Valentine’s Ball
The 8th Annual Valentine’s Ball will be held on Valentine’s Day, that’s February 14, a Sunday. The Valentine’s Day Ball is another of the team’s fundraisers, and is also a lot of fun. There will again be great door prizes and a terrific band. The band had not been selected as of press time. We are looking at having the Ball at the Plaza Bar in Squaw Valley again, this year from 9 p.m. to midnight, or maybe 1 a.m. Details will be announced at the February general meeting.

The Great Ski Race
The Great Ski Race is Sunday, March 6, 1988. Start planning now on how you can contribute to our biggest fundraising project of the year. Skip Reedy will be assigning duties to those interested in helping with the event at the next general meeting at Granlibakken Ski and Racquet Resort on Monday February 1 at 7 p.m. Flyers and entry blanks will be available at the meeting. Encourage your friends to sign-up for the race early.

Alpine Meadows Recap
Alpine Meadows Ski Patrol Leader and Avalanche Forecaster Larry Heywood attended the January general meeting and gave a talk on the slide that buried three skiers at Alpine Meadows recently. The skiers were rescued quickly, and were lucky to come away with no injuries. He gave some good insight into the snowpack structure we have in the Sierra this season and the events and occurrences that led up to the slide in the Sherwood Forest area of the resort. As travelers in the backcountry, in all types of snow conditions, we all appreciate Larry’s comments. Thanks, Larry.

The Hazards of Being A Searcher
At the January meeting a discussion was held on the hazards the team was confronted with during the Sugar Bowl search. Many opinions were heard (not big news), but some were not heard. This is the first letter to the editor of our little newsletter that I know of, and I think it’s pretty good too. But then, Gerald has written a few good letters to the editor before.

Dear Editor—
I had to leave the last meeting early and was unable to put forth by thoughts of the last search, and searches in general.

In my opinion the first duty of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is to do just that—search and rescue; not build garages, party, or even educate children. These things are nice but are not the primary purpose of TNSAR.

Because people generally get lost during storms, we are always going to be at risk when we search. I think all searchers know and accept this fact.

The only question seems to be what is acceptable risk and was this level of risk exceeded during the last search?

Yes, the conditions were hazardous during the last search, but they were less hazardous than many trainings and recreational tours we have all been on, and conditions were not close to being as bad as during some past searches.

We must remember there were two lost people out in very cold, wet, stormy conditions and lives were at stake. We are not the ones to play God and try to improve the gene pool by leaving them there. We are obligated to take risks beyond what the safety manuals might say are acceptable, while staying somewhat short of suicide.

—Gerald Rockwell
NEW RADIO REPEATER

At the January general meeting, it was announced that a radio signal repeater, solar powered, is being placed on Mt. Lincoln at the Sugar Bowl Resort. The solar panels and storage batteries can supply power for two days without sunlight. This will greatly aid communications for searches in and around that area by enabling searchers to talk with the command post at all times.

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Gore-Tex Thinsulate hats available to TNSAR members at the incredible price of $5 each, large and X-large sizes only. See Ken McMaster at the Northstar Cross-Country and Telemark Ski Center or call him at 587-2732.

Wanted: woman's backpack suitable for traveling. Call Tanya, 546-8162 or 546-3132.

TNSAR OFFICERS

President ............... Doug Read
Vice-President .......... Doug Stewart
Secretary ............... David Fenimore
Treasurer ............... Nanci Nordway
Board Members .......... Mike Hogan, Tod Lloyd, Randy Osterhuber, Scott Schroepper

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education ................ Mike Hogan
Dispatch ................. Barbara Sutherland and Susan Antipa
Training ................. Scott Schroepper and Jeff Menzer
Equipment ............... Randy Osterhuber
Transportation .......... Mike Hogan, Dan Young
Public Relations ....... Mike Walterbeek
Library .................. Susan Antipa
Great Ski Race .......... Skip Reedy
Valentine's Day .......... Debbie McMaster
Bernie Kingery Fund .... Doug Read
Placer County Sheriff's Rep ........ David Dennis
Data Processing .......... Leo Poppoff
Postal Services .......... Kari, Annette & J.P.