily started down the mountain, they were disoriented and followed the wrong trail. Rather than following Piper Trail, which runs north and then east, they followed Brook Trail toward the Liberty trailhead on the south side of the mountain. If they had a feeling that something was wrong, they couldn't have confirmed their suspicion because neither of them carried a map or compass. Instead, they just hiked until it got dark. Without headlamps or some sort of light source, they weren't prepared to go anywhere. The cell phone displayed a signal strength that would allow them to make a call, and they called 911 at 4:50 P.M.

When the call came through to 911, the signal was fairly strong and after spending some time on the line with Joshua, the dispatcher was able to place a Phase II lock on the phone. This means that the towers have triangulated an approximate position of the phone and can provide the dispatcher with coordinates. Though they're not always accurate, the coordinates can help narrow down a search area to a manageable size.

After NHFG was notified of the incident, Sgt. Brian Abrams called Joshua back and told him to hang tight. The temperature was going to drop, so Abrams encouraged Joshua to start a fire while they waited for help. Joshua and Emily gathered wood, got a fire going, and tried to stay warm. Around

6:30 P.M., Abrams and two other conservation officers located the two. Now equipped with the lights that they should have carried, they easily walked out a half-mile to the Liberty trailhead, arriving at 7:10 P.M. The officers then provided Joshua and Emily a ride back to their vehicle on the other side of the mountain.

Comment: Many incidents and accidents in the mountains are the result of poor luck and unfortunate circumstances, but plenty are predictable and avoidable. These two carried no map in an area with a relatively complicated trail network. They carried no source of light close to the shortest day of the year. They made the conscious decision to keep going for the summit when they knew that they'd be overcome by darkness on their way out. They carried minimal survival equipment, even though it was winter. Such factors weigh heavily in NHFG's decision whether or not it recommends cost recovery under the negligent hiker law.

This rescue operation did not require an exorbitant number of resources or substantial amount of money to complete. Each of the three conservation officers probably spent between 3 and 5 hours and needed little else. Had they required the hikers to pay the rescue costs, the financial returns would be minor. Despite this fact, some advocate strongly for the recovery of all associated expenses when a rescued person is found negligent. The reality is that the cases require money and time to pursue, both of which are in high demand, so a fraction of the cases that could be pursued actually are. The effect is that New Hampshire's cost recovery program is hardly making a dent in the costs incurred through its search-and-rescue program.

Who should pay for search and rescue? That's the big question, and no tolerable plan has been developed. The current funding mechanism went into use in July 1989. That year, the state began collecting \$1 for each boat, snowmobile, and off-highway recreational vehicle. This money goes to fund all rescues, including hiking rescues. The only change in 23 years has been the evolution of the state's ability to recover costs, based first on recklessness and more recently on the lower standard of negligence. (For more on the state's search-and-rescue billing, see the Accidents report, *Appalachia*, Winter/Spring 2012, LXII no. 1.) Those boaters and other machine-riders who pay the \$1 fees require only 10 percent of the rescues. When the budget is expended, the state uses funds from hunting and fishing licenses. These sportsmen require about 4 percent of the rescues. Hikers account for half of all search-and-rescue incidents, yet they do not pay into the system unless found negligent.

On November 1, 2011, the state-appointed Search and Rescue Funding Committee delivered its findings to the governor and congressional leaders. The recommendation is to use multiple funding mechanisms including adding \$10 to any fine from NHFG, and billing baseline fees for anyone rescued who hasn't already paid into the system through one of the existing mechanisms (licenses and registrations). Other parts of the strategy include an \$18 hikeSafe card that covers rescue fees if a hiker isn't found negligent. The fourth and final mechanism in the strategy is for the state to exempt NHFG from fees levied by the state attorney general's office when it acts as the agent in collecting search-and-rescue charges. The total estimated income from the application of these four measures is \$200,000. This is slightly more than the \$166,992 deficit in the 2011 search and rescue fund but the trend has been for an increasing number of rescues and increasing costs.

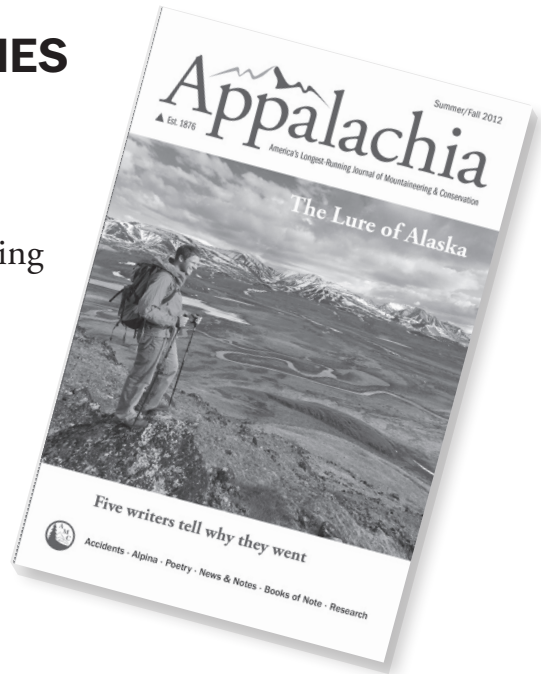
—Justin J. Preisendorfer
Accidents Editor

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