

Snow Line

OCTOBER
1996

The Official Newsletter of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc.

Lake Tahoe · Truckee · Donner Summit

Next General Meeting is Monday, October 7, 1996, 6:00 pm at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut

Please Do Attend

"I love teamwork and I love it a lot." These not-quite immortal words, spoken by founding member Doug Read a long time ago, are still the essence of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue today. Now breaking trail into its 21st year, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue is most decidedly a team. Hundreds of individual achievements are born of every mountain rescue operation, but it is the collective effort that make the experience worthy of temporarily ditching our day jobs. Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team begins its 1996-1997 winter season with the first meeting of the year October 7, 6:00 pm, at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut. You are requested to be there.

Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is a colorful collection of diverse individuals donating their talent and enthusiasm toward mountain rescue. The Team is an aggregate of many "committees": groups that focus on specific tasks, and integrate those into the big picture. Education, equipment, dispatch, and training are but a few examples of Team committees. Don't sit there gazing at your navel; come join the October 7 meeting — you are needed! Complimentary dinner and libations will be served at 6:00 pm. (Remember: Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is not about gloomy rescue stuff; it is fun, challenging, and extremely rewarding. See you October 7th...)

El Jefe

He's soft-spoken and mild of manner; these attributes are but a pleasant facade concealing the energy of Gerald Rockwell. Gerald is the new director of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc. He succeeds Randall Osterhuber who resigned from the post after eight years.

Gerald has been a member of the Nordic Team for 15 years and is a veteran of many winter rescues. He brings to the group his experience of several seasons on the Team's Board of Directors, an intimate knowledge of the Tahoe Sierra, and a myriad of backcountry skills. I'm telling you: he be The Man.

Member O' The Year

President Rockwell wasted no time in exercising his official duties. Peter Sporleder, the 1996 recipient of the highly coveted *Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team Member of the Year* award, was (even more) publicly honored by the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce in early June. Gerald presented ((s)he who hands out awards is usually the boss) a special citation to Peter on behalf of the Nordic Team and the entire North Lake Tahoe community. Peter is the co-director of the Nordic Team's training program and has proved invaluable on searches and Team fund raisers. Ride that wave, Peter! Congratulations!

She Did Not Kindle A Wildfire

Late at night on July 1st, the Nordic Team pagers went off, summoning help. Placer County requested the Nordic Team's assistance to look for a lost hiker last seen in Shirley Canyon. Five Team members responded and met at Squaw Valley under a clear and

moony sky. Before they could hit the trail, however, Keith Jasco, a Squaw Valley Ski Corp employee, spotted a small campfire from his post atop Squaw's High Camp. He hiked down to the blaze and found Diedre Racine (good job, Keith), the subject of the search. She was cold and scared but otherwise together. They hiked a few minutes to the bottom of the Silverado (my spelling) chairlift and Keith fired it up. He and Diedre rode to the top. The Nordic Team hikers met them at High Camp and provided medical assistance and chaperoned Diedre back to the valley floor. It was 3:30 am. Nordic Team members participating were Randall Osterhuber, John Pang, Jeff Rieger, Dirk Schoonmaker, Scott Schroeffer, and Medora Weiser. Way to go all!

Tokyo vs Detroit

In 1982, during a nationwide campaign honoring worthy community service, Toyota of America came to Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue and asked if the Team wanted a truck. It was a big step back then to take on the responsibility of a vehicle. There were even a few on the Nordic Team who adamantly opposed the very notion of a truck. But we're Nordic skiers — not Buddhists — we took possession. It did, of course, turn out to be a very positive step in the Nordic Team's growth. The Team truck has played an important part in search and rescues for over 14 years, hauling mounds of equipment and even a skier or two. But like the mother who peels back the covers and finally sees how ugly her baby really is, we have at last outgrown that little Toyota four-banger. The Team has just purchased a (used) Ford F350, crew-cab, long-bed, pick-up truck. This new truck will haul gobs more stuff than the Toyota, plus six fully-clothed skiers. The rig is currently being outfitted with a utility bed, etc.

Not Snow Only

Starting January 25th of this year, and every last Thursday of the month thereafter, Gar Woods, of Carnelian Bay fame, has hosted a wine and food tasting with the Nordic Team as beneficiary. These have been very fun and very successful thanks to the energy and generosity of Tom Turner and all the Gar Woods crew. The October tasting — pairing special chef-prepared dishes with a red and white wine — will be Thursday, October 24, 5:00 pm. Bring a best friend and show up early (sporting a fine tie) to enjoy the food, wine, and golden life of North Lake Tahoe. While you're there, be sure to thank the Gar Woods crew for all they've done!

What did Team chef and epicure extraordinaire Debra Schroeffer say to dinner for 500? No problem. And on this summer's solstice she turned the Truckee-Tahoe Air Show pasta feed into a whirlwind of lasagna, melon, and nutty desserts. With Debra choreographing, Tahoe Nordic Search

and Rescue Team prepared and served dinner to air show enthusiasts during this annual event. The Nordic Team received the proceeds from the feed. Kudos to the Truckee-Tahoe Air Show committee, Debra, and all who donated their precious volunteer muscle.

There's more...



Nordic Team President Gerald Rockwell shows off his new Father's Day SLCD.
photo r. osterhuber

School's in

At the end of September, Team members Dirk Schoonmaker, Randy Sharp, and Peter Sporleder will attend a four-day course on the fundamentals of search and rescue. Part of their tuition will be paid for by the Nordic Team. This course will draw on rescue experience from around the country and synthesize what works, what doesn't, and why. Dirk, Randy, and Peter will give us a summary of the course at one of the Team general meetings.

Board Position Going On

Steve Twomey, a member of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue for a couple seasons now, is the newest member of the Nordic Team Board of Directors. Steve has been appointed to the position by the standing Board. He will sit on the Board for the remainder of Mary Cushing's elected appointment. Mary resigned from her Board position rather unexpectedly early this summer.

Mary has been on the Board of Directors since May 1994, and held the post of Vice President during 1994 and 1995. She also chaired the Team's dispatch committee for four years, 1991 through 1995. Thanks Mary for all your hard work; we hope to see you soon!

Info You'll Want To Know

The following is a training sched' for October, November, and December. It will be revised as necessary. The trainings listed will most likely involve many disciplines. Terrain familiarization, navigation, avalanche-terrain recognition, and first aid scenarios may all be encountered during any Nordic Team outing. Please travel prepared. Always feel free to call Dirk or Peter for additional details. Here goes:

October 12: Hike up Billy's Peak. Meet at Nordic Team garage at 8:30 am.

October 19: Hike up Mt. Rose. Meet at the Nordic Team garage, 8:30 am.

November 3: Hike Squaw Valley to Donner Summit. Meet 8:30 am at the garage or 9:00 at the Squaw tram building.

November 9: Terrain familiarization around Diamond Peak ski area and Little Valley. Meet 8:00 am at the Nordic Team garage or 9:00 at Tahoe Meadows (off the Mt. Rose Highway).

November 11: Classroom map and compass. Meet 6:30 pm at Kings Beach Elementary School, Room 2.

November 16 or 17: Field orienteering. Location/time TBA.

December 19: Truck/equipment familiarization at the garage, 6:30 pm.

(The Nordic Team garage graces 223 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City, behind the Tahoe City Chevron.)

Though not an official Nordic Team training — but still worthy of mention — is an overnight trip to the Emerald Bay boat camp **October 5/6**. Motor, paddle, or sail. Please bring extra food for Joe and Randall, those nitwits never have enough.

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team Officers

President	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
Vice President	Joe Pace	583-1806
Treasurer	Scott Schroeffer	546-2809
Secretary	Jackie Thomas	546-3592
Board Members	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Steve Twomey	525-7290
	Chris Worcester	582-4648
	Medora Weiser	546-0647

Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroeffer	546-2809
Dispatch	Medora Weiser	546-0647
Education	Mona Treat	581-5759
The Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Snowcats	Tony Remenih	583-1684
Training	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Peter Sporleder	546-0588
Truck/Equipment	Jean Wernette	546-2238

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team garage 581-4038
All phone numbers area code (916).

Photograph scanned courtesy of Compass Art, Tahoe Vista, CA.



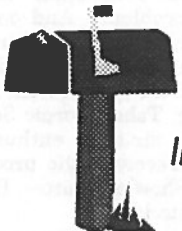
"From here we continue on foot."

The Great Ski Race™ • March 2, 1997 • 9:00 am, Sharp!

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

an all-volunteer group dedicated to mountain safety
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address correction requested (hey, we mean it!)