

Grand Finale The year end TNSAR team meeting is coming up, Monday, May 7th. We will meet at the Grantbakken 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 season. 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 soiree. 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	546-2809
Secretary	Pam LeFrancois	546-7393
Board Members	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
	Mark Johnson	583-1308
	Sarah Lagano	775-745-7037
Directors-at-large	Jonathan Laine	582-9466
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
	Joe Pace	583-1806
	Doug Read	583-6381
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
	Steve Twomey	525-7280

Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroepfer	546-2809
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 Remenih	583-1684
Snowmobiles	TJ Sledneck	308-2530
Technology	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
Training	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
Truck	Peter York	583-0465
Website	Mark Johnson	583-1308

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6:00!

The 2006-2007 Year End Team meeting is Monday, May 7th, ~~6:30pm~~,
at the Granlibakken ski hut.

May 2007



SnowLine

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

Upcoming May Trainings SUNDAY, May 6th, 9am.

Believe it or not, it is time again to service our equipment, clean out the garage, and tidy up whatever needs tidying in the truck and at the bottom of your search packs. After such a busy search season there will be plenty to do. Actually, some of that is true. There will plenty to do so please mark your calendars and plan on spending the day at the garage. Work will begin at 9:00am and lunch will follow, probably around 9:15 or so.

Also, please please please check your search packs, glove boxes, behind the seat of your truck, laundry hamper back forty of the closet etc. and round up all spare batteries, cliff rars, GPS units, flare guns, MRE's, and other such search things that belong in the truck. We need to do equipment inventories and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Please note: occasionally we do sponsor summer trainings, so keep an eye on your email for possible upcoming summer trainings.

And remember, keep the batteries in your pagers charged....

**Bristlecone photo on the following page
by John Ditti**