

NSP Safety Team Bios



Paul Baugher

Paul is the patrol director and risk manager at Crystal Mountain, Wash. His duties include all aspects of on-hill safety including hazard evaluation, removal, marking, protection and signage. He coordinates Crystal Mountain's skier safety program, medical and rescue response, and accident investigation (he's reviewed more than 12,000 individual accidents). Paul also supervises the resort's avalanche forecasting and control program, which meshes nicely with his role as director of the Northwest Avalanche Institute, which he's been since 1991, and where he oversees a staff of internationally recognized avalanche and mountain safety experts that provide avalanche-related consulting and education. In addition, Paul is a co-owner and guide for International Mountain Guides, an AMGA accredited climbing guide service that conducts mountaineering programs all over the world. He started patrolling at Ski Acres Ski Area in 1979.



Dennis McMahan

Denny is the patrol director at Apple Mountain Ski Resort in Freeland, Mich., as well as an OEC instructor, AED/CPR instructor and safety instructor. He's been patrolling since 1989. Since joining the NSP he's worked hard to be involved with slope safety across Michigan and the United States. As a retired police sergeant and EMT of 29 years, he's a current state certified EMT. He continues to teach First Aid and Safety at the Delta College Police Academy. A past state president for the American Heart Association of Michigan, he trained Apple Mountain patrollers in the new use of AEDs in 2000 and was able to obtain two donated defibrillators for resort use—the only patrol in Michigan to do so. Denny was then able to assist nine other Michigan patrols with training and obtaining AEDs. As a result he was named Central Division Outstanding Patrol Director in 2003 and earned a Yellow Merit Star. Also in 2003, Denny created a children's helmet safety program called Safety on the Slopes (S.O.S.), which is now used in 51 patrols statewide and across the country. All Apple Mountain patrollers wear helmets, setting a great example.



Mark Petrozzi

With more than a quarter century of involvement in the ski and insurance industries, Mark has a unique combination of practical and theoretical expertise. He has worked at various levels of the ski resort business and has been involved for the past 21 years providing direct and consulting insurance, risk management and ski resort operations services to the ski industry. Working out of offices in New Hampshire, Salt Lake City, Lake Tahoe and Vail, Colo., he has been a strong influence in the development and emphasis on ski area operations, risk management, skier safety and education throughout North America. Mark has been an NSP member since 1978. He's held many of the top elected and appointed positions at regional, divisional and national levels, and has served on the ASTM F-27 Committee on Snow Skiing. He currently serves as the chairman of the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) Education Committee.



Jim Phillippe

Jim's in his 20th year patrolling and is a full-time pro patrol at Snowmass, Colo. Prior to ski patrol he worked as a teacher and administrator at the Englewood, Colo., school district for 25 years. In that role he was responsible for safety awareness programs for the school district and was ski program supervisor for the Englewood Recreation Department, overseeing safety

programs for students grades 1-12 for 14 years. Since 1991 Jim's been in charge of the Snowmass Patrol School Program, which involves bringing students, teachers and parents to Snowmass for a safety awareness day. The resort has hosted approximately 8,000 local students via the program. Since 2003, Jim has been chairman of the Snowmass Employee Safety Committee, a group comprised of Aspen Ski Co. employees from various departments charged with developing programs to reduce the number and severity of guest and employee accidents. The group has written a Mountain Risk Awareness Plan targeting a host of safety-related topics including patrol presence, terrain awareness, intersection control, snowmobile protocol, pipe and parks, lift awareness training, helmet use and avalanche awareness.



Craig Simson

As a member of the Keystone, Colo., patrol since 1993, when he was named "rookie of the year," Craig has developed and participated in many significant safety programs. These include: the Mountain Watch program, which involved the local community in resort safety efforts; a proactive guest service program called "Play it Safe," which provides guests an interactive experience and useful safety tips; the establishment of "School Zones" rather than "Slow Zones" to highlight the need for space for beginners; creation of alternate traffic patterns for advanced skiers and riders; and initiating an educational program targeting safety Code violators (600 have participated without repeat offenses). Craig, an avid telemarker, was named assistant patrol director in 2000 and received NSP National Appointment 10254 in 2006. He has six-year-old twin daughters.



Edward Strapp

Ed has been focused on health and safety since he became a lifeguard at 16. He's taken this passion into his professional career as a certified athletic trainer, and he serves as head athletic trainer at Maine's Carrabassett Valley Academy (CVA), a private ski academy located at Sugarloaf Mountain where currently 125 student athletes compete in skiing and snowboarding. Ed has been patrolling since 1999 at Sugarloaf Ski Area. He's working with CVA to start a high school patrol program, which will be a full-time sports program focusing on physical strength and conditioning, OEC program medical training, and other NSP programs including Avalanche and Mountain Travel and Rescue. He also works for the Northstar Ambulance as an EMT-Intermediate and the Carrabassett Valley Fire Department as EMS Chief. In these roles, he works closely with the local community teaching EMS and sports medicine classes, as well as CPR to local residents and employees. His biggest safety role involves high school students at CVA, where he's constantly educating about frostbite, terrain park safety, helmet safety, and other important issues. He believes that the biggest difference in safety can be made by working with students and educating them so that they think one step ahead.



Jean Webb

Jean has been a member of the Sugar Mountain, N.C., ski patrol since 1991. She was named Sugar Mountain's Patroller of the Year in 2005/06, the second woman, first auxiliary patroller and first snowboarder to receive the honor. While advocating slope safety she found the time to place as a national NASTAR champion snowboarder at the NASTAR Nationals in Steamboat in 2006. Since Sugar Mountain is a small area with a relatively high volume of beginning skiers and snowboarders, Jean spends a lot of time focusing on crowd control, accident prevention and being proactive when it comes to safety. She believes patroller visibility and approachability are tantamount to a safe experience for visitors, and makes an effort to be out on the slopes spreading the safety gospel. In her professional life, Jean is a career educator with more than 35 years' experience. She's currently the dean of students at Charlotte Latin School, a large independent day school in Charlotte, N.C. Her professional experience has helped her success in relating to teens on the hill.



Lonny Whitcomb

Currently the director of risk management and safety for Snow Time Resorts, operator of Pennsylvania's Liberty Mountain, Whitetail Mountain and Ski Roundtop, Lonny says he's been afforded a unique opportunity by working for a company in which guest and employee safety has always been an important part of the culture. Lonny started his career in the early '80s as a ski instructor and quickly became a patroller and eventually patrol director. When he was promoted to risk manager a year later he knew focus on safety and attention to detail was imperative to survive in a litigious environment. In his current position, Lonny has successfully launched a variety of safety initiatives. These include: Snow Time's Mountain Safety program-- a 50-plus member team at each resort that assists ski patrol in promoting slope safety; a school and group safety visit program; and a bus and group-greeting program that provides a safety orientation to arriving guests.