



SnowLine

The Official Newsletter of the

TAHOE NORDIC SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM, INC.
Lake Tahoe • Truckee • Donner Summit

Esteemed Team member Jim Coffey is to be heartily congratulated for all his courageous effort during the latest Winter Awareness campaign. Last month the sometimes wily North Shore fourth-graders—to whom Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team teaches the winter skills—all got a dose of S.T.O.P., snow fort construction, and why you don't want to ski in denim (good-looking, true; but oh, how we abhor those nasty blue streaks all over the snow!). Jim helped out at several of the different elementary schools and was recognized at February's Nordic Team meeting by being honored with the *Team Member of the Month* award. Thanks also to Education Committee Chair Karen Honeywell who once again made it all happen. Jim and Karen: THANKYOU!!!

The Tahoe Basin is sparkling after a meter+ of new snow and that fresh face makes things look mighty pretty for The 25th Annual Great Ski Race.

The Great Ski Race organization meeting—the next meeting of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team—is Monday night, **February 26, 6:30 PM** at Granlibakken's Ski Hut. This is a very important meeting for you to attend. All the final race preparations will be dovetailed together this night. Please attend the meeting and assure that the 25th Great Ski Race will be the best ever.

Three Callouts

At about 6:15 PM on January 26, the Placer County Sheriff's 911 dispatch received a call from a group of three women skiing at Paige Meadows. It was getting dark and the ski tourists could not find their way out of the woods. All the small meadowlets that make up Paige Meadows were sporting the Bermuda Triangle vibe that night: skiers go in but were not allowed out. The women, all in their 40s and from the Bay Area, had parked their car nearby (at the top of Silvertip Drive), but owing from the lack of any navigable landmarks may have just as well parked on the happy side of the moon. Team snowmobiler Ray O'Brien and Placer County Sheriff's Deputy Fred Carey responded with their snow machines and quickly started ripping searching around the meadows. At a few

minutes after 7:00 PM they located the women who were scared but unharmed, extremely thankful, and grateful for the help.

• The next night (January 27) at about 11:15 PM, the Nordic Team was contacted to help with the rescue of two snowboarders that had cut underneath the boundary rope at the top of the Granite Chief chair at Squaw Valley. The boarders had left the ski area about 1:30 that afternoon, and, after being reported missing at 8:00 PM, quickly had two Squaw patrolmen following their tracks. The patrol found them (a 27 year-old man and 35 year-old woman—both from the Bay Area) but were now radioing for help. Nordic Team skier Dirk Schoonmaker was snowmobiled as far as possible, then skied down toward the two lost boarders and the patrolmen. Both the patrol had skied after the Bay Area couple using locked-heel skis and carried no climbing skins or snowshoes. Dirk quickly found the foursome, put the Bay Area folks on snowshoes, and hiked them up to a waiting snowcat. Meanwhile, the patrolmen post-holed best they could until Dirk returned and put them on snowshoes. All were returned to safety after an hour and a half.

The couple had commented that they had seen the CLOSED AREA boundary sign, but decided to cut under it anyway as a "shortcut" to where they thought they wanted to be. It was a very cold night on the crest (strong NE winds), but as the boarders were originally from Michigan, they weren't especially phased by our California weather.

• At 4:00 AM on February 6 the Placer County Sheriff's office received a call from a woman concerned that her boyfriend had not returned from a ski day at Squaw Valley. After a vehicle belonging to the missing person was located in the Squaw parking lot, the Nordic Team was called and a search initiated. At a few minutes before 8:00 AM, the Squaw patrol located out-of-bounds tracks leading from the Sun Bowl and into the Five Lakes Creek drainage. They began following the tracks with five Nordic Team skiers a few minutes behind. At 9:20 AM, the patrolmen located Jerrold Mishkin, 25, from San Francisco, along Five Lakes Creek. (Exactly where is open for discussion. I spoke with three different searchers and got three different answers. Sounds like somewhere between

Whiskey Creek and Big Springs.) Mishkin was dressed poorly ("very low tech", as one searcher noted) and quite cold, but in "good" condition. Mishkin commented how he thought he was "following Squaw Creek." Mishkin, the Squaw patrolmen, and the Nordic Team skiers were airlifted out by a CHP helo.

These were the Nordic Team's second, third, and fourth searches of the season.

From The Hip

So you thought Team skier Tony Bochene was just a guy who fabricates snowcats from old Toyota trucks. Guess again. The new millennium has brought forth the new, sensitive, aware Tony that perhaps was always there, we were just temporarily blinded by the arc-welder. In addition to heavy weather, difficult terrain, and unstable snow, Tony recognizes another potential obstacle to our searches: the thousand little dramas produced by our very own company. He emails the following:

I'm not sure who was the first idealistic fool to proclaim There is no "I" in team. But I think it was probably Joseph Stalin addressing his heads of state. The truth is, a good team of any sort is made up of individuals, and (generally speaking) the stronger the individual the stronger the team. Problem is, a strong individual often comes with a strong independent, outspoken personality which might be resistant to compromise or taking orders, and to ask this person to subordinate to another might be asking him to give up his strength.

I think good team work, in our case certainly, is not so much giving up your individual personality traits or your opinion, your way of doing things, or even your outdated sports equipment, but learning to recognize your own skills and strengths and figure out how to combine them with those of other teammates to create something that is bigger and stronger than a sum of its parts.

For an organization like ours, one of the most important ingredients for overall success is respect for fellow teammates. Even if their skill or equipment, experience, energy level, hair color, or sexual preference are different than our own. Without mutual respect, built mostly from positive reinforcement, the unit cannot function at its

full capacity, regardless of skill level, and will have its strength undermined with bickering and infighting that will heighten in times of stress or pressure. With mutual respect, strengths will naturally flow toward the front of the column, without ego or personal reward, and weakness will either be forgotten, improved upon, or supported by... anyway, you know what I mean.

How do I know these things? Because I'm often more guilty than most, I suppose. Too independent for too long, teamwork is still a fairly new concept for me. I sometimes talk when I should listen, teach when I should learn, and push when I should pull. Still, I think I have learned much as a member of the Nordic Team for the past six years dealing with its strange collection of zoological personalities.

Here is what I have learned: Talking louder does not necessarily improve your chances of being heard. Don't give advice unless you can take it. Being right is not nearly as important as being on time. And, forgive and forget, unless they owe you money. Finally, you can't be friends with everyone (unless you own a sporting goods store) so you should hang with the people who offer you the best company, the most positive support and show respect for your skill and knowledge.

All of us on the team are teachers and all of us are students. If not we should be. Each one a valuable, skilled human being, drawing on each others' strengths, trying desperately to ignore each others' weaknesses. We should be learning, communicating and growing together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and friendship in an effort to maintain something that is bigger, stronger and more effective than we could ever hope to be as individuals. Considering the reputation, longevity, the blinding speed and effectiveness of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, I think we have succeeded.

Team Goings On

Remember, to participate in a Nordic Team training exercise you must have signed up for an OES card with the Placer County Sheriffs. Please call the training organizer to let them know you'll attend.

February 17: Paul Honeywell (546-8609) leads a Team training on the west shore's Jake's Peak. Meet at the Team garage (223 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City) at 7:00 AM to carpool.

February 25: A tour of The Great Ski Race course. Meet at the course finish at 7:30 AM or Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area at 8:00. Talk to Holly Beatie (550-0885) or Steve Matson (546-7968) for further info.

February 26: Great Ski Race organization meeting and the monthly meeting of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. 6:30 PM, Granlibakken.

March 1: Bag stuffing for The Great Ski Race. Meet at Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area 5:30 PM.

March 4: The 25th annual Great Ski Race. Tahoe XC, 9:00 AM, SHARP!

March 10: An all-day ski tour of Grouse Rock and beyond. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM. Steve Twomey (525-7280) will lead this one.

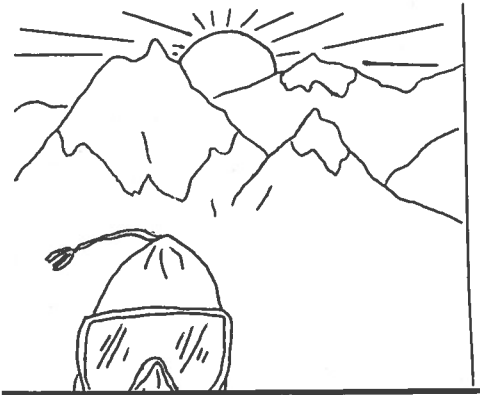
March 14: A ski tour of Signal Peak with Steve Reynaud (587-4723). Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM or at Wild Cherries Coffee House at 7:30.

March 18: A ski tour of Castle Peak and beyond with Russ Viehmann (582-1695). Meet at the garage at 7:30 AM or at the "trail"head on Donner Pass at 8:15.

March 31-April 1: Wilderness Medicine Institute two-day first aid class at the Squaw Valley Fire Department, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. Send a check for \$83 (refunded to you upon completion of the course), made out to TNSAR, to Karen Honeywell, PO Box 368, Carmelian Bay, CA 96140. Class size is limited so send that check now!

Two other joint trainings (one with Eldorado County, one with Washoe County) are being scheduled, but as of this writing have not been quite nailed down. More details will be available at the **February 26** Team meeting.

Getting intimate with the NE wind,
—Randall Osterhuber



Team Officers

President	Joe Pace	583-1806
Vice President	Steve Twomey	525-7280
Treasurer	Scott Schroepfer	546-2809
Secretary	Terri Viehmann	582-1695
Board Members	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Directors-at-large	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Russ Viehmann	582-1695
	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376

Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroepfer	546-2809
Dispatch	Jackie Thomas	587-2687
Education	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
Equipment	Russ Viehmann	582-1695
Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Snowcats	Scoop Remenih	583-1684
Snowmobiles	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Training	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
All phone numbers area code (530).		

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

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25th Annual Great Ski Race
Sunday, March 4
Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area
9:00 am, SHARP!

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please keep us informed of your correct address!