

Tim Norris

In 1976 Tim Norris started the Andover (NH) Outing Club, and in so doing, he not only enriched the lives of hundreds of young athletes but also forever changed the landscape of US ski jumping and Nordic combined at the highest levels.

Tim has been coaching ski jumping at Proctor Academy an across the east for almost 50 years, and in all that time has been the one constant in a division that has had many challenges. In years where snow was scarce, everyone could count on Tim's Proctor Academy hills having snow. I years where athletes were scarce, events organizers could count on having Tim's skiers from the Andover Outing Club at their tournamts. And whatever Tim might have had – skiers, facilities, knowledge – it was always shared generously and with a smile.

Andover is a fine but modest facility – thre are K10, K20, K30/38 hills with lights, snowmaking, XC trails, and some grooming equipment. You wouldn't believe that it could produce Olympic caliber skiers, but that is the magic of Tim. Over the years, his programs have given the USA some of its greatest skiers, including Jed Hinkley (2002 Olympian and current USANS Director of Development, Carl Van Loan (2002 and 2006 Olympian), Nick Fairall (2014 Olympian), and longtime team member Chris Lamb.

In addition, cross country standouts Kris Freeman (2002, 2006, 2010 and 2014 Olympian), and Justin Freeman (2006 Olympian) were products of Tim's programs. Many other skiers in the East benefitted mightily from Tim's presence. Not only the facilitdies and knowledge he shared, but also the numbers and high standards of his athletes brought critical mass and validity to weekend competitions, and also a standard to which to aspire.

It would have been hard, for instance, for Nick Alexander (2010 and 2014 Olympian) to develop without having Fairall and Lamb to chase. In a recent conversation with Nick, Tim said “The worst kid needs to feel just as important as the best, if not more so, because otherwise why are we doing this?” This exemplifies Tim's approach, and throughout nearly 50 years in the sport, he has demonstrated an incredible ability to connect with young athletes and make the sport fun.

Without programs, facilities, and coaches there would be no athletes, period. Over forty years ago, Tim started the Andover Outing Club, the little juggernaut that could! Personally, often single-handedly, he carried the program, and in so doing, he raised the arc of possibility for ski jumping an Nordic combined in the USA. His name is not in the record books, but results of his efforts are everywhere.

Though now retired from Proctor Academy, Tim still oversees the programs at the Andover Outing Club, and is a regular fixture on the side of the hill at any ski jumping competition in the East.