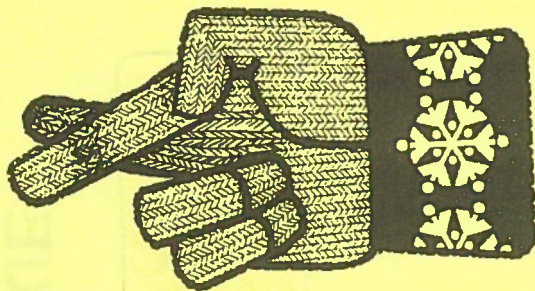


Snow Job

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TRAINING SCHEDULE

The next training will be Thursday, Jan. 8. Mike Hogan will be organizing this one. It will either be a mock search at Squaw Valley, becoming familiar with terrain and search routes, or a terrain familiarization at Ellis Peak. If it doesn't snow by the 8th (not allowed), the option of Ellis Peak will be taken. But most likely there will be a big blizzard, four feet of snow, and a great training at Squaw Valley. Those interested in participating should meet at the Fire Sign Cafe. Everyone will be leaving the Fire Sign at 8:30 a.m. sharp so if you want to eat breakfast there, arrive much earlier.

The training after that will be Jan. 25. Scoop Remenih will be organizing that one. Details will be available at the general meeting Jan. 5 at Granlibakken.

Thursday, Feb. 12 is the next training. That will be held at Paige Meadows and Scott Peak. More details on that and subsequent trainings will be announced next month.

GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting is Monday, Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Granlibakken. A slide show and speaker will be featured, and we may have our latest rescuee there to give a short talk and answer questions. Be there or be square.

ROYAL GORGE SEARCH A SUCCESS

Despite the lack of snow and the lack of ski areas open, we had our first lost skier search of the season on Dec. 14 at Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Resort.

The call came through after the resort noticed a car left in the parking lot at the end of the day, Sunday. The evening was spent trying to find out particulars about the owner of the Jeep and doing two sweeps of the trail system. The only trails open at Royal Gorge were the Summit Station trails.

Our team met at Royal Gorge the following morning, after it was determined the owner of the car, Richard Stone, San Jose, was a cross-country skier and could possibly be staying in one of the cabins in the area, and besides, the weather was good and a full moon was out. There was no missing person report filed by any friends or family.

Three search teams split up the work. One team did a grid search along the main trail, one team knocked on the doors of the cabins and camps in the area and a third team did a perimeter search of the Snow Valley Lookout Hut trail around Palisades Peak.

The first two teams found no clues about Richard Stone, but the third team found two sets of tracks leading into the Filly's Bowl Loop and no tracks coming out. One took off to the right and back towards the trail system, and the other set, with skis off, was heading west, down towards the American River. Team three split up soon after this and tracks were followed to a point just east of Palisades Creek, below the snow line and in the shadow of Snow Mountain. With darkness upon them and no way to regain the trail until morning, team three, now consisting of Charlie Kellermyer and Mike Wolterbeek, hiked back out by way of Long Lake and then hopped aboard a couple of snowmobiles for a ride back to the lodge. They returned just after 11 p.m. Plans were made to resume the search at

the area to which team three had followed the tracks, and a variety of approaches were set up.

One team went in from the Cedars along the American River and two others were ferried in by helicopter. The Cedars team found tracks as soon as they came close to the area pinpointed the previous day, and were in hot pursuit. They notified the helicopter of the direction of travel and the helicopter began looking in that area. The helicopter soon spotted the lost skier and transported him and the teams back to the base.

The victim was in good shape and even had one sandwich left. He was located near the top of the other side of the American River Canyon. A full report will be given at the general meeting at Granlibakken Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

OMNIPOTENT SAGA CONTINUES

In the continuing saga of the missing two-person tent (the 'Omnipotent'), the truck committee puts the closing chapter on this tale of mystery and intrigue.

In the last episode, equipment committee chairman Randy Osterhuber announced at the general meeting that the blue and yellow, four-season tent was missing. It had apparently disappeared during the last winter season. In the fashion of any search and rescue team member worth his granola, Randy turned the truck upside down and inside out searching for the tent. He was assisted by Scoop Remenih and Mike Hogan. (You didn't think he could turn the truck upside down by himself, did you?) They also checked the new storage cabinet in the truck garage.

The search was unsuccessful, which is unusual for this team, so a call went out for mutual aid assistance and a bulletin was issued in this publication.

But, all hope of locating the tent was gone, and people started thinking of how to replace the tent. Little did they know the tent would soon be found.

One cool Sunday morning as the truck committee was doing a routine check of the truck and equipment (becoming familiar with the truck, the garage and the storage cabinet), Mike Hogan caught a flash of blue and yellow on top of the pile of equipment in the cabinet. Sure enough, it was the Omnipotent. We may never know how it got there. Case closed.

