



# MOUNTAIN BULLETIN



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Margaret Wheeler

### Oh, the people we know.

Somewhere in the midst of February in Washington (which felt like it ought to be April), I was walking up a skin track on a foggy Snoqualmie Pass day, and out of the mists there emerged a figure with a strange silhouette. He was wearing snowshoes, yet carrying skis...and the skis were fixed to his back, one across the other, so that he looked to be carrying a giant letter X over his head. Our group walked on, smiling at him, but as we passed there was just the hint of a snicker to ourselves: who was this guy, and didn't he know about SKINS?

Perhaps you have – just once – found yourself having an inner giggle (or rolling your eyes) at the plight, or appearance, or equipment, of someone you meet in the mountains. Perhaps they are your clients, or someone else's. Perhaps you meet them on the trail, or in a course.

### Or maybe not – you're too nice for that?

What about your own friends? We often make great allowances of judgment for the people we know and love. Take, for example, the ski guide determined to have the smallest pack, its poor seams bursting to the limit, a skinny light ski 'axe' somehow buried inside. Or the alpine guide, who never quite seems to make it out of soft shell pants and approach shoes...except to put on Patagonia hemp jeans. Lets not forget the rock guide, convinced that, in most weather, capris are good for men AND women. And the list goes on – the ever-classic recreationalist in long underwear and shorts...the freeride kid, with double rocker skis, backpacks that look designed for 8th grade lockers, clacking up the skin track in Marker Duke's and alpine boots.

We all stick out like sore thumbs, somewhere. It's just a matter of the backdrop; the environment we move through dictates whether we fit in, or whether we look as though we have somehow straggled into the wrong part of the playground.

My point is this: as humans and as mountain guides, we have a seemingly built-in reflex to size up (read: judge) the people we meet: are they like us, or different? Do they have the same interests? The same values? Do they know that it isn't cool to put on your rock shoes before you tie in? That carrying your skis from the tail end is wrong, and from the tip end is correct? That wearing your harness

to the bar is not that sweet? That Dynafit bindings are the mark of a true (uphill walking) professional??

As guides, judgment of our clients' abilities and strengths is a major part of our job. The risk we run is to allow our own process of evaluating – and yes, judging – the people we meet to expand beyond the technical mountain environment. At times it feels that we get so good at judging, we do so at the expense of empathy.

When dealing with tough issues (say...like access), the small judgments should fade in the shadow of the larger issues. Because it is those larger issues – when values may not align – that are more difficult to get through. Take the health care debate, for instance...

As mountain professionals, we have an advantage over members of Congress: I think we have a whole lot more in common. But...that doesn't mean that we are all the same. *We have common ground, but we are not identical.*

### Say that again. It is important.

Why? It is important because sometimes the small differences can grow, and become big things...particularly with people we don't know. And it is important because we are human, we judge.

Going forward, the AMGA will be working continuously to improve the profession of mountain guiding in the US. The whole US. Even the parts that might look at us with doubt...in fact, especially those parts. And in doing so, we may find ourselves in environments where we are judging, or being judged – be they the halls of government in DC, the offices of a land manager, or on the trail, in the home ranges of our own membership.

As we grow and develop, we have the potential to find ourselves in situations where we are at home, and growing confident in our identity and our values. And we have the equal potential to find ourselves in situations where the backdrop makes it very clear that we do not (yet) fit in. The first situation is where we recharge; build

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## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The Mountain Bulletin is Published in February, May, August, November. Deadlines for all submissions in 2010, including advertising are: January 9th (winter issue) April 10th (spring issue) July 10th (summer issue) October 9th (fall issue).

## NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

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# American Mountain Guides Association Mourns the Loss of HEIDI KLOOS

**AMGA** Alpine Guide Heidi Kloos, 41, died in an avalanche on Tuesday, March 30, 2010. It is believed that Kloos was ascending on skis to a remote ice climb on Mt. Baldy in the Cimarron Mountains east of Ridgway, Colorado, when a slide released from above the cliff, burying Kloos beneath several feet of snow. Wednesday morning, friends alerted Search and Rescue, who found her dog, her backpack and one ski at the site. The body was recovered on the afternoon of Thursday, April 1.

Heidi had been guiding and climbing, both rock and mountaineering routes around the world for over a decade. One of the select few female, AMGA Certified Alpine Guides, Heidi was based in Ridgway, Colorado. Heidi guided full time on rock, ice and big alpine routes and was a Senior Guide with Mountain Trip. She guided 10 Denali trips as well as expeditions to South America and Nepal.

Most recently, Kloos had been inspired by her work guiding disabled veterans on the slopes of Denali. The program is run by the Telluride Adaptive Sports Program in conjunction with Mountain Trip, for whom Kloos was a regular guide; she had been looking forward to returning to Denali with TASP this summer.

When not in the mountains, she helped run an Alpaca ranch, caring for a large herd of valuable alpacas as well as the assorted cows, chickens, goats, turkey and two camels.

Our deepest condolences and sympathy go out to Heidi's family and friends. Heidi's passing is a tremendous loss to the AMGA community and the climbing world. If you would like to send your thoughts and prayers along to the family please send them to [betsy@amga.com](mailto:betsy@amga.com) or AMGA - Betsy Novak, PO BOX 1739, Boulder, CO 80306 and we will make sure to pass them along.

A memorial scholarship fund is being established through Mountain Trip for the Telluride Adaptive Sports Program. Donations in memory of Heidi Kloos may be made to TASP (contact Mountain Trip, 866-886-8747 or 970-369-1153), as well as to Ouray Mountain Rescue (970-318-8872).



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Josh Harrod

Spring is in the air and I am beginning to look forward to the warmer temps and the end of the random snowstorms. 2010 is off to a great start and there is a lot going on here at the AMGA, so I would like to update you on a few key things.

### ACCESS YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Our online database has been up and running for almost a year. It seems that a majority of our members have successfully accessed their account and have renewed, registered for a program or three, or updated their contact information. If you've been receiving the Mountain Bulletins in the mail but have not seen an email from us in the past 6 months, chances are we have an old or bad email address on file. To remedy this, please give me a call (303.271.0984) and we can set things straight.

### 2010 AMGA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We would like to congratulate the 2010 AMGA Scholarship recipients.

- Arc'teryx - Eric Whewell
- Backcountry Access - Emilie Drinkwater
- Black Diamond - Ben Gilmore
- Chad VanderHam - Liz Smart
- Doug Parker & Roger Baxter Jones Memorial - Nick Pope
- Jim Ratz Memorial - Mark Allen
- Julie C. Culberson Educational Fund - Trish Paulos
- Mammut - Nate Furman
- Marmot- Angela Hawse
- Mike Hatstrup - Marc Beverly
- Mountain Hardwear - Danny Uhlmann
- Osprey - Seth Hobby
- Patagonia - Norie Kizaki
- Petzl - Chad Cochran
- The North Face - Marc Hanselman
- Walker Family Foundation - Lindsay Fixmer
- W.L. Gore - Chris Wright

We received a record number of applications this year making things quite competitive. Unfortunately, we are unable to fund each and every applicant. We would like to thank all of the applicants for their time, hard work and dedication to the AMGA and guiding community. Please do not let this year's outcome discourage you from applying for AMGA scholarships in 2011.

### NOMINATIONS FOR THE AMGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We will be accepting nominations for the AMGA Board of Directors June 8th through July 8th. There will be three positions open in 2010. If you are interested in running, we urge you to begin working on soliciting nominations as well as crafting your position statements. If you would like to nominate someone, please email your nomination to Josh Harrod - [josh@amga.com](mailto:josh@amga.com). You will find the criteria for nominations below.

#### NOMINEE CRITERIA:

- Must be a current Certified or Individual Member of the AMGA
- Must receive six (6) nominations
- Must be able to submit a position statement by July 23rd, 2010
- Must be willing to serve one (1), three-year term

### IFMGA MEETING IN BOULDER, COLORADO – NOVEMBER 2010

For one week in November, Mountain Guides from around the world will descend on Boulder, Colorado as the AMGA plays host to the 2010 IFMGA Fall Meeting. An idea conceived in Matsumoto, Japan back in 2007 is finally coming of age and we're working hard to put on a memorable event. At our January Board of Directors meeting, Kyle Lefkoff summed it up best - *"You're Bar Mitzvah only happens once, so it better be good"*. So, in a sense, this is the AMGA's Bar Mitzvah and we intend to make it a good one.

The IFMGA Meeting will coincide with the AMGA Annual Meeting, and we're counting on our Membership to attend and take part in this once in a lifetime opportunity. While a few of the events are reserved solely for the international delegates, there are several others open to everyone. Our goal is to provide ample opportunity for our guides to interact with our guests from abroad. We will be hosting our usual Opening Night and Main Events complete

with product giveaways, eating, drinking, raffle, silent auction and more. Sandwiched in between will be climbing days, a Guide's Parade, a movie and/or guest speaker presentations to name a few.

We have created a blog just for the event - [www.ifmga2010.com](http://www.ifmga2010.com) - and will be updating it as things progress. We'd like for anyone planning on attending to register, so we can plan accordingly. Just select the "registration" tab and complete the form. Registration is absolutely free. We've listed some recommended lodging options and are working on securing a host hotel for the event. Regardless of where you choose to sleep, we suggest you take care of it sooner rather than later. The event falls on the same weekend as a CU home football game so you will be fighting for space with slew of rabid Iowa State Cyclones fans. We have secured group pricing at the Hotel Boulderado. The rates and booking information can be found at [www.ifmga2010.com/?page\\_id67](http://www.ifmga2010.com/?page_id67).

To guarantee the success of the events we've reached out to our Corporate Partners and the response has been amazing. To date we've signed on The North Face as the Conference Sponsor; Black Diamond and Patagonia as Moab Climbing Trip Co-sponsors; Outdoor Research and Petzl as Opening Night Co-sponsors; First Ascent, Five Ten, Marmot, Osprey and W.L. Gore as Presenting Sponsors; Arc'teryx, Brooks-Range, Mammut, Mountain Hardwear and Prana as Supporting Sponsors.

We are working hard to finalize the schedule of events along with securing locations. Below is a tentative schedule that will be updated at [www.ifmga2010.com](http://www.ifmga2010.com) as things are finalized.

### NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS

The AMGA Corporate Partner program continues to grow. In the past few months we've added some new partners and had some existing partners increase their support. We would like to welcome Chrysler/Jeep and First Ascent as Diamond Partners; K2, Prana, Salewa and The Alpine Training Center as Patron Partners;

and ABS Avalanche Backpacks as a Supporting Partner. In addition to the new partners, long-time partner, Ortovox has stepped up their support to the Patron level for 2010.

As a non-profit organization, the AMGA relies largely on the generous support of its contributing members and corporations to fund its operations. Thank you to all of our Partners for allowing us the ability to continue our mission to be the premier source for training, credentials and services for professional mountain guides and climbing instructors in the United States.

### NOMINATIONS FOR 2010 AMGA AWARDS

We will be accepting nominations for the 2010 AMGA Awards from June 8th through August 1st. If you would like to nominate someone for the Guide of the Year or Lifetime Achievement in Guiding awards, please email your nomination to Josh Harrod – [josh@amga.com](mailto:josh@amga.com). You will find the criteria for nominations below.

#### NOMINEE CRITERIA: GUIDE OF THE YEAR

The Guide who receives the Guide of the Year Award embodies the following distinguishing traits:

- An individual, who has made an outstanding contribution or achievement of significant value to the mountain guiding profession in the year
- Has exhibited qualities of loyalty, integrity, and moral courage worthy of emulation
- A member of the American Mountain Guides Association
- Known as a person of ability and character

#### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN GUIDING

The Guide who receives the Lifetime Achievement in Mountain Guiding Award embodies the following distinguishing traits:

- A citizen of the United States, who, for at least 30 years, has been actively identified with mountain guiding and has made contributions of significant value to the mountain guiding profession
- Exhibits qualities of loyalty, integrity, and moral courage worthy of emulation
- Known as a person of ability and character

Awards will be presented at The Main Event during the IFMGA Meeting in November.

**That's all for now. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call or email me. Cheers. Josh**



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## PROGRAM DIRECTOR CORNER – HENRY BEYER

# trip cancellation insurance

trip cancellation insurance

I am not sure if it is something in the water, but there have been a number of folks this year who have dropped from courses and exams in the closing days before the start date. Unfortunately some of these folks had not purchased Trip Insurance and in the end lost their full tuition. Spending an extra \$113\* on top of course tuition as well as travel costs and the other incidental costs associated with taking a course can seem like the straw to break the camels back, but the alternative is even less palatable—losing your full tuition.

If your goal is IFMGA certification, then you currently need to take nine course to receive certification. If you bought trip insurance for each course it would roughly cost \$1020.00 in total - roughly half the price of taking an additional course if you had to drop just one course at the last minute for some reason. For those interested in a single certification or even two certifications the cost to insure each

course and exam would be markedly less than the cost of losing your full tuition for just one course. It is a trade off, but inevitably I am contacted by a student who finds them self in a position of losing \$2000.00 asking if there is anything I can do, when it would have cost them just \$113 to insure the cost of the course. Unfortunately my answer is and must be no.

There are any number of companies who offer trip cancellation insurance, however the AMGA works with Travel Guard and offers insurance that covers the type of activities that take place on our courses\*\*. This is important in the event you are injured while on a course; there is the ability to recoup the unused portion of your tuition as well as have medical bills covered depending on the coverage purchased. The average cost to an uninsured person for a broken ankle or leg is somewhere between \$15,000 and \$33,000. That certainly puts the cost of purchasing trip insurance into perspective.

To take full advantage of the insurance that is offered and to get some additional bonus coverage it is important that you sign up for coverage within 15 days of paying your deposit. You may however purchase insurance up to 24 hours prior to the start of your course or scheduled departure date. For full details or to purchase insurance go to the AMGA website: [www.amga.com/programs/travel\\_insurance.php](http://www.amga.com/programs/travel_insurance.php).

I strongly encourage all AMGA members to purchase trip insurance, not just for our programs, but for any trip in which you are putting down a substantial bit of change. Whether you purchase it through the AMGA or another insurance provider, the peace of mind alone is worth it. If you have any questions about the insurance please let me know and I will do my best to answer them.

*Be safe and be insured,  
Henry Beyer*



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



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



# 2010 AMGA SNOWCAT SKI DAY

Raising \$8,500 for the AMGA, the 2010 Snowcat Ski Day proved to be one of our most successful fundraising events yet! Thanks to the unwavering support of Kyle and Cindy Lefkoff, the AMGA was able to take eight clients out for a monumental day of powder turns and epic lines. The Rocky Mountain snowpack left a lot to be desired this year, but it came as no surprise that despite the less than average snowfall, Jenna and Ben, owners of Vail Powder Guides, were able to find the secret stashes and hidden gems for us all to enjoy.


Taking part in the AMGA Snowcat Ski Day allows individuals from all walks to spend the day learning about the AMGA while skiing alongside AMGA guides in the beautiful Vail Pass backcountry. The goal of this event is to build relationships and awareness, while also raising enough money to support important AMGA initiatives. This year contributions will go towards helping the AMGA build a strong program that focuses on achieving 'access' for professional guides and climbing instructors in the US.

Thanks to: Kyle and Cindy Lefkoff, Angela Hawse, Dick Jackson, Alex Bogusky, Jim Bold, Ken Gart, King Grant, Kyle O'Neil, Dave Schiff, Scott Soden, John Winsor and Len Zanni for taking part in this distinctive event and for supporting the only association that represents the interests of professional guides and climbing instructors in the United States.

If you are interested in taking part in the 2011 Snowcat Ski Day, or in hosting your own AMGA fundraising event, please contact the AMGA office to learn how!

Osprey athlete Majka Burhardt ascends ice and rock in Hyalite Canyon, Montana


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## MUTANT

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Photo: Scott W. Smith



## Climbing Instructor Program Director

# Client Medical History and Health Screening

**When** reviewing medical history and health screening procedures and forms for various programs undergoing accreditation reviews, I have come across a wide array of approaches taken to address this issue. There are programs that will state something to the effect that “our staff are not qualified to evaluate medical conditions” and gather none of a client’s medical or health information. On the other end of the spectrum, programs will seem to be asking for every bit of information about a client’s health since birth by asking very vague questions or asking numerous, very specific questions. The rationale given for any of these approaches typically falls along the lines of “this is what our attorney advises,” “this is what our insurance provider advises,” or “this is how we have always done it.”

The intent of this article is not to advise what the AMGA views as best practices in this area. Rather, it is to generate thought and discussion regarding the screening process and considerations as to how to train administrative and field staff to deal with this sensitive topic. There is no real industry standard for exactly what a health and medical screening form should look like or how staff should approach the topic, however, here is some of the current thinking in the wilderness risk management world.

When gathering a client’s medical history or conducting a health screening, it is best to

avoid asking questions on pre-course or climb applications that are vague. This can result in either gathering too much or too little information. Gathering too little information and you may be accused of failing at your “duty of care” if an incident were to occur. Too much information and you run the risk of being in violation of the American With Disabilities Act, compromising a client’s confidentiality and/or expand your “duty of care.” For example, do you really need to know if a person is taking birth control pills or has had a vasectomy in the past six months? It is best to only gather information that is relevant to the activities the client will be engaged in.

**It has been recommended that there are 5 primary medical conditions that every wilderness based recreation/education program should be asking about:**

1. Asthma
2. Anaphylaxis/Allergies
3. Diabetes
4. Heart Disease
5. Seizures.

When posing questions related to these conditions, suggested wording is “do you have...” and/or “do you have a history of...” Other suggested questions to ask at some point during the screening process are “how long have you had it?” and “how well is it under control?”

**Secondary questions to ask include:**

1. Relevant musculoskeletal injuries and related surgeries.
2. Problems with vision or hearing.
3. Medications currently being taken. This question has the potential to open a can of worms. Things to keep in mind:
  - It is considered acceptable to ask about medications that treat or control the 5 primary medical conditions listed above.
  - Follow-up questions should be asked. Some examples of these questions might be: “have you taken your medication today?” “Do you have your medication with you and, if so, where will it be kept?” “Are there any side effects to be aware of?” “What are the signs and symptoms if you fail to take your medication?”These questions do not have to be on the screening form, but field staff can be trained to ask these questions and record relevant information.
- Again, relevance to the activities engaged in comes into play. Do you need to know if an adult is taking an anti-depressant on a one-day climbing class? Probably not. Do you need to know if a minor is taking a psychotropic drug on a 5-day summer camp? Probably so.

4. Currently pregnant. Care needs to be taken with this one. Only ask if pregnancy would interfere with the client’s ability to participate in the activities or engaging in the activities could jeopardize her health. Travel to remote areas or multi-day trips into the backcountry could also justify asking for this information. I have heard several experts comment that it is not a bad idea to seek legal advice on this particular issue.

Final screening questions should be based on the nature of the activities the client will engage in, duration of the course or climb, and the location of the course or climb. Factors

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to consider are:

- Climate
- Environment
- Altitude
- Exercise. This includes asking the client about their exercise routine and, somewhere in the pre-course materials, informing the client of the level of physical activity they can expect on their course or climb.

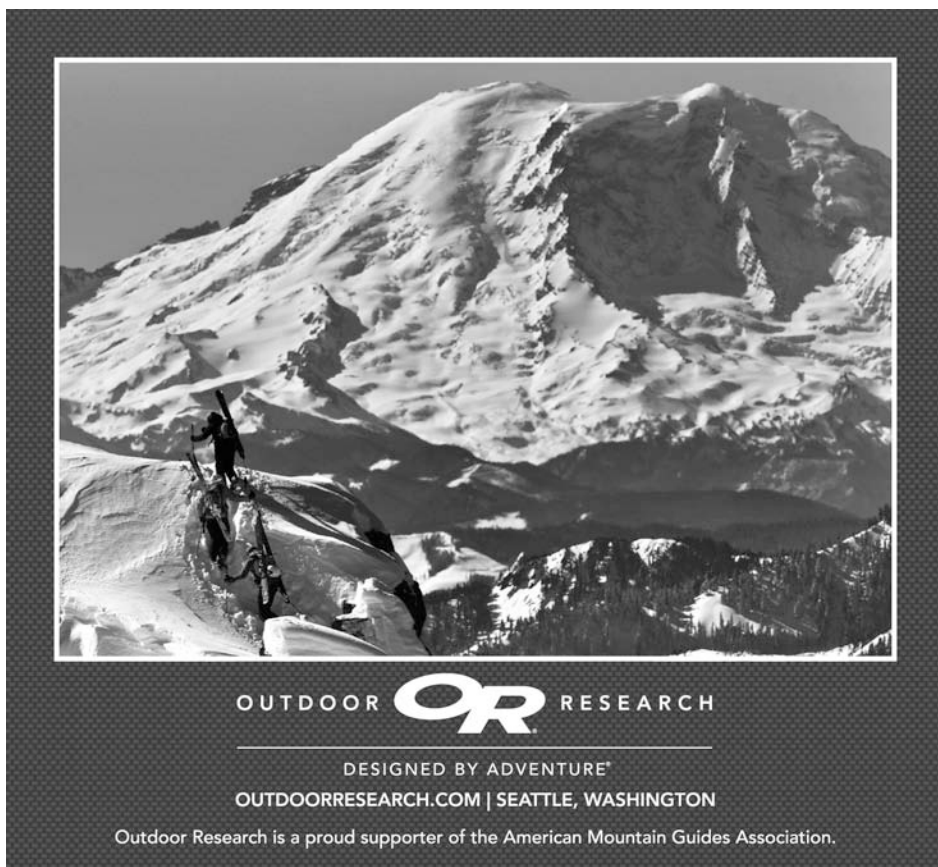
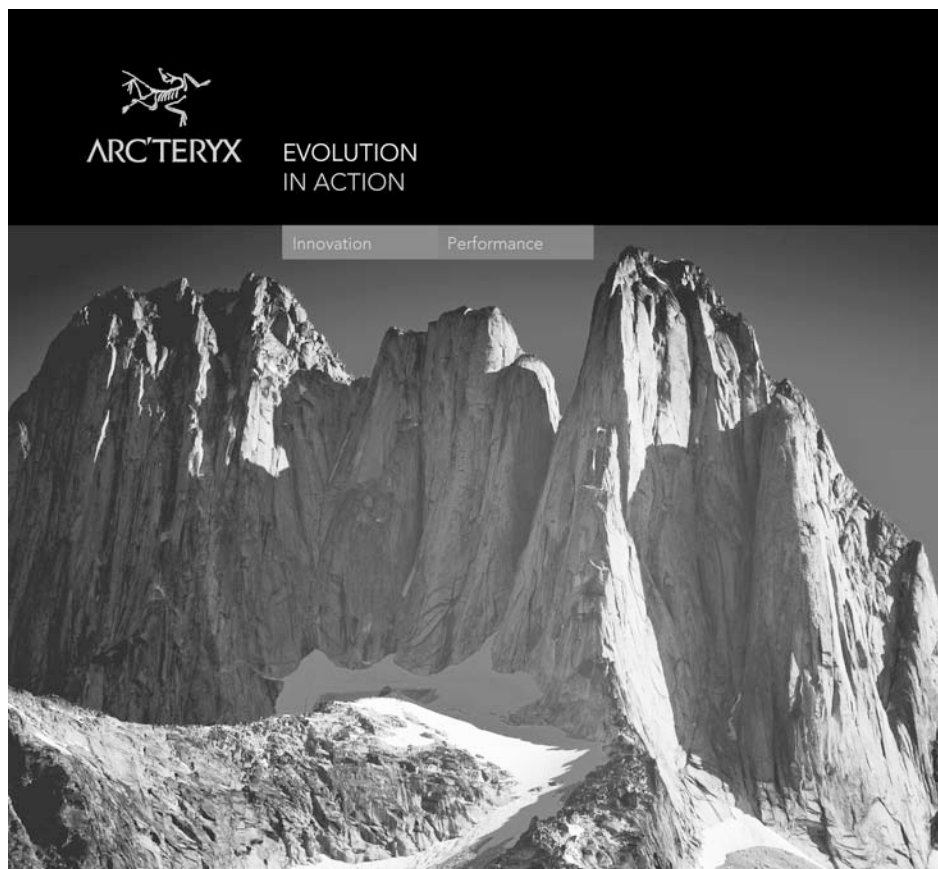
Finally, it is not a bad idea to include a “catch all” question at the end of the form. An example would be: “do you have any other medical conditions or physical condition that might affect your ability to fully participate in the climb or course you have registered for?”

Other considerations when gathering this information include:

- Don’t collect information and do nothing with it. It is important that there is a system in place to ensure that the field staff gets to review the client’s medical form and that they have opportunities to ask the screener and/or client questions about medications the staff member is unfamiliar with. Also, it is not a bad idea to have resources available for staff so they can research drugs they are unfamiliar with. A Physicians Desk Reference is an example and there are a variety of sources on the Internet.
- Protect the client’s confidentiality before, during and after the course or climb. Information needs to be stored in a secure location whether it is hard copy or in electronic form. A policy should be in place that states how long records will be kept, who has access to them, and how they will be destroyed.
- As more and more of this type of information is collected electronically, it is important to stay current with state and federal laws that legislate how this information is managed.

The bottom line is gather only as much relevant medical history as is necessary and keep client’s information confidential.

This information is drawn from a number of sources and personal history. In no way am I claiming expertise in this area. I suggest running this information past an attorney, ideally one with experience in recreation law, in order to determine what is best approach for your program.



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\*Assuming you don't have a Y chromosome



# Avalanche Airbags: The New Safety Standard for Guiding?

by Bruce Edgerly – Vice President, Backcountry Access, Inc.

Two cases in Europe and Canada suggest that avalanche airbags could soon become standard safety equipment for guiding and snow safety operations around the world.

In Canada, the BC Coroner's Service has made an official recommendation that guiding operations consider using avalanche airbags. The report cites a successful airbag deployment several years ago in northern British Columbia: A guide who deployed his airbag not only stayed on the surface and survived, but was able to rescue a buried guest who was not using an airbag.

In a French court decision, managers at the resort, Ste. Foy Tarentaise, were found "inexcusably at fault" for not providing an avalanche airbag to a technician who was killed while performing avalanche control work in January 2004. The jury awarded 40,000 Euros to the parents of technician Eric Peymirat. The court decision cited Swiss statistics that 95 percent of avalanche victims deploying avalanche airbags have remained on the snow surface—and survived. The jury also heavily weighed a witness account that Peymirat would have had plenty of time to deploy an airbag. This precedent-setting decision was announced at the 2009 International Commission on Alpine Rescue (ICAR) meeting in Zermatt, by the director of the French avalanche agency, ANENA.

Avalanche airbags have been in use in Europe for over 25 years. They can prevent burial by deploying from the user's pack when the slide initiates, increasing the user's buoyancy and forcing him or her to the top of the debris through "inverse segregation." Airbags have only recently become popular in North America with the introduction of the Backcountry Access (BCA) Float 30 and the ABS Escape. For more information, please visit the following websites: <http://backcountry-access.com/english/products/Float30.php> – and – <http://www.abs-airbag.com/>

A black and white photograph of a climber ascending a steep, rocky mountain face. The climber is silhouetted against the sky. In the foreground, a Deuter backpack is shown, with the word 'SEEK' overlaid in large, white, sans-serif letters. The background shows a vast mountain range under a cloudy sky.

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# Packing Out Your Poop

by Lara Usinowicz

*Packing out your poop. Not something that anyone is dying to do but an issue that needs more attention in the worlds of mountaineering and climbing. River runners have been accustomed to transporting human waste from sensitive wilderness areas for so many years that it is now the norm...no "groover" or "poop bag" and you are simply not welcome on the river!*

Climbers and mountaineers need to get over their squeamishness about "packing it out" or their favorite crag or alpine ascent may be threatened with fees, closures, or, if nothing else, the unsightliness of human waste littering the great outdoors and the disease issues associated with waste which is improperly disposed.

Attend a National Park, Forest Service, or BLM meeting and the topic that seems to garner the most attention is...yep, you guessed it...poop in the woods. These agencies have plenty of other issues to worry about other than how to manage YOUR poop! Some areas have

implemented "pack it out" programs where land managers provide a "poop bag" with your backcountry permit but this puts the cost of implementation and management of a backcountry waste management program on the land managers. You wouldn't expect a Forest Service or National Park Ranger to pack out your trash and human waste should be treated as just that...part of the trash you are responsible for taking with you.

You can easily and effectively take on that responsibility and BYOB (bring your own bag)... a Restop 2 bag, that is!

The Restop 2 solid waste bag provides a safe, sanitary and inexpensive means to transport solid human waste from sensitive wilderness areas. The outer bag is gas-impervious, thereby containing the odor, a significant issue if one is expected to "pack it out." Inside the bag is a powder, a polymer/enzyme blend, that processes the waste so it is approved for trash disposal. The Restop 2 bag is designed to be used with a Restop Commode in a base camp situation or, in the backcountry, can be used directly on the ground. For a more discreet experience, it can also be used with the Restop Privacy Shelter.

Be a part of a good "movement" and pack out your poop. The Restop 2 bag is being used from Grand Teton to Mount Everest as an effective backcountry waste management solution and should be a part of your packing list when you head into the backcountry.

- Food
- Water
- Compass
- Poop bag

We can all take responsibility for ourselves in the backcountry or we can let it go...

For more information, contact Lara Usinowicz. 303.746.2790, [lusinowicz@restop.com](mailto:lusinowicz@restop.com).

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Presented by the American Alpine Club at the  
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Experts will present topics including:

- Batch-bin and Moldering Composting
- Japanese alpine waste systems
- New Zealand and Canadian waste systems
- Multiple pack-out systems
- Solar drying
- Cat-holing analysis
- Case studies
- Public health issues
- Influencing human behavior
- Roundtables discussing practical solutions

Manufacturers of various remote waste systems will display products and answer questions.

"Bringing together experts from around the world to this conference will not only benefit the National Parks but will be a benefit to many agencies. Again, our program applauds and supports your efforts in putting this conference together."

- **CAPT John Leffel, REHS, MPH, Public Health Consultant, US Public Health Service**

To maximize productivity, the conference will be limited to 100 attendees.

For complete conference information and registration, go to

[www.americanalpineclub.org/exitstrategies](http://www.americanalpineclub.org/exitstrategies)

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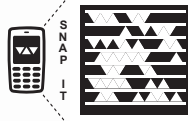
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FOR THE PLANET

MEMBER

© Steve Su on the North Face of the Eiger, Switzerland. JONNY COPP

From the Offices of the Certified Guides Cooperative – Scott Schell

# Investing in the Future



With the near collapse of the financial sector in our not-so-distant past, looking for trustworthy ways to invest has become trickier. One of the most reliable forms of investment has always been in one's own education. For many years, the AMGA has been providing high quality training and certification programs that build on a guide's experience. Those of you who have participated in AMGA programs understand that the courses and exams, while expensive, are a great value to you as a guide. In short, when you participate in an AMGA program, you are investing time, money, and a great deal of energy in your career as a professional mountain guide because you understand the benefits of certification. The benefits are too numerous to list, but here are a few: better guiding skills, safer client management, improved marketability, and increased wages. However, as smart investors, we should seek ways to improve upon our investment. Perhaps the most profitable return on becoming certified is increased freedom to work as a guide, either more days per year or in more locations.

There are a couple of ways to achieve improved access for Certified Guides. One long-term objective is to work with land managers/agencies to recognize that credential-based access benefits the public and the agencies themselves. The AMGA has recently hired an Access Director who is responsible for working directly with land agencies to address issues facing professional guides on public lands and for building awareness and general support for AMGA training, certification, accreditation and the benefits of credential-based access.

In the short term, the Certified Guides Co-op (CGC) was formed out of the CGF to provide

a means for a Certified Guide to augment their current work with guide services by, for example, providing immediate credential-based access to locations that are unavailable through the guide's employer.

What would immediate credential-based access mean to a guide who has already invested in AMGA certification? Let's say you have \$1,000 to invest. You could invest in a money market account that pays 5% annually. In one year – with interest compounded daily – your investment will earn you slightly more than \$50. In 10 years, you will have netted almost \$650.

Alternatively, you could take that same \$1,000 and use it to buy a share in the CGC - a one-time investment in your guiding future. And let's say that investment allows you to guide an additional five days per year, grossing \$250 per day. Using this example, at the end of the year you will have earned \$1,250 in addition to your normal guiding salary. This means your \$1,000 investment netted you \$250 your first year. If you calculate your added earning potential over 10 years using the numbers above, you would net \$11,500 - not bad for an investment of only \$1,000.

Improving the earning potential is probably one of the best investments a person can make in the current economic climate. So, as the CGC seeks new members in the coming months, consider enhancing your investment in AMGA certification by joining the CGC.

For more information on the CGC you can contact Scott Schell at [cginfo@mac.com](mailto:cginfo@mac.com) or visit their website – [www.certifiedguidescooperative.org](http://www.certifiedguidescooperative.org).

# GEAR review



## Black Diamond Demon Pack

by Betsy Novak

The Black Diamond Demon Pack is a streamlined cragging pack that has changed my climbing experience. The zip around lid is one of my favorite features for it makes packing and unpacking efficient and undemanding—no snagging of cams on the snow collar and draw cord. The padded waistbelt is refined to the point where you barely notice it is there all the while providing considerable comfort with insubstantial weight and volume. I was able to fit all the necessary gear for a day of climbing (60 m rope, ½ of my rack, rock shoes, harness, chalk bag, belay device, cordelette, quick draws, helmet, hydration bag, small first aid kit, and a light-weight shell) comfortably in the pack, but beyond the necessities there was limited cargo room for additional items or a full rack without removing the rope from the pack. The zippered top-loading panel has a guidebook pocket for quick route references and ample room for a headlamp and light lunch.

The BD Demon has a few features that give it hope for the alpine environment such as the side compression straps for skis, ice tool straps, and hip belt ice clipper spots. I have yet to put it to the test in such terrain, but can say with certainty that the Demon is a barebones, multi-use pack that has all the requisite features of a textbook guide pack.

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# RED ROCK RENDEZVOUS 2010

by Dale Remsberg

We had another very successful trip to Red Rocks. Our partnership with W.L. GORE is going very well. Oliva Cussen and I represented the AMGA and GORE while teaching clinics over the weekend. The focus of the clinics was rock rescue and multi pitch efficiency. The clinics ran at full capacity and were a huge success. In addition to running the clinics I worked with GORE employees and climbed some great multi-pitch routes—Johnny Vegas to Solar Slab and the Black Orpheus. We are already talking about the routes we will climb next year. *Epinephrine perhaps?*



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President's Corner cont'd from page 1

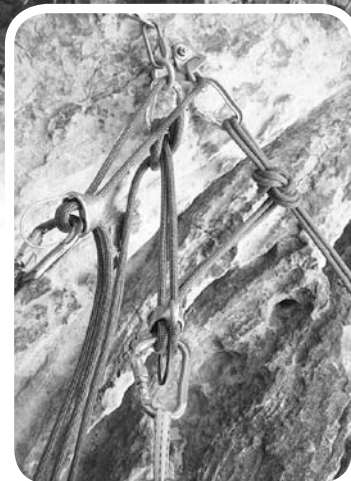
our community and our strength. And the second situation is where we grow.

### But growth takes work, and, I believe, a large dose of empathy.

To have empathy is to put oneself in another's shoes, and to try and see the world from their eyes. As we navigate the summer and fall of 2010, I would like to ask that we all strive to have empathy. I mean this both with members that are on the fringes of our community – the recreationalist guy with the skis an X on his back, the lobbyist, the ranger, the land manager – and with each other. If you are a guide from Washington, can you empathize with someone who works in the Front Range? Can a newly certified guide understand the pressures and perspective of a seasoned guide service owner? Do permit holders understand the goals and need for the CGC? Can certified guides empathize with outdoor educators? Can examiners remember what it was like to be evaluated in a program? Do IFMGA guides understand the perspective of SPI providers?

We will be asking the outdoor and professional worlds to show us empathy, and I hope that we can offer the same, both to the outside world and within our community.

Who knows, maybe the guy with the ski X on his back will hire a guide to learn backcountry skiing...just as soon as he finishes grad school.



Photos: ©Renee Henry

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