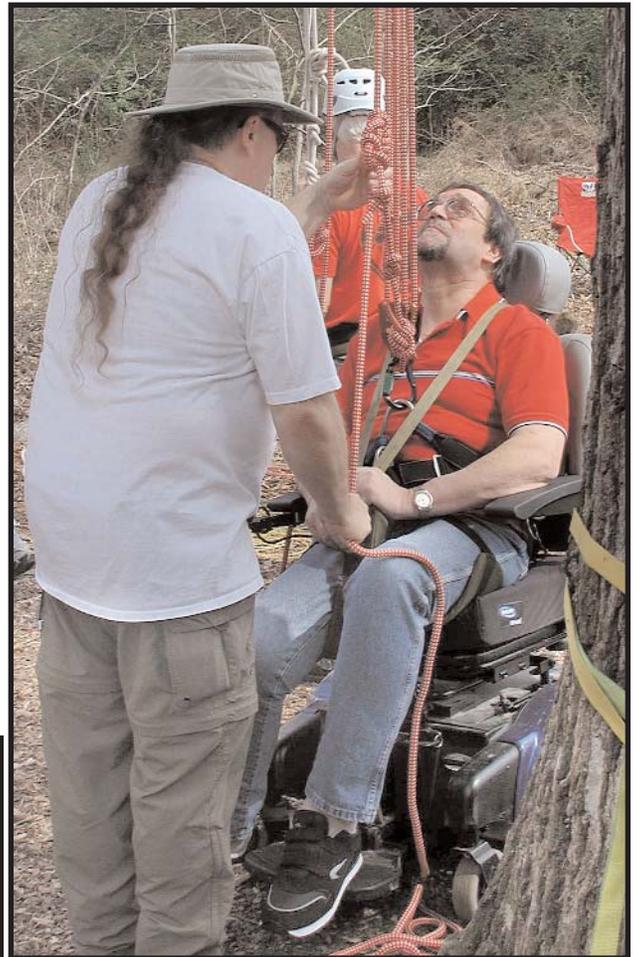


The PACT System In Action

The Pulley Assisted Climbing Technique (PACT) got another satisfied climber into the canopy on March 12 as a wheelchair-bound climber utilized the system to access a limb more than thirty feet up and to hang up in a place that he had not visited since childhood. Although the climber lacked the upper body strength to pull himself up, the very versatile system was arranged in a configuration allowing a ground-based “mule team” to assist in hauling him up to the perch. A torso positioning unit (TPU), designed by the climbers at Arborquest, helped to keep the climber’s upper body comfortably positioned for the climb. In the photo at right, Dr. Rod Justice (aka: drrod) assists in preparing the climbers for the ascent, assuring that the climber’s body is properly positioned within the system.

The system, while complicated, allows for a variety of configurations to allow for climbers with varying degrees of abilities. Climbers with the necessary upper body strength can haul themselves up, utilizing the inherent 4:1 mechanical advantage, while advancing an ordinary Blakes hitch. The



climber lacking such strength can be hauled up by others on the ground. Ground-based assistance can configure the system to the point whereby a mechanical advantage of 8:1 can be achieved, allowing the team the ability to haul up almost anyone of any weight.

For safety, every facet of the system has some form of back-up including an ability to lower the entire system to the ground in the event of any sort of emergency. There will always be a facilitator climbing alongside, or at least within reach, of any climber using the system. There will always be at least one ground-based facilitator available for assistance in case such becomes necessary.

So far, since its development, the PACT System has been responsible for opening the tree top canopy to several hundred climbers who could not have gone there without it.