

MOUNTAIN BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATION



PRESIDENTS CORNER

BY MARGARET WHEELER

THE FINAL DAY OF THE HAUTE ROUTE TRAVELS THROUGH WILD GLACIATED TERRAIN, OVER THREE PASSES, COVERING ALMOST 25 KILOMETERS. WE STOOD, AT LAST, AT 3500 METERS, ON THE LAST OF THE THREE PASSES. BEFORE US ROSE THE NORTH FACE OF THE MATTERHORN, AND A LONG SCENIC SKI DESCENT TO THE TOWN OF ZERMATT.

Another group came up close behind us – four young guys. They plunked down 10 feet away; moments later, orange peels and wrappers were flying out in all directions. Before we had time to react, another group came skinning up. A French guide, with a group of 5 clients, who pulled over, organized his group, and then skinned around in tight little circles, picking up the trash thrown by the four men.

This whole scene took place in a matter of moments. In the time it took me to unwrap and eat a piece of tasty Swiss chocolate, the mess had been made, cleaned up – and the four had skied off down the valley (hardly noticing what had transpired), while the French guide lit a cigarette.

As for our group, we finished our break, packed up, and skied down the glacier. As we passed the French group we said ‘bye’ in three languages, and I scanned the snow for any further trash to pick up. There was none.

From what I've seen, American guides have the advantageous position of being either young, or enthusiastic, or both.

The more opportunities I have to guide outside the US, the more conscious I become of our position at home. Guiding has certainly existed in the US for many years, but we are still young as a guiding community, and we are still in the early stages of our development. We are beginning to create an identity, and to be conscious of our place in the greater mountain community.

From what I've seen, American guides have the advantageous position of being either young, or enthusiastic, or both. As we progress, I'd like to see us make the most of

these assets, and to become aware of the spheres and communities that interconnect with ours. If a French guide can turn a busy lunch spot into a Leave No Trace practice ground (while smoking, at 3500 meters), what can we, as American guides, bring to the table?

Our guiding community is based in the US, not Europe. That means we have different challenges to deal with, and a whole lot less history and experience under our belts. As a community we are spread across the country, and we work in regions that vary in terrain, discipline, land management, public perception...on and on. Where is the constant? What are our defining ethics?

The answer, I believe, lies in the realization that we must begin to think beyond the boundaries of our own regions and our own careers. If we can strive to set an example not only of our high technical standard, but of stewardship for the land, of support for our peers and fellow mountain travelers, of resourcefulness and awareness – then perhaps we can begin to earn the respect and deserve the acceptance of every entity we encounter. This spring, think what you can do to strengthen our guiding ethic: demonstrate what Leave No Trace actually means for your clients. Connect with local land managers if you haven't already (just checking in at the ranger station doesn't count!). Work with guides – or instructors, or educators - in your area to build or improve communication and rescue networks. Consciously expand and develop your community, and think hard about what you, as an American guide, have to offer.



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Martin Volken / Boston Basin on Forbidden Tour

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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Deadlines for all submissions in 2009, including advertising are: January 9th(winter issue) April 10th (spring issue) July 10th(summer issue) October 9th(fall issue)

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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.

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ED UPDATE

BY BETSY NOVAK

ALL OF US HERE AT THE AMGA ARE MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO BUILD AN ORGANIZATION WE ARE ALL PROUD OF. AS A NATIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION (NPO) WE ARE FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MANY OTHER GREAT NON-PROFITS... WE HAVE GRAND ASPIRATIONS THAT WE ARE TRYING TO FULFILL, BUT LIMITED RESOURCES TO ENSURE WE CAN GET THE JOB DONE. However, what makes the AMGA stand apart from many of these other NPO's is our membership. As a member driven organization you have the unique opportunity to get involved with the AMGA at a much deeper level. As the proud Executive Director of your professional association I encourage you to read this list of 10 ways to get involved with the AMGA and see if there just might be something you can do to help the AMGA grow its resources and accomplish our mission of being the premier source for training, credentials and services for professional mountain guides and climbing instructors in the United States.

1. PROMOTE

Promote the AMGA by contacting state and local travel centers and visitor bureaus with accurate, interesting information on the AMGA and your guided destinations. Incorporate discussion about the AMGA in all your courses, clinics, and guided days. Include your AMGA certification level and logo in all your marketing and promotional materials. Create an email signature that includes your AMGA certification level. Affix AMGA certification patches and pins to your guide attire and guide pack. When writing your bio make sure to include your AMGA affiliation. Ask your local gear and guide shops if they would like to carry AMGA brochures and then contact the office to proceed. Contact a local reporter with a great story about a recent guided trip. Write a letter to the editor to share your expertise and promote yourself and your professional association.

Get involved with industry affiliates and your local climbing/skiing community. There are a number of amazing non-profits that focus all their time and energy into protecting the places we love.

2. ADVOCATE

Advocate for the AMGA by including public outreach in all of your projects, hone your writing skills and write letters to the editors of local newspapers and industry magazines.

Know your local, state, and federal legislators and let them know what you think about access issues currently affecting the guiding community. Contact all local community interest groups and let them know about the AMGA and the work we are doing to raise the standard for professional mountain guides and climbing instructors in the United States. Work with local land managers to promote consideration of credential based access on our public lands.

3. VOTE

Vote in the upcoming Board of Director's (BOD) elections. The AMGA BOD elections are held each year starting in July. Be sure to make your voice heard by taking part in the initial nominations and electoral process. Contact a current AMGA Board Member to learn what qualifications and skill sets the AMGA is seeking in future board members. Discover what our elections process is all about by reviewing the AMGA by-laws found on our website at http://www.amga.com/images/misc_PDFs/bylaws.pdf. Recognize an outstanding guide by taking part in the nominations process for the Lifetime Achievement in Guiding, and Guide of the Year Awards.

4. VOLUNTEER

Volunteer your time and expertise by helping create content for AMGA publications, promotional materials and website. Volunteer your services to local land managers. Set up an event at your neighborhood gear shop. Make a presentation on such topics as self-rescue, anchor construction, route finding or track setting etc. Seek out climbing festivals, local events, and town meetings that you can attend as a



continued from previous page

regional representative of the AMGA. (To learn more contact the office). Use these volunteer opportunities to provide a public service while promoting yourself and the unique role of the AMGA.

5. DONATE

A little money can go a long way. By contributing an additional \$5-\$200 annually you can help the AMGA continue to provide subsidized education for generations to come and make a valuable difference in the guiding community.

6. KEEP UPDATED

Maintain your membership, keep your dues current, attend our Annual Meeting and subscribe to the Mountain Bulletin. Each year the AMGA hosts an Annual Meeting- FREE to its' membership. It is a time-honored tradition that brings together the largest gathering of American mountain guides and climbing instructors in the US. It is the perfect opportunity for AMGA members to participate in professional development clinics, share ideas, discuss current issues, and celebrate the guiding community. Learn about the issues that impact the AMGA by checking out the News page of the AMGA website and attending an AMGA Board Meeting. Support and participate in the continuing education opportunities of your professional association. Drop by the office, say hello and meet the staff or contact an AMGA Board Member.

7. BECOME A MENTOR

Make a difference in a young persons life. Show an aspiring climber or skier the ropes of your profession. There are a number of respected youth serving organizations in the US- find one in your area and make a difference today!

8. BE PROACTIVE

Be proactive by keeping the lines of communication open and clean within the guiding community. Build a secure network of guides, climbing instructors, ski instructors and other industry affiliates. In the microcosm of the professional guide/instructor world we all must work together to achieve our primary goal of professionalizing our trade. Take the time to educate and respond to adverse situations versus react. When in doubt contact the National Office and we will try our best to answer your questions or concerns.

9. GET INVOLVED

Get involved with our industry affiliates and your local climbing/skiing community. There are a number of amazing non-profits that focus all their time and energy into protecting the places we love and the sports we cannot live without. Do a little groundwork and discover which grassroots opportunities are available near you. Check in with the Access Fund, American Alpine Club and Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics to see if there is something you can do to get involved!

10. TAKE PRIDE

Take pride in your professional association. Talk about the values of guide education, training, and certification. Inform your family, friends, and clients that all levels of certification demonstrate a significant achievement in one's life. Help them better understand what it means to be certified or accredited. Spread the word and let people know that the AMGA is the only association that provides training and certification that is internationally recognized by both the International Federation of Mountain Guides Association and the Union Internationale Des Associations D'Alpinsim. As a member of the AMGA you are part of a growing national and international community that is leading the way in setting and maintaining professional standards for mountain guides and climbing instructors in the United States.



AMGA instructor & board member, Angela Hawse and Betsy enjoy the snow on Vail Pass – Dick Jackson

TD CORNER

BY ROB HESS



THIS WINTER AND SPRING HAVE LEFT ME THINKING ABOUT MANY THINGS. I INITIALLY HAD WISHED TO WRITE A TRADITIONAL PIECE FOR THE NEWSLETTER, YOU KNOW, REMINDING PEOPLE OF UPCOMING CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM OR DISCUSSING HOW TO PREPARE FOR EXAMS OR WHAT IS EXPECTED OF PEOPLE IN REGARDS TO THEIR SKIING ABILITY OR SOME LATEST AND GREATEST TECHNIQUE THAT HAS COME ON THE SCENE. I HAVE DRAWN A BLANK IN THESE TRADITIONAL AREAS AND COME BACK TO SOME THOUGHTS THAT HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY THE LATEST EVENTS IN MY LIFE.

I have lost many people in my life these past few years, many of them guides and some very dear to me. What are the lessons from such events, are there lessons? I think about the guiding industry and how small we are as a whole, I then consider the people who are in the community of folks that are members of our small fraternity, people that have, are or help to support training and certification for guides. I then ponder the problems and issues we currently have and have faced.... access, who's working where and for whom? Our system of access in the U.S. has caused many to forget who we are and who our fellow guide is. Instead we have allowed our selves to subscribe to the idea of territorial rights. "Who

How will we live and how do we want people to remember us when it is all said and done? I want mine to read that I did everything I could to help the world I live in...

are you? who do you work for? who's permit are you on? damn bootleg guide." I know, somewhere in this world, there must be some rules, anarchy is not in anyone or anythings best interest. Where is the concept of "to be a guide is to have an instant bond with your fellow guide"? Fortunately, I believe that those of us who are, have supported and or have gone through the process of training and certification, have a clear understanding of this, often through the bonds we have gained in dealing with those "damn examiners". Oh to have cursed those examiners and to be one myself now!

So what are the lessons learned from the loss of friends and loved ones? Well, we are frail creatures and our time on this planet is short, 80 plus years in the best case scenario. How will we live and how do we want people to remember us when it is all said and done? I want mine to read that I did everything I could to help the world I live in, mainly the guiding community but how this community interacts with our world. I must ask myself, Did I live well? Was I true to my ideals? Did I respect the natural world? Did I look after my brothers and sisters?

Take care of yourselves out there, it has and will always be a pleasure to work with you all whether in the context of guiding, instructing, examining or just hanging out skiing, climbing or having a margarita. Play hard, work hard, be true, watch out for each other and simply live!

Thermophysiological Comfort?

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CERTIFICATION & ACCREDITATION

BY ED CROTHERS



QUITE A BIT HAS BEEN GOING ON WITHIN THE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. In the Winter 09 Bulletin I wrote about revisions to the Accreditation Education and Terrain Standards intended to create a closer tie between certification and accreditation. The Board of Directors (BOD) approved this revision at the January Board meeting. Since then the Accreditation Manual has been updated and the new standard has gone into effect. All programs applying for AMGA Accreditation must meet this new standard and all existing Accredited Programs must come into compliance by January 1, 2010.

A couple of things jump out at me as a result of this process. First, this proposal was the result of general discussions among certified members and the BOD at the November 08 Board meeting and were ratified within two months. To anyone who has been involved with a volunteer, not for profit board,

The fact that in less than three years the number of certified guides in the Rock and Alpine disciplines has grown enough to warrant these new standards is a testimony to the growth of the AMGA and the desire of so many American guides to pursue education and certification.

it should be apparent that this was a very fast turnaround time. This speaks highly of the Accreditation Committee's and BOD's commitment to the accreditation and certification programs and to their ability to respond quickly to the concerns of the membership.

Second, the reason certification was not tied to accreditation in 2006 was the belief that, at the time, there were not enough AMGA Certified Guides and Climbing Instructors in the United States to meet the proposed standards. The fact that in less than three years the number of certified guides in the Rock and Alpine disciplines has grown enough to warrant these new standards is a testimony to the growth of the AMGA and the desire of so many American guides to pursue education and certification. Makes me think our industry is coming of age.

Also in the news, the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Alpine Guides Program has been granted AMGA Accreditation. This program is a premier, standard setting ski guide operation. It is one of the first ski guide program to operate in conjunction with a major ski resort and has been looked to by similar programs as a model operation. This is the first program specializing in ski guiding to apply for and be granted AMGA Accreditation. We welcome them to our community.

Two other programs have recently submitted applications for accreditation; Rainier Mountaineering, Inc and the University of Utah Outdoor Program. I look forward to working with both of these programs during the review process and into the future.

It is a marriage in which the knot is tied with excruciating care.

Conrad Anker, Brady Robinson, and their ultra-durable Caber Hybrid Jackets are up to the challenge. K7, Pakistan. Photo: Jimmy Chin.



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CERTIFIED GUIDES FEDERATION UPDATE

BY SCOTT SCHELL

I HOPE THIS NEWSLETTER FINDS YOU ENJOYING THE SPRING TOURING SEASON AND LOOKING FORWARD TO A PROSPEROUS CLIMBING SEASON. I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CGF AND THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEM. On April 1st of this year, the CGF officially acquired an active permit for four Canadian National Parks. The four parks are: Banff, Yoho, Kootenay, and Mt Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks. This new permit is a great opportunity for both the AMGA and the CGF regarding access for AMGA Certified Guides looking to take their clients to world class guiding destinations within Canada.

Parks Canada allows ACMG (Association of Canadian Mountain Guides) certified guides to work in their individual disciplines provided they stay within their terrain guidelines. With the CGF permit, the Canadian Park system is recognizing AMGA certification as the equivalent certification to the ACMG programs. Therefore, our permit allows AMGA Certified members of the CGF to guide in their certified disciplines throughout the year in the any of the four parks. This is great news for those of you who are not yet (or not pursuing) IFMGA but are interested in working in Canada.

This year the CGF is offering three membership levels for guiding: Unlimited, 30-Day Member, and 15-Day Member. All levels include the use of the CGF permits (please see the CGF website for a complete list of permits) and liability coverage through our insurance policy. The Unlimited Membership is \$1000 per year and allows an unlimited number of days for one year from the joining date. The 30-Day and the 15-Day memberships are \$750 and \$450 respectively. Both the 30-Day and the 15-Day can be upgraded to the next level; please see our website for more details on the benefits of becoming a CGF member.

http://www.certifiedguidesfederation.org/Certified_Guides_Federation/MEMBERSHIP.html

Here in the office, the CGF is actively working on many new permit applications throughout the country and Canada. If you know of any areas that would further help your guiding prospects, please feel free to get in touch with me and let's work together in fostering greater opportunities for AMGA Certified Guides.

Safe travels in the mountains,
Scott Schell

cgfinfo@mac.com

206.909.0203

CLIMB NAKED, ALMOST

Petzl's new Focus range of harnesses takes comfort to a new level. The patented Frame Construction maximizes comfort by minimizing pressure points. By eliminating unnecessary foam and webbing, ventilation is increased exponentially. Comfortable, breathable and lightweight...climbing in one of these is like climbing in nothing at all.

womens & mens specific models • DoubleBack buckles for quick, easy adjustment • 3D gear loops in the front & soft loops in the rear • trail-line loop



Patented Petzl Luna

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GEAR REVIEW

La Sportiva Women's Nago

By Majka Burhardt

The Nago's fit straight out of the box and maintain their comfort over the long haul. Billed as Sportiva's all-around, they work like the edging equivalent of the Mythos.

They have a wider toe box than most climbing shoes and while you can lace up the midfoot tighter, the toe area will stay roomy no matter how hard you crank the laces. These are the shoes you can pull out and wear, day one, for fifteen pitches of your own alpine climbing, or seven of your clients pitches while you belay (comfortably) along the way.



La Sportiva Men's Nago

By Henry Beyer

Let me first say that I have been climbing in La Sportiva climbing shoes for a long time. I have strayed a couple of times, but always came back. And for the last three years the Barracuda has been my all around got to shoe. So now that you know that I may be a little biased, what did I think about the Nago. It may be my foot or may be the shoes, but I have often felt that La Sportiva climbing shoes fit like a glove and the Nago is no different. I even have a size that is slightly small and they were still remarkably comfortable the first time I put them on, hugging my foot firmly. These shoes will also stretch as both the toe box and heel cup are made of leather, so I would recommend a slightly smaller shoe. My first outing in them was a three day trip to the desert--not the most forgiving place on new shoes. I stuck to using them on 5.10 cracks and was happy with the performance, but deferred to the Barracudas when I bumped up the grade. With a bit more breaking in, these shoes will actually be great for climbing granite cracks. For the price the Nago is a good all around shoe--good at most everything and comfortable.



La Sportiva Nago

Hirundos

Petzl Hirundos

By Henry Beyer

Ultralight harness for high-end climbing. The

Hirundos harness is the second harness I have used from PETZL. The first being the Adjama, which I love. Both harnesses use the Frame Construction technology which provides support but allows for breathability too. The Hirundos, however, is designed to be light weight and versatile and is meant for high end sport climbing and alpine climbing where every ounce counts and padding is not too much of an issue. I used it for three days in the desert and found it to be a comfortable cragging harness. I don't think I would use it for climbs where you might spend a lot of time hanging in the harness, though. This harness is just a few ounces heavier than the Arc'teryx Warp Technology sport harness but it is half the price--a huge plus given its versatility. Overall I like this harness and would recommend it if asked.



Luna

Petzl Luna

By Katie Kelly

Petzl's Luna harness delivers a feminine fit for superb comfort on long alpine routes or hanging out by a crag all day. I wore it for three days straight trad climbing in western Colorado. I found the leg loops and waist easy to adjust complimented by the perforated closed-cell foam padding to ensure a precise fit and excellent comfort. The harness is light and compactable easily fitting into my daypack. The offset waist buckle keeps the belay area clear of obstructions and the one-handed buckle adjustments assisted me in getting the harness on and off easily especially when nature called. Whether you take this Petzl harness on a sport route, multi-pitch trad climb, or a day in the mountains, it keeps up every step of the way.



Black Diamond Chaos

By Ed Crothers

There was a stretch of time when I had stopped using Black Diamond harnesses. BD seemed to be falling behind the curve when it came to innovation in the realm of climbing harnesses. BD won me back when it incorporated the "bullhorn" waist belt. There was one notable exception -- the Chaos.

I couldn't get a good fit and found it to be uncomfortable, hot, and heavy. When the opportunity presented itself to try the new Chaos, I almost said no thanks. That would have been a big mistake on my part.

BD's new design, Kinetic Core Construction, sets new standards in function and fit. The 2009 version of the Chaos far surpasses earlier versions of this model and is among the most comfortable harnesses I have ever worn. While working a rescue course recently, I spent a lot of "hang time" in this harness. Weight was distributed evenly between the waist belt and leg loops and the lower back support was incredible. Large gear loops made racking and gear management a pleasure. After a day of sport climbing, I got halfway home before I realized I still had my harness on -- a sure sign of comfort.

There are a couple of things that could use improvement. I did not find the drop seat feature on the rear leg risers to be user friendly and I have some questions about the stiff gear loops getting in the way in off-widths.

Despite these minor points, the Chaos is a great harness. Whether used for work or play, this all-around harness is worth checking out.

Black Diamond Focus SA

By Mark Hammond

I recently had a chance to try out the Focus SA harness from Black Diamond.

I was impressed with the comfort of the harness and the way it moves with you. I also enjoyed the "speed adjust" waist buckle although the leg loop buckles did tend to loosen some during use. My favorite feature of the Focus SA though is the gear loops which are very easy to attach and remove gear from and are big and strong enough for an Indian Creek rack, yet are not too stiff when you are getting hip scums while laybacking. They are also perfectly positioned on the waist to make things easy to reach. All in all I feel that the Focus SA is a solid multi purpose, day in day out, harness for rock climbing.



Chaos



La Sportiva Wildcat

By Henry Beyer

Once again I'll disclose that for the last few years I have switched from Nike running shoe to La Sportiva. I have liked each shoe I have owned--the Lynx, the Fireblade and now the Wildcat. These are all great shoes. I like a comfy shoe where on longer runs I don't start to feel the rocks underfoot when my feet start to get tired. To me it seems that the Wildcat is a nice cross between the Fireblade and the Lynx. It blends the lightweight feel of the Fireblade and the support of the Lynx. I also like the aggressive sole that provides nice traction on all types of terrain. Once again La Sportiva has succeeded in putting out a great all around trail running shoe.

La Sportiva Wildcat



La Sportiva Wildcat

By Betsy Novak

Multi-purpose and distinctly comfortable. After logging some miles on the Wildcats I quickly realized this trail runner is a multi-purpose shoe that can handle mid to longer technical trail runs and approaches, as well as, manage a couple miles of pounding pavement. A higher volume shoe, the Wildcats were a little lose fitting for my narrow feet. Key Features: Fit-thotic insole provides extra support, The FriXion extra sticky sole ensures traction in any condition and the mesh upper guarantees a fast drying and highly breathable shoe.

Patagonia Release

By Betsy Novak

Rugged and durable. I found the Patagonia Release to be a stiffer more stable shoe ideal for rough, backcountry mileage. This is a substantial shoe ready to be worn on multi-day excursions where one will be sure to encounter burley and unwieldy terrain. Key features: Mesh upper is treated to repel water at creek crossings, seriously grippy Vibram sole with studs for additional grip and traction, shock absorbent heal strike pad to help protect the joints, and the durable arch bridge to provide additional stabilization.



Release



Montrail Masochist Mountain

By Betsy Novak

Lightweight and ready for the long haul. The Montrail Masochist Mountain is a lightweight, yet durable shoe, which can be worn on all terrain. It has a flexible, yet supportive, midsole that allows you to easily maneuver over rocky, rooted, uneven trails. Key features: Gusseted tongue for a smooth fit, GORE-TEX insert to keep your feet dry, mesh upper to provide ventilation, and a trail shield running the full length shoe to help keep the rock and trail debris impact to a minimum.

Masochist



"if the truth were known about climbing rubber, there would be only one rock shoe company."

- Ivo Ninov

Photo by James O. Martin

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR UPDATE

BY KATIE KELLY

Spring is in the air! I am looking forward to the warmer temps and long weekend climbing trips. This year, we have gotten off to an incredible start with a lot going on and I would like to take this opportunity to keep you all well informed and up to date.

Access Your Membership Online

With the coming of spring, the AMGA has developed a new online database. Wherever you are, you will now be able to access your membership and program information via the web.

An email will be sent to you inviting you to participate in the beta testing and help us finalize the database.

You will be able to access the following membership features:

- Renew your membership
- Update your contact information
- Register for a program
- Download program forms
- Make program tuition, membership, and merchandise payments online
- Review your course/exam evaluation
- Print out your membership card

This is a very exciting upgrade for the AMGA and we look forward to sharing it with you.

AMGA Fundraiser with Pete Takeda!

Join the AMGA for a fundraiser with Pete Takeda. Pete Takeda, a Himalayan alpinist, journalist, and celebrated Marmot athlete, will deliver a multimedia account of his 2005 expedition to Nanda Devi. On this jour-

ney, Takeda retraces the steps of CIA expeditions during the Cold War through some of the most ruggedly beautiful terrain in the world. His remarkable story is chronicled in the book *An Eye At The Top Of The World* and will soon be a major motion picture. You don't want to miss this unforgettable story!

When: 6 pm, Saturday, June 6, 2009

Where: Museum of Contemporary Art, 1485 Delgany, Denver, CO

Attendance Levels

Host- \$250 Hosts receive a signed First Edition copy of *An Eye At The Top Of The World*, a Marmot jacket, and honorary mention at the event.

AMGA Supporter- \$20 in advance \$30 at the door

All proceeds go to benefit the AMGA!!!

To purchase tickets please contact:

Katie Kelly

303.271.0984

katie@amga.com

Climb Mt. Rainier with AMGA/ IFMGA Certified Guides

A Benefit for the AMGA!

June 28- July 2, 2009

Reach the summit of your heart's desire while helping support access and education for the professional mountain guiding community. Experience one of the greatest mountains in the United States led by three premier AMGA/IFMGA Certified Mountain Guides; Margaret Wheeler, John Race and Olivia Cussen. In addition to climbing one of the most revered mountains in the lower 48, your contribution will directly support

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COMMON SENSE

dictates that in the long run, going light with a pack that has no suspension burns more energy than gained by grams saved.

OSPREY EXOS 46
One kilogram
Suspension Included

Photo: Lutz AUSA

American Mountain Guides Association's initiative to raise awareness and educate the public about the national standard for professional mountain guides as well as advocate for the protection of our natural environment.

Glacier Basin - \$2,500

You will receive a climb of Mt. Rainier via the Emmons Route, necessary equipment to complete the climb, pre-trip dinner, all your meals on the climb, an Arc'teryx Jacket, and a Black Diamond Helmet.

Camp Schurman - \$3,000

You will receive a climb of Mt. Rainier via the Emmons Route, necessary equipment to complete the climb, pre-trip dinner, all your meals on the climb, an Arc'teryx Jacket, a Black Diamond Helmet and a Princeton Tec Headlamp.

Liberty Cap - \$4,000

You will receive a climb of Mt. Rainier via the Emmons Route, necessary equipment to complete the climb, pre-trip dinner, all your meals on the climb, an Arc'teryx Jacket, a Black Diamond Helmet, a Princeton Tec Headlamp and an Osprey Variant 38 Pack.

Register for this event by contacting the AMGA.

ph: 303.721.0984

email: katie@amga.com

This event is made possible thanks to the support the following sponsors: Arcteryx, Black Diamond, Osprey, Princeton Tec, REI and W.L. Gore.

2009 AMGA Scholarship Recipients

Arcteryx ~ Peter Doucette

BCA ~ Drew Lovell

Black Diamond ~ Mark Allen

Chad VanderHam ~ Eli Potter

Julie Cheney Culberson ~ Lindsay Fixmer

LEKI ~ Ben Mitchell

LOR Foundation ~ David Merin

Mammut ~ Todd Passey

Marmot ~ Forest McBrian

Mike Hattrupp ~ Jayson Simons Jones

Montrail ~ Chris Simmons

Mountain Hardwear ~ Dawn Glanc

Osprey ~ Mike Bromberg

Patagonia ~ Anne Keller

Petzl ~ Caroline George

The North Face ~ Kurt Hicks

Walker Family Foundation ~ Ron Funderburke

Gore ~ Andrew Councill

This year the pool of applicants was quite competitive and despite all our efforts we are unable to provide scholarships to all applicants. However, we want to thank all applicants for their time, hard work and dedication to the AMGA and guiding community. We encourage you to apply to AMGA scholarships in 2010.

We wish you the best with your training and certification plans, future applications, and all your endeavors.

AMGA 2009 ANNUAL MEETING ~ Moab, UT

Mark your calendars, buy your plane ticket or pack your truck and get ready for some splitter cracks! We have officially set the dates for the 2009 Annual Meeting in Moab, UT.

Annual Meeting Schedule ~ Moab, UT

Oct. 24-26 - WFR Recertification

Oct. 25-26 - Leave No Trace trainer course

Oct. 27 - Technical Committee Meeting

Oct. 28 - Board of Directors Climbing Day & Dinner

Oct. 29 - Board of Directors Meeting, Professional Development Clinics, & Opening Night Event

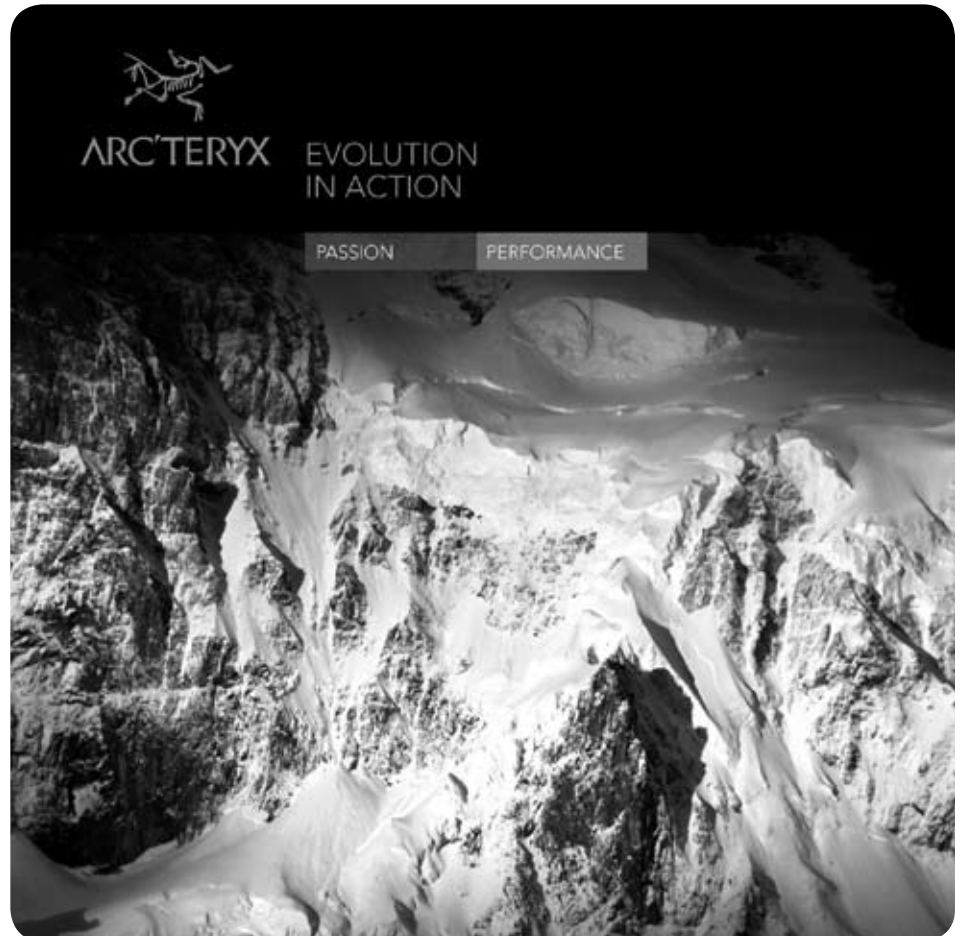
Oct. 30 - Professional Development Clinics & Annual Meeting Main Event

Oct. 31 - Professional Development Clinics & Guide Olympics

Nov. 1-2 - Instructor Pool Training

The AMGA Annual Meeting is a time-honored tradition that brings together the largest gathering of American mountain guides and climbing instructors. It is the perfect opportunity for AMGA Members and guides to participate in professional development clinics, share ideas, discuss current issues and celebrate the guiding community.

We look forward to seeing you in Utah this fall!





TOMORROW MORNING I LEAVE FOR PERU FOR TWO WEEKS, AND THIS IS THE LAST TASK I NEED TO ACCOMPLISH BEFORE OFFICIALLY STARTING MY VACATION. WE ARE STILL EARLY INTO THE YEAR IN TERMS OF THE NUMBERS OF PROGRAMS THAT HAVE RUN, HOWEVER OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS MANY OF YOU WILL PARTICIPATE IN ONE PROGRAM OR ANOTHER. It seems that there are those of you taking advantage of a slow guiding season and enrolling in a course here and there while you have the time; while at the same time there are others who are finding it hard to make ends meet and have chosen to defer taking courses in order to take what work you can find.

Such tight economic times stress all of our mettle in different ways, however there is always a silver lining. For many of us such times serve to affirm the lifestyle we have chosen; a lifestyle built on adaptability and perseverance. Guiding requires an exquisite understanding of our external and internal environments. Am I cold? Am I hungry? What is the weather doing?

Such tight economic times stress all of our mettle in different ways, however there is always a silver lining. For many of us such times serve to affirm the lifestyle we have chosen; a lifestyle built on adaptability and perseverance.

How is my energy level? Is it safe to travel under these conditions? Or is it better to wait it out? Guides face these questions everyday, not only for themselves but for their clients as well. The ability to make such observations and then make decisions based on experience and training is a skill. A skill learned through training and mentoring and honed through years of experience; a skill that may be used in other areas of your life, not just in the mountains.

So if you find yourself feeling a bit lost just take a minute to observe your surroundings and take note of how you are feeling, just as you would a hundred times a day while guiding, and then make a decision that is the best for you at this moment. Whether that be investing time now in your guide training while work is slow, or taking time off from training so that you can make ends meet. Or you may even reevaluate whether or not to continue pursuing guiding as a career. Whatever it may be please know that the AMGA, your professional guide organization, is here to support you and to provide guidance if necessary. So don't hesitate to give us a call even if it just to pick our brains about what may be the best thing for you to do at this time.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR UPDATE

BY HENRY BEYER

Marmot® FOR LIFE

Photo: Miles and Liz Smart Collection

Check out our cutting edge line of alpine packs. Tested and abused daily by Exum Mountain Guides in Grand Teton National Park.

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KATHRYN MILLER HESS WILL BE DEARLY MISSED!

A LETTER FROM ROB HESS



“We have lost some great mountain souls in our world of guiding and unfortunately we have lost another. Kathryn Miller Hess was lost after a fall in which she hit her head in a couloir known as Space Walk at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.

Once in a great while, people come a long that effect their community in an overwhelmingly positive way, Kathryn was one of those people. Everywhere she went, people were drawn to Kathryn. She always gave everyone the benefit of the doubt, but you had better be ready

because she was not afraid to tell it like she saw it. That subtle southern drawl, great laugh and quick, sharp wit combined with utter determination made her a force to be reckoned with. She had her soft side and looked after her friends and boy could she ever host a party!

Kathryn started outdoor education at NOLS, teaching a wide variety of programs from hiking to mountaineering to skiing to Alaska mountaineering, in fact we met while instructing a winter ski trek in Wyoming. Kathryn was an owner and guide with Jackson Hole Mountain Guides from 1998 to 2005, and continued to guide for JHMG. She summited Cho Oyu as a part of a completely unsupported women’s expedition. She was a ski patroller at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, and quickly became a mentor for many especially the other developing women patrollers. She donated significant time to Teton County Search and Rescue.

These were the most obvious talents Kathryn had, but the ones few saw were most incredible. Kathryn had this artistic eye and loved to see, play and dance to music. She saw the Dead well over 100 times and Panic over two hundred. To see what she could do with a house utilizing the concept of feng shui was amazing, wow!

Quite simply though, Kathryn loved her friends, loved her dogs and loved to live! I can’t believe she is gone....”

A fairwell from Jim Williams, AMGA Certified Guide and founder of Professional Mountain Guides.

“Kathryn was a friend to many of us but an inspiration to us all. She will live on in the lessons learned and the moments shared even in her passing. I knew her only briefly but her love of life and the places she lived her life inspires us all to break new ground and do the best we can to learn from her example.

May the journey never end....”

Our best wishes go out to Kathryn’s family and friends!

~ the American Mountain Guides Association

NEWS FLASH: AMGA RECIEVES INTERNATIONAL ENDORSEMET

Boulder, CO – With unanimous support from all members of the Union Internationale des Associations D’Alpinisme (UIAA) Training Standards Working Group and Pierre Humblet, the chair of the Mountaineering Commission, the American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) is proud to announce that its Single Pitch Instructor Certification Program (SPI) earns the highly respected international training label through the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation.

With the UIAA Training Label, the AMGA is able to prove that their training and assessment method for the SPI program have been independently examined by the UIAA and meets the common international standards for a national training and certification program. This makes it possible for professionals from different countries to recognize each other’s qualifications.

The AMGA SPI Program is the only internationally endorsed certification program in the United States that is recognized by and has met the minimum training standards of the UIAA. Land managers, insurance companies, educational institutions, guide services, and most importantly the general public nationally recognize the AMGA SPI Certification. It is the highest standard attainable for single pitch instructors in the USA.

The AMGA applauds the UIAA Training Standards Working Group, Pierre Humblet, and Steve Long for working with the AMGA for the past three years going through the lengthy review and assessment process of our SPI certification program. The AMGA would also like to thank the American Alpine Club for their continued support of our association. It is a great honor for our organization to receive UIAA recognition for the AMGA’s SPI program.

AMGA'S SNOWCAT SKI DAY

AMGA's 2009 Snowcat Ski Day was yet another successful event. Thanks to Kyle and Cindy Lefkoff, 11 powder hungry individuals enjoyed a stellar day of visits to 'the white room' and endless face shots. The conditions were prime and Ben and Jenna, our Vail Powder guides, knew all the right places to take our adrenalized group. We had a great group of supporters come out to join us for this annual event helping raise nearly \$4,000 for the AMGA.

"Skiing with mountain guides atop Vail pass was quite a trip. We had 8 inches of freshies all day. The run of the day was in the trees with every-one catching pillows and face shots. It is amazing group of people, and funny how Minnesota folk always have only one degree of separation--finding out our guide skied in college with our best friend Lee."- Bradley Stratton, 2009 Snowcat Ski Day Supporter.

If you are interested in taking part in the 2010 Snowcat Ski Day simply contact the AMGA office to learn how.

A HUGE thanks goes out to:

Kyle and Cindy Lefkoff whom without their support this event would not be possible.

Jenna and Ben Bartosz, owners of Vail Powder Guides for showing us all the secret stashes and for the primo lunch.

Dick Jackson and Angela Hawse for representing the AMGA in true mountain guide style.

Mike Alkaitis, Alex Bugosky, Doug McMillian, Tim and Mary Snipes, Scott Soden, Bradley Stratton, and John Winsor for taking part in this amazing event and for helping support the AMGA!



Attendees of 2009 Snowcat Ski Day. - Dick Jackson



Scott Soden swimming in some powder. - Dick Jackson

THANKS TO OUR TOP CONTRIBUTORS!

Diamond Sponsors give over \$10,000.
Benefactors give between \$2500 and \$9999.
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JOHN AND PATTY BICKNELL KYLE AND CINDY LEFKOFF GIL AND DONNA VANDERHAM LOR FOUNDATION

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Please contact Betsy Novak if you would like to contribute to the AMGA at betsy@amga.com or 303.271.0984

Mammut: Tested & trusted by AMGA guides.

"The Flight 28 pack is my first choice when guiding multi-pitch rock routes. Fits all my gear inside on the approach and, when compressed, its compact size is easily carried on the climbs." – Art Mooney, AMGA/IFMGA certified guide

"The Serenity 8.9 – best damn lead line on the market! Light, supple, and durable. This exceptional rope is a guide's dream for working with two clients on long multi-pitch routes. Strong enough to be used as a single line, runs easily through a Reverso, BD Guide, or GiGi, saving your arms on those speedy belays, and less weight to carry on the approach. I have zero hesitation taking a whipper on this rope!" – Carolyn Parker, AMGA Rock Guide

"The Stratus jacket is the one piece of clothing I use all the time in the mountains. I use it for insulation on long, cold trail runs and under my Laser Jacket for really frigid climbs, and it packs small enough so I can take it up with me when I climb the Diamond in one long, spring day." – Jack Roberts, AMGA



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