



Skinny Briefs

January '05



Important Dates

2005

On The Trail Training:
January 15-16

MTR 1 - Pinecrest
February 5-6

Avalanche 2 - Bear Valley
February 5-6

**Winter Backcountry
Awareness (Dodge)**
February 12

**Winter Awareness
(USFS)**
February 13

**Senior Emergency
Manage, Dodge Ridge**
February 19

MTR 1 - Bear Valley
February 19-20

Avalanche 1 - Sugar Bowl
February 26-27

**Girls Scout Program
(USFS)**
March 5

Avalanche 2 - Bear Valley
March 5-6

**Winter Backcountry
Awareness (Dodge
Ridge)**
March 6

Avalanche 1 - Yosemite
March 19-20

**Senior Emergency
Manage, Boreal**
March 20

Welcome to our first 2005 edition of skinny briefs...

The season is well underway and our On The Trail is right around the corner. Highlights of our season so far have been the candidate weekend, Dave Sands and Wade Melcher joining the ranks as patrollers and last but not least the loads of snow that has been falling.

Its great to see people using the Pinecrest webpage to sign up for their weekends. Keep it coming and don't forget the special events we have on the calendar in the coming months.



<http://www.pinecrestnordic.org>

From the Assistant Patrol Representative...

This edition of Skinny Briefs is well overdue. Good news though is we've had lots of great events to talk about since the last one.

I heard that the Trail maintenance weekend went off without a hitch, despite all of the snow. Thanks to Jim and Dell for their letting everyone stay at their place again. Unfortunately Dave and were not able to make it but we had an awesome time in Mexico at a friends wedding. There was also the Tri-Advisory which was at the Yosemite bug which is just out of Yosemite Valley. Thanks to Robert Parkhurst for organising the event. Dave K, John Kretschmann and myself cleaned the cabin over the thanksgiving weekend and we also got in some great skiing. We had three Candidates for candidate weekend which included some excellent telemark instruction from David Clay on Sunday - see his report later on. Now that we're all back from our Christmas vacations its time to get really stuck into our patrol duties starting with the On the Trail on the weekend of January 15 and 16.

I hope to get to see you all out there on the hill with my new skis :-)

Penny Hutchinson

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVE SANDS AND WADE MELCHER

Congratulations to Dave Sands and Wade Melcher for passing the OEC this year. Everyone who has been through it knows the stress and anxiety that final test day brings. Our candidates did a great job and passed with flying colours and now are valuable members of our team.

Instructor Development Instructors

On December 4th 2004 Jeff and Penny took time out from what could have been an awesome weekend skiing to take part in Instructor Development Instructor course with Sean Brennan (Sugar Bowl patroller) at Menlo park. This course enables Jeff and Penny to hold their own instructor development courses.

Also Dave Sands is also did the Instructor Development class in Modesto the same weekend and will be now helping instruct at our MTR 1 class.

RENDEZVOUS WITH THE NORDS

Well it's that time of the year again and we were all very excited to be back on the snow. The God's had blessed us with a gorgeous bluebird day, anticipating lots of turns coming our way.

It was great to see the old faces again and get acquainted with the newcomers, some of whom I knew. With the suggestion of splitting the group up into a morning first timers class, and an afternoon advanced class we decided to do just so.

Our morning first timer's class went very well, with everyone achieving progressions up to Wedge Christies with some even open paralleling. We all had a great time

with it and it was good for me to practice my lower level demos for the first time this year. I hope they weren't too rusty.

The afternoon class was a gas too. We had one particular focus for the day, being an edge change before a lead change, with some focus on rhythm and flow with smooth rounded turn shapes.

This group is looking very good with some strong skiers. The fact the everyone was outfitted with similar equipment this year facilitated a stronger learning curve and it was noticeable in they're skiing.

All in all it was a very rewarding day for me as usual. You guys are a very fun group and I always look forward to sharing the love of our sport with ya'll. Have fun out there and we'll see ya soon.

David is available this season if you would like to get a lesson from him. He is also going to be teaching at the Bear Valley Telemark festival.

David Clay

Dodge Ridge Ski School

Candidate Training Weekend

This seasons Candidate training weekend was a great turn out with three new candidates. Geraldine Murphy, Brandon Wildoner and William Mc Donnell. The weekend included classroom sessions, sled building practice and Sunday's lessons with David Clay. All the candidates did a great job staying awake during JK's talk on radio protocols and all did impressed Dave Clay as they attempted their first telemark turns. Needless to say we welcome them all and wish them well on their journeys to becoming patrollers.