

THE GENIUS, GENESIS AND ENDURING LEGACY OF FRED HARRIS

THE MAJESTIC HILL before you was originally built in 1921, on a leap of faith by Fred Harris, an avid outdoorsman with boundless energy and enthusiasm. While a student at Dartmouth College in 1909, he had founded the Dartmouth Outing Club, the first such organization of its kind in the country, to share his passion for outdoor life and to promote robust physical activity. He returned to his native Brattleboro and, in February of 1921, organized the town's first Winter Carnival, a series of fun races and outdoor events on the Retreat Meadows, a bit more than a snowball's throw from where you stand. Imagining that a real spectacle should highlight the festivities, he set out to build the ski jumping hill and wooden trestle tower, funding its construction with \$2200 from his own pocket.

The inaugural Brattleboro Ski Jump, held on February 4, 1922, served as the first Vermont State Championship and drew over 2500 spectators; the event's proceeds more than paid for the hill. Harris next founded the Brattleboro Outing Club to own and operate the ski jump, organize winter outings and events, and—as is central to the club's mission to this day—"to encourage, develop, and promote outdoor family life and good fellowship."

Passion is the genesis of genius. —Tony Robbins

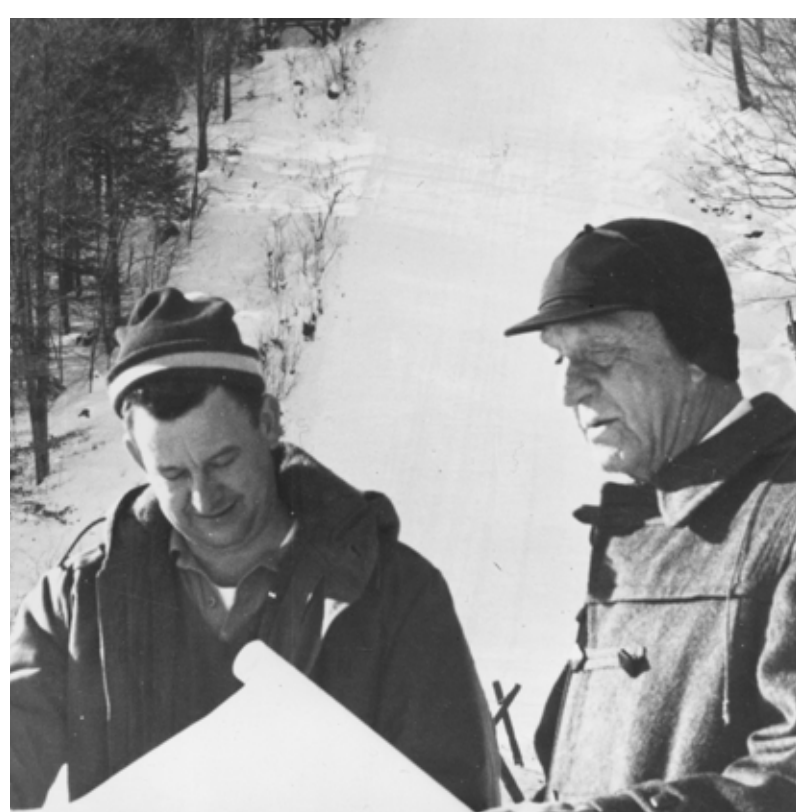


As one of the first "extreme skiers," Fred Harris trekked to the top of the Northeast's highest peaks and is credited with first winter descents on skis of Whiteface and Mt. Washington. He served as the founding president of the U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association, which was based in Brattleboro through much of its reign. Year after year, Harris, steward to the outdoors and community, oversaw the events conducted on this hill and shepherded skisport in the USA through its youth. Members of the Brattleboro Outing Club organized championships, orchestrated ski ball soirees, shoveled mountains of snow, and chiseled the hill so that history could be made.

Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration. —Thomas Edison



PHIL DUNHAM AND FRIENDS



ALAN SARGENT AND FRED HARRIS



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