

## CLASS OF 2018

### Tom Peters

In the early days of snowmobile racing here in northern New England, a few hardy souls stood above the rest as they displayed the skills needed to master the snowy ovals.

From 1967 until his retirement in 1976, Stockholm, Maine, native Tom Peters was one of the most successful to ever climb onto a sled. With an estimated 75 Final round wins (45 documented), Peters ruled the ovals around the entire region.

Among his many career highlights was a strong second-place finish in the 1970 Paul Bunyan Open in Bangor (easily Maine's biggest snowmobile race at that time) against the top factory-backed teams. Peters was the first recipient of the prestigious Red Buckingham Memorial Award for Best All-Around Driver. He also earned the Maritime Championship up in Woodstock, New Brunswick.

Peters' most memorable moment in racing came when he arrived at Bangor's historic Bass Park in 1970 with his first actual, built-for-racing snowmobile. He saw the factory-backed teams with their tractor-trailers full of sleds and spare parts, then looked at his own single sled on an open trailer. Finishing second in that Final brought not only a \$350 prize, but more pride than words can possibly describe.

Peters takes great pride in not only his accomplishments in racing, but in his wonderful family, as well. His wife of 54 years, Diane, daughters Jennifer, Lisa and Carmen, along with son Tom Jr., are his biggest sources of pride. He counts his five grandchildren among his many life blessings.

Tom Peters now holds the distinction of being the first-ever snowmobile racer to be inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame, joining five other deserving men who comprise the Class of 2018.

