La Traviata
Avalanche
January, 20th, 2003
Overview

- Introduction
- W5 Story
- Process
- 7 Lessons
- Human Virtue / Safety
- Action Items
Ken Wylie: A Person Who Educates

- Myself
- Colleagues
- Participants and Students
- Through Mountain Events
Story

La Traviata

Avalanche

January, 20th, 2003
Who
Ruedi Beglinger

- Competent
- Unbelievably Strong
- Hierarchical/Isolationist
- A Deadly Dynamic

.earnyourturns.com/4329/profile-ruedi-beglinger-guide-for-the
Ken Wylie

- Apprentice Ski Guide
- Fully Certified Alpine Guide
- Easily Intimidated
- Deadly Dynamic
What: Ski Touring

Irvine
T, S, P

Ken testing the new BCA probe in the Connaught Valley at Rogers Pass
When

- January 20th 2003
Where: Durrand Glacier
Deposit 185m x 85m
Elevation 7680

Ken’s Group
Ken
Ruedi’s Group
Ruedi

BC Coroner
Fatalities and Deposit Depth

Source: BC Coroner
Why?

Calgary Herald Jan 23, 2003

Nature to blame for avalanche

Calgary Herald Jan 21, 2003

Avalanche kills seven, rescuers save 14 skiers
The Process of Why
Sought an External Solution

- 7 years “Pointing The Finger”
- Work
- Alcohol
- Divorce
Something Outside of Myself

Nature to blame for avalanche

No charges anticipated against guide

Experts believe the lead group of six skiers and snowboarders were traversing a 35-degree slope did not trigger the slide that hit the rest of the team further down the hill.

“Of particular interest, the investigation is not pointing to that. It doesn’t look like that is the case,” said Brown.

The avalanche, worst in the area in recent history, swept down the Tumblehome Glacier just before 8 a.m., lucky eight people in a snow train.

One skier, John Solbert of Calgary, was able to dig himself out of the hard-packed snow only to learn seven of his friends had died.

Solbert was one of a group of backcountry skiers who left the Selkirk Mountain Lodge just after 8 a.m. Monday. These other skiers opted to skip the day trip and stay back at the mountain, while the rest of them were killed by the avalanche.

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We're not looking at any criminal negligence.
At Issue: Compartmentalize

- I thought I could leave who I was at home when working in Risk environments.

- Ultimately, every part of who I was underpinned my motivations and went into my decisions.
Tragedy

Flaws in Character

Failed Virtue

Tragic consequence

Hamlet’s Inability to Act

Romeo’s Impulsiveness
Human Factors

http://psychology.about.com/od/branchesofpsycholog1/f/human-factors.ht
Glaring Oversights

Buried by my failure to look deeper
Everything We Carry Should Sustain or Protect
How?
Personal Accountability

Vast “Unknown Sea” of “Human Factors” Inside Myself
Importance of Reflection

http://southlakepulse.com/2010/05/13/468-marbles/
Without Deep Reflection

I have been no different than my gear
Journey on The Internal Landscape
Acceptance

Lesson 2, 1989

[Map of Peru showing the location of Huánuco and other regions]
Lesson 3, 1996
Courage

http://andrewchristensen.blogspot.com/2008/08/el-capitan-shield-route-august-3-10_17.html
Courage
Courage

Eric Malone
Lesson 4, 1997
Lesson 5, 1997
Peace

http://hikealberta.com/hike/ha-ling-peak
Peace
Lesson 6 1998

Lake Louise
Intuitive Action
Intuitive Action
Truth
Human Virtue

Deep Human Connection

Intuitive Action

Truth

Self

Courage

Peace

Acceptance
7 Lessons

- Connection
- Intuition
- Truth
- Self Discovery
- Courage
- Peace
- Acceptance
7 Lessons

- Dave Finnerty
- Naomi Heffler
- Craig Kelly
- Kathy Kessler
- Vern Lunsford
- Jean Luc Schwendener
- Dennis Yates
Action Items

- Change guide team leadership and communication strategies.

- Dissolve compartmentalization between personal habits, biases and decision-making in risk related environments.

- Re-establish human virtue as a guide to managing safety in risk environments.
Butch Greer

- “Given the assertion that the world does not need more rock climbers, backcountry skiers, mountain bikers, sea kayakers, and mountaineers, what do you think this program (Adventure) is all about?”