



Mountain Bulletin

A Publication of the American Mountain Guides Association

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PRESIDENT CORNER

"I'd like to welcome Clint Cook, Phil Powers and Alan Jolley as new Board members, along with Pete Takeda as an Advisory member."

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR CORNER

"We will be implementing the Guiding Skills Course as the first course individuals will take before discipline specific courses"

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORNER

"The other major goal the Board addressed was the idea of financial assistance to all qualified participants in the education and certification courses."

THE AMGA 25th CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN GUIDES

By Mike Alkaitis, Executive Director

I recently returned from celebrating the AMGA 25th Annual and Board of Directors meeting held in and around Moab, Utah. The memories I have from this trip are many and include some great visualizations. Craig Luebben teaching his offwidth clinic to a group of 25 people at the notorious Offwidth City at the edge of Longs canyon. First, I don't believe I ever would have guessed 25 people would be suckered into climbing offwidths in the desert. Second, I am still inspired at watching Craig climb Done Luben (5.11+ OW) as a demonstration climb, and give a verbal dialogue of the climb in a move by move description, and it took him only 10 minutes to reach the top.

If you missed the Guides Olympics, I implore you to not miss out on next years event in North Carolina. There were 18 participants, 25 hecklers and lots of good will to go along with the tough and humorous events. The highlight of the event was the pumpkin helmets to be created and worn by a team member for the duration of the Olympics. Margaret Wheeler and Adam Fox took the pumpkin title and are still basking in glory. The overall winners were Art Mooney and Amos Whiting. They will return to defend their title next year and encourage all challengers to the throne.

The Board of Directors meeting was productive and continued the positive direction the AMGA has been headed in the past few years. The Board really focused on what was important for the AMGA to work on to achieve our long-range plan, and help pursue our mission.

(continued page 3)

OBSOLESCENCE AND ANALOG AVALANCHE TRANSCEIVERS: ENSURING DOWNWARD COMPATIBILITY

By Bruce Edgerly and John Hereford

Introduction

Older analog beacons are becoming increasingly susceptible to "frequency drift" with age, temperature and abuse. Often this drift becomes severe enough that the beacons do not comply with the latest European standard for transmit frequency. To extend their receive range, some newer digital transceivers are designed with narrow receiver bandwidth, which inhibits their ability to detect poor transmitters. To ensure downward compatibility-reliable performance between new and old technology-an international standard should be created for receiver bandwidth. Users should consider bandwidth when selecting new transceiver fleets. Those with analog fleets should institutionalize a regular inspection program-and eventual replacement with units containing crystal transmitters and wide receiver bandwidth.

Background

In 2001, the French avalanche research institute, ANENA (Association Nationale pour l'Étude de la Neige et des Avalanches), reported that one widely used model of analog transceiver (A1)* was failing to meet the European standards for transmit frequency at cold temperatures. The report suggested that some newer transceivers could experience compromised receive performance when used in conjunction with these transmitters, especially those with narrow receiver bandwidth. In 2004, Backcountry Access and Rescue Technology hired an independent lab, Apex Wireless, to determine the receiver bandwidth of the newest generation of avalanche beacons and their compatibility with these "drifted" transmitters, specifically A1.

(continued page 6)



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Read this Disclaimer!

The AMGA, its officers and employees, authors, editors, artists and volunteers assume no responsibility or liability for accuracy, effectiveness, or safety of any technique or advice described in this publication.

It is the responsibility of the individual climber or guide to investigate technical techniques and evaluate them for safety and applicability.

The **Mountain Bulletin** is published in May, August, November and February.

Newsletter Deadline

The next issue of the **Mountain Bulletin** will be published February 11, 2005.

Deadline for all submissions, including advertising is January 21, 2005.

Deadlines for 2005 issue are as follows:

January 21 (Winter Issue)
April 29 (Spring Issue)
July 16 (Summer Issue)
November 4 (Fall Issue)

Newsletter Contributors:

Mike Alkaitis is Executive Director of the AMGA and a certified Rock Guide.

Simon Fryer is the Program Director for the AMGA. He has worked for the Colorado Mountain School as Office Manager, Expedition Coordinator, and Guide.

Rob Hess serves as the Technical Director of the AMGA. He is IFMGA certified and is the senior guide/owner of Jackson Hole Mountain Guides.

Dick Jackson is a UIAGM/IFMGA guide and current president of the AMGA.

Nancy Lea is the Membership Services Manager of the AMGA. Prior to working with the AMGA Nancy served as Program Director for City Cliffs, a non-profit organization dedicated to working with under privileged youth.

Jim Ratz is the Vice President of the AMGA and is an owner of Jackson Hole Mountain Guides.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORNER

by Michael Alkaitis, Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

The Public Policy Committee is dedicated to pursuing access possibilities, as well as maintain current access for certified guides, accredited guide services, and all guides in America. The Public Policy Committee introduced the idea of the AMGA helping Certified guides create an LLC designed to create an umbrella company for Certified Guides to join. This LLC would obtain permits where available, have liability and workman's comp insurance for all members, and pursue the purchase of permits when available. This idea is still in its infancy, but was supported by the membership present at the meeting.



Guides Olympics participants prepare for competition

The other major goal of the Board addressed was the idea of financial assistance to all qualified participants in the educational and certification courses. The Finance Committee of the AMGA started a course endowment last year and has committed to grow this endowment substantially over the next few years. The ultimate goal of this endowment is to give unbiased support to guides so courses and exams are \$500 a piece. If you are interested in helping grow this endowment, please contact the AMGA national office at 303-271-0984 or mike@amga.com. 🏔️

Thank you to all of the members who participated in this great event and I look forward to seeing everyone in North Carolina next year.



PRESIDENT CORNER

by Dick Jackson, AMGA President

I'd like to offer an update on the "State of the AMGA" with an emphasis on our recent annual meeting and 25th anniversary events held from October 20-26 in Moab, Utah. Activities ranged from WFR recertification, TR and Rock Instructors' Training, the Technical Committee and Board of Directors meetings, Professional Development Clinics, the Annual Awards party with title sponsorship by Black Diamond and 25th Anniversary sponsorship by Marmot, and finally the most entertaining attraction for the weekend...the Guides' Olympics. Turnout for the events was perhaps a record number of guides whose rendezvous in Moab represents a turning point in the maturity of the AMGA!

Worthy of note is the cohesive and cooperative nature that both the Technical Committee and Board of Directors exhibited during their daylong meetings. Attendance by non-members of the TC and BOD confirmed an authentic interest well beyond past meetings, as dialogue was virtually unrestricted and inclusive to everyone. Throughout the meetings, events and parties there was a cordial and respectful level of camaraderie that barely existed in our recent past. Saturday evening at the main event and celebration, two new awards were presented this year. Tom Hargis received the AMGA Lifetime Achievement Award. Ironically, Tom acted as an inspiration, instructor and mentor for the recipient of the Outstanding Guide Award, Miles Smart. This year the annual President's Award went to Doug Coombs, whose professional career was recently highlighted by his guided ski descents of the Grand Teton.

I'd like to welcome Clint Cook, Phil Powers and Alan Jolley as new Board members, along with Pete Takeda as an Advisory member. Outgoing members are Craig Luebben and Charlie Townsend, and I thank them for years of dedication to the AMGA. Rob Hess has taken the reins of the Technical Branch with priorities to increase the instructor pool in all disciplines, maintain the exam standards by restructuring guide training, and documenting the course and instructor manuals as necessary; among other significant tasks already in progress. This fall I will attend the IFMGA Delegation and Technical Commission meetings in Zakopane, Poland at the end of November. There are several significant updates and initiatives to present to the international community of mountain guides, and I am looking forward to representing the AMGA in doing so.

And so it is time to move forward with a full agenda, and to acknowledge the combined efforts of those working on the front lines for the AMGA...those being Mike Alkaitis, Simon Fryer, Nancy Lea and the rest of the office staff! Congratulations to all of them in hosting the best annual event ever, and I pledge the support from the Board of Directors as they face future challenges in pursuit of the AMGA accomplishing our Long Range goals. 🏔️

All the Best,
Dick Jackson



GUIDES GEAR



Garmont Adrenaline:

The Adrenaline is the new AT boot from Garmont and is for the ski mountaineer looking for an alpine boot that can tour, or an alpine lift area skier looking for a boot to travel into the backcountry. The Adrenaline was designed with the help of Doug Coombs and lives up to what you would expect from one of his ski boots. The boot is the stiffest AT boot on the market and tour exceptionally well.

I used the Adrenaline in the western Alaskan Range and around Valdez Alaska and was impressed by the overall performance and comfort of the boot. The first day touring in the boot was a 7,000 foot day and my feet were comfortable for the entire day. This boot seemed ideal for me as I like to have the stiffness for downhill performance and was impressed by the touring flexibility of the boot.

The Adrenaline is a 4 buckle, carbon reinforced AT boot for those wishing maximum performance without giving up touring ability. The Adrenaline is ideal for a medium volume foot. The boot comes stock with a thermoflex liner and should be fitted in a shop before ordering.



Contact info: Customer Service 800-943-4453
Web: <http://www.garmontusa.com>

Scarpa Denali XT:

The Scarpa Denali XT is the predecessor to this years Denali TT and is Scarpa's top of the line AT boot. The Denali is a great boot for people looking for a stiff AT boot that are not going to ski at an area too often. This boot comes from the designers at BD with the intention of people wanting to ski the chutes of the Wasatch.

I used the Denali XT in the western Alaskan Range and around Valdez Alaska. The Denali was a great combination of climbing and skiing boot. I found the boot to be warm even in the coldest temperatures and skied all of the lines I chose with aplomb.

The Denali XT is a 4 buckle AT boot for those wishing a stiff boot without giving up too much touring flexibility. The new TT boot is supposed to have more flexibility in the cuff for touring. The Denali XT is ideal for a medium/high volume foot. The boot comes stock with a thermoflex liner and should be fitted in a shop before ordering.



Contact info: TJ 801-278-5552 Web: <http://www.bdel.com>

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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR UPDATE

By Rob Hess

Howdy everyone. I sit here in Moab trying to fit in some pitches at Indian Creek between pulses of rain and what is amounting to snow elsewhere. It appears that winter is coming early and though I would like to rock climb in the sun it is time to start thinking about winter. As we progress into the winter AMGA season I have many new updates to report based on the recent technical committee meeting.

I first want to discuss the ski program and its structure. There have been questions as to why the progression of ski courses are structured the way they are. Keep in mind that the structure is set up for the individual moving through the entire program. The perceived holes in the program tend to stem from the perspectives of those jumping into the program via course challenges. The ski guides course, as the first in the series, is designed to look at ski guiding in its first form. Mid winter snow pack analysis, basic route finding and terrain analysis, day touring with basic up hill and down hill guiding techniques, non to low technical terrain, ski/board proficiency and rescue, tend to be the ways we define ski guiding on the first level course. This type of guiding tends to be the most readily available to American guides. As a result we schedule these courses at the beginning and/or during the first half of the winter.

The Ski Mountaineering Guides course is the course that is designed to present the international standard. High mountain / above tree line terrain, technical challenges, advanced level route finding and terrain analysis in glaciated terrain, advanced level guiding skills, multi day travel and navigation, advanced rescue and challenging downhill skiing are some of the ways we define this course. We like to schedule these courses at times when we can be sure that the high mountains are in good condition. Depending on the areas this tends to be in late winter or early spring. We schedule the exams at the same time as the Ski Mountaineering Course for the same reasons and to facilitate information sharing between the Instructors and Examiners. We do not schedule the course and exam in such a way that one can do both in a season. It is generally felt that most candidates

are not ready and or do not have the time to prepare adequately. We therefore hope to set folks up for success by having them spend the off-season and a full winter season planning and preparing for the exam.

There are numerous issues that have been on the Technical committee's plate for some time. These issues focus largely on how we can better serve our community of guides while meeting the requirements of the IFMGA. At first glance one might think that these changes make the process of achieving certification more difficult. Hopefully all will see that through increased training demands we are better educating our guides and therefore making the process of examination easier. Lets face it, investment on the front end allows us to enter the examination process with higher confidence, lower stress and reasonable certainty that we will only have to take the exam once. Multiple attempts at the exam translate to similar expense but much higher stress. We must also consider that we are the only IFMGA country that is structured the way we are. So as to remain in good standing with the IFMGA and to better train our guides in the future the following will become standard operating procedure via the time lines presented.

1- As of January 1st 2005 exam challenges are no longer allowed. Course challenges will now be phased out as well. In order to allow experienced guides to have time to enter the disciplines at the advanced level we will phase out course challenges via the following time line: individuals will have until January 1st 2007 to apply for courses. Application means putting down a deposit with the appropriate paperwork. Individuals will be allowed to apply for courses two years ahead of the application deadline. In the interim, individuals challenging the advanced courses will need to have one recommendation from a member of the instructor pool of the discipline of the course desired. If an individual does not have the ability to gain such a recommendation they will need to hire an approved member of the pool for a one-day skill assessment. This recommendation process will become active for all advanced courses after August 31st, 2005.

2- In the past newsletter I discussed the conditional results on exams process. Conditional results will be phased out entirely at the same pace as course challenges, January 1st, 2007.

3- The aspirant guide program has been in constant evolution. Guides clearly have better success when they can train for exams under a certified guide. This is especially true with the ski discipline where it is more difficult to seek out ski mountaineering aspirant work in the U.S. The program now in place clearly makes no sense, as it is a catch 22 in that one must be certified in the discipline they receive an aspirant card for. As of December 1st the process for obtaining an aspirant card will be: successful completion of the advanced level courses in Rock, Alpine and Ski disciplines and advanced certification in one discipline. Individuals currently possessing aspirant cards will be allowed to keep and maintain them under the past rules. Of note, all aspirants are required to adhere to the rules that apply to the host country they are working in.

4- As all of these new changes occur we are also phasing in a new course structure. Regardless of course challenges, a problem experienced by many individuals on courses is the redundancy of course materials taught. If we can reduce the redundancy of course material taught at the beginning of courses then we can spend more time on practical guiding skills. All this adds up to better exam performance. We also want to avoid people enrolling on courses before their personal climbing or skiing skills are up to the basic course expectation. We will be implementing the "Guiding Skills Course", as the first course individuals will take before discipline specific courses. This course will be multi-discipline in design focusing on general guiding and rescue skills common to all disciplines. In addition, those applying for Rock Instructor, Alpine Guide and Ski Guide courses will be required to submit 2 recommendations from individuals familiar with their climbing and or skiing skills to ensure they are in fact at the base standard.

While these changes may seem sudden, they have actually been in the works for some time. Hopefully folks will take the opportunity to get involved in the AMGA while they are able to enter at a higher level. For those that are moving through the entire program we feel that our educational method is better than ever and hope you find the process highly educational and stress free. Take care, think snow, big drips and stable snow-packs. Hope to see you this winter!



Transmit Frequency

Since 1996, the worldwide standard for transmit frequency in avalanche transceivers has been 457,000 Hz (457 kHz). In 2001, the European Telecommunications Standards committee on avalanche transceivers changed the tolerance allowed under the ETS 300 718 standard from 457,000 +/- 100 Hz to 457,000 +/- 80 Hz.

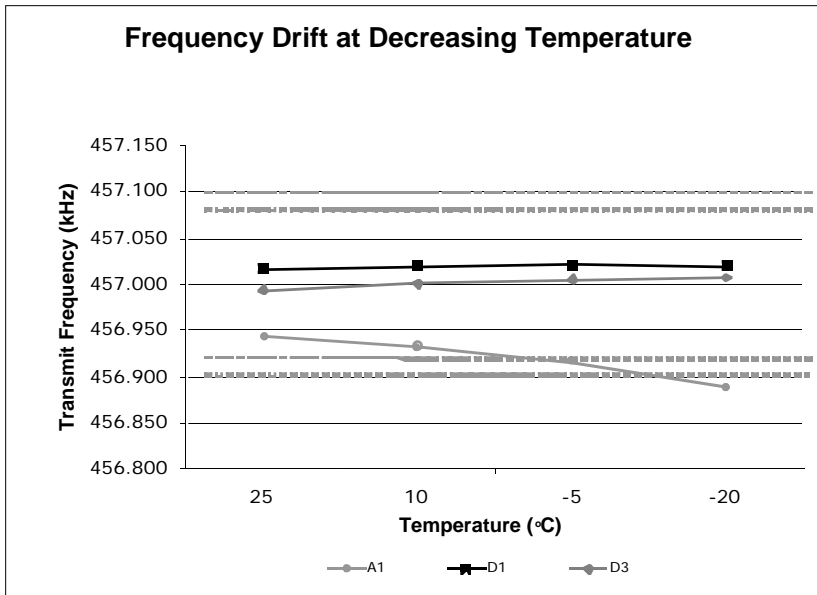


Figure 1:

The ANENA data shows that transceiver A1 often transmits outside the European standard, especially at low temperatures. D1 and D3 were well within the standards and less sensitive to temperature.

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***LEGEND:** A1: Ortovox F1 D1: Tracker DTS D2: Ortovox M2
 D3: Mammut Barryvox D4: Ortovox X 1 D5: Pieps DSP

One reason for drift of transmitting frequency lies in hardware differences between beacons made now and those made previous to the onset of digital beacon technology. It is not directly related to analog versus digital technology. Instead, it merely depends on what components were used at the time of manufacture. Most older beacons used ceramic or X-cut crystal reference oscillators to create the 457 kHz signal. These are unreliable in producing a signal meeting the new transmit frequency standard and are susceptible to frequency drift induced by time, temperature, and trauma. The new generation of digital and analog/digital hybrid beacons generally use higher quality, higher cost oscillators made of AT-cut quartz crystal. This has proven to be more reliable for transmitting within the specifications (Fig. 1).

Receiver Bandwidth

Receiver bandwidth is a measure of a beacon's sensitivity to the transmit frequency it is receiving. Wide bandwidth means a beacon can receive a wider range of frequencies. Narrow bandwidth means a beacon's performance can be significantly compromised when receiving a poor signal. Compromised performance includes reduced receive range and/or inconsistent readings.

Receiver bandwidth is mainly defined by the center frequency and "steepness" of the filter used in signal processing. A steep filter might prevent "seeing" a poor signal. There is no specific European or North American standard for receiver bandwidth. However, ANENA states that all receivers should be equally sensitive to transmit frequencies that fall inside the (former) specification of 457 kHz +/- 100 Hz.

According to ANENA, only transceiver D1 meets its criterion of equal sensitivity within this critical bandwidth. The Apex tests revealed a wide range of bandwidths among the newer beacons (Fig. 2) and inconsistent performance by transceiver D5.

Downward Compatibility

The data from both Apex and ANENA suggest that compatibility is an issue when narrow-bandwidth receivers are used in conjunction with drifted transmitters. The receiving beacons can show decreased range, unreliable readings, and false detection of multiple signals.

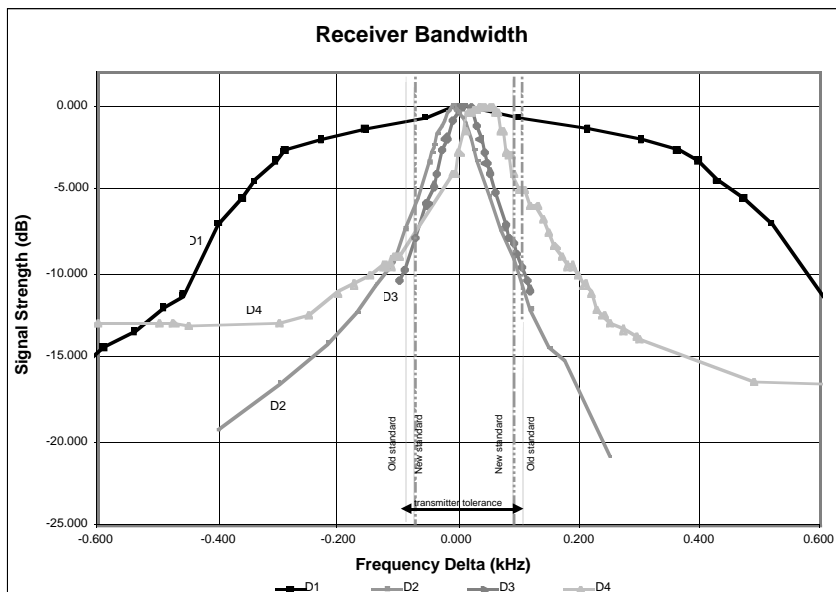


Figure 2:
The Apex data shows that transceiver D1 has the widest receiver bandwidth and the least sensitivity to frequency drift. D2, D3, and D4 show narrower bandwidths, steeper filters, and less compatibility with drifted transmitters.

D5 showed widely varying inconsistencies the farther the transmitter drifted from the center frequency, indicating multiple signals despite the existence of only one. As a result, Apex could not determine its bandwidth.

To determine the extent of this problem, the authors collected a sample of ten used A1 transceivers from various professional ski patrol and guiding organizations. Since the ANENA study just included new beacons-and therefore just analyzed the effects of temperature-the authors collected used beacons to help determine the effects of age and abuse.

The authors then hired Apex to perform transmit frequency tests on these units at room temperature. The variation in frequency was significant. Two of the ten beacons were transmitting outside the +/- 80 Hz standard: one at -90 Hz and the other at +423 Hz. Considering the limited sample size, this calls into question the variation in transmit frequency among the approximate 300,000 other A1 transceivers currently in use worldwide.

The authors then performed field tests with the +423 Hz transmitter to determine the "worst-case" effect on receive range. The transmitter was oriented in-line with the receiving units, all with fully charged batteries. For digital beacons, maximum range was recorded when consistent distance and directional readings were displayed. For hybrid analog/digital beacons, maximum range was recorded when output from the speaker registered at 60 dB. Results indicated a significant variation in range: from approximately 35 to 0 meters. Transceiver D1 was the most compatible with the drifted transmitter; D5 was the least compatible.

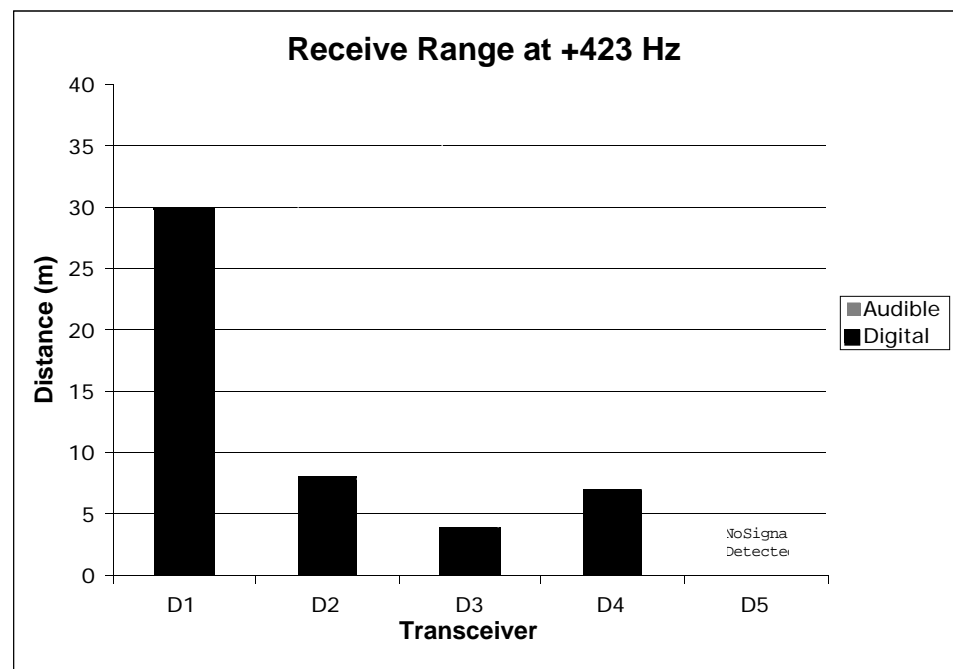


Figure 3:
In the receive range tests, D1 showed reliable distance readings and insignificant loss of receive range. D5 detected no signal at all. The hybrid analog/digital units (D2, D3, D4) showed decreased range and inaccurate readings. The gradient shown in the analog/audible phase indicates the relative strength of the audible signal.

Conclusion

While today's new beacons are adequate to accommodate the effects of poor initial transmit frequency and temperature-induced drift, some cannot accommodate the cumulative effects of time and trauma, two factors that will continue to exacerbate frequency drift problems with the aging of the world's analog beacon fleet.

The authors recommend that an international standard be created for receiver bandwidth. It should require equal sensitivity to signals

within both the old and the new European standard on transmit frequency. It should also require the reliable detection of signals transmitting significantly outside this tolerance.

Users should strongly consider receiver bandwidth when selecting new transceiver fleets. Those with analog fleets should at least institutionalize a regular inspection program with the manufacturer. They should also consider eventually replacing those fleets with units containing high-quality crystal transmitters and wide receiver bandwidth. (continued page 12)



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by Nancy M. Lea, Membership Services Manager

The end of the year is quickly approaching and it has been a busy and successful one here at the AMGA. After three years involved with this organization I continue to see great progress and it makes me proud to be a part of the positives changes! I have had the pleasure of working on the last three Annual Meetings and I truly believe that the 2004 Moab Annual Meeting has been our very best to date!

The meeting took place the weekend of October 22nd and 23rd. I would like to extend a huge thanks to all of those individuals who helped us put the Annual Meeting together this year! Thank you to all of our clinic providers: Craig Luebben, Majka Burnhardt, Eli Helmuth, Dick Jackson, Adam Fox, Margaret Wheeler, Ed Crothers, and Angela Hawse. Thank you to Jim Moss of Outdoor Law Quarterly and to Matt Pierce of Ortovox for their special seminars. We appreciate all of the help with the Guides Olympics and congratulate Craig Luebben, Joe Vallone, Keith Garvey and Kevin Lorda for making the Olympics the perfect conclusion to a great weekend. Take a look at the pictures from this year's Guides Olympics and you can get an idea of how entertaining it really was.

We had a record year for attendance during the entire week's events. Friday night's 25th Anniversary Celebration drew in an enormous crowd and was a great way to kick off the weekend's festivities. The following two days clinics ran at full capacity. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout despite the weather on Sunday.

On the evening of the 22nd the main event and celebration took place at the Moab Arts and Recreation Center. No one walked away empty handed. We surpassed our fundraising goals with the Silent Auction and Raffle and we would like you to take a moment to review the sponsor list for the event. These companies make our Annual Meetings possible!

After the Silent Auction wrapped up, President, Dick Jackson and Award Committee Chair, Angela Hawse conducted an award ceremony. The President's Award was given to Doug Coombs for his outstanding efforts guiding the Tetons. The first annual Outstanding Guide of Year Award was awarded to Miles Smart and the Lifetime Achievement Award was granted to Tom Hargis for his dedication to the AMGA and the guiding community. Newly certified guides were recognized as well as outgoing board members: Todd Vogel, Charlie Townsend and Craig Luebben.

The evening concluded with a great slide show given by Craig Luebben. As always Craig was very funny and entertaining, he did a great deal of work to help us with this event and we would like to recognize him for his efforts.

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The weekend came to a close with the aforementioned Guides Olympics. Spectators lined up to see the fearless contestants carve helmets out of pumpkins, "short-rope" or rather drag blind-folded clients while doing a multiple beacon search, speed ascend a rope, speed climb a 5.11, and run down the hill while carrying victims on a rope liter. The competition was fierce, the results were often hilarious and it was evident by the laughing faces and the camera flashes that a good time was had by all!

I highly encourage you to check out next year's event in Brevard, NC. For more information please contact the AMGA office or Adam Fox at adam@foxmountainguides.com. ↗

Best Wishes, Nancy Lea

NEW AMGA CERTIFIED GUIDE PINS!

We have added additional pins to our line of AMGA Merchandise. You can now order pins if you are a Certified Rock Guide, Certified Alpine Guide, or Certified Ski Mountaineering Guide. They are available for \$15.00 each. These pins are another way to advertise your certification credential. They make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers! To order please submit the AMGA Merchandise Form available on page 11 of this newsletter or call the AMGA office at 303-271-0984 to order via credit card.



PICTURES FROM THE 2004 GUIDES OLYMPICS IN MOAB, UT



Amos Whiting Will Be Back in 2005 to Defend His Title



Pumpkin Heads Watch On As The Competition Heats Up

9



Defending Guides Olympics Champion Joe Vallone



Margaret Wheeler Crowned Winner Of Best Pumpkin Helmet

Guides Olympics Winners:
Best Climbing Time - Josh Gross

Best Overall - Art Mooney & Amos Whiting
Beacon Search - Joe Vallone & Marc Beverly

Best Pumpkin Helmet - Margaret Wheeler
Anchor Construction - Amos Whiting & Art Mooney



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10

The mind is a wonderful thing to conquer. To overcome your fear and push your body to new limits is the ultimate reward. At La Sportiva we design and produce footwear to let you change your life, reach your goals and let you

BELIEVE

Photo Ben Owen © 2004 La Sportiva N.A.



AMGA MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Individual, Associate and Student Associate Membership Application*

Name _____ Date of birth _____ Gender _____
 Guide service I work for _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Work phone _____ Home phone _____ Fax _____
 Email _____

I began guiding professionally in the year _____
 I guide professionally about _____ days per year

Check the type of membership you are applying for.: Individual____ Associate____ Student Associate____

Check that you have enclosed ALL listed items in appropriate column in same envelope to AMGA Membership, P.O. Box 1739, Boulder, CO 80306.

*Individual Member	Associate Member	Student Associate Member
\$115 check or money order	\$60 check or money order	\$40 check or money order

*Include resumes and reference letters only with applications for Individual Membership
 *Please include proof of enrollment with applications for Student Associate Membership

Resume of guided climbs Minimum 40 paid days in the last two years
 Resume of personal climbs Minimum 20 climbs
 at least two letters of reference (from an employer, fellow guide or client)

Yes, I'd like to make an additional, tax-deductible contribution to further support the AMGA.
 I have enclosed \$ _____

I agree to support high standards of safety and professionalism in mountain guiding and instruction. I understand that the AMGA does not condone guiding without appropriate authorization and that the AMGA does not endorse any illegal guiding, whether in the US. or another country. I also understand that I, or any AMGA member may be subject to the loss of membership, accreditation or certification if such practices occur.

Signature _____ Date _____

AMGA MERCHANDISE FORM

Item	Price	Shipping	1st Color	2nd Color	Size	Quantity	TOTAL
AMGA Technical Handbook	\$25 (members) \$75 (non)	\$7.50	NA	NA	NA		
AMGA T-shirt NEW DESIGN (Grey, Natural, Forest Grn, Pacific Blue)	\$18 (2/\$34)	\$2.00					
AMGA Women's T-shirt (New Grass, Smokey Violet, Periwinkle)	\$12 (2/\$20)	\$2.00					
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Presented at the 2004 International Snow Science Workshop, Jackson Hole, Wyoming

REFERENCES

Johnson, Brian; Avalanche Beacon Frequency Characteristics, Apex Wireless Inc., Sept. 2004.
Sivardière, François; Transceiver Tests: Laboratory Measurements. Neige et Avalanches, ANENA, March 2001.

Bruce Ederly is Vice President of Backcountry Access, Inc., in Boulder, CO, and John Hereford, is President of Rescue Technology, Inc., also in Boulder, CO. Their companies manufacture and distribute one of the beacons included in the tests. You can reach them at edge@bcaccess.com and herf@qwest.net. If you have a fleet of analog transceivers at least five years old, the authors are interested in testing their transmit frequency as part of this ongoing research. ▲

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REQUEST FOR COMMERCIAL GUIDE PROPOSALS

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE WILL ACCEPT OFFERS BEGINNING NOVEMBER 8, 2004 THROUGH NOVEMBER 22, 2004, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF A NON-EXCLUSIVE COMMERCIAL GUIDE SERVICE AT HUECO TANKS STATE HISTORIC SITE.

THE CONCESSIONAIRE IS REQUIRED TO ASSUME ALL COSTS AND RISKS OF SUCH OPERATION. PERSONS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL MAY REQUEST AN INFORMATION SHEET BY CALLING (915) 857-1135 OR WRITING TO PARK MANAGER, 6900 HUECO TANKS #1, EL PASO, TEXAS 79938. ▲

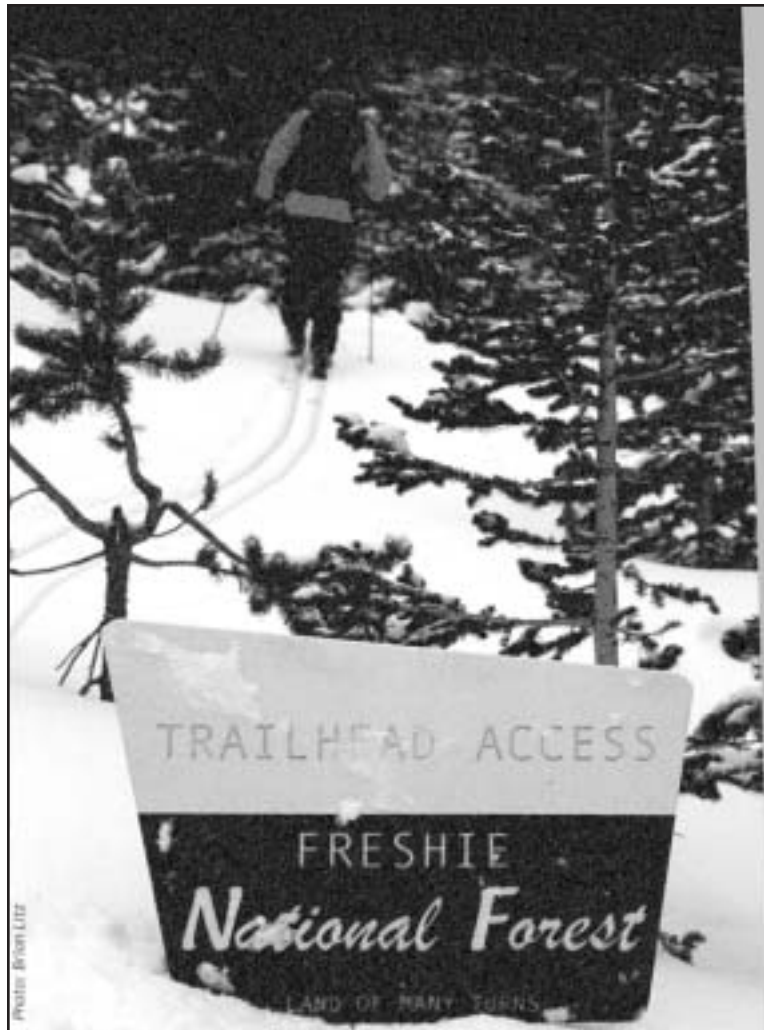


Photo: Brent Lee

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PROGRAM UPDATE

By Simon Fryer

Winter is fast approaching and the 2005 programs are starting to get attention. The first Application Review Date (ARD) passed on November 1st and I received quite a few applications for winter and spring programs. It's great to see the level of interest and the continued momentum as we wrap up a productive 2004 season.

One thing I would like to mention about the new ARD process: this is not a closing date for applications. It is only a review date that will ensure those accepted at that time a space on a program. If there are available spots on a course or exam then we will continue to accept those who meet the program prerequisites. If you have any questions about this new application process please check out the AMGA website and contact me with questions (simon@amga.com).

The Annual Meeting was incredibly fun this year! Many of us were in Moab for just under a week for various meetings, trainings, clinics, parties, and sandstone climbing. I want to thank everyone who made the journey and encourage those who missed out to join us next year. One of the highlights for me was the Professional Development Clinics. Each provider put in so much work to put together a four-hour clinic that was fun and informative. Ed Crothers, Adam Fox, Anglea Hawse, Eli Helmuth, Dick Jackson, Craig Luebben, Jim Moss, Matt Pierce, and Margaret Wheeler - Thank you for your time and energy. Craig's OW clinic made the evening beer taste well deserved while the rest motivated us to get out of our sleeping bags on a few chilly mornings. I'm looking forward to next year's Annual Meeting in Brevard North Carolina.

Please check out the 2005 schedule, read through the new application process, and let me if you have questions. Enjoy the coming season's snow and ice! ❄️

AMGA 2005 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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Ski Discipline:

- S1: Ski Guides Course**
Aspen or Crested Butte, CO - Jan. 24 -31
- S2: Ski Guides Course**
Sierras, CA - March 7 - 14
- S3: Ski Guides Exam**
Sierras, CA - March 7 - 12
- S4: Ski Mtn. Guides Course**
Cascades, WA ** - March 20 - 27
- S5: Ski Mtn. Guides Exam**
Cascades, WA ** - April 4 -11
- S8: Ski Mtn. Guides Course**
Valdez, AK **, May 2 - 9
- S9: Ski Mtn. Guides Exam**
Valdez, AK **, May 2 - 9

Rock Discipline:

- R1: Rock Instructors Course**
J-Tree, CA - March 21 - 30
- R2: Rock Instructors Exam**
Red Rock, NV - April 4 -9
- R3: Rock Guides Exam**
Red Rock, NV+, April 11 - 16
- R4: Adv. Rock Guides Course**
Red Rock, NV - April 18 -27
- R5: Rock Instructor Course**
N. Carolina, April 18 - 27
- R6: Rock Instructors Exam**

- Boulder, CO - May 16 - 21
- R7: Rock Instructors Course**
Boulder, CO - May 23 - June 1
- R8: Rock Instructors Course**
Shawngunks, NY - May 23 - June 1
- R9: Rock Instructors Course**
N. Conway, NH - Aug. 29 - Sept. 7
- R10: Rock Instructors Exam**
N. Conway, NH - Sept.12 - 17
- R11: Adv. Rock Guides Course**
Black Canyon, CO - Sept. 12 - 21
- R12: Rock Instructor Exam**
Boulder, CO - Sept. 26 - Oct. 1
- R13: Rock Guides Exam**
Red Rock, NV+, Oct. 10 - 15
- R14: Adv. Rock Guides Course**
Red Rock, NV - Oct. 17 - 26
- R15: Rock Instructors Exam**
N. Carolina, October 26 -31

Alpine Discipline:

- A1: Alpine Guides Course**
RMNP, CO - May 2 - 11
- A2: Adv. Alpine Guides Course**
Cascades, WA - June 1 - 11
- A3: Alpine Guides Course**
Tetons, WY - June 6 - 15
- A4: Adv. Alpine Guides Course**
Bugs / Ice fields, CAN - Aug.31 - Sept. 10

- A5: Alpine Guides Exam**
Bugs / Ice fields, CAN - Aug. 31 - Sept. 9
- A6: Alpine Guides Course**
Sierra, CA - Sept. 12 - 21
- A7: Alpine Guides Exam**
Cascades, WA+, Sept. 20 - 29
- A8: Adv. Alpine Guides Course**
Cascades, WA - Sept. 20 - 30

+ = may double the program offering if enough interest

++ = subject to change

*If you are a graduate of the AMGA Rock Guide Course or Rock Instructor Course, you may elect to take only the final six days of this course at a reduced cost

**These courses include some group travel and lodging. Additional expenses are your responsibility. Please call the AMGA office for details.

***These courses have an additional weather day added. This day may or may not be used.



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