

Synopsis for round table meeting in North Conway New Hampshire

December 3, 2014

Thanks to the generous support of Arcteryx the AMGA was able to complete the final round table meeting of 2014 in North Conway. AMGA president Rob Hess and Technical Director Dale Remsberg traveled to the North East guiding hub and presented on behalf of the organization. This was the final stop in 2014 but coming last does not mean that the North East guide population is less important and in fact due to the open access and large guide population North Conway was a highly anticipated venue and the attendance did not disappoint. Roughly fifty guides attended the event that lasted over three hours.

The agenda for the meeting included presenting on the branding and overall direction of the AMGA, the terrain and supervision guidelines and a break out session on unique concerns of North East guides. Rob Hess presented on the strategic plan and rebranding of the AMGA and important decisions the Board of Directors have been discussing regarding credential based access and the new accreditation standards. Dale Remsberg handed out the terrain and supervision guidelines and fielded questions regarding their implementation.

Mid way through the evening the AMGA presented three questions for break out groups to answer and provide suggestions on.

1. What are three strategic priorities you think the AMGA should be working on?
2. What are three challenges to professional development and guide training that are unique to the North East?
3. What are three things the AMGA can do to better serve guides in the North East?

Answers: As you can imagine the answers and suggestions were vast and complicated but some general themes came out of the forty-five minute session. Here are some highlights.

- Better definitions of terrain across the US including examples of local terrain to better support the vision of the terrain and supervision guidelines.
- Promote guiding as a viable profession.
- Try and run alpine programs other than the Ice Instructor Course in the NE.
- Unique challenges to NE guides and there training include the need to travel so much for programs, cost, limited terrain to train on.
- The cost of AMGA programs and the percentage of a typical guides income that it requires to take programs.
- The AMGA should look at the unique nature of NE terrain and make sure the education works for the specific terrain
- Continue to work on credential-based access.

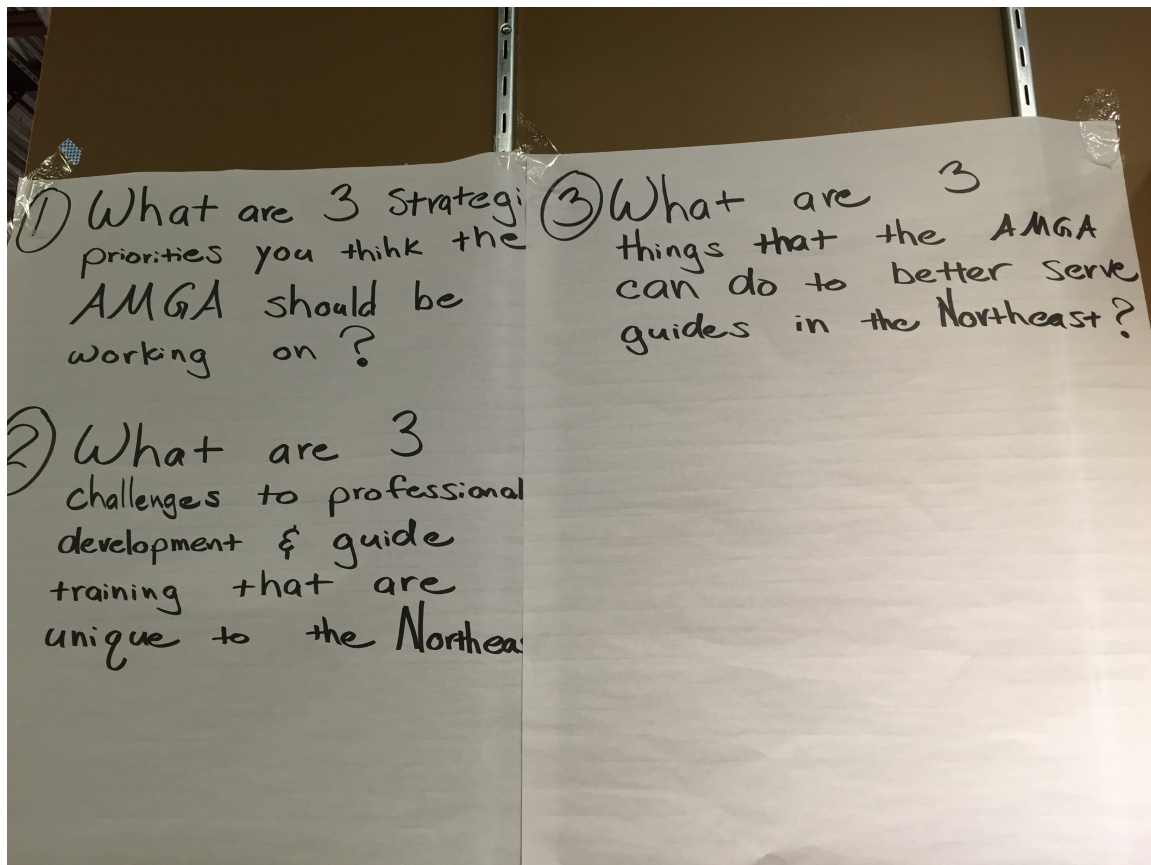
- Focus on mentorship programs to support guide training.

The night was capped off by a listening session moderated by Majka Burhardt with AMGA board members Rob Hess, Silas Rossi, and Dale Remsberg sitting in front of the group. The purpose of this session was to answer basis questions and allow for the membership to present their concerns.

The event was very successful and if there was one major theme that was gleamed it is that the North East guide community if very strong and very interested in helping direct it's guide organization. The AMGA will focus on more frequent visits to this region and potential bring an annual meeting in the near future.

The event was capped of by a pizza dinner at the Flatbread Company and a second shift ascent of the Black Dike the following day by Rob Hess, Marc Chauvin and Dale Remsberg.

The AMGA would like the thank Eastern Mountain Sports for hosting the event and for the whole guiding community for being so welcoming and supportive.



TEAM 7

1) Broader Based Membership

- Open Access for Certified Guides

- Representation Bias?

• Promote Guiding as a viable profession

- Gap complication

2) Definition of Terrain

- ?
- ?

3) Alpine Skills Course here

- Local terrain definition examples

- Ice specific Certification

3 Strategic Priorities

- Education
 - Access
 - Standards
-

3 Challenges to guide training in NE

- Terrain (glaciers / length routes)
limited prerequisite terrain
 - Travel
 - Cost of course as a % of income
-

3 things to better serve NE

- Expand course offerings
- Advocate / Educate public on benefits of AMGA Training
Educate guides on benefit of certification.
- NE AMGA meeting on a semi-regular basis
Clinics

Strategic Priorities

- advocating for guide wages
- making courses more affordable
- more frequent courses

2. Challenges to prof. devel. unique to NE

- unique terrain
- ski instructor
- alpine instructor

3. 3 things AMGA can do to serve guides in NE?

- regionally specific terrain guidelines
- ice guide certification

#1

1. Informing public about what cert. means / membership
2. Access thru cert. instead of ~~or~~ concession
3. Education

#2 3 challenges unique to NE

- 1. How does our terrain fit into scheme alpine terrain? contradictions between courses & terrain guidelines
- 2. traveling for courses
- 3. anyone can guide

#3 3 things AMGA can do for me!

1. custom schedule for courses
2. more higher level courses HERE
3. INSURANCE CO's

LOBBY

- WORKMAN'S COMP
- HEALTH (individual)

→ we are a healthy group w T F?

→ in NH assigned risk pool

- CLIMBING
- ①
 - Educate/inform the general public about the value of hiring a trained/certified AMGA Guide!
 - Continue to work on credential based access
 - Supporting the certification of CWI & SPI Guides; the bulk of the membership & certification
 - ②
 - Difficult to pursue pre-requisites for advanced level courses
 - Mentorship for alpine & upper level rock programs.
 - ③
 - Nurture more regional involvement through meetings/involvements like this
 - Pulling in non-AMGA affiliated businesses
 - Market the AMGA brand region specific