

Jon Denney

Duluth Ski Club. U.S. Olympic Team (1984 Sarajevo), National Champion (1981). Junior World Team (1978), Junior National Champion (1977). Ski Flying: Copper Peak (1981), Obertsdorf (1982), Vikersund (1983), and Harachov (1983). First to jump the large Olympic hill in Calgary prior to pre-Olympic Games (1987). Forerunner for the 1988 Olympic Games in Calgary; jumped with a camera on my helmet to open the event (decades before the advent of GoPro).

Worked with engineer Bob Mittelstadt to design, develop, test and manufacture a mobile wind tunnel bus equipped with weigh mechanisms to determine lift and drag as well as free-float training to better understand the physics of ski jumping. The wind tunnel bus was sponsored by the National Science Foundation in a film titled, *The Challenge of the Unknown*, which was widely distributed to classrooms throughout the U.S. and was seen on public television.

1985 – 2013 Worked with my wife Sue on fundraising efforts, events, program development, and marketing including **Minnesota Holmenkollen** and **Itasca Ski Club** fundraising that resulted in funding to purchase and install snow making, poma lift, biathlon and Nordic trails, grooming equipment, and a for-profit recreational tube run to assist in continued revenue for the winter sports center.

My most satisfying efforts were coaching junior ski jumpers (including all four of my own children) in a sport where they learned life lessons, made friends, and experienced the many thrills and challenges of ski jumping.

