Grand Finale  The year end TNSAR team meeting is coming up, Monday, May 7th. We will meet at the Granlibakken Hut at 6:00pm for cocktails and dinner. Thanks to Debra Schroepfer in advance. The general meeting will follow dinner.

Campaign 2007  Team candidates for Board and Officer positions will be kissing babies and shaking hands prior to the general Team meeting. Candidates will give impromptu stump speeches and sign autographs prior to the official elections. Over-ripe tomatoes, decomposing heads of lettuce, and fruit fly laden bananas will be provided for your tossing pleasure. We are still working on the peanut butter filled dunk tank. Please stay tuned. Actually, in all (or at least partial) seriousness, the end of year Board and Officer elections are an important aspect of the Team’s function. As an incorporated, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we are dependent on Team Officers and Board members to guide, oversee, and regulate the Team’s activities. Not the least of which is fundraising. Our non-profit status allows us to seek and accept tax deductible monies. Legally speaking, we must catapult our collective self through a series of hoops to maintain our 501(c)(3) status with the State of California and the Internal Revenue Service. By proxy, the Board and Officers do the Team’s collective gymnastics to get through those hoops. It may seem all pomp and circumstance to outsiders, newcomers, or those unfamiliar with Federal tax codes, but our fearless leaders really do work for the Team in addition to slogging through creeks in the middle of the night and swilling adult beverages at monthly meetings. To date all Team Officers are running unchallenged, so now is your time to write yourself in as a candidate and get up there on that stump. Or not. Sarah Lagano will be stepping down from her Board position and Mark Johnson is up for re-election. So far Mark, Peter York, Jimmy Smith, and Jim Coffey are vying for those coveted two Board positions (Paul Honeywell and Jonathan Laine have only served one of their two years but will be up for re-election this time next year for those of you planning ahead). So get out and vote and be sure to thank our elected officials for volunteering to do this extracurricular work for the sake of the Team.

Though I don’t know why I’ve lately been drawn to the obituaries. Perhaps it’s a sign of the times or a sign of times to come. Regardless, my heart gets heavier with each passing. This year we have suffered some incredible losses. Edna Obexer, Alice Standteiner, Dorothy Mercer. All legendary in their own unique way, all indelibly carved into their own piece of Tahoe’s history, all gone forever from this life. This is so unbelievably sad for me, and I can’t exactly say why. Maybe it’s because I never really got the chance to “have” a Grandmother. My Grandmother Alice died when my Mother was only four. My Dad’s mom died before I was one. Maybe it’s because I’m watching my daughter Anna grow up with her Grandmother and I’m empathetically grieving for the day when Anna has to suffer the loss of a Grandmother. Maybe it’s because death is just so damn permanent and I can’t help but think of what we’ve missed. With each new entry in the obituary column, I’m painfully reminded of lost opportunities. Several years ago when TNSAR was working on the Winter Aware video with filmmaker Elizabeth Rogers, Elizabeth and I daydreamed about having enough time and money to go around and film and record all the remaining Tahoe legends, the elders, the men and women who came to Tahoe in the “old days.” The premise was simple: travel around Tahoe and interview and film the old-timers. Record at least some of their stories, ask them questions and take what they know, what they have seen, and what they hope for and turn it into some kind of curriculum for Tahoe’s future. We thought, “...wouldn’t it be cool to walk into the Gatekeeper’s Museum and be able to hear real stories of the winter of ’52, watch the facial expressions, the gestures, see the emotions of the people who helped shaped the place we call home?...” Think of what we could learn! And then we listed all the people who were already dead, all the people that we already missed, all the stories, the lessons, the hopes and fears that were already beyond our reach. And now I’m reminded again. It is such a painful loss.

Humor is the best medicine  Reader’s Digest said it so it must be true. Actually I believe there is clinical evidence that humor does play a major role in healing ailments of all sorts, including depressing newsletters about death. In 1979 Norman Cousins wrote a book called Anatomy of an Illness as Perceived by the Patient and it told the story of how active participation in one’s illness can in and of itself be healing. Humor, according to Cousins, plays a major role in the restoration of one’s health. More recently, and more apropos for TNSAR, Laurence Gonzales wrote a book called Deep Survival: who lives, who dies, and why. Gonzales also points out that humor, especially so-called black humor, is pivotal for maintaining sanity during insane survival ordeals. Indeed, Gonzales argues that humor is one of the key ingredients to tip the balance away from catastrophe and toward survival. Deep Survival thoroughly examines the makeup of disasters and identifies key components of survival ordeals. He really does explain who lives, who dies, and why. While reading this book, I constantly found myself deconstructing past searches and finding all kinds of relevant information that was consistent for multiple search situations. I highly recommend this book for your summer reading schedule. You won’t see it on Oprah’s list and that’s a good thing.

 MOTY

One of my favorite elections at the end of the year. Who will be Member of the Year for the 2006-2007 season? Neck and neck and neck and neck we have Holly Beatie, Jimmy Smith, Dave Fenimore, and the dynamic duo of Doug Read and Dirk Schoonmaker. You won’t know if you don’t show up at the end of year soirée. See you there! And thanks to all for another great search and rescue season.

Looking forward to my farmer’s tan

---B. Wright

Team Officers
President  Russ Viehmann  525-6978
Vice President  Brian York  583-0465
Treasurer  Scott Schroepfer  584-2809
Secretary  Pam LeFrancis  586-7393
Board Members  Paul Honeywell  584-8609
Mark Johnson  583-1308
Sarah Lagano  775-745-7037
Jonathan Laine  582-9466
Directors-at-large  Randall Osterhuber  546-4491
Joe Pace  583-1806
Doug Read  583-6381
Gerald Rockwell  583-5376
Steve Twomey  525-7280

Chairman Committees
Cuisine  Debra Schroepfer  546-7809
Dispatch  Jackie Thomas  587-2687
Education  Jim Coffey  583-1276
Equipment  Brian York  583-0465
Great Ski Race  Doug Read  583-6381
Dirk Schoonmaker  583-2929
Newsletter  Bob Wright  546-7273
Snowcats  Scoop Remenh  583-1684
Snowmobiles  TJ Slede  308-2530
Technology  Gerald Rockwell  583-5376
Training  Bernie Mellor  546-2238
Truck  Peter York  583-0465
Website  Mark Johnson  583-1308
The 2006-2007 Year End Team meeting is Monday, May 7th, 6:30pm, at the Granlibakken ski hut.