

Rivers in Egypt There's no denying it, time does indeed march on and now it's time to march on over to the Granlibakken ski hut for the 2007 kickoff meeting of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. As always, food and drinks will be provided by the able crew of Chez Schroepfer. Black tie optional. The meeting will commence at 6:00pm. Tales will be told, stories will be swapped, lies will be liberated detailing how many miles we rode, trails we hiked, birds we watched, and naps we nabbed over the summer. Once we get all of that out of our systems, we will get down to the serious business of kicking off the 2007 search season. Yes, I can hear all of your collective scoffing....."summer's not over yet....I'm not putting my bike away until there is a foot of snow on the ground...I can't remember where I put my search pack...Indian summer is going to last until February....global warming trumps winter..."etc. etc. I've heard it all. Unfortunately, no matter what the weather, what season it is, how well or poorly preparations are made, people get lost. And that's where YOU come in. Yes, you. Whether we are making phone calls, welding grousers, mixing cocktails, combing over maps, re-gluing climbing skins, writing grant proposals, or slogging through creeks with skis on, we are all active participants in this multifaceted organism we call the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. Without you, this team would not be what it is and would not be able to do what it does. There is a place for everyone, with any and all skill sets, of any and all levels of ability. In fact, the more the merrier. As someone really famous once said, "...diversity is (insert unpronounceable multi-syllabic word here)...". "There is, however, one crucial prerequisite; participation. The lights are on, the door is unlatched, and we are officially open for business. As those dusty desert folks say, "Welcome home, brothers and sisters."

Three Quarters Half Nuts One must be at least that crazy to try and make predictions about the upcoming winter weather. Yet that is the buzz in the air this time of year. Especially with the drizzle that is currently outside my window. (Though there was a confirmed sighting of some white powdery substance in Truckee early this morning....) And every year we are likely to hear the infamous "squirrel theoy." Laugh about it or laud it, the theoy goes something like this: squirrel behavior (most notably in the fall when ski areas announce their new season pass prices) is indicative of the onset and magnitude of the ensuing winter season. A little cha-cha to the left, tango twirl to the right, dip here, soft shoe over there and the next thing you know it's snowing. Actually it's nuts. The nuts. Pine nuts. NOAA notwithstanding, if the squirrels are busily gathering nuts, stuffing their cheeks and nests with nuts, then winter is coming and coming on strong. If the squirrels are loitering about, nibbling here and there

according to their fancy, then Indian summer will likely continue and fair weather will prevail. Some people think it's bull, others will challenge you to take it outside mano a mano just to prove it is true. Often I find that the most convinced (and struggling the hardest to convince) are those who just purchased their season passes at prime time prices. "It's gonna be huge, bro!.....30% chance of showers next week...thigh deep pow-pow by the weekend....rock on dude." Others who haven't squandered their kindergartner's college savings are a bit more nonchalant. "It'll snow...a week before I put my studs on the Subaru...and I still haven't stacked all my wood..." Just to be fair and scientific like, I consulted a real weather oracle and have this to report. This winter will be, and I quote, "...τρυχει μ.πθε δχ τελ:θειι τξζοθθεε τηε κνι θξα τοσπθιερ λτωε στωθπο" So there it is folks. You heard it here first. Read it and weep.

Farewell Jim.



You'll never know how many hearts you touched. Save travels friend.

Not-So Live From Black Rock

City Last month, as I was wandering around the playa completely disoriented in a sand storm white-out (sand-out?), I had a little time to reflect on the concept of being lost. Of getting lost and getting found. Few of us out here have truly been lost so it is a difficult concept to wrap one's brain around. As of this writing, Steve Fossett (world renowned aviator, adventurer, world record setter and breaker) is lost. It is no conceptual thing. He is out there somewhere in the Nevada outback and no one, I repeat, no one knows where he is. Hundreds and hundreds of people, in airplanes, looking at computer screens, via satellite images and radio waves, from ground searches and scriptural prayer searches, are looking for him and after 18 days and nights he is still lost. And like Amelia Earhart, the longer he remains missing the more the mystery grows. What is not mysterious is the methodology of searching for lost victims. Whether they are

land, fresh water, or sea searches, most organized rescue and/or recovery missions search in a grid-type fashion. Search areas are delineated on maps and divvied out and then individual search teams (from several to several hundred) begin combing through each grid in the designated region. Depending on the scale and the nature of the search, each grid can be quite enormous to quite small. Though it can be a needle in the haystack type reality, the actual search is, or should be, extremely systematic. Typically our searches out here in the winter wonderland of the Tahoe backcountry are not of the needle in the haystack variety. Though we definitely have found ourselves searching for extremely small needles in extremely large haystacks, most (but not all) of our searches have a defined point of origin. A skier/snowboarder/snowshoer is reported lost and last seen at the top of Mt. Judah or dropping in off the backside of Grouse Rock or at the parking lot of Tahoe Meadows. Sometimes we have very reliable and definitive information (e.g. the known victim's car and boot prints heading off into the trees). Other times we end up slogging through creeks with our skis on hollering into the trees when the real "victim" is sitting at Bar of America. Because we never truly know for certain, we strive to conduct all of our searches with equal intensity, efficiency, and thoughtfulness. Sometimes it is not so easy to roll out of bed at 3am and wander off into a howling whiteout. Oftentimes someone's life depends on it. Sound intriguing? Want to learn more? Please join TNSAR at 6pm, October 1st, in the Granlibakken ski hut. Thanks in advance!

Late night tap dancing with rodents ----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
	Sarah Lagano	775-745-7037
	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	Jackie Thomas	587-2687
Education	TBD	
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 Sledneck	308-2530
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.

Upcoming October Trainings

PLEASE NOTE: The foregoing events are not officially TNSAR "trainings." That is, an OES card (Office of Emergency Services) is not required and these outings are entirely family-friendly. However, please leave dogs, cats, goats, and other quadrupeds at home. Kids and other related pets are welcome and encouraged.

Oct. 4th --- Thursday

Where: Garage: Truck/Equipment training
When: 6:30pm Team Garage

Contact: Bernie Mellor 546-2238. Bernie will be leading an orientation to the TNSAR truck and equipment at the Team garage. This is a great training for old timers and new timers as things move around the garage and truck during the summer. Come find out where things live and how to use them.

Oct. 7th --- Sunday

Where: Mt. Rose to Price Lake
When: 8:00am Team garage or 8:30 across from KB safetyway.

Contact: Russ Viehmann 525-6978. Russ will lead an informative hike from Tahoe Meadows to Price Lake. Never heard of Price Lake? Come with Russ and explore your own backyard.

October 13th --- Saturday

Where: Mt. Rose to Martis
When: 8:00am Team garage or 8:30 across from KB safetyway.

Contact: Jim Reinstra 546-7188. Jim will be taking folks along the Tahoe Rim Trail all the way from Nevada to California. This is a great fall hike.

October 20th --- Saturday

Where: Billy's Peak
When: 8:00am Team garage or 8:15am Deep Creek parking lot.

Contact: Randall Osterhuber 546-4491. Where the bleep is Billy's Peak and who the heck was Billy? Join Randall this Saturday and find out that and much more. Another great fall hike.

October 28th --- Sunday

Where: Diamond Crossing/Bear Pen
When: 8:00am Team garage
Contact: Steve Twomey 525-7280. Steve will lead this hike across the Sierra crest to an infamous spot and locale of many lost victims. Tall tales will abound, no doubt.

Bernie is also looking for November training volunteers, particularly map, compass, and GPS. Please call Bernie to help out.



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

SNOWLINE

October 2007

96145+DNRB

The First 2007 Team meeting is Monday, October 1st, 6:00pm,
at the Granlibakken ski hut.

MARK JOHNSON
PO BOX 8258 TAHOE CITY
CA 96145

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

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

20 SEP 2007 PM 2 T

RENO NV 935

USA 41

