



REPORT TO THE FAR WEST DIVISION
PROGRAM STATUS REPORT
MID SEASON –FWD 2013 - 2014 RECAP
REPORT DUE Feb. 27, 2014

PROGRAM: Nordic

FROM: Mike Kelly

DATE: 3/3/14

Limit report to 1 page — do not send as PDF — email to Secretary waits_janice@cusdk8.org

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS — total classes — total participants

What can you say when there is no snow. Patrols are coping. In the South, Mt. Pinos has been dryland training and is just starting to patrol, San Gabriel has no snow but has been working with the Forest Service. Mammoth Basin Nordic is gearing up for the annual biathlon race at Mammoth, which takes place on March 21-23.

In the North, Tahoe Backcountry has three new candidates and has been training them and conducting its annual Avalanche 1 class. Patrolling was curtailed in December and January, but is now in full swing. The Great ski Race from Tahoe City to Truckee, a fund raiser for Tahoe Nordic SAR (not NSP affiliated) was cancelled, so TBSP did not provide first-aid for that event as it has for many years.

Tahoe Donner Nordic helped the resort stay open by doing a lot of shovelling, but eventually had to give up. The resort has now reopened with the recent storms.

Pinecrest Nordic has had a rough year as well, not beginning until President's Weekend. They have 3 new candidates and managed to have a successful MTR1 class despite the dearth of snow.

My online Nordic Skills Manual project has been hampered by the lack of snow, but I hope to get at least a demo portion of it finished this season.

GOALS FOR COMING SEASON:

Tahoe Backcountry is exploring use of a new social media platform that has produced a significant number of ski-alongs, and might be useful for other patrols, both Nordic and Alpine. I will report on this in detail at the summer meeting.

ISSUES and RESOLUTIONS:

Several FWD Nordic patrols have recently experienced difficulty with individual Forest Service representatives. While some degree of individual autonomy is to be expected, it seems that it might be time to expand the MOU between NSP and USFS to provide some baselines for NSP/USFS interaction. If such guidelines were in place we wouldn't have to reinvent the wheel every time a new FS overseer comes to power. I'll work with National Nordic Program Supervisor Kevin Johnson to put together a proposal.

Submit to: Secretary Janice Waits