



LEONARD “LENNY” NAPPA

Leonard “Lenny” Nappa was a long time member of the Ely Ski Club, as a young ski jumper and later becoming a coach for 40 years, followed by 10 years as a judge. Because of his hard work and dedication, Ely had many skiers who were successful at the local, state, national, and international levels of competition.

There were continuous successes from 1959 through the middle 1980’s. He was instrumental in getting the 30 and 40-meter slides at Hidden Valley that was funded by the City of Ely. These hills were great jumps for beginning ski jumpers. In 1983, Lenny was an integral part to bringing the new 60-meter slide to Ely where international competitions were held. Because of all of his efforts, Ely had 3 National Junior Champions, Bob Banovetz in 1961, Bob Hedloff in 1963 and Mike Williams in 1978. He also was a major influence to Jim Grahek making the 1980 Olympic Team.

Lenny Nappa is now enjoying his retirement at his cabin on Burntside Lake near Ely with his 2 dogs that both share the same name “Blade”.