

Chicago Region, SCCA Piston Patter Newsletter March 2022

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Dear George,

Welcome to the March 2022 Piston Patter Newsletter. The **Quick Links** on the left will allow you to easily connect to the Region website for detailed information on the various Region activities.

If you have any event or personal interest articles for the Newsletter, please contact Peg Ball at 815-679-6780.

2022 Event Calendar

March 19, 2022

Spring Training Best Western, Milw

March 20, 2022

Solo Banquet Emmitt's, Downes Grove

April 2-3, 2022

Learning Curve Solo Driving School Rt 66 Raceway

April 8-9, 2022

CenDiv Drivers School Double Divisional Blackhawk Farms

May 7, 2022

Spring Tour Wisconsin Roads

2022 Chicago Region Board of Directors

Roger Vilmur – Region Executive	847-359-7624
Anthony Serrecchia - Assist RE	847-997-4845
Linda Novak – Secretary	847-934-3905
Ed Locke – Treasurer	630-853-2144
Michael Varacins – Activities	847-571-4502
Chris Gregor – Solo	630-661-7167
Peter LeSueur - Nominations Committee	630-569-5026
Steve Greenhill -At Large	847-727-0999
Rick Bentson - At Large	708-289-5254

Ed Locke – Competition 630-853-2144 Anthony Serrecchia - Track Days 847-997-4845 Michael Varacins -Tours & Rallies 847-571-4502 Linda Novak – Communications 847-934-3905 Linda Novak – Social Media 847-934-3905

In Memorial to Bob Stone

May 27, 2022 First track Day Event Autobahn

June 17-19, 2022 June Sprints Road America To remember the long hours Bob Stone gave to Chicago Region and SCCA as a whole, his family and the Region suggest giving a donation to the SCCA Foundation to help them with the work they do with Education & Safe Driving Programs for teens, recognizing excellence in automotive engineering & keeping the SCCA club history and archives.

Donations can be sent to: SCCA Foundation, 6620 SE Dwight St, Topeka, KS 66619

RE Marks

New Board Member

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Rick Bentson to the Board replacing Bob Stone who passed away earlier this year. Rick is a well-known club member as a former board member and Regional Executive. Rick is also active in the competition committee and the track events committee as well as being a volunteer worker for both. Welcome back Rick.

Spring Training

Cen/Div will be holding their annual Spring Training event on March 19 in Milwaukee. This is a great opportunity for workers at all levels to get up to speed on the lastest changes in your road racing specialty or what's going on in Solo, and Track Days/Time Trials.

Also, there are four National Staff guests scheduled to appear at this year's training;

Mike Cobb - President and CEO of SCCA

Chris Robbins - Director of Member and Region Services

John Hunter – Time Trials Program manager

Jon Krolewicz - Senior Manager of Regional Track Program Development

To register, click **HER**E

2022 National Convention

For those of you that missed the virtual SCCA National Convention, replays of the sessions are now available through your Member Account Portal under the My Learning Menu. Check it out. https://my.scca.com

Driver's School / Double Divisional Weekend

April 8-10, 2022 will be the first race weekend in the division at Blackhawk Farms with a Driver's School on Friday and Saturday morning. That will be followed by a double divisional race weekend.

If you are a driver looking to get your SCCA competition license, this is the place to get it. For licensed drivers this is the weekend to get the rust off. The Annual Tech Inspection will be available this weekend and I encourage you to take advantage of it. During the May Majors only participants for the test day will have this available to them.

Lastly, 2 division series will be kicked off, the SRF Gen2 Series and the Rust Belt IT Series

To register, click **HERE**

2023 Board of Directors Nomination Committee

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The board is already thinking about 2023. According to our by-laws the board is required to present to the membership a proposed board of directors nomination committee by the April general membership meeting. This committee will select 3 members of the club to serve a 3-year term on the 9 member board. The board is currently looking for members who are active in the club and willing to serve on the committee. If you are one of these members and would like to serve on the nomination committee, please contact one of the board members.

2022 Checkered Flag Party February 19, 2022

This year the event had a new venue: The Klairmont Kollection Car Museum in Chicago. Those that attended had a full evening of socializing, over 300 cars to enjoy, appetizers & beverages, jazz trio entertainment, and a buffet dinner. The hit of the evening was the wide array of cars including classics, race cars, and a wide collection of very rare cars. Everyone enjoyed the time to stroll through the museum. Yearend Region awards were given out after dinner and the award recipients listed below.



For those that did not attend this years Checkered Flag party, we would highly recommend you visit the Klairmont Kolletion museum, 3117 N Knox Chicago, IL 60641 This was a private collection that is now open to the public Thursday through Sunday. For information, visit the Klairmont Kollection website.

Chicago Region SCCA
REcognition Award
Chris Gregor

Chicago Region is strong and vital because of its members. When a situation occurs that requires extra effort and caring we know inherently that we can rely on our

membership. When one of those situations arose one of our super stars not only said "I am here" but was "here" for many months.

Chris took the initiative to help a member, Bob Stone, when Bob could no longer provide what was required. Bob's medical challenges required transportation and physical assistance. Chris provided that ongoing assistance.

Bob can no longer express his overwhelming thank you to Chris and that is where we come in. I ask our fellow Region members to join me in recognizing Chris for what he did and who he is.

In appreciation for his spirit of helpfulness and profound caring within the Chicago Region community I am pleased to present **Chris Gregor** with the Chicago Region's REcognition award.

Chicago Region Sports Car Club of America 2021 Track Days Person of the Year

George Laws

The Chicago Region SCCA Track Days program has grown into a vital part of the region's activities because of the hard work of a group of dedicated volunteers who are passionate about high-performance driving and driver development. Our Track Days Person of the Year for 2021 is one of the most skilled, committed, and forward-thinking of the group.

George has been instrumental in the implementation and continued success of our Track Days. His decades of experience as a driver, worker, and administrator have been critical to the safety and fun afforded by our events. He is a loyal worker that can, and will, take on every role at our events from tech inspection to chief steward.

He is supportive of our time trials program and has helped with its integration into our road race weekends.

George's respect and concern for volunteers and participants ensures that all drivers are safe, comfortable on track, enjoying themselves and advancing their skills. By example, as a driver and worker, he shows participants how to have fun with cars.

In appreciation of his outstanding service and dedication, Chicago Region SCCA is pleased to recognize George Laws as its 2021 Track Days Person of the Year.

The Chicago Region Sports Car Club of America 2021 Dave Morrell Worker of the Year

Roger Vilmur

At the age when most start to wind down our recipient was just getting started. Attending Spring training to find out what we were all about, becoming a corner worker, getting involved

in Track Events, and election to the Board of Directors he quickly progressed from "finding out" to being an integral part of the success of Chicago Region and SCCA.

We often ask a great deal of our members and try to draw on their talents and background to achieve our goals. Some attempts are met with resistance some are monumental successes. Look no further for an example of a monumental success than that provided by Roger.

When the Chicago and Milwaukee Regions were faced with replacement of a major asset Roger did not hesitate to volunteer his expertise. Because of his dedication the process of identifying needs, reviewing system capabilities, sourcing correct equipment, and purchasing a new radio system for Road Racing was completed.

Chicago Region SCCA honors Roger Vilmur for a job well done.

Chicago Region Sports Car Club of America 2021 "Berdie" Martin Member of the Year Award

Sue Green

When you think of the "Berdie" Martin Member of the Year, you think of people who year after year performed great service to the Region. For over 35 years our recipient has served and represented our region well.

Volunteering at all levels of events from Driver's School to the June Sprints to the National Championship Runoffs, along with pro events along the way. She initially served our club taking care of those in need, as an Emergency Services volunteer. However, in recent years, this person is known for another specialty.

You don't get a second chance to make a first impression and that first impression is registration. For the last decade, our Member of the Year has been the Chief Registrar for Chicago Region's biggest event - the June Sprints.

Beginning months before the event, sorting out license and driver issues, addressing the large list of participants questions, and organizing the last-minute items. Registration is always ready to open as scheduled at the track, and our Member of the Year leads her formidable team with smiling faces, ready to make that great first impression for all, customers-drivers, volunteers, prep shops, sponsors, and special guests. Whether handling late registrations, working with Topeka on membership issues or soothing bruised egos she strives to ensure a successful event.

Chicago Region, SCCA is proud to announce 2021 "Berdie "Martin Member of the Year **Sue Green.**

Chicago Region, Sports Car Club of America 2021Founders Award

Beau Martin

In his thirty-seven years of active involvement with Chicago Region and the Sports Car Club of America Beau's dedication and hard work to the Region and sport exemplify the standards for the Founders Award.

His efforts as principle of Elite Motorsports are well documented. Less documented are his tireless efforts includes serving on the Competition Committee, Nominating Committee, financial support of volunteers and competitors and always the first person to show the way that SCCA can be an integral part of a future in motorsport.

His endless hours of effort for the Region provide current and future members with a benchmark to measure their success.

Beau achieved the values that the Founders of Chicago Region set for members. The Chicago Region Board of Directors and prior recipients are very pleased with this selection.

Chicago Region SCCA General Membership Meeting March 16, 2022 7:00 pm

K1 Speed, 2381 E. Army Trail Rd, Addison, IL

Guest Speaker – Mike Kertscher President and General Manager of Road America.





Mark your calendar, save the date, and please join us for the Chicago Region SCCA Membership Meeting on Wednesday March 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Mike Kertscher · President and General Manager of Elkhart Lake's Road America. Mike will share with us the latest news from Road America on the exciting 2022 racing schedule, and what's new at the track. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to visit with Mike and hear firsthand what's coming this year.

Also, at this meeting we will be acknowledging our members that have reaching milestone membership years, and those members serving on Region Committees. Your participation and dedication is truly valued and we would like to recognize our members with a small token of our appreciation. The Chicago Region is fortunate to have many loyal and hard-working members. Your support of the Region is important to our continued success. We hope you can attend to be honored for your years of membership and dedication and support.

Please register with MSR so that we know how many will be attending: click <u>HERE</u>

2022 CenDiv Spring Training Seminar March 19, 2022

Training is only 6 weeks away.; and your spring training team has been working feverishly to get all the pieces in place for 2022. Expect a full day of training, fun and camaraderie.

Registatation is now open to all.

It will be held at the Bestwestern Milwaukee - Airport. Breakfast and Lunch is included Remember that road racing regions pay your entry fee.

Many volunteer specialties (F&C, Registration, Tech, T&S and Stewards) along with Rally Cross, Solo and General sessions presented by members of the National staff.

To Register, click **HERE**

We look forward to seeing you there. Your Spring Training team.

Solo Report

The Chicago Region Solo Board thanks Mike Razny for his years of service to the club as board member. He stepped down as Solo Chair at the conclusion of 2021. We thank you, Mike. The Solo board nominated Chris Perry as new Solo Chair and we wish him well. We also welcome Brian McGreevy to the Solo board for 2022 as one of our directors. Returning to our Solo board of directors we have Kati Bianchi, Chris Gregor and Drew Tonnesen. We thank you all for your efforts to lead the club into the new year.

Save the dates April 2nd-3rd!!! The Learning Curve will be making a return in 2022! This is Chicago Region SCCA's two-day Autocross school held at RT66 Raceway in Joliet Illinois. Learn from the best in our region what the sport of Autox is, and how to get up to SPEED! If you know someone that has an interest in motorsports, please encourage them to sign up. We also need YOU, our seasoned veterans to volunteer to instruct, coach, teach and help run the fun filled Chicago SCCA racing school. You will be rewarded with lunch both days thanks to K&M Magnetics. Sunday, the school is run like a real event. All volunteers will get to run their car on course.

Lastly, please sign up for the Solo year end awards banquet March 20th. This year we will be returning to Emmetts in Downers Grove. We have raffle prizes and a door prize along with the 2021 season class and PAX awards presentation. We hope you can join us for a night of good food and drinks with great friends and better bench racing. Registration link below.

To register for the Solo Award Banquet, click **HERE**

<u>2022 Learning Curve – 2 Day Autocross School</u> Organized by: <u>SCCA - Chicago Region - Autocross</u>

Sat, Apr 2 - Sun, Apr 3, 2022

Rt. 66 Raceway Joliet, IL

About this event The Learning Curve is a bit different than the average autocross event. The goal with this 2-Day Instructional Course is to get folks who are new to racing to be more comfortable with the process and nuances so they can be more focused on racing and having fun while at the race. An autocross can be a stressful day if you aren't prepared, and by the end of this weekend you will be ready for pretty much anything that could come your way on race day.

Learn how to race your car on a closed race course with personal instruction. Autox or Solo racing is the sport of racing against the clock on a race course made of small orange traffic cones. The goal being to navigate the course in the shortest amount of time possible without knocking down any of the cones or deviating from the course which would be known as a DNF or did not finish. You race one at a time, this is not wheel to wheel racing. The best instructors in the area will give you one-on-one instruction in your car and get you up to speed! How to attack the day from the beginning to end. We will teach you the basics of the sport including how to prepare your car and yourself for the day and also how to work the course. What to expect the day of the event from registration through the trophy ceremony. No matter where you attend an Autocross event, you will be well prepared after having attended the Learning Curve.

Saturday Schedule:

8:00am to 8:45am Registration and Check-in (if there is room for Walk-ups, please plan to be here at 8:00 to sign-up

9:00am to 5:00pm School

We will have a lunch break midday. Lunch will be provided.

Sunday Schedule:

7:00am to 7:30am Arrive early, get car ready, find your instructor

7:00am to 8:50am Walk Course with your instructor

8:30am to 8:50pm Check In/Work Assignment

9:00am Driver's meeting

We will have a lunch break midday. Lunch will be provided.

We typically finish up around 5:00pm but there is potential variability in this.

Entry Fees: \$160 for Chicago Region SCCA Member Early Registration (closes two days before event at midnight)

\$175 for Non-Member Early Registration (closes two days before event at midnight) -- Cost Includes SCCA Weekend Membership Free - For Chicago Region SCCA Members who are willing to volunteer their time to help facilitate the event for *BOTH* days.

If you are not a Chicago Region SCCA Member and elect for one of the non member options - you will be given a form at the event that will entitle you to a discount off annual membership for the cost incurred for your weekend membership.

To register: click <u>HERE</u> Instructors, please use this same MRS link.







CenDiv Drivers School CenDiv Championship Double Divisional - Double Points Event Race SRF Gen2 Series Race Rust Belt IT Series Race SCCA Runoffs qualifying event! Sanction #22 & 22

Blackhawk Farms Raceway

This event is co-hosted by Chicago, Milwaukee, Blackhawk Valley and Land O' Lakes Regions.

Featureing a complete SCCA Driver School program starting on Thursday evening and running through Saturday morning, and full SCCA Regional Races on Saturday and Sunday.

Drivers, Crew and Guests MUST arrive during posted registration hours in order to be allowed onto the property - The track will NOT be making exceptions!

Registration check -in hours are: Thursday 5:30-7:00pm Friday 7:00am - 11:30am & 6:00pm-8:30pm

Saturday 7:00am - 3:00pmSunday 7:00am - 12:30pm

Event requirements

If you wish to pay by paper check, please download the entry packet here, or request one by contacting the registrar:

Kathey Beimel Chief Registrar

2616 Luedke Ct Sheboygan, WI 53083-4716

Phone: (920) 377-1926 (No Fax Entries as this is a cell phone) Calls taken after 5pm M-F or leave a message for a return call Email: regkatscca@gmail.com Subject line: Drivers school 2022

For detailed event information and to register: click **HERE**

On the Green Stuff

It is Saturday! -- It is Sunny! -- It is 50 degrees!

Can racing be far away?

The Chicago Region Competition Committee, Specialty Chiefs and Volunteers are making plans for another wonderful season. It is time for all of us to get our "stuff" ready for the race

weekends. Prior to the Driver's School/Double Divisional at Blackhawk Farms on April 8th, 9th & 10th how about a little tune up. The CenDiv Spring Training will be a held Saturday March 19th. This year it will be live and in person.

Watch SCCA-Chicago.com and CENDIV-SCCA.org for details

If you have a desire to learn more about the inner working of how a Race Event is conducted. The Chicago Region will conduct a whirlwind tour of "the green stuff" with emphasis on brief explanations of each area necessary to stage a race event. We will provide answers to your questions, introductions to volunteers and drivers and plenty of time to watch real racing, as they say, UPCLOSE & PERSONAL

To be included please contact the:

Chicago Region Office at: Cluboffice@scca-chicago.com or call 847-729-2211.

Flagging & Communications

If you are a fan of road racing, and want to be closer to the action, Flagging & Communications (Corner Worker) is something you should try! As with many of the volunteer positions within SCCA, the training is free and will be provided by experienced F&C workers.

Corner workers are crucial to the safe operation of racing events - they help to protect racers by providing notice of any hazards that may lie ahead. With the use of a variety of flag colors, they communicate to the racers about changes to track conditions ahead of them or warning of faster cars that may be coming up behind them. With the varied speed differentials in multiple class races in sports car racing, this communication becomes even more vital.

This may be a White Flag to signify a slow moving vehicle (race or safety vehicle); Blue to signify that they should check their mirrors for faster vehicles that are approaching behind them; Black which tells them they are to report to pit lane, or Red which requires drivers to stop as soon as safely possible as there is a track condition ahead that warrants immediate attention by emergency crews.

And then there are Yellow Flags which have several meanings, depending on how the flag is being displayed. When stationary, it tells the driver of an incident ahead that is off the racing surface; if waving, the flag signifies the incident remains on the racing surface. Waving Yellow can also identify that an emergency crew is working at an incident. Then there are times where 2 Yellow flags are displayed which is for full course Yellow. This may be in conjunction with a safety vehicle leading the racers as they proceed around the course.

Corner workers also communicate with the control tower. This is done by radio communication, providing information including the corner identification, flag condition, and a description of what has taken place. This may be something that occurred and is now cleared or a race car(s) that may still be at the station. It may be a call to provide a racing vehicle condition (such as a mechanical issue), contact between vehicles, or racing surface changes. It provides the information in order for the control tower to make decisions for corner workers and other support personnel to begin additional track activities such dispatching emergency workers to a scene or for tech personnel to review a racing vehicle for mechanical issues.

Corner workers need to be alert at all times as a racing incident can happen in split seconds. The workers safety and the safety of racers are an utmost importance. A corner worker may be needed to assist a driver in getting back on track or provide necessary feedback to control that emergency workers are needed. And since the racing continues no matter if the sun is shining or rain dampens the racing surface, workers need to be prepared for all weather conditions.

Although our primary racing activities are at SCCA events, we are also asked to perform these tasks for other Racing Sanctions such as Indy Car & IMSA. These sanctions have additional or modified requirements that the corner workers must follow.

Hopefully this provides an awareness of what F&C responsibilities are. If you have an interest in being close to the racing action, consider becoming a member of the Flagging & Communications team. If you have any questions or just want to learn more about this SCCA aspect contact Jeff Reglin, the Chicago Region F&C Regional Administrator. (reglinj55@gmail.com).

Chicago Region SCCA Spring Tour May 7, 2022

Get Out and Tour Series (G.O.A.T.S.)

The Chicago Region SCCA is planning our spring tour focused on great driving roads in southern Wisconsin. John Sutton our Rally/Tour master has already mapped out the tentative route and has found a local brewery for our end point. So mark your calendar (**Saturday May 7, 2022**) and make plans to join us for another enjoyable day on the best backroads drive available. Watch Piston Patter for more details over the next couple of months and for when registration opens in MotorSportsReg.





The G.O.A.T.S. will be waiting for you!

Hey Race Fans don't miss this event

April 20, 2022

The Chicago Region is happy to announce that John Doonan, President of IMSA will be our guest speaker at our April General Membership Meeting. John is going to talk about the new class structure and the changes to the prototype race groups. Don't miss out, mark your calendars for April 20, 2022. Watch Piston Patter and MotorsportsReg for details coming soon.



August 28, 2022

Do you have a sports car or race car that is unique, has some history, or just plain fantastic? Would like to show that car, share the beauty of its shape and lines, and talk to likeminded people about your pride and joy, than we have just the opportunity for you? Come join us at the Geneva Concours de'Elagance on Sunday August 28, 2022. The Chicago Region SCCA is again participating in the Geneva Concurs with our "Concours for Sports Cars".

The Geneva Concours has taken place for seventeen years and regularly draws well over 200 classics, exotics and racecars. The Concours organization is a Not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) promoting the "art of the automobile" to benefit the LIVINGWELL Cancer Resource Center, in Geneva, Illinois. The Chicago Region's participation in this event will also support this benefactor.



The concours held on the fourth Sunday of the month (August 28, 2022) is a one day event located on south Third St. in Geneva Illinois. The Chicago Region will again also be conducting our own concours on that day, the "Concours for Sports Cars". The Region's concours will be our own car show within the Geneva Concours. There is no entry fee for our concours, we will have four trophy categories and the Chicago Region will also be selecting one vehicle from our display to be a recipient of the prestigious Carl Benz Trophy from the Geneva Concours d'Elegance. So come join us as we celebrate the "art of the automobile", be part of an exciting and enjoyable day.

If you interested in displaying a car, please email Peg Ball, registrar (pegball@comcast.net) to receive the entry form.



2023 75th Anniversary of Chicago Region SCCA

2023 will be the 75th year that Chicago Region has been putting on sports car events for its members. To celebrate this milestone, the Region is working on several special projects to commemorate the occasion.

Planned events, at this time, include a special 2023 Checkered Flag Party to kick off the anniversary year. Commemorative 75th anniversary license plate frames that will start being distributed at the 2022 Checkered Flag party. A 75th anniversary book covering the history of the Region from 1948 through 2023.

For this book, we are looking for region member input, including articles/history, photos, etc. for the book. Please send information or ideas to Claire Ball, 306 Weston Ct., McHenry, IL 60051: cell 847-660-3460: pdmassociates@comcast.net.

HELP MAKE THE REGION'S 75th ANNIVERARY SPECIAL

February Trivia Quiz

Question: This was the masthead for The Chicago Region SCCA newsletter / magazine created by R. Sidney Dickens who also played a significant role in the early years of the Chicago Region. Sid severed on the Chicago Region Board of Directors for five years, 1953 – 1957. He was Regional Executive in 1954 and the first to be identified as Ex-Officio. In 1956 /57 Sid was editor of Piston Patter the clubs newsletter and brought the magazine to a new design level. This masthead was initially used on April 1951 with the printing of the first Piston Patter. When was this masthead last used? (If you don't want to wait until the March issue of Piston Patter come to the Checkered Flag Party, February 19th to learn the answer)



Answer: The Sid Dickens created masthead was last used on the September 1960 Piston Patter.

March Trivia Quiz

Question: Where and what racetrack is this? Extra bonus, what race is it?



Answer: Will be in the April issue of Piston Patter

2021 Chicago Region New Members

Chicago Region is pleased to welcome the following new members. If any of you have questions, please contact the Region board members responsible for your area of interest or the Region office (listed at the beginning of this issue of Piston Patter). We hope you enjoy your membership and have fun participating in the various club activities.

Eslam Eslam Jennifer Bachmann Seiya Kawashima David Locke Salomon Camhi Mike Gallagher Daniel Gorenz Annika Gorenz Payton Hipwell Joshua Pertzsch Brett Ristow Kevin Staisiunas Jim Wasilewski Patrick Webb