



SnowLine

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

Last season was a banner year for Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. The Team conducted 12 searches, resulting in the rescue of 17 individuals—all of them alive. Our most successful fundraiser ever, The 26th Great Ski Race, pulled in a record 1022 competitors. And all season long the Team was busy upgrading its communications and rescue equipment, training its members, and educating the public on everything from first aid to snow science.

This all happened under the direction of Team President Joe Pace. Joe earned the role of president three years ago with his backcountry and leadership skills. During those three years, 41 people have been rescued by Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team—no small accomplishment. The Team and the Tahoe community benefited greatly from Joe's tenure as president, and continues to do so. At the May 2002 Team meeting, Joe stepped down from the president's job. He will continue to be an active searcher and Team member. Thanks Joe for all your hard work!

Steve Twomey is the new Team president, and like Joe, the community is lucky to have him at the post. As a member of Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team for many years, including six years spent on the Team Board of Directors, Steve's no novice to the Tahoe rescue scene. Steve's presidency promises great things for the Nordic Team's future.

Please attend the first Team meeting of the 2003 Winter season and show your support for Joe Pace, Steve Twomey, and all who are committed to bringing the lost and injured out of the mountains—alive. The meeting is Monday night, 6:00 PM, October 7 at the Granlibakken

Resort's Ski Hut. Be excited! Be there!

Summer Search

The Nordic Team was dispatched the afternoon of July 6 to look for Warren Merwin, 64, from Cedar Flat. Warren had left that morning on a walk and had not returned. His family, concerned over Warren's long absence, alerted the Placer County Sheriff's Office.

As the Team was assembling its searchers, Team member Jeff Rieger jumped on his mountain bike and Lance Armstronged up the Tahoe Rim Trail and the area around the Fiberboard Freeway. Rieger, never shy about gleaning information, soon was interviewing everyone he came across on the trail. Many other hikers and bikers had remembered seeing someone of Warren's description, and Rieger began narrowing the search area, radioing the beta to the other searchers. At a little before 5:00 PM Warren was located by searcher Dan Ingalls (Dan was riding his motorbike). He was 1.5 km or so southeast of Martis Peak. Warren was dehydrated from his

long ordeal but otherwise in good shape. The rescue concluded with Placer County's *Eagle 1* helicopter evacuating Warren.

Warren's family was especially grateful to all the searchers and the search effort.

This was the Nordic Team's first search and rescue of the 2002/2003 season.

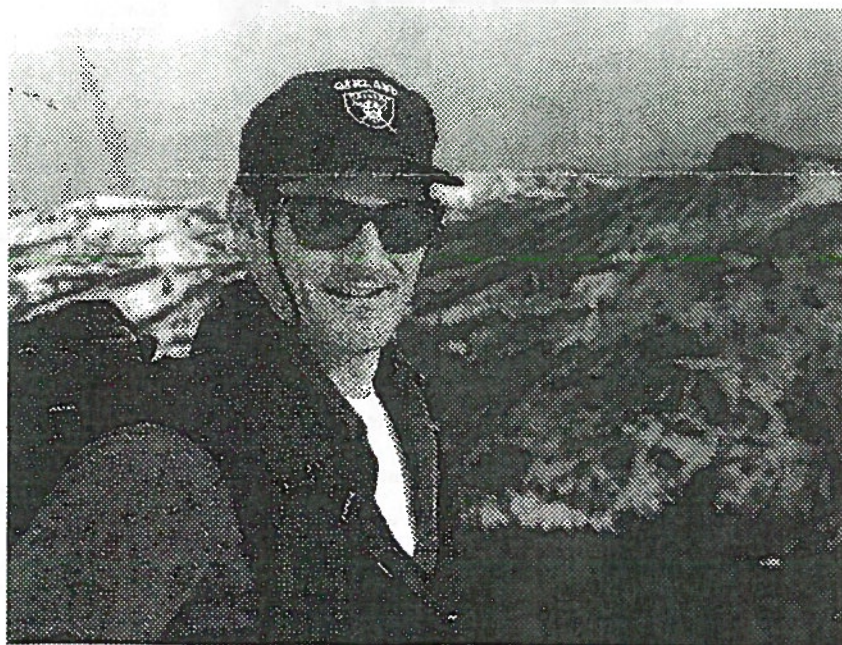
Winter Awareness

During October of 2001, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team committed itself—and much of its resources—to producing a video on winter awareness. The goal was to bring the message of winter safety to a more diverse and extensive audience, both within the Tahoe Basin and beyond. The Team had mulled over a project like this for more than a decade, but for reasons that had a lot to do with no conspicuous film-making talent among the Team's membership, it never came to fruition.

Enter Bob Wright. Bob, though no filmmaker himself, nonetheless had his sights set high. He figured the time was right to bring the Team's message beyond the local fourth grade classrooms and target a wider audience. Bob put together a comprehensive plan—including funding—and suggested retaining local film-makers Tom Day, Eric DesLauriers, and Elizabeth Rogers. The trio was subsequently hired by the Nordic Team, and has spent the last year working on the project.

The film, tentatively titled *Winter Aware*, debuted at the Tahoe International Film Festival on September 25. It's about 40 minutes long.

Tom, Eric, and Elizabeth have done an absolutely outstanding job. The footage is thrilling and inspiring, the music contemporary, and the narration, interviews, and overall message spot-on. The film will appeal to a very wide audience, I believe. But I've always believed myself easier than you have, so check it out



Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team President Steve Twomey.
 Photograph by Randall Osterhuber

Next General Meeting is Monday, October 7, 2002, 6:00 pm at the Granlibakken Resort's Ski Hut

for yourself. If you're as lucky as you look, you might just catch a glimpse of the film at the first Team meeting, **October 7**.

And while the filming and editing have been going on, Bob Wright has written several grants that have been funded, covering the costs of production. Way to go Bob!

WWW. ...

I have been waaaaay delinquent in sending kudos to the Nordic Team's webmasters Peter Sporleder, Mark Johnson, and Roman Fail. Those boys have been busy stroking the keyboard for more than a few midnight hours and it's really paid off. The Team website is a great resource both for those far from the pulse of the Team and for those riding the fibrillations. Buy those websters a beer when you see them. In the meantime, check out their work at www.tahoenordicsar.com. Thanks you guys!

Team Trainings

Training Committee co-Chairs Bernie Mellor and Paul Honeywell announce the following training and outing schedule for the next month or so. Remember: A current OES card is required to participate in any Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team search or training. Please contact Steve Twomey (525-7280) to check on the status of your card or the Placer County Sheriff's Office (581-6330) to apply first-time for a new card.

It's always a proper gesture to call the training organizer and let him or her know you will be attending.

October 10: Russ Viehmann (525-6978) will lead a Team truck and equipment training as well as an introduction to the use of avalanche transceivers. Meet at 6:00 PM at the Team garage (223 Fairway Drive, behind the Tahoe City Chevron station).

October 12: A hike from Emerald Bay to Meeks Bay. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM; Steve Twomey (525-7280) is the contact.

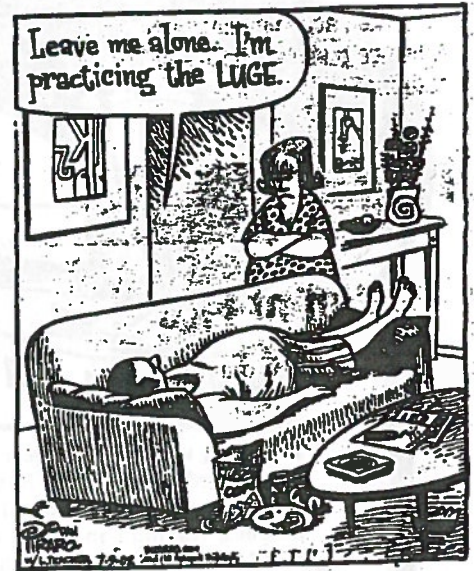
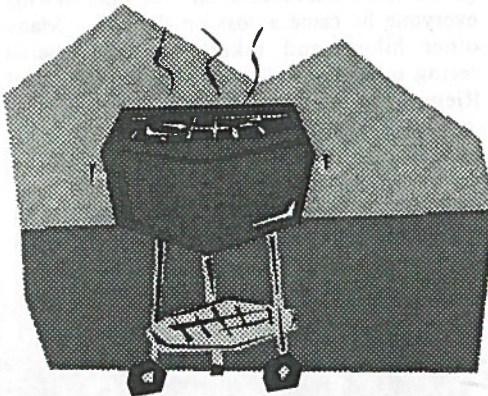
October 16: Maestro Randy Sharp (587-2877) will host an evening of instruction on the use of GPS receivers and the Team's computer. Even if you're feeling pretty seasoned with the GPS units, a refresher will imbue that info deep into the long-term. Meet at the garage, 6:30 PM.

October 19: Mark Johnson (583-1308) has choreographed an afternoon/evening of hiking and eating. Meet at the bottom of the Castle Valley dirt road on Donner Summit at 4:45 PM (or at the Team garage at 4:00) and enjoy a hike up to the Peter Grubb Hut, a dinner there (pot-luck: bring something to share), and a hike back under the moonlight.

October 26: Audrey Staples (587-6895) is organizing a hike from Donner Summit to Squaw Valley. Meet at the Team garage at 7:00 AM or the PCT trailhead at the top of Donner Pass Road at 7:45. Giving Audrey the heads-up as to your attendance will help her manage the car shuttle.

November 2: Another hike: this one around the Mt. Rose area. Navigation exercises will be the call of the day. Meet at the Team garage at 8:00 AM or at the parking lot across from the Kings Beach Safeway at 8:20. Contact Peter Sporleder (546-0588) for more info.

Dodging pine cones and meat bees,
—Randall Osterhuber



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
	Dirk Schoonmaker	583-2929
	Randy Sharp	587-2877
	Randall Osterhuber	546-4491
Directors-at-large	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
Training	Paul Honeywell	546-8609
	Bernie Mellor	546-2238

All phone numbers area code (530).

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

Post Office Box 7703
Tahoe City, California 96145

(530) 581-4038

www.tahoenordicsar.com



MARK JOHNSON
PO BOX 8258
TAHOE CITY CA 96145

please keep us informed of your correct address!

96145+8258 54