



REmarks

Chicago Region RE, Rick Bentson

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Randy Owens painting raffle. If you are into racing, you probably already own at least one piece of Randy Owens art in one form or another – a tee shirt, hat or maybe a limited edition print. Randy Owens' bright colors and fluid lines have captured the beauty and speed of racing for a generation of fans, and have inspired and influenced countless other artists.

Now you have a chance to own a piece of Chicago Region and June Sprints History. Chicago Region is raffling the original Randy Owens artwork for the 60th June Sprints.

Only 200 raffle tickets will be sold, at a price of \$25.00 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased on Motorsportsreg.com. The winner will receive the artist-signed original Randy Owens artwork commemorating the 60th consecutive running of the Chicago Region June Sprints, which was used on the cover of the 2015 June Sprints program, as well as on a limited edition 60th June Sprints poster and on tee-shirts given to workers at the 2015 June Sprints.

As a bonus, in addition to the original artwork the winner will also receive one copy of the limited-edition 2015 June Sprints poster, personally signed by Randy Owens, and a 2015 June Sprints program.

It isn't often (if ever) you get the chance to own a Randy Owens ORIGINAL artwork for just \$25.00! Give yourself, a friend or significant other the Christmas gift of a lifetime. Buy 1 or buy 10, there's no limit to the number of tickets you can purchase. Heck, buy all 200 – you're still getting a deal! And unlike the Illinois lottery, the winner WILL receive the prize!

Purchase tickets here:

<http://msreg.com/2015ROArt>

The winner will be announced at the Chicago Region Checkered Flag banquet on Feb. 6, 2016.

The 2015 season has now been wrapped up, with our last club race, last 3 Solo events and FIRST tour event all taking place in October. As we put our toys away for the winter (except for those of questionable sense and great tolerance for cold weather who are making their plans for the ice racing season) it's time to recap our last few events and look back on the 2015 Chicago Region season.

The Kettle Moraine Double Divisional race was held at Road America on October 10-11 and for October in Wisconsin; the weather wasn't near as bad as it could have been. In fact, Sunday was downright pleasant. Meanwhile the racing was red hot. Close to 100 entrants took to the track and put on a real show. Several races were decided by less than 1-second, a couple by a small fraction of that. In one of the most exciting races of the weekend, Chicago Region member Jim Marinangel came from more than 6-seconds behind with a half-dozen laps remaining to take the win in Spec Racer Ford Gen3 by less than .1 seconds on Saturday. It was truly one of the best drives I've seen in quite a while.

The Solo season also wrapped up in October with the final 3 events of the year. Approximately 80 entrants came out on October 11 and again on October 24, and about 125 entrants were on hand for the finale on October 25. All 3 events were held at RT66 Dragway in Joliet, our first visit to that venue this season. Once again the weather cooperated (for the most part), and also once again, the contract for the site was signed just days before the first of the 3 events. Like the Kettle race the competition was intense, with several class championships going down to the last day. On Saturday of the Twin weekend a cookout was held under the stands of the dragstrip. Roughly 30 people stuck around in admittedly cooler-than-comfortable temperatures to enjoy hot dogs, brats and beverages. Many thanks to Greg Meier, Meghan Nealis and all those who helped put the cookout together. And more thanks than I know how to convey to

Greg and the entire Solo board and committee for sticking in there and pulling together an 8-event season seemingly out of thin air when we lost our long-time site just before the season was to begin.

The Rocky Waters Tour took place on Sunday, October 18 with about 30 participants gathering at the starting point in McHenry bright and early on a chilly but clear morning. At 9:00 am the tour started, with a parade of Corvettes, Audis, Porsches, a Fiat 500 Abarth, Mini Cooper and others heading out of town and heading west on the backroads of northern Illinois, heading toward the Mississippi river and the Rocky Water Winery. The weather was perfect for a late-fall cruise through the countryside, and just over 3 hours after leaving McHenry we arrived at the winery, where lunch and a wine-tasting awaited. It was a wonderful, relaxing day of driving, enjoying our cars and dining with friends old and newly-met. Thanks to Steve Laske for organizing the tour and John Sutton for mapping out the route. I hear they are already working on the next tour, which rumor has it will end at a brewery. Look for it to take place in the spring before the competition season starts. If you missed the first tour, plan to make the second.

The October General Membership meeting was held on Wednesday, October 21 at the K1 Speed indoor karting facility in Addison. The October meeting is Chicago Region's annual business meeting and board of director's election. For the board of directors, Steve Laske and Jack Novak, both of whom had been appointed to fill vacancies on the board within the past few months, were elected to 3-year terms. Erik Vandermey will be joining the board as a newly-elected director, replacing Bob Stone who has served 2 consecutive terms on the board and must step down due to term limits as specified by our by-laws.

Other items in the annual business meeting included a recap of each of our club's activities and a financial report presented by Treasurer Clair Ball. In short, the Region is financially sound and strong, despite challenges in both Solo and Club Racing. The Solo season saw 2 new venues, and every event came together last-minute, limiting entries. Club Racing has challenges to address as both our Divisional races showed financial losses. Meanwhile our PDX program saw its best season ever, with an average of 54 entries per event, up by 10 from last year. Overall the Region will lose about \$10,000 this year, in line with what we expected. While financial losses cannot continue year-after-year, our cash reserves are such that we can weather an occasional poor year. Challenges for next year include stabilizing the Solo schedule and figuring out how to align revenues with expenses for the Fall Sprints and Kettle race weekends.

Entertainment at the meeting was a showing of the documentary film "Winning: The Racing Life of Paul Newman". If you haven't seen this film I urge you to find it and treat yourself. The archival race footage is great, and you'll likely learn a few things about Paul Newman's racing history that will surprise and amaze.

At the conclusion of the annual meeting the board of directors met in Executive Session for a short meeting, at which the board officers for 2016 were elected from among the 9 board members. All 3 incumbents were re-elected to their offices. For 2016 your Chicago Region board officers are Tracy Ramey – Secretary, Claire Ball – Treasurer, and Rick Bentson- Regional Executive.

The checkered Flag Dinner will be our next scheduled event, on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016. Once again it will be held at Rick Mancuso's Lake Forest Sportscars in Lake Bluff. Like previous banquets at Lake Forest Sportscars, we will again be dining on the showroom floor among the Ferrari, Maserati, Aston Martin, McLaren and Lotus cars. Look for registration to open soon on Motorsportsreg.com. I hope to see you all there!

See you at the races!

Rick Bentson
Regional executive