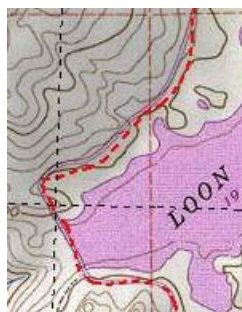


JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Loon Lake Open House This Weekend

The Loon Lake Chalet Open House event is this this weekend, **Jan. 17 and 18**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Help is always needed, so your assistance with greeting visitors or bringing cookies would be a great addition to this fun event. There will be an informal potluck dinner on Saturday evening, so bring food for 4 if you're going to be there for dinner. Contact Julie Hendricks if you have questions.

New Members Make Tracks



Eleven ski patrol members participated in a day of skiing and fun at the December New Member Ski Day, lead by our inimitable Patrol President Jerry Plummer. The group skied along the northwest shore of Loon Lake toward Bugle Lake.

Keep in mind that New Member Days are a great way to get to know other patrol members, even if you've been part of the organization for awhile. The next New Member Ski Day is this Saturday, Jan. 17. Contact Jerry Plummer for more information.

Winter Safety Class Heavily Attended

The winter safety class held in Placerville Jan. 3 was heavily attended by 30 people. Participants were enthusiastic and want more, so they were encouraged to attend the Loon Lake Open House. A number of Sierra Club members were among those attending, so the patrol education outreach is going to more than just our members! Many thanks for the efforts of Jerry Plummer (weather), Theresa Gilliland (nutrition), Herb Boltz (clothing), Mike Peart (10 essentials/packs), Walt Thompson (emergency shelters), Monte Hendricks (avalanche, group dynamics) and Julie Hendricks (facilitating sessions).

Help Needed for Race Prep

On Jan. 13, there will be a work session to prep a mailing of race application forms for the Echo to Kirkwood Race. The session will be held at the SAREX lodge in Camino. Call Walt Thompson if you need directions. Application forms are ready, so be sure to be pushing applications when you're out patrolling. Sponsorship forms are due soon (by Jan. 15th). Forms are available on the EDNSP website.

January Events & Contact Info

Winter SAREX Training (Jan 24, 25) Opportunities still exist for you to play a role in supporting this major training event. Contact Daniel Hansler if you're interested in participating. The facilities are excellent—there is lodging and for a small fee, hot food will be prepared for participants.

Qualifying Ski Day (Jan 31) Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Safeway in Pollock Pines. Pack weight needs to be around 20 lbs., but 25 is recommended. Contact Mike Matus if you have questions.



PATROL CALENDAR

January

- 17 & 18 - Loon Winter Open House
- 17 - New Member Ski Day
- 24-26 - SAREX training event
- 31 - Qualifying Ski Day

February

- 3 - General Meeting
- 6 - 8 Bear Valley Telemark Festival
- 14 - New Member Ski Day
- 28 - Avalanche Training

March

- 2 - General Meeting
- 9 - Race Meeting
- 13 - New Member Ski Day
- 16 - Race Meeting
- 20 - Echo-Kirkwood Race & Tour

April

- 6 - General Meeting
- 10 - Ski Skills Training

May

- 1 - Elections & Final Season Meeting

Remember to...

- **Check your batteries** (in your beacon, flashlight, radio)
- **Leave word** where you're going if you're skiing alone.
- **Practice putting chains on** your vehicle on a warm, dry day in your own driveway.
- **Keep your patrol pack, boots, skis & poles** trail-ready in case you're suddenly called out.
- **Bring & use sunblock...**

Loon Lake Winter Road: Keeping it for Skiers Only

At the Jan. meeting of the ski patrol, Monte Hendricks reported on the issue of winter use of the county road along the west shore of Loon Lake (the Polaris ski trail). While no prohibitions have been in place for motorized use of the road during the winter, concern has been expressed that unless there is more formalized protection of this area, 4x4 users might be more likely to attempt to drive on the road (and ruin conditions for skiing). The ski patrol is concerned because the road is one of the primary trails in the area ski system. Currently the 4x4 community is passing the word that 4x4s should not use the road, and has agreed to this voluntary compliance to avoid the possibility of a formalized winter road closure. They've also requested that if we see 4x4s out on the road we should get photos of the vehicle license. While ski patrol members are encouraged to do this, it's critical that we not be confrontational if such 4x4 use were observed.

In an effort to document motorized use over the trailhead at Loon Lake, patrol members are asked to note any problems associated with 4x4s trying to get over the snow berm and onto the ski trail. If you have a camera and you see 4x4s up on the ski trail, photograph the vehicle if you're able to do so discretely, or just photograph the 4x4 tracks. The ski patrol can cover expenses associated with developing film. It's important for us to document any motorized use over the ski trail, so anytime you use the Polaris ski trail, mention the date you were there to David Rolloff (the trail steward for the Polaris) at any patrol meeting or at rolloff@csus.edu. Let David know you used the trail, even if you didn't see any 4x4s.

Loon Lake Chalet Weekend Volunteer Opportunity

There is an opportunity for patrol members to serve as a winter Forest Service Snow Ranger in the Loon Lake area. The position would involve serving as the public contact ranger at the Loon Lake Chalet. The position is volunteer, and those participating would receive a Forest Service per diem for 2 days of \$36 to cover mileage and food for the 2 days. If you're interested, contact Dave Boyer at Pacific Ranger District.

Avalanche Class February 24, 26, & 28

There will be an avalanche class offered on the evenings of February 24 & 26, and all day on the 28th. If you're thinking of attending, plan on 6:30-10 p.m. on Tues & Thurs at the hearing room (where general patrol meetings happen). Saturday, Feb. 28 will be an all day field session. More info will be provided at the February general meeting. Contact Grant Nelson if you have questions.

Patrol Clothing, Caps, Badges

David Rolloff is currently gauging demand for ordering ski patrol polo shirts, and ball caps. If you didn't sign up on the interest list at the Jan. meeting, contact David at rolloff@csus.edu to let him know if you'd like to order a cap or shirt. If you're interested in having embroidering on your gear, visit *Sundance Uniforms & Embroidery* in Shingle Springs (4050 Du-rock Rd # 13, 530-676-6900). If you do this on your own the cost is approximately \$17 per logo sewn. Note that you must be listed on the current roster to use the official patrol logo on your gear. If you don't mind waiting, there will likely be a "mass embroidering" order happening at the end of the season in May, with a cost of about \$7 per item.

Volunteer Hours: Up and Up

Patrol Scribe Jennifer Ebert reports that as of the end of December the patrol has already logged over 1,100 hours of volunteer time. Keep close records of your patrol-related hourly work and be sure to report this to Jenn. Cards for reporting activities will be available at the February meeting.

Telemark Ski Lessons & Events

At the January patrol meeting, Mike Werst noted that telemark ski instruction is now available at Sierra at Tahoe. Their website (www.sierratahove.com/telemark-center.html) indicates that a lesson package goes for \$60, and includes rentals and a 1-hour private lesson. For more information, call (530) 659-7453 x235. Mr. Werst also noted that there are a number of telemark ski opps at Bear Valley, particularly the Bear Valley Telemark Festival, Feb. 6-8. Information on Bear Valley telemark happenings is available at www.mtadventure.com.

Get Your Info in the Next Newsletter

The patrol secretary *gratefully* accepts information for the monthly newsletter. Particularly if you're an event or committee leader, it's more helpful to get written info so your event will be publicized accurately. Material is collected for 4-5 days after the monthly general meeting for inclusion in the newsletter. If you have info about upcoming ski patrol events, email your info to David at rolloff@csus.edu, or give it to him at the next general meeting, or call 916-278-5020.