

## Incident Report

Subject: LL, age 51(?)

**Date:** Sunday, March 8, 2009.

**Time:** 2:30pm to 4:30pm, approx

**Time elapsed:** Est 1:30 from fall to rescue squad, less than 0:30 from rescue squad to clinic. Met rescue squad at 4:30pm.

**Location:** Catamount Trail, northbound on Section 5 from Kelley Stand Rd to Kendall Farm Rd. Incident was on "Pony Hill", approximately 43°07'58" N 72° 56'30"W 2000 feet elevation, town of Winhall. Approximately one quarter mile north of junction, which is one quarter mile east of International Paper Rd./VAST Rt7.

**Weather:** partly sunny. Approximately 38° F. No wind or precipitation.

**Snow conditions:** Heavy corn snow, soft and collapsing from previous night's rain. Trail conditions were good at higher elevations on the trip, but were deteriorating as we descended.

**Day Leader:** Andrew Harper.

**Trip coordinator:** Robert "Sam" Bartlett

**Incident Description:** LL reported that he had a slow twisting fall in the heavy snow, while descending "Pony Hill". He fell on his right side but experienced pain on his left side above his knee.

**Response:** Several skiers in our group skied down to LL when he fell, several more climbed back up to him when word of his injury was carried ahead. We had about 12 skiers on the scene. We evaluated his condition, he was conscious, breathing, not bleeding, did not seem to have any other injuries. It was hard to determine the extent of the damage to his leg, because his description of the pain was somewhat vague. He did have sensation in his leg and was able to move his toes. His muscles had initially been spasming but calmed down within a few minutes. The skiers placed him on an Ensolite pad and gave him extra clothing for warmth. We had chemical heat packs, but the subject did not want to use them. We determined that he had a knee or non-bone upper leg injury and splinted his knee. We tried to have him stand to see if he could walk out, but he reported too much pain in that position, and we put him back down. We placed a cell phone call to 911, provided GPS coordinates from the subject's GPS unit. We determined that the most expeditious evacuation route was up Pony Hill, across the connector trail to the International Paper Rd., where we would meet a snowmobile hauled rescue sled. We fashioned a simple sled with the subject's backpack and Ensolite pad and some webbing for a harness and hauled him out to the snowmobile trail. We had previously stationed a skier at the snowmobile trail junction to intercept the rescue squad when they arrived, and sent other skiers to the trail head to coordinate the rescue from there. We arrived at the International Paper Rd. just as the rescue squad arrived there. The subject at this point was cold, shivering, but still conscious and lucid. The rescue squad provided saline hot packs, blankets, bundled him into the sled and took him back down to the ambulance where he was taken to the Stratton Mountain clinic. The clinic's x-rays of his knee found no apparent injury, the subject was given crutches and sent home with one of our group. Still experiencing extreme pain, the subject went to Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge Massachusetts the next day, where further x-rays revealed a fractured hip. The attending physician told the subject that it is common for the subject to feel pain near the knee in a hip fracture. The subject will have a partial hip replacement to repair the damage and is expected to make a complete recovery.

**Skiers directly involved in the rescue were:** Sam Bartlett, Andrew Harper, Stanley Pollock, Paul Hemmerich, Dean Bloch, Dagny St. John, Rick Biddle, Paul Burgess.

Report compiled by Sam Bartlett 3/11/2009