

Snow Job

Vol. 5, No. 3

North Lake Tahoe

December 1984



Doug McNair checks how much tread is left on Larry Sevison's Thiokol.

A COUPLE OF MESSAGES FROM EL PRESIDENTE

The Board of Directors is looking for a few good coordinators, to be called upon in case of a search. The job entails the entire scope of a search, from receiving the first telephone call to implementing and carrying through with the operation. If you are interested in a training program for this demanding position, please talk to me or another Board member at the December meeting.

Also: The Board has decided to pass out to search team members our 14 Skadis (avalanche transceivers). The Equipment Committee has found it difficult to keep these beacons properly charged and feels that individual members can keep them in better condition. So, as an experiment of sorts, we want to pass these transceivers out in sets of two, with charger, or in singles if a member already has one (many other makes are compatible with the Skadi).

The plan is for search team members to have these beacons to train with while skiing with friends. There remain 10 Pieps beacons in the truck; the Skadis will be brought in by searchers to use on searches. If you are interested in the idea of caring for a pair of these devices, and having them for your own training and protection while keeping them in shape for searches, sign up with the Equipment Committee at the December meeting.

Thanks for all the help from everyone. —Doug Read

FUND-RAISER AT TAHOE HOUSE

Monday night, December 3 at 6:30 pm, the good folks at the Tahoe House in Tahoe City are putting on a wine-tasting dinner benefit for TNSAR. For only \$12.50 you'll feast on a five-course buffet, each accompanied by a different wine. A portion of the proceeds go to the TNSAR General Fund.

For tickets call the Tahoe House, 583-1377, or Mike, 583-9032.

LETTER FROM ASPEN

November 3, 1984

Dear TNSAR:

I would like to thank you for your financial support of \$300.00 which enabled me to participate in the 1984 International Snow Science Workshop. The workshop was of the highest caliber possible, with papers presented by scientists and technicians from the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow Studies, the French and Canadian snow and avalanche study associations, and many others from around the world.

Some examples of the subjects of these papers were "Avalanche Frequency Determination for Ski Touring Operations", "Uniform Frequencies for Various Types of Avalanche Rescue Beacons", "French Experiences in Education of the Public on Avalanches", and "Factors Comprising County & Municipal Land-Use Controls Addressing Avalanche Zoning".

The workshop culminated with a banquet with Andre Roche as guest speaker from the Swiss Federal Institute, who was one of the forefathers of modern avalanche control and forecasting in the early years of ski area development in the western United States. Andre Roche was also honored by the City of Aspen, Colorado which declared October 26 as Andre Roche Day in honor of his planning of the local ski areas in the thirties and forties.

The Tahoe basin will be honored to host the 1986 International Snow Science Workshop with Larry Heywood of Alpine Meadows Ski Area as chairman of the organizing committee.

In closing, I would like to offer my services in any way possible to help raise the avalanche awareness in our organization and throughout the community.

Thank you,
Don Starbard

UNR SEARCH TEAM READY

Twenty students are members of the University of Nevada-Reno Search and Rescue Team, made up of volunteers.

"We may get called out at 2 a.m. to go on a search," Jim Zellers, team members said. "And most searches last a full eight hours."

The organization, which has been at UNR for 11 years, works with the Washoe County Sheriff's Department on searches, accidents and emergencies in the Truckee Meadows area.

"Many times we've been out in snow up to our knees for eight hours tracking footprints," Zellers said. "We've also tracked through rocks and bushes."

The team has worked on such emergency situations as the Washoe County mud slide two years ago.

"We were called out to the mud slide to search for bodies," Zellers said. "But most of our training is in outdoor winter survival."

Members must successfully complete courses in advanced first-aid, rescue and evacuation techniques and field methods.

The team is required to be ready within one hour to go on a search which might require having two days of vital supplies ready to go. Zellers believes that the team will get many chances to use its on-call abilities this year.

"The sheriff's department is going to use us more because it's wiser to use volunteers," he said. "Volunteers work harder because they're putting in their own time."

"Generally we get called out three to four times a year," he said. "But this can be at any time during a 24-hour period. One time a member got called out in the middle of his history test."

Radio transmitters, ropes, emergency sleds and 15 pairs of snow shoes are the vital possessions the team works with in below freezing temperatures.

"The most interesting thing about our team is that we never stop learning how to survive," Zellers said. "Now I have no fears of doing any outdoor recreational activity because of what I've learned."

Funded by ASUN, the team is open to all students, who receive free training with their membership.

"The team is here for UNR students," Zellers said. "Just a few miles out of Reno and you're in the mountains. We're taught how to handle just about any (emergency) situation which might happen in the mountains."

After intensive training for the team, members may qualify as special Washoe County sheriff's deputies.

"It's amazing how much confidence I've got from being out there in the boonies," Zellers said. "Yet I'm scared to death to drive my car or get stabbed around town. I'd rather be in a blizzard." □

— UNR Sagebrush

TRAININGS

Training sessions are held on the second Thursday and last Sunday of each month. Location and topics will be announced at meetings and here in the newsletter.

In addition, on Saturday, December 1, there will be a ski training for beginner and intermediate skiers at Paige Meadows. Meet at 9 AM for practice in *orienteeing* and *review of pack contents*. Learn about that special rapport between nature and SAR enthusiasts. Bring a lunch. Fashion show of latest winter wardrobe items, courtesy of Frederick's.

On December 1 & 2 past president and Education Committee chairperson emeritus leads an intensive two-day class in Winter Survival at Sierra Nevada College. Last year Jeff showed films, presented guest speakers (including Dr. Charlie Kellermeyer on Hypothermia and Randy Osterhuber on avalanches), demonstrated fabrics and layering by hanging wet jeans out to freeze alongside wool, polypro & pile; and took the class up on a cornice above the Mt. Rose Highway to dig snowpits and improvise shelters from snow & branches. Cost is \$45. For last-minute registration call the college at 546-8356 or 831-1314.

Chris Burnett announces that he is once more giving a course in search and rescue. Class starts in December, and meets in Tahoe City. For more information call Chris at 583-1844. □

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 ENERGY Maxwell House, good to the last drop

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING

...is our traditional Christmas potluck. Meet in the Cedar Room at Granlibakken (same location as last two meetings), and don't forget to bring your own plate and utensils, and a dish for 6 or 8 persons. Beverages will be provided. The potluck starts at 6:30 PM, and we'll try to get a short business meeting in by 8:00 PM or so. □

SWAP SECTION

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