



LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION

A Sno-Bee 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: Gus Gosselin

Nomination submitted by: John Plante, Director

Date: September 11, 2024

I am honored tonight to nominate Gus Gosselin for ***Sno-Bees Lifetime Membership***.

In 1957, Gus started his food business downstairs where *Subway* shop is now. He then opened a restaurant where the famed ***Gusto's*** bar is still operating. During this time, snowmobiling was just beginning. In 1966, Gus and his riding buddies were approached to join a snowmobile club that was forming in Montpelier. He held a meeting at his restaurant on Prospect Street to discuss this. Those in attendance were Joey Laquerre, Dick Barcomb, Wenden Bailey, Marcy Rouleau, Jerry Perantoni, Dick Lafayette, Alex Canas, Dick Ruel, Dana Comstock, Dick Hutchins, Dick Barnhardt, Ken Nelson, John Ford, and others. This group decided not to join Montpelier but, decided instead to start their own riding club that they named the ***Sno-Bees of Barre***. VAST was formed the next year in 1967.

In 1970, the ***Sno-Bees***, with help from Homer Fitts, organized a ***Barre Winter Carnival***. They placed snow on Main Street all the way to *Thunder Road* where, during the ***Carnival Parade***, over 50 snowmobiles rode from where *Lenny's* is located all the way to the track to kick off a ***Sno-Bees*** sponsored oval racing event with competitors from around New England and Canada. Which, notably, Barre's own Jake Colgan and Red Lajeunesse also competed in. The ***Sno-Bees*** also organized a broom ball tournament, snowshoeing by the old ski jump behind the Canadien Club, hockey games and a big cookout at the end at *Thunder Road*.

Gus rode sleds well into the 70's with his wife Clara and his three children Diane, Gary and Lori. Gus and his group were early pioneers in our trail development. Some of these trails are still being used.

Without Gus and his group of riders back in the 60's, we would not be where we are today. Thank you, Gus, for all your efforts and support!

Respectfully submitted,

John Plante, Director