



SnowLine

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

You can only but delay the inevitable. As autumn sends pine needles falling, and Lake Tahoe leans farther and farther from the sun, the fate of California's governor becomes a barnacle we can no longer ignore. For those of us on the Pacific side of the Lake, sooner or later we'll have to decide: Do I vote for the Sumo wrestler or the meat packer, the porn actress or the cigarette broker? With a ballot line-up that reads like a Who's Who of Burning Man, electoral interest soon gives way to amusement which slowly flushes to embarrassment. But be proud! Californian or not, there's always another chance to hold your chin high without fear of taking one in the political kisser. That chance comes from attending the first meeting of the season for Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc., Monday night, October 6, 6:00 PM at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut in Tahoe City. Last season was a banner year for the Nordic Team*, and because of you this season promises the same. There will be plenty of talent in the room on October 6, but always room for plenty more. Please come join Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team!

From The Pres

As we approach the 28th season for the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, I realize that this will be my 10th year with the Team. Fatherhood and marriage aside, my involvement with TNSAR is one of the most fulfilling things I do. I often wonder about my personal motivation for this line of volunteer work, as well as what brings others to the Team.

Each Team member has their own set of motivations, all of which are equally valid. Some members are truly altruistic, simply responding to a call for help from a stranger. Others are driven by a love of the mountains. Still others are involved as a means of feeding their ego. This isn't as bad as it sounds. What we do is very cool, and always makes for great conversation with out-of-town guests.

*For me, I think my greatest satisfaction comes from operating as a part of this Team. The searches which stand out for me are the ones where we are stretched to the limits, but the strength of the Team comes through. *Last season we searched for seven snowboarders, two hikers, five skiers, three snowshoers, one Alzheimer's patient, four snowmobilers, a German, and a Brit on a bike. TNSAR brought to the field a detailed knowledge of the terrain, navigation skills, advanced medical training, communications, and the experience to put it all to work. Of course, most of this happens between midnight and 6:00 AM, in a blizzard.*

So right now you are thinking "What's your point Steve?" Well it's this. GET READY. Get in shape (or stay in shape). Get

six months. The strength of the Team is the combined strength of the members, and the better physically and technically prepared you are, the stronger the Team.

—Steve Twomey

The Team Responds

Better safe than sorry. The conscience of a Paige Meadows mountain biker got the best of him on August 31.

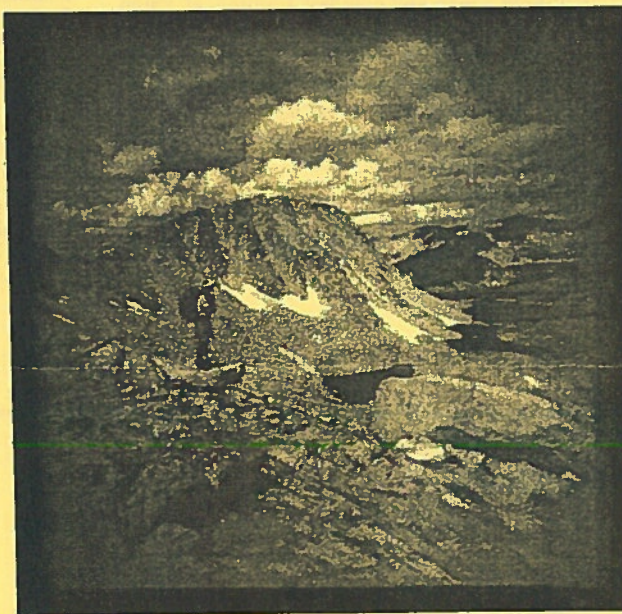
A bike rider with good intentions, albeit somewhat turned around, advised a couple young women—who were also lost in Paige Meadows—on which way to ride out. After they parted, the counselor realized he had given out bogus information. Later that evening he called Placer County dispatch and relayed the story. Prudently, the sheriff decided to call out a hasty search of the meadows. Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team was dispatched at 9:45 PM.

Six Team searchers responded and combed the meadows on their mountain bikes. No lost women were found (and none ever formally reported missing), but it was a nice night to be in the mountains. The outing wrapped up just after midnight. This was the Team's first callout of the 2003/2004 search season.

Milestone

Our mountain community—and many communities far and wide—suffered a great loss this year with the death of Cliff Frazier.

Many years ago, at the end of a search near the Ludlow Hut, a bunch of us skiers were greeted by three Team snowmobilers as we topped out from the Rubicon Canyon. The lost guy had shown up elsewhere, so we really hadn't done much, just skied around in the dark for a while. But there was this barrel-chested snowmobiler wearing a heavy wool-plaid coat shaking our hands offering up "Good job! Good job!" I didn't know the guy but he addressed me by name. I asked Doug (Read) who he was. "That's Cliff Frazier. He's one of the old-timer



Team member Paul Cushing surveys the Sierra from the edge of the Humphrey's Basin.

Photograph by Randall Osterhuber

on your bike and log some miles. Check out the Wilderness First Responder textbook and bone up on patient care. Take a GPS for a hike and figure out what all those buttons do. Run some trails. Clear your calendar for the next

Next General Meeting is Monday, October 6, 2003, 6:00 pm at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut

Tahoe guys." When Doug says something like that, you get to know what he means.

Cliff had been plying the mountains of the Sierra—and many parts of the West—since he was a young boy, as a hunter, fisherman, hiker, skier, and consummate outdoorsman. Cliff's explorations of the Sierra Nevada were long before Gore-Tex, pocket GPS receivers, or Tahoe Rim Trails. He lived and worked in the Tahoe Basin since the 1950s, including teaching in the Tahoe Truckee School District. Among his many students, Cliff was a teacher, coach, and mentor to Team member Colleen Connors Pace. Cliff became an active member of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team in the 1980s. After driving a snowmobile on several searches, he started participating on Team backcountry ski trips, honing his telemark skills next to guys a fraction of his age. A long-time participant in The Great Ski Race, Cliff logged a lot of miles on the skinny skis too. Whenever you'd run into Cliff he always shook your hand, he always said something positive.

The standing-room-only crowd at Cliff's memorial service was evidence to the amount of people he influenced during his life. Family members and old friends had countless stories of Cliff's (mis)adventures, friendship, and commitment to community. These stories were eclipsed only by those of his commitment to his family. He is survived by three kids, and his wife of 49 years, Sally (Sally is the author of the Hug-a-Tree curriculum). Universally described as a man of compassion, strength, and great character, Cliff died of cancer on June 14. He was 71 years old.

Team Trainings

Once again, Team members Paul Honeywell and Bernie Mellor will be heading the Team's Training Committee. Paul and Bernie are always looking for people to lead a training. If you have an idea for either a classroom or field outing, please contact one of them.

The purpose of Team trainings are twofold: to hone each individual's backcountry skills and to build camaraderie and consensus between the Team members. All that is required to participate on a Team training is a valid OES card. Signing up with the Office of Emergency Services assures medical insurance during "official" Team functions such as trainings or search and rescues. Applying for a card is pretty painless (requiring nothing much more than name, rank, serial number). Information on obtaining a valid OES card will be available at the first Team meeting, **October 6.**

Here is the training schedule for the next month or so. If you think you'd like to participate, it is always good manners to call the training organizer beforehand. Please come prepared, too.

October 9: Tonight's your chance to get familiar with the Team's truck and equipment. You'll get to know where everything is, and how it functions. Also a good opportunity to fine-tune the Team's gear before snowfall. **Jim Coffey (583-1276)** is the organizer. Meet at the Team garage (223 Fairway Drive, behind the Tahoe City Chevron), 6:00 PM.

October 12: Steve Twomey (525-7280) will lead a hike from Powderhorn Creek to the Five Lakes Basin. This hike will go through terrain in which we have conducted countless search and rescue operations. This is a great occasion to see and learn the topography during the well-lit portion of the day. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM.

October 18: Derek Wilson (525-5594) will hold a map and compass training at Paige Meadows. It's very, very bad style to navigate in the mountains with just a GPS receiver. Even in this digital age, the analog map and magnetic compass remain the standards of navigation. Especially when your GPS batteries go south. Meet at the Team garage at 9:00 AM.

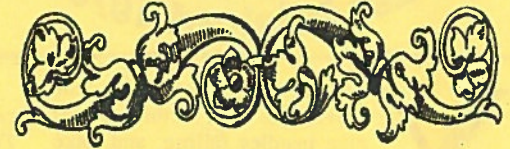
October 25: Karen Honeywell (546-8609) will lead a hike from Alpine Meadows

to Squaw Valley via Five Lakes and Granite Chief. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM.

November 2: Call Jim Rienstra (546-7188) to find out what's on the docket for this training up in the Mt. Rose area. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM, or the Kings Beach Safeway at 7:30. (If construction on the Beach Center is completed (across from Safeway) by Nov. 2, please park and meet there.)

Considering the Sumo guy...

—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
	Sarah Lagano	775-745-7037
	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
Directors-at-large	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
	Joe Pace	583-1806
	Doug 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™	Doug Read	583-6381
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Snowcats	Scoop Remenih	583-1684
Snowmobiles	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Technology	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
Training	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
Website	Peter Sporleder	546-0588
All phone numbers area code (530) unless otherwise noted.		

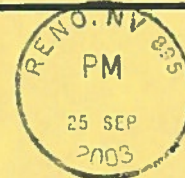
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**FIRST MEETING
OF THE SEASON:
OCTOBER 6!**



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please keep us informed of your correct address!