

# FWSA Safety Person of the Year 2014

## Dennis Heffley

Rusty Bindings Ski Club, Bay Area Snow Sports Council

As President of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council, Dennis ensures that the member clubs keep current with safety issues including avalanche/safety awareness, safety equipment (helmets, traction devices for boots, etc.) by sharing safety articles and other information through the council's newsletter and website.

He created a PowerPoint presentation for the BAC "Get To & From the Slopes Safely - Be Prepared for Winter Driving!" He presented it at the February council meeting and posted it on the BAC website [www.skibac.org](http://www.skibac.org). He plans to make it available to the FWSA and NSCF websites.

During his tenure as BAC president, Dennis has invited various speakers to talk about safety issues at council meetings.

One speaker provided a first-hand example of how wearing a helmet matters. According to Dennis, the speaker in particular arrived at the meeting visibly shaken. He opened a box and showed pieces of his ski helmet. He shared that the day before he had been skiing on an icy groomed slope and

fallen. If he hadn't been wearing his helmet he would have died.

As a frequent starter at league races, Dennis reminds everyone to have fun and be safe. He also advises first time racers that they get two runs, so to use the first run to get the feel of skiing gates before going all out on the second run. He also monitors racers at the start for helmet usage, loose clothing and checks to ensure that boots are buckled.

As National Ski Council Federation Vice President he chairs the Agenda Committee for the NSCF Annual Meeting. The 2013 agenda featured Jess McMillan as the keynote speaker for the annual NSCF meeting. Ms. McMillan's topic was being responsible for yourself and others.

She spoke about exercising responsibility by focusing on planning and conditioning before doing any extreme skiing. (She is a key note speaker at this year's FWSA Convention.)

Dennis consistently advocates for safe skiing and is a fitting candidate for the 2014 FWSA Safety Award, sponsored by Aspen Skiing Company.



**ASPEN SNOWMASS**  
THE POWER OF FOUR

The winner of the Safety Person of the Year Award receives seven nights lodging for two at The Gant in Aspen & The Crestwood in Snowmass, round-trip air for two, ground transportation, six days lift tickets for two (Aspen, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk, Snowmass), six days of rentals, one half-day group lesson for two, and a TV interview with Plum TV.