

Snow Job

Vol. 4, No. 3

North Lake Tahoe

January 1984

3 SAFE AT SUGAR BOWL—3 DIE IN CRASH

Last Thanksgiving Eve, just after the last issue of SNOW JOB went to press, our team swung into action over at Sugar Bowl Ski Area, where three Bay Area men had skied out of bounds and down into Onion Creek. Sugar Bowl's Patrol located tracks off the top of Mt. Disney, and drove four TNSART nordic skiers up to the ridgetop, from where they followed the tracks down the backside through ever-increasing rain until locating the victims at about 3 AM under a shelter improvised from a fallen tree. Rescuers and victims skied down to the Baker Ranch Rd. near the Cedars where snowmobiles and a Thiokol were waiting.

"Victims" may be the wrong term to describe the three skiers, who admitted to deliberately violating the California Penal Code by entering a clearly-marked closed area.

Thanks to the Placer County Sheriff's deputies, Sugar Bowl's ski patrol, the Donner Summit Fire Department, Bob Williams of the Communications Reserve, Parky May of the Red Cross and many others for helping out on this one.

Christmas Eve we were called to assist the Pershing County Sheriff's Department in Lovelock, NV, who were involved in a search for a downed light plane with three passengers. They were receiving a signal from the aircraft's Emergency Locator Transmitter, but couldn't get a clear bearing on it. Satellite data placed the source somewhere in the foothills of the Humboldt Range.

Six nordic team members headed east on an icy I-80 at 3 o'clock Christmas morning. When they arrived at Lovelock they were towed up Prince Royal Canyon by a Tucker snowcat, and as the weather temporarily cleared they spotted what turned out to be the wreckage at the far end of the canyon. They worked their way closer, finally climbing a near-vertical 1500 ft. pitch to reach the crash site at 2:30 PM. Passengers were ascertained to have perished on impact, and the six searchers decided to leave recovery of the bodies till later as there was some degree of avalanche danger in the huge, steep bowl in which they found themselves.

As they skied down through icy crust and heavy, wet snow, the weather closed in again and rain began to fall. They all arrived home at 9 PM Christmas night.

Thanks to team members Chris Burnett, Doug Read, Mike Wolterbeek, Alison Barnes, Randy Osterhuber and Tod Lloyd...also the Washoe and Pershing County Sheriff's Departments, and many others. More information will be available at the January 2 meeting.

SNOWMOBILER RESCUES THREE HUNTERS



Russell Valley resident Vance Wood, an instructor at Sierra Nevada College, had the experience of rescuing three duck hunters several weeks ago when their boat capsized in Stampede Reservoir during a storm. Vance, who rides a snowmobile between his home and the highway, made repeated trips back and forth through white-out conditions to rescue the men and their dog. Two of the men were suffering from acute hypothermia—one of them had a core temperature of below 80°!—but all survived thanks to Vance, his machine and everybody's good luck. The three victims are scheduled to appear at the January 2 meeting to give a brief account of their ordeal.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS SCOOP HAS A SCOOP

Saturday, January 21 is the night of the 2nd Annual SAR Potluck Thiokol Moonlight Tour on the slopes above Tahoe City. Plans are to convene at Scoop & Charlotte's house on the corner of Cathedral and 89 South at 6 PM, for either a snowcat ride or a gentle uphill ski to the vicinity of Paige Meadows, where a well-fortified snow bunker will have been constructed, complete with underground "SAR Bar" and other facilities. Bring a salad or a dessert, and strong spirits if you require them; all else, including BBQ birds and beer, will be provided. Make your reservations by calling Scoop during the day at 583-5370.

In other transportation developments, team member Nancy Devon has volunteered to serve as the full-time TNSART truck driver, responsible for piloting our Toyota and its load of equipment to search scenes. She'll be needing help, too.

EDUCATORS GET INTO GEAR

Winter Awareness Week has been set for January 23-27 this year at the Tahoe-Truckee schools, and Jan. 30 - Feb. 2 at the Incline schools. The program consists of outdoor demonstrations for grades K-8, and community-oriented slide shows and lectures in Truckee, Tahoe City, Kings Beach and Incline Village on the topics of survival and avalanche safety.

The 1984 theme is "The Three W's": Where (you're going), Who (are you going with) and When (are you planning on returning)...all information that should be entrusted to a responsible person before any wilderness activity. Jeff says he'll need a lot of help for this series of presentations, so if you can assist call him any day or evening at (702) 831-5449, and leave a message if he's out.

There will be an Education Committee potluck dinner meeting on Wednesday night January 11, 6 PM at Jeff & Diane's house, 987 Galaxy, Incline Village. Call for directions.

Jeff Menzer is teaching an intensive 2-day class in Winter Survival for Educators at Sierra Nevada College Jan. 7-8. The course, which costs \$30 + \$5 lab fee, focuses on winter awareness, physical and emotional reactions to being cold and lost, and specific survival skills. Lectures, discussions and fieldwork will all take place during the weekend, and guest speakers Rick Foster, Diane Iglesias, M.S., and Barry Levenson, M.D. will share their knowledge. To register call Sierra Nevada College at (702) 831-1314 or (916) 546-8356, or stop by the campus at 800 Campbell Road in Incline Village. Jeff recommends this course to anyone who is thinking of helping out in the schools during Winter Awareness Week.

APOLOGY

Sincere prostrations to long-time member Linda Kuecker, who went uncredited in last month's report on the Fall Training. Linda was the creator of the delightful free lunch, which was capably served by others.

TRAINING SCHEDULE SET

Tod Lloyd has announced the tentative 1984 Training Schedule:

Jan. 14—Helicopter work with CHP at Truckee Airport
Jan. 22—Avalanche training on Martis Peak. Meet at the trailhead on Hwy. 267 at 9 AM
Feb. 18 or 19—Combined training with Washoe County SAR on Mt. Rose
Mar. 17-18—Overnight by the full moon, location to be determined.

Any questions, either now or the night before, call Tod at 546-4505. Times and locations of these and additional sessions will be announced and confirmed via meetings, this newsletter or call-outs.

LETTER

To: TNSART

Tod Lloyd and myself would like to extend our thanks to the nordic team in general and the Bernie Kingery Fund in particular for allowing us to attend the 1983 National Avalanche School in Reno. Avalanche training of this caliber is not available anywhere else in the nation at this time, and we feel we came away with a "broad spectrum" educational experience. We are proud to have represented TNSART and to have been the first recipients of scholarships from the Bernie Kingery Fund. I'm sure that the opportunity for this type of education is what Bernie would want for us all.

Thanks again,
Paul Wilford
Tod Lloyd

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The regularly-scheduled membership meeting takes place on Monday night, January 2 at 7:30 in Granlibakken's Ski Hut. Guest speaker will be Squaw Valley USA's Jimmy Mott, who will talk on avalanches. There will also be timely committee reports on The Great Ski Race, Winter Awareness Week, the Valentine's Day Ball, and upcoming training sessions. Please don't forget to observe the one-way signs at Granlibakken; i.e., don't turn right and try to drive up the hill toward the main entrance, but keep to the left and watch for the ski hut on your left.

General meetings take place throughout the winter season on the first Monday evening of each month, except for the March meeting, which has been moved to February 27 due to the Great Ski Race on March 4.

LIBRARY DOINGS

Susan Antipa says she'll need volunteers to put up posters in the local libraries for Winter Awareness Week (see Education Committee report) during the last weeks in January. Also, instead of revising the SAR Book List issued last year, Susan wants to put together a supplement reflecting recent acquisitions. Call Susan if you're interested: 587-3062 (Truckee Library) or accost her at the January 2 meeting.



BADGES?...I DON'T HAVE TO SHOW YOU NO STEEN-KING BADGES

We will attempt to clear up confusion over necessary documents by stating, once & for all, unequivocally, you **DO NEED** a **CIVIL DEFENSE CARD** to participate in an official search & rescue operation. Getting one of these cards is no big deal; call Chris Burnett at 583-1844 if you need one.

PREZ SEZ

Dear Friends—

A fine winter season appears to be upon us now. Our team had a successful search and rescue in November and several trainings are coming up in future months.

February brings the Valentine's Day Ball and March 4 is the date of the Great Ski Race, and we need help from all of you in these departments.

Scoop and Charlotte Remenih are putting on their Moonlight Tour again this year, along with other members of the Transportation Committee...I hope that all of you will sign up and come out for this one as it is truly among the most spectacular social events of the season. Doug

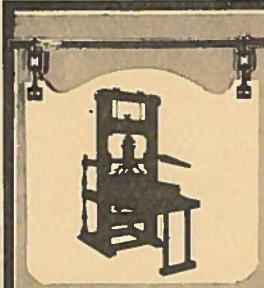
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