

Your History Moment – This week I would like to look at Life Members. I am going to come right out front and say that I am obsessed with Life Members. I am not prone to hero worship but this is about as close as I get. I have a great appreciation for what our life members have done for our club and great respect for those who have attained that status. The late Paul Giblin has said that Life Membership is the highest honor that a club member can attain and I agree completely. I would imagine that many of you did not realize our club has life members, it is not something that is made a big deal of. At the monthly meetings it is noted that the club has XXX members and that 13 of those are Life Members but that is about it. I am not going to list all of the Life Members but I will note that the Young brothers are as well as George's wife Trese. Howard Roundy is one as is Don Taylor. Dave and Denise Patton are also Life Members. You may very well know some or all of these folks as they are all still involved in club activities. You may be asking "what is a Life Member?" A Life Member is a member who has demonstrated and has been recognized for long term dedication to the club. This dedication can be shown in many ways. Holding a club office is one way. Howard, Drew, and George Young, and the late Paul Giblin have all held the office of President many times each and I know the Youngs have each held practically every office at least once. Holding office is one way but the essence is the showing of long term dedication in some way(s).

How does one get to be a Life Member. In the words of an old New England farmer "you can't get there from here." What?!!!! The fact is there is no road map, no pathway, or guide book to achieving Life Membership. Judy Fry's history of the club lists the Life Members at the time of her writing but there is no mention of how they were awarded the honor. I can tell you that some Life Members were carry overs from the Granite State Corvette Club which SCCNH had absorbed. Regardless, in every case dedication to the club was key.

Again, how does one get to be a Life Member? A few years ago, I was involved in writing a bylaw relative to Life Members and I asked that very question to senior club members who might have known. I got "shrugged shoulders," nobody seemed to know how it happened, it just did. I can recall at one monthly meeting a member brought up the name of another member who had done much for the club and recommended that they be made a Life Member. A vote was cast and Life Membership was given. A few years later Life Membership was given to another individual. There was no vote, and at the time I was on the board but was not consulted, it just happened. A few more years passed and we (the board) were trying to decide on the recipient of the Bob Heath award. We had two very deserving candidates and it was a tough decision. It was suggested that we give the award to one and give Life Membership to the other. Fortunately, it was recognized