outfits for avalanche forecasting, mitigation, and hazard evaluation. According to Powder Magazine, “Jill Fredston and Doug Fesler are the best avalanche instructors in North America, period.” A mere $8.95 will get you a copy of this gem. It is truly a ‘must have’ for anyone bold enough to forsake lift lines. Written in a straightforward, no nonsense manner, Snow Sense covers all the basics of avalanche awareness. Anyone and everyone interested in learning how to travel safely in the backcountry should read this book. As they say, read it and then read it again. Also highly recommended are Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain by Bruce Tremper, The Avalanche Handbook by David McClung and Peter Schaerer, The ABCs of Avalanche Safety by Sue A. Ferguson and Edward R. Lachapelle, and Avalanche Safety for Skier’s and Climber’s by Tony Daﬀern. These books are not typically on the bookshelf at the Bookshelf or Borders or the other bourgeois booksellers, but they can be ordered online or from your favorite independent bookstore. For those who are more experiential learners, look up Snowy

Torrents, which is a multi-volume compendium of U.S. avalanche accident descriptions and analyses. Talk about armchair adventure. As avalanche.org puts it, “There’s nothing like painlessly learning from the mistakes of others!” There are also many videos available including the classic Winning the Avalanche Game produced by the Utah Avalanche Center and Betsy Armstrong’s and Knox Williams’s Avalanche Awareness: A Question of Balance, or TNSAR’s very own Winter Awareness video/DVD. The bottom line is that there are many, many ways to hone your skills regardless of whether or not this is your first season or you are as old as Doug Read. Remember, ignorance is not bliss, it’s just plain dumb.

SnowCat Strut As many of you know, TNSAR’s Larry Severson organized an ad hoc fundraising event for a new TNSAR truck to haul the Team’s snowcat. In spite of the bumber sticker on Scoop’s truck that clearly says, “Safety Third” the snowcat team is indeed concerned about safe travel whilst in route to searches and has been actively pursuing funds to purchase an appropriately outfitted truck to haul the snowcat. The event, held on October 16th at Lahontan, was a huge success not only for the money raised (though that is always welcome and appreciated) but also for the connections made. In spite of the fact that we are an organization that is far more comfortable in vortex than gabardine suits, several Team members attended this event and purportedly behaved well and managed to rub elbows with some of the major movers and shakers of Placer County without spilling too many cocktails and appetizers. Some of the guests included Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz, Placer County Sheriff Department’s Jeff Granum, and several Placer County Planning Commission members (including Larry). Also present, and perhaps most serendipitous for TNSAR, was Art Chapman of JMA Ventures, LLC. As you no doubt have heard, JMA Ventures purchased Homewood ski area last year and just recently took over operations at Alpine Meadows. Now with the legendary Kent “Hoop” Hoopingarner at the helm at Homewood and (with equal legendary status) Jim Kercher at the helm at Alpine, Art has thoroughly stacked the ski area decks in his favor in Lake Tahoe. TNSAR will undoubtedly benefit from having Hoop and Jim guiding these two popular resorts. To have TNSAR operations closely aligned with Hoop and Jim’s operations will certainly result in a win-win situation for all involved, especially for those skiers and boarders who wander outside of ski area boundaries and for the rest of us who chase them down.

Three cheers (and then some) for Larry!

Spilling cocktails with the best of them...

---B. Wright

Team Officers

President Russ Viehmeyer 525-6978
Vice President Brian York 583-0465
Treasurer Scott Schroeper 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 Towney 525-7280

Committee Chairs

Cuisine Debra Schroeper 546-2809
Dispatch Jackie Thomas 587-2687
Education TBD
Equipment Brian York 583-0465
Great Ski Race Doug Read 583-6381
TNSAR DIR Dirk Schoonmaker 583-2929
Newsletter Bob Wright 546-7723
Snowcats Scoop Remenih 583-1684
Snowmobiles TJ Johnson 308-2530
Technology Gerald Rockwell 583-5376
Training Brian Mello 546-7238
Truck Peter York 583-0465
Website Mark Johnson 583-1308

All phone numbers area code (530) unless otherwise noted

Support Search and Rescue: Get Lost! I saw this bumper sticker this past weekend somewhere near Mono Lake. It reminded me of years past when fire seasons were uneventful and some desperately unemployed fire fighters went out and intentionally ignited wildfires just to get off the dole. Thems were the days, eh? Two thousand some odd homes have been torched in southern California in the past week and the economic losses (from the arson related fires?) are estimated in the brazilians of dollars...did everyone hear that joke? Ah, but I digress. Where was I...oh yeah, that bumper sticker. Well that bumper sticker got me thinking about the phenomenal dearth of searches we’ve had these past few years. It seems that the last two or three winters (at least) have been pretty slow from a search and rescue point of view. Not that we haven’t had the occasional epic all-nighter, but why does it seem like our call outs are getting fewer and fewer these days? Could be the weather...too few backcountry powder days equals fewer unprepared skiers and boarders wandering around where and when they shouldn’t be. Could be our educational efforts...maybe our third grade winter safety training program is paying ginormous dividends. Could be reality TV programs...so many fantastic reality TV shows to watch that there is simply no time to go skiing. Could be global warming...everything else going wrong in the universe seems to be tied to our climatic hangover. Could be that my pager batteries are dead and we really ARE having lots of searches...or it could simply be pure, unadulterated, natural variability. Some winters are just busier than others regardless of solar flares, Nostrandus, or the wacky business happening right now in Area 51. But that’s just one of the unique challenges of the search and rescue business: how to stay emotionally prepared, and physically prepared, and mentally focused when NO ONE IS GETTING LOST! Maybe there’s something to that bumper sticker afterall...maybe we should open all ski area boundaries, or subvert the dominant polypropylene paradigm and encourage cotton long underwear and Levi ski apparel, or maybe we should just keep doing what we do best knowing full well that when you least expect it the pages will be fact start beeping. Assuming you did put new batteries in,...

Go Forth and Educate This is a great time of year for folks to catch up on essential pre-search season literature. Assuming you are not too busy getting in shape for the upcoming season, go out and get yourself a copy of Snow Sense: A Guide For Frustrating Snow Avalanche Hazard. This is the paperback bible for anyone interested in the wintertime backcountry. It was written by Jill A. Fredston and Doug Fesler from the Alaska Mountain Safety Center, which is one of the preeminent
November 2007

Snow Line

The Official Newsletter of the
Lake Tahoe • Truckee • Donner Summit

TAHOE NORDIC SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM, INC.
Established 1976

Upcoming November Trainings

Call to RSVP.

On "Nordic Basics for a Search," please join us.

The next TNSAR general meeting is Monday, November 5th, 6:30pm at
the Granlibakken ski hut.

The next TNSAR general meeting is Monday, November 5th, 6:30pm at
the Granlibakken ski hut.

The officials of the TNSAR Search Team, Inc. are pleased to announce
the following November trainings:

November 29th --- Thursday
Where: Burton Creek Subdivision
Time: 6:30pm

Next training:

November 12th --- Saturday
Where: Castle Peak and Beyond
Time: 8:00 AM Garage or 8:30 AM Wild

Next training:

November 16th --- Tuesday
Where: Fabe Meadows
Time: 6:00 PM Team Garage or 6:30 PM Silver

Next training:

November 22nd --- Thursday
Where: Fabe Meadows
Time: 6:00 PM Team Garage or 6:30 PM Silver

Upcoming November Trainings

Call to RSVP.

On "Nordic Basics for a Search," please join us.

The next TNSAR general meeting is Monday, November 5th, 6:30pm at
the Granlibakken ski hut.

The next TNSAR general meeting is Monday, November 5th, 6:30pm at
the Granlibakken ski hut.

The officials of the TNSAR Search Team, Inc. are pleased to announce
the following November trainings:

November 29th --- Thursday
Where: Burton Creek Subdivision
Time: 6:30pm

Next training:

November 12th --- Saturday
Where: Castle Peak and Beyond
Time: 8:00 AM Garage or 8:30 AM Wild

Next training:

November 16th --- Tuesday
Where: Fabe Meadows
Time: 6:00 PM Team Garage or 6:30 PM Silver

Next training:

November 22nd --- Thursday
Where: Fabe Meadows
Time: 6:00 PM Team Garage or 6:30 PM Silver