



SnowLine

The Official Newsletter of the

TAHOE NORDIC SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM, INC.
Lake Tahoe • Truckee • Donner Summit

Code it into your PDA: the next meeting of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is Monday night, **February 5, 6:30 PM** at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski

Hut. As of that night it will be less than four weeks until the 25th anniversary of The Great Ski Race™. Twenty-five years clearly constitutes a history, in fact, a whole generation. More than 100 skiers that finished the 2000 race were not even born when the first Great Ski Race start gun went off in 1977. Who was alive then? At least one I know of is long-time Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team member Don Ahlert, the only person to have skied in all the previous 24 Great Ski Races! (Some people just breathe a different oxygen.) Now, the four weeks until race day may seem like a long time, but brothers and sisters I promise you it will pass faster than a Las Vegas marriage. And there's much to be done. So as not to hoodwink all those eager skiers on race morning, we not only have to look good on race day, we have to marry those fabulous looks to the spit-fire take-action get-it-done reputation that Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team and The Great Ski Race have earned—I say *earned*—in the twentieth century and paste it right smack on the ruby reds of the twenty-first. I know what you're thinking... this guy's humpin' again from the eyestorm of a Dexatrim binge and

God save the pearly queen please don't make them sentences any longer! Ah, guess again, esteemed associate. My mellow-yellow countenance only wants one thing: to rally the troops.

community and Team members' unwavering altruism. The success of the race, and ultimately that of the Team, rests on you. If you're not yet involved with the race, please volunteer for one or several of the many tasks that need to be accomplished. There is a place for *everyone* within The Great Ski Race. The best way to move into action is to attend the Team meeting **February 5**. Much important stuff will be bantered about concerning the race, the Team—and beyond. **February 5**: it's a Monday with your name written all over it.



"Would you like to tell our viewing audience how you feel at a moment like this?"

As any cross country skier worth their weight in blue klister can tell you, The Great Ski Race is the largest cross-country ski race in the Western United States *and* is the main fund raising event for Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. The Great Ski Race operates almost entirely on volunteer juice. From timing and snow shoveling to bag stuffing and car parking, the race is a synthesis of

Know Snow

Wise council that they are, the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team Board of Directors prioritizes with aplomb. As custodians of the Team's financial assets, one of the most important Director responsibilities is spending that cashola wisely. What better way than to train their own; to nurse us skiers from the corduroy nipple of machine groomed snow into the highly charged and seductive world of steep, backcountry snow. Snow safety—during trainings, search and rescues, and recreationally—is probably the single most compelling challenge we face day-to-day in the winter backcountry. Like picking toadstools without a field guide, the consequences of a misstep can be dire. If you know of an avalanche course you'd like to take to further your snow safety education, it might be worth penning a letter to the Nordic Team Board of Directors and requesting sponsorship. Tell them your story, ask them for the Team's support.

Next General Meeting is Monday, February 5, 2001, 6:30 pm at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut

Upcoming Trainings

Regardless of the activity, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team trainings have several objectives: to improve our backcountry search and rescue skills, build camaraderie (and therefore a better-functioning Team), and keep personal fitness and terrain familiarization high. Make sure you've signed up for an OES card before you attend any Team training, and please let the specific training organizer know you plan on attending. The times listed below are, theoretically, *departure* times. Training organizers love you the most when you show up on-time and *prepared*. If it's pouring rain up to 11,000 feet and the winds are blowing dogs down the street, you might be wise to pack an extra Clif Bar or two. Most trainings will happen when and where as listed, dependent, of course, on the training leader's final decision.

The Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team garage is still located at 223 Fairway Drive in Tahoe City, behind the Chevron gas station.

February 10: A terrain familiarization and search-skill training. This ski tour will start from the Squaw Valley ski area but will leave the area toot-sweet and be off-piste the rest of the day. As this could be a long day, advanced ski skills are highly recommended. Call the Jeff Rieger hotline (916-769-5462) for more information. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM or in front of the tram building at Squaw at 8:00.

February 11: A day to practice downhill skiing (free-heel or alpine touring gear only, please). This ski-day will be spent riding the lifts [yikes!] at Northstar-at-Tahoe. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM, or in the Northstar Village at 8:15. Pester Bob Wright (546-7273) or Cadie MacDonald (582-1843) for further particulars.

February 17: Nordic Team top dog Paul Honeywell (546-8609) will lead the Team on a ski of Jake's Peak. Up and down. Since Jake's has many route options, Paul encourages

skiers of intermediate (or better, of course) skill to attend. Meet at the garage at 7:00 AM.

February 25: A get-fit for The Great Ski Race tour. Two-time Great Ski Race winner Holly Beatie (550-0885) and plumber Steve Matson (546-7968) are organizing this ski of the race course (30 km), or, as an alternative, a ski up to Starratt Pass (22 km round trip)—your option. Meet at the race finish line (Hilltop Lodge, Truckee) at 7:30 AM to carpool, or at Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area at 8:00. Do bring your fastest skis!

March 31-April 1: At the January Nordic Team meeting Team Director Karen Honeywell passed around a sign-up list for those interested in a two-day first aid class. There was great enthusiasm for the idea with over forty people putting their name on the list. Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is hiring two first aid instructors from the Wilderness Medicine Institute (an off-shoot of NOLS) to teach the weekend course. The course will be both Saturday and Sunday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day, and will cover all aspects of wilderness first aid (the course, however, *does not* include CPR certification) with both intensive classroom and field work. The location of the class will be announced at future Nordic Team meetings and here in *SnowLine*. The class will be held somewhere around North Lake Tahoe. Class size is limited to the first thirty people. To reserve your spot, please send a check (made out to TNSAR) for \$83, to Karen Honeywell, PO Box 368, Carnelian Bay, CA 96140. Upon completion of the course your money will be refunded to you by the Nordic Team. If you sign up and *don't* complete the course, well, let me be the first to thank you for your tax-deductible donation to Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc (tax id# 94-2737988).

Swimmingly,

—Randall Osterhuber



Team Officers

President	Joe Pace	583-1806
Vice President	Steve Twomey	525-7280
Treasurer	Scott Schroeffer	546-2809
Secretary	Terri Viehmann	582-1695
Board Members	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Russ Viehmann	582-1695
	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Directors-at-large	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376

Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroeffer	546-2809
Dispatch	Jackie Thomas	587-2687
Education	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
Equipment	Russ Viehmann	582-1695
Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Newsletter	Scoop Remenih	583-1684
Snowcats	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Snowmobiles	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
Training	Bernie Mellor	546-2238

All phone numbers area code (530).

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

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**IMPORTANT:
GREAT SKI RACE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

Non-Profit
Organization
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96160

please keep us informed of your correct address!