

# Mountain Bulletin

A Publication of the American Mountain Guides Association

Vol. XVIII    No. 3    Summer 2004

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## ANNUAL MEETING and 25th Anniversary

The dates are set for the 2004 AMGA Annual Meeting and 25th Anniversary Celebration. Please join us this October in Moab, UT for this important event. See the agenda on page 8.

## ANNUAL AWARDS

The AMGA is pleased to announce the addition of two new, important awards that will be presented each fall at the Annual Meeting.

## MENTORSHIP E.D Corner

Teaching professionalism and patience are things that can't be repaid in cash. It is a desire to see the benefit to the entire community.

## HIGH - LEVEL GUIDING: Risks and Rewards

This past June I became the first person to ski guide the Grand Teton at 13,775ft. Conditions were perfect I was fortunate to have two experienced clients, which I took down a different route one week apart. These were return clients that I had seen progress throughout years of guiding them. I had the honor to guide them on a ski descent that they will cherish for the rest of their lives. As a guide this was extremely satisfying.

This type of experience is at the highest end in the realm of ski mountaineer guiding. The knowledge needed for this type of ascent and descent only comes after years of experience and education. There is a great deal of preparation involved. I had to submit a detailed Topo map and route description of the ascent and descent to Teton National Park and Exum Mountain Guides to ensure them that I had all my ducks in a row. It took two years before I finally got the OK. I was excited to show the level of safety, professionalism and client satisfaction that an IFMGA Certified Guide can provide.

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## ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK

By James H. Moss, JD

Assumption of the risk is defined as someone knowing and understanding the risks of the activity that injured them. A lot of commentators have said that recent changes in the law have eliminated the value of assumption of risk as a defense in guiding. However I believe that is not true.

Every state has different definitions of assumption of risk. In general, prior to the guest becoming injured, they most comprehend the risks of the activity. The comprehension must include not only the knowledge of the danger, but most states require the plaintiff know extent of the possible injury. Assumption of the Risk in most states is no longer available as a pure defense to a claim. The legal defense of assumption of the risk has been merged into contributory negligence. With contributory negligence, the jury decides how much each person in the lawsuit was a fault. If the Plaintiff was 50% or more at fault (51% in some states) then the Plaintiff cannot recover from the Defendant. Assumption of the risk is one of the factors that contribute to a plaintiff being at fault in an accident. Assumption of the risk is still valuable as a defense. It can still be used to show a jury that the

(continued page 4)

## MARMOT RECEIVES AMGA INDUSTRY AWARD FOR SECOND YEAR

(Santa Rosa, CA USA - July 16, 2004) Marmot Mountain Ltd. is the 2004 recipient of the American Mountain Guides Association Industry Award. Marmot receives this award for the second year in a row. AMGA Executive Director Mike Alkaitis will present the Industry Award to Tom Fritz of Marmot at this year's Summer Market Outdoor retailer Show in Salt Lake City on August 12, 2004.

The Industry Award is presented annually to the outdoor company that has shown outstanding support through scholarships, product, and sponsorships of professional American mountain guides in the past year. Marmot has partnered with the AMGA to provide product and educational support for the past eight years.

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## AMGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004

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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 November 12, 2004.

**Deadline for all submissions, including advertising is October 29, 2004.**

Deadlines for 2004 issue are as follows:

January 31 (Winter Issue)  
April 30 (Spring Issue)  
July 16 (Summer Issue)  
October 29 (Fall Issue)

### Newsletter Contributors:

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

**Doug Coombs** is an IFMGA Certified Guide and AMGA Ski Instructor. He is world famous, extreme skier and 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.

**James H. Moss, JD** is an attorney who specializes in outdoor recreation law

**Brandon Walton** is the Program Assistant for the AMGA. He has most recently worked for Lowe Alpine Systems as a Sales and Marketing Assistant.

### National Office Staff

Executive Director: **Mike Alkaitis**  
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Program Assistant: **Brandon Walton**  
Membership Services Manager:  
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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORNER

by Michael Alkaitis, Executive Director



The history of climbing and guiding in America is full of tales, friendships, epics, and lasting relationships. The climbing and guiding community is still a small one in our country, and we should cherish all who choose to join our ranks. One of the most important aspects of climbing and guiding is mentorship.

A person who is able to show us the way and help us avoid the mistakes they, or their mentor may have made. This can be as simple as teaching people the correct way to tie in, place gear, treat the environment, or simply how to be a decent human being.

Certified guides should all take on at least one, if not more, pupils and teach them the correct path to being a good guide, friend, and climbing partner. It takes commitment and trust to work with people and share our experiences as guides. There are simple things such as how to keep a proper log book of routes and trips taken, personal as well as professional. This simple step will save a young guide hours of time later trying to recollect where they have been and what they have climbed. Teaching professionalism and patience are things that can't be repaid in cash. It is a desire to see the benefit to the entire community.

Growing up I remember reading the book *Climb* about the history of climbing in Colorado. It was full of famous routes, and people I only dreamed of meeting. One of the important things I took from the book was the special relationship that certain individuals had with each other. The relationship is rewarding for both the mentor and the pupil. The education of the pupil grows both of the participants into people who are able to conquer challenges that seemed impossible earlier.

I was fortunate to find my mentor and friend at Colorado College. His name was Colby and I had known him since high school. We had been friends early on, and had both started climbing separately. My freshman year started with my having some exhilarating moments at the Garden of the Gods and Turkey Rocks with random partners who all seemed to fit the bill of hardmen and mentors, but did not seem to have the passion and wisdom I was seeking.

Luckily, Colby asked if I wanted to go on an ice climbing, skiing, rock climbing trip with Ritt and his girlfriend. So began the Saab story of taking too much gear in a European sports car across the Rockies, into the Utah desert, and almost back again. We had a great time ice climbing in Vail and Red Stone, powder skiing in Aspen and the La Salles, and rock climbing in Indian Creek and Moab. What I came away from the trip with was more valuable than any of the individual experiences. It was a close relationship with a friend who was a better climber than I, and he seemed to have a better grasp on life in general.

Since that first trip Colby has continued to teach me lessons in life and how to treat others as I would like to be treated. Many of the values instilled in me today, can be attributed to Colby and our adventures together. It is my sincere hope to mentor a few people as Colby has mentored me. I would encourage all of us to think of those who have influenced our lives and work toward helping others through life. 🏔️



## PRESIDENT CORNER

by Dick Jackson, AMGA President

As we enjoy these long summer days and the 'peak' season of July/August, it is sometimes difficult to focus beyond the next day or two. While we are in the midst of yet another AMGA Board of Director's election process, I am reminded of the conditional and geographic diversity throughout our membership. The issues facing the AMGA are far more complex than most of our IFMGA associate member countries. Yet when I reflect on the progress that the AMGA has made over the last several years I am both impressed and encouraged. More and more the AMGA Board and Staff have adopted an 'aire' of inclusion and cooperation, as evident at recent Board meetings. Finally and fortunately the Board members are working hard on respective committees to accomplish delegate "action steps" and committee reports prior to each meeting. The result is greater productivity, accountability, and efficiency. I encourage you, as the AMGA's membership, to participate in their Guides Association in whatever way possible, hopefully by taking courses and becoming certified. Each year the membership is asked for nominees qualified and willing to run for a seat on the Board of Directors. To the extent that new members join senior ones on the Board, the mix is a continual balance that keeps the AMGA dynamic, energetic and healthy! The driving force in any organization, once given direction from the Board, is its Executive Director and his/her office staff. Fortunately for the AMGA, Mike Alkaitis has brought the AMGA into a whole new realm of opportunities. The single most requested benefit that you, our working guides, ask for is some help with reducing the cost of tuition for training courses and certification exams. Mike has spearheaded a fund-raising drive with both the outdoor industry and the private sector that has tremendous potential to accomplish this goal. Recently the Board voted to allocate \$100,000 to an Endowment Fund whose interest will directly benefit those enrolling in courses and exams. For details on this effort and the AMGA scholarship program, refer to both the AMGA's website and contact the office directly.

With that said, I hope you are all comfortably busy and staying healthy...certainly no small statement considering the demands that our profession place upon us on a daily basis. I hope and expect to see many of you this fall in Moab for our Annual Meeting and 25th Anniversary Party. Simon and Nancy have been working hard on this event...so let's celebrate our good fortune to be professionally united as the American guiding community! 🏔️

All the Best,  
Dick Jackson



## ASSUMPTION (continued from cover)

plaintiff was solely responsible for his or her injuries. Assumption of the risk is also the only defense available when a minor sues in many states.

However, the legal issues aside, 18 years of reviewing claims and lawsuits have shown that assumption of the risk great value besides use as a defense. Plaintiffs, who understand the risks, do not get injured. More importantly, outfitters and guides who take the time to get to know their guests, answer their questions and fully inform their guest of the risks are not sued.

There are several sub issues of these ideas that need to be explored. From the guest perspective the more the guest knows they least likely to be injured. A guest who really understands what is going to happen. They understand the activity is not an amusement park, that there are millions of things that are out of anyone's control. Guest's who understand the risks also are more likely to ask questions before leaping. Is that snake poisonous, is that ice solid, can I boulder over here? Answering these questions might prevent guest injuries. An outfitter who goes forward informing and educating a guest is usually also one who encourages questions. Most people if they feel comfortable will ask questions, especially, if the conversation between guest and guide is encouraged rather than strained.

Outfitters and Guides who make it part of the program to educate their guests understand that educated guests are the best guests. Not only do educated guests remain healthy, they have more fun. Nothing is worse then giving up your warm clothing to a shivering guest when they should have brought their own, but did not know to do so. That may seem like a far fetched statement, but in the whitewater rafting industry, every guide carries extra clothing because guests are rarely fully informed.

Another important issue that arises when guests are educated is they develop a closer relationship with the guides and the outfitter. As such, there is usually little anger or emotion accompanying an injury. Anger or some other emotion is the basis for the majority of lawsuits and if you can eliminate this emotion you can reduce your chances of being sued. Educated injured guests usually understand how they were injured, or understand that accidents happen that do not have someone to blame for the injury.

Finally, educated guests appreciate the risk. They understand what the outfitter and guide are doing to make the activity fun and a success as well as to keep the guests safe. They understand the energy it takes to keep a group organized and together. Educated guests are the ones you like to work for.

One major problem of assumption of the risk is quickly once we become enamored with an activity; the risks fade as danger and become mundane. Those risks that a new guest may see as terrifying, we lightly skip over every day. Watch your guest the next time you casually stroll the to an ice climb as they contemplate, with an engaged if not terrifying look on their mind, the crampons, ice axes and the mixed terrain slope. Those risks that we now ignore are real to your guests.

This acceptance of risk an create dire consequences for the guide and outfitter. Most times we fail to identify the mundane to your guests and consequently, leave our guests in a precarious position. Yet it is the mundane risks that generally lead to the small activity ending injuries. Slightly injured guests either leave or end their activity or continue placing everyone at a heightened risk.

Watch a guest carefully negotiate the cliff edge as you walk around it or standing on a slightly sloping ice covered rock. The greatest risk to everyone within earshot is possibly the flying ice axe as the guest, feet firmly planted tries to remain upright.

Most of the time, we work heard at informing the guests of the hidden risks. Avalanches, rock fall, and hypothermia are always covered in great detail. We miss those things we have come to accept as the day to day. Like driving to and from the activity, we talk about the risks of the activity in the van, ignoring the fact we are traveling at 65 miles per hour in the deadliest contraption invented by man.

Employee or contractor guides also accept risks as mundane that are still dangerous to them. This mundane acceptance becomes a worker's compensation injury if awareness is not kept at the forefront of both guest and guide's awareness.

Does this mean you need a continuous monologue of warnings coming from everyone's mouth? The outfitter reminding the guide to inform the guests of the risks and to be careful

themselves; the guide informing the guests of the risks, creating a very mind numbing experience? No, it does mean that you need to have a well thought out education program. Inform the guest of what they need to know to evaluate the activity when they are exploring the idea of going. What the guests need to know when preparing for the activity. What the guests need to know when they are engaging in the activity. More importantly, paying attention to the guests looking for those expressions or voice intonations that indicate more information is needed.

Keep your guests educated, healthy and happy and you will probably stay out of court. 🐾

For additional information on Assumption of Risk or other issues concerning the legal issues of guiding and outfitting, go to the Outdoor Recreation Law Review at [www.snewsnet.com/lawreview](http://www.snewsnet.com/lawreview). AMGA members receive a discount on their subscription price from \$125.00 per year to \$79.00 per year.

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For more information on this subject go to the *Outdoor Recreation Law Review* at or contact Jim Moss at [outdoorlaw@earthlink.net](mailto:outdoorlaw@earthlink.net)



## TECHNICAL DIRECTOR UPDATE

By Rob Hess

Hello everyone. Summer is moving by quickly and before we all know it the fall course and examination season will be upon us. I hope everyone is having a productive summer season with tons of guiding work, got to make hay while you can if you know what I mean.

I would like to discuss a few topics that have been circulating through the technical branch of the AMGA but before I do, I would like to congratulate five AMGA members who attained UIAGM / IFMGA status this past calendar year: Eli Helmut, John Kear, Miles Smart, Jeff Ward and Amos Whiting. Awesome job guys! As tradition may have it, next time you see these guys make sure they buy you a beer!?

### Instructor Pool:

In the newsletter this past spring I commented on the growth that the AMGA has experienced and my commitment to assuring that we have quality staff to meet the demands of this growth. In looking over the enrollment for the fall it is clear that there is more interest than capability for meeting the demand for courses and exams. I am sure some may be frustrated with being put on waiting lists for exams and courses. In a perfect world we would simply add instructors or examiners and create additional courses or exams as needed to meet the demand. We are making every effort to accommodate the interest but simply do not have the staff to meet the demand. To be fair to everyone we must be willing to cancel courses, put people on waiting lists and so on if we are not able to staff such programs with highly experienced and well-trained staff.

To this end the Board of Directors have allocated additional training funds to help bring in and train new staff, especially in the Ski and Alpine disciplines. We have scheduled special training clinics this summer, fall and early winter to accelerate the process of qualified individuals being brought into the instructor pool. With this I am formalizing the process of application into the instructor pool. I welcome applications by individuals who feel they meet the criteria of the instructor pool. The process will work as follows:

Applications may be submitted three times a year, or roughly 1-2 months prior to the beginning of each courses/exam season. Deadlines for application submission will be October 31st, February 28th and June 30th.

Applications will be sent directly to the Technical Director.

The Technical Director, Discipline Coordinator and 2 members of the instructor pool will review applications.

To be considered applicants must meet the following criteria:

Top-level certification in the desired discipline at minimum. Multiple and or IFMGA certification preferable.

2 letters of recommendation from current or past members of the instructor pool.

Resume showing extensive personal and guiding experience in a variety of areas and locations.

Excellent teaching skills.

Based on the information listed, acceptance or rejection of application will be made. Path taken by accepted applicants to become qualified to teach various courses and exams may vary but generally include observation of one or more courses in the discipline and attendance on staff clinics.

### Aspirant Guide Policy:

The aspirant guide policy has been a hot topic of discussion around the AMGA Technical committee. I would like to remind everyone that this program is designed to help give guides seeking IFMGA certification the opportunity to guide and obtain experience under the mentorship of an IFMGA guide. It is not designed to cut a path around IFMGA certification so one may guide in Europe. The rules regarding aspirant guides vary from country to country at this time. The IFMGA is in the process of reworking the policy so the rules as they exist in the AMGA may change in the future. For now it is important that anyone working under the aspirant guide policy understand and comply with the rules of the AMGA and the countries they are working in. Equally important is that individuals working under this program view this as a privilege and be sensitive to the customs and methods for a particular country and or region. Abuse of this privilege may have serious consequences for the aspirant and even the AMGA. The rules of the AMGA aspirant policy as they stand now are available in detail on the AMGA web site. If you have questions regarding the policy please feel free to contact me anytime.

### Exam Results/Conditional Passes:

Certain areas of the examination process need clarification and or updating. As many of you may know there are certain occasions on exams

when candidates overall performance may have been up to a passing standard but specific areas may be in need of higher levels of performance. The skills in which the candidates are seen deficient must be such that with skill specific training they would have a high probability of meeting the standard. In this case examiners often award a "conditional pass". Candidates with a conditional pass are required to make up a given amount of exam days in which they demonstrate proficiency in the listed areas of concern by their examiners. Conditional results need not be awarded for weaknesses in fundamental skill areas.

Much discussion has come from the conditional pass topic. Though defined in the instructor/examiner training and certification handbook the process of how and when to award conditional pass exam make-ups has been inconsistent. In some cases our exam standard is overly compromised. Some of the problem areas are, people have been given multiple attempts at conditional pass make-ups and conditional passes have been awarded for deficiencies in fundamental skills. Upon review of the conditional pass guidelines and as a result of Technical Committee discussions the following points regarding conditional passes will become standard operating procedure.

Assessment regarding fundamental skills and what is needed to reach the exam standard will be addressed on the courses.

Candidates on exams will not receive conditional results for deficiencies in fundamental skill areas such as skiing, movement (rock and ice), mountain sense, route-finding and short roping.

Candidates will receive one attempt at passing a conditional result within a given amount of time. A "no pass" result will constitute failure of the entire exam and thus require a retake of the exam. As you all know, the annual meeting will be held in Moab this year. This is an important meeting in that it is the AMGA's 25th anniversary. There will be a variety of seminars on various guiding skills however I want to put a strong invitation out for anyone who has expertise in subjects pertinent to the guiding community to present a seminar. I am particularly interested in a communications / radio presentation. Please submit your ideas as soon as possible to the AMGA office.

I hope sharing these discussions with you all has been helpful. I look forward to another safe and productive season with the AMGA. 🐾

Cheers, Rob



## GUIDES GEAR

### Adjama Harness Review



David Gonzales

#### HIGH-LEVEL GUIDING (cont. from cover)

Taking a client up and down the 'Grand' involves various skills from the 3 disciplines: ice climbing, complex rappelling systems, snow and rock anchors, belayed skiing, equipment choices, variable snow conditions and micro route finding. Before I became IFMGA certified, I guided skiers through steep, radical terrain for many years. Several techniques I used are my own, specialized for steep skiing, developed over the years of trial and error. After AMGA training and becoming certified in each discipline, I acquired some new techniques to use when the situation calls for it. It's a really good feeling to know that one has all the tools of the trade to ensure a successful climb and ski descent.

The risk involved on the Grand Teton has to be analyzed and broken into the subjective and objective dangers. One can eliminate most of the subjective dangers by training your client to be his best and utilizing the most suitable guide techniques possible for the given situation. The Grand Teton has many objective dangers and to minimize these I like to think of IFMGA guide Martin Volken's quote "safety, efficiency, and speed". They all work together.

High end, high level guiding is not for everyone and a guide must realize his or her current skills and limitations before he/she takes on a difficult route with a client. The skill level of clients who want to be guided on difficult and challenging route is only increasing. American guiding is going into a new phase and its up to the AMGA and all its members to prove to the rest of the world that we truly are at the international standard. Never stop learning! ▲

Petzl has come out with the new harness I have been waiting for, the Adjama. It is a light weight (12.6 oz), fully adjustable harness, with 2 rigid, and 2 soft gear loops, and as with all Petzl harnesses, it features the Double Back waist belt and leg loops. One of the best features of this harness was the flat nature in which you could pack the harness. Another great feature is the ability to custom fit your harness. You can order the harness to specifically meet your sizing needs with the sizing chart available on [www.petzl.com](http://www.petzl.com). This enables you to create a fit specifically for your needs.



I used the Adjama sport climbing, alpine, climbing, and traditional climbing within a few weeks of receiving it. The harness has become

my "do everything" harness. The fit and comfort are excellent for the weight and the new soft gear loops in the back make sure those tight squeezes or packs don't interfere with your pleasure. I will be sure to bring the Adjama along on my skiing exploits this winter. To order the Adjama or for more information please contact Dale Bard or customer service at (877) 807-3805.

### Reversino by Petzl

The Reversino is the thin rope version on the popular Reverso. This is a great tool for alpine guides who are using twins or doubles from 7.5mm to 8.2mm. It functions exactly like Reverso by allowing you a auto-breaking belay for the second and great abseiling device which doesn't twist the ropes. You can also use the Reversino to belay a leader in the traditional fashion of most standard belay devices. This is a great addition for guide who have found the Reverso useful and who are looking for another tool to add to their rack.



Cost: \$22.50 retail  
Website: [www.petzl.com](http://www.petzl.com)

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**INNOVATIVE CLIMBING EQUIPMENT**

MATT CHILDERS ON THE ROSTRUM / TIM KEMPLE PHOTO

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**MARMOT AWARD**  
(continued from cover)

"We are deeply grateful to the AMGA for this award", said Tom Fritz, VP Marketing for Marmot. "Any award from your peers is humbling, and we are grateful for any award we receive, but the AMGA Industry Award is especially important to us. For many years it has been our focused intention to support and further the professional interests of the American mountain guide community in any way we can. This second Industry Award means we continue to be effective in that effort. We will not let up in that effort."

Mike Alkaitis, Executive Director of the AMGA, said, "I am excited the committee chose and I have the opportunity to present this

Industry Award to Marmot for the second year for its consistent support and promotion of the profession of guiding and climbing in America. We appreciate Marmot for its exceptional partnership with the American Mountain Guides Association."

The American Mountain Guides Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization that represents the interests of American mountain guides by providing support, education and standards. The AMGA is the sole US representative of the International Federation of Mountain Guides Association (IFMGA). 🏔️

## AMERICAN MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL AWARD

The AMGA is pleased to announce the addition of two new, important awards that will be presented each fall at the Annual Meeting. These awards will recognize those individuals that have dedicated themselves to the guiding profession. The specific criteria for the awards is listed below. To nominate an individual for an award please contact Award Committee Chair, Angela Hawse at: [ang-hawse@ascentdesigns.com](mailto:ang-hawse@ascentdesigns.com)

**The Lifetime Achievement in Mountain Guiding Award**

**Criteria for Award:**

The purpose of the Lifetime Achievement in Mountain Guiding Award is to honor outstanding Americans, who by their efforts over a period of years, have made contributions of significant value to the profession of mountain guiding, and have reflected credit upon America and themselves.

A nominee for consideration for the Lifetime Achievement in Mountain Guiding Award shall:

- a) Be 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;
- b) Have exhibited qualities of loyalty, integrity, and moral courage worthy of emulation; and
- c) Be well and favorable known as a person of ability and character.

This annual award shall be presented at the Award Ceremony, which is to take place at the American Mountain Guides Association Annual Meeting.

**American Mountain Guides Association Outstanding Guide Award**

**Criteria for Award:**

American Mountain Guides Association Outstanding Guide Award is awarded annually for the most outstanding mountain guiding achievement in the profession of mountain guiding for the year.

A nominee for consideration as an American Mountain Guides Association Outstanding Guide Award shall:

- a) Be an individual, who has made an outstanding contribution or achievement of significant value to the mountain guiding profession in the year;
- b) Have exhibited qualities of loyalty, integrity, and moral courage worthy of emulation;
- c) Be a member of the American Mountain Guides Association; and
- d) Be well and favorable known as a person of ability and character.

This annual award shall be presented at the Award Ceremony, which is to take place at the American Mountain Guides Association Annual Meeting. 🏔️



## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by Nancy M. Lea, Membership Services Manager



Summer is my favorite time of year. I much prefer shorts and tank tops to winter parkas and boots. Unfortunately, I feel as if summer is quickly fading away. Time seems to be speeding by and though I'm sad to see summer go, I am looking forward to the fall and the upcoming Annual Meeting. There are lots of exciting things happening here at the office and I'm pleased to share the news with all of you:

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

I am pleased to announce two new membership categories for the AMGA. We now have a Retired Member Category as well as a Lifetime Member Category. The Retired Membership will be extended to all those guides who are no longer active in the field but wish to continue their support of the organization. Dues for retired members will be \$40.00 (the same discount is available to Student Associate Members). If you know a guide in the field that is no longer active but was once an AMGA member please tell them about this form of membership and encourage them to rejoin the AMGA. The Lifetime Membership category is available to any guide who wishes to take advantage of this offer. With a Lifetime Membership, you pay a one-time \$2,000.00 fee and continue to enjoy AMGA Membership benefits year after year. You will not receive annual invoices but you will receive a Lifetime Membership card as well as a special embroidered jacket from Marmot. For more information on either of these new categories please contact me directly at [nancy@amga.com](mailto:nancy@amga.com)

### CRAIG LUEBBEN's Rock Climbing: Mastering Basic Skills

This summer Mountaineers Books offered a free copy of Craig Luebben's latest book to all AMGA Certified Rock Guides. This promotion was a great success and we would like to offer our thanks to Craig and to the publisher, Mountaineers Books. If you received a copy of this book and you have feedback for Craig, please send any comments or suggestions to [info@amga.com](mailto:info@amga.com)

### NEW AMGA EMPLOYEES

We are pleased to welcome two new additions to the AMGA office team. Cathy Lee has joined us as a part-time bookkeeper. She is filling Connie Hammis' position after several years of service. We would like to thank Connie for all of her past dedication to the AMGA and we'd like to thank Cathy for all of her hard work in filling this important spot! Brandon Walton has joined us as the new AMGA Program Assistant. He has been working closely with Simon Fryer over the past few weeks on AMGA courses and programs. He is a welcome addition to the office staff and will be working on a part-time basis.

8 Lastly, plans are on track for our upcoming Annual Meeting in October. Please see the special Annual Meeting section of this newsletter for a brief explanation and timeline of events. This yearly gathering is very important to our organization and I hope to see familiar faces and meet new members at the meeting in October! 🏔️

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

### Oct. 18-20th

Wilderness First Responder and Wilderness EMT Recert Course  
Cost: \$165.00 per student plus \$20.00 for the course book  
Signup is required to reserve your space, call the AMGA at 303-271-0984.

The Wilderness Medical Refresher offered by Trailmed Wilderness Medicine will be a three-day intensive review and recertification for either the Wilderness First Responder or Wilderness EMT.

### Oct. 20-21st

Leave No Trace Trainer Course  
Cost: \$35  
Signup is required to reserve your space, call the AMGA at 303-271-0984.

The Leave No Trace Trainer Course allows participants the opportunity to learn LNT activities and teaching methods for use with groups and clients they encounter while recreating. Taught by Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers, this course usually lasts one and a half days, and will include overnight camping.

### Thursday, Oct 21st

Technical Committee Meeting  
Time: 9:00-5:00 at Best Western Canyon Lands Inn  
Open to all members

### Friday, Oct 22nd

Board of Directors Meeting  
9:00-5:00 at Best Western Canyon Lands Inn  
Open to all members

Marmot 25th Anniversary Extravaganza  
Friday Evening  
Location: TBA

### Saturday, Oct 23rd

Professional Development Clinics (free for members)  
1st Session 8AM-12AM  
2nd Session 1PM-5PM

Annual Meeting Celebration  
Saturday Evening  
Location: Moab Arts and Recreation Center

Win free door prizes, bid on great gear at the silent auction, check out the award ceremony, and a watch a feature film, Splitter, presented by Jonathan Copp.

(continued page 10)





## 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 (for members)	\$7.50	NA	NA	NA		
AMGA T-shirt (Grey, Light Blue, Pacific Blue, Natural, Forest Green)	\$18 (2/\$34)	\$2.00					
AMGA Women's T-shirt (New Grass, Smokey Violet, Periwinkle)	\$12 (2/\$20)	\$2.00					
AMGA Embroidered Sweatshirt (Navy/Cypress)	\$25	\$5.00					
AMGA Sticker/Decal	\$1.50	NA	NA	NA	NA		
AMGA Course Catalog	\$5	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Brooks Range Mountaineering Equipment Rescue Sled	\$200	\$7.00	NA	NA	NA		
Brooks Range Mountaineering Equipment Shovel	\$29.00	\$7.00	NA	NA	NA		
Brooks Range Mountaineering Equipment Snow Card Set	\$18.00	\$5.00	NA	NA	NA		

Please send all merchandise orders with check or Money Order to: AMGA Merchandise  
 PO Box 1739  
 Boulder, CO 80306

OR call in orders with a credit card (303) 271-0984

\*International Shipping and Handling \$15 minimum      \*\*Colorado residents add 2.9% Sales Tax (.029)      Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## PROGRAM UPDATE

By Simon Fryer

This year's programs have been amazing. We've seen an increase in participation by 40% over last years busy schedule. The winter programs were full, the spring programs were full, and now we are once again maxed out for the fall. Many of the instructors and examiners have been working back-to-back courses and exams. Some have committed to more than they originally signed up for. They want to make sure courses and exams run for all the guides looking for training and an attempt at a certification exam. I owe them all big thanks for the hard work and dedication they have given this year. For all of those guides who weren't able to take a program, I hope you will not be discouraged and apply for a course or exam in 2005. Please check out the website for the 2005 schedule and contact me at the AMGA office.

This summer we added a new addition to the AMGA office staff, Brandon Walton. With the increase in program enrollment help was desperately needed. Brandon has already dove into the day-to-day processes and is already proving to be a great asset to the AMGA office. As Program Assistant, Brandon, will work closely with all of you that decide to take a program. I hope you will get a chance to meet him at this year's Annual Meeting in Moab, UT.

Please take a few minutes and check out the 2005 course schedule found on the AMGA website ( www.amga.com). If you have any application questions please email me at: simon@aamga.com or call 303-271-0984

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: 2004 is the end to all exam challenges ↙

## AMGA 2004 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### *Ski Discipline:*

**10 S7 Ski Guide Course**  
Jackson, WY. Dec. 12-19, 2004

### *Rock Discipline:*

**R8 Advanced Rock Guides Course**  
Black Canyon, CO Sept. 17-26 (FULL)

**R10 Rock Instructor Course**  
N Conway, NH Aug 30-Sept 8 CANCELLED

**R11 Rock Instructor Exam**  
N Conway, NH Sept 10-15 (FULL)

**R12 Rock Guide Exam**  
Red Rocks, NV Sept 20-25 (FULL)

**R13 Advanced Rock Guides Course**  
Red Rocks, NV Sept 27-Oct 6 (FULL)

### *Alpine Discipline:*

**A4 Advanced Alpine Guides Course**  
N Cascades Aug 30-Sept 8 (FULL)

**A5 The North Face Alpine Exam**  
N Cascades, WA Aug 30-Sept 8 (FULL)

**A6 Alpine Guides Course**  
Sierra, CA Sept 10-19 (FULL)

**A7 The North Face Alpine Exam**  
N Cascades, WA Sept 25 - Oct 4 (FULL)

**A8 Advanced Alpine Guides Course**  
N Cascades, WA Sept 25 - Oct 4 (FULL)

### ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA (continued from page 10)

#### Sunday, Oct 24th

Professional Development Clinics (free for members)  
9AM-1PM

Guides Olympics  
1PM-3PM

#### MOAB AREA CONTACT INFO AND LINKS

Due to the abundance of camping near Moab, we will not be reserving campsites for AMGA members this year. Members of the Board of Directors, the Technical Committee, and

AMGA Instructors will have reserved group campsites on Riverbend Road. Members of the aforementioned groups can plan on staying at Group Site A and B, in the Big Bend Camping Area. (see BLM campground link for more info)

#### Campground Resources:

BLM Campgrounds near Moab,  
<http://www.blm.gov/utah/moab/campgrounds.html>  
Canyonlands Campground: 800-522-6848,  
<http://www.canyonlandsrv.com/>  
Slickrock Campground: 800-448-8873,  
<http://www.slickrockcampground.com/>

#### Lodging options in Moab:

Best Western: \$69.95 per night, 435-259-6151  
Ramada: \$65.95 per night, 435-259-7141

#### Climbing Links

<http://www.moab-utah.com/climbing/climbingmoab/>



## THANKS TO OUR TOP CONTRIBUTORS!

Diamond Sponsors give over \$10,000.  
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Contact the AMGA office to learn how you can become a Contributor.

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Sterling Rope Company

Eric Simonson

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Trango

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Please contact Mike Alkaitis if you would like to contribute to the AMGA at [mike@amga.com](mailto:mike@amga.com) or 303.271.0984



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