



SnowLine

The Official Newsletter of the
TAHOE NORDIC SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM, INC.
 Lake Tahoe • Truckee • Donner Summit

It's time to walk the talk. The Great Ski Race™, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team's main fundraiser, and the largest Nordic ski race in the western United States, carries some formidable momentum. Plans for the race were put into motion long ago, and there's no slowing them now. Race bibs are being stacked, T-shirts printed; snow is soon to be tilled, pasta water put to boil. Yet much more needs to be done. The final organization meeting for the 27th Great Ski Race is Monday night, **February 24, 6:30 PM** at the Granlibakken Ski Hut.

The race is put on almost entirely with volunteer effort—and that means **YOU!** Please attend this next meeting of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. If you can't attend, send your most trusted attaché. Don't miss out on the event of Winter 2003!

Education

Like each individual who makes up the Team, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue is multi-faceted. In addition to rescuing lost souls in the mountains and putting on gigantic ski races, the Nordic Team educates. This past month Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team once again brought its message of wintertime smarts to the local elementary schools. Fourth grade classes around the North Shore and Truckee were wooed by the good word on proper winter clothing, how not to get lost, what to do if you become lost, and how to survive an unexpected night in the woods. Thirty different Team members volunteered for the effort. Few, if any, are still intimidated by the indefatigable squads of fourth-graders.

At each school, school-wide assemblies were given the "hug-a-tree" overview, then the kids split up into groups and spent 10 minutes at each of the various "hands-on" stations of signals, shelters, S.T.O.P. (can you sing the S.T.O.P. song?), and the three Ws.

Please bow before each of the Nordic Team members who coordinated the different school

programs, including: Jim Coffey, Sue Duerkson, David Fenimore, Karen Honeywell, Sarah Lagano, and Dirk Schoonmaker. Great job everyone!

Team Schedule

A busy month ahead (as usual). Remember to call each of the training organizers to let them know you plan on attending. The Team garage is located at 223 Fairway Drive in Tahoe City, behind the Chevron station.

February 15: Ron Driller (581-0714) will lead the Nordic Team in a ski training around the Castle Peak area. In large part because of easy access and the Sierra Club Grubb Hut, this area attracts lots of backcountry skiers. The Team has conducted many search and rescues around Castle Peak. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM, or at Wild

to Highway 89. Lots of good ski terrain on this one, plus a chance to reckon all that northern Sierra geography. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM, or at Wild Cherries at 7:30.

February 24: The Great Ski Race organization meeting of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team: 6:30 PM at the Granlibakken Ski Hut.

February 27: Great Ski Race racer bag stuffing, 5:00 PM at Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area. We really need a lot of help with this so please do attend!

February 28 12:00 NOON through **March 2 8:59 AM:** Great Ski Race in-person registration, Tahoe Cross Country. If you'd like to help with registration, please call Randall Osterhuber (546-4491).

March 2: The 27th Great Ski Race, 9:00 AM SHARP! at Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area.

March 7: Roman Fail (581-0590) and Derek Wilson (525-5594) will lead a ski of Grouse Rock—in the dark(!). Meet 5:30 PM at the Team garage.

March 11: Avalanche transceiver practice at the Team garage, 6:30 PM. Peter York (583-0465) is the contact for this one.

March 16: Russ Viehmann (525-6978) is initiating a ski tour between Jake's and Rubicon Peaks. Meet at the garage at 7:30 AM.

March 22: Another ski tour, this one up Silver Peak. This terrain is close enough to the road so that ditching out early to avoid a full day of skiing (but why would one want to?) is a distinct possibility. Tony Bochene (426-3619) is the contact. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM or the bottom of Pole Creek at 7:30.

March 30: Bob Wright (546-7273) leads a ski tour into Desolation Wilderness, somewhere around Dick's Peak. Meet at the garage at 7:00 AM.



Build the masses an igloo and the people will come. A "winter aware" fourth-grader at Kings Beach Elementary School.

Photograph by Randall Osterhuber

Cherries Coffee House in Truckee at 7:30.

February 22: Steve Reynaud (587-4723) will lead a ski training from the top of Donner Pass Road to the Deep Creek drainage and out

Milestone

On January 20, long-time Truckee resident Kathy Polucha-Kessler was killed in an avalanche while skiing in British Columbia.

Kathy's good-vibe personality and outgoing nature were a big part of why our

Next General Meeting is Monday, February 24, 2003, 6:30 pm at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut

community is such an awesome place. Fun, funny, and friendly, Kathy counted hundreds of Truckee and North Tahoe residents as her friends. She was involved with Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team for several seasons, and many Team members knew her well. Kathy's work on water quality issues in Truckee and Donner Lake brought her beyond just being a member of the community—Truckee remains in part *defined* by her passion and character.



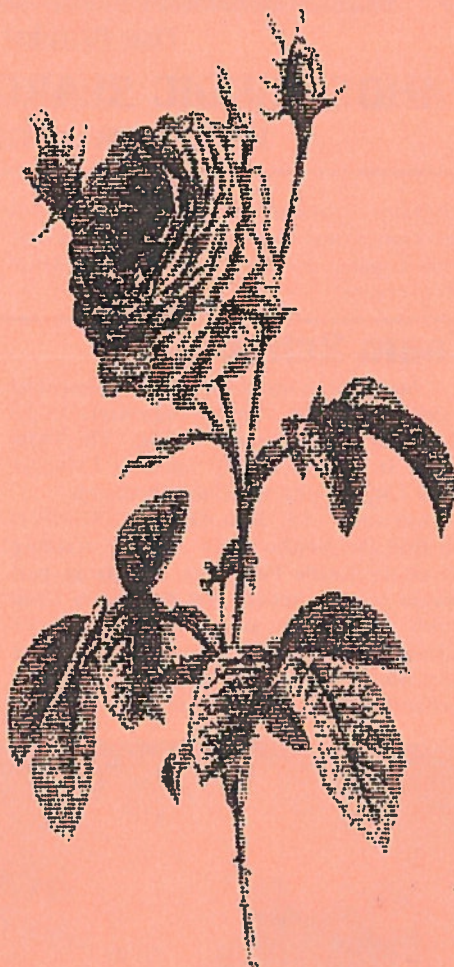
*All smiles. Kathy Polucha on a 1995 ski tour.
Photograph by Randall Osterhuber*

A section of the Donner Lake Rim Trail will be dedicated to Kathy's memory. Donations can be sent to the Kathy Polucha-Kessler Memorial, Truckee Donner Land Trust, PO Box 8816, Truckee, CA 96162.

This year's Great Ski Race will also be dedicated to her memory. Kathy is survived by her husband Scott, parents Charles and Madeline, and five siblings. She was 39 years old.

Skiing quietly,

—Randall Osterhuber



The Patagonia Prayer

Our father who art in Patagonia
Hallowed by thy fleece
Thy comfort come, thy wicking be
done
In Tahoe, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily Gore-
Tex,
And forgive us our cotton
As we forgive those who suggest
we wear it.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from The North Face,
For thou art the base layer, the
insulation
And the shell forever and ever.
Amen.

—Geoff Brandenburg

Team Officers

President	Steve Twomey	525-7280
Vice President	Russ Viehmann	525-6978
Treasurer	Scott Schroeffer	546-2809
Secretary	Terri Viehmann	525-6978
Board Members	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Randy Sharp	587-2877
Directors-at-large	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
	Joe Pace	583-1806
	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376

Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroeffer	546-2809
Dispatch	Jackie Thomas	587-2687
Education	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
Equipment	Russ Viehmann	525-6978
Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Snowcats	Scoop Remenih	583-1684
Snowmobiles	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Technology	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
Training	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
Website	Peter Sprieder	546-0588
All phone numbers area code (530).		

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

Post Office Box 7703
Tahoe City, California 96145
(530) 581-4038
www.tahoenordicsar.com

MARK JOHNSON
PO BOX 8258
TAHOE CITY CA 96145



please keep us informed of your correct address!