



LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION

A SnoBee lifetime member is one who has been a continuous member for over 20 years and has distinguished themselves in furthering the cause of "the club".

Nominee: John Plante

Nomination submitted by: Dave Watson

Date: 12/9/2020

Growing up, John worked at the 1976 Sno Bees Granite City Ride held at the Canadian Club. In 1990 he and his wife Debbie moved back to Vermont. He bought a used 1990 Polaris 500 Classic a few years later and went to his first Sno Bees meeting held at the Canadian Club. He was shocked to see very few people attending, but he caught the eye of the late Ernie Bankcroft, longtime Sno Bees member and his Dad Simon's good friend from the Barre Lions Club. A few days later, he and his brothers Ron and Bob were summoned by Ernie to attend a "special" Sno Bees meeting at Charlie Livendale's house.

During the above meeting, John heard how the Club was truly "struggling" and needed an infusion of help in key leadership positions or the Club was going to fold. Ernie said, "if your Dad Simon was alive he would ask you, Ron and Bob step in and take over this Club"! At that time, Jim Morrill was a one man show and was truly burnt out from doing everything on the trails. Hearing this, Ron agreed to take the helm as Trail Master. Being new, John said he would take Vice President for one year and then take over as President. Brother Bob became a Director.

After one year, John started a three year stint where meetings steadily increased in attendance. During his tenure, the Club leased the Bee Hive from the Bailey's and took back our Queen Bee from Pete Lamberti! The Club also redirected and installed new trails as you see them today. John was also the one to start our Sno Bees Trails Support Sign as a way to pay for our Bee Hive. It has now grown to be the biggest fund raiser we have as a Club.

During this time, John also became Chairman of the Governor's Council on Snowmobiling advising then Governor Dean and the legislature on all matters pertaining to snowmobiling in the State. This appointment lasted for 5 years until he successfully singlehandedly opened many trails that were closed by the P.O.S.T. (Property Owners Standing Together) group that shut down many trails due to the passage of ACT 15. This law put additional regulation on logging which affected income streams for many large landowners in Vermont. After this, John was nicknamed "Johnny Hammer"!

In the 2005, John again took over the helm for a few years until another President could be found. He continues to be involved as a Sno Bees Director as well as Chair our successful Sno Bees \$20 Money Raffle fundraiser that, not surprisingly, hit a new record in sales this year!

Please join me in nominating John as a "Lifetime Sno Bees Member". An award that is long overdue.