

# THE BEACON

*Beacon Technologies Quarterly Newsletter*



## Employee Success Story

### **Patrick Brick, Software Architect, Jewelers Mutual Insurance**

Working as a developer and a mathematics tutor for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Patrick fortunately had some experience prior to graduating. He earned his Bachelor in Computer Science, Software Engineering, and a minor in Mathematics in 2004. He then started his career as an IT consultant, at the bottom of the totem pole per say. As the years went on he put in a lot of extra work and training, jumping from role-to-role to gain the most breadth of experience and diversity of industries. Now he enjoys seeing technical solutions come to fruition and mentoring the younger generation.

#### Patrick's Favorite Project

"A recent one that comes to mind is when I had the opportunity to look into performance tuning a company's internet site. While doing that I stumbled on some very appealing capabilities of progressive web apps, mainly using service workers as administration bots in users browsers. It was a bit of an epiphany and now I'm an advocate; browsers have needed a mechanism like this forever. Even if you don't plan to leverage service workers immediately to control caching, or for anything else, it makes sense to install service workers on most web sites given the minimal effort - they will then already be available if you ever need them."

#### Family

Patrick is married to his wife, Danielle, and they have three children, Kaiden, Landon, and Norah. They also have two dogs, Brandi and Marley.

#### Hobbies

"Spending time with family and friends outdoors, cooking over fire, and swinging at little white balls with dimples."

#### Interesting Fact

Patrick is a State 9 ball pool contender.



## Trivia

In our last newsletter we asked if you could name Beacon's first client? We noted that we actually had three and they were CUNA, American Family Insurance and Great Lakes! Our winner is Mike Acord, who guessed American Family. Congrats!

This issue's question: How many billable consultants did Beacon have it's first month? Respond to Keegan O'Brien at [kobrien@beacontechinc.com](mailto:kobrien@beacontechinc.com) and the person that is the closest will win a \$25 Amazon gift card.

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## News & Reminders



### McGMO Charity Golf Event

Beacon is proud to sponsor the 22nd Annual McGMO Charity Golf Event on Friday, July 26 at Delbrook Golf Course in Delavan, WI. Proceeds of the event support the patients at the Aurora Cancer Care Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic in western Racine and Walworth counties.



### Referrals

We've got several full stack engineer openings and would consider salaried or hourly consultants. Remember, if you refer a candidate to Beacon, they are hired and stay with us for at least 90 days, Beacon will pay you \$1000 for the referral!

### 3rd Quarter Madison Consultant Care

Be on the lookout if you are in the Madison market for details on consultant care activities happening in the 3rd quarter. Info coming soon!

### Timber Rattler Game / Picnic



If you are in the Fox Cities/Green Bay/Oshkosh market, you should have received an invite to our July 18th gathering at Fox Cities Stadium for a picnic dinner and Timber Rattler baseball game for you and your family. Please RSVP by July 9th to Keegan O'Brien at kobrien@beacontechinc.com.



Some shots from the Madison Picnic in mid-June. See more photos on the Employee Portal or Facebook!



### Time Entry Tips / Reminders

As you know, we implemented an electronic time sheet solution several months ago. Now that we've been using it for a while, we have identified a few snags that have come up that I wanted to pass onto you to prevent them from happening going forward.

For most, the transition was an easy one, but there some problems here and there. Jean would like to thank everyone for their patience and help in working through the initial stages and getting everything up and running.

1. The time entry system is organized by week during entry. You can toggle between the weeks using the arrows at the top of the screen. If you are entering time for more than one week, you must hit submit prior to arrowing to another week or your entries will not be saved.
2. There has been some confusion when entering time because our pay periods are semi-monthly, but the time entry system is organized by week. Semi-monthly means that the pay period can start or end in the middle of a week. It is important to keep in mind that when time sheets are due, you need to be submitting time for the entire period. Pay periods are always the 1st through the 15th and the 16th through the Last Day of each month. There have been several occasions where those "straggler" days at the beginning or end of the pay period get missed. While the errors are eventually discovered, it results in having to send corrected invoices to the clients, which does not look good.
3. If you have trouble logging in, most often, using a different browser has resolved the problem.
4. The vast majority of you are very good about getting your time sheets in on time. However, there are a handful that are not. Billings to clients are due on the 16th and 1st of each month. Some of the clients have very strict policies and not getting invoices issued on time causes problems for both the client and Beacon. Please help eliminate these problems by submitting your time sheets on time.

## Employee Anniversaries

### July

Patrick Brick - 2 years  
Kathy Maglio - 2 years  
Philip Nelson - 2 years  
Krishna Chaithanya - 2 years  
Eric Schnell - 1 year  
Mike Saunders - 1 year  
Angela Williams - 1 year  
Michael Herman - 1 year

### August

Jeffrey Krueger - 20 years  
Nicholas Dipiazza - 7 years  
Tyler Erickson - 3 years  
Scott Fields - 3 years  
Barry Van Groll - 2 years  
Lalitha Choudry Chait - 2 years

### September

Dee Ott - 17 years  
Rebecca Rosenthal - 4 years  
Travis Crowe - 2 years  
Craig Wagner - 2 years  
Jean Burke - 1 year  
Sandra Holt - 1 year  
Kevin Ott - 1 year

# Hometown Features

We asked our team north of Madison and Milwaukee the question, "if someone was visiting your city or town and they only could do one thing while they are there, what would you tell them to do/see?"

Note: Click on logos to be taken to sites.



Not in Neenah, but make the drive to Oshkosh for EAA. There really is nothing like being close up to so many aircraft.

Tracey Ducat, Neenah

Not in Green Bay, but recommend taking a trip to see Door County and Washington Island.

Ashwini Devarapali, Green Bay



Catch a Timber Rattler game at Neuroscience Group Field.

Joella Elliott, Neenah

Hit up downtown Appleton: visit the shops, parks, restaurants, bars, museums, riverfront, etc. There are a ton of options.

Keegan O'Brien, Menasha



The one thing you need to do is catch a soccer match at Allianz Field. With a capacity of just 19,400, every seat in the stadium has a stellar view. Combine that with a 96 tap brew hall, a partial open air roof, and an electrifying atmosphere and you can't help but enjoy the game. The energy that the crowd brings to the games is intense. Don't forget to bring your scarf!

Chris Shouts, St. Paul (MN)

Go to Lambeau Field for a Packer game. Specifically, the game on September 15, 2019, to watch them beat the Minnesota Vikings! Sorry Chris.

Tom Morley, Green Bay



# Upcoming Events

Note: Click on logos or name for more details.

## MADISON

### Arts/Culture



### Music



### Sports



### Tech



## MILWAUKEE

### Arts/Culture



### Music



### Sports



### Tech



## FOX CITIES/ GREEN BAY/ OSHKOSH

### Arts/Culture



### Music



### Sports



### Tech

