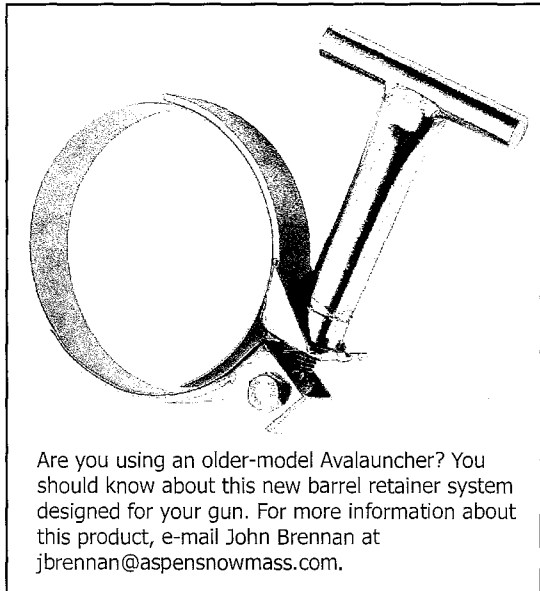


Dear Editor,

While Avalanche Mitigation Services communicated with WorkSafeBC in early 2009 to acquire approval for our Falcon GT Avalauncher, it came to my attention that a concern had arisen over the barrel retainer system on older Avalaunchers. The worry was that the fiber barrels supplied on some Avalaunchers were insufficiently rigid and could be constricted by the barrel retainer system to the point of danger regarding the passage of projectiles.

In my opinion using alternative barrel retaining systems could damage, if not potentially constrict, either fiber or aluminum barrels. The photo on page 42 of your last issue (vol 89) is the reason for this note. This is exactly the type of alternative barrel retainer system that should NOT be used for properly retaining either the fiber or aluminum barrel.

The ability of this type of device, a chain wrench, to apply great pressures to concentrated areas is the reason it is unacceptable for use as a barrel retainer. The manufacturer of the pictured Avalauncher, Avalanche Control Systems—who has likely manufactured the majority of Avalaunchers currently being used in Canada—agrees with this assessment and has authorized my business to distribute the appropriate replacement barrel retainer. This replacement retainer is not only functionally an improvement over the original, but is as easy to use as the system pictured in your Summer issue.



Are you using an older-model Avalauncher? You should know about this new barrel retainer system designed for your gun. For more information about this product, e-mail John Brennan at jbrennan@aspensnowmass.com.

Best wishes and great job on your journal
 John Brennan
www.avalanchemitigationservices.com

Employment Opportunity 2010 Olympic Games

VANOC requires a team of snow safety workers to manage a number of short slope avalanche issues for the 2010 Olympic games. This work will involve boot compaction and ski cutting.

Workers must be physically fit, comfortable working in steep terrain on skis and foot, and willing to work in all weather conditions. The work will involve night and day shifts. This will be two months full time work starting the beginning of January to the end of February.

If snow stability work is complete you will be required to do other snow removal maintenance work or assist with snow making activities. Accommodation can be provided if necessary.

For additional information or to submit a resume contact Randy Stevens at stellar1@shaw.ca.

FIRST DESCENTS REQUIRE COJONES.
 AND, OF COURSE, EL HOMBRES.



PHOTOS: STEVE OGLE

GUIDE LARS ANDREWS HAS BOTH

It was a spectacular snow year in B.C.'s South Chilcotin Mountains. And Lars Andrews of Whitecap Alpine was happy to guide his clients around them all winter long. He was also happy to bag a number of first descents on 50° and 60° slopes. His ski for both endeavors? G3's new super fat El Hombre. Its 136-105-124 dimensions provide a unique combination of stability and responsiveness in everything from the deepest fluff to the toughest muck. That's why Lars Andrews has made El Hombre his everyday ski. Especially when the day demands skis with cojones.

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