

NEW YEAR'S EDITION

Sierra Mountaineering International, Inc.

January 10, 2011

Winter Instructional Courses



Practicing probing technique in 2011's Avalanche Level I Class.

SMI is proud to announce Winter 2012 dates for our instructional classes!

Level One Avalanche Class:

Learn the basics about reading avalanche terrain. Half of this course is taught in a classroom setting and the other is in the field. This is a certified level One AIARE

class.

Snow Travel:

This course covers the basics of traveling on snow. Basic crampon and ice axe techniques, roped team travel, efficient climbing and descending techniques and belaying will be covered. This is a good introductory course to those interested in winter mountaineering.

Snow Anchor and Crevasse Rescue:

Students learn how to make a solid snow anchor using snow pickets, flukes, ice screws and bollards, in this class. Rescue scenarios and pulley systems will be covered during this course. This is for those serious about winter mountain climbing. Learn the skills needed for climbs like Denali, Aconcagua and Everest.

Ice Climbing:

Go out one or two days to Lee Vining Canyon or June Lake for ice climbing with our guides. These courses cover basic techniques for vertical ice climbing.

NEW!!!

Backcountry Skiing:

SMI Guide, Zach Schneider, is offering trips into Mammoth Lake's back country. These one day ascents will travel "out of bounds" to where there are no lines and untracked mountain sides. Avalanche and black diamond ski experience and knowledge is required.

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Special points of interest:

- SMI returns to Russia next Fall!
- Kurt and Fred Simmons leave for their attempt of Mt. Everest this year on the 27th of March.
- New ski classes offered by SMI's Guide, Zach Schneider!
- SMI custom hats coming soon!

Rock and Ice Climbing Weekends



No snow!! No Worries! This has been a **fantastic winter** for **Ice Climbing** and **Rock Climbing**. SMI guides are offering two day clinics next month that include one day each of rock and ice climbing.

We will be offering a rock and ice two day weekend seminar this upcoming January 28-29th, February 4-5th, 11-12th, 18-19th, and 25-26th.



Above: Demetria Gianopoulos climbs at Owens River Gorge. **To the Left:** Nancy Egger ice climbs at Lee Vining Canyon.



Dollies making a Difference



Photo: Children in Africa show us their dollies.

After disaster struck the country of Haiti, many people were wondering how to help? Brenda Kowalski of Cape Cod, had an idea to make Haitian kids dolls. Cindy Simon caught wind of this idea and took it back to the Pacific Palisades in California.

Cindy and her husband Bill, have been climbing with SMI for the past couple years. They both have summited Kilimanjaro with us and Bill has also climbed Aconcagua and Mt. Elbrus with SMI.

Cindy and her group of friends made over 600 dolls for the *AmeriCares International*. The project was a success and now they have expanded their efforts, distributing over 1400 dolls to kids in Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Israel, North Korea and Taiwan. SMI guides, Kurt Wedberg and April Mayhew have distributed over dolls to the orphanages in Tanzania and Ecuador.

If you are interested in partnering with the project by packing some dolls in your suitcase on your next adventure to a developing country, they would like to know. They would like their dolls be distributed to orphanages, schools, or medical centers whose children would welcome their dolls. Send an email to:

dolliesmakingadifference@gmail.com

2011 Year in Review

2011 was an exciting year for Kurt and SMI!

Some highlights include:

- SMI became incorporated!
- April Mayhew and Kurt climbed Mt. Kenya for the first time together. Check out the [Blog](#) and [photos](#) here!
- Kurt returned to Ecuador after a 9 year hiatus. Here's the [blog](#) and [photos](#).
- Kurt climbed Lost Arrow Spire with Ski Detray and Amanda Fenn. Click these links for the [blog](#) and [photos](#).

We made new connections and refreshed old partnerships. Including:

- [Big City Mountaineering](#)
 - [Summit for Someone](#) Project
 - Mt. Whitney, Mexico's Volcanoes and Africa.
- [Lux Adventures](#)
 - Mexico's Volcanoes trip.
- [Climb for Freedom](#)
 - Africa
- Dollies make a Difference
 - Ecuador and [Africa](#)
- The Last Well
 - Aconcagua
- [Climb Up so Kids can Grow Up](#)
 - Africa (June)



Photo: Cindy and Bill Simon on Valentines Day on Mt. Kilimanjaro (Feb. 2010)

Meet SMI's Guide: Chris Werner



Chris Werner has been a guide with SMI since 2007.

He has led trips up Aconcagua and Mt. Kilimanjaro. He has completed the AMGA Alpine Guide Course.

Chris has been skiing since he was three and climbing since he was fourteen. Chris has spent most of his life skiing and climbing in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Colorado's Rockies.

Chris works professionally as a Wedding Photographer based out of the Tahoe area. His site can be found at:

www.chriswernerphotography.com

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