



American Mountain Guides Association

MOUNTAIN BULLETIN

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Margaret Wheeler

What does it mean to you to build a route plan? As guides and climbers, we have all experienced the value of a good plan — and perhaps also the stress of acting without one. Our route plans vary across the spectrum: the more complex and unfamiliar the terrain, the more detailed the route plan. For climbs or ski trips to places where we have been 10 times that month, our route plan is often less formal and more internalized. In my own stack of guides notebooks I can point to tour plans that look like 10 by 10 matrices, with bearings, waypoints, notes, times, elevations, phone numbers, and weather forecasts. I can also point to pages with just a few lines jotted down, a simple summary of weather and avalanche conditions.

For the past year and a half, the AMGA board and staff have embarked on route planning for some fairly serious, complex, and committing climbs. Many of the tours we are planning are on-sight guiding; we are in new territory and the way to reach our goals is full of uncertainty. We don't have control over the route conditions that we expect to encounter along the way, and there are most likely obstacles that we can't yet see from where we now stand.

Along the way, we have had to look within ourselves as an organization to build our own client profile: what are our skills, our experience, and our areas of strength and of weakness? We have examined each of our potential objectives and considered the priorities and the goals we hold for them.

As we have moved through this planning process, we have seen that we are not guiding alone; rather, we are working together as professionals.

Our skills of communication, empathy, and cooperation will be crucial as we team up to accomplish our goals.

We have been building route plans for the technical branch of our organization, for our governance, and for the administrative side. In doing so, we have been working to make sure that all of these plans share the common foundation built by our mission, our vision, and our core values.

At our fall meeting this October, the board will be reviewing the draft summary of all of these route plans: our Strategic Planning Summary. We are working to boil it all down into a condensed format that is expressed in 8 or 10 slides. After this has gone through final review and been approved, the Strategic Plan Summary will form the core document, aspects of which will be used in trainings for our Instructor Team, to educate the public, and to get our message out to all AMGA stakeholders.

By way of a preview, the foundation of this summary is built on the following:

Our MISSION:

The AMGA inspires an exceptional client experience as the premier source for training, credentials, resource stewardship and services for professional mountain guides and climbing instructors in the United States.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The Mountain Bulletin is Published in February, May, August, November. Deadlines for all submissions in 2011, including advertising are: January 9th (winter issue) April 10th (spring issue) July 10th (summer issue) October 9th (fall issue).

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Program Director | **Henry Beyer**
Membership Director | **Josh Harrod**
Accreditation Director | **Ed Crothers**
Climbing Instructor Program Director | **Ed Crothers**
Access Director | **Leigh Goldberg**
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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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AMGA & INFLUENCING WOMEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORNER – BETSY WINTER

I had the honor of being the keynote speaker at the GORE Women's Council in July. Twenty women leaders from the Outdoor Industry and over 40 key stakeholders from GORE-TEX attended this special event in Maryland. My topic of choice was "The AMGA and Influencing Women".

During my time as Executive Director, I have been interviewed by contributing editors writing stories about women in guiding and, more often than not, I struggled to answer their questions on the role of women in the sport of climbing and the profession of guiding. Since I would be presenting at an event where the mission was to drive positive change in the women's outdoor market while creating success and driving growth, I decided to answer those questions for myself.

The following is my attempt to position the sport, the profession and the gender against the backdrop of our country's unique history. My hope is that it will help us all better understand why there are fewer women than men entering the sport and profession today and how the AMGA and our cadre of female guides is helping change that storyline.

Throughout history women have always been involved in and integral to the sport of climbing and the mountain guiding profession-especially in the United States.

Women such as:

- **Lucy Walker**, who, in the late 1800's, was the 1st woman on a major ascent of the Matterhorn and did the 4th ascent of the Eiger;
- **Annie Smith Peck**, who, in the early 1900's, was the 1st woman in history to make high altitude mountaineering her profession. She was also a founding member of the American Alpine Club;
- **Miriam O'Brien Underhill**, who, in the 1920's, was the ambassador of technical rock climbing and introduced "manless" and "guideless" climbing by taking the lead and solely with other women on her rope;

- **Beverly Johnson**, who, in 1978, was the 1st woman to climb the Dihedral Wall of El Cap in Yosemite- doing it alone and in ten days;
- **Lynn Hill**, arguably one of the greatest climbers, male or female of all times, is a woman of many firsts. One of her most notable achievements was in 1994 when she became the 1st person to successfully free climb El Cap's Nose in a day. This achievement remained unrepeatable for over ten years after Lynn's initial ascent;
- **Kathy Cosley**, who, in 1998, was the 1st American woman to become an AMGA/IFMGA Mountain Guide;
- **Stacey Allison**, who, in 1998, was the 1st American woman to reach the summit of the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest;
- **Beth Rodden**, who, in 2000, made the 1st free ascent of Lurking Fear (VI 5.13c) on El Capitan's southwest face.

These women opened the door and paved the path for future generations of climbers in a sport that is

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PROGRAM DIRECTOR CORNER – HENRY BEYER

daily marking card AND final marking sheet

In my last article I covered what the possible results are for our entry-level and advanced level courses as well as for exams. In this article I will cover the Daily Marking Card and the Final Marking Sheet. In my next article I will discuss posting of course and exam results

There are two documents on which a student's performance is recorded during and after an exam. The first document is the *Daily Marking Card (DMC)* and the second document is the *Final Marking Sheet (FMS)*.

The *DMC* is an **unofficial** record of a student's performance while in the guide role. A *DMC* should be filled out every time a student is in the guide role during an exam or aspirant exam. It is where the examiner can write down his or her field observations and apply a mark (or grade) for each of the nine assessment categories. The applied mark can be a P for Pass, an M for Marginal or a NP for Not Pass.

It is important to note that examiners have different techniques and styles for taking field notes. Some use the *DMC* while on route, while others may take notes in a field notebook or on a smartphone and then transfer those notes to the *DMC* at a later time.

The key thing to remember about the DMC is that it is a notecard. The marks applied in the field are unofficial.

The *FMS*, on the other hand, is the **official** record of a student's performance on an exam. It is filled out after the completion of the exam by the entire examiner team. The examiner team discusses each student one at a time. The team discusses all substandard marks (i.e., Marginal or Not Pass) and any mark(s) that an examiner is unsure of. Once the examiner team, as a whole, agrees, the final marks are applied to each assessment category on the *FMS*.

Any student who receives a Not Pass (NP) as a final mark in any one of the nine assessment categories fails the exam and receives an overall result of Not Pass for the exam. The one notable exception is this: if a student does not pass the Crevasse Rescue Drill, but his or her overall performance and scoring on the exam suggests that he or she passed the exam, then the student

will be required to re-take and pass the Crevasse Rescue Drill.

Lets look at some examples. Joe Mt. Guide is taking his first Alpine Guide Exam. His overall performance is pretty good but he fails the Crevasse Rescue Drill. At the end of the exam, the examiner team decides that Joe's overall scoring and performance suggest that he passed the exam, but because he failed the Crevasse Rescue Drill Joe needs to re-take and pass it in order to pass the exam. As a result Joe receives a Re-exam as a final result for the exam.

Here is another example. Sally Rockjock is taking the Rock Guide Exam. She receives 1 Not Pass and 5 Marginal marks on the exam. She is allowed the equivalent of 6 Marginal marks. Her 5 Marginal marks and 1 Not Pass, which is equivalent to 2 marginal marks, give Sally the equivalent of 7 Marginal Marks. Unfortunately Sally fails the exam and receives a final result of Not Pass.

Here is one last example. Tommy Freerider is taking the Ski Mountaineering Guide Exam. He receives 1 Not Pass and 2 Marginal marks in Terrain Assessment. This exceeds the allowable number of 3 Marginal marks or the equivalent in a single assessment category. Tommy's 1 Not Pass and 2 Marginal marks give him the equivalent of 4 Marginal marks. Tommy fails the exam and receives a final result of Not Pass.

In each of the examples above, the examiner team would have discussed each substandard mark that was observed in the field and recorded on the *DMC* to determine if indeed the mark was appropriately applied. Only after the examiner team, as a whole, agrees are any and all marks then transferred to the *FMS*.

One of the big reasons that so much time and effort is put into discussing marks and how they

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AMGA Board of Directors 2011 Position Statements

MAJKA BURHARDT

Boulder, Colorado

mb@majkaburhardt.com

Joined AMGA: 1999

AMGA Certification: AMGA Certified Rock Guide

Education: B.A., Anthropology, Princeton University; M.F.A., Creative Writing, Warren Wilson Program for Writers

Occupation: Owner, Writer, Climber, Guide, Majka Burhardt LLC.

In 2008 I ran for the AMGA BOD and told you all I wanted to be on the Board, in part, to give voice to guides certified in a single discipline to expand a necessary conversation that would address the full diversity of our organization. In the past three years I have served on the Board and seen the need for the attention to this and other important issues. What I have also seen is a need to understand and support the collective voice of the AMGA beyond and through the individual issues. If I serve a second term it is this honest collaboration I will support and cultivate.

The AMGA is a unique organization made up of unique individuals. I'm drawn to make us the best collective we can be.

MARC CHAUVIN

North Conway, New Hampshire

marc@chauvinguides.com

Joined AMGA: 1986

AMGA Certification(s): AMGA Certified Alpine, Rock & Ski Mountaineering Guide, IFMGA

Education: Professional Technical Training and Certification in Mountain Guiding through the AMGA

Occupation: Owner & Mountain Guide, Chauvin Guides Int'l

My involvement with the AMGA began at its inception and I received my IFMGA certification soon after the AMGA's inclusion.

I've been working as an instructor and a technical committee member for much of that time. The only exception was during a few year period where I was working on a certification based access plan similar in nature to the Certified Guides Co-op.

My focus as an AMGA board member will be twofold:

- The quality of our professional training and certification program
- Turning that certification into a license to practice.

Clients should have the opportunity to climb with guides that are trained and hold a license to practice. This is the reality in other professions that have public safety responsibilities, from a barber to a physician. I will advocate for that and at meetings I will have that as my main priority steering my vote as daily decisions are made.

NATE DISSER

Durango, Colorado

nate@swaguides.com

AMGA Certification(s): AMGA Certified Alpine & Rock Guide

Education: B.A. Psychology, State University NY at Geneseo; B.A. Interpersonal & Organizational Communication, State University NY at Geneseo

Occupation: Owner, Director & Guide, Southwest Adventure Guides

The AMGA constitutes a diverse group of individuals with a common goal — the betterment of our profession. Consequently, it is important that the members select board members who possess both the capacity to represent all the members of the AMGA and the ability to comprehend the issues that the AMGA faces as it works to advance the vision, mission, and goals of the organization.

As the owner of an AMGA Accredited Guide Service based in

AMGA Board of Directors Official Ballot

Please take a moment to vote for five individuals to be seated on the AMGA Board of Directors in October. Only current Certified Guides, Individual Members and Certified SPT's of the AMGA are eligible to vote in the Board of Directors election, as part of their membership benefits. You can view the position statements in the summer Mt. Bulletin or online at blog.amga.com. Submit your ballot via mail to PO Box 1739, Boulder, CO 80306, by fax to 303.271.1377 or email your votes to betsy@amga.com. **Ballots will be accepted until Monday, October 3, 2011.** Election results will be posted on the AMGA website and announced by October 17, 2011. New AMGA Board members will be seated at the Annual Meeting.

Select the five (5) candidates you feel are best qualified to serve on the AMGA Board of Directors:

- Majka Burhardt
- Marc Chauvin
- Nate Disser
- Rob Hess
- Nat Patridge
- Scott Schell

Please print your name

Please sign your name

Note that your name is required. This is a ballot control measure. Your vote will be held in strict confidence.

Colorado, and a Certified Rock & Alpine Guide, I will bring relevant experience, knowledge, and perspective to facilitate progress toward the following goals:

- Increased access to public lands
- Future AMGA program design and continuity
- Customer service for course and exam participants
- Opportunities for membership expansion
- Brand recognition
- Guide/Guide Service collaboration for permit access

In addition, and perhaps most importantly, I would bring a high level of dedication and commitment to the responsibility of serving on the board.

ROB HESS

Jackson, Wyoming

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Joined AMGA: 1998

AMGA Certification(s): AMGA Certified Alpine, Rock & Ski Mountaineering Guide, IFMGA

Education: IFMGA Training and Certification through the AMGA

Occupation: Owner & Chief Guide, Jackson Hole Mountain Guides; AMGA Technical Director; Instructor/Examiner AMGA Instructor Team

As an active and highly committed member of the AMGA, I am running for the Board of Directors of the AMGA. I cycled off of an elected board position in 2009 but remained as a professional director as per the Technical Director position. In my 6 years as an elected Board member, I never missed a Board meeting.

As an IFMGA licensed guide, AMGA Instructor and Examiner, Guide service owner/operator I bring to the table a perspective that is essential to a balanced and productive organization. Simply, I understand the issues that face all guides.

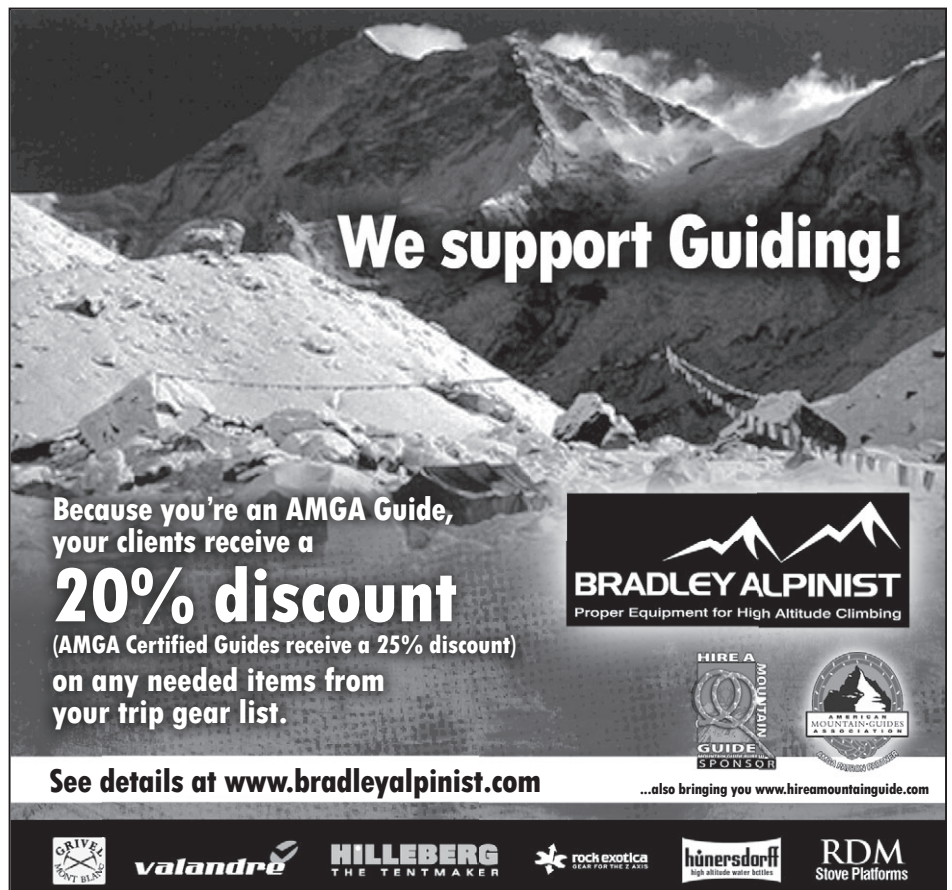
I pushed hard for and voted to support ALL access initiatives for independent guides (CGF, CGC), I understand the issues, concerns and realistic costs of doing business on the part of guide service owners.

I ask for your confidence and subsequent

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AMGA BOD 2011 Position Statements cont'd

vote so that I might continue to add a balanced and well thought out perspective to the AMGA.

NAT PATRIDGE

Jackson, Wyoming

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Joined AMGA: 1998

AMGA Certification(s): AMGA Certified Alpine, Rock & Ski Mountaineering Guide, IFMGA

Education: B.S., Geology/Environmental Studies, St. Lawrence

Occupation: President, Director of Operations, Exum Mountain Guides

My name is Nat Patridge and I am a career mountain guide who has worked in this profession since graduating from college in 1993. My eighteen year guiding career began at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort where I co-created the out of bounds guide operation now known as the JH Alpine Guides. I have worked for NOLS, Valdez Heli Ski Guides and High Mountain Heli. My current position is co-owner, President and Director of Operations for Exum Mountain Guides which is an 80 year guide service of 65 guides, 11 of whom are IFMGA licensed.

I am proud to be AMGA certified, to be part of this passionate and talented community, to be President of a large and old guide service and foremost to be a mountain guide. This experience and current work will enable me to be an effective board member of the AMGA. Thank you.

SCOTT SCHELL

Seattle, Washington

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Joined AMGA: 1998

AMGA Certification: AMGA Certified Ski Mountaineering Guide

Education: A.A., Environmental Studies

Occupation: Executive Director, Certified Guides Co-op

I have been a member of the AMGA for over 13 years.

My background includes working as a certified Ski Mountaineering Guide, managed a highly successful ski touring retail shop in the northwest, ski mountaineering book author, and I am currently the Executive Director of the Certified Guides Co-op (CGC).

The AMGA Board and staff work to strengthen our AMGA brand and to create a strategic plan for the organization. One of the most important and complex issues we face is land access. I believe my extensive work with the AMGA Board and the CGC allows me to bring unique guidance and perspective to this process.

I want to help create a truly sustainable profession for mountain guides, and I hope my track record speaks to my passion for working toward guides' and the AMGA's goals. I would appreciate your vote.

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THE ORIGINAL
REBORN

Brittany Griffith, *Gun Tower* (5,12c),
Maple Canyon, Utah
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by Ed Crothers,
AMGA Climbing
Instructor Program
and Accreditation
Program Director

MINORS AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

DISCLAIMER: *None of the information provided in this article should be taken as legal advice. This is a complex area of contract law. This article is not an exhaustive analysis of release forms. It should be considered a primer that can be used to review an existing form or as a reference when creating a form. It is the responsibility of the reader to seek the help of a qualified attorney and work in conjunction with their insurance provider to craft this very important document.*

in the last *Mountain Bulletin* I presented information about release of liability. In this issue the focus will be on releases and minors. Over the years I have heard a wide array of opinions on this topic. Some people have even advocated that there is far too much exposure to liability to allow minors to participate in climbing related activities. While there are no easy answers, or one size fits all approach, it is hoped this article will provide some clarity and food for thought.

As pointed out in the last article, a release of liability is a contractual agreement in which the person signing is agreeing to give up certain rights in order to participate in an activity. Minors are considered not legally competent to enter into a contract. So the question arises, can a parent or legal guardian sign away the rights of their minor child? In most states in the US the answer is no or it is undecided. There are exceptions that include Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. States where decisions have been rendered that disallow this practice include Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia. Louisiana, Montana, and Virginia take it a step further and do not allow anyone, adult or minor, to sign away the right to sue. In the remaining twenty-six states, the question has not been definitively answered. I got this list from Reb Gregg, a Houston based attorney who specializes in recreation law. Reb points out that none of this is etched in stone. Courts can change their minds and that this issue best be discussed with an attorney from the state an individual or company operates in.

If you operate in a state that does allow adults to sign away the rights of minors, life is a bit easier. You still want to seek advice as to who needs to sign the waiver. For example, can one parent sign or should both parents sign? How does divorce affect who signs? What constitutes a legal guardian? Should the minor also sign?

If you operate in a state that either does not allow legal guardians to sign for minors or the issue has not been resolved, life is more complicated, but all is not lost. While minors cannot enter into contractual agreements, they are considered capable of assuming risks. Many courts have ruled that minors over the age of seven are capable of understanding the inherent risks involved in an activity if adequately explained. In theory, the “inherent risk” doctrine applies to minors as well as adults, and recreation providers have no duty to protect any participant from the inherent risks of a particular recreational activity. So, it is very important that the assumption of risk portion of the release be well crafted and accessible to the minor.

Another important consideration is that, while a parent cannot sign away the rights of their child, parents can agree to not sue in the event of injury or death of their child. “Covenant not to sue” and indemnification language should be included in the release.

Finally, should a minor even sign the release? From my sources, the consensus is yes, if the child is seven years old or older. While the release may be found to be invalid, it can serve as written proof that the minor was informed of the risks prior to taking part in the activity. While this may not be enough for a court to summarily dismiss a lawsuit, it can be important evidence if the case goes to a jury and potentially reduce the size of a judgment by many thousands of dollars.

Again, this is a very brief look at a complex subject. Laws vary from state to state. In the realm of recreation, this is an emerging field and it is highly nuanced. To figure out what works best for you or your organization, talk to a professional.



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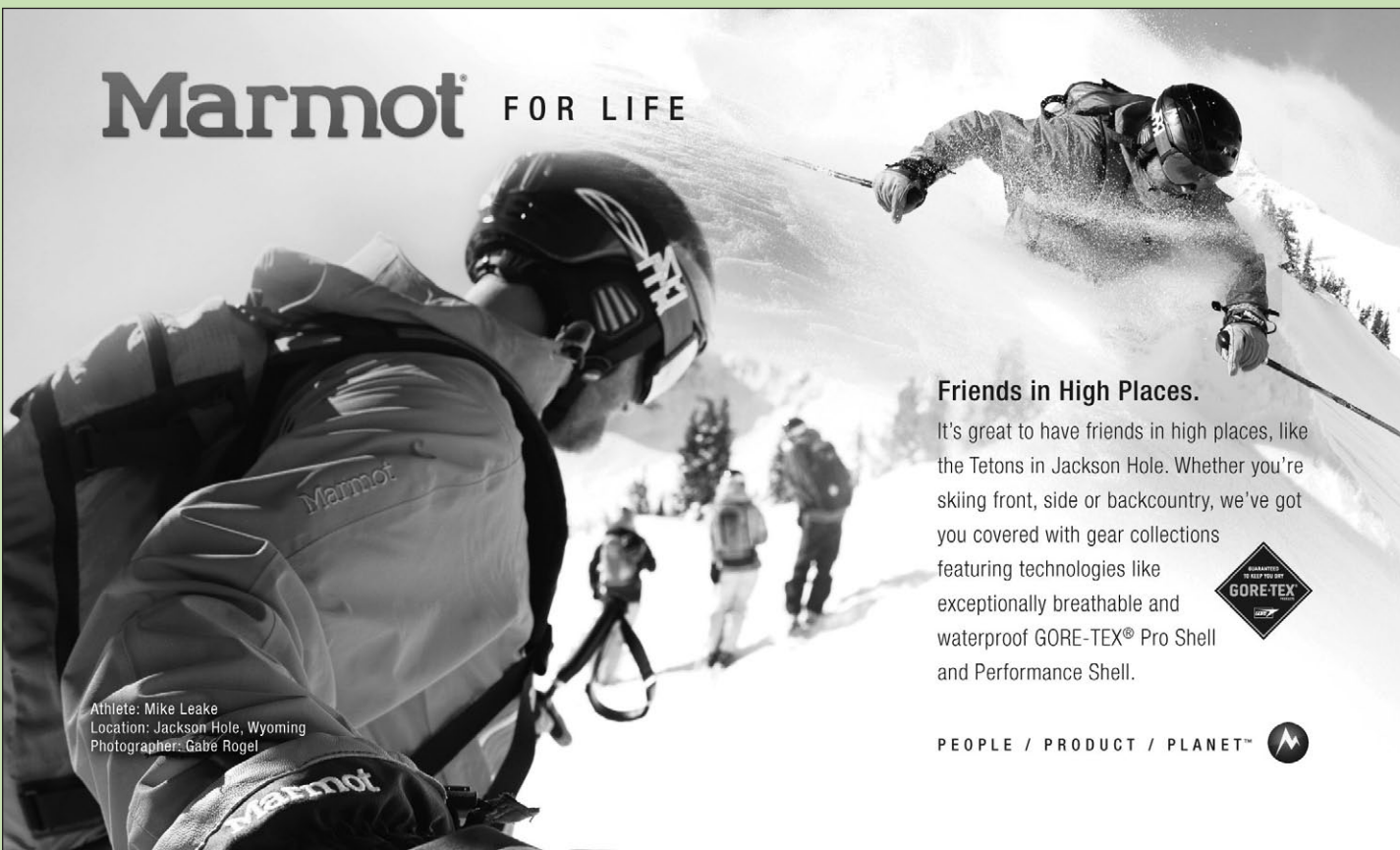
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Athlete: Mike Leake
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ACCESS DIRECTOR UPDATE

Full Steam Ahead

by Leigh Goldberg

GREETINGS! My goal today is to shed some light on the subject of my role as your AMGA Access Director and what the AMGA is doing to improve guided access for AMGA members in the United States.

I am proud to report that the AMGA Board of Directors adopted the first draft of the Strategic Plan for Access at the June Board Meeting. We will have the final Plan in place before the Annual Meeting in the Gunks this fall. We also intend to publish the AMGA's official Position Statement on Guided Access by the end of this year, which will serve as the foundation for how the AMGA works with key stakeholders moving forward.

Achieving credential-based access in the U.S. is one of my top priorities as your Access Director.

Credential-based access translates to land managers requiring minimum training standards for professionals to operate on public lands. Credential-based access is ultimately beneficial for the public visiting public lands (your clients) as well as the resource itself. The AMGA has been successful in achieving this goal in places like the Mohonk Preserve ("the Gunks"), New River Gorge National River, Mount Rainier National Park, Devils Tower National Monument and Joshua Tree National Park. We know that there is much more work to be done. It is important to clarify that the AMGA's role with respect to credential-based access is in influencing public policy, advocacy, outreach and education at the local, regional and federal levels. We recently received the green light for pro-bono support from Patton Boggs, which is one of the largest lobbying law firms in the country. We intend to work with the Denver office of Patton Boggs in order to create more standardized federal policy, which pertains to credential-based access for professionals in our field.

Advocating for and generating more permitting opportunities is another one of my top priorities.

This goal also happens through consistent and persistent advocacy, public policy, outreach and education, which includes making formal proposals to land managers. Denali National Park, Yosemite National Park and Arches National Park are examples of key venues

currently being pursued at the local level. In other words, your Access Director is committed to growing opportunities for you to work in the U.S.

Third, I am committed to developing strategic partnerships and industry alliances to foster access solutions for AMGA members of all levels.

This includes working with AMGA Accredited Programs, Guide Services, concessioners, the Certified Guides Cooperative, the Access Fund, the American Alpine Club, land managers and many other organizations. Of course, no single organization holds the answer to access challenges in the U.S. Only by working together collectively as a community of committed, inspired professionals will we secure the sustainability of our profession in this country.

The AMGA Accreditation Program continues to grow and promote employment and guest guiding opportunities to AMGA Certified Guides and Climbing Instructors. I am also very excited about where the Certified Guides Cooperative is today. The AMGA is currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding between the AMGA and the Certified Guides Cooperative outlining how the two organizations will be working together moving forward. It is important to clarify that the Certified Guides Cooperative, as a not-for-profit coop, provides additional permit options for its member-owners. It's intent is to add more opportunities for all level AMGA members and IFMGA guides to work in the U.S that are in accord with current opportunities available through guide services. The Certified Guides Cooperative is a separate and distinct organization from the AMGA that is financially supported by its member-owners and is specifically focused on the following services: securing permits, sharing and managing permits and providing insurance to its member-owners.

As we move full steam ahead as an organization, we all benefit from being committed to doing just that. The canvas has been wiped clean, and we're on the cusp of having the AMGA's first concrete and comprehensive 5-Year Strategic Plan for Access with the resolve to execute it. Here's to exciting times ahead, and I look forward to seeing you in the Gunks this October!

on

LEADERSHIP by Rob Hess

As mountain athletes, leadership is something that is at the heart of all our endeavors and interactions with others and ourselves. We are lucky to live in an environment of exceptional people with exceptional character. As we travel around the country/world on our various pursuits we must be mindful of the fact that we are coming from such a strong place. Understanding those of different mindsets and motivation is integral to our living in balance... without balance, we can not effectively lead ourselves or others.

I am constantly looking for balance in life. Learning to lead has been a lifelong quest and one I continue to learn about from others and myself. Finding that balance has been the hardest task, for the personal qualities of a good leader do not necessarily come easily for me. Passion, humor, empathy, strength of character, general maturity, patience, wisdom, common sense, trustworthiness, reliability, creativity and sensitivity are the words I would use to describe my views and expectations of myself and others in the context of self leadership.

The path of self-awareness and the development of self-leadership does take hard work and persistence. On this path we must experience those who we feel emulate the qualities we are looking for in sound leadership. As well, we must experience success and failure. The emotions that come from such experiences are profound and stay with us from then on in our life.

I think of two experiences in my life that helped shape my personal being. In 1987 I was with friends on our first Himalayan expedition to Gasherbrum II in Pakistan. As a group we were young, strong, reasonably skilled and very determined. We experienced many great hardships logistically as we were guys with a limited budget. We had hired a number of porters to ferry our equipment to base camp. A powerful storm pinned us down in route to base camp. Having to pay porters for all the days sitting idle in the storm and dwindling funds required that we release all the porters. There we sat, 3-4 days from our base camp with all our gear and no reasonable way to get it there.

We started ferrying the loads ourselves. Fortunately, we were able to hire a few porters to finish the job and finally made it to base camp. On the mountain I was powerful, unstoppable! or so it seemed. Before leaving for the expedition I had been having problems with a girl friend, as much as I loved her and wanted to be with her, I knew somewhere inside me that it was over. As the expedition progressed and my feelings of insecurity simmered and I became more self-absorbed, my focus and determination crumbled. I lacked the strength of character, maturity and wisdom to look past my emotions. It all came to a head on our summit day. I had put forth huge amounts of physical energy as I was the strongest member physically. Mentally the emotional stress had taken its toll, I gave up... I did not summit on a good day that allowed the others to summit. I had let myself down, I lacked balance!

The next experience was on Mt Everest in 1994. I had always remembered my experiences on Gasherbrum II. Although I was not necessarily successful on all the expeditions I had taken part of since then, I at least knew I had for the most part been true to myself and made decisions based on conditions I had no control over. Mt. Everest was one of those expeditions we all hope for in our Mountaineering careers. No expedition is with out hardship but when one goes without a major hitch and you are successful, you are psyched! I felt balance in my life and in my performance on the mountain. I looked out for my friends, I did things for all the right reasons and I felt comfortable with myself. Of greater importance, I was with someone I saw as a great leader, Scott Fisher. Scott believed in himself and he believed in me. He brought the best out of me and as a result, we were a strong team! Unstoppable! Together we summited Mt. Everest with out the use of supplemental oxygen and in doing so I became the third and Scott the forth American to do so. The power of the mind is incredible!

I have been fortunate to live and work with some people I feel were great leaders. These people burned bright, but were taken from us early. Scott Fisher and Doug Coombs are two people whose style and class as leaders and individuals will always live with me. We all have our inner demons, but from my point of view they both shared one major point that I have mentioned, balance! They were noble warriors... fierce in battle, but they loved their family, loved their friends and treated all with respect. They believed in themselves and believed in others. They made you feel anything was possible ! I will never forget watching Doug taking clients into steep committing couloirs in La Grave. Arguably they never belonged there, but Doug empowered them and made them believe in themselves, Doug had them on that invisible rope, failure was not possible.

In the end, if we are to be good leaders, we must first take care of ourselves. To risk being cliché, "sound mind" "Sound body"... try hard, love your friends and family, respect the environment...find balance!

This article was originally published by Rob, on assignment for Mountain Athlete.





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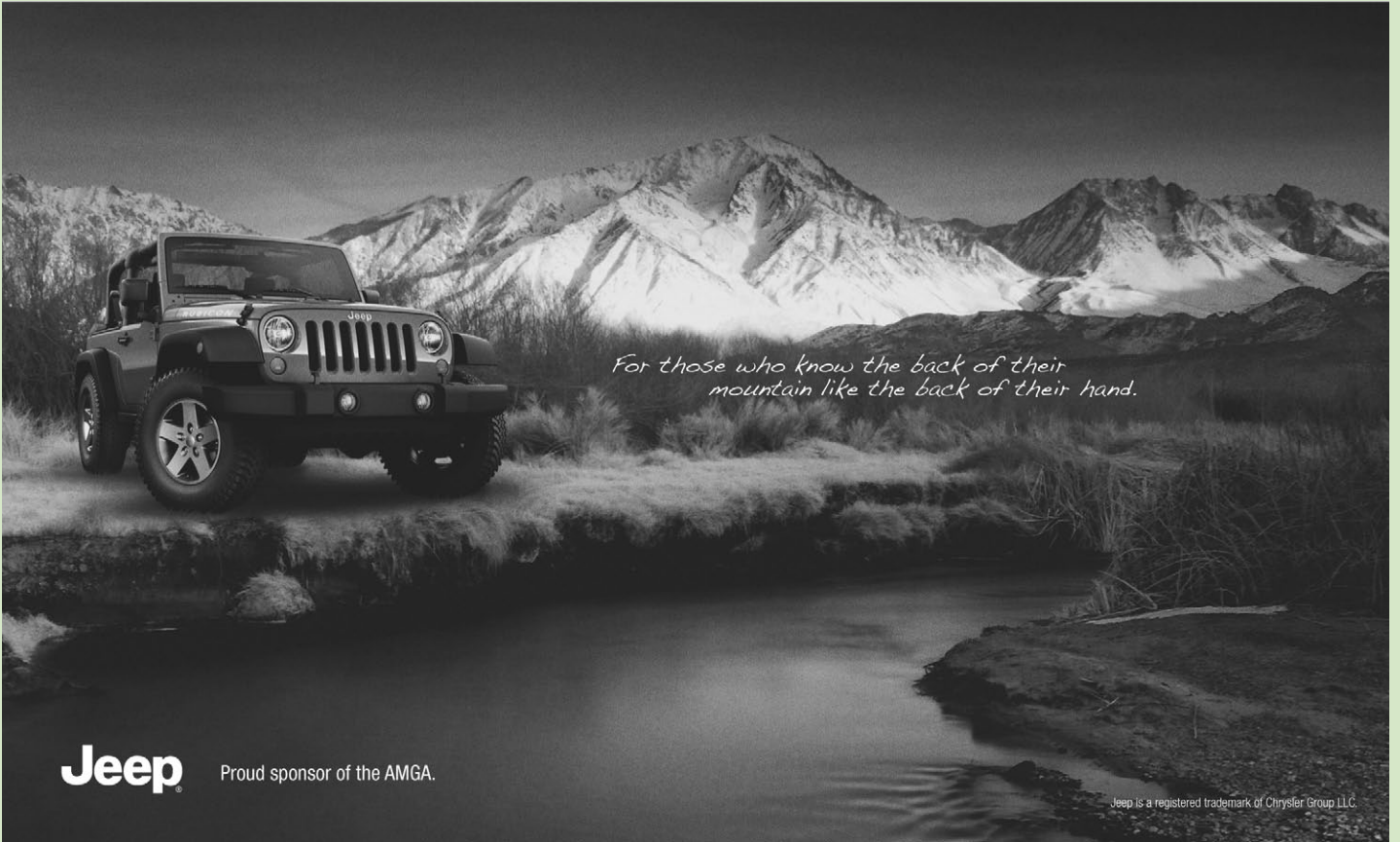
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NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2011 AMGA AWARDS

We are accepting nominations for the 2011 AMGA Awards, through September 21. If you would like to nominate someone for the Outstanding Guide Award or Lifetime Achievement in Mountain Guiding Award, please email your nomination to membership.director@amga.com. The nomination criteria can be found below.

Outstanding Guide Award

- The guide who receives the Outstanding Guide Award embodies the following distinguishing traits
- An individual who has made an outstanding contribution or achievement of significant value to the mountain guiding profession.
- Has exhibited qualities of loyalty, integrity and moral courage worthy of emulation.
- A member of the American Mountain Guides Association.
- Know as a person of ability and character.

Previous recipients of the Outstanding Guide award include – Miles Smart (2004), Mark Houston & Kathy Cosley (2005), Tim Connelly (2006), Rob Hess (2007), Keith Garvey (2008), Alain Comeau (2009) and Willie Benegas (2010).

Lifetime Achievement in Mountain Guiding Award

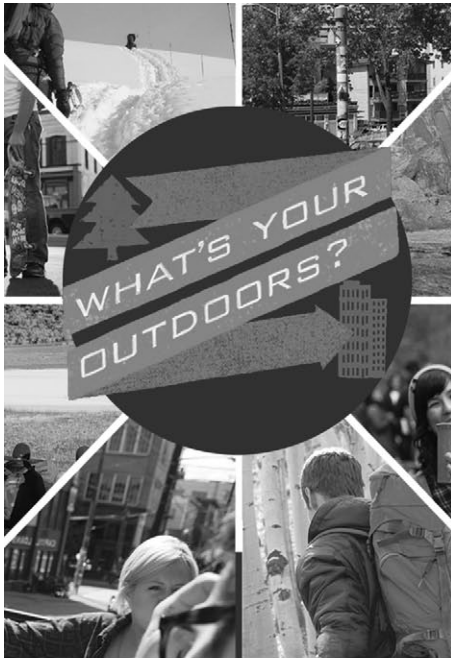
The Guide who receives the Lifetime Achievement in Mountain Guiding Award embodies the following distinguishing traits –

- 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.
- A member of the American Mountain Guides Association.
- Know as a person of ability and character.

Previous recipients of the Lifetime Achievement award include – Tom Hargis (2004), Jim Ratz (2005), Rod Newcomb (2006), George Hurley (2007), Bela Vadasz (2008), Craig Luebben (2009) and John Fischer (2010).

The Outstanding Guide and Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented along with the Presidents Award at the Annual Meeting, Main Event in October.





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Executive Director Corner cont'd from page 3

primarily dominated by men. They helped put climbing and guiding on the map. And they have inspired women across the globe to go explore the mountains and challenge oneself like never before.

I am happy to report that there are far more women entering the sport and profession today than even 10 years ago, especially in the United States. Ten percent of AMGA membership is female and this 10 to 1 ratio is consistent throughout the entire organization, from number of board members to female instructor team members to number of female students enrolled in AMGA programs.

You might think the AMGA's male to female ratios is low, but compared to other IFMGA member associations the AMGA's female involvement is above and beyond that of our international counterparts. The Swiss Mountain Guides Association has 105 years of heritage and only 2% of its total guide population is women. The Germans similarly have a very low male to female ratio. Our neighbors to the north, the Canadians have 48 years of history and only 6% of their total IFMGA guides are female. Leaving the U.S, with only 31 years of tradition, ahead of the rest with 10% of our population being women.

While this speaks volumes to what makes the United States unique there are still far fewer women entering the sport and profession than men. I am often asked why that is. After many hours trying to find a scientific answer I have simply come to the conclusion that there are fewer women than men because of some sociocultural influences that have been impacting women for centuries.

If we look back on the past 100 years of American history these sociocultural influences become self-evident.

- In 1915 physical education teachers strongly opposed competition among women, fearing it will make them less feminine.
- In 1917 there were separate rules for women's collegiate field hockey,

swimming, track and field, and soccer.

- In 1972 the rules of the Boston Marathon change, letting women run with the official numbers for the first time.
- In 1987, Sports Illustrated features for the 1st time (aside from the swimsuit edition) a woman athlete on the cover.
- And in 2000, only 11 years ago, women are allowed to compete in the same number of team sports as men for the 1st time in Olympic history.

If women participating in the most common of physical activities was truly seen as inappropriate and unfitting, then can you imagine how it must have been regarded to attempt to climb mountains and scale rock walls, let alone make a profession out of it? But here we are in 2011 and, to quote Bob Dylan, "The times they are a-changin'."

Contributing to this change are the women rock stars who can and do scale unimaginable heights to prove a women's ability, and the women rock stars who can and do scale those same great heights while helping others do the same.

From the Alps, to the Tetons, to the dessert rock in Utah and Nevada and from Namibia to the North Cascades of Washington State, these women guides of the AMGA are taking the sport and the industry to the next level by making the sport accessible. They help other women reach the summit of their hearts desire.

Women guides are powerful influencers. They are often the sole lens through which first-time and repeat enthusiasts view the most meaningful outdoor experiences of their lives. Women guides know how to create a super fun, safe and supportive atmosphere. They know how to build community, confidence and trust so that others might be motivated to take the lead. They are experts in the field. They can broaden a beginner's knowledge and help advanced climbers accelerate their learning.

Women guides are role models. They shatter biases and create opportunities



for people to function outside of their own limiting beliefs. Women guides are committed outdoor professionals who are at the core of the sport and are genuine brand champions in whose hands people put their trust and their lives.

The women who have been pioneers in all walks of life create opportunities for other women and give them permission to do the same by showing what's possible. The same was true for the women pioneers in climbing, just as it true for female certified guides. Women leading women and women giving other women permission to try something new and take their sport to the next level is really important and critical to the future evolution of the outdoor industry. Because of AMGA's influential women we are able to perpetuate the cycle and influence the number of women climbers/skiers and guides in the U.S.

While we've seen increased participation over the years, there is still plenty of room for more women in the sport and the profession. While I have my own ideas on how to bring more women into the fold, I would love to hear from you, the members of the AMGA, on how we can make the climbing/guiding community more accessible and inviting to the female population.

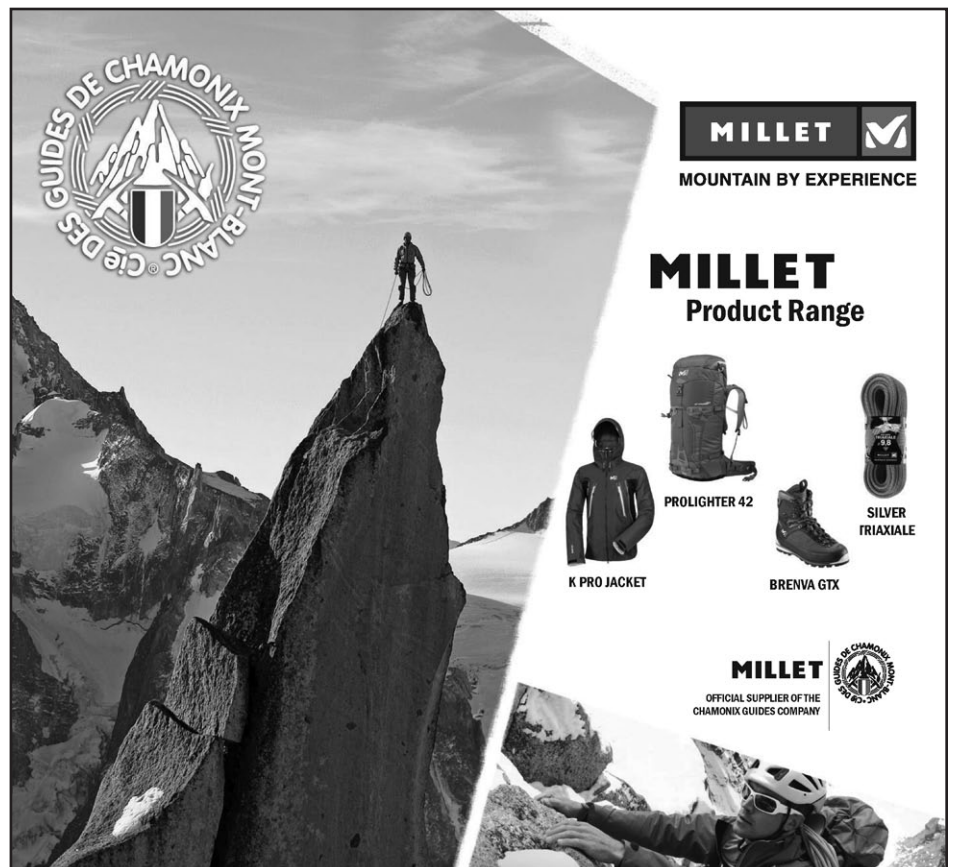
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Our VISION:

The AMGA provides exceptional training and certification to create a foundation for world-class mountain experience. The AMGA supports mountain guiding and provides the services necessary to SUSTAIN our profession in the United States.

Our CORE VALUES are:

- 1 Leave No Trace
- 2 Devotion to the client experience
- 3 Training and education
- 4 Pursuit of continuing improvement
- 5 Sustaining the guiding profession

Our CORE COMPETENCIES are:

- 1 Representatives of the international technical standard
- 2 Skill in a diversity of guiding in wilderness terrain
- 3 Traditional rock guiding
- 4 Devotion to the client experience

The Core Values and Core Competencies are how we define what sets American mountain guides apart from guides around the world. These values and competencies are not listed in order of priority; rather the sum of their parts is meant to express our positive differentiators within our community at home and abroad.

The work of this strategic planning process has been intense — and at times overwhelming — but it has been very productive. It is my intention and hope that our Strategic Planning Summary — and all the work it represents — will provide valuable guidance as we implement our many route plans for the climbs ahead of us.

I look forward to seeing you in the coming months, be it in the mountains this summer or at our meetings this fall. As always, I urge you to get involved, come to our meetings, and make your voice heard! *The AMGA board and staff are creating these route plans serve you, our membership. You are our clients, and we are your guides.*

are applied is to ensure that a student is not receiving multiple sub-standard marks for the same mistake. This is commonly referred to as cascading. In addition, shifting one sub-standard mark from one assessment category to another could be the difference between passing and not passing an exam.

Every effort is made to determine if a student's overall performance was an acceptable guiding performance. If it was then the student should pass the exam. The *DMC* and *FMS* are critical components in that determination. As is the examiner team discussion at the end of every exam.

Hopefully this helps clarify the difference between the *Daily Marking Card* and the *Final Marking Sheet* and how they are employed to determine the final result of an exam.

I'd love to hear your thoughts, so please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions regarding this or any other topic.

Have a dynamite day!

Henry Beyer

AMGA Program Director

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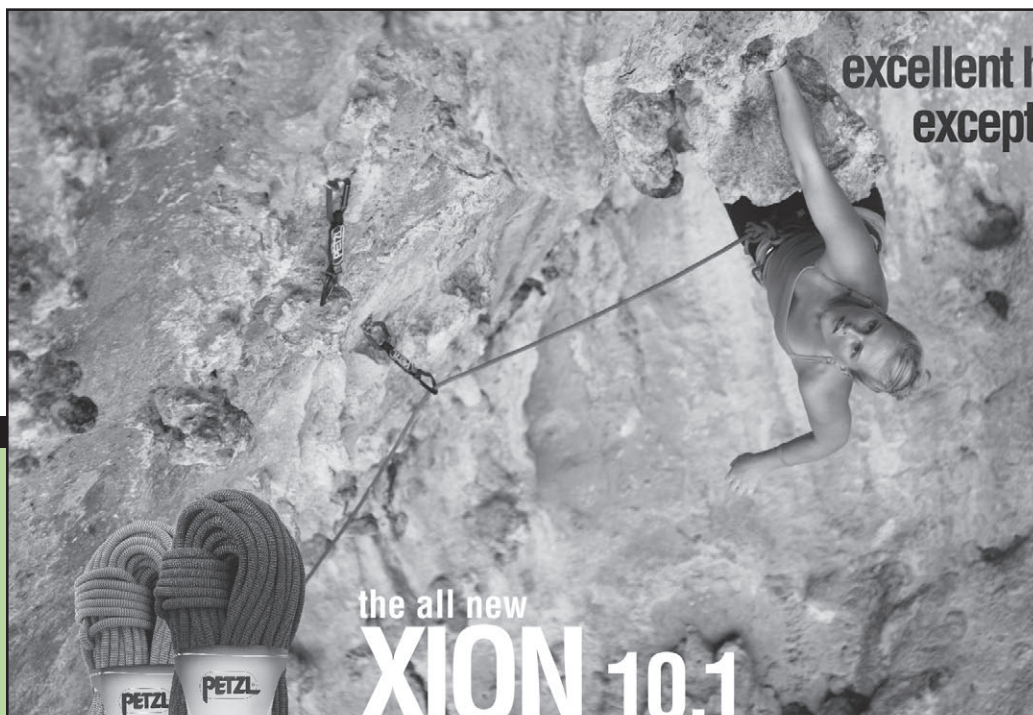
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