



REmarks

Chicago Region RE, Rick Bentson

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The 2015 Chicago Region June Sprints are now officially added to the 60 years of rich history of the Sprints, and I couldn't be more proud. Proud of all the Chicago Region members who have worked so hard for months before race weekend to get every last detail planned and organized so that everything went off without a hitch.

Proud of the 250+ volunteers who showed up on race weekend to ensure that from start to finish all ran smoothly; that drivers, crew and volunteers got registered, that race cars were safe and legal, that cars were directed to the proper area before going out on track, that starting lineups were lined up correctly, that cars were timed and scored accurately, that they didn't violate sound rules, that the drivers were watched over while on track and warned of issues ahead, that disabled cars (and drivers) were promptly moved to safety, that disputes were resolved, and finally, that the post-race podium ceremonies were not only the best in all of amateur racing, but rivaled many pro podium ceremonies.

Add to that having David Hobbs serving as Grand Marshal, Randy Owens artwork on event T-shirts, posters and the program cover (the best Sprints program in years, in my opinion), both Hobbs and Owens available to autograph said items, a vintage car display in the paddock, over \$80,000 in cash and merchandise awarded to racers, and the fact that between Friday and Saturday nights we served over 850 dinners to volunteers, drivers and crew, there's no disputing the June Sprints is the best event on the SCCA calendar. Like we say, "it's not just another race™". Proud indeed. Thank you to everyone who made it happen.

Oh, and if you weren't there to hear David Hobbs speak at dinner on Saturday, well, you missed David Hobbs.

The only thing outside our control was the weather, so of course it didn't cooperate. From Wednesday evening when people starting arriving for Thursday's practice day until Sunday morning it rained. The precipitation varied from a light sprinkle to monsoon, but rarely did it let up completely. In spite of this we managed to stay on schedule. Kudos to the operating stewards, safety crews and everyone involved in keeping things moving along, and to the drivers, who (mostly) kept it between the lines.

One more thing. If your cable or satellite provider offers MAVTV, watch the listings in August - September for an episode of Motorsports Roadshow featuring the June Sprints.

The second PDX Track Day event of the season took place Friday, June 26th and guess what? It rained. Despite the steady rain 49 cars took to the South course at Autobahn Country Club in 3 run groups. There were very few off-track excursions, one of the more surprising (and humorous) being Chief Instructor Erik Vandermeij's lazy spin at 13 in his Miata. Erik is secure enough in his manhood to have posted the video to Youtube. As the saying goes, "do as I say, not as I do".

Next up for PDX is the Grand Subaru invitational on July 12. This event is open only to Instructors and invited guests of Grand Subaru, who has hosted the event for 4 years now as a thank you to customers and employees. If you've instructed at a PDX or other HPDE event, or have some track experience and want to instruct we could use your help. Contact registrar Linda Novak at pdx-reg@scca-chicago.com.

Following the Grand Subaru event is our annual joint Chicago/Milwaukee region full-day PDX/Club Trials event at Blackhawk Farms on July 20. The day consists of 6 sessions for each run group – about 2 hours total track time, and your entry fee includes lunch. If you like you can rent a transponder and get lap times for your sessions. Registration is open now at <http://www.motorsportreg.com/orgs/scca/chicago/pdx>

Solo events 3 and 4 took place on June 6-7 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Grayslake. Any guesses on the weather? It rained, but only on Sunday. Saturday's weather was beautiful, one of the few dry days in the month of June. Nearly 100 drivers turned out each day to tackle a pair of challenging courses. Greg Meier did a great job pulling this one together (with assists from Mike Razny and many others). Saturday's course, in the dry, was about a 50-second course, only about 10 seconds less than on the much larger Rt 66 pavement. Again, another "new" venue for Chicago Region – unless you were around in the 1970's, as veteran Rick Ruth reminded me.

Next up for Solo is event# 5 on July 19th, again at Lake County fairgrounds. Want to go? Register at <http://register.scca-chicago.com/> or just show up on the 19th and check it out. The Fairgrounds has some nice viewing berms overlooking the course.

Aside from all the Chicago Region events happening in July, The Hawk Vintage Races at Road America are coming up on July 16-19 and Milwaukee Region hosts the Cat Majors race, also at Road America, on July 25-26. Ah yes, gotta love the summertime and all the motorsports happenings. Now, if we can only have a little more Chicago and a little less Seattle.

See you at the races,

Rick Bentson