



# SnowLine

The Official Newsletter of the  
**TAHOE NORDIC SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM, INC.**  
 Lake Tahoe • Truckee • Donner Summit

**H**oliday Greetings Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team! As always, but perhaps more than ever, we all have much to be thankful for. Many, all over the world, struggle day-to-day just to survive, while we in the United States have so much going for us. And perhaps nowhere in the United States is that more obvious than in the golden life here in California. And nowhere more in California than Lake Tahoe. And nowhere in Lake Tahoe more than North Lake Tahoe. Our friends, family, flora, and fauna all filling their little niches in this big terrain are never to be taken for granted, and always to be kept in awe. We gotta be thankful for this stellar autumn, the meteor showers at night, and that in the end, Joe Pace's head proved to be harder than any Truckee River Canyon rock. To celebrate all of this—and more—the next meeting of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is comin' at ya: **December 3** is the date, **6:30 PM** the time. Until then... Cheers!

## The Good Word

Howdy fellow Team members! As most of you know, I have finally been given some vacation time. Of course, this isn't what I had in mind. Never the less, I have been temporarily banned from what I like to call self-imposed adrenaline rushes, i.e. search and rescues. Although I hope to be back on the front lines in the near future, I will of course continue my official duties as President, taking returning calls, writing letters, sending faxes, attending meetings, and attending more meetings (just kidding). You can bet that I will be chomping at the bit when that pager goes off.

Recently, this Team has demonstrated to me what Team-effort is really all about. One could define Team-effort as coming together each month from October - May to socialize and dispose of some fine spirits. You could interpret Team-effort as meeting for an informative training and assisting the not so skilled teammate in the lesson of the day. Team-effort is hosting, organizing and dealing with the logistics of the largest Nordic ski race in the west. Team-effort is answering the call of the fourth grade students eagerly wanting to know "What are the 3 W's?" Most certainly, Team-effort is responding to that 2 AM phone call from dispatch announcing "We have a search."

The obvious essential elements this Team needs to function are experience, knowledge, and dedication to name a few. There are also certain underlying key elements that come from the heart that give us the real reason for

our efforts: concern, caring and unselfishness.

You are all dedicated volunteers who could be occupying your valuable time any number of ways, but you choose to come together as a Team and offer a slice of your time to assist the community.

I will never be able to thank this Team enough for the energy, time and effort that resulted in the aid of my rescue and the success of the Cross Country Classic Benefit Golf Tournament. Another job well done by the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, a true Team-effort.

—Joe Pace alias "Cranium"

?

Past Nordic Team President (and Joe's brother-in-law (keeping it all in the family here)) Gerald Rockwell sips some vino and sends along these words to you...

Have you ever read the book titled The



Nordic Team Directors Russ Viehmann and Doug Read, and the good Earth, November 12, 2000.  
 Photograph by Randall Osterhuber

**Ne xt General Meeting is Monday, December 3, 2001, 6:30 pm at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut**



River Why?? *The title comes from a meander in the river shaped like a question mark. It could just as well been called The River How? or The River What? But that would not have fit the general theme of the book. I was having dinner with Joe the other night all the while pondering his scar. If you haven't noticed it is shaped like a question mark. I pondered his scar and thought about the book...thought about the book and pondered his scar. "What is the connection?", I thought. My first inspiration was "Why me?" I did not like the negative connotations of this so I continued to think (can you smell the smoke?). After several glasses of wine and much deliberation I decided "Why not?" would be the best title for his scar. Why? Because now when someone asks Joe something like "Are you going to ski this winter?", or "Will you be able to ride your bike?", he can smile smugly and point to his scar.*

## December Trainings

Here's the list of upcoming Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team trainings. Remember to have signed up for an OES card before you attend a Team training, and call the training organizer to let them know you will attend.

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

**December 1:** Peter Sporleder (546-0588) will lead an all-day hike (or ski, snow dependent) from Incline Lake to Martis Peak. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM.

**December 4:** Jonathan Lane and Paul Cushing (581-4354) will teach wilderness first aid skills tonight, starting 6:00 PM at the Kings Beach firehouse. Jonathan is an ER physician and Paul an ER nurse, and both of them backcountry skiers and climbers. This will be an informative evening of real-world skills you'll want to have.

**December 7:** Bernie Mellor (546-3328) will lead a night descent/exploration of the back side of Sugar Bowl ski area on Donner Summit. Since we have many searches

originating from Sugar Bowl, and they all tend to be at night, this is an important training exercise for the Team. Meet at the Team garage at 6:00 PM or at Wild Cherries Coffee House in Truckee at 6:30.

**December 15:** Doug Read (583-6381) will run an all-day mock search in the Deep Creek and Pole Creek area. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM.

**December 16:** Peter Sporleder (546-0588) and Cadie MacDonald (582-1843) will lead a beginner's telemark ski clinic at Northstar. Meet at the Team garage at 8:00 AM or at the Village at Northstar at 8:30.

**December 22:** Paul Honeywell (546-8609) leads a ski of Desolation Wilderness's Mt. Tallac. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM.

Many of the preceding trainings are dependent on skiable snow. If in doubt, call the training organizer to confirm.

## York Honored

Nordic Team member and Placer County dispatcher Brian York was honored with a Distinguished Service Commendation at a law enforcement award ceremony November 8. The award was given for Brian's heads-up work during a search for a lost woman last February 14 (see the March 2001 issue of *SnowLine*). During the search, Brian, speaking to the lost woman on her cell phone, was able to near pin-point her location and transmitted that information to a CHP aircraft who later located her. Brian's acute knowledge of the terrain brought a safe and speedy conclusion to the search and rescue. We're lucky to have Brian as part of the search and rescue community!

Peace and love, people, *peace and love*,  
—Randall Osterhuber

number of search and  
rescues so far this  
season:

# 1

## Team Officers

President	Joe Pace	583-1806
Vice President	Steve Twomey	525-7280
Treasurer	Scott Schroeffer	546-2809
Secretary	Terri Viehmann	582-1695
Board Members	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
	Randy Sharp	587-2877
	Russ Viehmann	582-1695
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Directors-at-large	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376

## Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroeffer	546-2809
Dispatch	Jackie Thomas	587-2687
Education	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
Equipment	Russ Viehmann	582-1695
Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Snowcats	Scoop Remenih	583-1684
Snowmobiles	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Training	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238

All phone numbers area code (530).

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