



**Minutes of the Combined Meetings
Avalanche and Terrestrial Commissions
from October 2 – 4, 2003 in Scotland**

Presentations

You can find the actual presentations on the IKAR website. Here a brief summary of the topics as well as following discussions:

?? Dominik Hunziker, SAC, Switzerland

Presents their offer for a work meeting on the Diavolezza in January.

see document: IKAR-Diavolezza-2004.PDF

?? Gebhard Barbisch, ÖBRD, Austria

Presents an avalanche rescue which had to be interrupted due to avalanche danger.

see document: Widderstein_2002-OEBRD.PDF

The blasting off another avalanche the same size the next day confirmed the decision. One of the recovered persons had an avalanche beacon with him, but it was turned off.

?? Dale Atkins, MRA, USA

Talks about lessons learned from rescues, especially from an organizational point of view.

see document: Avalanche_Atkins-e.PPT

?? Hans-Jürg Etter, SLF, Switzerland

Emphasizes the importance of statistics; Two examples of avalanche rescues concerning organization and safety of the rescuers.

see document: Etter-Avalanche-Scotland-2003.PPT

Bruno Jelk adds that the chances of survival is the main question for the organization as well as for the safety of the rescuers. In the second example definitely too many avalanches were set off by the rescuers themselves.

The decrease in avalanche casualties is explained by sensitizing the people which partly already takes place in schools.

?? Dan Hourihan, MRA, USA

Shows an avalanche rescue in Alaska and explains the American organizational system (Incident Command System) that defines the course of rescue operations.

See document: Dan-MRA-ICS-2003.PDF

In this operation all technical means were used, but without success. In the end it was the probing that showed results. A sad detail: one of the victims did have an avalanche

beacon on him. The device was not functional, because the batteries had been transferred to his camera instead.

?? Manuel Genswein, Switzerland

Informs about the current situation and development concerning the ETSI norm for the avalanche beacons with additional devices.

?? Felix Meier, IKAR, Switzerland

Informs about the IKAR recommendation concerning avalanche beacons with additional devices.

The discussion afterwards shows that the prevailing opinion is not to block such additional functions in advance in order to not create future restrictions for ourselves. Even though the additional functions might not be desired or advisable so should the further technical development not be stopped. There should not be put a limit on fantasy and ideas. Instead dialog and co-operation with the manufacturers should be sought.

At this time CNSAS would not support a ban. ANENA as well as the American Avalanche Association however support M. Genswein's initiative since both organizations take the view that the search function may not be compromised.

The president informs that the current recommendation constitutes a first opinion. A definite IKAR recommendation is at the moment not a pressing issue. To make a decision today would be premature, because there is not enough time for discussing the issue. Therefore the subject will be put on the agenda of 2004 again at the earliest. Meanwhile the board of directors of IKAR together with the manufacturers will try to find an acceptable solution for both sides.

?? Paul André Gillioz, KWRO, Switzerland

Presents a gate leading to the free-ride area. This represents an interesting means of prevention.

see document: Gillioz-KWRO-2003.PDF

This gate is not a prohibition, just an appeal to one's responsibility. The mountain rescue service has the possibility to control the gate manually. The juridical aspect concerning responsibility in case of an accident has not been settled yet.

?? Franz Marx, ÖBRD, Austria

Presents a combination device cell phone/GPS which they received for testing.

see document: GPS-Handy-OEBRD-2003.PDF

Friend-find and emergency button only function if the device is turned on. For automated positioning inquiries the phone numbers have to be authorized in advance. Otherwise an authorization request will be displayed. A standardized phone number is internationally not existent. In Austria however the Red Cross offers such a service subject to payment.

The problems with the cold and reception are the same with this device.

Bruno Jelk suggests that a work group consisting of all the interested persons work out a proposition for a recommendation until the 2004 conference. Franz Marx is their contact. The development of such devices should happen in our direction.

- ?? Hans-Martin Henny, ZGKS Andermatt, Switzerland
Talks about the co-operation between military and civil units.
see document: Henny-Zusammenarbeit-A-und-Ziv.PDF

Due to severe economy measures the Swiss Army will be reorganized as of 01-01-04. The avalanche battalion and the mountain specialists will merge and form a new unit of about 420 soldiers who will be continuously operational.

- ?? Stéphane Bozon, PGHM, France
PGHM set up a data bank where „almost accidents“ during rescues can be entered. This data bank is a means of communication between rescuers and should help prevent making the same mistake twice.
see document: Bozon-PGHM-Database.PPT

- ?? Tim Kovacs, MRA, USA
Introduces three new products.
see document: Kovacs-new-toys-IKAR-2003.PDF

- ?? Philippe Henry, CNEAS, France
Presents a new probing technique (two holes per pace)
see document: Presentation-sondage-CISA-2003.PPT

This kind of probing has been applied for two years now and might be briefly showed on the Diavolezza.

- ?? Dominik Hunziker, SAC, Switzerland
Marking on the Avalanche Field

An international standardization should be aimed at. At least concerning the basic colors. We should take time though with a proposition for a recommendation which should be drawn up next year at the earliest.

- ?? Martin Baumann, Ascom Systec, Switzerland
Presents an avalanche beacon training system.
see documents: Baumann-1-IKAR-2003.PDF and Baumann-2-IKAR-2003.PDF

Bruno Jelk comments that they have made very good experiences with this system, because it is realistic.

- ?? Nick Forwood, SMR, Scotland
On the occasion of our visiting the rescue base later this afternoon he presents the Scottish rescue service and also talks about geographical aspects as well as local specialties.

- ?? Fabio Gheser, AINEVA, Italy
Presents an avalanche accident where a rescuer triggered an avalanche and died in it.
see document: Lawine-Schnalstal-IKAR-2003.PDF

- ?? Leslaw Rieman, Poland
Shows an avalanche rescue in the Tatra mountains where the avalanche ended in a mountain lake.

see document: Lawine-Polen-IKAR-2003.PDF

- ?? Heli Mittermayr, Austria
Presents an avalanche rescue operation where the rescuers were surprised by a powder avalanche.
- ?? Stéphane Bozon, PGHM, France
Explains the falling rocks problem this summer at the Mont Blanc.
see document: Gouter-CISA-2003.PDF
- ?? Manuel Genswein, Switzerland
Presents a device combining probe detector and remote control transmitter for training.
- ?? Dominik Hunziker, SAC, Switzerland
Explains again the meeting on the Diavolezza and answers questions.
- ?? Bruno Jelk, KWRO, Switzerland
Explains the MERS system.
see document: Jelk-Mers-IKAR-2003.PDF
- ?? Gerold Biner, KWRO, Switzerland
Informs about tests concerning Emergency Procedure/Autorotation with MERS.
- ?? Nik Clever, Germany
Gives an overview of the Paramount project.
see document: Paramount-IKAR-2003.PDF
- ?? Milan Sekelsky, Slovakia
Introduces the new mountain rescue service of Slovakia.
see document: Slowakischer-BRD-neu-Ikar-2003.PDF

Note: the new organization was admitted to IKAR at the Assembly of Delegates.

- ?? Dan Hourihan, MRA, USA
Talks about the Partnership program.

Through this program communication should continue on a regular basis. Individual teams from different countries work together. The program is drawn up by the teams themselves according to their ideas and needs. Croatia and Sweden are already practicing this. Croatia would like to take the opportunity and invite other teams for a partnership.

MRA Events:

General Assembly 18. – 20.06.04 in Anchorage, Alaska

General Assembly 2005 in Vale, Colorado, with a one-week symposium

Dan emphasizes that 2005 would be a good opportunity to hold the work meeting of the Avalanche and Terrestrial Commissions in Colorado since international participants are very much desired at the symposium.

- ?? CAI, Italy
Informs about the revision of the national law.

?? Bruno Jelk, KWRO, Switzerland

Informs about the rockslide and the falling rocks problem on the Matterhorn this summer.

see document: Felssturz-Matterhorn-15-07-IKAR-2003.PDF

For the minutes:

sig. Olivia Nohl

Schaffhausen, 10-20-2003

Viewed:

sig. Bruno Jelk

sig. Toni Grab

Schaffhausen, 10-20-2003