



Northstar to Big Chief

Sixteen brave souls showed up for the Jan. 13 training session expecting glare ice and breakable crust from Northstar to Big Chief.

To their delight, the north-facing backside of Mt. Pluto was dusted with about three inches of light powderlike snow. After familiarization with orientation points and discussion by Phred Stoner, Ski Patrol leader at Northstar, the group carved up the sparsely-wooded slope and watched Doug Read and Colleen Connors jump a few fallen logs. After stopping for lunch between Sawtooth Ridge and the base of Pluto, one group headed down Deer Creek and the other headed up, and I mean up, Sawtooth Ridge for more orientation.

From both Mt. Pluto and the top of the ridge a good view of Martis Valley, Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows and Donner Summit were available.

The group who went up Sawtooth found another great slope, this one with perfect springlike conditions. The joy of skiing was dampened a bit, though, when the group made it to Deer Creek for the thrash back to Highway 89.

The breakable crust and ice everyone

Nordic team atop Pluto. Northstar's Stoner stands 5th from right, just left of Mutt & Jeff. Photo by Doug Read

expected was waiting under the trees along the creek.

The best part of the day was packing 14 people into the "new" transport vehicle (a Chevy Suburban of unknown age) supplied by "Scoop" Remenih who drove the group to Northstar from Big Chief that morning.

The transport did well, to everyone's surprise, even towing a trailer with all the packs and ski equipment.

Thanks to Northstar for their co-operation and the use of the lifts.

GREAT SKI RACE

The race finally has a sponsor; in fact, two of them! Heart Federal Savings is donating several thousand dollars for over 700 T-shirts, and Dab Beer is kicking in bucks for the bibs, as well as 850 bottles of beer to enhance the post-race festivities at Don Juan's. Among the merchants donating prizes, Concord Toyota is giving at least a 6-month lease on a 4x4 Tercell. Lots of other prizes, too, courtesy of many local businesses. We still have to shell out for brochures and outhouse facilities, though. More info on the greatest X-C race in California at the next meeting.

ALPINE AVALANCHE CLINIC

Sunday, January 9th an even dozen Nordic team members showed up at Alpine Meadows Ski Area bright and early for an avalanche clinic and training session. The group spent an initial hour in the patrol room listening first to Professional Ski Patrol leader Larry Heywood explain Alpine's Avalanche Alerting & Rescue Plan, and then to Avalanche Forecaster Jim Plehn.

Plehn explained some of the scientific methods currently in use at Alpine to predict avalanche danger. Briefly, this involves four factors: precipitation intensity, wind velocity and direction, new and old snow stratigraphy and temperature.

The mountain is divided into three zones: upper, with a lot of windloading, big cornices and little skier-compacting; lower, with less wind and more ski-compaction; and Scott Peak, cross-swept by the winds, with less overall snow and more compaction.

Plehn called this season the "most interesting" from an avalanche hunter's perspective since 1970-71, with thin starting zones and fat runouts which in some cases stripped the snow clear to the ground, leaving bare dirt.

Attendees had a chance to see Alpine's Avalanche Atlas, with hundreds of potential starting zones all over the mountain documented and photographed, illustrating how site-specific the ski area's avalanche control program has become.

Following these informative presentations the team adjourned to a nearby slope where Bob Moore led a probe drill. Then Don Huber and his pal Smokey demonstrated just how fast a trained SAR dog can excavate a victim from six feet under the snow.

After lunch the team rode up Scott chair, climbed the rest of the way to the top, and skied down along the ridge to Deer Park, doing Skadi drills along the way and finding a few pockets of decent snow amidst the crust.

Thanks to Alpine Meadows, WOOF, Deer Park and the U.S. Forest Service for a good day.

E.M.T. TRAINING

Beginning Monday night, February 7th, Jan Noseworthy will be teaching an EMT course. It will run every Monday into the spring. If you're interested call Jan at 587-1361, or catch her at Tahoe Forest Hospital.



Our Search & Rescue dog team needs bodies! That's right, warm smelly bodies to hide from the dogs in either wilderness situations or avalanche areas. They get used to their handlers' scents real quick. If you'd like to help out, call Nancy O'Connor at 546-7349, Chris Salisbury at 587-8616, or Don Huber at 587-1578.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The public relations committee has been busy this month publicizing the Education Week, the Valentine's Day Ball and the Great Ski Race.

The committee has press releases ready for the dance, and the posters and tickets have been printed by Marty Cohen at Tahoe Crafts. The posters are the design of Christie Steimle, and will be distributed by the Valentine's Day Ball committee beginning Feb. 1st.

The public relations committee also sent press releases to the news media about the Winter Awareness program organized by the Education committee.

At the last committee meeting the idea of a live remote broadcast by a local radio station at the finish line of the Great Ski Race was kicked around. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the committee will be pursuing the idea.

The PR committee also talked about criteria for organizations wanting to do fundraisers for TNSAR, and a system for sanctioning the events and auditing the proceeds.

At the suggestion of Skip Reedy, the PR committee is entering a media list into Leo Poppoff's computer that includes newspapers and magazines throughout Northern California. The computer will greatly speed the issuance of information.



LIBRARY

The Tahoe City, Truckee and Kings Beach libraries have a good selection of SAR literature, including many books donated by the nordic team. Bibliographies have been printed and will be available to members at the next general meeting.

CHAIR—Susan Antipa 587-3062



EDUCATION

The committee was real busy last week taking the winter survival program to area schools, and the effort continues through Feb.9th. The theme this year is "Wear a Hat", and the presentation involves classroom lectures, slides and outdoor demonstrations on constructing emergency shelters.

The two avalanche seminars conducted by Chris Burnett and Don Starbard at Heart Federal in Tahoe City were well-attended; thanks to the Bernie Kingery Memorial Fund for sponsoring them.

Thanks for the success of Winter Awareness Week go to: Nancy McNair, Lynne Reilly, Andy Smith, Diane Iglesias, Bruce Kuecker, Jeff Menzer, Kate Ulberg, Wendy Warren, Doug Read, Joanne Corbin, Susan Antipa, Tod Lloyd, Colleen Connors, Linda Russell, Stephanie Atwood, Don Ahlert, Sandy Sequoia, Scott Schroeffer, Rick Foster, Ken Menzer, Candy Cox, Noel Hargreaves and many more who signed up at the last minute.



VALENTINE'S DAY BALL

The dance is still at Sunnyside on Sunday, February 13th, but the previously-hired band, TKO, has cancelled. In their place we have signed Mal & the Movers, another talented rock 'n roll ensemble. Prizes galore, a Nordic Kissing Booth, and free hors d'oeuvres, which we need help preparing. If you can bring chips & dip or cookies, call Charlotte Remenih at 583-1684.

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR—Dave Fenimore 546-3132
REPORTER—Mike Wolterbeek 583-3488
PRINTER—Tahoe Crafts, Kings Beach

Contributions welcomed—
P.O.Box 549, Kings Beach, CA 95719
We guarantee safe return of photos!

MORE TRAINING

Feb.8,9 & 10 there will be a survival training for the SAR community, probably on the backside of Northstar. The format will be something like a day of lectures, a 1/2-day demonstration, and an overnight exercise. The Sac CHP is sending 12 people, and there may be some participants from McClellan AFB. Call Chris for details, 583-1844.

ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE

At the Passage Bar & Restaurant in Truckee, Tuesday night usually means a slide show. Here's the schedule for Feb.:

FEB.8—"Skiling in the USA" by Powder photographer Larry Proser

FEB.15—"Six Years in the Galapagos" by Jack Grove

FEB.22—"Skiling the Haute Route from Switzerland to Chamonix" by John Harding (same show seen at the Dec. TNSAR meeting)

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING

...is on Monday night, February 7th, at Granlibakken. At present there is a good chance that Placer County Chief Deputy Ed Presley will be the guest speaker. Also the SAR truck will be there for inspection, and so will some of the 1st Aid packs. Chris will show a sneak preview of the slide show if there's time. See you there!

REMEMBER...the MARCH general meeting takes place one week earlier than usual: Monday night, Feb.28th.

Nominations for the Board of Directors will be held at that time.

PERSONALS

For Sale: pair of 190 cm. metal-edged Kastle LW's, waxable, brand new, \$110. Call Chris, 583-1844.

Ravingly attractive mountain man desires hot number with stacks of wood. Chains required, high heels optional. Contact D.E.R., care of this publication.

TAHOE NORDIC SEARCH & RESCUE

P.O. BOX 7703, TAHOE CITY, CA 95730

NON-PROFIT ORG.
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 17
CARNELIAN BAY
CA 95711

SCOTT SCHROEPPER
POB 1357
TAHOE CITY CA 95730-1357

