

Reuben Hamari (1927 – 2012)

– Bio –

Reuben was born March 6, 1927 to Toivo and Hilda Hamari, the fourth of eight siblings, and grew up in Kingsford Heights MI. All spoke Finnish at home.



He began ski jumping by the age of eight, and represented the Red Wing junior club in regional competitions. By the age of 14, he had chalked up his first jumps at Pine Mountain.

In April of 1945, while a senior in high school, Reuben enlisted in the Navy. He was honorably discharged in July of 1946, and soon completed studies for his high school diploma.

At the beginning of the 1946/47 season he represented the Kiwanis Ski Club in Class B. After placing well in the first few tournaments, he was elevated to Class A in time for the Pine Mountain event in March. The significance of such an accomplishment is underscored by the fact that there were 151 competitors entered, 26 of them Kiwanis. He acquitted himself well, placing 3rd. Also significant is that Reuben was the first local Kiwanis jumper to be promoted to Class A.

Reuben competed for an incredible 17 years, 1947 through 1964. In his final tournament at Pine Mountain, he placed 4th in Veterans class.

The two next-youngest brothers, Allen and Roy also became very good Class A jumpers. Reuben also was an exceptional golfer and a very good downhill skier.

Reuben was probably unaware that he was a role model for numerous aspiring younger jumpers, quite a few of whom went on to become US Team members; looked up to as a stalwart individual who loved God and served his country; a rock-solid ski jumper, and known for his '51 Merc coupe. Accounts by those who experienced travel to tournaments in the coupe are that the car didn't stop to switch drivers – there was a way to do that on-the-fly. Neither were there rest stops – that's what windows were for.

He was a most pleasant individual; modest, unassuming, quiet and soft-spoken, but with a quick smile and a great sense of humor. His prowess on the ski hill was only second to his stature as an upright, hard-working, and humble family man.

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– Stats –

	Date		Location	Standing	Remarks
1947	01	12	Beloit WI	5 th Class B	
	01	26	Dubuque IA	1 st Class B	
	02	09	St. Paul MN	3 rd Class B	Central Championships
	03	08	Iron Mountain MI	3 rd Class A	first native Kiwanis jumper to be elevated to Class A
1948	01	04	Madison WI	4 th Class A	
	01	11	Beloit WI	2 nd Class A	
	02	01	Manistique MI	1 st Class A	
	02	08	Menominee WI	2 nd Class A	
	02	15	Ironwood MI	2 nd Class A	Central Championships
	02	29	Iron Mountain MI	6 th Class A	
	03	06	Hyak WA	9 th Class A	National Championships
1949	01	23	Caspian MI	2 nd Class A	
	01	30	Whitehall WI	4 th Class A	
	02	13	Oconomowoc WI	2 nd Class A	
	02	20	Salt Lake City UT	9 th Class A	Inter-Mountain Championships
	03	07	Houghton MI	2 nd Class A	
1950	01	08	Eau Claire WI	5 th Class A	
	01	29	Caspian MI	2 nd Class A	
	02	05	Oconomowoc WI	1 st Class A	
	02	18	Ishpeming MI	8 th Class A	Central Championships
1951	02	24 & 25	Iron Mountain MI	26 th overall	Olympic Tryouts
1952	01	06	Madison WI	3 rd Class A	
	01	13	Eau Claire WI	3 rd Class A	
	01	20	Fox River Grove IL	6 th Class A	
	01	27	Westby WI	5 th Class A	
	02	17	Ironwood MI	10 th Class A	Central Championships
	02	24	Ishpeming MI	4 th Class A	
	03	01 & 02	Salisbury CT	6 th Class A	National Championships
	03	06	Iron Mountain MI	2 nd Class A	Pine Mountain Invitational
1953	01	04	Madison WI	7 th Class A	
	01	11	Sault Ste Marie Ont.	2 nd Class A	

Date		Location	Standing	Remarks	
	02	01	St. Paul MN	5 th Class A	
	02	16	Steamboat Springs CO	13 th Class A	National Championships
	03	01	Iron Mountain MI	7 th Class A	North American Championships
	03	01	Iron Mountain MI	7 th Class A	Kiwanis Annual Tournament
	03	22	Ishpeming MI	2 nd Class A	
1954	01	17	Fox River Grove IL	9 th Class A	
	01	23	Westby WI	3 rd Class A	
	01	24	Westby WI	8 th Class A	
	02	07	Oconomowoc WI	1 st Class A	
	02	14	Ironwood MI	1 st Class A	
	02	20	Ishpeming MI	13 th Class A	
1955	01	20	St. Paul MN	10 th Class A	North American Championships
	02	06	Leavenworth WA	7 th Class A	National Championships
	02	13	Steamboat Springs CO	9 th Class A	
	02	25 & 27	Iron Mountain MI	17 th overall	Olympic Tryouts
1956	01	15	Fox River Grove IL	5 th Class A	
	02	25	Iron Mountain MI	8 th Class A	
1957	01	06	Sault Ste Marie Ont.	6 th Class A	
	01	15	Iron Mountain MI	2 nd Class A	Intermediate Hill Exhibition
	02	23	Iron Mountain MI	12 th Senior Class	
1958	01	19	Fox River Grove IL	11 th Class A	
	03	08	Iron Mountain MI	9 th Senior Class	National Championships
	03	09	Iron Mountain MI	7 th Senior Class	Kiwanis Invitational
1959	03	02	Ishpeming MI	5 th Class A	
	03	07	Iron Mountain MI	10 th Senior Class	International Tournament
1960	01	30	Iron Mountain MI	1 st Veterans Class	National Championships
	01	31	Iron Mountain MI	1 st Veterans Class	Kiwanis International Tournament
1961	02	19	Brattleboro VT	3 rd Veterans Class	National Championships
	02	26	Ishpeming MI	1 st Veterans Class	
	03	06	Iron Mountain MI	1 st Veterans Class	Kiwanis International Tournament
1962	03	03	Iron Mountain MI	7 th Veterans Class	Kiwanis Annual Tournament
1963			DNS		
1964	03	01	Iron Mountain MI	4 th Veterans Class	Pine Mountain Tournament

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– Photos –

