

SKI PATROL NEWSLETTER

Celebrating a Life Well-Lived

Honoring Mike Peart

Over 200 people gathered on a fair autumn day at Ice House Resort to honor Mike Peart in a moving Celebration of Life. Mike's family, including his father and brothers, were present for the gathering, along with Mike's many friends and colleagues from the community. The Patrol decorated the stage with crossed skis and jackets. A display board was erected with pictures and awards from Mike's life. A long history of involvement in the Echo to Kirkwood Race was on display in a collection of t-shirts going back to the beginning.



Mike's nephew provided a formal eulogy. In addition, family and friends spoke of the impact Mike had on their life and on the community. It was a time for tears, a time for laughter, and a time for appreciation for a unique personality. We learned of Mike's childhood and his extended family, and that Mike was a mentor and model to them, as well as to so many Ski Patrol members. Two slide shows of pictures taken during Mike's life were shown. These pictures will shown at the next General Meeting in November.

The impact Mike had on the community was evident from the wide array of community resources mobilized for the event. Ice House Resort donated the use of their campground and a keg of Mike's favorite beverage, Sierra Nevada Pale Ale. The Sheriff's Department and Eldorado SAR provided power, parking, and general support. A community pot luck followed the event. The patrol extends its thanks for Nancy Platt for organizing the event.

Contributed by Jerry Plummer

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

Mike – I Tip My Pale Ale To You

I tip my Pale Ale to you
For all the times you carefully fit
our boys with skis
And encouraged them to get out
into the backcountry;
For all the times you prepared
and repaired our skis with care.

I tip my Pale Ale to you
For your patience with me,
Captain Crater,
When I'd ruin slopes with my
attempting-to-telemark-and-becoming-a-
missile-instead crashes;
For the inspiration you gave me that
I could learn to telemark
If I simply allowed my self
enough time to follow your superb
form.

I tip my Pale Ale to you
For your warm greetings at the cabin,
For all our hikes into the backcountry;
For your wisdom about the rocks,
the birds, and the flowers;
For the sense we shared that
any day in the mountains
Is better than the best day anywhere else.

I tip my Pale Ale to you
For our banterings back and forth about
the world;
For your perspective on politics,
and your fervent less-than-liberal views
That forced me to think
and sometimes reconsider
My far-from-conservative positions.

Mike, I tip my Pale Ale to you
For the time we were able to
share with you;
That time has left a mark
on me – on us – I will cherish forever.

by Jim Coate October 7, 2004

*Read by Julie Hendricks at the
Celebration of Mike's life.*

October 20, 2004

Jeff Neves, Sheriff
El Dorado County
300 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Sheriff Neves:

I am writing on behalf of the El Dorado Nordic Ski Patrol to express our appreciation for the fine work of your Office in searching for Mike Peart, rapidly arranging his transport to medical services, and later helping the community celebrate his life and mourn his passing.

Those of us who were present at the search saw first hand the solid professionalism of the Search and Rescue Team. An impressive array of resources was swiftly assembled which brought quick results. Clearly, without your staff, the El Dorado County SAR, and the resources from other jurisdictions, we would not have had closure as quickly or perhaps at all.

We especially appreciate the help of your office and the Chaplin's Office. The search was handled with sensitivity and respect for Mike and his many friends, and the help of the Chaplin afterwards helped all of us involved debrief and process the loss.

As always, Todd Crawford and Marty Hackett were exemplary leaders. El Dorado County SAR showed sensitivity and support in ways too numerous to count. We know there were staff involved from other jurisdictions under the mutual aid agreement. All of them we thank for their assistance.

We would appreciate it very much if you could extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone involved. Our entire organization appreciates everything that was done.

Sincerely,

Jerry Plummer
President

GPS Class Scheduled for Nov. 4 & 6

Ever wonder how the heck a GPS unit works, but were afraid to ask? Well, now's your chance to learn. An upcoming course will detail use of GPS receivers with the ski patrol's own Grant Nelson. Grant will give a very thorough review of the technical details of the GPS System. The evening class session will cover the basics of GPS satellite systems, along with coordinate systems, limitations of the GPS systems, and incorporating GPS with map and compass orienteering. Course concepts will be tested in a field orienteering session. The classroom session will be held from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in Building C (where general meetings are held). The Nov. 6 field session will meet at the Safeway in Pollock Pines at 8:00 a.m. and will run till about 3 p.m.

Winter SAR-EX Set for Feb. 4-6, 2005

Mark your calendars. The winter SAR-EX event will be Feb 4th, 5th and 6th, 2005 at the Ice House Resort. We will do a full-scale mock search. If you want to rent a room for the event, call Julie at 293-3321. The meal prices are unknown at this time but will be similar to our last "Ice House Adventure." For you new folks this is traditionally a good time. We search hard by day and socialize by evening.

Contributed by Deputy Scott Stewart

PATROL CALENDAR

November

- 2 - General Meeting
- 4 & 6 - GPS Training
- 16 - Board Meeting

December

- 7 - General Meeting
- 11 - On the Hill Refresher
- 21 - Board Meeting

January

- 4 - General Meeting
- 8 - Winter Safety Class
- 15 & 16 - Loon Chalet Open House
- 15 - Winter Overnight
- 18 - Board Meeting
- 29 - Qualifying Ski Day

February

- 1 - General Meeting
- 5 - Mountaineering Training
- 15 - Board Meeting
- 19 - Ski Skills Training
- 22 - Race Meeting

March

- 1 - Race Meeting
- 8 - Race Meeting
- 9 & 10 - Race Pack-up and pack in
- 12 - Echo-Kirkwood Race & Tour

April

- 5 - General Meeting
- 19 - Board Meeting

May

- 1 - End of Year Meeting
- 10 - Board Meeting