

# El Dorado Nordic Ski Patrol

Volume 2 Issue 8

March 2008

## Officers

- President: Monte Hendricks
- V.P.: Rich Platt
- Secretary: Julie Hendricks
- Treasurer: Mark Stanley
- Director: John Stroud
- Director: Mickey Kaiserman
- Director: Rob Blumenthal
- Director: Jeff Gitschel

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## Echo Summit Trail Work

On Saturday March 8th 5 hearty Patrol members under the leadership of Echo Summit trail steward Jeff Gitschel grabbed their wrenches, hammers, and ladders and went to work replacing the old trail signs on the trail system with the great new ones provided by Placerville District. It was a great rewarding day! Thanks to Jeff Gitschel, Rob Blumenthal, Rich Platt, and Julie & Monte Hendricks. And a big thank you to Ron Hancock for getting such great signs made! They are nice!



Out with the old and in with the new! It was a great day working together.

"I never thought I'd get to learn to ski with a ladder!" Now this is exciting!" Trail Boss Jeff Gitschel

## Avalanche Class

Our Avalanche Class was held this year on Feb 26 & 28 with the field session Sat. March 1. The instructors were our National Avalanche School alumni, Monte Hendricks and Rich Platt. We had new patrol members in attendance as well as several people from the Eldorado National Forest and from the public. We limited the class to 22 total and had a waiting/alternative list of 10 more wish-

ing to attend. All participants expressed their appreciation to Monte and Rich for their expertise and presentation of the material. This is an incredibly important class and we are so pleased there is so much interest from the public to want to learn! We also thank the Eldorado National Forest for their support in opening this class to the public.

# Avalanche Field Session Photos



Instructor Monte in our snowpack study pit at Echo Lakes



Student Rita learns to identify snow crystals with the magnifier



Instructor Rich answers questions about what happens in a snowpack



The group learns to look for buried clues about avalanche danger in the snowpack

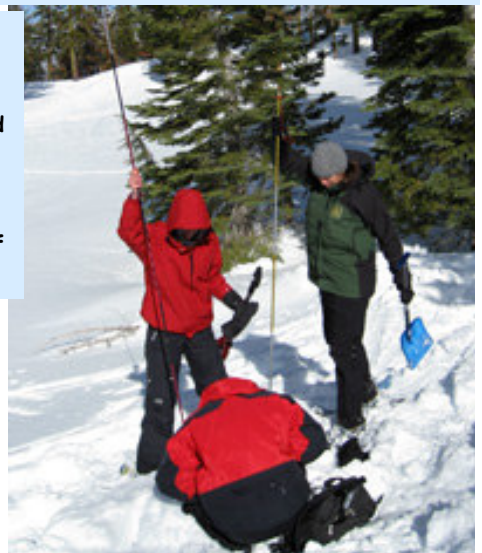


The group learns about snowpack stability tests such as the Ruschblock and how they relate to "red light, yellow light, green light" decisions about snowpack stability



Monte illustrates flux lines and the final "pinpoint" stage of an avalanche beacon search

Teams work together on an avalanche rescue scenario. Here the beacon searcher hones in on a buried signal and calls for probes to find the "victim" and determine depth of burial. All the teams did great and learned the value of practice, practice, practice!



Thank you to Nancy Platt for all the great photos!

## Van Vleck Bunkhouse Overnight Stay

The Patrol has use of the Bunkhouse Saturday night March 29th and Sunday night the 30th. This is a great opportunity for Patrol members who haven't stayed overnight to become acquainted with the ins and outs of the facility and things to look for to help with the upkeep of this great place for the public to use! There was a sign up sheet at the March meeting for anyone interested. Contact Julie if you would like to be added to the list! We are hoping to coordinate with the CHP to land H2O at the Van Vleck Storm Shelter for "practice" during our trip in on the 29th. Rich has offered to set this up. This will be organized for members to take part in the H2O practice and then return to Loon and those continuing into the Bunkhouse to stay for one or both nights. Members will be informed by e-mail if this all works out and are invited to come!

**Welcome** to Mark Goldfine for attending our March meeting as a prospective new member! Great to meet you!

"Skiing with a mission to serve the public"

## CPR Recertification

Will be on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> with a start time of 6PM. The cost is \$45 and the place will be announced. Please let Julie know if you are interested in signing up and staying current! First responder status requires a current CPR C card.

**EDNSP YAHOO GROUP:** is up and running for Patrol members. Many more photos of the Echo Summit Trail Workday and Avalanche Class field session have been posted here. Watch for an update on the secret location of the Roswell alien bodies. Feel free to visit, join up, and add to it!  
<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ednsp/>

## Volunteer Hours Reporting

At our March meeting President Monte asked for updates on where members have been skiing and patrolling and reminded everyone about the importance of recording their hours and e-mailing them to Julie on the PROPER RECORDING forms!

## Upcoming Sled Practice

Dave Farrell has offered to work with members on rigging the sled for rescue on steep terrain, etc. Julie will contact Dave and see what day will work and members will be contacted via e-mail.

## Ski For The Avalanche Center

Ski all day March 30th at Alpine Meadows Resort for \$35 and the money goes to support the Sierra Avalanche Center! Check it out here:  
[www.sierraavalanchecenter.org/](http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org/)

**CAL STAR ACTIVITY:** Thank you Rich for scheduling CalStar to fly into the heliport at Pacific but it turned out they got called to Reno. We still took a field trip with members out to the heliport and showed how the lights worked. Rich provided the history as to how it all came to be.

## Upcoming Meetings

Our next general meeting will be Tuesday April 1st in the Hearing Room in Building C @ 7 pm. Ted Lenzie will be presenting slides from his Mt. McKinley Climb. We will also be taking nominations for officers and directors for the 2008/2008 season. Our next Board meeting will be Thursday March. 13th, Building A @ 7 PM

## Newsletter

So, have you been enjoying this newsletter? Have you been celebrating that it's staple free? A big thank you to Nancy & Rich Platt for some of the photos used this month. We hope you have found the newsletter fun and informative and a useful read! The invitation is always out there if anyone would like to submit photos, news, or articles to be included.

"Skiing takes on a whole new dimension when you ski with the purpose to serve others." Rich Platt



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The El Dorado Nordic Ski Patrol was started during the winter of 1982 by a small group of cross country skiers working as volunteers for the US Forest Service. EDNSP has evolved into a non-profit corporation that works as a volunteer group with the Eldorado National Forest. The Patrol's primary objective is public service and education associated with winter mountain recreation.

EDNSP monthly meetings are the FIRST Tuesday of every month from September to April at 7 PM in the hearing room of Building C, in the EL Dorado Government Complex located on Fair Lane in Placerville.

Dues are \$25 annually with membership subject to approval by the Board of Directors.



**Photo taken 11 Feb. 2008 by Monte Hendricks of a portion of a very large avalanche on the northeast face of Elephants Back in the Carson Pass area.**