

Bio:

Steven Moss is a team leader with Western Mountain Rescue and the Lead Guide with Kent Mountain Adventure Center with a passion for systems rigging and technical problem solving, Steven graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in business from Western Colorado University in 2019. He has been a volunteer with Western Mountain Rescue since 2015 and has served the team as an equipment manager and a trainer. He has guided rock and alpine climbing in Rocky Mountain National Park and has been a resource for Rocky Mountain National Park SAR since 2018. Steven enjoys trad, ice, and mixed climbing, backcountry skiing, and whitewater kayaking.

Abstract:

The purpose of this research is to test the strength and reliability, of the VT Prusik Hitch (VT), specifically the 6/1 Asymmetric Prusik in rope-rigging and rescue applications. The VT prusik is an eye-to-eye hitch cord constructed of an Aramid fiber sheath with a nylon core and is used to tie this asymmetric prusik. The focus of the testing process is to observe the performance of the VT in a static slow pull environment and attempt to replicate prior testing to gain insight on reliability.