Rivers in Egypt There's no denying it, time does indeed march on and now it's time to march on over to the Granlibakken ski hut for the 2007 kickoff meeting of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. As always, food and drinks will be provided by the able crew of Chez Schroepfer. Black tie optional. The meeting will commence at 6:00pm. Tales will be told, stories will be swapped, lies will be liberately detailing how many miles we rode, trails we hiked, birds we watched, and naps we napped over the summer. Once we get all of that out of our systems, we will get down to the serious business of kicking off the 2007 search season. Yes, I can hear all of your collective scoffing..."summer's not over yet...I'm not putting my bike away until there is a foot of snow on the ground...I can't remember where I put my search pack...Indian summer is going to last until February...global warming trumps winter..."etc. etc. I've heard it all. Unfortunately, no matter what the weather, what season it is, how well or poorly prepared are made, people get lost. And that's where YOU come in. Yes, you. Whether we are making phone calls, welding grousers, mixing cocktails, combing over maps, re-gluing climbing skins, writing grant proposals, or slogging through creeks with skis on, we are all active participants in this multifaceted organism we call the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. Without you, this team would not be what it is and would not be able to do what it does. There is a place for everyone, with any and all skill sets, of any and all levels of ability. In fact, the more the merrier. As someone really famous once said, "...diversity is (insert unpronounceable multi-syllabic word here)." There is, however, one crucial prerequisite; participation. The lights are on, the door is unlocked, and we are officially open for business. As those dusty desert folks say, "Welcome home, brothers and sisters."

Three Quarters Half Nuts One must be at least that crazy to try and make predictions about the upcoming winter weather. Yet that is the buzz in the air this time of year. Especially with the drizzle that is currently outside my window. (Though there was a confirmed sighting of some white powdery substance in Truckee early this morning...) And every year we are likely to hear the infamous "squirrel theory." Laugh about it or laud it, the theory goes something like this: squirrel behavior (most notably in the fall when ski area announce their new season pass prices) is indicative of the onset and magnitude of the ensuing winter season. A little chacha-cha to the left, tomo twig to the right dip here, soft shoe over there and the next thing you know it's snowing. Actually it's nuts. The nuts. Pine nuts. NOAA notwithstanding, if the squirrels are busily gathering nuts, stuffing their cheeks and noses with nuts, then winter is coming and snowing on strong. If the squirrels are looing about, nibbling here and there according to their fancy, then Indian summer will likely continue and fair weather will prevail. Some people think it's bull, others will challenge you to take it outside mano a mano just to prove it is true. Often I find that the most convinced (and struggling the hardest to convince) are those who just purchased their season passes at prime time prices. "It's gonna be huge, bro...30% chance of showers next week...thigh deep pow-pow by the weekend...rock on dude." Others who haven't squandered their kindergartner's college savings are a bit more nonchalant. "It'll snow...a week before I put my studs on the Subaru...and I still haven't stacked all my wood..." Just to be fair and scientific like, I consulted a real weather oracle and have this to report. This winter will be, and I quote, "...πρεθη μ.της δη τελειωση η μεν η αλήθεια τα παραπάνω με τη σκφη και τα απολογωτα το ονομα So there it is folks. You heard it here first. Read it and weep.

Goodbye Tin.

You'll never know how many hearts you touched. Save travels friend.

Not-So Live From Black Rock City Last month, as I was wandering around the playa completely disoriented in a sand storm white-out (sand-out?), I had a little time to reflect on the concept of being lost. Of getting lost and getting found. Few of us out there have truly been lost so it is a difficult concept to wrap one's brain around. As of this writing, Steve Fossett (world renowned aviator, adventurer, world record setter and breaker) is lost. It is no conceptual thing. He is out there somewhere in the Nevada outpost and no one, I repeat, no one knows where he is. Hundreds and hundreds of people, in airplanes, looking at computer screens, via satellite images and radio waves, from ground searches and scriptural prayer searches, are looking for him and after 18 days and nights he is still lost. And like Amelia Earhart, the longer he remains missing the more the mystery grows. What is not mysterious is the methodology of searching for lost victims. Whether they are land, fresh water, or sea searches, most organized rescue and/or recovery missions search in a grid-type fashion. Search areas are delineated on maps and divvied out and then individual search teams (from several to several hundred) begin combing through each grid in the designated region. Depending on the scale and the nature of the search, each grid can be quite enormous to quite small. Though it can be a needle in the haystack type reality, the actual search is, or should be, extremely systematic. Typically our searches out here in the winter wonderland of the Tahoe backcountry are not of the needle in the haystack variety. Though we definitely have found ourselves searching for extremely small needles in extremely large haystacks, most (but not all) of our searches have a defined point of origin. A skier/snowboarder /snowshoer is reported lost and last seen at the top of Mt. Judah or dropping in off the backside of Grouse Rock or at the parking lot of Tahoe Meadows. Sometimes we have very reliable and definitive information (e.g. the known victim’s car and boot prints heading off into the trees). Other times we end up slogging through creeks with our skis on hollering into the trees when the real "victim" is sitting at Bar of America. Because we never truly know for certain, we strive to conduct all of our searches with equal intensity, efficiency, and thoughtfulness. Sometimes it is not so easy to roll out of bed at 3am and wander off into a howling whiteout. Oftentimes someone’s life depends on it. Sound intriguing? Want to learn more? Please join TNSAR at 6pm, October 1st, in the Granlibakken ski hut. Thanks in advance!

Late night tap dancing with rodents ---- 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
Jonathan Laine 582-9466
Directors-at-large Randal Osterhuber 546-4491
Joe Pace 583-1806
Doug Reed 583-6381
Gerald Rockwell 583-5376
Steve Twomey 525-7280

Committee Chairs
Cuisine Debra Schroepfer 546-2809
Dispatch Jackie Thomas 587-2687
Education TBD
Equipment Brian York 583-0465
Great Ski Race Doug Reed 583-6381
Snowcat Dirk Schoonmaker 546-2929
Snoer Bob Wright 546-7273
Snowmobils Scoop Remenih 583-1684
Technology TJ Sedneck 308-2530
Training Gerald Rockwell 583-5376
Truck Bernie Mellor 546-2238
Website Peter York 583-0465
Mark Johnson 583-1308
All phone numbers area code (530) unless otherwise noted.
The First 2007 Team meeting is Monday, October 1st, 6:00pm, at the Granlibakken ski hut.

Upcoming October Trainings

Please call bre Flaherty to help out.

- Volunteers' equipment: map, compass, and GPS.
- Bre Flaherty is also looking for November training.
- October 28th - Saturday
- More advanced ski skills
- Advanced this Saturday and find out what much more of a deep ski week will be like.
- Weekend: Randonneur 5:45-9:45, Where: 3:30pm Team Garage or 8:30am Deep Creek.
- October 12th - Saturday
- Beginner/intermediate
- Never heard of Prince Lakes come with cross and run
- Informative hike from Prince Meadows to Prince Lake.
- Where: 3:30pm Team Garage or 8:30am Deep Creek.
- October 6th - Tuesday
- Entry level
- Come and learn the things we can do and how to use them
- lunch at cafe and lunch on the mountain for the entire trip.
- Training for kids and families: Kids and families together.
- Contact: Bre Flaherty 562-2238. Bre's email will be shared.
- Where: 3:30pm Team Garage
- Wednesday: Gear & Equipment training

- October 4th - Tuesday
- Entry level
- Special guests: Kids and families
- Trek Training: Kids and families together.
- Please note: The following events are not officially scheduled for the October Trainings.