



SnowLine

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

Next month starts the 30th year of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, a landmark that's not only significant but one to be proud of too. The Team has come a long way in three decades both in terms of organization and skill level. This has translated into faster and safer backcountry search and rescues, which has always been—and will continue to be—the primary mandate of the Team. Please show your support for Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team's past and future by attending the next Team meeting, Monday night, October 3, 6:00 PM at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut.

As is tradition for the first meeting of the season, dinner and libations will be served. Nordic Team President Russ Viehmann informs me that we'll enjoy ourselves around a bonfire, so please bring warm clothes and, if you'd rather not park yourself in one of the Ski Hut's safety-orange plastic chairs, a sit-upon of your choice. Russ will do his best to take control of the raucous crowd, and then lead us in a discussion of current Team searches, rescues, and goings-on. We'll also be preparing and scheduling for the upcoming Winter 2006 ski season—training and education projects will be announced. So, sounds like an evening, eh? If you think you might have something better to do that night, like watching Monday night football (heaven forbid), here's what you do: Put on your safety goggles, back up five paces from your TV, and with a full wind-up, hurl a framing hammer directly into the shiny black screen. Brush the glass off your

hush puppies and make your way to Granlibakken. See you there!

'76-'05 Wrap-Up

Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team conducted 10 search and rescues last winter for 25 different individuals. Three of these responses were for people who had died (an avalanche victim, a pilot of a crashed plane, and a skier who hit a tree), an unusually high number of fatalities for a single season.

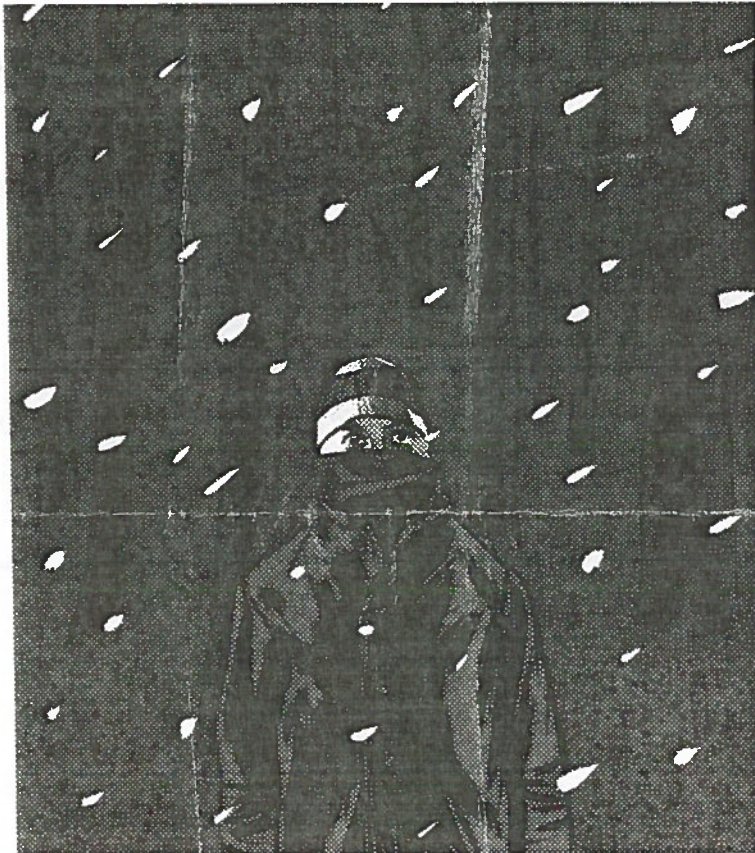


Illustration by Chi-Yun Lau

Throughout the Team's history, 48 of the 359 (13 percent) people the Team has searched for have been fatalities. The majority of these have been avalanche or plane crash victims, and to

the Team's credit, we've never had a patient die while under our care. Of the 359 search subjects, one (0.3 percent) has never been found. (A skier thought to have been lost from Squaw Valley in 1982 remains missing to this day.) These are gloomy statistics gleaned from gloomy events, but they're certainly not representative of the exciting work the Team does, or its fun, positive energy. Due in great part, I believe, to our training, readiness, and quick response, the majority of our rescues end on a very happy note.

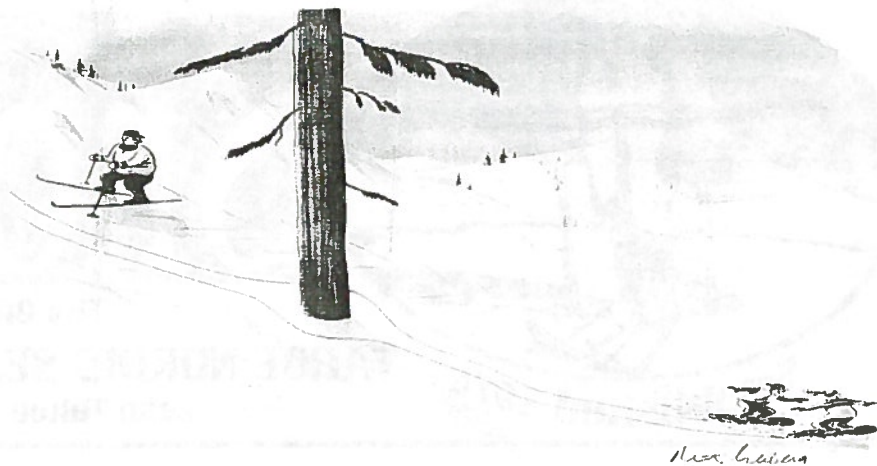
When the rescuees are happy, the rescuers are happy. One thing that keeps everybody on both sides of a rescue smiling is talent. Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is always seeking talented dispatchers, fundraisers, educators, snow machine operators, backcountry skiers, or any who are eager to develop their skills in these areas (and more!). There is a place on the Nordic Team for everyone.

Team veterans and freshman both will tell you that no two searches are alike, so it must be true. To date, the Team has responded to at least 201 different searches/rescues. You're wondering... besides camaraderie, adventure, fun, and fitness, are Team searchers compensated for their work? You betcha. The pay scale's been standardized across the ranks into what we refer to in the rescue business as PMATFEBYCE (Pretty Much All The Frozen Energy Bars You Can Eat). So, the people are capable, the action is first-rate, the pay is great. What are you waiting for? Please join Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team today.

Honored

At the May 2005 Nordic Team meeting, the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team Board of Directors bestowed the honor of *Team Member of the Year 2005* on Jim Coffey, the leader of the Team's Education Committee. Jim took over the Education Committee a couple years

ago and infused it with a high level of organization. Now, our local school kids have an engineer on their side, directing them on how to build emergency shelters, what to stuff in their pockets on winter days, and what to do if lost. Jim's also been key in managing the Team's truck and keeping The Great Ski Race running smoothly. Congratulations, Jim, and thank you!



Mark Johnson

Team Training

One of the easiest ways to become involved with Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is to participate in Team training programs. Throughout the autumn and winter the Team averages about one training per week. They're fun, informative, and often challenging. If you haven't done so already, please complete an application for a Civil Defense card (issued by the California Office of Emergency Service (OES)) before attending a Team-sanctioned training. Details on this will be available at the Team meeting **October 3**.

The following are upcoming highlights. These autumn hikes will focus primarily on terrain familiarization, though undoubtedly some backcountry skills training will be addressed along the way too. Each training organizer will smother you with praise if you call beforehand, show up with the appropriate clothing and equipment—and arrive on time.

The Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team garage is located at 223 Fairway Drive in Tahoe City, behind the Chevron station.

October 6: Bernie Mellor (546-2238) will lead an orientation and straightening up of the Team's rescue equipment. This is a great time to learn or re-learn where everything is stored on the Team truck and to help whip the equip back into shape. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 PM.

October 8: Mike Kennett (581-2101) will lead a hike down Powderhorn Creek and onto the Five Lakes Creek trail, the scene of many a rescue. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM.

October 16: Karen Honeywell (546-8609) leads a hike up the east shore's Snow Valley Peak today. Meet at the garage at 7:30 AM or North Tahoe Beach (across the street from the Kings Beach Safeway) at 7:45.

October 22: Another hike, this time up Mt. Rose. Sue Duerksen (587-7289) is the contact. Meet at the garage at 7:30 AM or North Tahoe Beach at 7:45.

October 30: Polly McGhee (583-7291) is organizing this hike from Donner Summit to Squaw Valley along the Pacific crest. Meet at the garage at 7:30 AM or the top of Donner Pass Road at 8:15.

Best,

—Randall Osterhuber



Team Officers

President	Russ Viehmann	525-6978
Vice President	Brian York	583-0465
Treasurer	Scott Schroepfer	546-2809
Secretary	Sue Duerksen	412-3836
Board Members	Mark Johnson	583-1308
	Sarah Lagano	775-745-7037
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Directors-at-large	Joe Pace	583-1806
	Doug Read	583-6381
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
	Steve Twomey	525-7280

Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroepfer	546-2809
Dispatch	Jackie Thomas	587-2687
Education	Jim Coffey	583-1276
Equipment	Brian York	583-0465
Great Ski Race™	Doug 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
	Mike Kennett	581-2101
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
Truck	Peter York	583-0465
Website	Mark Johnson	583-1308
All phone numbers area code (530) unless otherwise noted.		

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OUR 30TH YEAR!

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please keep us informed of your correct address!

