



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT CARL ROBINSON

12/12/23



Carl and BuzzBee Winter '22

Day Job:

Carl is retired from Bailey Bros/Fisher Auto Parts after a 50-year career selling auto parts. He tells a great story about how he came to live in Barre.

Carl and his wife, Pat, are from the Strafford/Royalton, VT area. Carl served in the Army and was discharged in November of 1965. In the Army, Carl worked in the motor pool, keeping inventory of parts for vehicles. He found he enjoyed this line of work.

A month after coming home from the Army, Carl stopped by Ted Green Ford in Stockbridge, VT to buy a car and they directed him to Bailey Bros and he ended up with a car and a job! He and Pat got married in 1967, and the rest is history.

How long has Carl been helping the club:

In 1967, Carl and Pat met some friends who were snowmobilers. They started riding in the Strafford/Royalton area on weekends and holidays. In the early 1970's, Carl and Pat purchased a home on Phelps Road. From that time on, Carl joined SnoBees and slowly started to get involved. He and Pat had 2 sons and a daughter so riding often times took a back seat to family time but they enjoyed snowmobiling.

Volunteer position:

Carl slowly became involved in trail maintenance. As he became more involved, he served as Vice President in the late 70's and went on to serve as President and Treasurer. Carl would put together a newsletter...on a postcard with a meeting reminder included. The meetings were held at the Canadian Club and there was always a large group in attendance.

Carl has always been involved in trail work, whether helping to build bridges or cut brush. He's become much more active later in life. He credits past members for building what we have today. He's seen lots of hard work done by many generations. How incredible!

Most enjoyable activity for the club:

Being a member of SnoBees for all these years, Carl has enjoyed meeting all of the members through the years. He finds comfort in being with the group and enjoys seeing the club so successful.

He credits the great group of current volunteers and excellent group of Officers for the successful direction the club is headed. Impressive.

One of the many things that Carl enjoys is being out on the trails experiencing nature. Seeing all the wildlife in their natural environment. The beautiful scenery from the top of a mountain. Carl specifically mentioned a ride he enjoys in Waitsfield where he goes over Sugarbush. He said the summit views of Mount Washington from one direction and the Adirondacks from the other direction are just breathtaking.

Most memorable experience:

One of Carl's most memorable experiences was the Water Ride events. Wait, what are Water Ride events?

Water Ride events were fundraiser competitions when snowmobiles were driven across water in a pond during the summer. Best time across without sinking won. One of the most memorable events for Carl were the Water Ride events. In the 70's, for about 3 or 4 years, SnoBees held a Water Ride fundraiser in Washington at Carroll Duranleau's pond. This was a hugely attended event **(See the large crowd on shore in the pics below)**.

Did Carl ever ride his machine over the water? Funny story. In the mid 70's, a Scorpion dealer located in Essex offered Carl a deal on a new Scorpion sled. Only one catch. For the great deal on the price, the sled had to be rode across water; dealer wanted the advertising. Carl accepted his offer. Carl's machine did, in fact, make it over the water but Carl wasn't riding it. Chris Metayer, Carl's co-worker from Waterbury volunteered to ride it across the pond. Carl took him up on his offer and Chris rode across the water!

Even better, there was a "couples" race. Yet again, Carl didn't ride his machine across the water but his wife, Pat, rode across the water with Chris. They made it across and came in 3rd place! How great is this? Way to bring it, Pat!

Chris and Pat with 3rd place trophies



Chris riding Carl's Scorpion across the water (circa 1978)
Look at that crowd!!



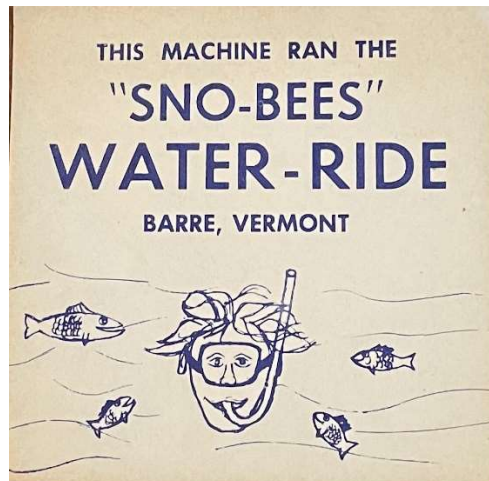
Where was Carl all this time? He was selling tickets at the gate. Safe and dry.

We've heard about the success stories about making it across the pond. What happened if you didn't make it? A scuba diver waited on shore with a rope ready to dive down, tie up the sled and a truck on shore would pull it out. Luckily, Carl never had to have his machine pulled out of the pond.

Such a great story. Thanks for sharing, Carl.

Continued to the next page>>

Another shot of Chris riding Carl's Scorpion across the water.



Thank you, Carl for serving the Sno-Bees Club all these years and helping to keep our club above water!

Submitted by Francine Perkins, Membership Volunteer