

# SNOW LINE

✻ The official newsletter of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team ✻  
North Tahoe Truckee Donner Summit

## HANDY SEARCH TIPS

### This could save your

**L**ife, that is if you've just received that phone call in the middle of the night telling you **SOMEONE'S LOST** in the woods.

This list of search tips comes from a presentation Doug Read made at the recent Anatomy of a Search meeting.

- Using your sense of humor is the best way to get through it all.
- If you are tired, sick, weak, dizzy, etc., don't go on the search. Stay in the communications van or help some other way.
- During a search callout the truck must be assigned immediately, and whoever is responsible for it must get it to the operation center ASAP.

**The next few hints are primarily for search coordinators, but are also valuable knowledge for all team members.**

- If a child is lost, recommend the Team go out immediately. Don't wait until morning.
- Let people choose their own search team members.
- Let all team members give input in the planning.
- Try to get as much information as possible from the sheriff's dispatch and the officer in charge of the search.
- Talk pleasantly to all the search organizers and participants.

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### Next General Meeting is 7 p.m., Feb. 5, at the Granlibakken Ski Hut

-- Follow all your leads. Ask the Sheriff's department to follow up a lead, if you can't do it yourself. They are a powerful resource.

#### The following tips are for when you're out in the field.

- if you're using a ski resort as an operations base, don't go inside to the command post after each run. It wastes time and you'll only warm up and get soaking wet. Instead of going inside, report to the roving coordinator who is outside to meet searchers.
- Snowboards don't leave much of a track, while walkers leave a freeway. Don't waste a lot of time looking for a snowboarder track where he or she may have

## MORE OF DOUG'S HELPFUL HINTS.....

boarded down the hill. Instead, go to the flats, where he had to take off his board and walk.

- if you get a strong premonition about something, go with it.
- Use the media to teach others what to do when lost.
- If the avalanche risk is high, **BE CAREFUL, DOUBLE CHECK, DON'T TRUST ANYONE WITH YOUR LIFE.**

- Be positive with other team members. Say "We can do it."
- When dividing yourselves into search teams, make sure each team has at least one person who knows the area thoroughly.
- If you find yourself on a team with someone you can't work with, join a different team. Teams should work in harmony.

-- Be aware of the strengths of your search team members. This is where getting used to each

See Tips, Page 2

## TRAININGS

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| 2/4  | An all-day training orientation and avalanche training out of bounds from Alpine Meadows Ski Area. Intermediate Telemark minimum or Randonnee equipment. Meet in front of ski patrol building at 8:15 a.m. Bring lunch, plenty of water, layered clothing and avalanche gear.  |
| 2/8  | An all-day ski tour, location to be determined. Meet at garage at 8 a.m. Intermediate Telemark minimal. Call Gerald for info, 583-5376. Bring lunch, water, layered clothes and avalanche gear.  |
| 2/10 | A primarily snowmobile training to the Cedars. Meet at 9 a.m. at the garage. There's a good chance skiers can go and get towed out from the Cedars, but call Dirk, 583-2929, to arrange.   |
| 2/18 | A B-Team clinic at Northstar for beginning to intermediate Telemarkers. Limit 15. Call Peter, 546-0588, for info and to register.  |
| 2/25 | An all-day Sugar Bowl training. Meet at the garage to car pool at 7:30, or meet at 8:15 at Gondola entrance. Intermediate Telemark minimum or Randonnee equipment. Bring lunch, water and avalanche gear.<br>Anyone interested in a Telemark clinic for advanced skiers only, call Peter. He is hoping to set one up for some day during the week of Feb. 19-22. |

*Tips, from Page 1--*

other in trainings helps.

-- If searching outside of Sugar Bowl, go down Cold Stream Canyon first. Don't go down Onion Creek until after the storm clears and after you've searched other areas. It's too dangerous.

-- Follow tracks by leap-frogging: One part of the team sticks with the meandering track while the other half beelines straight ahead and tries to pick up the track further on.

-- Once you've found the person, if a helicopter is being used to fly people out and you have to leave some people behind, leave the

strongest searchers behind, and don't forget to leave with them plenty of food and warm clothes and equipment.

-- Be positive around the found person.

-- Don't count on a helicopter fly-out. More often than not, they don't come.

### THE GREAT SKI RACE DRAWING

HERE'S A CHANCE to get some super loot and benefit a great cause, the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team! JoJo Toepfner has secured some very valuable prizes for this year's drawing. Our thanks go to the equipment reps Bill Sterling, of Salomon, and Dan Hill, of Fischer, who make this drawing possible. Team members will be selling tickets for \$5 for individual items throughout February, and the drawing will take place during the post-race celebration at Cottonwoods Restaurant. If you want to help sell tickets, pick them up from JoJo at the February meeting.

Prizes #1 and 2: Two pairs of Fischer Tour Extremes, 180 cms. It is a Randonnee and Tele ski with an air core base. Suggested retail \$340.

Prizes #3 and 4: Two pairs of Fischer MCS skate skis, 177 or 187 cms., with international colors. Sugg. retail \$235.

Prize #5: One pair Fischer RCS skate boots, size 10. Sugg. retail \$250.

Prize #6: One pair Salomon skate boots, any size, 1996-97 model.

### TNSAR Officers

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(available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon. through Thurs.)

Cuisine  
Newsletter

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♦ Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, Inc. ♦  
An All-Volunteer Group Dedicated to Mountain Safety  
P.O. Box 7703 Tahoe City, CA 96145

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