

Belly Up to the hut for the next general meeting of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. The upcoming meeting is Monday, January 7th at 6:30pm. Granlibakken. Be There!

H.G. Wells once said, "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe." Many of you probably didn't know that Mr. Wells was a founding member of TNSAR. Well clearly he was. How else could he have so eloquently described TNSAR's unrelenting quest to teach crucial winter survival skills to local 4th graders? By the way, he was never seen on randonee gear, he always dropped a knee. But that's beside the point. The crux of the matter is that now is the time to start gearing up for the 2008



Winter Wilderness Survival program for our local 4th graders. This is a favorite time of the season for many TNSAR members because Placer County Sheriffs office buys us breakfast before each school program AND we get to visit our local schools and teach 4th graders real-life, hands-on, time-tested survival skills. This isn't true or false text book regurgitation. This is HD TNSAR. This is grab some tree boughs, ski poles, snowboard, and plastic garbage bags and build me a shelter! Blow that whistle! Louder! This is tangible stuff that kids get to go outside and practice on their school grounds. This is participatory sensory stimulation designed to save lives. This is your chance to help our local kids stay ahead in that race against catastrophe. Let us do old Herbert George proud. Sign up, save a life. I see bumper stickers....And many thanks to Sara and Dave for stepping up and taking over this year's education efforts. They were the first to sign up and deserve seconds at the breakfast table.

IPODitis

I am afraid that there may be a new backcountry affliction that is on its way to becoming a terrifying epidemic. It's that dastardly IPOD. No matter where you look,

there they are. Especially loud and conveniently stuffed into ski helmets, hats, sunglasses, there are even backpacks with IPOD speakers tucked into the shoulder straps. I sure hope Apple is not sponsoring the Great Ski Race this year....Now I'm all for rampant, unadulterated capitalism and shameless consumer therapy (it is Christmas, after all) but I am going to have to draw the line here. The backcountry is no place for an IPOD. I'm serious. Quick, run to the bookshelf and grab your copy of Snowsense. Turn to page 46 and review the Bull's-eye

"Oh, dear! Oh, dear!

I cannot hear.

Will you please

come over near?

Will you please look in my ear?

There must be something there, I
fear."

From Dr. Seuss'

One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish

Clues To Instability in a snowpack: **WHUMPING NOISES** and **HOLLOW SOUNDS**. How the !&@%# are you going to hear those Bull's-Eye Clues when Eddie Vedder is screaming in your ear? Sorry Ed, nothing personal. Traveling in the wintertime backcountry requires *all* of one's senses, not just four of them. It is bad enough at a crowded ski resort, "...on your left Terd Brain! On your left, I said!" But it could be deadly in the backcountry, "...Dude, did you hear that? It sounded like the snowpack just gave way. Dude? Dude?" I'm not...what do the kids say these days...dissing...the IPOD/MP3 world takeover, I own one for cryin' out loud (it was a gift). And there is nothing better than snapping into my skate skis and blasting Gloria Estefan while I burn orange klister around the nordic center. But do me a favor, do yourselves and your ski buddies a favor, leave the dern thing at home when you ski in the backcountry. What glorious silence!

AVI-I January 11-13. Did you sign up? Remember what I said last month about space being limited? Brian York is organizing an Avalanche I course the second weekend in January. The course will be taught by Lel Tone, one of Squaw Valley Ski Patrol's avalanche forecasters. The class size is absolutely positively limited to 12 participants. If you haven't done so already, call Brian and sign up (583-0465). There is a \$100 pseudo charge for the course. You need to reserve your spot by signing over a \$100 check to TNSAR. When you show up the first day, TNSAR will rip up your check. If you don't show up, TNSAR will deposit your check. Thanks for donating! Seriously, this is a great course for newcomers or oldtimers in need of a refresher. Practice what you preach. Don't forget your beacon, shovel, and probe. Friday, January 11th will be classroom lecture at the TCPUD building across from the garage. Saturday and

Sunday (12th and 13th) will be in the field and in the snow. Thank your local snow god. Just in time for the holidays! Seasons greetings everybody.

INSKIP 0300 Tuesday, December 18th TNSAR pagers went off for the first winter search of the 2007/2008 season. Five skiers, three dog handlers, and one Placer County chaperone left the following morning for a long drive to the foothills near Paradise, CA and to the now infamous 'Christmas Tree Search.' Late in the afternoon of December 16th the Dominguez family (Father and three kids) disappeared while searching for the perfect Christmas tree. What they found, luckily enough, was a culvert, some minor frostbite and hypothermia, and three nights of misery. TNSAR searchers joined (more than a bit reluctantly) an army of search and rescue teams from as far away as Marin County. Not surprisingly, we were the only searchers on skis and the only ones with avalanche dogs, though we're still not sure why they were called out to a grid-type, frozen body ground search. The dogs, by the way, stayed in the trucks. After following some really bad "clues" (one that just plain stank), and some even worse advice, all the ground crews came up empty handed. CHP's CAL 20 helicopter spotted the victims "HELP" sign some two and half miles from where the search teams were forced to concentrate their efforts. But a happy ending is a happy ending, regardless of how many improvements could have been made at the scene. That makes for one Merry Christmas.

Not sure if I need an umbrella or a snowblower

---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
	Jimmy Smith	582-4448
	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

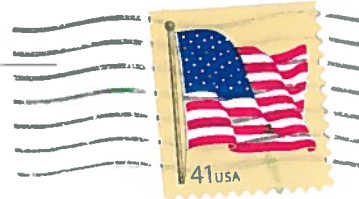
Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroepfer	546-2809
Dispatch	Terri Viehmann	525-6978
Education	Sara Barrett	386-2751
	Sir David Fenimore	587-3739
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 Johnson	308-2530
Technology	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
Training	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
Truck	Peter York	550-8050
Website	Mark Johnson	583-1308

All phone numbers area code (530) unless otherwise noted

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

Post Office Box 7703
Tahoe City, California 96145
(530) 581-4038
www.tahoenordicsar.com
www.thegreatskirace.com



MARK JOHNSON
PO BOX 8258 TAHOE CITY
CA 96145

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96145+8258 8048



January 2008



SnowLine

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

Upcoming January Trainings

January 13th ---Sunday

Where: Homewood and Beyond
When: 8:00 AM Team Garage or 8:30 AM North parking lot.
Contact: Sara Barrett 386-2751. Sara is leading folks under the Homewood ropes to explore the winterwonderland. Please call in advance as conditions and routes change by the minute!

January 17th ---Thursday

Where: Silver Peak
When: 8:00 AM garage or 8:30 AM Pole Creek
Contact: Jonathan Laine 582-9466. Jonathan is leading an all day tour to Silver Peak and maybe back again. If you don't call Jonathan in advance you'll not know if and when you will be returning.

January 20th ---Sunday

Where: Barker Pass to Hellhole Reservoir
When: 7:00 AM Team garage
Contact: Dirk Schoonmaker 583-2929. Dirk is taking folks to Hell. That is, Hole, as in reservoir. You know what I mean. Pack breakfast lunch and dinner, this is roundtrip. Headlamps will most likely be necessary.

January 26th ---Saturday

Where: Where the Gettin' is Good
When: 7:45 AM Team garage
Contact: Pam and Mike 546-7393. This is the Pam and Mike show folks, no one knows where it'll be good but wherever that is, you'll be there if you call Pam and Mike in advance.

January 28th ---Monday

Where: Squaw Valley and Beyond
When: 7:30 AM Team garage or 8:00 AM Tram
Contact: Peter York 550-8050. Duck the ropes with the rope stringer himself. Call for details and conditions.