

AIARE Level 2: Snow Stability/Avalanche Hazard & Tour Leadership February 23-26, 2012 SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS, IDAHO

This course combines a thorough [AIARE Level 2](#) curriculum with additional considerations for guiding or leading ski tours in mountain terrain with avalanche hazard. This four-day comprehensive course is based in and around the Sawtooth and Boulder-Smoky Mountains with locations between 6,500 ft. to over 10,000 ft., and is excellent continuing education for those who have completed a Level 1 field course.



Level 2 Students @ Work

Held in the Stanley Basin of central Idaho, our group will have a variety of mountain environments close at hand during the four days to develop avalanche skills considered fundamental to becoming proficient as a practitioner and observer, as well as to develop skills backcountry travel leadership. Course topics include: mountain weather, snow pack processes, snow stability evaluation tests, observation and record keeping to industry standards. & Avalanche forecasting skills. Emphases on touring skills include: route planning, group handling/ski guiding techniques, and field-based decision making. Current Level 1 training and several years of backcountry experience is a pre-requisite to participate.

Course Fees: \$550.00

Includes instruction, course manual and SWAG manual.

Participants will receive a Course Completion Card for Level II Avalanche training.

Course Location

The course will be based from the SMG headquarters in Lower Stanley. This will provide a central location for a variety of tours and access to lecture facilities.

Meet at 8:00 AM on Feb.23



Mountain Guides



Professional Member
American Avalanche Assoc.



Certified
Ski Mountaineering Guide



backcountry access
Avalanche Equipment



The American Institute for
AIARE
Avalanche Research and Education

COURSE TOPICS

Our format of instruction will put an emphasis on giving the participants exposure to professional level practices through Daily AM and PM Meetings with full days in the field. Lectures on related specialized topics will be held each evening for a more in-depth discussion of snow, weather and avalanche concepts and decision-making processes.

Day 1

- L2 Pre-Test Review
- Observations Seasonal- Field Book Use/ Record keeping (SWAG)
- Advanced Companion Rescue/ Updates Technology/ Techniques
- Observations Practical
- Snowpack processes/ Weather / Wx & Snow Lab

Day 2

- AM Hazard Forecast/ Tour Planning for Day
- Study Pits- Information Gathering/OBS./ Tests/ Test Pits
- Snowpack Stability/Terrain Analysis/Backcountry Travel
- Instability Factors- Data Class for Obs.
- Graphical Snow Pit Plotting
- Hazard Forecasting over large Terrain scales
- Tour Planning Skills- Maps/ Route Selection Pre-Tour

Day 3

- AM Meeting/ Avalanche Hazard & Wx Forecast
- Tour to make observations and collect Information
- Snow Pack tests over terrain/ Tour Scale Observations.
- PM Meeting- Formal Instability Discussion- Daily Summary.
- Avalanche Formation & Release/ Fracture Mechanics
- Slab Fracture Type and Tests – Decision Tools
- Human Factors vs. Uncertainty
- L2 Case Study-- FACETS

Day 4

- AM Meeting Hazard Forecast Discussion--Large Terrain Scale
- Snowpack Test Review/ Limits/ False Stability
- Snow Pits II- Other Tests to match Avalanche-Instability type.
- Summarize Snow Observer and Leadership Skills.
- Course Wrap-Up—Feedback

COURSE INSTRUCTION

Kirk Bachman: AIARE LEVEL 2 Course Leader: Winter Director SMG; An avalanche instructor, and ski and mountain guide in the Sawtooths and Tetons since the seventies, Kirk has guided throughout the West, Alaska heli-skiing in the Chugach, and has led mountaineering expeditions in South America, Canada, and New Zealand. Kirk is a Certified Avalanche Instructor of the American Avalanche Association, and is also certified as a Ski Mountaineering and Alpine guide by the American Mountain Guides Association.

Michael Hatch: AIARE LEVEL 2 Course Instructor: Sawtooth Ski Guide 7 years. Ski Expeditions to Alaska and South America, Mike has guided and taught avalanche courses with Sawtooth Mtn. Guides while also satisfying a penchant for terrain snowy, steep, and remote. Hatch is a professional member of the American Avalanche Association and is AIARE L2 Qualified with Level 3 certification

COURSE REGISTRATION ***SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN GUIDES***
(208) 774-3324 or email: getaway@sawtoothguides.com