

New Snell Board Member

Snell Foundation welcomes a new member, Dr. John Patalak, current Vice President of Safety Engineering at the NASCAR Research and Development Center in Concord, NC. Since 2005 Dr. Patalak has worked at NASCAR in researching, developing and approving driver and vehicle safety systems and investigating vehicle crashworthiness and occupant protection issues. He received his PhD degree in Biomedical Engineering from the Virginia Tech - Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences, with concentration in crash injury biomechanics.

SA2025 Standard

The latest SNELL STANDARD FOR PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR, For Use in Competitive Automotive Sports (SA2025) was finalized October 1, 2024. Manufacturers are submitting helmets for certification. Snell continues to demand more from helmets used in competitive and racing events, and works to develop and coordinate requirements internationally for protective headgear. SA2025 calls for increased impact protection requirements. Performance of certified helmets will be supported by the Snell random testing program. October 1, 2025 is the effective date for releasing SA2025 certified helmets into the market.



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M2025 Standards Effective

The Snell M2025D and M2025R Standards became effective on August 1, 2024. Certified helmet models are available to consumers. Production of M2020D and M2020R certified helmets will stop by March 1, 2025. M2025 Standards incorporate oblique testing that examines rotational acceleration during impacts.

Bicycle Helmet Standard

The Snell bicycle helmet programs and standards played a vital role in the U.S. before the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) issued its standard in 1999 closely resembling the Snell B90 standard. Currently Snell does not have active bicycle helmet programs. While a reasonable minimum standard, the CPSC 16 CFR 1203 remains unchanged for 25 years, and may no longer reflect the current manufacturing technology, injury data and needs of bicyclists. Snell has published a draft standard for bicycling helmets. The draft B2024 updates testing criteria that utilize currently accepted test methods, equipment and performance criteria that may serve to spark interest and improvements in bicycling helmets. The draft standard incorporates tests that examine rotational factors that may add new helmet performance capabilities, and is available Snell's website.

**William Howard "Pete" Snell
1914-1956**

Born in Reno, Nevada, Pete Snell enlisted in the United States Army in 1940, and served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, specializing in aviation signal work. Snell began racing sports cars in 1951.

On this site, while driving his Triumph TR-3 in the Redwood Empire Sports Car Race at the Arcata airport on August 19, 1956, Snell was bumped by another car and lost control, flipping several times. Snell's state-of-the-art helmet shattered and, an hour later, he died of traumatic head injuries at Trinity Hospital in Arcata.

Dr. George Snively, track physician at Arcata, was studying the effectiveness of the helmets being used by the drivers. Seeing first-hand how poorly the existing headgear performed, Snively began formal research into advanced head protection.

The Snell Memorial Foundation was established in 1957, and financed Dr. Snively's work to develop helmet testing and certification standards. More than sixty years later, with standards surpassing the United States Department of Transportation, the Snell Memorial Foundation remains a leader in testing, certification, and improvement of headgear for motorsports and many other activities where helmets are used. The Sports Car Club of America, and other organizations, now require the use of helmets approved by Snell.



Dedicated February 10th, 2024
Native Sons of the Golden West
George A. Adams, Grand President
and
Fernande Parlor No. 85,
Timothy Wilson, President



GPY 147-6

Special recognition to Dale Warmuth and Bell Helmets

Dedication to William "Pete" Snell

In February 2024, Native Sons of The Great West (NSGW) sponsored a presentation and dedication in memory of William (Pete) Snell, the Foundation's namesake. A display case and a plaque were installed at the Arcata California Regional Airport where Pete tragically lost his life in a crash during an SCCA auto racing event in August 1956, an accident that he would likely have survived if wearing current protective headgear. Snell's Executive Director, Stephen Johnson attended the dedication and presented Pete Snell's story, the Foundation's history and appreciation for the recognition and invite.

There were no helmet standards in the US 67 years ago. Since then, racers and riders have been better protected by improved headgear. The mission of the Snell Foundation continues to uphold the commitment to improve head protection by identifying those helmets that meet Snell Standards and maintain compliance through the Snell certification and testing programs.



Helmet Safety Outreach

All Snell technical staff attended the PRI (Performance Racing Industry) show in Indianapolis, Indiana in December 2023. Snell Foundation also set up an exhibition booth at the show to reach out to auto racing community members.

Presentations:

BMW National Rally 2024
SMSA Nat'l Summit 2023, 2024
ICMS 2024

Races:

NHRA 2023; ARCA 2023
Sturgis 2023

Exhibits:

PRI 2023, 2024
Cyclegear 2023, 2024
Hangtown MotoCross National
2023, 2024



From the Editor:

We invite comments and items for inclusion in subsequent issues.

Upcoming Events:

October 24, 2024
Snell Board Meeting

December 12-14, 2024
PRI Show, Indianapolis

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