



GARY SPARPANA

Celebrating 45 years as a Kiwanis Ski Club member and final year of FIS Judging eligibility, Gary “Spar” Sparpana has made his mark at many levels in the ski jumping world.

Spar’s first ski jumping competition resulted in his taking 3rd place at the age of 8 years old at a competition in Channing, MI. In the early days, Spar was a member of the Viking and Red Wing Ski Clubs. Then joined the Kiwanis Ski Club in 1964. He placed 1st in the Pine Mountain Junior Class.

1967 National Junior Champion in ski jumping in Leavenworth, WA. Named to the US Ski team in 1968-69

1969-71 Served with the Army in Vietnam

1978 Became a National ski jumping judge

1985 Became an International FIS judge, traveling the world. His assignments have taken him to 8 different countries, officiating in 69 Continental Cups, 7 World Championships, 7 Ski Flying competitions and 10 National Championships.

1999-2000 A highlight was judging the 4-Hill competitions in Germany and Austria

2002 Named Chief of Officials for the Olympic games in Salt Lake City, UT.

He officiated for 29 years with 28 years at Giant Pine Mountain. His sense of humor is like no other and his sportsmanship and character are impeccable.