



SnowLine

The Official Newsletter of the
TAHOE NORDIC SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM, INC.
 Lake Tahoe • Truckee • Donner Summit

Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team's biggest fund raiser approaches: The 27th Annual Great Ski Race. This year's Great Ski Race—the largest cross country ski race west of the Mississippi—is on Sunday, **March 2**. And the first Team-wide organizational meeting is coincident with the next meeting of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team—Monday night, **February 3**, 6:30 PM at the Granlibakken Ski Hut. Please attend this very important meeting. Your help is needed!

Rescues

• On December 9, Team searcher Anton "Scoop" Remenih radioed Placer County dispatch, requesting rescue assistance. In his snowcat, Scoop had transported two *Cingular* cell phone company employees to their mountain-top communication platform about 5.5 km above Echo Summit. Just after starting their descent, Scoop's snowcat threw one of its 1500 pound tracks and the machine was instantly out of service. In just a few minutes, Stan, one of the cell phone techs, started to complain about shortness of breath. Upon further interrogation, Scoop learned that Stan, 275 pounds and a chain smoker, was barely (if at all) recovered from quadruple bypass surgery. He was trembling, starting to panic, and, after lighting up another cigarette, declared himself unable to walk the 5 km downhill on the packed snow trail to his vehicle. Placer County called Eldorado County, enlisting their mutual aid, and the wheels of rescue began turning. It was 3:30 PM.

Eldorado County dispatched their own snowcat to the scene, as well as five rescuers on snowshoes. The Eldo snowcat started up the snow road, then broke down. The snowshoers were able to reach Stan (who they found puffing on a cig) by 11:00 PM. They were all joined by an area resident, that, hearing of the rescue, managed to get his all-wheel drive truck to within a couple hundred meters of Stan. The helpful neighbor was transporting Stan back down the snow road when they happened upon Nordic Team members Ray O'Brien and

Russ Viehmann ascending the road in Ray's snowcat. Ray's snowcat did not break down.

Scoop returned two days later, and with a friend's help (and another cat) managed to get his machine up and running.

• The Nordic Team was called into action at 6:30 PM, December 20. Richard Navarro, 33, a cab driver and amateur athlete from San Pablo, went missing from Alpine Meadows.

The ensuing search and rescue, which Nordic Team President Steve Twomey referred to as "classic," occurred during the snowiest weather yet, with zero visibility on the Sierra crest, and involved epic trail breaking.

Richard's tracks were discovered near the bottom of Big Springs by six Team skiers.

had postholed—up to his waist—through the Granite Chief Wilderness for hours, stopping at one point to dig a cave. All the skiers converged on the fit and mildly hypothermic cabby, fed, watered, and clothed him, then strapped him onto snowshoes and started breaking trail up and out toward the KT-22 saddle of Squaw Valley. The trail breaking was so deep that Team skiers had to rotate in and out of the lead position every few minutes. The group reached the KT saddle—and an awaiting snowcat—at 3:30 AM.

• When 40 year-old Debra Cook, from Modesto, failed to pick up her two daughters from the Sugar Bowl day care, those in the know knew something was amiss.

The Nordic Team was dispatched at 6:30 PM on December 22 to look for Debra, who was last seen skiing at the Donner Summit resort. While nine skiers converged at Sugar Bowl, Team members Scoop Remenih and Dave Gleske readied their snowcats at the bottom of Cold Stream Canyon.

Seven Team skiers dropped off the top of Mt. Lincoln to the east, while two more descended into the dreaded Onion Creek drainage off the back of Crows Nest. In fifteen minutes, the skiers on the Cold Stream side spotted tracks, and in short order Debra herself. She had been skiing the east face of Lincoln and failed to make the skier's-left traverse at the bottom. She had been wallowing in the deep, cold powder snows since mid-afternoon.

The rescuers strapped her onto snowshoes and broke trail for her over Roller Pass and back into the ski area.



Back in Modesto: Debra Cook, her two daughters, and two shepherds. Debra was the subject of the Nordic Team's December 22 search and rescue.

Photograph courtesy of Debra Cook

He was tracked and eventually found below Whiskey Creek Camp at 11:30 PM. Richard, who had been snowboarding at the ski area,

At the Sugar Bowl patrol room, Debra's boots were removed to reveal feet and toes that were white, hard, and without feeling. After rearming in hot water, she suffered no apparent permanent damage.

Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team was once more called to Sugar Bowl at 7:00 PM on December 29. Bret Kasin, a 28 year-old snowboarder, was reported overdue.

Receiving the search callout from his home in Tahoe City, Team member Scoop Remenih loaded up his snowcat, towed it to the bottom of Cold Stream Canyon in Truckee, unloaded the cat, and drove to the stream crossing above Horseshoe Bend (at least 8 km) before any Nordic Team skiers could drop off the top of Sugar Bowl. There at the creek crossing at 9:20 PM, Scoop found lost guy Bret. Bret was mired up to his waist in snow, exhausted from "doing pull-ups off his snowboard for seven hours" through the low angle terrain of Emigrant Canyon. Thrilled to have been found, Bret dispensed his tale of adventure to Scoop, including his rapport with the resident pine trees.

These were Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team's fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh search and rescues of the season.

Winter Aware

The Team-produced video Winter Aware is complete and we are now distributing it to the public! We are currently showing the video at the local high schools, and are distributing copies to local law enforcement, fire departments, ski patrols, libraries, snowmobile clubs, and neighboring rescue teams. Due to the donated footage, Winter Aware is limited to non-commercial, non-broadcast, educational use only. But we want to distribute it as widely as possible. Copies will be mailed to any organization with a legitimate use. If any of you out there have ideas on ways we can spread the good word, please contact me. Email is best. Thanks in advance for your input.

-Steve Twomey stevet@telis.org

Team Officers

President	Steve Twomey	525-7280
Vice President	Russ Viehmann	525-6978
Treasurer	Scott Schroepfer	546-2809
Secretary	Terri Viehmann	525-6978
Board Members	Karen Honeywell	546-8609
	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Directors-at-large	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Randy Sharp	587-2877
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
	Joe Pace	583-1806
	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	525-6978
Great Ski Race™	Douglas Read	583-6381
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Newsletter	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Snowcats	Scoop Remenih	583-1684
Snowmobiles	Ray O'Brien	581-4358
Technology	Gerald Rockwell	583-5376
Training	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238
Website	Peter Sporleder	546-0588
All phone numbers area code (530).		

Trainings

If you haven't yet secured an OES card (required to participate in any Team on-the-snow function), where have you been? Dan Ingalls from the Placer County Sheriff's Office has been criss-crossing the North Shore and Truckee—OES forms and digital camera in hand—signing up Team members. He's made the process easier than ever. Contact Dan at the Tahoe City substation if you're still not holding. Also, please remember to contact each of the following training organizers if you plan on attending their particular event.

The Nordic Team garage is located at 223 Fairway Drive, behind the Tahoe City Chevron station.

January 26: Peter York (583-0465) will lead a ski around Squaw Valley. Part of the day will be spent in-bounds, part of it out. Meet

at the Team garage at 7:15 AM, or at the tram building in Squaw at 7:45.

February 2: Ski training and terrain familiarization at Alpine Meadows. Jim Granger (581-1251) is the contact. Meet at the garage at 7:30 AM, or the bottom of the ski runs at 8:00.

February 8: Mike Kennett (581-2101) will lead a ski of Mt. Tallac and set up an avalanche rescue scenario during the day. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM.

February 13: Dirk Schoonmaker (583-2929) will MC an "Anatomy of a Search" meeting at the Kings Beach fire station, 6:30 PM. This training, especially useful for those new to the rescue scene, will cover the roles of all the rescue agencies from initial callout, to incident debriefing.

February 15: A ski of Castle Peak and beyond. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM, or Wild Cherries Coffee House in Truckee at 7:30. Ron Driller (581-0714) is the contact.

February 22: Move your goggles over to the right side of your face and come join Steve Reynaud (587-4723) on a ski tour starting from the top of Donner Pass Road and exiting the Deep Creek drainage at Highway 89. Meet at the garage at 7:00 AM or at Wild Cherries at 7:30.

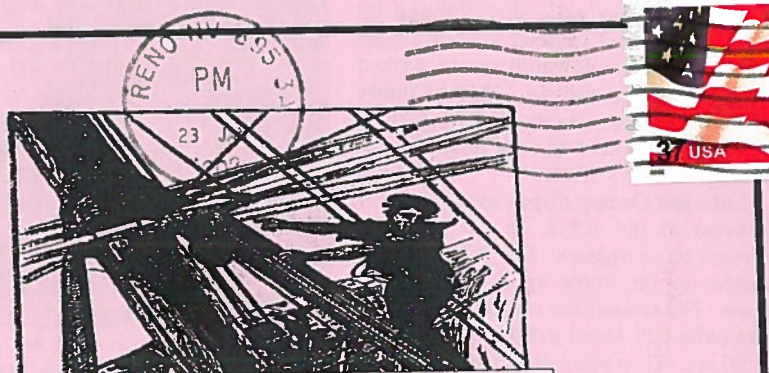
Keeping my socks pulled up high,
—Randall Osterhuber



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"There are some as is doomed to die, and some that are not. Some as are, die; such as are not, we save. It's the day's work... and the men does their best."
—Anonymous veteran of the United States Life Saving Service, 1878

please keep us informed of your correct address!