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Post Office Box 7703 Tahoe City, California 96145

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

(530) 581-4038 www.tahoenordicsar.com www.thegreatskirace.com



Don't forget! The next Team meeting is Monday Dece.

MARK JOHNSON PO BOX 8258 TAHOE CITY CA 96145

9614548258

keep us informed of your correct address!



DECEMBER 2006

The Official Newsletter of the TAHOE NORDIC SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM, INC.

Lake Tahoe • Truckee • Donner Summit

Upcoming December Trainings When: 8:00am garage or 8:30am Deep Creek

December 3rd --- Sunday

Where: Deep Creek

trailhead on HWY 89

Contact: Karen Honeywell 546-8609. Karen will surrounding peaks. Be prepared for ANYTHING. Jelve into the depths of Deep Creek and Where: Resort at Squaw Creek December 4th --- Monday

TNSAR members with an OES card, and will include Medicine Symposium. The Symposium is free for he Resort is hosting the Winter Injury Sports Contact: 587-3769 for info and a seat dinner and a raffle drawing. When: 3:00pm to 9:00pm

he training shall commence in the morning. If you December 8th & 9th --- Friday nite and Saturday can't make it to the hut Friday, meet at the Pole reservation for Friday night at the Bradley Hut. Contact: Doug Read 583-6381. Doug has a When: 8:00am Pole Creek trailhead (Sat) Creek trailhead Saturday at 8am. Where: Pole Creek drainage

December 14th --- Thursday Where: Team garage

Contact: Steve Hoyt 582-0550. Steve will present When: 7:30am garage or 8:15am at Wild Cherries short course on rescue scenarios. Be prompt! December 16th --- Saturday Where: Castle Peak When: 6:30pm

present an evening refresher course for map and explore the Castle Peak environs and beyond. Contact: Steve Reynaud 587-4723. Steve will Contact: Steve Twomey 525-7280. Steve will --- Monday Where: Team garage December 18th When: 6:30pm

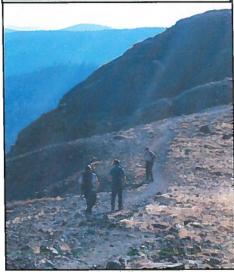
unch, call the contact to RSVP, and be prepared! REMEMBER: you must have an OES card (or have started the paperwork) to participate. Pack a

compass skills.

HOW from behind the keyboard. As you no doubt have noticed. SnowLine has a bit of a new look. That's my doing. I hope it is to everyone's liking or, at the very least, I hope the new layout doesn't give anyone hives. I'm an alumni of the "if it ain't broke..." school of thought, so I have decided to change very little with the overall design of our newsletter. I have rearranged some things with the hope of gaining more space, but I've left most things unchanged. Like many of you out there, I have become quite attached to this newsletter, so please let me know if this new design works or if I should be keelhauled for messing with things.

Member of the Month Last month Randall Osterhuber was recognized for so many things I would need more disk space on this computer to fit it all in. Suffice it to say, Randall has selflessly contributed to this Team for decades, and I know I can speak for everyone when I say that this Team would not be what it is today if it hadn't been for Randall and all that he has contributed. I would also like to

Team members training on the Crest, somewhere between Donner summit and Squaw Valley. Photo by Sarah Barrett



personally thank Randall for so many years scribbling with SnowLine's #2 pencil. He set the bar so damn high it looks like fishing line strung across the Grand Canyon. I am honored to even have a chance to wear the same socks, let alone fill his shoes. Thanks RO, it'll be all that I can do to avoid speling errors.

!Don't Forget! The next TNSAR general meeting of the 2006-2007 season will be 6:30pm Monday, December 11th, at the Granlibakken ski hut. Normally our meetings are held the first Monday of each month but we are moving the meeting date back one week so that folks can attend the Winter Injury Sports Medicine Symposium at the Resort at Squaw Creek. The Symposium is from 3pm to 9pm, Monday, December

4th. Please call in advance to reserve a spot 587-3769. We will resume normal operating hours in January, which reminds me that the next Team meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 1st !!!! What a way to ring in the New Year. I can't think of any place I'd rather be and that's the truth.

House Cleaning It's hard to believe that it is already December, but I can see a slight white dusting on the peaks above us, there are winter storms on the horizon, and the pagers have already gone off several times this fall. So it must go without saving that we are all ready for the 2006 winter search season...right? Are we? Are you? Well if you're still searching for your poly pro, and you're pretty sure your beacon has fresh batteries, and you're positive that your climbing skins are somewhere out there in the garage, and you are for sure going to tighten the screws and springs in your bindings as soon as you change the air in your tires...if this sounds familiar then now is the time to get your shizzle together. Go on, clean out your search pack, change those batteries, and oh lordy, is that a piece of pizza from last year's jaunt into Whiskey Creek? Two years ago? There's nothing worse then trying to get prepared for the search season while the pagers are going off. I'm not preaching. I'm guilty too. Sometimes life gets in the way and we are forced to put the dishes away dirty. But seriously, the barometer is falling and it's high time to shake a leg if you haven't shaken it already.

Get thee to the bookstore. It's not on Oprah's list but it should be: Snow Sense: A Guide For Evaluating Snow Avalanche Hazard is the paperback bible for anyone stepping foot (boot) in the wintertime backcountry. It was written by Jill A. Fredston and Doug Fesler from the Alaska Mountain Safety Center, which is one of the highest-regarded outfits for avalanche forecasting, mitigation, and hazard evaluation. According to Powder Magazine, "Jill Fredston and Doug Fesler are the best avalanche instructors in North America, period." For a mere \$8.95 you too can own a copy of this book. It is truly a 'must have' for anyone bold enough to forsake lift lines. Written in a straight forward, no nonsense manner. Snow Sense covers all the basics of avalanche awareness. Anvone and everyone interested in learning how to travel safely in the backcountry should read this book. As they say, read it and then read it again. They make great stocking stuffers, by the

Other resources that should be well within reach of your lazyboy recliner: Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain by Bruce Tremper, The Avalanche Handbook by David McClung and Peter Schaerer, The ABCs of Avalanche Safety by Sue A. Ferguson and Edward R. Lachapelle, and Avalanche Safety for Skier's and Climber's by Tony Daffern. For those of us who are more experiential

learners, look up Snowy Torrents, which is a multi-volume compendium of U.S. avalanche accident descriptions and analyses. Talk about armchair adventure. As avalanche.org puts it, "There's nothing like painlessly learning from the mistakes of others!" There are also many videos available including the classic Winning the Avalanche Game produced by the Utah Avalanche Center and Betsy Armstrong's and Knox Williams's Avalanche Awareness: A Question of Balance. The bottom line: pick your poison be it video or text and freshen up your skills.

Education As January rapidly approaches we need to start thinking about (and signing up for) one of the most important volunteer commitments that we TNSAR members have, and that is participating in the 4th grade Winter Wilderness Survival Program. This program has been ongoing for nearly 30 years and is arguably the most successful youth education program in the Tahoe Truckee region. And it is all done with TNSAR volunteers. Each year TNSAR team members travel to 6 local area elementary schools and teach local 4th graders about what to do (and not do) in case they are ever lost in the woods. The programs starts with an interactive, all-class discussion in the school gymnasium and then smaller groups of individual classes go outside for hands-on instruction about winter survival. It's fun, incredibly rewarding, and a great way for new TNSAR members to get involved.

> Suffering from tryptophan withdrawl but ever so thankful it's all over ----B. Wright

> > 525-6978

525-7280

Team Officers

President

Vice President	Brian York	583-0465	
Treasurer	Scott Schroepfer	546-2809	
Secretary	Pam LeFrancois	546-7393	
Board Members	Paul Honeywell	546-8609	
	Mark Johnson	583-1308	
	Mike Kennett	581-2101	
	Sarah Lagano 775	5-745-7037	
Directors-at-largeRandall Osterhuber 546-4491			
	Joe Pace	583-1806	
	Doug Read	583-6381	
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376	

Steve Twomey

Russ Viehmann

Committee Chairs

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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	
	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929	
Newsletter	Bob Wright	546-7273	
Snowcats	Scoop Remenih	583-1684	
Snowmobiles	Ray O'Brien	581-4358	
Technology	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376	
Training	Bernie Mellor	546-2238	
Truck	Peter York	583-0465	
Website	Mark Johnson	583-1308	
All phone numbers area code (530) unless			
otherwise noted			