

“Finn Sisu: Ahvo’s Journey”

Doug Edmonson is pleased to announce the publication of a fourth book in the **Minnesota Nordic Ski Series** of books on Amazon.com. The life story of Ahvo Taipale, long-time owner of Finn Sisu Sauna and Ski Shop is a 180-page biography of Ahvo, entitled “Finn Sisu: Ahvo’s Journey” which chronicles his amazing life from his birth in Toikavva Finland in 1946 to his recent retirement, selling the Finn Sisu shop to his valued employees.

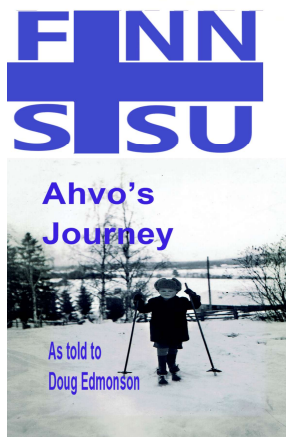
Ahvo, like classic ski coach Norm Oakvik, became a fixture in the Minnesota Nordic ski community, selling equipment, conducting clinics on the new free skating technique, coaching both young and old competitors and promoting lighted trails and man-made snow for Nordic ski facilities in the St. Paul area.

Ahvo assisted thousands of young skiers in learning and excelling in Nordic skiing, especially with the revolutionary changes from classic to free or skate technique came in the mid-1980s. Ahvo was well-know throughout the world Nordic community and teamed with Steve Gaskill, former U.S. Nordic combined coach, to create a collegial Nordic community, working with numerous ski shops to create teams that lifted Minnesota Nordic skiers to national prominence. One young seventh-grader, named Jessie Diggins, after numerous skinned knees and elbows, learned how to roller-ski from Ahvo, going on to become the first U.S. female Olympic gold medalist and eventual three-time World Cup Nordic ski champion.

Ahvo was like a tough old walnut, crusty, tough exterior with a soft, kindly interior. He lived for each day, looking to make Nordic skiing better for all Minnesotans. Many around the world see people wearing Finn-Sisu jackets and come up to ask “Do you know Ahvo?”



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Get “Finn Sisu: Ahvo’s Journey” plus “Norm Oakvik: The Inconspicuous Coach” on Amazon at the Minnesota Nordic Ski Series