



# SnowLine

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

**S**quaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, and Sugar Bowl are all open—top to bottom. That means lots more visitors in rustless SUVs, glowing like newlyweds after a day on the "slopes" (as they say). As a business, of sorts, it's hard for Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team Incorporated not to view the opening of the ski areas as an increase in our potential customer base. They may be young, they may be old, but our gnosis: They're going to be lost. To be part of the controlled side of the equation, make sure you attend the next meeting of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team (Incorporated): Monday night, December 2, 6:30 PM at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut.

trying to listen—while youngsters are chewing on his kneecaps and doing the hokey-pokey across the front of the room, let me tell you how much I appreciate and respect couples on the Team who don't let parenthood interrupt their volunteer spirit. Being a Team member in a busy family means bringing children to the monthly meetings.

So there you have it. Up for discussion. But before you slash my tires, my wife Lena has offered a solution. She comes to the meetings for the people (not necessarily the Team business), and has volunteered to set up a little daycare area behind the lunch counter in the Ski Hut. Bring your kids and their favorite toys, diapers, leash and chokechain,

and Lena has agreed to watch and entertain them with Russian jokes. Call (581-9156) if you think it's a good idea or have any suggestions.

—Uncle Tony and Aunt Lena

## Trainings

Once again the Team training docket is full. So put a spit-shine on your plastic ski boots, hone your edges, and escape to one of the following Nordic Team events for the day. Make sure you've signed on for an OES card, and call the training organizer to let them know you'll be attending.

All Team trainings are open to all Team

## Inbox

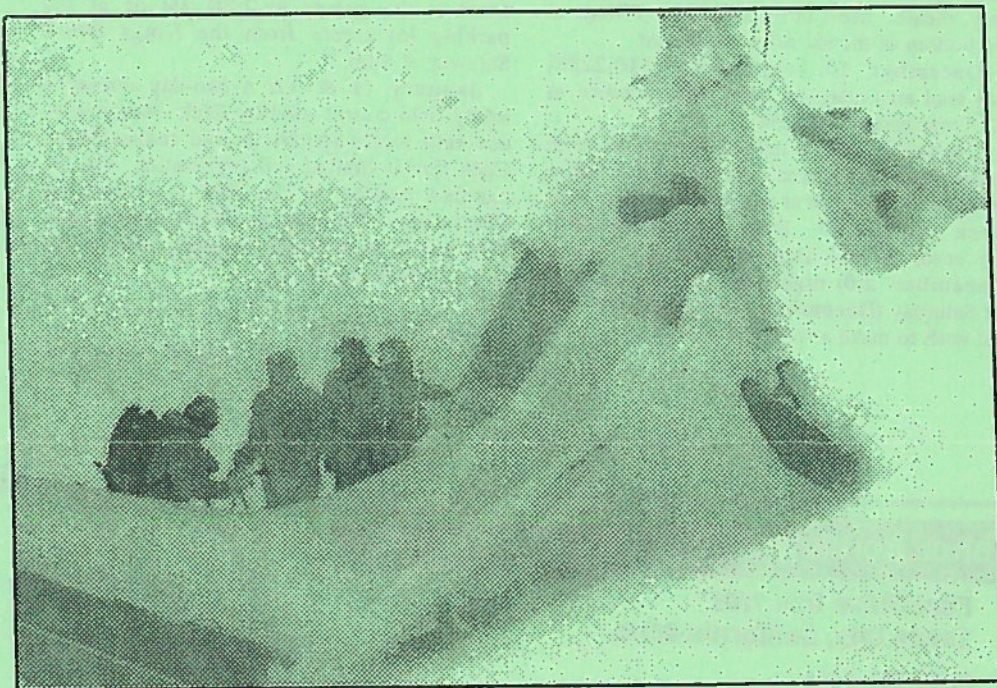
Every day of the year, in enthusiastic anticipation, I go out and check the *SnowLine* mailbox. And every day my happy face drops like a bowling pin when I find the mailbox empty—again. But today, EUREKA! A letter to you all from our roving Soda Springs correspondent Tony Bochenec...

I must say it's a wonderful thing to watch Team members fall in love, get married, and immediately begin to produce miniature Team members. Aside from that warm, fuzzy, family feeling, during today's uncertain times it's comforting to know that if we were all forced into underground hiding, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team would probably get into reproduction with a vengeance, and consequently emerge stronger, or at the very least, more populous than before.

I'm not being sarcastic here. Really. Just because my wife and I choose not to dive headfirst into the murky pond of parenthood doesn't mean we don't like children, or appreciate their presence. Quite the contrary, we both love children. Especially if it's someone else who has to clothe and feed them.

Be patient, I'm working up to a point here but it's a delicate issue and must be handled tactfully. Aw, hell, I've never been tactful in the past so why should I tarnish my image now. Let's get right to it. It's about bringing young children to the monthly meetings.

But before we talk about a guest speaker trying to be heard—and a room full of people



19 years ago this month: Alison Barnes, Tod Lloyd, Chris Burnett, and Doug Read, central Nevada.

On Christmas Eve, 1983, the Nordic Team was called to help look for a missing aircraft, presumed downed in a powerful snow storm that had raked the West. The Team responded, driving all night to Pershing County, Nevada across an Interstate 80 slick as a hockey rink. After being towed behind a rancher's Tucker Sno-Cat through the lower sage slopes of the remote East Humboldt Range, we unfolded our ELT finder (made from scrap 1 x 2 and powered by a corroding 9-volt battery). The antennae picked up a faint signal.

Following the signal—skiing and climbing most the day—we finally located the aircraft on the steepest slope of the highest peak in the range at the head of Prince Royal Canyon. This was a spooky scene: the storm starting to re-rage, deep gullies below the aircraft packed with meters of avalanche debris, powder snow swirling through the plane's broken windows. There were no survivors. We descended and were treated to a Christmas spaghetti dinner in Inlay, Nevada.

Photograph by Randall Osterhuber

**Next General Meeting is Monday, December 2, 2002, 6:30 pm at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut**



members but be cognizant of the fact that some events may be more physically rigorous than others. The skiing skills necessary are to a great extent determined by the terrain and snow conditions. Call the training organizer with your questions.

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

**November 24:** A ski (most likely) up Martis Peak. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM or the top of Highway 267 at 8:15. Jim Rienstra (546-7188) is the contact for this one.

**December 7 & 8:** The Nordic Team is hiring NOLS first aid instructors to teach this 16-hour Wilderness First Responder course. It will be held at the Squaw Valley Fire Station, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, both days. There will be classroom as well as practice sessions in the field, so bring appropriate clothing for the on-snow exercises. Class size is limited to 30. To register, send a \$90 check made out to TNSAR, to Karen Honeywell (PO Box 368, Camelian Bay, CA 96140, phone 546-8609). Once you complete the course, your 90 bucks will be refunded to you. If you're a no-show, you've just donated \$90 to Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. That's a win-win situation!

**December 15:** Jonathan Laine (582-9466) and Northstar-at-Tahoe will host a day of ski practice. Backcountry ski equipment only, please. Meet in the Northstar Village at the bottom of the ski runs at 8:00 AM.

**December 17:** Bernie Mellor (546-2238) will lead an avalanche transceiver practice at the Team garage, 6:30 PM.

**December 21:** A mock search in the Pole Creek/Deep Creek area. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM or at the bottom of the Pole Creek road at 8:00. Doug Read (583-6381) has reserved the Bradley Hut for Friday (December 20) night and the Benson Hut for Saturday (December 21) night for any that wish to make a weekend of it.



**December 28:** Jeff Rieger (916-769-5462) will lead an all-day ski tour somewhere above the West Shore. Meet at the garage at 7:30 AM.

**January 4:** A training up in the Mt. Rose area. What we'll do or where we'll go is to be determined by Gerald Rockwell (583-5376). Meet at the garage at 7:30 AM or at the parking lot across from the Kings Beach Safeway at 8:00.

**January 11 & 12:** A two-day avalanche safety field course—led by Dick Penniman—covering topics specific to our rescue Team. Class size is limited and registration will be handled similar to the first aid class of December 7/8 (above). More information TBA at the next Team meeting and in the January 2003 *SnowLine*.

Happy Holidays!

—Randall Osterhuber

## Team Officers

President	Steve Twomey	525-7280
Vice President	Russ Viehmann	525-6978
Treasurer	Scott Schroeffer	546-2809
Secretary	Terri Viehmann	525-6978
Board Members	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Directors-at-large	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Randy Sharp	587-2877
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
	Joe Pace	583-1806
	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	525-6978
Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
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	Scoop Remenih	583-1684
	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
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Website		
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please keep us informed of your correct address!