

## Ernie Farrar David K. Hakins Award Vermont Golden Gloves Newport/St. Albans, Vt.

Ernie Farrar, the longtime director of the Vermont Golden Gloves and a leader in amateur boxing in the state and the region, is the 2015 Vermont Sports Hall of Fame David Hakins Memorial Award Inductee. The award honors a business leader or an organization for exceptional promotion and development of sports, athletics and recreation in the state of Vermont. It is named in memory of the late David Hakins, a businessman who was a founding member of the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame and the inspirational first president of its board of directors.

A native of Newport who resides in St. Albans, Farrar is best known as the longtime talk show host on Colchester radio station WVMT, where he currently is a cohost on Charlie + Ernie + Lisa in the Morning. However, for the past four decades, Farrar has been instrumental in the continued success of the Vermont Golden Gloves, an amateur boxing tournament, for close to four decades.

Farrar began his efforts to revive the dormant event shortly after the 1976 Montreal Olympics, when the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team trained in Burlington, by borrowing equipment and staging fights at the Burlington Boys Club. As the tournament grew, Farrar eventually moved the highly popular and successful fight nights to its current location at Burlington's Memorial Auditorium. The Vermont Golden Gloves features fighters from Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire. Many of the Vermont champions have gone on to regional and national Golden Gloves success. Farrar also has promoted boxing at the regional level with USA Boxing New England.

With former Golden Glovers boxer Alan Rubel and editor Bob Winkler, Farrar also co-authored a book on Vermont boxing history, "Gloves: The Stories of Vermont's Greatest Boxers, Trainers and Personalities."

## Fred Harris Historical Inductee Outdoors/Ski Jumping

Brattleboro, Vt.

An innovator in several outdoor sports most notably ski jumping, Fred Harris is the 2015 Vermont Sports Hall of Fame Historical Pioneer Inductee. Born in Brattleboro in 1888 and a 1911 graduate of Dartmouth, Harris was the founder of the Dartmouth College Outing Club as an undergrad in 1909, and the Brattleboro Outing Club in 1921 in his home town.

In 1910 along with James Taylor, the 2014 VSHOF Historical Pioneer Inductee and assistant headmaster at nearby Vermont Academy, they started the Dartmouth Winter Carnival, the longest running collegiate winter event of its kind.

He also was the designer of Brattleboro's Harris Hill Ski Jump and the

founder and organizer of the Hill Jumping Harris Tournament in 1922. Harris built the ski jumping hill and the wooden trestle tower with his own \$2,200. The national championships were held at the jump in 1951 with 168 jumpers from around the world competing. Art Tokle of Norwich set a record of 239 feet the same day the hill was rededicated in honor of Harris.

A co-founder of the United State Eastern Amateur Ski Association (USEASA), Harris has been called "The Man



Who Put America on Skis." A member of the Vermont and National Ski and Snowboard Halls of Fame, the Brattleboro native also served as an official at the 1932 Lake Placid and 1960 Squaw Valley Winter Olympics. In 1938 he had the USEASA organize and fund the US team for the 1938 Winter Olympics.

Harris is also considered one of the first "extreme skiers," hiking to the top of and skiing down several of the regions undeveloped peaks, Whiteface Mountain in New York and Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

Harris passed away in 1961. The Harris Hill Jumping Tournament continues to be a world class ski jumping competition held annually in Brattleboro in front of large crowds each winter.

