



Minutes of the GM IFMGA in Boulder, USA 14th November 2010

The meeting starts at 8 a.m.

Excused are the associations of Aosta, Greece, New Zealand and Slovakia. Leo Blättler, Alexis Mallon

Scrutineer is Marcin Kacperek, Poland. 63 votes are present, absolute majority 32.

The minutes of Mayrhofen are unanimously approved.

The President, Hermann Biner explains his report. It was sent to all before the meeting.

The Secretary, Armin Oehrli presents the budget 2011. Probably the annual subscription has to be increased for 2012 for all those who pay in Euro.

Denis Crabières asks if it would not make sense to define the Euro as a reference for the annual subscription. Most of the commercial transactions are done in Switzerland. Invoices from abroad are paid with the Euro account. It does not make any sense to change the system. The budget is unanimously approved.

The President of the TC, Peter Kimmig talks about the most important points of his report. It was sent to all before the meeting.

The reports are unanimously approved and the executive board is discharged.

Applicant countries and interested countries:

Everything was explained in the reports of the president of the IFMGA and of the TC.

Sub-commissions:

Alpine accidents: Peter Geyer wants to set up guidelines and a check-list about the behaviour in case of big accidents. They will be available for the associations and the persons concerned.

Expeditions and Trekking: Walter Zörer, the courses will continue. The commission accepts the task to elaborate a manual. The additional training shall be promoted.

Peter Kimmig: The manual for the additional training should serve as a guideline. It can also be used within the associations for the training.

Canyoning: The commission was restructured and has adapted the present manual. Training courses will be offered in different languages.

Report from the workshops about guiding abroad:

Usually no permit is needed if you have a contract with your guests and guide them abroad (“excursion”). Mostly the law can be evaded by tolerance.

It is a different situation if the mountain guide establishes himself for one season in a foreign place and guides guests from that region. In this case a work permit is needed.

For longer stays a permit for permanent establishment is needed in addition to the work permit.

The most important thing is to respect the local customs and rules abroad.

Denis Carbières: The situation of France is special for mountain guides who often work abroad. The government has decided to regulate the work in the mountains. 17000 ski instructors, 3000 mountain leaders and 1500 climbing guides share the work in the mountains. For us it is important to have good relations to the government and to the mountain guides, too. The rules have to be respected by all. This is a protection for us.

Urs Wellauer: In Switzerland the situation is not clear for years. There are different laws in the different cantons or there are no laws at all. Since 1997 it is worked on a national law which should be adopted soon. Then we would finally have one valid regulation for all. The Swiss mountain guides and IFMGA mountain guides should have the same rights.

Robert Span: In Austria all mountain guides are welcome for short stays (“excursions”). It should be clear to everybody how to behave when you visit friends. If there are any problems, they are managed among the associations in question.

Hermann Biner: He explains for all those who attend an IFMGA meeting for the first time: The IFMGA has 3 pillars: The technical, the political and the comradely/ethical.

Ola Einang: In Norway one has to know that Spitzbergen has different rules.

Results from the meetings with the US national parks:

The discussions were not all the same. A dialogue could be started. Some parks have announced discussions about a liberalization of the rules.

www.nps.gov/index.htm National Park Service

www.fs.fed.us National Forest Service

www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html Bureau of Land Management

Illegal stays are not recommended by the IFMGA. The AMGA (Leigh Goldberg) or the Certified Guides Cooperative: info@cgcoop.org (Scott Schell) should be contacted prior to a journey. These organizations offer their support to all IFMGA mountain guides. The AMGA tries to get permits with the help of the CUA concept. The CO-OP would buy permits. For 1000 US \$ you can become a member there.

The Yosemite meeting was successful. The chief of the park offered some solutions. Only one of the 7 rangers expressed reservations.

Denali meeting: Here it was very difficult. There were previous discussions with concessionaries. The ranger understands the problems. Solutions such as for Yosemite are not

possible. Some concessionaires are ready to find and offer solutions. No one knows how they will look like. In 2014 the concessions will be distributed new, maybe the AMGA or CGC are going to ask for a concession.

Margaret Wheeler: Many thanks to the IFMGA for the support in this important task. If there are any questions please contact Leigh Goldberg, she works in the office and is in charge of the national park issue.

National Forest Service: 2 regions were present. They can assign free permits. Everyone was ready to help and gave us good hints for the further proceeding.

Mt. Rainier Park: The CUA concept has been introduced there. 15 permits are at disposal of the American association. Foreigners need a work permit. This should be possible. The person in charge wants to clear this in Washington.

It is important that the American mountain guides are partners of the parks. The American mountain guides have to make themselves more famous in public, so that the negotiations with the parks and the government will be more successful.

Concessionaires who are IFMGA mountain guides could be more generous towards their colleagues. But who is ready to share his business with others?

Regulation of the professional occupation abroad:

Aldo Riveros complained about foreigners who come with big groups to Bolivia and install fixed ropes. This is not common there and therefore everyone is asked to respect and follow the local rules and customs.

It's important to get in touch with local mountain guides and the local guides should help the foreigners. Everyone should behave the way guest or hosts usually do.

Margaret Wheeler: During the Denali meeting one concessionaire behaved in a very negative way and this had influence on others. But there are still other mountain guides who have a concession there. We try to find a good understanding with them. Thank you Hermann for having explained the spirit of the IFMGA again.

Mammut project:

Hermann presents the project of the Mammut Company for the 150th anniversary. The delegates are asked to pass on this information to all their members. www.mammut.ch/mountainguide

Denis Carbières: Same as other associations we have our own suppliers. The communication should therefore be done across IFMGA. Mammut should contact their partners (mountain guides) by itself in the countries where Mammut is present. It won't be a problem in Austria, South Tyrol and in Switzerland.

There is a difference between the things an association does or an individual mountain guide does. The mountain guide should be free to decide.

Peter Geyer: It is not possible to inform the mountain guides in Germany. This has been agreed with our partners.

Contacts to other organizations:

UIAA: There was a meeting with this organization recently. They train tour leaders. They are allowed to guide tours within the Alpine Club. There are some who suddenly start to work commercially. That's not the intention of the UIAA. This has to be clearly communicated to the members.

UIMLA: The Int. Federation of Mountain Leaders had a conversation with the IFMGA. There, the limits of the mountain leaders have been shown.

Denis Crabières: In France they are called „Accompagnateur de moyenne montagne“. This is very important for us. It is a nuance of language. In Switzerland they are called „Wanderleiter“ and in Austria „Bergwanderführer“, in England „mountain leader“.

Bruno Pellicier: Some countries have no glaciers. There we have to be careful, because there are persons who make tours on the level of Via Ferrata and are thus active on the terrain of the mountain guides. We have to keep an eye on this development.

Leo Caminada: How can it be that mountain leaders offer trekking tours on high altitudes in Bhutan?

Michael Grassl: In Germany the mountain leaders are trained by the VDDBS. They are members of the association. They are only allowed to work for mountaineering schools, this system works very well.

Roger Payne: GB has more than 1700 mountain leaders in two associations. We are only 150 mountain guides.

Erminio Sertorelli: In our place they are in the mountain guides association and are also trained by the mountain guides. They are called „Accompagnatori di media montagna“. Besides, there are other organizations with which we are in contact.

Aldo Riveros: In our place they are called mountain and trekking leaders. They can offer hikes in high altitudes as long as there are no glaciers. We want to offer them a special training. Only the mountain guide is allowed to work with additional equipment such as rope, crampons etc. We are negotiating with the government to clear this precisely and separate it.

Hermann Biner: We will soon treat this topic in a workshop.

Cooperación Alpinista Suiza-Perú: This organization contacted the IFMGA to treat some topics and to set up a collaboration wherever possible or necessary.

Concept of the sponsor country:

The function of a sponsor country is defined in appendix E, 1.2. We have seen that it is not anymore up to date. In the future this function can also be split up between different countries. We take a vote about the cancellation of this sentence. This proposition is unanimously approved.

Rules for the skiing championships:

Discussion about the propositions of Isidor Eiter, Wildspitze, and Erminio Sertorelli. Eiter: No racing suits, categories of 5 years up to the highest age.

Entry fee 100 €, 3rd weekend in May.

Sertorelli: This event has a good tradition which has to continue.

The run should not be too long (50 – 55 seconds), so that accidents can be avoided if possible. No racing suits because it is more dangerous with them and it needs bigger sectors and more space for possible falls. The entry fee and the weekend in May should stay open to the organizer, the second weekend in May should be fixed if possible. No more racing suits, categories of 5 years up to the highest age, shorter runs.

This is decided by the delegates with one abstention.

Climbing competition:

South Tyrol 28th/29th October 2011. Toni Stocker says that the competition can be organized in a new indoor climbing centre in Bozen. 2012 with the GM in England.

GM and ski championships in Sulden May 2011:

5th/8th May in Sulden, South Tyrol, Toni Stocker is going to put the info on the web site until 30th January. There will again be an ascending race.

2012 in Val d'Isère, 2013 in Canada. It will be difficult to bring all participants to Canada. Keith Reid says that they would like to organize a race. The event would take place in Whistler. We will check if there shall be organized an additional race in Europe.

GM November 2011 in Prague:

2012 Great Britain with climbing competition.

Aldo Riveros: South America wants to organize the GM IFMGA in 2013. They will chose a country; Argentina, Peru and Bolivia are possible candidates.

2014 Norway? Not in the Alps. Per As: For small countries it is a big investment travelling so far like in 2013.

In Canada it would be the year of the 50th anniversary of the mountain guides association.

Aldo Riveros: For us it would be very important to organize this event. We need the IFMGA's support for the parks and the ministries.

Applications of the associations:

There are no applications.

Miscellaneous:

On behalf of all delegates and presidents Urs Wellauer thanks the Americans for the very good and very generous organization and hosting here in Boulder and in Moab.

The president closes the meeting at 12:20 p.m. and thanks the organizers and the interpreters.

Boulder 14th November 2010 Armin Oehrli