



Life Member – Dave Patton

Dave Patton joined SCCNH in the mid 1970's and quickly became one of a core of enthusiasts that formed the club at that time. I recall Dave having a sense of humor and an easy laugh. A story relayed by Drew Young tells of an early Ascutney event where in the evening Dave wandered into the woods, lost his glasses, fell down, and then, following the light of a campfire found his way back to the Campground. Once there he salvaged a hamburger that had been on the grill for a very long time and gobbled it down. Yum! Dave was a good friend of the club and brought a lot of color to the club events. It should be noted that Dave has been honored with both the Robert Heath Award (1981) and the David Erb Award (1993).

Dave was a regular competitor in all sorts of club events and often drove vehicles that could most politely be called interesting and almost always Dave's cars carried the number 21. In the pictures below you will note his cars carried a yellow and orange paint scheme, this was in honor of his dad and his uncle whose circle track race cars were painted in these colors. Although Dave raced in all kinds of events, probably one of his highlights was the Climb to the Clouds, Mt Washington hillclimbs, where Dave had many class wins or placings.

Not only a regular competitor Dave also chaired a number of events of all kinds and even as of this writing, chairs the annual "Turkey Rally" with his brother from a different mother, Drew young. Dave and Drew shared a number of adventures both within the club and also outside. One year Drew and Dave ran and were elected Co-Club Presidents running on the platform of "we're not doing anything." This was not the only time Dave held office as he has been elected to nearly all club offices. In the early-mid '80s the club was going through a financial rough spot and a meeting was called at Dave's family home to decide the future of the club. Dave, like the others, reached into his pocket to help come up with the money needed to keep the club going.

In the late '80s Dave, like a number of the 1970s core, started to get into wheel to wheel racing with the Sports Car Club of America. Even still, he remained active with the New Hampshire club often attending meetings and adding constructive input. When the New England Motorsports Museum was proposed in Loudon SCCNH took an interest in the project and so too did Dave, becoming a project manager. Along his life's journey Dave started an auto parts company which focused on parts for the Datsun 510. That company, FUTOFAB, sponsored the 2011 Auto-X series.

It is no wonder that with his passion for motorsports and his dedication to the club that Dave Patton was made a Life Member.



Written by Charlie Parsons 9/24