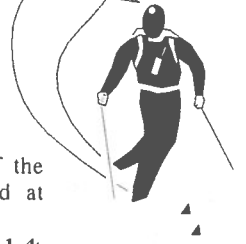


# SnowLine

The Official Newsletter of the

## Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

Lake Tahoe · Truckee · Donner Summit



These are the storm years for Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. The Team is fit, prepared, experienced. Ah, to be young and endowed and living on the shores of Lake

Tahoe! Endowed? Well, not quite. The naked truth is that Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team has no sugar daddy, trust fund, or dowry; there's no endowment, never has been. Does the Team get by on their good looks alone? you ask. Only every once in a while. More truth: Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team could not operate at its high level without cash money. We all know money walks and money talks; in our case it has to ski too. Occasionally, the dollars that support the life-saving efforts of the Team waft in unexpectedly, out of a generous sky, as private or public donations. And for these donations we thank our sponsors wholeheartedly. *Thank you, thank you, thank you.* Year-to-year though, most of the Team's funds come as proceeds raised by The Great Ski Race. And on special occasions Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team orchestrates or is the beneficiary of various fund-raising events. One such event approaches.

On Thursday, **November 12**, starting at 5:30 PM, Gar Woods Grill and Pier (Carnelian Bay) will host an evening of wine tasting and fancy hors d'oeuvres. We're not talking hooch and cheeseballs here: the Gar Woods' chefs will prepare some special treats and choice sweetmeats to compliment the featured wines. Chardonnays and Merlots will be poured by skilled servers in starched white shirts. Raffle prizes, many of which will be very much worth your while, are to be awarded throughout the night.

Snap yourself into some tack-sharp duds and come enjoy the fine wine, companionship, and a full-palate sunset.

While you're there, be sure to thank the Gar Woods staff and management for their generosity. Your \$10 donation at the door will benefit Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. Psst—If you'd like to help manage this affair, please show up at Gar Woods at 5:00 PM. Thanks.

### November Trainings

By far the easiest way to join Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is to attend the (following) Team training sessions. All that is required is an OES card (for insurance purposes; to sign-up, talk to the on-duty deputy at the Tahoe City Sheriff's station) and a bunch of enthusiasm. Nordic Team trainings are designed to be fun and informative: the result is camaraderie. The Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team garage is located at 223 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City, behind the Tahoe City Chevron.

**November 5:** Avalanche transceiver

7:30 AM or at the start of the Castle Valley dirt road at 8:15.

**November 14:**

Familiarization of the terrain about the Martis Peak/Rifle Peak area—we have searches here too. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM or the start of the dirt road up Martis Peak (Truckee side of Highway 267, just below the pass) at 8:00.

### Team Member Profile

If, from Carnelian Bay, you round Flick Point into Agate Bay, and ascend a few blocks, you'll come to the main office and corporate headquarters (HQ as they like to call it) of Let George Do It. (They're a busy bunch; call ahead to make an appointment.) Once you charm your way past the secretary, on the office wall you'll notice a collection of photographs. One is a flash-photo taken at night of a skier wearing a Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team parka. He's wearing a full pack too and has a headlamp wrapped around his parka hood. What catches your eye is that just about every square centimeter of the skier is encased in rime ice. Parka, goggles, face, leading edge of the nose, all rimed. The rocks in the background are rimed; the camera flash illuminates a sky dense with falling snow. The skier, of course, is Team Treasurer Scott Schroepfer.

A couple years ago, during a particularly powerful weather event, the Nordic Team was called out to search

for a skier missing from Sugar Bowl ski area. Scott Schroepfer, along with Rob Spencer and Jeff Rieger, drew the short straw and volunteered to search the Onion Creek side of Mt. Lincoln. This is not polite terrain. The



*Nordic Team member Scott Schroepfer approaches the summit of Wheeler Peak, Snake Range, Nevada. Photograph by Randall Osterhuber*

practice—before ski season. 5:00 PM at the Team garage.

**November 8:** Familiarization of the terrain surrounding Castle Peak—we have lots of searches here. Meet at the Team garage

*Next General Meeting is Monday, November 2, 1998, 7:00 p.m. at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut*

high end of the watershed is deeply incised by at least seven different drainages. Cul-de-sacs above granitic and volcanic cliff bands are everywhere, as are slopes levered way beyond their maximum angle of repose. Many long, narrow avalanche chutes split the cirque, the side-loaded starting zones hanging far above in the dark. Also, the Onion Creek side of the mountain faces SW, windward. During the full force of a winter cyclone, there exists little cover on this flank of the mountain. After a big storm, rime ice, in some places a meter and a half thick, sprains the peak's tortured hemlocks. Welcome to Rime Central. Scott, Rob, and Jeff put a full night into traversing this icest of a mountain, looking for clues to the lost guy's whereabouts. Route finding was a nightmare, avalanche danger extreme, the weather raging. They didn't reach the relative safety of the ski area boundary until well after sunrise the next morning. This route on that night remains one of the most severe any skiers from the Team have ever undertaken during a search. As it played out, the young man was found elsewhere; one of the few tangible conciliation prizes from the night is the photo on the wall in the office of Let George Do It.

(George, Scott Schroepfer's alter ego, heads the construction business Scott started many years ago. Scott's yellow work truck, the "George Mobile", is easily spotted everywhere around North Lake Tahoe. The original George Mobile, from 15 years back, was a two-wheel drive mini-truck sporting a home-made camper the size of a small condominium—the whole affair listing dangerously to starboard.)

Scott Schroepfer was raised under the early morning shadow of the southern Sierra in Visalia, California. Working the family farm as a youth, he tended everything from olives to oranges. After high school Scott split olive county, earned an entomology degree with water polo honors from UC Davis, then moved to the Sierra. Fit from telemarking the

backcountry and the slopes of Squaw Valley—all the while tom-cattling around with evidently nothing better to do—he joined Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. It was the early 1980s. Nordic ski boots were getting heavier, cat-eye Vuamets were in vogue, klister leaked in your leather-bottomed rucksack. Scott was there, on the cutting edge, taking unbelievably high-speed endos into the breakable crust with the best of 'em. In short order Scott became a lead searcher for the Team and was elected onto the Board of Directors. He quickly appointed himself as one of the Team's first 'quippies [not my word], i.e. *the man* when it came to assembling and maintaining the Team's newly acquired ski and high-angle rescue equipment. During the summers of '83 and '84, Scott could be seen daisy-chained to a Stokes litter, dangling from Star Wall, a young woman strapped into the basket—another "practice victim." The years shined by. Scott met a coiffeuse with mag wheels on her Volkswagen bug, and married her. Suddenly, Scott's hair was different. In 1989, hair looking good, Scott was elected as the Team Treasurer, the post he still holds today.

During his tenure, Scott has been involved in most every aspect of the Nordic Team. He's participated in countless search and rescues, vast numbers of training exercises, the Education Committee, umpteen Great Ski Races, eight board meetings per winter, plus handling the Team's finances. During the early 1990s, ~~George's~~ Scott's construction

## Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team Officers

President	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
Vice President	Joe Pace	583-1806
Treasurer	Scott Schroepfer	546-2809
Secretary	Jackie Thomas	587-2687
Board Members	Steve Matson	546-7968
	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Steve Twomey	525-7280
	Medora Weiser	583-2620

## Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroepfer	546-2809
Dispatch	Jackie Thomas	587-2687
Education	Whitney Foehl	583-8611
	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
The Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Snowcats	Tony Remenih	583-1684
Snowmobiles	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Training	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
Truck/Equipment	Russ Viehman	582-1695
Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team garage		581-4038
All phone numbers area code (530).		

talents were instrumental in getting the Nordic Team garage up and running.

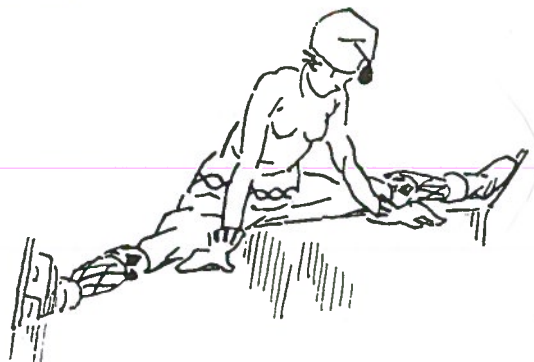
Team Treasurer—the only board position elected directly by the Board of Directors—is a big job. Scott writes hundreds of checks, handles bundles of receipts, manages all the Team's bank accounts and CDs, keeps accounting for every dime in and out of all the Team's committee funds, and handles the Team's monthly and annual bills. Whew! Since he became Treasurer, I can think of no one who has devoted more hours, day after day, season after season, toward Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team than Scott Schroepfer. Our hero! Thank you Scott!

Always the ladies' man, Scott lives in Agate Bay with no less than four women: wife Debra, and daughters Jefree Ann, Heidi May, and Bridgette Lee.

## Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc.

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