



STANLEY C. DUROSE, JR.

Stan was born October 26, 1923 in Joliet, MT and passed away at age 86 on March 21, 2010. He and his family moved to Madison, WI in 1926. He worked in the insurance business and was Commissioner of Insurance in Wisconsin.

From 1970 to 1988 he was employed as Senior Vice President for CUNA Mutual Insurance Society. He was a member of the Casualty Actuarial Society and the American Academy of Actuaries. He will be remembered especially for his volunteer work at the Blackhawk Ski Club in Middleton, helping build ski jumps and down hill slopes.

His training and his inclination made him a natural to design ski jumps, both the flight profiles and the structures, and Stan did that job for decades, becoming the Chairman of the USSA Committee on Ski Jump Design. He designed ski jumps all over the Central Division and many more scattered around the country, including the Westby Big Hill and the Olympic jump in Squaw Valley.

Stan was a hands-on guy who favored low-tech solutions. Why hire a bulldozer if a few hours of shoveling would do the job? Or a few days? Or weeks? (His helpers didn't always agree!) When a new ski jump tower was going up, he would rig a block and tackle with a one-inch rope, pulled by a tractor or car, and up went a big telephone pole, or even a two-pole framework. But the system worked and no pole ever came crashing back down.

He also had a sense of history and he would snap pictures to document projects and improvements at the ski hill. Stan didn't do it all by himself and he was not one to draw attention to himself. But he was the prime mover, the driving force that kept the Blackhawk Ski Club vital.