



2017 AMGA Annual Meeting

Petzl Technical Institute
2929 Decker Lake Dr,
West Valley, UT 84119
877.807.3805

October 26 - 28, 2017



Indoor Technical & Classroom Clinics

Petzl Technical Institute
2929 Decker Lake Dr,
West Valley, UT 84119
877.807.3805

Outdoor Technical Clinics (offsite)

Outdoor Clinics will be held at various locations in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Your clinician will be in touch ahead of time with the exact meeting location and gear list for your clinic.

Thursday, 10/26

Outdoor Technical Clinics: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Short-roping *(Big Cottonwood Canyon)*

Short roping is part science and part art - fusing it all together to create flow is more difficult than first meets the eye. Learn from an AMGA Instructor Team member what it takes!

Transitions for Short-roping to Fifth-class, and to Rappel

(Big Cottonwood Canyon)

Apply new and masterful ways to transition from short-roping to 5th class climbing and how to reverse it all after tagging the summit.

Parallel and Caterpillar Rope Transitions

(Big Cottonwood Canyon)

To be efficient and provide a great client experience guides need to master anchor transitions. From outside/inside/under to where to re-stack the ropes this clinic will improve your transitions.

SPI Master Class: Beyond the Curriculum, Within the Scope

(Big Cottonwood Canyon)

SPI students demonstrate minimum proficiency standards on their assessment. But, as any seasoned Single Pitch Instructor will attest, those skills are just the tip of the iceberg. The SPI Master Class will explore skills that are well within an SPI scope of practice, but rarely included in a typical SPI course curriculum.

Indoor Technical Clinics: 8:00am – 11:30am

Raising Systems *(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall R Side)*

Learning how to raise with multiple types of tools and techniques will make you a better guide. From basic crux assistance to full on hauling this clinic will “up” your game.

Weighted Transitions

(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall L Side)

Learning how to go in and out, working with munter-mules, and passing knots on a loaded rope are mandatory guide skills. Learn the critical steps in this clinic.

Perfecting Knot Passes

(PTI Training Center – Exo Tower/Catwalk 2nd floor)

How many ways can you pass a knot? Come to this clinic and find out.

Alpine Transitions

(PTI Training Center – Exo Tower 3rd floor parapet)

Work on simple alpine transitions with a single rope that will include ascent and descent options focusing on guide security and minimal gear.

Tech Testing – Petzl (PTI Training Center – Testing Tower)

The Materials Testing / Technical Testing clinics generally focus part of the time on how testing helps answer critical questions that will bring a piece of equipment to market. Petzl has a tensile testing machine (used measure breaking strength with a consistent method) and a drop tower (designed to measure dynamic forces in a system upon falling or impact.) During each clinic, we examine what kind of questions are worth asking with each system, and we get to edge outside of “normal” a little bit to see what happens when equipment is subjected to forces or applications outside of what the manufacturers intended. Participants are encourage to submit applications or products they would like to test, as well as bringing old or used equipment they would like to test.

Improvised Rope Ascent & Descent

(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall Back Structure)

Dropped your device? Short on gear? Learning how to construct ascending and descending techniques for fixed or rappel ropes is a skill all climbers should know.

Classroom Clinics: 8:30am – 9:50am

Mentorship in Guiding (PTI Castleton Room)

This session will discuss the results of the recent survey on mentoring within the AMGA and offer an overview of the current mentoring initiative. This will be followed by discussion of the future vision for the mentoring program, including mentoring events, potential liability, and other concerns. Come open-minded and ready to share your ideas.

Hot Topics in Insurance for Mountain Guides

(PTI Arches Meeting Room)

Hot Topics in Insurance for Mountain Guides: Current Issues, Including Contracted Guides, Foreign Trips, B.C. Permits, Special Language for Certificates, Professional Liability Exposure, Insurance Market Trends and more. Question & Answer Session.

Classroom Clinics: 10:10am – 11:30am

The Permitting Landscape (PTI Castleton Room)

Learn the ins and outs of the permitting landscape with AMGA Instructor Team member, Geoff Unger

Mountain Weather (PTI Arches Meeting Room)

Learning how to read forecasts models and applying this to your guiding is an important skill that is a must for guides.

Indoor Technical Clinics: 12:30pm – 4:00pm

Mastering Auto Blocking Devices and their Intricacies -

Jeff Ward (PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall R Side)

This clinic covers the ins and outs of setting up and releasing auto blocking devices for lead and top rope applications. We will go over various types and brands of devices and introduce a new technique for release.

Leader Rescue (PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall L Side)

Many guides have learned how to rescue the follower but what happens when your leader needs rescuing?

Improvised Rope Ascent & Descent (PTI Training Center – Exo Tower/catwalk 2nd floor)

Dropped your device? Short on gear? Learning how to construct ascending and descending techniques for fixed or rappel ropes is a skill all climbers should know.

Transitions to Technical Descent - The 3:1 Ratio Riddle

(PTI Training Center – Exo Tower 3rd floor parapet)

Sometimes we end up with three clients and learning how to maximize your tools and keep the flow going is more difficult than it would seem. Dylan Taylor will use his years of experience to aid you in guiding higher ratios.

Crevasse Rescue (PTI Training Center – Roof)

Although rarely used, crevasse rescue is an important rescue skill for guides and one that should be practiced often and with purpose.

Work at Height Solutions - Petzl

(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall Back Structure)

Many climbing guides/instructors may also find ‘off-season’ work at height opportunities- outside or in a climbing gym. This session is a practical orientation to the regulations governing work at height and applicable standards, followed by the practical application of conventional industry/work/rescue fall protection systems, as well as systems being implemented in gym ‘work at height’ programs.

Classroom Clinics: 12:30pm – 1:50pm

Mentorship in Guiding (PTI Castleton Room)

This session will discuss the results of the recent survey on mentoring within the AMGA and offer an overview of the current mentoring initiative. This will be followed by discussion of the future vision for the mentoring program, including mentoring events, potential liability, and other concerns. Come open-minded and ready to share your ideas.

What Insurance Companies Look for in Risk Management

(PTI Exo Classroom)

What Insurance Companies Look for in Risk Management: Operations Plans, Certifications, Waivers/Assumption of Risk, Minors, Automobiles, Snowmobiles, Contracts With Business Partners, and more. Question & Answer Session.

Ski Guide’s Meetings and Run Lists (PTI Arches Meeting Room)

Joey Thompson will run you through AMGA common practices for am and pm meetings and how and when to open ski terrain.

Classroom Clinics: 2:10pm – 3:30pm

The Permitting Landscape (PTI Castleton Room)

Learn the ins and outs of the permitting landscape with AMGA Instructor Team member, Geoff Unger

The Fourth Discipline – Being Versed in Technology, People & Sales *(PTI Exo Classroom)*

The Fourth Discipline is the business of being a guide. We will discuss what makes a guide truly successful as a guide working independently or for a guide service. Topics will include; using technology, generating return clients and developing the communication skills to interact effectively with clients, co-workers and management.

Mountain Weather *(PTI Arches Meeting Room)*

Learning how to read forecasts models and applying this to your guiding is an important skill that is a must for guides.

Mastering Auto Blocking Devices and Their Intricacies - Jeff Ward *(PTI Training Center – Exo Tower 3rd floor parapet)*

This clinic covers the ins and outs of setting up and releasing auto blocking devices for lead and top rope applications. We will go over various types and brands of devices and introduce a new technique for release.

Crevasse Rescue *(PTI Training Center – Roof)*

Although rarely used, crevasse rescue is an important rescue skill for guides and one that should be practiced often and with purpose.

Classroom Clinics: 8:30am – 9:50am

Carrying and Administering Epinephrine in the Backcountry: Changes in the Law *(PTI Aches Meeting Room)*

Within the last three years, many states have passed laws allowing organizations and businesses to carry epinephrine auto-injectors for use upon a third party who is suffering from an anaphylactic reaction. These laws grant immunity from liability, so long as certain training requirements and protocols are followed. This new development in the law will allow guides to use this lifesaving treatment without putting themselves or their company at legal risk. This clinic will include a basic explanation of how the laws work, and practical considerations for implementing an epinephrine protocol.

Classroom Clinics: 8:30am – 11:30am

PPE – Petzl *(PTI Castleton Room)*

PPE - Personal protective equipment is used to protect workers from different levels of hazards that cannot otherwise be managed, and is an OSHA requirement when employees are exposed to hazards. In commercial guiding programs, PPE is often issued to customers also. This introduction/“awareness” level session will introduce the background on regulations, equipment standards, types of PPE used for fall protection in both ‘Pro’ (work & rescue) and sport markets, and provide participants with some guidance and direction on selecting, inspecting and managing their PPE in a commercial program. (A full ‘Competent Person’ course with assessment and certificate is 2.75 days, this is a good introduction.)

Radios and Radio Communication for Mountain Guides - Ian Nicholson *(PTI Exo Classroom)*

Learn and understand the different ways to communicate while out in the field and with a client.

Classroom Clinics: 10:10am – 11:30am

Guiding and Finance *(PTI Aches Meeting Room)*

AMGA Instructor Team Member, Sarah Carpenter, helps you find the balance between guiding and finance.

Indoor Technical Clinics: 12:30pm – 4:00pm

Rock Rescue Drill *(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall R Side)*

An introduction to the new Rock Rescue Drill with applied practice

Friday, 10/27

Outdoor Technical Clinics: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Short-roping *(Big Cottonwood Canyon)*

Short roping is part science and part art -fusing it all together to create flow is more difficult than first meets the eye. Learn from an AMGA Instructor Team member what it takes!

Transitions for Short-roping to Fifth-class, and to Rappel

(Big Cottonwood Canyon)

Apply new and masterful ways to transition from short-roping to 5th class climbing & how to reverse it all after tagging the summit.

Parallel and Caterpillar Rope Transitions

(Big Cottonwood Canyon)

To be efficient and provide a great client experience guides need to master anchor transitions. From outside/inside/under to where to re-stack the ropes this clinic will improve your transitions.

SPI Master Class: Beyond the Curriculum, Within the Scope

(Big Cottonwood Canyon)

SPI students demonstrate minimum proficiency standards on their assessment. But, as any seasoned Single Pitch Instructor will attest, those skills are just the tip of the iceberg. The SPI Master Class will explore skills that are well within an SPI scope of practice, but rarely included in a typical SPI course curriculum.

Indoor Technical Clinics: 8:00am – 11:30am

Rock Rescue Drill *(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall R Side)*

An introduction to the new Rock Rescue Drill with applied practice

Anchor Physics - Factor 2 Issues and Protecting the

Leader - Dylan Taylor *(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall L Side)*

During this clinic Dylan will provide thought provoking information that may make you reconsider how you construct anchors and what you do when leading above them.

Perfecting Knot Passes

(PTI Training Center – Exo Tower/Catwalk 2nd floor)

How many ways can you pass a knot? Come to this clinic and find out.

Leader Rescue (PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall L Side)

Many guides have learned how to rescue the follower but what happens when your leader needs rescuing?

Hauling & Mechanical Advantage Systems

(PTI Training Center – Exo Tower 3rd floor parapet)

This clinic will explore the finer points of hauling and how to count mechanical advantage.

Crevasse Rescue (PTI Training Center – Roof)

Although rarely used, crevasse rescue is an important rescue skill for guides and one that should be practiced often and with purpose.

Tech Testing – Petzl (PTI Training Center – Testing Tower)

The Materials Testing / Technical Testing clinics generally focus part of the time on how testing helps answer critical questions that will bring a piece of equipment to market. Petzl has a tensile testing machine (used measure breaking strength with a consistent method) and a drop tower (designed to measure dynamic forces in a system upon falling or impact.) During each clinic, we examine what kind of questions are worth asking with each system, and we get to edge outside of “normal” a little bit to see what happens when equipment is subjected to forces or applications outside of what the manufacturers intended. Participants are encouraged to submit applications or products they would like to test, as well as bringing old or used equipment they would like to test.

Improvised Rope Ascent & Descent

(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall Back Structure)

Dropped your device? Short on gear? Learning how to construct ascending and descending techniques for fixed or rappel ropes is a skill all climbers should know.

Classroom Clinics: 12:30pm – 1:50pm

Ski Guide’s Meetings and Run Lists (PTI Exo Classroom)

Joey Thompson will run you through AMGA common practices for am and pm meetings and how and when to open ski terrain.

Different Ways Guides Can Be Effective for Brands in the Outdoor Industry (PTI Arches Meeting Room)

Verde Brand Communications aims to help their clients distill their brand message and product positioning, identify audiences and then create the bridges to create engagement and activation. Learn tips and gain perspective on how guides can directly impact the outdoor industry while working with a brand.

Classroom Clinics: 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Analog Mapping & Navigation | Don’t Rely on the Blue Dot! (Castleton Room)

A traditional navigation clinic, focusing on paper map, compass, and altimeter use. We will cover map reading, grid systems, declination, measuring and plotting bearings in the field and on the map, tour planning and white out navigation. We will spend 2 hours in the classroom and then do an orienteering course/scavenger hunt around the Petzl campus.

Classroom Clinics: 2:10pm – 3:30pm

Improvised Ski Repair (PTI Exo Classroom)

This clinic will cover all the cool techniques for field repair of broken bindings, skis and boots.

Liability Waivers and Visitors Assumption of Risk Forms (PTI Arches Meeting Room)

This clinic will focus on the nuts and bolts of these important legal forms, and how to correctly utilize them for maximum liability protection. The discussion will include: enforceability and mandatory elements of liability waivers and assumption of risk forms, and the difference between them; avoiding errors that could render your waiver unenforceable; electronic waivers; avoiding hassles with permitting agencies regarding your forms; and any other issues raised by clinic participants. Free-form discussion will be the format – please bring all of your questions.

Saturday, 10/28

Outdoor Technical Clinics: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Short-roping (Big Cottonwood Canyon)

Short roping is part science and part art -fusing it all together to create flow is more difficult than first meets the eye. Learn from an AMGA Instructor Team member what it takes!

Transitions for Short-roping to Fifth-class, and to Rappel (Big Cottonwood Canyon)

Apply new and masterful ways to transition from short-roping to 5th class climbing and how to reverse it all after tagging the summit.

Parallel and Caterpillar Rope Transitions

(Big Cottonwood Canyon)

To be efficient and provide a great client experience guides need to master anchor transitions. From outside/inside/under to where to re-stack the ropes this clinic will improve your transitions.

SPI Master Class: Beyond the Curriculum, Within the Scope

(Big Cottonwood Canyon)

SPI students demonstrate minimum proficiency standards on their assessment. But, as any seasoned Single Pitch Instructor will attest, those skills are just the tip of the iceberg. The SPI Master Class will explore skills that are well within an SPI scope of practice, but rarely included in a typical SPI course curriculum.

Indoor Technical Clinics: 8:00am – 12:00am

Rock Rescue Drill (PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall R Side)

An introduction to the new Rock Rescue Drill with applied practice

Perfecting Knot Passes

(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall L Side)

How many ways can you pass a knot? Come to this clinic and find out.

Lowering Applications

(PTI Training Center – Exo Tower/Catwalk 2nd floor)

This clinic covers the ins and outs of setting up and releasing auto blocking devices for lead and top rope applications. We will go over various types and brands of devices and introduce a new technique for release.

Alpine Transitions

(PTI Training Center – Exo Tower 3rd floor parapet)

Work on simple alpine transitions with a single rope that will include ascent and descent options focusing on guide security and minimal gear.

Crevasse Rescue *(PTI Training Center – Roof)*

Although rarely used, crevasse rescue is an important rescue skill for guides and one that should be practiced often and with purpose.

Work at Height Solutions

(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall Back Structure)

Many climbing guides/instructors may also find 'off-season' work at height opportunities- outside or in a climbing gym. This session is a practical orientation to the regulations governing work at height and applicable standards, followed by the practical application of conventional industry/work/rescue fall protection systems, as well as systems being implemented in gym 'work at height' programs.

Classroom Clinics: 8:30am – 9:50am

Inclusion & Diversity *(PTI Exo Classroom)*

This session will discuss the aims of the inclusion and diversity initiative within the AMGA. The session will review the origins of this initiative, original goals, and progress on those goals. This will be followed by discussion of future goals and an action plan to achieve them. Come open-minded and ready to share your ideas

Facilitating a Guide Service *(PTI Arches Meeting Room)*

Come join Colorado Mountain School owner, Russell Hunter, for a collaborative session on running a guide service. Russell will facilitate a discussion on creating mission and values, processes and systems, finding and keeping guides and financials of a guide service. This sharing of knowledge and experiences will benefit current owners of guide services and anyone considering starting or taking over an existing guide service.

Hot Topics in Insurance for Mountain Guides

(PTI Ascension Conference Room)

Hot Topics in Insurance for Mountain Guides: Current Issues, Including Contracted Guides, Foreign Trips, B.C. Permits, Special Language for Certificates, Professional Liability Exposure, Insurance Market Trends and more. Question & Answer Session.

Classroom Clinics: 8:30am – 11:30am

Modern Guide Navigation *(PTI Castleton Room)*

Map and compass is still the critical skillset but why not use some of your technology to improve your tour planning skills?

Classroom Clinics: 10:10am – 11:30am

Ask the ED *(PTI Exo Classroom)*

Sit down with the AMGA's Executive Director, Alex Kosseff for an open question and answer session.

Different Ways Guides can be Effective for Brands in the Outdoor Industry *(PTI Arches Meeting Room)*

Verde Brand Communications aims to help their clients distill their brand message and product positioning, identify audiences and then create the bridges to create engagement and activation. Learn tips and gain perspective on how guides can directly impact the outdoor industry while working with a brand.

What Insurance Companies Look for in Risk Management

(PTI Ascension Conference Room)

What Insurance Companies Look for in Risk Management: Operations Plans, Certifications, Waivers/Assumption of Risk, Minors, Automobiles, Snowmobiles, Contracts With Business Partners, and more. Question & Answer Session.

Indoor Technical Clinics: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Rock Rescue Drill *(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall R Side)*

An introduction to the new Rock Rescue Drill with applied practice

Leader Rescue *(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall L Side)*

Many guides have learned how to rescue the follower but what happens when your leader needs rescuing?

Fixed Point Belays

(PTI Training Center – Exo Tower 3rd floor parapet)

Learn how to construct anchors that will work well with fixed point belays and multiple ways to belay off of them.

Crevasse Rescue *(PTI Training Center – Roof)*

Although rarely used, crevasse rescue is an important rescue skill for guides and one that should be practiced often and with purpose.

Tech Testing – Petzl *(PTI Training Center – Testing Tower)*

The Materials Testing / Technical Testing clinics generally focus part of the time on how testing helps answer critical questions that will bring a piece of equipment to market. Petzl has a tensile testing machine (used measure breaking strength with a consistent method) and a drop tower (designed to measure dynamic forces in a system upon falling or impact.) During each clinic, we examine what kind of questions are worth asking with each system, and we get to edge outside of "normal" a little bit to see what happens when equipment is subjected to forces or applications outside of what the manufacturers intended. Participants are encouraged to submit applications or products they would like to test, as well as bringing old or used equipment they would like to test.

Weighted Transitions

(PTI Training Center – Climbing Wall Back Structure)

Learning how to go in and out, working with munter-mules, and passing knots on a loaded rope are mandatory guide skills. Learn the critical steps in this clinic.

Classroom Clinics: 12:30pm – 1:50pm

Ask the ED *(PTI Castleton Room)*

Sit down with the AMGA's Executive Director, Alex Kosseff for an open question and answer session)

Inclusion and Diversity *(PTI Exo Classroom)*

This session will discuss the aims of the inclusion and diversity initiative within the AMGA. The session will review the origins of this initiative, original goals, and progress on those goals. This will be followed by discussion of future goals and an action plan to achieve them. Come open-minded and ready to share your ideas

Opportunities and Challenges of Working for a Guide Service *(PTI Arches Meeting Room)*

Many guides will choose to work for a guide service during their careers. Come join career guide became guide service owner, Russell Hunter to learn about what makes working for a guide service great and not so great. This clinic will help guides become better employees and understand what guide services look for in their guides.

What Insurance Companies Look for in Risk Management *(PTI Ascension Conference Room)*

What Insurance Companies Look for in Risk Management: Operations Plans, Certifications, Waivers/Assumption of Risk, Minors, Automobiles, Snowmobiles, Contracts With Business Partners, and more. Question & Answer Session.

Classroom Clinics: 2:10pm – 3:30pm

Improvised Ski Repair *(PTI Castleton Room)*

This clinic will cover all the cool techniques for field repair of broken bindings, skis and boots.

Different Ways Guides Can Be Effective for Brands in the Outdoor Industry *(PTI Exo Classroom)*

Verde Brand Communications aims to help their clients distill their brand message and product positioning, identify audiences and then create the bridges to create engagement and activation. Learn tips and gain perspective on how guides can directly impact the outdoor industry while working with a brand.

Guiding and Finance *(PTI Arches Meeting Room)*

AMGA Instructor Team Member, Sarah Carpenter, helps you find the balance between guiding and finance.

Questions?

Contact: Steph Marvez
Membership and Social Media Coordinator
American Mountain Guides Association
303-271-0984 ext.6
steph@amga.com