

SnowLine

The Official Newsletter of the Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

Lake Tahoe • Truckee • Donner Summit

MAY 1997



Next General Meeting is Monday, May 5, 1997, 6:00 p.m. at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut

Cinco De Mayo

Even if the Arctic wasteland you call your refrigerator *does* offer up more than a terrain in which to grow strong temperature-gradient crystals, you'll still appreciate the fact that Monday night, May 5, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team will be hosting a dinner especially for you. May 5 is the final Nordic Team meeting of the season and everyone's invited to partake in food and drink prior to the night's business meeting. With the days warming up and stretching out, this last meeting of the season is a perfect opportunity to ditch your caribou robes and pemmican bars, don a pair of shorts, and come flaunt those muscular — albeit pasty-looking — legs. Dinner will be served on the Granlibakken Ski Hut's deck — 6:00 P.M.

Nordic Team Cuisine Committee Chair superwoman Debra Schroeffer throws well-balanced meals together with the ease that most of us throw on yesterday's socks; she will, of course, be in charge of the feeding frenzy May 5. But every superheroine needs her sidekicks: if you'd like to help Debra manage the meal, please give her a call or show up a half hour early.

Vote!

Part of the business-at-hand the evening of May 5 will be the election of officers to the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team Board of Directors. Over the years the Nordic Team has grown both in size and complexity. Today the Team is responsible not only for managing and motivating 100 volunteers, but also for maintaining a building, a new expensive truck, much elaborate equipment, and handling the unique financial challenges that face a non-profit organization. As a board member there is a lot to do. When you cast your vote Monday night, vote for someone who will do a lot. President, Vice President, and Secretary are appointed year-to-year; general Board Members are appointed for two years. The Treasurer is elected by the Board.

Always Be Closing

He was conspicuously absent — probably away parachuting off something — from the April 7 general meeting, and too bad, for Team member Harry Parker was honored with the March 1997 Team Member of the Month award.

Harry grabbed the reins of the merchandise table at last month's Great Ski Race, set his spurs, and proceeded to turn some wagonwheels. Every time you'd walk by, there was Harry, closing another deal, selling those Great Ski Race caps, mugs, and Chums. Positioning himself strategically alongside the beer tap, Harry eventually sold all the race mugs on hand. No five-dollar bill was safe as long as there was merchandise to barter. Harry, thanks for nudging the race profit-margin that much higher!

92% Lost

"We got a situation." That was the word from the Placer County Sheriff's dispatcher when he paged the Nordic Team at 5:10 A.M. on March 24. The situation we got: An enthusiast of the night sky joined a group of full-moon ski tourers (at Paige (Page on some maps) Meadows) the previous evening, became separated from the group, and was reported missing. His fellow skiers didn't report him missing; apparently they never even noticed his absence. Instead, he called his girlfriend (at 8:00 A.M., using his cell

phone) and told her he was OK, but didn't know where he was: "I've been skiing toward the moon — toward Granlibakken — all night long." (The moon and Granlibakken are on decidedly different bearings from Paige Meadows.) The girlfriend hung up and dialed 9-1-1.

Upon receiving the callout, Nordic Team member Scoop Remenih rolled out of bed, fired up his snowcat, and motored right out of his back yard and straight on up to Paige Meadows, arriving about 6:00 A.M. He immediately discovered a southbound ski track and raced on in hot pursuit. Meanwhile, a Placer County deputy, in phone contact with the lost skier, was cruising up and down Ward Canyon in his patrol car blasting the siren. The skier eventually honed in on the siren and made his way out of the woods. Scoop followed a few minutes later.

The previous night was marked by a partial (92%) lunar eclipse starting about 7:00 P.M. At maximum, the umbral shadow blocked all but a red sliver of reflected light from the full moon, blanketing Paige Meadows in almost total darkness.

1997 Team Member Of The Year

The Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team Member of the Year award is granted annually (at the May meeting) to a Team member who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the Nordic Team's purpose and goals. Recipients of years past include the distinguished company:

1985	Peggy & Andy Smith
1986	Bob Williams
1987	Dan Young
1988	Susan Stein
1989	Debra Schroeffer
1990	Andy Butcher
1991	Scoop Remenih
1992	JoJo Toeppner
1993	Doug Read
1994	Chris Worcester
1995	Jeff Rieger
1996	Peter Sporleder

The nominees for the 1997 award are: Holly Beatie, Randall Osterhuber, John Pang, Scoop Remenih, Debra Schroeffer, Randy Sharp, and Russ Viehman. For all their effort these nominees should be treated suitably: please buy them all a nice plate of cold cuts and give 'em a big, wet kiss — right on the lips.

The Year's Accomplishments

The 1996-1997 season has been one of vast proportions for Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. Autumn '96, after ten months' worth of fund-raising wine tastings (thanks Gar Woods!), saw the Team replacing its peewee rescue truck with one that's every young boy's Tonka-dream (with that fluorescent red lettering who needs lights and sirens?). The new truck, carrying six skiers and great amounts of equipment, has already expanded the capabilities of the Nordic Team — and forever changed the way we respond to a search. This year the Team also secured a

plethora of new radios — radios critical to our operation; I've said it once and I'll say it again: without communication on a search, we have very little of anything else.

One more page to go...



Team member Holly Beatie tours the Carson Range, Nevada.

photo r.osterhuber

The Nordic Team's Education Committee was busy this season producing *Winter Awareness* programs at no less than eight area elementary schools as well as doing an interview on the Truckee TV station. Because of the Team, there now roam large gangs of survival-minded fourth-graders, pockets stuffed with garbage bags.

Team training czar Dirk Schoonmaker reports 20 Team trainings held this season with 200 people participating — not trivial numbers. And speaking of numbers... the Team's dispatchers recount the dialing of over 500 phone calls (one's ears glow red just thinking about it, eh?) this year in an effort to get our skiers' arses out there and breaking trail.

The 21st Great Ski Race? You know that story: In 1997 as in the past, no ski race cuts it like The Great Ski Race.

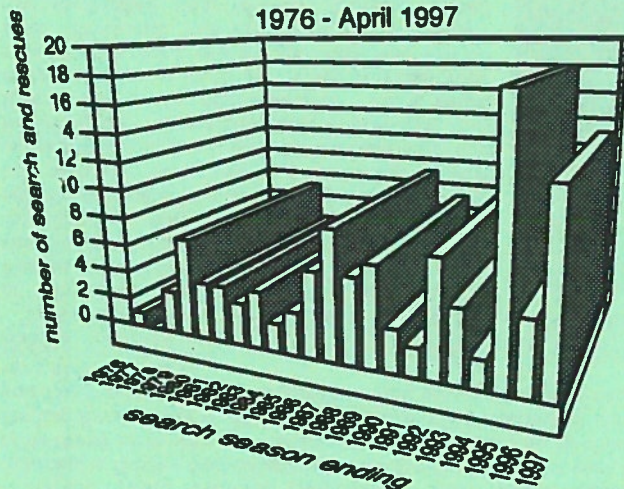
And of course there were the searches. As of this writing (April 22) the Team has hit the snow on 18 search and rescues this season — our second busiest year ever. We searched for and helped rescue 19 individuals; many of whom are alive today because of the direct actions of our Team.

There are dozens more accomplishments; some obvious, some not; some big, some small — *all* important. If you've been involved with any aspect of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team this year, be proud of it. Take some of those sliced meats you bought for the Team Member of the Year nominees and make *yourself* a nice bologna sandwich.

Snow Line will return in late September. For the meantime — stay young and strong!

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

1976 - April 1997



"You don't see a sheep dry overnight."

— Carl Toepfner, on the virtues of polypropylene over wool

WANTED: A North Lake Tahoe or Truckee resident who can scan 35mm transparencies and output either halftone or grayscale images for this newsletter. If you can help, please call Randall at 587-3092.

FOR SALE: Sea kayak — \$700. Call Sue Johnson for details, (916) 587-4281.

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team Officers

President	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
Vice President	Joe Pace	583-1806
Treasurer	Scott Schroepfer	546-2809
Secretary	Jackie Thomas	546-3592
Board Members	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Steve Twanney	525-7280
	Medora Weiser	525-9248
	Chris Worcester	582-4648

Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroepfer	546-2809
Dispatch	Medora Weiser	525-9248
Education	Mona Treat	581-5759
The Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Snowcats	Tony Remenih	583-1684
Snowmobiles	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Training	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Peter Sporleder	546-0588
	Jean Wernette	546-2238

Truck/Equipment 581-4038
Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team garage
All phone numbers area code (916).

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

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spring is here, but...



...winter's over

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