



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## GREG ROULEAU

1/6/23



Greg 2022 – Mt. Washington in the Background

### **Day Job:**

Greg co-owns and operates Village Homes with his brother, Randy. Village Homes is a family owned and operated Builder/General Contractor based in Berlin, VT, with a focus in Custom Modular Homes and Manufactured Homes.

### **How long has Greg been helping the club:**

42 YEARS! Back in 1981, when Greg was just 17 years old, he joined the club and became more active in his mid-twenties. Over the years, Greg has held many positions for not only Sno-Bees Club but VAST too. This speaks volumes of his devotion to the snowmobiling community.

### **Volunteer History:**

Greg was elected Vice President at the first meeting he attended in 1995. Since then, he has served several terms as President with most recently serving as Vice President the last 6 years. Under Greg's leadership as an officer of the club,

he chaired committees ranging from completing two different set of By-Laws to leasing a new groomer and drags to fundraising events. Greg was also instrumental in helping the club get recognized for its trail system, resulting in VAST awards such as Trail Project of the Year and Best Groomed Trails.

In his other spare time, Greg has volunteered as a trail trustee since 1996 for the section of trail from Sunset Road to the Barre City Cow Pasture. Adding to this, Greg was a contributing member of the committee created to maintain a good relationship with the City of Barre's Cow Pasture Committee and city officials. This was no small feat! A relationship Greg continues to maintain today.

While Greg played an integral part of where the club is today, he also expanded his volunteer service to VAST. In the 2000's Greg turned his focus to the County and State level, serving as a Washington County Director and VAST Director from 2000-2005. His accomplishments are many, and include overseeing the completion of the 2001 Bylaws for Washington County, Washington County Rescue Sled, Snowmobile and Trailer Program and sat on many VAST Committees. We'll hear more about some of these accomplishments later.

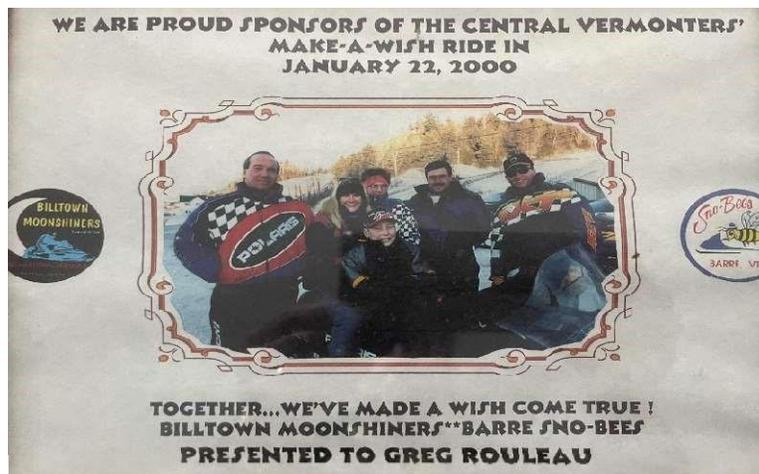
At the 2020 VAST Annual Meeting, Greg was recognized for his contributions to VAST over the years and presented with the Horizon Award. Congratulations Greg! Well deserved.

As of recently, Greg was elected as the VAST Washington County Alternate Director. We are well represented!

But I have one question....how did he find the time to ride?

### **Most favorite Event:**

Make A Wish Events held a special place in Greg's history of volunteering for the club. It all started while Greg served as president in the mid-90's. Ann Shangraw, President of the Billtown Moonshiners in Williamstown and Greg, President of the Sno-Bees, were in a friendly competition on who could raise the most funds in their fundraisers. After a year or two of this competition, they decided to join forces and put on a Make A Wish event. Taking place at the Country Music Club in Williamstown, the first year they served up hot dogs and had fireworks at dusk and raised \$750. Over the next 10 years, this event grew to include the day starting at Noon with Radar Runs, followed by dinner-dance with a live band and fireworks at dusk. Radar Runs were a HUGE hit! People came from all over to race their sleds against the clock on the drag strip, all vying for the best time. At the end of the 10-year stretch, the last event raised \$22,000 which enabled them to purchase 4 wishes at \$5,500 per wish. What amazing gifts to these families!



### **Most memorable experience(s):**

With a 42-year history of being involved in the club, it's difficult to choose just ONE. Greg had a few come to mind as we were talking.

1. 1998. Greg's first year as President of Sno-Bees. First snow storm. Landowner shut down a trail in the middle of the day. Cut the system off to access Barre Montpelier Road. Lague Inn was full of snowmobilers who were all stuck out on the trail and had to be re-routed to South Barre to circle back to the hotel. Eventually, it was all worked out but what a challenging time.
2. Arctic Cat Pride Tour – 26 year old Greg was hired by Arctic Cat as a tour guide to guide 60 people from Lague Inn in Berlin to Rangely, Maine and back. The group was split into 3 groups; fast, medium and slow. Greg had 2 other people helping him. Greg organized a big banquet the night before at Suzanna's at the Lague Inn, at the request of Arctic Cat. We're going to skip the details of this party. It was a good one, that's all I'm going to say.

The group left the following morning, spent the night in Island Pond before making the trek to Rangely. They made it to Maine and back with one injury. One of the riders went off the trail and broke her ankle at the start of the trip. Luckily, Greg had arranged for a truck and trailer to follow along. Incredible ride!

3. Make-A-Wish events as remembered above will always be on the top of the list for most memorable experiences for Greg.



Lague Inn at the completion of AC Pride Tour

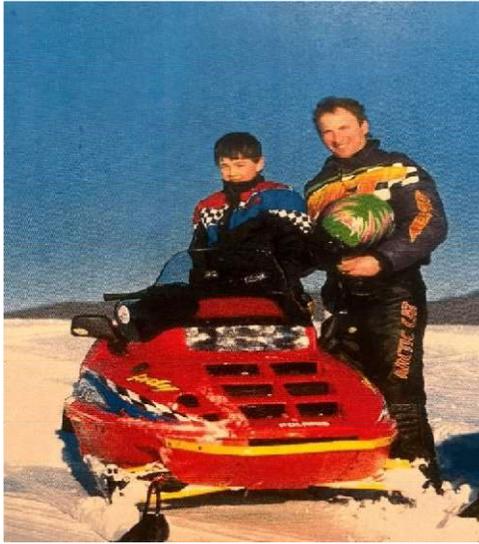
L-R: Greg Ford (Chase Vehicle), Brent Tewksbury, Geoff Rivard, Greg Rouleau

### **Proudest Project:**

Too many to mention here but two projects worth mentioning are:

1. In the early 2000's, Greg served as VAST Director for Washington County. This was around the same time the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) system was being developed. Greg was proud to cast a vote to move forward with the project, which now provides for some great riding.
2. Greg, along with Trini Brassard from Randolph, took on the Vermont State Police on age restrictions for minor aged snowmobilers. Jere Johnson, Education Coordinator for Vermont Marine/Snowmobiling Division advocated for the age limit to follow the DMV age limits of 15-permit and 16-licensure.

Greg took it upon himself to lobby and testify before the legislature to reduce the age limits so kids could ride their own machine at a younger age, accompanied by a parent. Both he and Trini's 8-year old sons testified, in person, before law makers to advocate for changing the law. All of their efforts paid off. The age limits were reduced to reflect the current age limits today. Great job Greg!!



Greg and his son, Brandon, after advocating for rider rule changes

Those who know Greg...

Greg, the rider...."One more loop!"

Greg, the business guy...."And one more thing"

Thank you, Greg, for your time and effort over the last 42 years in keeping snowmobiling in Vermont alive! And one more thing....

Enjoy a few more pictures of Greg's extensive history with the SnoBees.

Submitted by Francine Perkins, Membership Volunteer

**Ride Right — Ride Responsibly**

**Did you know...**

- Anyone born after July 1, 1983 must complete and pass a six-hour safety course. Effective immediately.
- Individuals 12 years of age or older must have taken a certified safety course and carry that certification with them to be presented upon demand of a law enforcement officer.
- Individuals 12 years of age, but not yet sixteen years of age must be directly supervised by an adult, at least 18 years of age, while traveling across or on a plowed public highway.
- Children eight years of age, but not yet 12 may operate a snowmobile on the VAST trail system without taking the safety course as long as they are under the direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian who accepts full liability for the child's actions and the child is not allowed to operate a snowmobile on or across a plowed public right-of-way.
- Children under the age of eight may not operate a snowmobile on the VAST trail system at any time.
- Under Vermont Law, Title 23, Chapter 29, you must operate your snowmobile at a speed that is reasonable and prudent, taking into consideration current conditions, trail traffic and other hazards present on the trail.
- The maximum speed limit on state lands is 35 m.p.h. The use of radar on snowmobile trails is becoming a standard practice. With the use of hand held radar guns, the enforcement of speed limits that are imposed on all state lands, has increased dramatically.
- Snowmobiles are subject to posted speed limits on public roads open to snowmobile traffic.
- Vermont has a tough "Snowmobiling While Intoxicated" law. This law covers both drugs and alcohol. While you will be charged with SWI on the VAST trail system, intoxicated snowmobilers operating on a public highway will be charged with DWI. As a result of this violation, you will be assessed points and your driver's license will be suspended.
- A frozen lake is considered a public highway and the maximum speed limit is 50 m.p.h.
- If you are involved in an accident, resulting in personal injury, death or property damage in excess of \$500, it is your duty to stop and report it to local authorities. You must give your name, address, registration number and the name of the owner of the snowmobile to the party whose person or property is injured. You must also file an accident report with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles within 72 hours.
- Your snowmobiles must be equipped with:
  - headlight;
  - red rear light;
  - windshield free from jagged or sharp edges;
  - a fully functional brake in good condition;
  - efficient muffler and such other equipment and devices as may be required to meet the noise level specifications of not more than 73 decibels on the A scale at 50 feet in a normal operating environment.
- Colored lens covers on headlights are illegal.
- Windshields are mandatory or the operator must wear eye glasses, goggles or a protective face shield.
- Helmets are mandatory for all riders on the VAST trail system.
- It is against Vermont law to sell a replacement exhaust system that exceeds the manufacturer's original equipment specifications. Violation of this law will result in a fine of \$300 for the snowmobile operator and a \$300 fine for the person selling the illegal exhaust system. No by-pass of a muffler system is allowed.

**Effective Sept. 1, 2003— all snowmobile owners are required to carry a liability insurance policy.**

Greg and Brandon on the brochure about the new riding laws for minors



Greg, Dave Watson and Ron Plante  
First Year SnoBees Grooming their own Trails



Ron Plante, Greg and Brent Tewksbury  
Newly constructed bridge on Trail 302  
Circa 2000's