

Patti Personnel Spotlight: Dave Foster

This month, Dave Foster celebrated a work anniversary – 21 years! He's legal! Dave was one of the first people to join the Patti Engineering Team back in 1995. Since then, he has moved from Controls Engineer to Senior Engineer, to Engineering Manager, and he is now VP of Engineering.

"Dave started at Patti Engineering when you could count the employees using one hand," said Sam Hoff, CEO of Patti Engineering. "He has contributed to our growth and development over the last 21 years and is an outstanding contributor to repeated success."



Dave describes his role as the "Pope of Patti Proposals." This writer had to laugh out loud at that -because it is true! Dave needs to bless every proposal – and everything in it as being accurate, profitable and reasonable – before it leaves our door. He is also a key player in company strategy, which means he is involved in managing sales, projects, personnel, marketing, and anything else that can come up.



While no one in the office is convinced that Dave actually stops working, he really does have many hobbies outside of work! "Pretty much everything I love to do today started with the close relationship I had with my dad until his death in 1996," Dave says. "Now my life revolves around sharing those passions with my wife and terrific two young sons." Those two main passions are boating and racing.

Dave's dad took a job in Grand Cayman when Dave was 10 years old. He grew up there, graduated from high school, and did an engineering coop there with Caribbean Utilities.

"Being on a little rock in the middle of the Caribbean Sea – you *have* to develop a love of the water," he says. "That is why boating from port to port throughout the beautiful Great Lakes is such a *huge* part of how our family spends our free time."



Dave's dad was a flagger at Merritt Speedway, a dirt track in northern Michigan. After moving to Grand Cayman, Dave and his dad would travel back to Michigan almost every summer to attend either an Indy Car or NASCAR race. During college at GMI (Kettering U), he was head Electrical Engineer and main driver in an early government program to create and "performance drive" a Hybrid Electric Vehicle. It was with that team at the 1995 North American International Auto Show where Dave met Sam and Patti.



Dave later partnered with another Patti teammate and got his SCCA road course racing license, racing a Mazda RX-7. But very soon, the racing bug was passed to the next generation. "Before you knew it, both my boys were the ones racing, and I was just crew chief. I haven't raced since, and have not regretted one second of it." His boys raced MMRA or quarter midget for about 5 years and even got to do a lap of the "Brickyard" – Indianapolis Motor Speedway in their race cars! Dave's oldest son won two Midwest regional championships last season and his son Evan will be racing a racing a full sized 400+HP stock car this year!