



## AIARE AVALANCHE LEVEL 2

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

These intensive seminars have been designed to be valuable to recreationists and professionals alike. They are taught in the Donner Pass area, with extensive avalanche terrain near the classroom. The course combines lecture time, taught inside the classroom with outdoor field work. Courses also meet curriculum guidelines established by the AAA.

A two-day AIARE Level 1, plus ASI Avalanche Skills Tour or three-day AIARE Level 1 course is required (or similar training and experience with approval by ASI Technical Director).

### Avalanche Seminar - Level 2, 4 Day Seminar

This four-day course emphasizes stability evaluation and hazard assessment along with safer route finding through terrain utilization. You will be introduced to formal testing procedures and documentation methods for weather, snowpack and avalanches.

This course continues to develop the decision making process for the safety of a group in avalanche terrain. Field work will encounter more rigorous travel through more challenging (Class 2) avalanche terrain. **Strong Intermediate** skiing or boarding skills with previous touring experience with climbing skins, or snow shoes and **Very Good** physical condition are required.

### REGISTRATION

To complete your registration, please fill out your paperwork and send it back to our office prior to the start of your course.

### ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

Courses meet at our classroom adjacent to our new office upstairs in **The Back Country**. It's conveniently located on Donner Pass Road, across from Wild Cherries Coffee Shop and the Fire Station, just West of the Hwy 89 T intersection (the road to Squaw Valley and Tahoe City). Please plan to arrive by 8:00am. Allow extra time during snowfall periods for your travel. Arrive dressed comfortably for the indoor portion taught in the classroom.

### EQUIPMENT LIST

#### OVER SNOW TRANSPORT

Metal edged telemark, free-heel skis, alpine touring skis, alpine skis with touring adaptors, snowboard with snow shoes, or a split board with climbing skins, boots, poles and any necessary accessories, or bring snowshoes.

#### *Note on backcountry ski equipment:*

It is important that you have previous experience with the type of gear you're using for the field portion of the course. The course does not allow time to teach the use of backcountry ski equipment or techniques during the field exercises. Previous experience is required for our course, Backcountry Ski Mountaineering, or we recommend the use of snowshoes if you lack previous experience.

Rentals are available through **The Back Country** mountaineering shop (530-582-0909). Please make reservations in advance. Without prepaid reservations for rental equipment, the higher daily walk-in rate will apply.

### **CLOTHING AND OTHER ACCESSORIES**

Dress prepared to ski and stand around in possibly cold, stormy conditions.

Outer parka with hood-waterproof/breathable

Fleece, fiberpile or soft shell jacket

Turtleneck or shirt-capilene, polypropylene, or similar

Long Underwear-top and bottom, capilene, polypropylene, or similar

Overpants-waterproof/breathable

Synthetic knit mountain pants or similar

Boot socks-one or two pair, wool or wool/nylon blend

Liner socks-one or two pair, polypropylene, capilene, or similar material

Fleece or wool cap

Sun hat

Gloves or mittens

Gaiters-or in-the-pant gaiters

Sunglasses with retainer

Goggles (light lens for storm conditions)

Sunscreen-SPF 30 or greater

Lip balm-SPF 30 or greater

Backcountry day pack (1500 - 2500 cu. in.)

1-liter water bottle (wide-mouth best) - or hydration system.

### **COURSE NEEDS (REQUIRED)**

New AIARE "Rite in the Rain" Field book (Available from ASI - \$20)

2 Mechanical pencils

AIARE Avalanche Seminar, Level 2 Handbook, A printed copy will be provided to you at the beginning of the course. In the meanwhile, you may review it online and print a copy of the Level 1 Quiz, complete it and bring it to class.

([www.alpineskills.com/avalanche2\\_quiz.doc](http://www.alpineskills.com/avalanche2_quiz.doc))

The Avalanche Handbook 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, David McClung and Peter Schaerer.

Available at **The Back Country** ([www.thebackcountry.net](http://www.thebackcountry.net))

Snow, Weather, and Avalanches: Observational Guidelines for Avalanche Programs in the United States,

Available at **The Back Country** ([www.thebackcountry.net](http://www.thebackcountry.net))

or ([www.americanavalancheassociation.org/obs.html](http://www.americanavalancheassociation.org/obs.html))

### **SNOWSTUDY KIT**

The following items are required:

5X or 10X magnifying loupe

Dial Stem Thermometer in °C, analog or digital

Aluminum (recommended) or fiberglass crystal card (dark color) with mm grid marks

Slope meter or compass with clinometer

2-meter folding ruler and/or 10cm marks on your probe

Snow saw

Avalanche transceiver (457 kHz, if you have one, otherwise one will be provided)

Avalanche probe (If you have one, otherwise one will be provided)

Shovel (If you have one, otherwise one will be provided)

\*A current, complete kit is available from BCA)

\*All available at **The Back Country** ([www.thebackcountry.net](http://www.thebackcountry.net))

## **PRE-COURSE PREPARATION**

Please view pre-course resource material on ASI's website:

[www.alpineskills.com/avalanche2\\_res.html](http://www.alpineskills.com/avalanche2_res.html)

## **RECOMMENDED READING AND VIDEO VIEWING**

*The International Classification for Seasonal Snow on the Ground*, available online.

Videos: *Avalanche Awareness*, Alliance Communications

*Winning The Avalanche Game*

All available at **The Back Country** ([www.thebackcountry.net](http://www.thebackcountry.net))

### **Alpine Skills International**

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