



SnowLine

The Official Newsletter of the

TAHOE NORDIC SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM, INC.
Lake Tahoe • Truckee • Donner Summit

Greetings fellow citizens! That crunch of frosted soil underfoot testifies to another summer burning away, and Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team prepares for the upcoming season. The Team meets the first Monday of each month, October through May (*last* Monday in February), and that means it's time for all to gather. Monday, **October 2**, 6:00 PM will be the time, Granlibakken's Ski Hut will be the place. As colder weather gains ground it's time to fuel up too. A complimentary dinner will be served to all in attendance **October 2**. Ah, you're thinking, nothin's for free. Quite perceptive of you, my little quick-sponge. So, if you'd be gracious enough as to lend even a short shift of your time setting up for the dinner, all in attendance would be forever thankful.

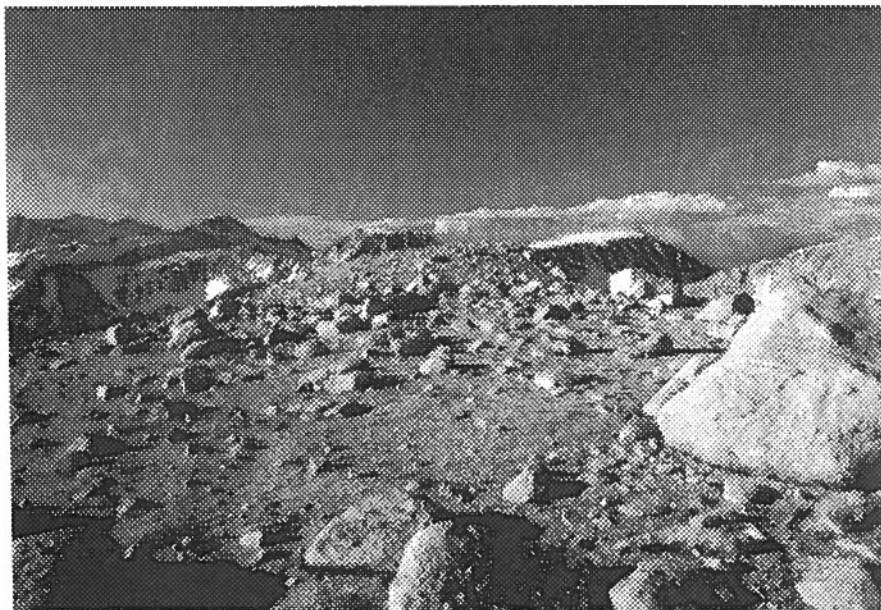
If you're not of the culinary habit, there is surely another place for your skills on the Team. In fact, there is a place for *everyone* within Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. Regardless of age, sex, or habit of dress, *your* talents are needed. Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team is an all-volunteer group. As such, it functions at a healthy plane only with the constant input of new ideas, new talents—new people! Please come join this group of volunteers. The rewards are many: adventure, camaraderie, fun, beer-out-your-nose laughter. But the real compensation is discovering no job pays as much as a volunteer job. **October 2**: don't miss it!

Last And First

Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team conducted its last search and rescue of the 2000 season on April 22/23. At 10:00 PM on the 22nd, just as Team skiers were fluffing up

their flannel pj's, the call went out from the Placer County Sheriff's Department that Karl Duttlinger, 61, of Portola Valley, California, had not returned from his ski tour. Karl's companions, two young men on snowboard/snowshoes, had managed to find their way back to Sugar Bowl ski area after an aborted attempt to reach Squaw Valley from Donner Summit. They last saw Karl disappearing into the fog, ahead of them, on the Sierra crest just north of the Benson Hut. That was 3:00 PM. The two snowshoers

go again, the long haul. We geared up and set off skiing south, downhill. Immediately we located the tracks of one skier and two boarders, frozen into the previous morning's soft, wet snow. Now the snow surface was frozen fast making the skiing quick, easy, and LOUD. Any time you'd be on your edges you couldn't hear anything but the reverbs echoing all the way up into your goggles. Lash a dozen mill bastard files together and drag them across an empty metal garbage can. Yeah, that's the noise. We traversed down a



Photograph by Randall Osterhuber

stumbled through the Sugar Bowl boundary about four hours later, whipped and windblown. The weather that day had deteriorated with every hour, especially at elevation. If it is windy anywhere, it is windy between Sugar Bowl and the Benson Hut.

As myself and five other Nordic Team skiers piled out of the snowcat on top of Mt. Lincoln at 12:30 AM, we were greeted with big winds (speed and volume), and an icing fog running over the crest as if over the wing of a giant airliner. Window seats all. When the snowcat pulls away (with wishes of "Good luck"), taking with it the last shreds of the warm world, you can't help but think *Here we*

bit, stopped, and learned via the radio that Scoop, who was combing Emigrant Canyon below in his snowcat, was going to shoot off one of his gazillion candle-power parachute flares. He counted down lighting the fuse. We gazed silently into the fog. "3, 2, 1..." A few seconds later the underside of distant cloud lit up, glowed briefly, then darkened. "You see it?" "Yeah, I saw something. You?" We began skiing again and John Pang called: "Karl!" There was, we thought, a faint reply. Everyone had to come to a complete—and I mean *complete*—stop in order to hear. "Karl!" once again. A reply. We skied furiously in the general direction,

all came to a *complete* stop, "Karl!" Another reply. We skied again, altering course slightly. Suddenly there was Karl, illuminated by our six headlamps, standing shivering in the wind. We'd been searching for 15 minutes.

Karl had spent the afternoon dead-reckoning his way back toward Sugar Bowl—and was right on course—when the flat light and weather got the best of him. Not sure where he was, he could have tried skiing in a variety of directions (most of which would have got him seriously lost), but instead decided to stay put. That was a very smart

Next General Meeting is Monday, October 2, 2000, 6:00 pm at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut

move. Even though, his position on the crest was extremely exposed: the badly flagged Jeffrey Pines and hemlocks that take root there are few and offer little wind protection. He was dressed very lightly without proper storm gear and had with him only a tiny fanny pack and one of those munchkin backpacks that houses a drinking bladder.

We gathered his gear (randoneé equipment (with climbing skins off [?]); his companions had reported he was skiing on "skinny cross country skis"), and started climbing him back toward Mt. Lincoln. Tony Bochene scouted the route ahead, to make sure we were going the right way, while we skied windward to Karl in a feeble attempt at a wind break. A rendezvous with a Sugar Bowl grooming cat was in short order which transported Karl down to the Donner Summit Fire ambulance.

Later, when asked if he had seen the flare Scoop shot off, Karl said that he had. At the time, all he could think was: All of this, and now there's lightning!

Dave Gleske and Scoop Remenih searched up Cold Stream Canyon with their snowcats, Bryan Devore manned the Nordic Team truck, and Jackie Thomas handled the Team callout. Team skiers included Chris Arredondo, Tony Bochene, Cory Engles, Randall Osterhuber, John Pang, and Steve Twomey. Even though the search was launched from Sugar Bowl, Karl and his companions had nothing to do with the ski area. Sugar Bowl is to be commended for generously providing buildings, machines, and personnel for the effort.

This was the Nordic Team's seventh search and rescue to the season.

The first search of the 2001 season (arbitrarily starting July 1) occurred on July 29. Michael Raney, 20, from Marin County, went missing two days from his rented house on Donner Summit near Devil's Peak. He was out hiking with friends, got lost, and ended up spending two nights in the woods until spotted by the crew of a searching Fallon Naval Air Base Huey on July 31. "Like I had seen them all day yesterday, and I'm like

'C'mon you got to see me,'" Michael said. He was reported in good condition, thoroughly scratched, presumably, by the area's abundant manzanita. Team searchers included Bert Grunwald, Jim Sajdak, Dirk Schoonmaker, Randy Sharp, and Steve Twomey.

Team Trainings

Nordic Team Training Committee co-Chair Bernie Mellor (an important aside: Bernie's the *Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team Member of the Year* for 2000, awarded as such at the May 2000 Team meeting) announces the following Team trainings for the next month or so. These autumn outings are valuable for learning terrain we search mid-winter, as well as honing other essential outdoor skills. It is asked that you call the coordinator of each training to inform him or her that you will be attending. Participating in any Team event, especially the trainings, is the best and fastest way to become involved with the group. Here they are:

October 1: Gerald Rockwell (583-5376) will lead a hike up Ward Canyon and over to Blackwood Canyon. The Team's had numerous searches in this area. Meet at the Team garage (223 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City, behind the Chevron) at 8:30 AM.

October 8: Paul Honeywell (546-8609) is organizing this hike from Donner Summit to Squaw Valley. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM or on top of Donner Pass Road at 8:15.

October 12: Russ Viehmann (582-1695) will coordinate a short evening of surveying, organizing, and otherwise whipping into shape the Team's rescue truck and equipment. This is an important training for old and new members alike. Meet at the Team garage at 6:30 PM.

October 21: Bernie Mellor (546-2238) and Randall Osterhuber (587-3092) will champion a hike into the Carson Range above the northeast shore of Lake Tahoe. There, navigation techniques will be practiced and perfected. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM

or up on the Mt. Rose Highway (Sheep Flat) at 8:15.

November 4: John Pang (581-2641) leads a day in the Castle Peak area addressing such topics as search strategies, terrain familiarization, navigation, first aid, route finding, etc. Meet at the Team garage at 7:30 AM or the start of the Castle Valley dirt road at 8:15.

Be sure to come to the Team trainings equipped (specialized equipment can be borrowed from the Team truck that day) for the day's weather and terrain.

Okay then.

—Randall Osterhuber



Team Officers

President	Joe Pace	583-1806
Vice President	Steve Twomey	525-7280
Treasurer	Scott Schroepfer	546-2809
Secretary	Terri Viehmann	582-1695
Board Members	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Russ Viehmann	582-1695
Directors-at-large	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376

Committee Chairs

Cuisine	Debra Schroepfer	546-2809
Dispatch	Jackie Thomas	587-2687
Education	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
Equipment	Russ Viehmann	582-1695
Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	587-3092
Snowcats	Scoop Remenih	583-1684
Snowmobiles	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Training	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238

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