

IFMGA SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING CHAMONIX 2024

LENZ

Official partner



MONDAY 20 - FRIDAY 24 MAY 2024

École Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme
35 Route du Bouchet, 74400 Chamonix

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATIONS

SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING 2024



ENSA - CHAMONIX



THE IFMGA

IFMGA - UIAGM - IVBV

The IFMGA is the international umbrella federation for mountain guide associations.

Office: Rue du Léman 30 CH-1920 Martigny Switzerland
+41 79 279 66 24 office@uiagm.info



THE TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Current president Kurt Walde

The Technical Commission is responsible for the worldwide implementation and promotion of mountain guide training, professional development and quality assurance in IFMGA member countries, as well as assessments, observation and support for interested and applicant countries. The commission is composed of at least 3 members of the IFMGA board, currently Kurt Walde, Angela Hawse, and Herve Qualizza.



ÉCOLE NATIONALE DE SKI ET D'ALPINISME

E.N.S.A.: 2024 meeting host

Founded in 1947 ENSA's mission is to train mountain sports professionals (mountain guides, ski instructors, paragliding instructors, canyon guides and trekking guides) as well as to develop teaching methods in skiing and mountaineering.



THE SPRING IFMGA TECHNICAL MEETING

The meeting of IFMGA Technical Directors

Once a year, traditionally in the spring, the technical directors, who are usually the individuals responsible with the training programmes in the member associations meet to exchange on the development of the technical aspects of the profession.

SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING 2024



DAY 1 (A)

Monday, 20 May, 10:30 - 14:00



REGISTRATION 10:30 - 12:00

ENSA Lobby

Please present yourselves to the registration table in the ENSA lobby where you will get your name tag and the latest information concerning the event and accommodation arrangements.



LUNCH 12:00 - 13:00

ENSA Dining Hall

You are invited to the dining hall on the first floor of ENSA.



OPENING ADDRESSES 13:00 - 13:30

ENSA Amphitheatre

Welcome addresses by **Manuel Brissaud** (Director ENSA / ENSM), **Olivier Bouleux** (Deputy Director ENSA), **François Marsigny** (Head of Alpinism Department ENSA), **Kurt Walde** (IFMGA Technical Commission President), **Jean-Philippe Gary** (SNGM)



EVENT AGENDA 13:30 - 14:00

ENSA Amphitheatre

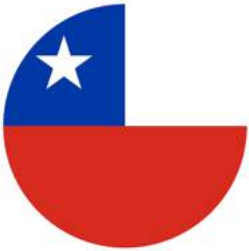
Quick overview of the week ahead. Questions and Answers with **Angela Hawse** (IFMGA Board Member, VP Technical Commission) and **Hervé Qualizza** (IFMGA Board Member, Technical Commission)

SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING 2024



DAY 1 (B)

Monday, 20 May, 14:15 - 20:00



IFMGA CANDIDATE COUNTRY: CHILE 14:15 - 15:45

ENSA Amphitheatre

Introducing Chile as IFMGA Candidate Country. Presentation by **Kurt Walde** (IFMGA Board), **Nicolás Meyer** (ANGM President) and **Eduardo Rojas Moreno** (ANGM Technical Director). Q&A session.



IFMGA PLATFORM - WORKSHOP 16:00 - 18:15

ENSA Salle "La Verte" - first floor

The purpose of this workshop is to read through and discuss in detail the IFMGA Platform and its training specific chapters. Moderator **Kurt Walde** (IFMGA Board Member and TC President).



TRAINING COURSES IN ENGLISH 18:00 - 20:00

ENSA Salle "La Verte" - first floor

Delegates from Member Associations that run (regularly or occasionally) training courses in English or where the English language is not the necessarily the official language of the country but the courses are taught in English will present their curriculum, a general overview of their courses and a few details on the teaching resources they have available. Session followed by Q & A and moderated by: **Angela Hawse** (IFMGA Board Member and TC Vice President).



DINNER 20:00 - 21:30

ENSA Dining Hall

You are invited to the dining hall on the first floor of ENSA.

SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING 2024



DAY 2

Tuesday, 21 May, 08:00 - 14:00



NATLEFS - AN OBSERVATION TOOL FOR MOUNTAIN GUIDES 08:00 - 09:00

ENSA Amphitheatre

NATLEFS is an app for mountain guides in South Tyrol to document, evaluate and share snow and avalanche conditions. Presentation by **Peter Plattner** (LOLA Peak Solutions).



THE UPDATED EAWS-MATRIX: THEORY AND PRACTICE 09:00 - 10:15

ENSA Amphitheatre

The new EAWS-Matrix is based on the three factors defining avalanche danger: Snowpack stability, frequency of lowest snowpack stability and expected avalanche size. Presentation by Dr. **Christoph Mitterer** (University of Innsbruck).



VISIT TO PETZL FACTORY 10:15 - 20:00

Petzl HQ and Factory at Héron and Crolles

Visit the production facility for metallic equipment specifically hard-goods (carabiners, ice axes, crampons, etc). Observe tests in their test tower. Visit led by **Frank Junod** (Petzl Technical Solutions Department Manager).



DINNER 20:00 - 22:00

Restaurant Pointe Isabelle

You are invited to dinner at **Pointe Isabelle** Restaurant, 165 Avenue Michel Croz
74400 Chamonix Mont-Blanc.

SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING 2024



DAY 3 (A)

Wednesday, 22 May, 08:00 - 13:50



PERMAFROST IN THE ALPS 08:00 - 08:50

ENSA Amphitheatre

Updates and documents presented by Dr. **Ludovic Ravanel** (CNRS / Université de Savoie Mont-Blanc)



CLIMATE CRISIS AND RISKS IN HIGH MOUNTAINS 09:00 - 10:50

ENSA Amphitheatre

Integrating scientific knowledge into the training of mountain guides to reduce glacial and periglacial risks in the practice of the profession. Presentation by Dr. **Ludovic Ravanel** (CNRS / Université de Savoie Mont-Blanc).



ALPINISM IN FRONT OF GLACIAL AND PERIGLACIAL RISK 11:00 - 12:30

ENSA Amphitheatre

What methodological and operational solutions can be developed to better support alpinists and their activity in the face of changes linked to climate change. Presentation by **Xavier Cailhol** PhD Candidate and Aspirant Mountain Guide.



LUNCH 12:30 - 13:50

ENSA Dining Hall

You are invited to the dining hall on the first floor of ENSA.

SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING 2024



DAY 3 (B)

Wednesday, 22 May, 14:00 - 20:00



GUIDE MEDIC - MOUNTAIN MEDICINE FOR GUIDES **14:00 - 16:00**

ENSA Salle "La Verte" - first floor then Les Gaillands

Presentation of a course designed by a guide specifically for guides. It focuses on mountain incident management and delivers practical scenario-based training in real mountain terrain. Workshop by **Owen Samuel** (Paramedic and Mountain Guide), **Pierre Muller** (Medic and Mountain Guide), **Rocio Siemens** (First Aid instructor and Mountain Guide) and **James Clapham** (Mountain Guide)



AVALANCHE TRANSCIEVER PERFORMANCE WITH INTERFERENCE **16:00 - 17:50**

Les Gaillands

Field exercises to gain an understanding of how your personal avalanche transceiver and other commonly used transceivers handle interference. Workshop by **Angela Hawse** (IFMGA Board Member and TC Vice President).



CLIMB 18:00 - 19:00

ENSA Climbing Gym

A convivial rock climbing / bouldering session at the ENSA climbing wall, just before dinner.



DINNER 19:00 - 20:00

ENSA Dining Hall

You are invited to the dining hall on the first floor of ENSA.

Wednesday 22 mai

ENSA Amphitheatre 20:00 - 22:00

"La traccia di Toni (the trail of Toni) - Toni Gobbi from citizen to mountain guide" is a documentary on Antonio, known as Toni, Gobbi (1914-1970), a renowned Italian mountaineer and mountain guide. The film is based on fifteen interviews with Toni's family members, acquaintances, friends, and collaborators, who are now elderly but have vivid and intense memories. It also includes many archival footage, some of which have been digitized for the occasion and were never previously released.



SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING 2024



DAY 4 (A)

Thursday, 23 May, 08:00 - 13:50



TO CHANGE OR NOT TO CHANGE 08:00 - 11:15

ENSA Salle "La Verte" - first floor

The conference will uncover, with the results from over 40 research projects, the most important and basic drivers of behavioral and organisational change and non change. Presented by **Stephane La Branche** (Coordonnateur scientifique du GIECO/IPBC).



TRANSITIONS AND MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES, ROLE AND ISSUES FOR MOUNTAIN GUIDES 11:30 - 12:30

ENSA Salle "La Verte" - first floor

While snow cover decrease stresses the alpine ski economy, mountain guides characteristics such as multiactivity, adaptation culture and sensibility for nature might prove valuable for resilient alpine regions. Presentation by **Jean-Marc Vengeon** (President, SNGM - Syndicat National des Guides de Montagne).



LUNCH 12:30 - 13:50

ENSA Dining Hall

You are invited to the dining hall on the first floor of ENSA.

SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING 2024



DAY 4 (B)

Thursday, 23 May, 14:00 - 23:30



CANYONING: A REALM OF WATER, RUGGED TERRAIN, TECHNIQUES, AND EMOTIONS TO HANDLE. 14:00 - 16:45

ENSA Salle "La Verte" - first floor then ENSA Climbing Gym

Presentation by **Marco Heltai**. Workshops run by **Martin Schroot** and **Franz Baumgarten** (Canyoning Committee of the IFMGA).



ROPE-WORK AND COILING 16:45 - 17:45

ENSA Climbing Gym

Presentation by **Kurt Walde** (IFMGA Board Member and Technical Commission President).



IFMGA TECHNICAL DIRECTORS' OLYMPIC GAMES 18:00 - 20:00

ENSA Climbing Gym

Event organised and coordinated by **Jean-Sebastien Knoertzer** (ENSA)



GUIDES' GRADUATION AND DINNER 20:30 - 23:30

Restaurant Pointe Isabelle

EEMGA new IFMGA Guides Graduation Ceremony followed by festive dinner. Both events held at **Pointe Isabelle Restaurant**, 165 Avenue Michel Croz 74400 Chamonix Mont-Blanc.

SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING 2024



DAY 5

Friday, 24 May, 08:00 - 13:50



THE WORK CARRIED OUT IN THE ENSA MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT TESTING LABORATORY 08:30 - 10:00

ENSA Amphitheatre

A presentation of the ENSA Mountain Equipment Testing Laboratory, its history and current projects. Presentation by **Philippe Batoux** (ENSA).



ACMG TECHNICAL MANUALS 10:00 -10:30

ENSA Amphitheatre

Presentation by **Mike Adolph** (ACMG Technical Director) of the new Technical Manuals published by the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG).



IFMGA SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING - CHAMONIX DEBRIEF 10:30 - 12:30

ENSA Amphitheatre

Debrief of the week moderated by **Hervé Qualizza** (IFMGA Board and TC Member).



LUNCH 12:30 - 14:00

ENSA Dining Hall

You are invited to the dining hall on the first floor of ENSA.

14: 00 END OF PROGRAMME AND DEPARTURE

NATLEFS

PETER PLATTNER

NATLEFS is an app for mountain guides in South Tyrol to document, evaluate and share snow and avalanche conditions. A simple observation, an assessment, a risk evaluation, a snow pit or an avalanche event can be entered and shared quickly and easily into the cell phone while in the field. The Tyrolean company LOLA presents the aim, methodology and possible applications of its app, presents the evaluations from winter 23/24 and discusses other possible applications.

Peter Plattner lives in Innsbruck and is a partner in the company LOLA Peak Solutions. For 30 years he has worked as a mountain guide, forensic expert for alpine accidents, trainer and specialist author for various institutions, especially in avalanche prevention and safety. He is a trainer for the avalanche commissions of the province of Tyrol and publishes the alpine accident database for the Austrian curatorium for alpine safety.



21 MAY 08:00 - 09:00

EAWS-MATRIX

CHRISTOPH MITTERER



In 2022, the European Avalanche Warning Services (EAWS) introduced a newly designed look-up table (EAWS-Matrix) to assess the avalanche danger level in a more consistent and objective manner. The new EAWS-Matrix is based on the three factors defining avalanche danger: Snowpack stability, frequency of lowest snowpack stability and expected avalanche size. Within my presentation I will sketch how we developed the EAWS-Matrix and show advantages and limits of this tool for both avalanche forecasters and (professional) users.

21 MAY 09:00 - 10:15

Dr. Christoph Mitterer is a snow and avalanche researcher and forecaster. He obtained his PhD with the WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF at the ETH Zurich. He works now since more than 10 years as an avalanche forecaster in Bavaria and Tyrol.

CLIMATE CRISIS

LUDOVIC RAVANEL



The development of mountaineering since the middle of the 19th century was initially based on societal and equipment aspects. Today, the climate crisis is posing a major challenge to the practice, and therefore to guides who have to manage the safety of clients on routes that are often more technical and dangerous. It is therefore important for guides to have a better understanding of these new risks so that they can deal with them more effectively.

22 MAY 08:00 - 10:50

Dr. Ludovic Ravel is Research Director at CNRS / Savoie Mont-Blanc University. As geomorphologist and glaciologist, he is specialised in the evolution of high mountain environments. Member of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix (climbing-canyoning instructor, mountain leader), he has also been refuge warden and director of the Chamonix Mountain Safety and Rescue association. He is a regular lecturer at ENSA.

ALPINISM RISK

XAVIER CAILHOL



22 MAY 11:00 - 12:30

Alpinists are 'sentinels' for the effects of climate change on these environments. Science and practice with preventive monitoring of changes in the high mountains can help define the changes taking place in natural environments and, above all, how these changes are affecting practices and alpinism enthusiasts. We will show how the acceleration of global warming requires new data acquisition and analysis to understand the current and future dynamics and help mountain users to manage risks. And finally in a third part, in the face of these new risks, what methodological and operational solutions can be developed to better support alpinists and the activity in the face of changes linked to climate change.

Xavier Cailhol : Aspirant guide, PHD student. As an alpinist I was concerned about the effects of climate change on the environments I frequented. I went back to university with the strong desire of understanding how climate change affects our practice of alpinism.

GUIDE MEDIC

OWEN SAMUEL
PIERRE MULLER
ROCIO SIEMENS
JAMES CLAPHAM

- Presentation of a course designed by a guide specifically for guides. It focuses on mountain incident management and delivers practical scenario-based training in real mountain terrain. Could this mountain medical training be offered as IFMGA continued professional development?

Owen Samuel: Guide & Paramedic. Owen has been a professional mountaineer for over 20 years and a paramedic for 9. Farther of twins with a current passion for trad climbing development in the Vallee du Trient.

Rocio Siemens: Guide & First Aid Instructor. Rocio trained in the UK. She now lives in Switzerland where she splits her time delivering outdoor first aid courses and working with young people in the mountains.

Pierre Muller: Guide & Emergency Medicine Doctor. Pierre enjoys guiding in wilderness areas and has worked with the PGHM in the Ecrins and now in Mont Blanc Massif.

James Clapham. Mountain Guide



22 MAY 14:00 - 15:50

TRANSCIVERS

ANGELA HAWSE



Avalanche Transceiver Performance with Electronic and Metallic Interference - Issues and Solutions

During this 1.5 hour workshop we will do short field exercises to gain an understanding of how your personal avalanche transceiver and other commonly used transceivers handle interference. Using electronic devices commonly carried such as smartphones, GPS, smart watches, satellite devices, radios, etc., as well as metallic objects including shovels and probes, we will look at how various transceivers perform and handle interference in transmit and search functions and discuss effective mitigation strategies. Participants should bring their own personal avalanche transceivers for the workshop.

22 MAY 16:00 - 17:50

Angela Hawse, has been an AMGA trainer and examiner since 2005, instructs professional level avalanche courses in the U.S., is an MSi Train-the-Trainer and CAA Level 2 Avalanche Operations certified. She was formerly the president of the AMGA and now serves on the IFMGA Board and as Vice President of the Technical Commission.

TO CHANGE

STEPHANE LA BRANCHE

“To change or not to change, and why it is easier to not change.”

The conference will uncover, with the results from over 40 research projects, the most important and basic drivers of behavioral and organisational change and non change, going from brain functions to personal values and social representations and up to framing factors playing a role at macro scale, such as organisational rules and culture.

Stéphane La Branche, climate sociologist, scientific coordinator for the international Panel of Experts on behaviours.



23 MAY 08:00 - 11:15

TRANSITIONS

JEAN-MARC VENGEON



23 MAY 11:30 - 12:30

Permafrost and glaciers melting induce natural hazards in high slopes. Regarding their mobility, mountain guides can act as "sentinels" of these changes in remote areas. The Regards d'Altitude project aims at collecting and sharing their observations of geomorphological phenomena for the benefit of science and of decision making (mountainers and public authorities).

While snow cover decrease stresses the alpine ski economy, mountain guides characteristics such as multiactivity, adaptation culture and sensibility for nature might prove valuable for resilient alpine regions.

Jean-Marc Vengeon: President of Syndicat National des Guides de Montagne. Mountain guide and Doctor engineer in rock mechanics. As a guide, I focused in guiding ski mountaineering expeditions in remote and isolated areas before taking responsibilities in the "bureau des guides Berarde Meije Ecrins". As an engineer, I contribute to the french alpine policy of integrated natural hazards management through the Institute Pole Alpin Risques Naturels.

CANYON

MARCO HELTAI
MARTIN SCHROOT
FRANZ BAUMGARTEN

"Canyoning: a realm of water, rugged terrain, techniques, and emotions to handle."

- Risks
- Environments
- Techniques
- People
- Profession

Presentation By Marco Heltai past President of the Canyoning Committee until 2023
Responsible for the Italian Canyoning Training Courses

Training in the gym By Martin Schroot, President of the Canyoning Committee since 2023 , responsible of the IFMGA Austrian Canyoning Training and

Franz Baumgarten, Member of the Canyoning Committee and in charge of the Canyoning training in Switzerland.



23 MAY 14:00 - 17:00

ENSA LAB

PHILIPPE BATOUX
ALEXIS MALLON



Philippe Batoux: Mountain guide, Professor at ENSA, topo author. I share my working time between the training of guides, the evolution of training content and studies in the testing laboratory of mountain equipment at ENSA. I also work as a guide with a regular clientele.



Alexis Mallon: 53 years old, engineer (1992), doctor of science (1995), guide (1996), professor at ENSA since 1998, honorary member of the UIAGM (President of the Technical Commission from 2005 to 2009). Responsible at ENSA with training guides, international exchanges, expertise, testing laboratory.

24 MAY 08:30 - 10:00

GEAR LISTS

Avalanche Transceiver Workshop

Avalanche transceivers

Only the Technical Directors should bring.



TD Olympics

- harness with dynamic lanyard and safety carabiner
- climbing shoes
- approach shoes
- helmet
- belay device
- thin leather gloves
- crack gloves
- ski boots and skis

Bring this gear only if convenient. However approach shoes, harness and climbing shoes would be most welcome.

Canyoning and Rope-work Workshops

- Short rope
- Harness
- 3-4 locking carabiners

Only the Technical Directors should bring.



ENSA
35 RTE DU BOUCHET, 74400 CHAMONIX-MONT-
BLANC, FRANCE



POINTE ISABELLE - HÔTEL BAR BISTRO CHAMONIX
165 AV. MICHEL CROZ, 74400 CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



ENSA GYM
260 PROM. DU FORI, 74400 CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



LES GAILLANDS, 74400 CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



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TRANSFER OPTIONS

At this time of the year there are no regular shuttles between Geneva airport and Chamonix so your options are:

(1) <https://www.flixbus.fr/>

(2) [https://www.swisstours-office.ch/REGULAR-LINE/Geneva-Chamonix-\(Regular-line\)/Regular-Line/TS0153BT/regular-ligne-shuttle-transfer-service-from-geneva-to-chamonix-464.html](https://www.swisstours-office.ch/REGULAR-LINE/Geneva-Chamonix-(Regular-line)/Regular-Line/TS0153BT/regular-ligne-shuttle-transfer-service-from-geneva-to-chamonix-464.html)

Alternatively you have private transfers options with:

(1) Mountain Drop-offs: <https://www.mountaindropoffs.com>

(2) Alpybus: <https://www.alpybus.com>

The logo for LENZ, featuring the word "LENZ" in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. The letters are black and set against a white background. The logo is enclosed in a thin, dashed black border.

Official partner