

Snow Job

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North Lake Tahoe - Truckee

November 1988

NEXT GENERAL MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 5 CHRISTMAS POTLUCK!

The next general meeting is the annual Christmas Potluck Dinner Meeting. It will be held at the Granlibakken Ski and Racquet Resort in Tahoe City at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share with everyone and utensils for yourself. The potluck meeting is as much a social event as a meeting and is a great time to bring new members to get acquainted with team members. There may also be a slide show by a local adventurer, but this couldn't be confirmed at press time. Don't miss this meeting!!

PIEPS SOLD, LECTURE GIVEN AT GENERAL MEETING

The nine Pieps avalanche transceivers TNSAR had for sale were sold at the November general meeting. The Pieps were replaced by new transceivers.

Also at the meeting, Data Processing Committee Chairman Leo Poppoff presented a slide show on "The State of the Lake," a brief and interesting look at man's impact on the clarity of Lake Tahoe.

HEADLAMPS DONATED

Tahoe Nordic SAR donated several headlamps recently to the Tahoe Meadows National Nordic Ski Patrol. The Tahoe Meadows group patrols the Tahoe Meadows (of course) and Mt. Rose area off of Nevada State Highway 431.

TNSAR is planning another joint training with them and Washoe County SAR. Details of that training will be announced as they become available.

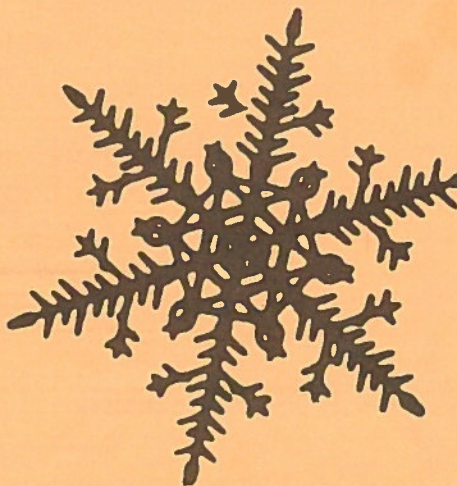
NEXT TRAINING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

The next training is scheduled for December 8, 1988. It will be held in the Meeks Bay/Rubicon area. Randy McLain will lead first-aid scenarios and avalanche terrain evaluation. Meet at the Truckee Safeway at 8:30 a.m. If you have any questions, call training organizer Andy Butcher at 562-0288.

The training scheduled for November 27 has been cancelled due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Anyone interested in organizing a training this year may contact Scott Schroepfer, Training Committee Chairman.

An advanced first-aid refresher is in the works and has been tentatively scheduled for December 18. For more information call Tod Lloyd at 582-1021.

And don't forget civil defense cards.



from the Wall Street Journal,
February 5, 1988 —

FOR THESE FOLKS, A GOOD WINTER MEANS ABOUT 184 INCHES OF SNOW

By Louis Aguilar

Staff Reporter for the Wall Street Journal

In winter, most people think paradise is a tropical island. But to snow researchers, paradise is Houghton, Mich., a town on the shores of Lake Superior in the state's Upper Peninsula.

Three years ago, Sung Lee, a physicist at Houghton's Michigan Technological University, founded the school's Institute for Snow Research. Mr. Lee, co-author of such papers as "Acoustic Proving of Stratified Snowpacks" and "Infrared Obscuration by Falling and Blowing Snow," recognized the area's potential for snow study. Each year Houghton and environs are blanketed by 184 inches of snow, the highest average snowfall in the continental U.S. except for mountainous regions.

It's Not the Quantity

What makes researchers particularly happy is not just Houghton's quantity of snow but the variety. All 80 known kinds of snow crystals have been spotted in Houghton, from the beautiful dendritic crystal "that people want on Christmas Eve," to the crude, rocklike graupel known as sleet, says Albert Wouri, chief engineering scientist at the institute.

The staff of 12 spends its time collecting snow, photographing snow, and determining the temperature of snow (cold). Samples of snow are preserved in the institute's three freezers for later study.

The researchers work out of buildings owned by the U.S. Army, which in turn benefits from the access to the institute's 500 acres of snow. The Army tests the traction and durability of its M-1 and M-60 tanks on the institute's snowbanks and uses the white landscape to assess the effectiveness of its snow camouflage.

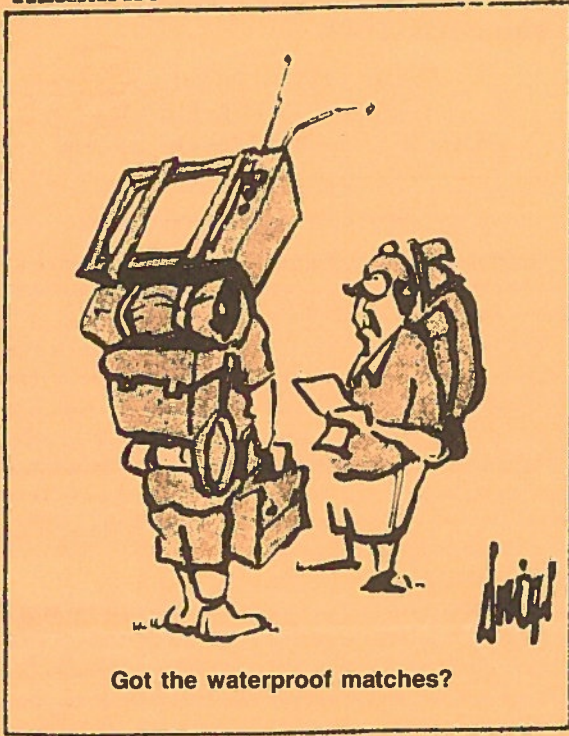
Not everyone is as enthusiastic about snow as Mr. Lee, Mr. Wouri and their colleagues. Michelin Tire Corp., with U.S. headquarters in Greenville, S.C., has tested 400 different tire designs at the institute. "A lot of engineers from the South were very eager to go and see snow," says Claude Beauregard, manager of vehicle performance testing. After a few days, though, "they were damn glad to leave."

The Japanese, Again

Like everything else these days, the institute is facing tough competition from Japan. According to Mr. Wouri, researchers at the University of Hokkaido's Institute of Low Temperature Science have devised an enclosed chamber that produces "real" snow. The snow isn't the frozen water-particle fluff that ski resorts turn out but true snow with all the physical properties of nature's own.

"We're still ahead of the Japanese," says Mr. Wouri. "But I tell you, their progress is breathtaking."

HERMAN



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