

# Snow Job

Vol. 5, No. 6

North Lake Tahoe

March 1985



Before the Great Race: Application of the Secret Sauce

## TRAININGS

Following the valuable practice at Sugar Bowl and Norm Wilson's grueling avalanche seminar at Donner Summit, Charlie Kellermeyer has another workout planned for Sunday, March 24.

We will meet at 9 AM at the Tahoe-Truckee Medical Group office next to the Squaw Valley USA ticket booths. A ski over Squaw's backside will lead us down into Five Lakes Creek, a very popular search area. Bring a light search pack and any appropriate gear for weather and snow conditions.

## THE GREAT RACE

Breathes any nordic skier whose pulse does not quicken at the thought of hurtling down Starrat Pass on a pair of fragile racing skis, screaming through icy tracks, shoulder to shoulder with the cream of the crop? Not bloody likely.

This year March 3 is the date for the West's biggest ski race, going on nine years old and getting better with age. Starting time is 9 AM sharp at the Tahoe Nordic Center on Dollar Hill, and anywhere from 1½ to 7 hours later the contestants emerge to join a rollicking party at Hilltop Lodge, with refreshments, music, and over 100 prizes donated by local merchants.

The 30 km. route crosses the pass between Mts. Watson & Pluto, descends along the Truckee River side of Sawtooth Ridge, and penetrates the Ponderosa Palisades subdivision just before the final downhill finish at Hilltop. A telemark race is scheduled for 1 PM, for any who didn't have their fill during the race (actually it's not that bad).

If you haven't entered yet the fee is \$10 if received by February 25, or \$15 thereafter, which includes bib, T-shirt, party, telemark race, and raffle entry. All proceeds, of course, go to TNSAR.

Best way to enter at this point is to drop by the Nordic Center in the Highlands, or call 583-9858 for info.

## FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

Thanks to the efforts of Ken & Debbie McMaster, Cindy Armitage, a number of other members, and the generous public who attended TNSAR's annual Valentine's Day Ball at Gatsby's, the event was a rousing good time and a financial boon. Final figures aren't in yet, but the net benefit to our group may approach four figures. Thanks to Gatsby's management, the excellent band Heartstrings, and the Fantasy Inn donating the grand raffle prize.

## THE NEXT MEETING

Unfortunately, this newsletter probably didn't reach you in time to remind you about the one-week-early February 25 meeting, at which a slide show by members of the 1985 North Tahoe Mt. St. Elias Expedition was scheduled. Hope you could make it.

The next meeting is back to the traditional first Monday of the month, April 1st (no fooling), 7:30 PM at Granlibakken. A presentation by Teton rock ranger Lanny Johnson has been tentatively arranged.

## ANOTHER NORTHSTAR ADVENTURE

A storm was moving in on Thursday afternoon, February 7. Skier Jim Carol blundered off to the northeast while skiing Northstar's Schaffer's Camp lift on the backside of Mt. Pluto, skied past several large signs indicating the way back to the ski area, and ended up at the Schaffer's Camp site in a small meadow near the edge of Martis Valley.

When his girlfriend reported him lost, TNSAR searchers were alerted and the ski area's patrol began looking for tracks. TNSAR member Ken McMaster, who works as a nordic instructor at Northstar, happened to be skiing home to Ponderosa Palisades that afternoon and saw some tracks.

When the first search team arrived at about 9 PM, the storm was approaching full force, dropping heavy wet snow at a rate of several inches an hour. One team of two swept the edge of Martis Valley while a team of four were driven to where some tracks had been seen near the Schaffer's Camp site. The TNSAR squad moved into the small meadow, but the tracks had filled in, and, unbeknownst to the searchers, Carol had decided to move, backtracking out through the woods, parallel to the route the searchers were on. Buffeted by the wind and soaked by the snow, the searchers continued down both sides of a creek, emerging from the trees into Martis Valley and crossing to Hwy. 267. The other team, meanwhile, augmented by two other searchers, began looking in another area near where the tracks had been spotted.

Finally, at about 3:30 AM, Northstar Mountain Ops manager Phred Stoner, making one last sweep in a Pisten Bully, spotted a ski pole barely poking above the drifted snow. Carol was located under a nearby bridge, wedged in a fetal position with a body temperature of 94°F. He cried all the way home.

Thanks to Don Ahlert, Don Starbard, Randy Osterhuber, Scott Schroepfer, Dave Fenimore, Craig Poulsen, Jim Granger, Jim Meskimen, Mike Wolterbeek, Phred Stoner, Northstar's patrol, Bob Dobbins & the Communications reserve, and other TNSAR members, citizens, and sheriffs who contributed to a successful operation.

## WINTER SURVIVAL

Jeff Menzer is once again offering his Winter Survival class through Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village. The 3-day seminar is full of valuable information on equipment, navigation, shelter-building, hypothermia, and avalanches. Participants learn to construct a variety of emergency shelters in the field.

Dates this spring are March 22-24. Tuition is \$60. For more information call the college at 546-8356 or 831-1314.

## LETTER

(the following appeared in the TAHOE WORLD and SIERRA SUN newspapers)

Dear Editor,

Northstar-at-Tahoe would like to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team for their heroic efforts in locating a missing skier last Thursday night.

Despite extreme weather conditions of high winds and zero visibility due to heavy snowfall, the nordic team members continued their search. Through the cooperation of the Placer County Sheriff's Department with its Communications reserve and volunteer snowmobile team, TNSAR, and the Northstar Ski Patrol, the missing skier was found at 4 AM in the Martis drainage area.

The community is very fortunate to have such public spirited persons willing to donate their time, effort, and personal equipment in times of emergency.

On behalf of Northstar, a special thanks to the Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue team, the Sheriff's Department, and our own ski patrol staff.

Sincerely,  
Hank Schwarz, General Mgr.  
Northstar-at-Tahoe



## TNSAR OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ..... Doug Read  
VICE-PRESIDENT ..... Tony Remenih  
SECRETARY ..... David Fenimore  
TREASURER ..... Nanci Northway  
DIRECTORS ..... Charlie Kellermeyer, Bob Moore,  
Scott Schroepfer, Mike Wolterbeek

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

EQUIPMENT ..... Randy Osterhuber  
TRAINING ..... Scott Schroepfer  
EDUCATION ... Andy Smith & Peggy Heidelberger-Smith  
DISPATCH (Phoners) ..... Marilyn Henriques  
FOOD ..... Linda Kuecker  
TRANSPORTATION ... Scoop Remenih & Bruce Kuecker  
PUBLIC RELATIONS ..... Mike Wolterbeek  
LIBRARY ..... Susan Antipa  
NEWSLETTER ..... Dave Fenimore  
GREAT SKI RACE ..... Skip Reedy  
VALENTINE'S DAY ..... Debbie McMaster  
BERNIE KINGERY FUND ..... Doug Read  
PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S REP ..... David Dennis  
DATA PROCESSING ..... Leo Poppoff  
POSTAL SERVICES ..... Kari, Bethe & Jim  
ENERGY ..... Maxwell House, good to the last drop

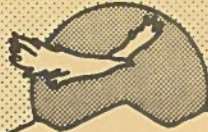
## Tahoe Crafts Printing

AND COPY CENTERS

"WE PRINT LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW"

IN KINGS BEACH  
BEHIND TRUCKEE SURPLUS  
546-3132

IN TAHOE CITY  
NEXT TO ROSIE'S  
581-3132



Graphic Design  
Unique Radio  
Commercials  
Since 1976  
916/525-5201

## Wild West Graphics & Communications

889 Alder Avenue  
P.O. Box 8360  
Incline Village  
Nevada 89450



702 831-7144

Incline Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Clinic

A Professional Corporation

Claude P. Herman, M.D.  
J. Philip Maloney, M.D.

## pre-cut TIMBER HOMES



For information or an  
appointment to see our model please  
call or write P.O. Box 7080 Tahoe City  
(916) 583-5370

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

TAHOE NORDIC  
SEARCH & RESCUE  
P.O. BOX 7703, TAHOE CITY, CA 95730  
ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

SCOTT SCHROEPFER  
LT246 MNRL SPRNG TR  
POB 1357  
TAHOE CITY CA 95730-1357

TIME VALUE