



REmarks

Chicago Region RE, Rick Bentson

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Let's clear up something right now – the 2016 June Sprints **WILL** be a Majors race. Many of you noticed (and commented) on the fact the June Sprints wasn't listed when the 2016 Majors race schedule was announced by the National office a month ago, and is also missing from the Majors schedule published in the current Sportscar magazine.

A bit of background will explain why. In the past, when there were Regional and National races, all a region needed to do to get a sanction from Topeka was send in a sanction request along with a copy of the Supplemental Regulations for the race. With the advent of Majors races Topeka now requires a formal contract be signed between the region and the national office for any Majors race. The contract spells out what each party is responsible to provide and to do, how the event will be operated, and what fees the region will pay to National (yes, there are significant fees each region pays to Topeka for the privilege of hosting a Majors race. Drivers – did you know that \$70.00 of your entry fee goes to Topeka as a “Majors Assessment Fee”?).

Like any contract, there are negotiations that take place to ensure the terms are satisfactory to both parties before the contract is signed. The June Sprints, being a unique event in that long before the Majors concept existed Chicago Region has provided many of the items the National office now provides at other Majors races (trophies, victory podium ceremonies, etc), requires a bit longer to negotiate. This year, Topeka elected to hold off on announcing Majors races at locations for which those contracts were not completed, and since Topeka sent out their first draft of the contract just 3 days before they announced the 2016 schedule, there was no way it was going to be completed and signed before the announcement.

The good news is that the contract is essentially complete and should be signed, sealed and delivered by the end of this week, and the SCCA national website now has the June Sprints listed on the 2016 Majors race schedule.

FUN Committee – one thing Chicago Region does extremely well is organize and operate events. Whether it's Solo, PDX or Club Racing, Chicago Region members put on well-run, fair and efficient events. Nothing affirms that more than the Club Racing Majors series, which anyone in the National office will admit was patterned after the June Sprints, an event Chicago Region has been hosting for 60 years.

What we aren't very good at is the fun factor. We concentrate on the competition but don't pay much attention to the non-competitive aspects; the social side of the club. Be it at an event or as a stand-alone social activity, in recent years Chicago Region has fallen short on providing an engaging and entertaining experience for our members.

To address this, we've started a new committee, appropriately named the Fun Committee. The committee's statement of purpose is:

“... to develop programs and events that increase participation and social connection among the region's members and draw new members to the club. The committee will plan and organize events that are mainly social in nature and will advise other committees on way to add a social aspect to their programs. We will help make membership in SCCA Chicago Region even more fun.”

The current members of the committee are primarily the same group that put together the June Sprints 60th celebrations, including Peg & Claire Ball, Steve Laske, Jack & Linda Novak, George Laws, Bob Stone, Dennis Bednar, Dorn Lynch, and Joann Bentson. If you are interested in helping out, or have any suggestions for social activities, contact any of the committee members or send an email to: cluboffice@scca-chicago.com.

2016 Solo Season – trust me, we are working diligently to prevent a repeat of 2015 for the upcoming Solo season. Now that we know what the situation is with our long-time site at RT 66 dragway we are working to put together the 2016 season well in advance so that we can return to some stability in the Solo schedule. There is a possibility of returning to RT 66 for both the beginning and end of the season, as well as returning to the Caterpillar plant in Aurora and the Lake County Fairgrounds. Teaser – there might even be another new venue on the schedule next year! Stay tuned for announcements as the schedule is put together.

Checkered Flag banquet – Registration for the 2015 Chicago Region Checkered Flag banquet is now open on Motorsportsreg.com. Once again the banquet will be held at Lake Forest Motorcars. Join us in celebrating the 2015 season and dine among the Ferraris, Aston Martins and other exotics at Lake Forest Motorcars. And don't forget to purchase your Randy Owen art raffle ticket. Special pricing is available when you purchase a raffle ticket with your banquet registration. Additional raffle tickets are available for \$25 each. Register at: <http://msreg.com/2015CheckeredFlag>

This month's featured board member - is Dorn Lynch. Dorn has been a member of SCCA since 1981. He was elected to the Chicago Region board of directors in 2012, then re-elected to a second 3-year term in 2015. Having participated in the Starting Line school (then held in the Soldier Field parking lot), Dorn participated in various Solo events and eventually began working Club Races as a Tech Inspector. In 1986 the "racing bug" took over and Dorn began racing an Alpha Romeo Giulia Sprint in F Production, a car he would continue to race until 2004.

During that time Dorn also served as Editor for the Piston Patter newsletter (which at that time was printed and mailed to Chicago Region members). He continued to provide Tech inspections and participated in many other areas of Club Racing operations.

In 2004 Dorn joined the Steward's program and works today as a National-level Steward and Director of Safety for the Central Division as well serving on the Chicago Region board.

Dorn is a CPA and owner of Ovation Tax Technologies, which provides process and technology support for corporate tax departments.

I hope you all had a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in February at the Checkered Flag banquet.

See you at the races!

Rick Bentson
Regional Executive