

## **Robert A. Keck**

### **Oconomowoc Ski Club**

Bob competed on 90 meter ski jumps from 1955-1978. He continued to compete on 70 meter ski jumps through 1993. And he competed on the 65 meter and smaller ski jumps through 2004, retiring from Master competition at the age of 66.

1949

Began ski jumping practice during recess and evenings on a junior jump in a gravel pit behind Oconomowoc High School at age of 13

1951

Southern Wisconsin Junior Ski Jumping Champion.

Southern Clubs: Beloit, Delafield, 3 Madison clubs, Plymouth, Oconomowoc, Williams Bay, Wood, Racine

1957-1961

Skied for Glenwood, MN Ski Club while attending the University of Minnesota School of Architecture - graduating in 1961

1960

Central Division Class A Champion - St. Paul, MN

1961-1964

Member of the U.S. Ski Jumping Team

1962

FIS Nordic World Championships, Zakopane, Poland

U.S. Team: John Balfanz, Bob Keck, Lyle Swendson, Jon Elliot, Steve Reischl, Willie Erickson, Jim Brennan; Coach: Walter Bietila

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Finnish National Championships, International Class

Competed in Austria; Holmenkollen - Oslo, Norway; and other jumping venues along with international jumpers traveling in a bus together from competition to competition.

Inducted into the U.S. Army. Stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado in the 10<sup>th</sup> Rocky Mountain Division.

Petitioned the Pentagon/granted permission to compete in the U.S. as a member of an armed forces team with Walter Cherry, Peter Langlois, and Lenny Meyer

3<sup>rd</sup> place - North American Ski Jumping Championships - Iron Mt., Michigan. Competed for a decade in three classes (Jr., Senior, Masters) on the Pine Mountain 90meter ski jump.

Page 2  
Robert Keck  
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1964

Stationed in Seoul, Korea

Granted temporary duty and reassigned to Camp Zama in Japan in order to compete in the Japanese National Championships in Owani. Competed for two months at Japanese competitions including Sapporo, Otaru, and Takada.

1<sup>st</sup> place - Japanese All Prefecture Championship - Takada

1979

Began coaching son, John, who trained in Steamboat Springs, U.S.O.E.C./NMU and went on to compete internationally with a best U.S. place of 6<sup>th</sup> (total points) in 1996 at the U.S. Nationals on the K90meter, K114 meter at Lake Placid. He competed in Falun, Sweden and Thunder Bay, Canada. John has been judging in the U.S. for 5 years.

Coached daughter, Karla who became a Women ski jumping pioneer for the U.S. and international Women's Ski Jumping. She competed for twenty-five years. Trained at Stams, Austria and in Norway. In 1999 she won the 1<sup>st</sup> Women's (unsanctioned) World Club in Ramsau/ 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in that inaugural Ladies International Grand Prix Series.

1992

Bob was at the forefront of the movement to organize Women's Ski Jumping in the U.S. He worked to add separate Women's classes at U.S. competitions and worked with the Central Woman's Chairman, and the USSA Women's Advisory Committees for ski jumping development.

1995-1999

He was active in coordinating an international outreach for the bench-mark 1995 International Women's Demonstration Event in Thunder Bay, Canada during the Nordic World Ski Championship and the 1996 Women's International Ski Jumping Championships in Rumford, Maine. He helped to promote the first U.S. Women's Ski Jumping National Exhibition on the K65 meter ski jump at Westby, Wisconsin, and the 1998 Women's World Championships in St. Moritz.

Bob was a member of a small international grass roots group who worked diligently behind the scenes to set up training and international competition opportunities in the U.S., Europe, and Scandinavia with the ultimate goal of adding a Women's Ski Jumping to the 2002 Winter Olympics. In 1999 a six series Women's International Grand Prix series was established and continues to this day.