Be Safe, Get The Point !

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By this, I mean not just the point of safety, but actually ***pointing.***
Yes you, with that gloved hand. You are skiing down the slopes, people above you can only presume where it is you are going. That is unless you **P O I N T**.

Now obviously you don't have to point all the time or even most of the time. If you are out in an open bowl, or skiing in an uncrowded area, that would be unnecessary. It is when you are cruising in a crowded area, like a cat track, or a home run back to the base lodge where large numbers of skiers and boarders are all going simultaneously. Another area to be wary at is at the confluences of trails.

These merging areas can be real trouble spots for people colliding.

If you ski fast you probably are passing people more than the other way around. In that case you would be well warned to see an individual ahead of you making their directional intent known. ***Remember, it is your job to avoid the downhill skier.*** If you ski slow, are a beginner, or just go side to side a lot POINT. People above you will avoid you (or they should).

This pointing strategy is especially important for snowboarders. Why? Well there is an approximate 120 degree blind spot on the riders 'backside'. This means you cannot see in that direction unless a substantial effort is made to turn around. That effort is usually not attempted. Therefore pointing in the direction one is going allows anyone uphill to anticipate your direction. If they can anticipate your direction a collision can be averted. I know that many skiers have complained to me about snowboarders cutting in front of them. Pointing prevents this problem. When I am approaching a base area and traversing across, I stick out my lead arm and point in that direction. Anyone above me should understand which way I am going. It is really just a good communication skill.

Remember it is better to use the index finger now,
than to get the middle finger later.

Safety is no accident. Think about these issues ahead of time and …
GET THE POINT!

Richard