



## REmarks

Chicago Region RE, Rick Bentson

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What do **YOU** want your club to be?

That's a question asked, in one form or another, by many people, from the Region's board of directors, to the National board and the paid staff in Topeka. There's a good chance that in the next few weeks we'll be sending you a survey asking some questions about what you like about the club, and what we can be doing better, as well as what activities you'd like to see added to the mix.

If you don't want to wait for a survey and want to let us know what would make Chicago Region more engaging and interesting, more fun for you, drop me a line at: [regionalexec@scca-chicago.com](mailto:regionalexec@scca-chicago.com). I'd love to hear what you think.

At the SCCA National Convention in February there was a lot of emphasis on making our club more attractive to new members and current members alike by making it easier to get started in the SCCA (lowering some of the hurdles like expense, licensing requirements, etc) and reducing some of the "bureaucracy". Several new programs were introduced, including Track Night in America – a weeknight evening PDX program that borrows heavily from our own existing PDX format, alternative routes to earning a Competition License, a Chumpcar-like enduro race format with minimal classing rules, and others. Really out-of-box thinking for staid old SCCA. How many of these new ideas come to fruition, and whether Chicago Region will offer them remains to be seen. But the fresh thinking alone is a new direction for the club leadership.

Spring has finally arrived! Thank god. I was beginning to think we'd be wearing snowsuits and shoveling snow off the racing surfaces for the first events of the season. It finally truly feels like the 2015 season is upon us.

Each year the SCCA selects several outstanding individuals for special recognition. This year, of the 8 awards given, 3 were presented to Chicago Region members:

**2014 PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNER - Andrew Longe** - Presented to the driver demonstrating ability, competitiveness and success at the National Championship Runoffs®. The winner is selected by the Stewards of the Meeting and the Chief Steward of the National Championship Runoffs. The inaugural presentation in 1954 was performed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

**2014 KIMBERLY CUP WINNER – Danny Bender** - Awarded to the SCCA driver who has shown the greatest improvement in the past year. Winner is selected by the Club Racing Board.

**2014 SCCA Mechanic of the Year - Al Varacins** – Awarded to the SCCA mechanic who embodies the spirit of the SCCA and success on the track. Winner is selected by the Club Racing Board.

Congratulations to Andrew, Danny and Al!

Don't forget about the next General Membership meeting – Wednesday, April 15, 7:00PM at K1 Speed indoor karting in Addison. We've got a very special guest speaker, Chicago Region's own Peter Calhoun – Motorsport Manager for Michelin North America and BFGoodrich Tires.

See you there!