



REmarks

Chicago Region RE, Rick Bentson

April 1, 2015

READY, SET – NO GO!

By now, I and a couple hundred other Chicago Region members were expecting to be completing final preparations for the first Chicago Region Solo event of the season, and making plans for events 2, 3 and 4. But for reasons beyond our control, that isn't happening. Long story short, our long-time Solo site, RT 66 Dragway in Joliet, may not be available to us any longer. Certainly not this spring, and if at all, probably not until late summer. Complicating the issue, RT 66 didn't let us know until late in the game, and now the few viable alternate sites that allow autocross events are already mostly booked.

In order to salvage something of a Solo season for Chicago Region we have to get creative, and perhaps be willing to travel. We may well be doing joint events with other regions and organizations or heading to places like Rantoul, IL. and Peru, IN.

On its face this is a disaster unfolding. But what I've seen in the past couple weeks reinforces my belief that Chicago Region has some truly tremendous members. Our Solo organizers and participants, led by Solo committee chairman Greg Meier and including Mike Razny, Bob Lindsay and others, are working as hard as they can to find alternate sites and arrange co-events with other groups. Meanwhile Ed Locke continues to work with RT 66 on availability.

An informal survey of our Solo competitors was very encouraging and showed their commitment to the region. When asked if they'd be willing to travel some distance to attend an event the response was not just an overwhelming "yes", but an overwhelming "hell, yes". Our members would rather drive a couple hours to compete in a Chicago region Solo event than stay closer to home and run with any of a number of other groups such as the Miata club, BMW club, etc.

By the way, if you know of a large chunk of asphalt, ideally about 500-600,000 square feet and without light poles or parking curbs, let us know. My email address is regionalexec@scca-chicago.com.

On an entirely different note, don't forget about the General Membership meeting this month – 7PM April 15th at K1 Speed Indoor Karting in Addison (Army Trail Rd. just west of I355). Pete Calhoun, Manager of Motorsports for BF Goodrich/Michelin will be our guest speaker. If you'd like to know more about race tires, Solo tires or high-performance street tires, Pete's the guy to ask. A Solo competitor himself, Pete knows wherefore he speaks.

If you don't know by now, the 60th consecutive running of the June Sprints is this year, June 12-14 at Road America. Registration is now open at: <http://msreg.com/junesprints2015>

The June Sprints is the longest continuously held road racing event in North America. This year's event is going to be something special. If you haven't been, be sure to get there. If you've never volunteered to help at a road racing event, register and go. You'll be glad you did!