C ode it into your PDA: the next meeting of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is Monday night, February 5, 6:30 PM at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut. As of that night it will be less than four weeks until the 25th anniversary of The Great Ski Race™. Twenty-five years clearly constitutes a history, in fact, a whole generation. More than 100 skiers that finished the 2000 race were not even born when the first Great Ski Race start gun went off in 1977. Who was alive then? At least one I know of is long-time Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team member Don Ahlert, the only person to have skied in all the previous 24 Great Ski Races! (Some people just breathe a different oxygen.) Now, the four weeks until race day may seem like a long time, but brothers and sisters I promise you it will pass faster than a Las Vegas marriage. And there's much to be done. So as not to hoodwink all those eager skiers on race morning, we not only have to look good on race day, we have to marry those fabulous looks to the spit-fire take-action get-it-done reputation that Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team and The Great Ski Race have earned—I say earned—in the twentieth century and paste it right smack on the ruby reds of the twenty-first. I know what you're thinking... this guy's humpin' again from the eyestorm of a Dextrim binge and God save the pearly queen please don't make them sentences any longer! Ah, guess again, esteemed associate. My mellow-yellow countenance only wants one thing: to rally the troops.

As any cross country skier worth their weight in blue klister can tell you, The Great Ski Race is the largest cross-country ski race in the Western United States and is the main fund raising event for Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. The Great Ski Race operates almost entirely on volunteer juice. From timing and snow shoveling to bag stuffing and car parking, the race is a synthesis of community and Team members' unwavering altruism. The success of the race, and ultimately that of the Team, rests on you. If you're not yet involved with the race, please volunteer for one or several of the many tasks that need to be accomplished. There is a place for everyone within The Great Ski Race. The best way to move into action is to attend the Team meeting February 5. Much important stuff will be bantered about concerning the race, the Team—and beyond. February 5: it's a Monday with your name written all over it.

Know Snow

Wise council that they are, the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team Board of Directors prioritizes with aplomb. As custodians of the Team's financial assets, one of the most important Director responsibilities is spending that cashola wisely. What better way than to train their own; to nurse us skiers from the coddory nipple of machine gowned snow into the highly charged and seductive world of steep, backcountry snow. Snow safety—during trainings, search and rescues, and recreationally—is probably the single most compelling challenge we face day-to-day in the winter backcountry. Like picking road tools without a field guide, the consequences of a misstep can be dire. If you know of an avalanche course you'd like to take to further your snow safety education, it might be worth penning a letter to the Nordic Team Board of Directors and requesting sponsorship. Tell them your story, ask them for the Team's support.
Upcoming Trainings

Regardless of the activity, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team trainings have several objectives: to improve our backcountry search and rescue skills, build camaraderie (and therefore a better-functioning Team), and keep personal fitness and terrain familiarization high. Make sure you’ve signed up for an OES card before you attend any Team training, and please let the specific training organizer know you plan on attending. The times listed below are, theoretically, departure times. Training organizers love you the most when you show up on-time and prepared. If it’s pouring rain up to 11,000 feet and the winds are blowing dogs down the street, you might be wise to pass on Cliff Bar or two. Most trainings will happen when and where as listed, dependent, of course, on the training leader’s final decision.

The Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team garage is still located at 223 Fairway Drive in Tahoe City, behind the Chevron gas station.

**February 10:** A terrain familiarization and search-skill training. This ski tour will start from the Squaw Valley ski area but will leave the area tott-sweet and be off-piste the rest of the day. As this could be a long day, advanced ski skills are highly recommended. Call the Jeff Rieger hotline (916-769-5462) for more information. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM or in front of the tram building at Squaw at 8:00.

**February 11:** A day to practice downhill skiing (free-wheel or alpine touring gear only, please). This ski-day will be spent riding the lifts [yikes!] at Northstar-at-Tahoe. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM, or in the Northstar Village at 8:15. Pester Bob Wright (546-7273) or Cadie MacDonald (582-1843) for further particulars.

**February 17:** Nordic Team top dog Paul Honeywell (546-8609) will lead the Team on a ski of Jake’s Peak. Up and down. Since Jake’s has many route options, Paul encourages skiers of intermediate (or better, of course) skill to attend. Meet at the garage at 7:00 AM.

**February 25:** A get-fit for The Great Ski Race tour. Two-time Great Ski Race winner Holly Beattie (550-0885) and plunger Steve Matson (546-7968) are organizing this ski of the race course (30 km), or, as an alternative, a ski up to Starratt Pass (22 km round trip) — your option. Meet at the race finish line (Hilltop Lodge, Truckee) at 7:30 AM to carpool, or at Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area at 8:00. Do bring your fastest skis!

**March 31-April 1:** At the January Nordic Team meeting Team Director Karen Honeywell passed around a sign-up list for those interested in a two-day first aid class. There was great enthusiasm for the idea with over forty people putting their name on the list. Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is hiring two first aid instructors from the Wilderness Medicine Institute (an offshoot of NOLS) to teach the weekend course. The course will be both Saturday and Sunday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day, and will cover all aspects of wilderness first aid (the course, however, does not include CPR certification) with both intensive classroom and field work. The location of the class will be announced at future Nordic Team meetings and here in SnowLine. The class will be held somewhere around North Lake Tahoe. Class size is limited to the first thirty people. To reserve your spot, please send a check (made out to TNSAR) for $83, to Karen Honeywell, PO Box 368, Carnelian Bay, CA 96140. Upon completion of the course your money will be refunded to you by the Nordic Team. If you sign up and don’t complete the course, well, let me be the first to thank you for your tax-deductible donation to Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc (tax ID# 94-2737988).

Swimmingly,
—Randall Osterhuber

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Team Officers

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Vice President Steve Twomey 525-7280
Treasurer Scott Schroeper 546-2809
Secretary Terri Viegmann 582-1695
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                                Ray Offreen 581-4358
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Education Karen Honeywell 546-8609
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NewsLetter Randall Osterhuber 587-3092
Snowcats Scoop Remenih 583-1684
Snowmobiles Ray Offreen 581-4358
Training Paul Honeywell 546-8609

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IMPORTANT:

GREAT SKI RACE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

please keep us informed of your correct address!