



RALPH G. BIETILA

- 1924** Born in Ishpeming as the youngest in a family of skiers, who came to be known as the “Flying Bietilas”
- 1930** Started skiing using hand-me-down skis.
- 1940** Gained his first major skiing award, placing third in Class C competition in Berlin, NH.
- 1941** Won his first tournament title by capturing the Junior Class National Championship crown in Iron Mountain, MI. His jump of 262 feet set a hill mark and a national distance record that held for a number of years.
- 1945** Won the Class B title in Iron Mountain, MI.
- 1945** Along with his 5 brothers, were honored with the Bass Award for outstanding contributions to the sport of skiing.
- 1948** Member of the US Olympic team to Davos, Switzerland. Unable to compete because of a broken arm. Also a member on the 1952 team but had to back out with a foot injury.
- 1953** Took top honors in Class A in the Paul Bietila Memorial Tournament in Ishpeming, MI.
- 1963** Won the National Veterans’ Class Championship at age 39. He set a record jump at 261 feet for his veteran class.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Ishpeming Ski Club for over 20 years and former Vice-President of the club. He spent several seasons coaching young hopefuls in the finer points of the sport. Also, helped design a jumping complex in Ishpeming.