Snow Line
Vol. 11, No. 8
North Lake Tahoe-Truckee-Donner Summit
May 1991

NEXT GENERAL MEETING MONDAY, MAY 6, GRANLIBAKKEN RESORT, 7 p.m.

* The next, and last general meeting of the year will be May 6th at 7 p.m. Brian Teeple, the object of our March 23rd search off the back side of Sugar Bowl, will be on hand to talk about his experience and throw a little shindig for the Nordic Team. Everybody is encouraged to attend.

* Jeff Menzer, former TNSAR president, has contacted the Team and is asking for donations of any new, used (but still in good shape), or 2nd hand mountaineering equipment that he can pass on to the underequipped Bolivian Mtn. Rescue Team. Any hardware or software that you'd like to donate please bring to the May meeting or contact Randall (587-6237). Jeff and his climbing partners helped with a rescue a couple years ago while climbing in Bolivia and they are returning this summer to instruct the Bolivian rescue group, pass on some badly needed equipment, and do some climbing too.

* There is a training planned at Alpine Meadows to help TNSART members become more familiar with explosives. It is being planned for April 28th. Call Carl to confirm (587-4545).

* Rose Fallon, a local mtn. bike enthusiast, is looking for help with a couple upcoming bike races. Help is needed with 1st aid and course marshalling on June 16th and August 11th. Lunch, T-shirts, and water bottles could be your reward if you call Rose at 583-0641. The races help the Squaw Valley Athletic Assoc.

* JoJo Toeppner would like to extend a special THANK YOU to all Team members that helped put on the Spring Fling. A raging blizzard (and a search) kept the turnout to the dance light, but much fun was had all the same. And a little money raised for the Team, too.

"He's not in, but this fresh snowfall will make him easy to track."

* The Snow Lab on Donner Summit recorded better than 5.11 m of new snow for the month of March, 1.12 m of that falling on TNSART skiers as they searched behind Sugar Bowl Ski Area March 23rd and 24th. March 1991 becomes the snowiest March on record.

* TNSART boardmember Chauncy Parker placed 2nd in the Billy Dutton Uphill Ski Race held April 7th at Squaw Valley. Chauncy was reportedly only femtoseconds behind TNSART member John Cobourn who skated away with first place. Congratulations to John and Chauncy,
TIME VALUE

As mentioned above, the end of March was a busy time for TNSAR. Late in the afternoon of March 23rd a 41 year old male downhill skier was reported missing by his friend with whom he had spent the day skiing with at Sugar Bowl. A Sugar Bowl patrolman marked a set of ski tracks heading out of bounds near the Lincoln/Judah saddle while performing the end of the day sweep. Several hours and cm of new snow later, 8 TNSART skiers dropped off the back side of the ski area in an attempt to follow the now obliterated tracks, or pick up on any more recent clues below. Meanwhile, Anton "Scoop" Remenih was powering his Thiokol up the coldstream dirt roads that lay buried under enormous amounts of new snow. At about 3 a.m., after dealing with very unstable snowpacks and waist-deep trail breaking, the skiers found a set of tracks that eventually led to Brian Teeple, post-holing through the snow with skis in hand. Scoop fired several flares into the night to alert the skiers of his position. Shortly after, skiers and snow machine were united. An excellent effort by all involved.

Scoop’s transmission was hardly to cool before he was called out again to rescue two nordic skiers stranded by the storm several miles up the Miller Lake Jeep Trail. Two women had been skiing toward the Sierra Club's Ludlow Hut when they became overwhelmed by the new snow and had been reported overdue. It took Scoop many hours to coax his machine through the 8 miles of deeply buried road, but it paid off. About 1 mile from the Ludlow Hut he discovered the two women holed up in an old sheepherders’ cabin. They were hungry but safe, and darn glad to see the machine. On the route back out a fallen tree that had to be crossed managed to pierce the radiator of the machine and pull it to a grinding halt. Another snowcat was called in to tow out the injured cat, as were snowmobiles to ferry out the two skiers. Again, an outstanding effort.

On April 12th, Scoop returned to the Ludlow Hut this time laden with food, spirits, music, and several sun-worshiping skiers for an overnight of frolic on the now well-established pack of corn snow. I did notice though, at the bottom of all the gear, Scoop’s chainsaw, sharpened and ready to seek revenge on the tree that punched his Thiokol in the nose.