

Snow Job

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North Lake Tahoe - Truckee

February 1988

**The next general meeting is
Monday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. at
Granlibakken Ski & Racquet
Resort in Tahoe City.**

NEXT TRAINING

The next training is Sunday, January 31 at the Mt. Rose meadows area. It is a joint training with the Washoe County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Team and the Tahoe Meadows Nordic Ski Patrol of the Sagebrush Section of the Far West Division of the National Ski Patrol System. The training is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a debriefing afterwards at the Christmas Tree restaurant. For more information call Jeff Menzer.

FEBRUARY TRAININGS

The first February training, Thursday, February 11, will be held at the Sugar Bowl Ski Resort. It will be a familiarization of the route from Mt. Lincoln (the top of Sugar Bowl's mountain) to Donner Lake. This route was the route attempted recently by two Bay Area men during a blizzard. Yes, they are the ones who became lost and were located at about three in the morning by our team. Let's hope for better weather than we had that night. More details of the training will be announced by Randy Osterhuber at the general meeting Monday, February 1.

The Sunday training in February is February 28 and will be held in the Sawtooth Ridge area just outside the Northstar-at-Tahoe resort. Randy McLain is organizing the training, which will be a terrain familiarization and avalanche training. Randy McLain will announce more details at the general meeting February 1 at Granlibakken.

VALENTINE'S BALL

The 8th Annual Valentine's Ball will be held on Valentine's Day, that's February 14, a Sunday. The Valentine's Day Ball is another of the team's fundraisers, and is also a lot of fun. There will again be great door prizes and a terrific band. The band had not been selected as of press time. We are looking at having the Ball at the Plaza Bar in Squaw Valley again, this year from 9 p.m. to midnight, or maybe 1 a.m. Details will be announced at the February general meeting.

THE GREAT SKI RACE

The Great Ski Race is Sunday, March 6, 1988. Start planning now on how you can contribute to our biggest fundraising project of the year. Skip Reedy will be assigning duties to those interested in helping with the event at the next general meeting at Granlibakken Ski and Racquet Resort on Monday February 1 at 7 p.m. Flyers and entry blanks will be available at the meeting. Encourage your friends to sign-up for the race early.

ALPINE MEADOWS RECAP

Alpine Meadows Ski Patrol Leader and Avalanche Forecaster Larry Heywood attended the January general meeting and gave a talk on the slide that buried three skiers at Alpine Meadows recently. The skiers were rescued quickly, and were lucky to come away with no injuries. He gave some good insight into the snowpack structure we have in the Sierra this season and the events and occurrences that led up to the slide in the Sherwood Forest area of the resort. As travelers in the backcountry, in all types of snow conditions, we all appreciate Larry's comments. Thanks, Larry.

THE FAR SIDE by Gary Larson



THE HAZARDS OF BEING A SEARCHER

At the January meeting a discussion was held on the hazards the team was confronted with during the Sugar Bowl search. Many opinions were heard (not big news), but some were not heard. This is the first letter to the editor of our little newsletter that I know of, and I think it's pretty good too. But then, Gerald has written a few good letters to the editor before.

Dear Editor—

I had to leave the last meeting early and was unable to put forth by thoughts of the last search, and searches in general.

In my opinion the first duty of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is to do just that—search and rescue; not build garages, party, or even educate children. These things are nice but are not the primary purpose of TNSAR.

Because people generally get lost during storms, we are always going to be at risk when we search. I think all searchers know and accept this fact.

The only question seems to be what is acceptable risk and was this level of risk exceeded during the last search?

Yes, the conditions were hazardous during the last search, but they were less hazardous than many trainings and recreational tours we have all been on, and conditions were not close to being as bad as during some past searches.

We must remember there were two lost people out in very cold, wet, stormy conditions and lives were at stake. We are not the ones to play God and try to improve the gene pool by leaving them there. We are obligated to take risks beyond what the safety manuals might say are acceptable, while staying somewhat short of suicide.

—Gerald Rockwell

