

TOUR LEADERSHIP AND AVALANCHE HAZARD
LEVEL 2
February 12-15, 2009
SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS, IDAHO

This course combines a thorough curriculum of a field-based Avalanche Course with additional considerations for guiding or leading ski tours in high 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.



The focus of this course incorporates the principles of assessing avalanche hazard in the backcountry with tour leadership skills. 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 backcountry travel leadership. Course topics include: mountain weather and the snowpack, individual participant tour and avalanche forecasting skills, tour leadership including tour route planning, group handling/ski guiding techniques, and field-based decision making.

Our format of instruction will put an emphasis on giving the participants time to soundly develop a foundation in backcountry avalanche & touring leadership skills during full days in the field, followed up each day with a de-briefing. Lectures on related specialized topics will be held each evening to emphasize discussion of concepts and research in advanced avalanche topics and decision-making processes.

Course Fees: \$500.00

*Includes instruction, floor space, course materials and SWAG manual.
Participants will receive a Course Completion Card for Level II Avalanche training.*

Sawtooth Mountain Guides



Professional Member
American Avalanche Assoc.



Certified
Ski Mountaineering Guide



Avalanche Equipment

COURSE FORMAT

The course format is based on an early morning lecture and group discussion followed by all day in the field, a break for dinner, and an evening lecture. Topics include:

Lecture Presentations- Review of Mechanical Properties of Snow Avalanches, development of Mountain Snowpack and Snow Metamorphism; Mountain Weather/ Snow Climates; Human Factors contributing to Avalanche Hazard; Mitigation/Decision-making models; Test & Study Pit Data Collection, Weather & Snow Observation /Record Keeping as a method for Avalanche Forecasting; Tour Leadership: tour planning, techniques, equipment and responsibilities; Search and Rescue; Advanced Topics as relevant.

Field Sessions-Evaluation of hazard & decision-making while skiing and leading a group in the mountains; Test pit and Study pit techniques to SWAG standards; Evaluation of Snowpack- Shear Tests and use of Specialized Equipment, Snow tests while on-the-go traveling; Group Management; Route Selection/ Tracksetting , Transceiver Use with applied Search and Rescue Practice sessions; Various other topics related to safe skiing and group leadership in a winter setting.

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Kirk Bachman: 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.

Steve Conger: Former Publications Chair of the American Avalanche Association; former head forecaster for Utah Department of Transportation--Little Cottonwood Canyon operations. Professional Avalanche Educator and Consultant for industry. Past Publisher *The Avalanche Review* AAA journal. Master Degree Snow Science, University of British Columbia. Current Avalanche Forecaster Golden, British Columbia

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 1.

COURSE REGISTRATION

CALL

SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN GUIDES

BOX 18

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