

# Tahoe Rim Trail

'Rim to Reno' spur will link city to world-class hiking trails

By Melanie Robbins

Mark Kimbrough '74 (forestry and outdoor recreation) the executive director of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, is justifiably proud of the 165-and-counting miles of hiker paradise his organization, the U.S. Forest Service and Nevada State Parks have built since beginning work in 1983.

The soft-spoken outdoorsman, who brought 34 years experience with Nevada State and Washoe County Parks systems to his "second career" four-and-a-half years ago, says the trail that loops the ancient lake high in the Sierra Nevada still has many more adventures in store. While officially "finished" in 2001, the association is building a 15-mile "Rim to Reno" trail that will begin near Hunter Creek in northwest Reno and link to the Tahoe Rim Trail at Mount Rose.

"Starting at the Reno trailhead at Hunter Creek, you will be able to hike to Tahoe along the Carson Range Ridge, and it will be a day's hike," Kimbrough notes, adding that the project is slated for completion in 2011.

Additionally, plans are underway to construct a 3-mile long connector trail from the California/Nevada Van Sickle State Park behind Harrah's Tahoe that will connect with the Rim Trail at Heavenly Valley Resort.

Rated one of the top 10 adventure vacations by the *National Geographic Adventure* maga-

zine in 2006, and featured on *Good Morning America*, Kimbrough says of the hikes, "Local folks have a world-class trail facility close to home, plus people come from all over the country and world to hike the trail."

The trail is unique in that it is broken into eight segments that are hikeable in one day, with the exception of the 33-mile Echo Lake-Barker Pass segment above the western shore of Lake Tahoe. This segment requires a one-night campout in Desolation Wilderness.

People from age 7 to 82 have hiked the entire 165 miles, racking up their segments piecemeal or in one of the association's featured 15-day, fund-raising Thru-Hikes. Guides are also available on Fridays and Saturdays for hiking individual segments. Those who complete the trail earn membership in the 165-Mile Club, as well as a certificate and patch.

The Rim Trail also includes the 1.3-mile Tahoe Meadows interpretive loop near Mount Rose, which is accessible to virtually anyone, including wheelchair-bound adventurers.

#### LOOK ONLINE

<http://www.tahoerimtrail.org/>  
Tahoe Rim Trail

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/top-ten-outdoor-adventures.html>  
National Geographic Adventure magazine

