Snow Job

Vol. 4, No. 5
North Lake Tahoe
March 1984

TNSART SEARCHERS HONE SKILLS

Saturday Feb. 11, TNSART and the Washoe County SAR teams joined forces in an instructive exercise on Mt. Rose. Two simulated victims skied in the day before and came upon a ridge overlooking Ophir Creek, where they pretended to be immobilized by injuries. Four of our Nordic Team members and several of the Reno chapter of the National Nordic Patrol skied a search pattern, followed by snowshoers and snowmobiles.

TNSART member Tod Lloyd was 1st on the scene, locating the victims within an hour of setting out! He was quickly joined by other skiers, who applied first aid while Jeff Menzer set up camp in a level spot on the ridge. There was a foot or so of fresh snow, with more falling, and large fracture zones were observed along the slopes below the victims’ camp. The two men were evacuated one-by-one via akej and hauling ropes to Menzer’s camp, where he had prepared hot drinks in a shelter made in a tree well and shielded by a wall of snow blocks. One victim, suffering from hypothermia, was taken out by snowmobile, and the other, with a simulated broken leg, was hauled out to the road in the sled. The National Nordics had more experience with the akej and provided invaluable instruction to our members in its use.

The National Nordic Patrol, with a strength of a dozen members in their Reno chapter, has been working the Tahoe Meadows on weekends since last season, providing first aid, evacuating injured skiers and sweeping the area at the end of the day.

NORTHSTAR

Placer County SAR Consultant Chris Burnett set up an exercise at Northstar on Feb. 16, which involved members of several local Professional Ski Patrols as well as over a dozen TNSART skiers and two of our Placer County Sheriff’s SAR deputies.

In as close a simulation of reality as possible, the call went out the night before that a woman had skied into Northstar reporting that three companions were overdue from an overnight trip along the Great Race Trail. Next morning she was interviewed by co-ordinator trainees as three teams of skiers and Scoop’s Thiolok were deployed over the mountain into the headwaters of Deer Creek.

Radios crackled as the teams tracked the three victims, who had split up. Eventually one was found, a dummy buried with a Skadi around its neck under two feet of mock avalanche debris. Soon another victim was located, supposedly with a broken femur, and the third was found further along the Great Race Trail. It was a knotty problem to co-ordinate all this and much was learned by all parties involved.

Thanks to Northstar and its Ski Patrol, and to the patrol members from Sugar Bowl and Squaw Valley USA who participated. Good turnout! ●

MORE TRAININGS

TNSART Board member and Chairman of the Press Club Mike Wolterbeek is currently making plans for a training session to take place some weekend in late March or early April. The format will be an overnight trip, probably to the Diamond Crossing area. Mike’s tentative scheme is to ski down Five Lakes Creek, bivouac at the Crossing and either continue to Hell Hole and be picked up there, or ski out by any of several routes. Stay tuned for more information.

Remember, these trainings are the only way that the SAR co-ordinators learn of members’ capabilities. So, if you want to get involved in searches, attend the trainings! ●

SCHEDULE

Feb. 27 — General Meeting, 7:30 PM at Granlibakken (moved ahead one week due to Great Ski Race)
March 4 — The Great Ski Race, 9:00 AM at Tahoe Nordic Ski Center. 30 km. to Truckee. Party at Don Juan’s afterward. Band, food, beer, raffle prizes. Call 583-9858.
March 6 — Mardi Gras in New Orleans
March 10 — Cross-Country Obstacle Ski Race, Kings Beach. See article in this issue.
March 17 — St. Patty’s Day
late March or early April — overnight training, stay tuned.
April 2 — General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Granlibakken. Elections.

NEW TREASURER

Anyone involved with TNSART before this year is familiar with former Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Henriques. Marilyn has given many years of hard work and her organizational abilities were evident in the careful minutes the took and the organization of the team’s finances.

This year the duties of Secretary-Treasurer were divided among two persons, and as a result of her acquisition of twins, Marilyn has had to relinquish her supervision of the treasury. The Board has appointed Nanci Northway as her replacement, at least until the spring elections.

Nanci currently holds the position of Controller with Northstar-at-Tahoe, and this new job is right up her alley. Welcome aboard! ●

THE GREAT SKI RACE

Skip Reedy reports that preparations for the Great Ski Race are proceeding apace. He still needs 400-500 large paper grocery sacks, used to transport racers’ warmups and dry clothes to the finish line. Also lots of hors d’oeuvres are requested for the finish line party. These should preferably be of the heavy-carbo variety (what would you like to eat after skiing 30 km.?). Your creations can be dropped off at the Tahoe Nordic Center on Race Day, or at the finish line above Don Juan’s that day.

Another way to help is to work at Soup Station #1 on Starratt Pass. This involves camping out there the night before. Call Scoop at 583-5370 to get in on this experience.

Other than the above-mentioned items, lots of last-minute help will no doubt come in handy, especially at the pre-registration on Saturday before Race Day at Tahoe Nordic. Call Skip at 583-9858 to offer assistance.

A big Nordic Thank You to Markstein Distributors and Beck’s Beer for the beer on race bibs, and another one to Heart Federal Savings & Loan for the T-shirts. ●

Valentines Day Debriefing

As those who were there will attest, the Ball this year was a great success. Gatsby’s is a wonderful place to have fun and we certainly did that. The Movers kept the dance floor filled, the cocktail waitresses kept libations flowing, and Doug Read, Diane Iglesias and a few other volunteers risked severe oral fatigue in the kissing booth. We even received a few inches of good snow that night!

Congratulations to Tammy who won the night for two at Fantasy Inn III. TNSART did OK too, and although the final figures haven’t been tallied yet, it’s safe to say that we earned nearly $1000 from this one of our two major annual fundraisers. ●
...AND YOU THOUGHT TELEMARKING WAS TOUGH!

As part of the Snowfest activities this year, on Saturday March 10th Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue will participate in the 2nd Annual Kings Beach Cabin Fever Extravaganza by putting on a Cross-Country Obstacle Ski Race on the Wood vista Golf Course.

Dave Fenimore and Jeff Menzer are organizing this free and fun event, and would like to have the assistance of half a dozen other crazy people for a few hours. Call Dave at 546-3132 or Jeff at 831-5449 to get involved.

Other events that day include a "Snoquet" Tournament, a Snowman Building Contest, Snowball Toss, Spit & Slide (garbage-bag glissading), Snowmobile-a-Rama (skiing behind a machine) and a Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest. •

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE WANTS TO THANK...

...Mike Carville, Bruce Ellis, Kate Ulberg, Scott Schroepfer, Julie Carville, Lynne Reilly, Sandy Sequoia, Linda Russell, Hedda Fachino, Diane Iglesiases, Patsy Severson, Tod Lloyd, Ken Menzer, and especially Andy Smith, P.399y Heidelberger-Smith and Jeff Menzer for making Winter Awareness Week this year so much of a success. These folks gave up their precious daytime to go into local schools and present survival programs to our kids.

Also the Bernie Kingerly Fund sponsored Jim Orry, Chris Burnett, Tom Kinform and Bob Moore, who gave Avalanche Awareness talks to members of the local communities. Good job all! •

WINTER SURVIVAL CLASS

Jeff Menzer is repeating his acclaimed Winter Survival Class at Sierra Nevada College the weekend of March 31st and April 1st. Special guests will be Charlie Kellermeyer, M.D., Randy Osterhuber, U.S.F.S. and Diane Iglesiases, M.F.C.C & M.S. Fee is $40 non-credit and $50 for one Continuing Education unit in the Tahoe-Truckee and Washoe County School Districts.

Jeff’s course takes place partly in the classroom and partly in the field, usually Mt. Rose, with every participant constructing their own emergency shelter out of materials at hand. For more info call Sierra Nevada College at 831-1314 or 546-8356. Enrollment is limited. •

LETTER

We’re looking for a mellower cross-country resort (no tracks, no telemarking). Any ideas?

Have you contacted the Flying Karma Ranch in Charisma, CA? Gretchen Saito and Baba Rum Dum have set the ranch up to appeal to the more mellow among the cross-country set. Daily meditation, zen skiing, out-of-body experiences, chanting, yoga, massage and group encounters are all part of the ranch’s ambience. Dress is casual; cuisine is on the organic side. MasterCard and Visa not accepted; good vibes and barter welcome. Don’t write for information, just direct your energy towards the ranch and see what the mail brings.

(courtesy Ken McMaster & NORDIC WEST Magazine)