Next General Meeting is Monday, October 7, 1996, 6:00 pm at the Granlibakken Resort’s Ski Hut. You are requested to be there.

Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is a colorful collection of diverse individuals donating their talent and enthusiasm toward mountain rescue. The Team is an aggregate of many "committees" groups that focus on rescues locally and integrate those into the big picture. Education, equipment, dispatch, and training are but a few examples of Team committees. Don’t sit there gazing at your navel; come join the October 7 meeting — you are needed! Complimentary dinner and libations will be served at 6:00 pm. (Remember: Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is not about gloomy rescue stuff; it is fun, challenging, and extremely rewarding. See you October 7th.)

El Jefe
He’s soft-spoken and mild of manner; these attributes are but a pleasant facade concealing the energy of Gerald Rockwell. Gerald is the new director of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc. He succeeds Randall Osterhuber who resigned from the post after eight years.

Gerald has been a member of the Nordic Team for 15 years and is a veteran of many winter rescues. He brings to the group his experience of several seasons on the Team’s Board of Directors, an intimate knowledge of the Tahoe Sierra, and a myriad of backcountry skills. I’m telling you he be The Man.

Member of the Year
President Rockwell wasted no time in exercising his official duties. Peter Sporieder, the 1996 recipient of the highly coveted "Nordic Search and Rescue Team Member of the Year" award, was (even more) publicly honored by the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce in early June. Gerald presented (to) the who hands out awards is usually the boss) a special citation to Peter on behalf of the Nordic Team and the entire North Lake Tahoe community. Peter was the co-director of the Nordic Team’s training program and has proved invaluable on searches and Team fund raisers. Ride that wave, Peter! Congratulations!

She Did Not Kindle a Wildfire
Late at night on July 1st, the Nordic Team pages went off, summoning help. Placer County requested the Nordic Team’s assistance to look for a lost hiker last seen in Shirley Canyon. Five Team members responded and met at Squaw Valley under a clear and moony sky. Before they could hit the trail, however, Keith Jasco, a Squaw Valley Ski Corp employee, spotted a small campfire from his post atop Squaw’s High Camp. He hiked down to the blaze and found Diedre Racine (good job, Keith), the subject of the search. She was cold and scared but otherwise together. They hiked a few miles to the bottom of the Silverado (no spelling) chairlift, where Keith loaded it up. He and Diedre rode to the top. The Nordic Team hikers met them at High Camp and provided medical assistance and chaperoned Diedre back to the valley floor. It was 3:30 am. Nordic Team members participating were Randall Osterhuber, John Pang, Jeff Rieger, Dirk Schoonmaker, Scott Schroepfer, and Medora Weiser. Way to go all!

Tokyo vs Detroit
In 1982, during a nationwide campaign honoring worthy community service, Toyota of America came to the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue and asked if the Team wanted a truck. It was a big step back then to take on the responsibility of a vehicle. There were even a few on the Nordic Team who adamantly opposed the very notion of a truck. But we’re Nordic skiers — not Buddhists — we took possession. It did, of course, turn out to be a very positive step in the Nordic Team’s growth. The Team truck has played an important part in search and rescues for over 14 years, hauling mounds of equipment and even a skier or two. But like the mother who peels back the covers and finally sees how ugly her baby really is, we have at last outgrown that little Toyota four-banger. The Team has just purchased a used Ford F350, crew cab, long bed, pick-up truck. This new truck will haul gobs more stuff than the Toyota, plus six fully-clothed skiers. The rig is currently being outfitted with a utility bed, etc.

Not Snow Only
Starting January 25th of this year, and every last Thursday of the month thereafter, Gar Woods, of Carmelian Bay fame, has hosted a wine and food tasting with the Nordic Team as beneficiary. These have been very fun and very successful thanks to the energy and generosity of Tom Turner and all the Gar Woods crew. The October tasting — pairing chef-prepared dishes with a red and white wine — will be Thursday, October 24, 5:00 pm. Bring a best friend and show up early (sporting a fine tie) to enjoy the food, wine, and golden life of North Lake Tahoe. While you’re there, be sure to thank the Gar Woods crew for all they’ve done!

What did Team, chef and epicure extraordinaire Debra Schroepfer say to dinner for 500? No problem. And on this summer’s solstice she turned the Truckee-Tahoe Air Show pasta feed into a whirlwind of lasagna, melon, and nutty desserts. With Debra choreographing, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team prepared and served dinner to air show enthusiasts during this annual event. The Nordic Team received the proceeds from the feed. Kudos to the Truckee-Tahoe Air Show committee, Debra, and all who donated their precious volunteer muscle.

There’s more...
School’s In
At the end of September, Team members Dirk Schoonmaker, Randy Sharp, and Peter Sporleder will attend a four-day course on the fundamentals of search and rescue. Part of their tuition will be paid for by the Nordic Team. This course will draw on rescue experience from around the country and synthesize what works, what doesn’t, and why. Dirk, Randy, and Peter will give us a summary of the course at one of the Team general meetings.

Board Position Going On
Steve Twomey, a member of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue for a couple seasons now, is the newest member of the Nordic Team Board of Directors. Steve has been appointed to the position by the standing Board. He will sit on the Board for the remainder of Mary Cushing’s elected appointment. Mary resigned from her Board position rather unexpectedly early this summer.

Mary has been on the Board of Directors since May 1994, and held the post of Vice President during 1994 and 1995. She also chaired the Team’s dispatch committees for four years, 1991 through 1995. Thanks Mary for all your hard work; we hope to see you soon!

Info You’ll Want To Know
The following is a training sched’ for October, November, and December. It will be revised as necessary. The trainings listed will most likely involve many disciplines. Terrain familiarization, navigation, avalanche-terrain recognition, and first aid scenarios may all be encountered during any Nordic Team outing. Please travel prepared. Always feel free to call Dirk or Peter for additional details. Here goes:

October 12: Hike up Billy’s Peak. Meet at Nordic Team garage at 8:30 am.
October 19: Hike up Mt. Rose. Meet at the Nordic Team garage, 8:30 am.
November 3: Hike Squaw Valley to Donner Summit. Meet 8:30 am at the garage or 9:00 at the Squaw tram building.
November 9: Terrain familiarization around Diamond Peak ski area and Little Valley. Meet 8:00 am at the Nordic Team garage or 9:00 at Tahoe Meadows (off the Mt. Rose Highway).
November 11: Classroom map and compass. Meet 6:30 pm at Kings Beach Elementary School, Room 2.
November 16 or 17: Field orienteering. Location/time TBA.
December 19: Truck/equipment familiarization at the garage, 6:30 pm.

(The Nordic Team garage graces 223 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City, behind the Tahoe City Chevron.)

Though not an official Nordic Team training — but still worthy of mention — is an overnight trip to the Emerald Bay boat camp October 5/6. Motor, paddle, or sail. Please bring extra food for Joe and Randall, those nitwits never have enough.

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Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team Officers
President: Gerald Rockwell  583-5376
Vice President: Joe Pace  583-1806
Treasurer: Scott Schroepfer  564-2809
Secretary: Jackie Thomas  546-2592
Board Members:
- Dirk Schoonmaker  583-2959
- Steve Twomey  525-7280
- Chris Worcester  582-4648
- Medora Weiser  546-0647

Committee Chair:
Cuisine: Debra Schroepfer  546-2809
Dispatch: Madora Weiser  546-0647
Education: Mona Treat  581-5759
The Great Ski Race™: Doug Read  583-6881
Newsletter: Randall Osterhuber  587-3092
Snowcats: Tony Remenh  583-1684
Training:
- Dirk Schoonmaker  583-2959
- Peter Sporleder  546-0688
- Jean Wernetz  546-2283

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team garage
Tahoe City, CA 96145
All phone numbers area code (916).

Photograph scanned courtesy of Compass Art. Tahoe Vista, CA.

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The Great Ski Race™ • March 2, 1997 • 9:00 am, Sharp!

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