

Search Briefing, 2/18/2001

Missing Person: George Hoyt Jr, 32 years old, Snowboarder

Subject Description: White Male Adult, 6'2", 210lbs

Last Known Place: Lower Gondola, 10am, 2/14/2001

Possible Clothing: Black Burton snowboarding jacket, Black Burton snowboarding pants, Burton hard shell boots, K2 Eldorado carving board, red, white, and blue with plate bindings.

Equipment Carried: No backpack

Other Info: Mr. Hoyt is a smoker, unknown brand.

Circumstances: Mr. Hoyt checked into Motel 6 in Mammoth at 10pm Tuesday, 2/13/2001 for a two night stay. Motel employees checked his room Saturday, 2/17/2001 because he did not check out, and found Mr. Hoyt's belongings in the room. A check of the card key system found that the room had last been accessed about 7am Wednesday 2/14/2001. Mammoth Police were called and investigation revealed that Mr. Hoyt had purchased a lift ticket with a credit card Wed. morning. The lift ticket had been scanned Wed. morning at chair 2, then at approx. 10am at the lower gondola. The upper gondola opened at about 10am that day. Mammoth Mountain had been hit with a large snowfall last weekend and Wed morning was the first time that the top of the mountain was open to guests.

Search Plans Sunday 2/18/2001

Ski Patrol: Front side of Mammoth Mountain within ski area boundaries.

Canyon Lodge: Dragon's Back, Dragon's Tail to Gorilla Gulch  
Lincoln Mountain  
Other tree areas

Main Lodge: Hemlock Ridge front side  
Chair 14 trees, Scooter Pie  
Paranoids/ Starchute area  
Chair 12 between Road Runner and Minaret Mile CO2 area  
Other tree areas

SAR teams: Back Side of Mammoth Mountain to Lakes basin and Reds Meadow areas  
Top of mountain east along south side of Dragon's Back to Dragon's Tail and Hole in the Wall  
Top of mountain west to Fresno Bowl to Turkey Gulch  
Turkey Gulch around Hemlock Ridge to Reds Lake drainage.  
Reds Meadow road with snowmobile.



## Mono County Sheriff's Department - Missing Snowboarder

Thu, Feb 22, 2001

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, George Hoyt, Jr. of Bakersfield, Calif., checked in to the Motel 6 in Mammoth Lakes for a two night stay. On Friday, Feb. 16, motel employees checked his room because he had not checked out yet, and found his belongings still remained. A check of the card key system found that the room had last been accessed about 7 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14. An investigation by the Mammoth Lakes Police Department revealed that Hoyt had purchased a Mammoth Mountain lift ticket on Wednesday morning, and was last scanned by lift operators at the lower gondola at 10 a.m. The upper gondola opened about 10 a.m. that day, which was the first time it had operated since the large snowfall of the previous weekend.

A search for George Hoyt began Friday, Feb. 16 that involved the MLPD, Mono and Inyo counties search and rescue, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area ski patrol and security personnel, the U.S. Forest Service and both CARDA and WOF search dog teams. Sergeant Turner of the Mono County Sheriff's Department reported on Monday, Feb. 19, that no clues had been found and due to inclement weather and a developing storm system, the search was suspended. No aircraft was utilized due to the weather and visibility, but officials expect the search to commence, and include helicopters, as soon as it clears.

The entire Mountain has been searched, from Dragon's Back and Dragon's Tail over to the front side of Hemlock Ridge. The backside of Mammoth Mountain to the Lakes basin, Reds Meadow, Hole in the Wall, Fresno Bowl, Turkey Gulch and the Red Lake drainage areas have also been thoroughly covered, as well as Reds Meadow Road with a snowmobile.

Hoyt is a snowboarder, wearing a black Burton snowboarding jacket and pants, Burton hard-shell boots, and has a K2 Eldorado carving board, with red, white and blue plate bindings. He is a smoker of an unknown brand of cigarettes, and carried no backpack. -AW

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## Search Continues for Missing Person

Thu, Mar 1, 2001

On Friday, Feb. 23, Inyo and Mono search and rescue dispatched helicopters from Fallon Air Force Base in a continued effort to locate missing person George Hoyt Jr. This was the first day that the weather was clear enough to allow for an air search to take place since his disappearance. After a detailed, all day search in the general area of Mammoth Mountain, no results were discovered with no further development in the case.

According to Lt. Cole Hampton of the Mono County Sheriff's Department the active search has been suspended pending further evidence, however informal efforts to locate Hoyt will continue by search and rescue volunteers.

Hoyt was reported missing on Friday, Feb. 16, when employees at Motel 6 in Mammoth Lakes searched his room which he was to have vacated on Thursday, Feb. 15, discovering his belongings still remained. His lift ticket, which was purchased from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area on Wednesday, Feb. 14, was last scanned at the lower gondola of the mountain at 10 a.m. This was the last recorded evidence of Hoyt's activities. The family of Hoyt is expected to arrive in Mammoth to retrieve his belongings and vehicle shortly. --AW

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## Body Found

Thu, May 31, 2001

On Tuesday, May 26, hikers found a deceased person in an area adjacent to Chair 9 at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. Sheriff's deputies, members of the Mono County Search and Rescue Team, and Mammoth Mountain Ski Patrol assisted in removing the victim who was found in a steep area near the chair lift.

The victim's name is being withheld pending a positive identification and notification of the next of kin, but is believed to be the missing snowboarder George Hoyt, according to Sergeant Boe Turner from the Mono County Sheriff's Department.

Hoyt was reported missing on Feb. 16, but after an investigation it was discovered that Hoyt had not returned to his motel room since the morning of Feb. 14. Further investigation revealed that Hoyt had purchased a lift ticket for the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area on the morning of Feb. 14, and the last record of his ticket being scanned was at the bottom Gondola that same day. This was also first morning the top of the mountain was opened to skiers and snowboarders after a large snow storm. The death appears to be an accident and is being investigated by the Mono County Coroner's Office.--AW

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## Positive Identification of Body

Thu, Jun 14, 2001

The identity of the body recovered from Mammoth Mountain on May 26 has been confirmed, through the use of dental records, as that of George Edward Hoyt, Jr.

Hoyt, a snowboarder, had been missing since Feb. 14. The Mono County Sheriff's Department Volunteer Search and Rescue Team conducted an intensive search on and around Mammoth Mountain, finding no clues and suspending the search on Feb. 18. Since that time, small groups of the search and rescue team have spent many hours conducting additional search efforts for clues to the disappearance of George Hoyt.

Search and Rescue Team members Jutta Schmidt and Jeff Holmquist located Hoyt's body in a very steep area adjacent to Chair 9 on Mammoth Mountain. **MT**

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