THE GREAT RACE REVIEWED

The Great Ski Race was a success thanks to Skip Reedy and Doug Read, who organized over 100 community members and team members who donated time to prepare and work the race. Over $5,000 was raised for the team this year, with 730 entrants in the race, making it the largest Great Ski Race in history and again the largest cross-country ski race in the west.

The fast, icy course was ideal for record-breaking times, as new records were set in both the men's and women's categories. The warm weather and smooth handling of the post-race activities were also conducive to record-breaking, as a record 18 legs and 15 cases of beer were consumed at the post-race party.

Todd Lloyd got a quick education on how to start a race with the help of a few firecrackers from the crowd. Maybe Jeff Menzer can give Todd a few hints, without firecrackers, next time.

Thickly were greeted with warm drinks, water and lemonade, at the top of Starrett Pass and were under the watchful eyes of the Nordic Ski Patrol from the Tahoe National Forest's Truckee Ranger Station, as the skiers headed through icy grand prix turns from the top of the pass.

With so many people helping throughout the race it's difficult to mention each individual, but so that we all understand the magnitude of this race's organization, here goes a special shoutout: Thanks to the Communications Reserve for handling radio traffic, the food committee for the big spread, the registrars, the timers, the nordic patrol, the soup station workers, track-setters, and those who picked up the loose ends. And thanks also to the racers, local merchants and sponsors for supporting the search and rescue community at Lake Tahoe/Truckee.

Concerning all the support for the race, team President Doug Read said, "It's a pretty darn neat to get so many people involved in the race. There's no way we can print everyone's names, and if we've forgotten to thank anyone, you know in your hearts that we appreciate the help and couldn't put on such a great race without everyone's support."

Doug said race workers can pick up a complimentary T-shirt at the Tahoe Nordic Center.

APRIL OVERNIGHT TRAINING

The overnight training has been set for April 7 and 8 in the Stanford Wood Camp, Anderson Peak area. Diamond Crossing was checked out as a destination because of the diminishing snowpack and numerous open streams and rivers. The tour will begin at the Cabin Creek trailhead to Stanford Wood Camp Saturday at 8am. We plan to return Sunday before dark. A trip to Anderson Peak and Tinkers Knob and some night skiing is planned. Participants in this training will have to provide their own tent, sleeping bag, stove and food; or work out arrangements with others on the trip for meals, etc. A limited amount of team equipment will be available for the training. More information will be presented at the general meeting April 2. A short meeting will also be held after the general meeting for those who will be participating in the overnight training. If you need more information on the training and will be unable to attend the general meeting April 2, contact Mike Wolterbeek at 583-9032. All members are invited and encouraged to attend the overnight training.

MORE TRAININGS

Training Committee Chair Tod Lloyd organized a ski tour on Mount Rose on March 10. Eight TNSAR members showed up for the trip which started at the Meadows, climbed the ridge above Incline Lake and then descended the Second Creek drainage.

Besides enjoying the great weather, TNSAR members were put through a Sladki drill and studied the snow pack by digging a snow pit. Lloyd reports that two new members were introduced to the team's backcountry activities and skills.

After the days skiing, many team members retired to Phil Maloney's place for green beer and other St. Patty's Day festivities. Maloney is not Chairman of the Beer Committee for nothing.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

New co-chairpersons next year will be Andy Smith and Peggy Heidelberg-Smith, giving Jeff Menzer a break to pursue his art studies down below.

The theme for this year's Winter Awareness Week will be S.T.O.P. (Stop, Think, Observe, Plan). To help plan for next year's program, Jeff will be handing out evaluation questionnaires at the 4/2 meeting to all participants in the event this year or last.

Jeff and Andy presented a Winter Awareness program to about 50 Incline Village Boy Scouts on March 13th.

Coming up on March 13 and April 1 is Menzer's encore of the Winter Survival course at Sierra Nevada College. Participants will learn the details of staying warm, dry and alive in winter emergencies, and study practical techniques of snow shelter building from a real master. Charlie Kellermeyer, Randy Ossterhuber and Diane Iglesias will be helping out in their areas of expertise. The whole show costs only $40, or $50 if you're a teacher and want a C.E.U. It's well worth it. Call 831-1314 or 564-8356 for more info or registration.

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING

is scheduled for Monday night, April 2, 7-30 pm at Granlibakken. The main topic of the meeting will be election to the Board of Directors. Nominations thus far are:

- President
  - Doug Read

- Secretary
  - Skip Reedy
  - Charlie Kellermeyer

- Vice President
  - Randy Ossterhuber
  - Doug Steward
  - Jeff Menzer
  - Tod Lloyd
  - Ken McMasters

- Treasurer
  - Debbie McMeekin

- Treasurer
  - Nanci Northway

Please try to be there since these decisions will have a crucial effect on next season's activities. And of course, there's the beer.
LETTER FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT:

Dear Dave,

Here is a quick report on the S.A.R. evacuation of 3/10/84: About 1:00pm Saturday March 10th, I received a call from Dave Duell of the Placer County Sheriff Dept. Dave had called our pager number several times without response and was now working his way through the coordinators list.

A pair of nordic skiers were on their return trip home from a day’s outing in Desolation Valley. About 2 miles from home, the woman, about 45 years old, took a bad fall, injuring her ankle. Her male companion skied out for help. She was in some pain but with no apparent complications.

I left my office at about 1:40pm and loaded/transported the Thiolok to the trailhead. I met Dave Duell and the male skier. He had a good idea where he left his companion. With Dave remaining at the trailhead and providing a communication link, the male skier and I set out to pick up his companion.

About an hour later, after thrashing through heavy brush & steep traverses, we reached the victim; ever see a Sprite do a telemark turn? She was a little cold and in some pain but basically in good condition. After a check for any problems beyond her obvious ankle injury, we immobilized her ankle and lifted her into the Thiolok. I radioed in that we were returning and to please have an ambulance waiting. About half way out, Chief Henry and one other snow jumper met us. I'd requested the assistance when, for a while, it was unclear if we could work our way close enough to the victim. They were very helpful in finding a more direct route out.

We returned to the waiting ambulance and the woman was transported on to the Truckee Forest Hospital. I’ve no further information as to how she is doing but she was most appreciative of the T.N.S.A.R. team’s rescue effort.

- Tony Remenih

RESCUE SANS SEARCH

TNSAR member, Peg Smith, was on her regular late afternoon ski at the Tahoe Nordic Ski Center on March 8, when she heard a noise off the trail. To her surprise, Peg discovered two young girls, about 13, calling for help. Smith reports that the girls were dressed in light cotton clothing, that both were wet, and that for some time they were not wearing gloves. Recognising that the girls were frost bitten and hypothermic, she set up a shelter in a tree and made efforts to calm and assure them that help was on the way. Worried that the effects of hypothermia would cause the girls to begin their wandering again, Peg made extra efforts to make sure that they would remain in the area as she skied for help. She dressed them in warm clothes, gave them small supplies of food and told them to stay put and that help would soon be there.

At about 4:45 Peg skied toward the High School, knowing that she could locate a telephone there. Contacting TNSAR Board member and Tahoe Nordic Ski Center proprietor, Skip Reedy, a hasty evacuation was organised. Skip and Peg returned to the girls in the Nordic Centers Thiolok, while the Sheriff and an ambulance were alerted. The relocated girls were then wrapped in blankets and placed in the heated car for the return ride to safety.

The girls, who had run away from home, had gotten lost and spent the night unprotected in the snow. They had been missing for about 26 hours when Peg, quite by chance, came upon them. The fact that Peg always takes food and extra clothes on her ski tours, that she is skilled in first aid and basic winter survival skills greatly increased the girls chances once they had been discovered. Great work Skip and Peg.

- Doug Stewart