

SNOW LINE

The official newsletter of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc.

Vol. 16, No. 2

• North Tahoe, Truckee, Donner Summit

• 11/1/95

**Next general meeting is Monday, Nov. 6,
7 p.m. at the Granlibakken Resort ski hut**

Randall Osterhuber's introduction at the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team's October meeting was so good, I'm going to paraphrase it here. Sorry if this is old hat to some of you, but it will fill some gaps for newcomers.

The Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team formed 20 years ago to assist lost winter recreationalists. Over the years, as demand for its services have risen, the Team has grown in scope (not Scoop) and members.

The Team's first objective is to find lost and injured people who are stranded in the backcountry outside of ski area boundaries. We locate lost Nordic and alpine skiers, snowboarders, downed aircraft, snowmobilers and hikers. Since often the lost people are paying customers of downhill ski areas in the Tahoe Basin, the Team concentrates on learning the terrain where skiers tend to get lost outside the ski areas.

When a search commences, the Placer County Sheriff's Department is in charge of operations. Sheriff's deputies assess the situation and if they believe someone is lost outside of boundaries they will use the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team to help find the person. To activate the Team, the Sheriff's department pages certain members, who in turn notify a callout committee. During a callout, committee members telephone skiers whose names are on a special list. Whoever can make it to the search will help analyze the possible spots where the lost person could be. Searchers then form groups to cover the likely terrain.

The Nordic Team has an incredible success history. There has been only one occasion, back in the 1980s, when the Team didn't locate a person. Everyone else has been found. Not all cases had happy endings, unfortunately.

We live in a place where, when a lot of snow falls thousands of people turn out to play. Since a small portion of that large group gets lost or injured, we are an extremely active search group.

Not all of the group's activity is in searches, however. The Team's second objective is to educate the community on winter survival. To accomplish this, TNSAR sponsors a hug-a-tree program for fourth graders, and teaches older students the finer techniques of detecting avalanche danger and surviving a night out in the cold. This year the Team created a winter survival tips book cover and produced a slide show for high school students. We also contribute to a multi-media winter awareness night at a local ski area.

The Team also offers monthly training classes to its members on first aid, map and compass reading and avalanche survival. All Team members must be registered with the Placer County Office of Emergency Services in order to participate in trainings and searches. If you registered last year, you're set.

The callout list has two groups of skiers, A team and B team. A skiers are called for every search. They have completed many trainings and demonstrate the abilities to lead a group on a search. They must also know how to bring a lost person safely out of the woods. Getting assigned to the A team is easy if you have the skills, just demonstrate your knowledge at trainings and request to be on the list.

B team members are qualified skiers who perhaps can't make every search, but could manage to go if the A team is exhausted from several days of looking. B team members must have attended the trainings and be able to ski complex terrain in difficult weather.

To get involved in a committee, call one of the chairpersons listed on the back of this newsletter. To join the Team, show up at a general meeting the first Monday of every month, 7 p.m. at the Granlibakken ski hut. To register with the county, call Jim Martinson, sheriff's department search and rescue coordinator, at 581-6306 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trainings

The Team extends thanks to Katie O'Halloran and Rob Rice for donating the use of the Tahoe Trips and Trails van during the Donner Summit to Squaw Valley training in October. Call Dirk Schoonmaker, 583-2929, for further information on the following trainings.

NOVEMBER

Thurs., 9: Truck orientation at the Search and Rescue Team garage. Meet at 6 p.m. at the garage.

Sun., 12: Hike from Five Lakes to Barker Pass. Meet at 8 a.m. at the garage. Bring lunch and layered clothing to prepare for changeable weather during this 12 1/2 mile trip. Everyone together will arrange a shuttle system.

Sun., 19: Hike or ski in the Castle Peak area. It's a shorter hike, but may last a good part of the day. Bring lunch and layered clothing. If no snow, meet at 8 a.m. in the snow park area off Interstate 80 at the Pacific Crest trailhead across from Boreal. If it's snowing, say "Yahoo!" and look for the Nordic Team truck in the Boreal parking lot at 8. If we do get snow, bring along touring skis and skins.

DECEMBER

Wed., 6: Beginning Telemark training at Boreal. Meet at 5 p.m. Cost is \$5. Call Dirk to register and learn meeting place.

Wed., 13: Avalanche classroom training. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Kings Beach fire department. This will be classroom avalanche safety and rescue training including beacon and probe practice.

Sat., 16: Meet at 8 a.m. for a Northstar area training in the ski area pay-parking lot in front of the village.

Mon., 18: Anatomy of a Search. Great chance for both A and B team members and callout people to learn about how the information flows, who does what, who gets called by whom, what to expect at a search and so on. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Kings Beach fire station.

Warren Miller bound?

At October's meeting Mona Treat gave Team members a look at the brilliant projects she's coordinated during recent months. The education committee staged a dawn to dusk photo shoot with high school students last year and produced a dynamic slide show on the do's and don'ts of winter survival.

Mona also designed a really snazzy book cover for the high school students. Sponsored by the Team in conjunction with Alpine Meadows and Northstar ski areas, the paper cover tells what to do if you're lost in the woods. The instructions are set against a high quality backdrop of local topo maps and are highlighted with the cutest little artistic figures.

Cross country swap

Stay tuned for the Lakeview Cross Country Center ski swap at the center, located on Dollar Hill, Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To drop off stuff to sell, stop by Lakeview on Friday, Nov. 3 between 4 and 7 or Saturday 8 to 10. Sellers will be charged a 15 percent fee. All proceeds from the swap are being donated by Lakeview to the North Tahoe High School Nordic team. It's a great deal, and the money goes to a good cause. Cross country equipment only.

TNSAR Officers

- President..... Randall Osterhuber 587-3092
- Vice President..... Joe Pace.....583-1806
- Secretary..... Jackie Thomas..... 546-3592
- Treasurer..... Scott Schroeffer.... 546-2809
- Board members.....Gerald Rockwell..... 583-5376
- Dirk Schoonmaker.....583-2829
- Joe Pace.....583-1806
- Chris Worcester.....587-5954

Committee Chairs

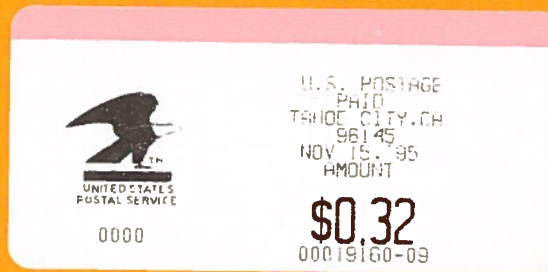
- Education..... Andy Butcher..... 546-8729
- Dispatch..... Medora Weiser.....525-0539
- Training.....Dirk Schoonmaker .583-2929
- Equipment..... Randall Osterhuber 587-3092
- Snowcats..... Tony Remenih..... 583-5370
- Great Race..... Doug Read..... 583-6381
- Randall Osterhuber.....587-3092
- Bernie Kingery Fund.. Doug Read.....583-6381
- Placer Sheriff Rep....Jim Martinson.....581-6300
- (available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon. through Thurs.)
- Food.....Debra Schroeffer....546-2809
- Newsletter..... Laura Read.....583-6381



◆ **Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc.** ◆
 An All-Volunteer Group Dedicated to Mountain Safety
 P.O. Box 7703 Tahoe City, CA 96145

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