

**2.4.2008** That's all you need to know to be in the know. Know what I mean? Grantlibakken hut. 6:30pm. Be there.

**Searches, sort of...** On Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, TNSAR pagers went off for the second time this season. With adrenaline pumping, head spinning (where's my pack? Are my clear goggles in the top pocket? Did I put fresh AA batteries in the beacon this season?), and my brain already guessing (...will it be back side of Sugar Bowl? Five Lakes drainage? Peter Grubb hut?), I was rapidly and excitedly gearing up for.....San Bernardino County????? Bubble bursting out of town San Bernardino as in Los Angeles southern California????? Yes, the pager quickly reminded me, San Bernardino. This was the second out of town search called this season. On January 4<sup>th</sup>, a 62 year-old hiker phoned for help after becoming disoriented in foggy conditions at around 7000 feet near Green Valley Lake, San Bernardino County. Four days later, OES put out a statewide call for assistance to aid worn out LA area searchers. Though we scrambled schedules, canceled meetings, and re-arranged pre-arranged day care duties, TNSAR crews never left the basin. But, let the record show, not for the lack of trying. Sad to say, the search was called off on January 13<sup>th</sup> as the missing hiker permanently maintained his missing status. The local Sheriff was quoted as saying, "...we searched as well as we can..." And I'm sure they did. Or at least I hope they did for the sake of the missing hiker's family. One thing that this story reminded me of was the fact that TNSAR really puts the haste into a hasty search. That may be one of the key reasons why we are so good at what we do; we do it fast. Over the last three decades we as a search and rescue organization have learned (perhaps the hard way sometimes) that time is truly of the essence. Tracks disappear, sometimes rapidly in heavy snow or windy conditions. People freeze to death, sometimes quickly. Comb the area last seen swiftly and thoroughly, find the tracks, and race your partners to the victim. It's the hasty bird that gets the squirrely worm. We've never been too good at or too fond of grid-type frozen body searches. But that's not to say that we are always as hasty as can be, which brings me to the third Search, sort of, for this season. Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, TNSAR members skied, snowmobiled, and sno-catted (?) over hill and dale toward Hell Hole Reservoir. On the way back home they noticed a group of late afternoon snowmobilers heading off toward Barker Pass. Hmm, that's curious. I wonder where they're headed so late in the day? A few hours and a few fermented Bridgetender adult beverages later, TNSAR phones start ringing saying that there was a group of lost snowmobilers at Barker Pass. Hmm, that's curious. Is there any more beer left in that pitcher? I mean, quick pass the espresso and saddle up! Luckily the restrooms were unlocked at Barker Pass and the lost snowmobilers were as comfy as could be until TNSAR members finished their beverages and

slogged back up to the Pass and escorted the wayward motorheads back to the Bridgetender. I mean back to the trailhead parking lot. Oh well, all is well that ends well no matter how long you have to hunker down inside a porta-pottie.

**Perpetuity** (n)., pl, -ties. The quality or condition of being perpetual (seemingly ceaseless). I didn't add those parentheses, the dictionary did. And perhaps the developers of the Hilltop property in Truckee are in cahoots with the wordsmiths at Random House. For it seems to me it was not that long ago when I interviewed a TNSAR member who had just returned from a private meeting with a Hilltop developer.... and this said developer had actually used the word 'perpetuity' correctly and in context when referring to the future existence of the finish line for TNSAR's Great Ski Race. Unbeknownst to the rest of us, this said developer apparently knew that those parentheses existed in the definition of the word perpetuity and that the real emphasis was on the word "seemingly" instead of ceaseless. For it seems to me that a man's word is more important and has far more long term impact than a condominium project or another five-star hotel or the dreaded destination resort. The man assured us that the Hilltop hill and The Great Ski Race finish line would remain untouched and undeveloped in *perpetuity*, that we would always have access to our signature finish line hill. But it looks as though parentheses are more important than commitments for some people. Maybe dollar signs make more sense than traditions for these people. Maybe honoring one's word and relying on handshakes is something for John Wayne and the wild west and days gone by. Maybe Allen Greenspan really is the Father and Ben Bernanke is the Son and a wad of hundred dollar bills is the Holy Ghost. Maybe I've been sniffing too much ski wax this winter. What do I know, I drive a sno-cat and groom ski trails through the woods late at night. 'Nuff said.

**Snowshoes Rule!** As many of you already know, TNSAR's favorite snowshoe guru, Gerald Rockwell, has recently retired from Tahoe's USGS field office. No longer an indentured servant of Uncle Sam, Gerald is now free to concentrate entirely on his true love (sorry Toni), the fine art of snowshoeing. When he is not in Washington DC lobbying Congress for a new snowshoer's bill of rights and the courageous, upcoming 'right to snowshoe' bill, Gerald will be conducting snowshoe clinics by day and presenting snowshoe slideshows at night. Sunday snowshoe services will be held throughout the Basin with Father Gerald in the pulpit. If you miss Gerald here in the Basin, look for him at the Borders bookstore inside the Mall of America, just outside St. Paul, MN. He will be autographing his new best seller, *I Love Snowshoes. I Can't Stand Skiing, Never Have, Never Will. I Only Did It Because I Hadn't Come To Terms With My Inner Showshoe.* I don't know how he does it,

but you can also catch Gerald on Dr. Phil in the early afternoons or on the late night circuit with David Letterman and Conan O'Brien. Though the exact dates haven't been published yet, Gerald will host a CD release party and will be mixing his favorite snowshoe rap tunes at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco. A show definitely not to be missed. But I'm sure there will be a follow-up music video with Gerald bumping and grinding with a bunch of scantily clad snowshoe betties. And don't forget to ask Gerald for your very own Keep Tahoe Snowshoeing bumper sticker. Good luck Gerald! Now get out there and SHRED!

**GSR 08** Most definitely will be epic this year but there is still much work to be done for this year's race. The race committee has been meeting regularly and divvying up tasks and there is always room for more hands. This is a great opportunity for *everyone* to get involved. Call Doug or Dirk to help out!

**Don't Forget!** TNSAR will have two meetings in February. Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a Team meeting the first Monday of March (the day after The Great Ski Race).

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/01/27/CMK6TM66S.DTL> Click

on this link to get to Laura Read's article in the San Francisco Chronicle's Sunday Magazine. True stories from your own backyard. Nice Job Laura!

I groom, therefore I am  
----B. Wright

## Team Officers

President	Russ Viehmann	525-6978
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
	Jimmy Smith	582-4448
	Jonathan Laine	582-9466
Directors-at-large	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
	Joe Pace	583-1806
	Doug Read	583-6381
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
	Steve Twomey	525-7280

## Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroepfer	546-2809
Dispatch	Terri Viehmann	525-6978
Education	Sara Barrett	386-2751
	Sir David Fenimore	587-3739
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	TJ Johnson	308-2530
Technology	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
Training	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
Truck	Peter York	550-8050
Website	Mark Johnson	583-1308

All phone numbers area code (530) unless otherwise noted



**Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.**

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

MARK JOHNSON  
PO BOX 8258 TAHOE CITY  
CA 96145

The next TNSAR general meeting is Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm at the Granlibakken ski hut.

February 2008



# SnowLine

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

### Upcoming February Trainings

**February 7<sup>th</sup> --- Thursday**

Where: Signal Peak  
When: 7:30 AM Team Garage or 8:00 AM Wild Cherries.  
Contact: Steve Reynaud 587-4723. Monsieur Reynaud will explore the Signal Peak environs and do laps until no one is left standing. Please call Steve for last minute details and training tips.

**February 18<sup>th</sup> --- Sunday**

Where: Sugarbowl and Beyond  
When: 7:30 AM Team Garage or 8:00 AM across from KB Safeway.  
Contact: Russ Viehmann 525-6978. Senior Presidente will be taking folks to Sugarbowl for an all day adventure. This is a popular jumping off point for skiers and boarders getting lost in the backcountry. Get to know it before the next search. Call Russ for more info.

**February 23<sup>th</sup> --- Saturday**

Where: North Shore Experimental  
When: 7:30 AM Team Garage  
Contact: Doug Read 583-6381. Herr Read will be exploring somewhere on the North Shore. Bring your skinny skis, leather boots, and orange klisters and see if you can keep up. This may be a good primer for the GSR. Call Doug to find out. And forget to pack extra bones for Roady. You never know, they may come in handy when you're trying to keep up with Doug.