



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## PAUL HENNESSEY, Lifetime Member

1/27/2022



*Paul and Paula in 2022 on their Arctic Cat T660 Turbo*

Paul (a flatlander from Cape Cod) moved to Vermont in 1969. He and his wife Paula wanted to do something together to enjoy the winter. So even though they only had a tablecloth and a few place settings on the floor of their kitchen, instead of buying a kitchen table and chairs they decided to buy an Arctic Cat Panther two-person snowmobile with the money they received as wedding presents. On one of their first rides in East Barre Paul stopped the machine and got off and was standing in waist high snow pointing and saying look at the "Moo Moos". Paula said do you mean "cows"? Yes, he said. They are the first cows I have ever seen. He then said you don't see any cows on the ocean.

***How long has Paul been helping the club:***

Paul moved to Barre in 1976, joined the Sno-Bees and became a volunteer for the club. Seems like he hit the ground running and hasn't let up.

***Most enjoyable project done for the club:***

In the mid-eighties, Paul was also involved in Cub Scouts with his son. Coordinated and managed by Paul, the two clubs worked together to take on the project of designing and installing new intersection signposts for the Sno-Bees' trails (Picture 1).



Keep in mind, these so-called signs they were replacing were basically sticks with "Groton" or "Montpelier" as directional signs (Picture 2). A valued project, to say the least.

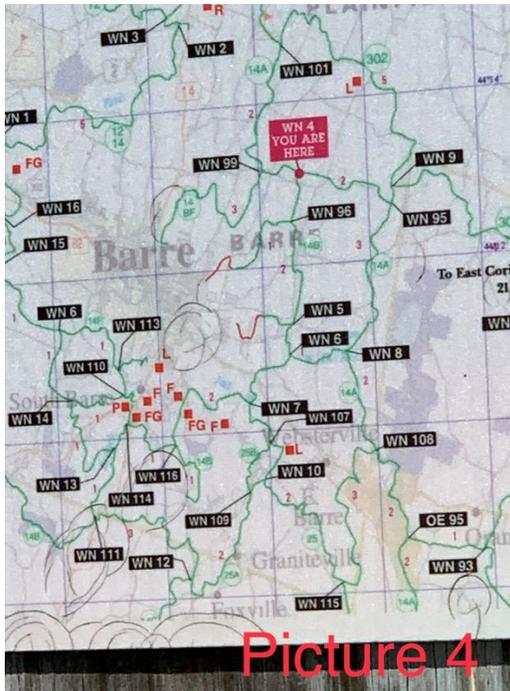


Signs became a project of Paul's again about 10 years ago. Paul realized there were adequate directional intersection signs (**Picture 3**) but no signage for where you were.

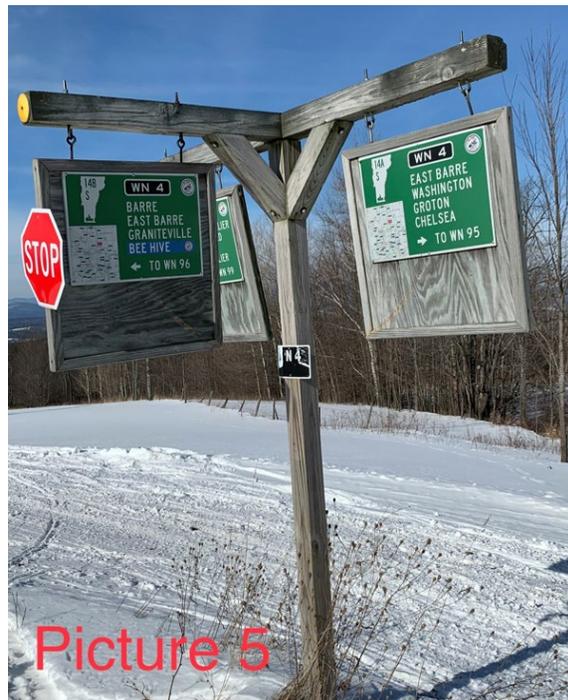


Picture 3

Again, Paul took on the project to design a plaque card with a section of the VAST Trail map on it to show where you were at each intersection, which would include “YOU ARE HERE” messaging (Pictures 4-6).



Picture 4



Picture 5



Paul presented this idea to VAST at one of their fall meetings and they turned it down because at the time, they didn't pay for that type of item. Paul didn't give up. He went back to the club and the club took on the project and cost. When VAST representatives saw what the club had done with the intersection signs, they brought the concept back up at their spring meeting and voted to adopt the additional signing and made it retroactive to the fall and paid the club for their costs. Going forward, any club who wanted to use the format was reimbursed by VAST.

Say a little "thank you" to Paul as you're enjoying a ride through Sno-Bees' territory and come to an intersection and see the informative directional signs.

Through the 46 years Paul has also filled many positions such as Treasurer, Director, and club historian. A couple of years ago, Paul researched VAST newspapers back to the 1970's to generate a history of past club presidents. Once all the names were gathered, he had a plaque made of all past presidents which now hangs on the wall of the Beehive.

**Favorite thing(s) about volunteering for the Club:**

Paul's favorite thing about being a volunteer member of the Sno-Bee's club is the friendly comradery. He enjoys riding the trails and evaluating not only the quality of the ride, but also all of amount of wildlife he sees along the way.

In the many years Paul has been riding the VAST trail system, he's made it to the east, west and Canadian borders of the state. One of his bucket list items is to ride from the MA border to the Canadian border. Alright, who's up for a 300+ mile ride with Paul?

### Memorable experience while riding:

A few days ago, while riding with a friend, Paul had a bit of a bumpy ride that we're grateful ended well. See Paul was wearing a brace on his right hand and was riding along when his left ski hit a rock and with the brace on his throttle hand, he hit the throttle, took a sharp right, and fell off his machine. His friend helped him back onto this machine – thankfully, he was ok. Oddly enough, he had just come from a physical therapy appointment for his back. Job security for his therapist!

As Paul continued down the trail he was riding along, and a dog came out of nowhere and grabbed onto his left leg! He hit the throttle again, lost the dog and this time, stayed on his machine. What a day!

There was a great ending to this day. First, Paul was unharmed from his earlier mishaps. Second, he found BuzzBee! **(Picture 7)** Glad you made it home safe Paul. You'll have some explaining to do with your physical therapist.



Picture  
7

Thank you to Paul for all the selfless work done for the club over the last 46 years. Clubs like Sno-Bees don't exist without members like Paul. Keep on enjoying the ride!



*Paul, Paula, and the grandkids*

Submitted by Francine Perkins, Membership Volunteer