

## **The Safety Site**

Monica Palmer, Safety Administrator

### **Recreational Safety takes Responsibility & Control**

The following story was written by Joel Marlowe for the 2024 Safety Story Contest. Congratulations, and thank you, Joel, for sharing your story with our fellow club members.

#### **My Safety Lesson**

In April, 2009, I went to Mt. Rose for a ski day. I hooked up with a friend at the lodge shortly after arriving. There was a little new snow on the slopes. After a few runs, my partner and I decided to do a tree run. After my first few turns, I was in tight trees. I made a hard turn in front of a large tree but was smacked across my face by a large and unforgiving branch. I fell between two smaller trees with my skis crossed and above them and my upper body face down below them. I found quickly that in this tangle, I could not move. I also realized that I was bleeding from my face. My position was also twisted and very uncomfortable.

I realized that I was in trouble and screamed my partner's name as loud as I could. Against all odds, he heard me. When I heard him yell back that he was coming, I felt a sense of relief like no other I can remember. The first thing I needed was for him to remove my skis because my position was almost intolerable, and I could not release them myself.

Lessons Learned: Don't ski trees without a partner, and: Don't ski above your ability.

Joel Marlowe