



Chicago Region, SCCA

Piston Patter Newsletter

May 2022

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Dear George,

Welcome to the May 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](#)**

May 14, 2022
Car Show
South Elgin High School

May 21, 2022
Solo Event #2
Route 66 Raceway

May 22, 2022
Solo Event #3
Route 66 Raceway

May 27, 2022
Track Day Event #1
Autobahn

June 8, 2023
Solo Event #4
Route 66 Raceway

June 10, 2022
Track Day Event #2
Autobahn

[2022 Chicago Region](#) **[Board of Directors](#)**

Roger Vilmur – Region Executive	847-359-7621
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
934-3905

847-

June 17-18, 2022
June Sprints
Road America

Linda Novak – Social Media
3905

847-934-

RE Marks

Website Help

The region needs a Website Master. Duties would include posting articles, keeping contact information and calendar information current. This is a part time paid position. Anyone who is interested or knows someone who would be interested, please contact George Laws at our Regional Office.

June Sprints

It's May and that means June Sprint are coming up fast. The Competition Committee is already at full throttle preparing for the Region's largest event. The Grand Marshal for this year's weekend will be John Doonan, president of IMSA. Registration is open so; drivers and volunteer workers sign up now!

Worker Incentives

For the 2022 season the Chicago Region is again establishing worker incentives for race events. Rewards are based on the number of events worked according to these requirements:

1. The program is open to all volunteers, regardless of Region.
2. Eligible events include June Sprints, the Kettle, Fall Classic, Fall Sprints, IndyCar and IMSA
WeatherTech Sportscar Championship.
3. Participation is based on MotorSports Registration information. You must register for the event to get counted either online or at the track.
4. The incentive award payout is an escalating scale based on the number of Chicago Region events worked:
 - . 1 event – No Incentive
 - . 2 events -- \$30.00
 - . 3 events -- \$60.00
 - . 4 events -- \$100.00
 - . 5 events -- \$150.00

Roger Vilmur

Region Board Announces Nominating Committee Appointees, Nominees

At the April 20 general membership meeting, Regional Executive Roger Vilmur announced the board of directors' appointees and nominees for the region's Nominating Committee. According to the club's bylaws, the board appoints three individuals to the Nominating Committee and nominates a slate of four.

The three appointees for the 2022 Nominating Committee are Jeff Kumler, Mark Lopotko and Beau Martin. The board's nominees are Sue Green, Chris Gregor, Peter LeSueur and Jeff Reglin.

Members can also nominate one or more slates of four. Any group that wishes to submit a slate has until June 20 to present the four names as a petition signed by 20 percent of the membership. If there isn't another slate offered, then the people nominated by the board become part of the 2022 Nominating Committee.

The committee's job is to select members of the board of directors. The board has nine members, each of whom serves a three-year term. One-third of the board terms end each year, so the Nominating Committee must choose three people to fill the open positions. If you are interested in being considered for service on the board of directors, contact RE Roger Vilmur.

The Nominating Committee will report its selections at the October general membership meeting. The three board members will be elected at the November membership meeting.



[Chicago Region SCCA April Membership Meeting with John Doonan](#)

By Steve Laske

John Doonan, president of IMSA, was the guest speaker at Chicago Region SCCA's membership meeting on Wednesday, April 20, at K1 Speed in Addison. John, shared with us some of his stories, and experiences growing up at Road America, Blackhawk Farms and in the racing community as a young boy. His grandfather and father were both racers with the club and John was exposed to all the facets of racing. He stated that all of those experiences and lessons learned about racing on track and trackside is what prepared him for current position with IMSA.

Before becoming president of IMSA, John was the face of the Mazda North American motorsports program. For many years He was leading the company's involvement in IMSA, the American Le Mans Series, Grand Am, MX-5 Cup and the USF2000 championship as well as the Mazda's driver development program. He told us that when he began at Mazda he believed he had found his dream job.

In 2012 through some negotiation of racing entities NASCAR became involved in road racing. In 2013 a unified series was announced as the Tudor United SportsCar Championship (now known as IMSA). In the fall of 2019 it was announced, that then-director of Mazda motorsports program in North America, John Doonan would be the new President of IMSA.

John shared that knowing how the NASCAR organization is structured and with his knowledge of Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) he proposed to the NASCAR leadership that a partnership with SCCA was vital to the success of IMSA racing. With NASCAR agreement John met with Mike Cobb the president of SCCA and they created a partnership between both organizations. John stressed the importance of this relationship and encouraged all in attendance to do their part in helping to bring in new members to our racing family.

John also told us about the new class structure for the 2022 IMSA Weathertech SportsCar Championship, with the exciting influx of manufacturers to IMSA series. There will be two production classes, GTD PRO, and GTD. The PRO side will see cars from AMG, Aston Martin, BMW, Chevrolet, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Lexus, and Porsche. The GTD class will include some of

the previous mentioned manufacturers plus Acura, McLaren. In the Grand Touring Prototype (GTP) class we will see Acura, Audi, BMW, Cadillac, and Porsche competing one another all using one of four chassis designs.

Earlier in the article we mentioned NASCAR. What does NASCAR have to do with IMSA and road racing? Well John explained, and told us about the new NASCAR Garage 56 initiative. Some 50 years ago NASCAR ventured to Le Mans with a stock car. Next year NASCAR and Hendrick Motorsports are planning to compete at the 24 Hours of Le Mans with a special "Next Gen Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 race car as a Garage 56 entry for the 24 hour classic. John shared that this car may show up at some IMSA races this year, as a shake down preparing for next June in France.

Following the presentation John opened the floor for questions, and made sure every question was addressed. There were also many friends of John's in the audience, assisting with additional information and stories which added to the enjoyment of the 100 in attendance. Burt Levy was there as well providing everyone with an opportunity to purchase his new book "The 200 MPH Steamroller Book III – Out of the Mist", or other merchandise. Burt was also handing out free copies of Vintage Motorsports magazine for all that wanted a copy.

For those in attendance we hope you had a good time, and for those that missed this opportunity watch Piston Patter and the Region web-site for the next membership meeting this fall. Until then we'll see you at the races.

Chicago Region Display - South Elgin High School Auto Show

May 14, 2022

This is a chance to get your sports car out and attend one of the first car show of the year.

SOUTH ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL
16TH ANNUAL
AUTO SHOW 

- ★ 18 classes of Trophies awarded
- ★ T-shirts and food for sale
- ★ Raffle prizes available
- ★ Student engine tear down demonstration

Date: Saturday May 14th
Time: 9a.m- 2p.m
Location: SEHS
760 E. Main St.
South Elgin, IL 60177

FREE FOR SPECTATORS!
\$10-DOLLARS TO ENTER CARS
 All Proceeds benefit the Automotive Technology Program

Show is open to everyone. Show car pre-registration is not required. Just show-up and ask for Chicago Region display area. Spectator attendance is free. South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St., South Elgin, IL

2022 HAGERTY CARS & CAFFEINE CAR SHOW
AT ROAD AMERICA
May 21, 2022

The Hagerty Cars & Caffeine car show at Road America on Saturday, May 21, 2022 is open to all classic, vintage, exotic, vintage motorcycles and collectible cars of interest. All car clubs are welcome and will receive their own corral.

Each \$75.00 car show registration includes –
 2 Weekend passes (2 people Sat & Sun) to the Vintage & Trans Am Auto Race
 Touring laps on the Road America race track in your show car
 VIP Parking --- Full access to the racecar paddock

Join SVRA Speedtour for one of the most entertaining race weekends on the 2022 schedule. You will enjoy hundreds of vintage and historic racecars and the Trans Am series as they roar around this historic track.

Come out for the day or the weekend. To register, click [HERE](#)

For more information email Toni Strollo at tc@svra.com or call 863-698- 8620.

[Solo Report](#)

On May 21st and 22nd, Chicago Region SCCA hosts The Tripod Challenge!!! Join us at Rt66 for two days of Auttox fun! Chicago Region will be defending Helga, the Tripod Challenge Trophy which was won by Bartek Borowski in 2021. We welcome racers from all regions to come join the battle between Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. Who will win the coveted Helga trophy? They get to keep Helga for a year and add a new adornment. We take the fastest drivers from the first day of competition and face them off in a heads up one on one bracket shootout until a winner is declared on day two. We have a March Madness style bracket "pick the winners" contest that everyone can play, with the winners who guess the most correct bracket awarded prizes. Fun and excitement for all that you do not want to miss. Registration for the Tripod Challenge is open.

To register for the May 21 event #2, click [HERE](#)
To register for the May 22 event #3, click [HERE](#)

Smooth, Fast, Clean, Faster Every Run!
C. Perry



June 17-19, 2022

For detailed information and to register, click [HERE](#)

[June Sprints®, "It's not just another race"](#)

By Steve Laske

"It's not just another race" this is quite a statement, but true, with the history to back it up. The Chicago Region SCCA, June Sprints® is the longest consecutively run SCCA National Road Race. Contested every year since 1956 on the 4.048 miles, 14 turn Road America race circuit. The first running of the June Sprints was part of the SCCA National Sports Car Championship, a series that determined the SCCA Champions prior to the now-familiar Runoffs. The 1956 Championship Series consisted of races at Walterboro, Pebble Beach, Cumberland, Eagle Mountain, Road America, Beverly, Seafair, Thompson, Watkins Glen, and Palm Springs. Road America and Watkins Glen are the only circuits still in existence today. The fact that the race circuit at Road America has remained unchanged since the beginning just adds to the

distinctiveness of the event. Many notable drivers have competed in the June Sprints over the years. Carroll Shelby, John Fitch, Carl Haas, Roger Penske, Jeff Miller, Jim Jeffords, Augie Pabst, Briggs Cunningham, Bobby Rahal, Paul Newman, and Walter Payton, they all have a place in June Sprints history. Shelby won the first June National driving a Ferrari 121 LM to victory. In the early days it was not uncommon to see the most current and competitive cars available entered in the Sprints. In 1957 a long nose 3.8 liter D-Jaguar entered by Briggs Cunningham won the feature race. At the 1960 June Sprints a heated battle between Augie Pabst and Dick Thompson lasted the entire race. In the end Pabst in his Meister Brauser Scarab took the win besting Thompson driving the Bill Mitchell entered Sting Ray racer. In 1977 spectators witnessed one of the fastest cars ever to enter the June Sprints when a Porsche 917-10 CanAm car competed for the coveted June Sprints Flag. Jerry Hansen was a perennial favorite at the sprints often entering multiple races. In 1983 Jerry won three out of four races entered with an A-Sports Racing Lola, a Showroom Stock GT, and in Formula Atlantic.

Still today, the June Sprints has notable drivers and entries, some competitors still compete in multiple classes and drivers from 27 different classifications leave with a coveted June Sprints trophy and checkered flag. To give you an idea of the level of preparation, competitiveness, and performance seen at the Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints here are some race lap times from the 2021 race as examples. In the Prototype 1 group James French set his fastest race time at; 2:03.513; J.R. Smart in the Formula Atlantic group set a fastest race lap time of; 2:11.426; Dave Ruehlow with a GT1 Corvette, set a fastest lap at 2:10.278. To help you put all of these times into perspective at the IndyCar race that same year at Road America race winner Alex Palou driving for Ganassi Racing hit a fast race lap time of 1:50.053. James French's lap time was just 0:13 seconds slower, and Ruehlow and Smart were just 0:20 and 0:21 seconds respectively behind Palou's time. ***It's not just another race!!!***

Jim Swintal and the June Sprints. In 1986 Jim became a Chicago Region member and was a volunteer as a flag marshal his first time at the Sprints. He is now a renowned racing artist and has been providing original artwork for the engraved hardwood June Sprints trophy plaques for years. These trophies have become a tradition which are presented to all competitors finishing in a trophy position. The same artwork is also printed on the trophies for the Saturday SCCA Majors races. Beginning in 2017 the Chicago Region observed its seventieth anniversary and with that the Region began its "Seven Decades of Motorsports" celebration. As part of this celebration Jim Swintal was commissioned to create special original artwork which is printed on tee-shirts that are presented to all drivers and volunteer staff. With five designs already presented and two more in the series to go, these shirts have already become collectables for many. As the shirts are handed out at the Sprints people ask which one is this, how many more will there be, along with personal comments praising the artwork to comments like "I was there". Jim Swintal himself has also entered in the conversation about the shirts. One recipient of a shirt last year stated, "I saw Jim at another race earlier this season and he (Jim) told me wait until you see this year's shirt, you're going to like it". The artwork on the shirts represent historical events and locations. The first shirt featured Denny Hulme taking the checkered flag in front of the beloved Pagoda at the 1968 CanAm race. The second year showed the battle between Augie Pabst and Dick Thompson as they pass under the Bill Mitchell Bridge in the 1960 June Sprints. The 2019 shirt was a Jim Swintal favorite depicting Phil Hill in a Jaguar leading Fred Wacker in his Eight Ball Allard in the 1952 race at the corner of Lake and Rhine in downtown Elkhart Lake. ***"It's not just another race"***

Beginning in 2019 the Chicago Region welcomed all returning June Sprints winners with an eight foot high feather flag designed by Past Chicago Region Regional Executive and former June Sprints competitor Jim Marinangel proclaiming their June Sprints win. These flags are on display in the competitors paddock space for all race fans to see. All twenty-seven of the 2021 June Sprints winners are eligible to receive a feather flag to proudly display in the paddock area if they enter the 2022 June Sprints. Of these twenty-seven, many of them will be repeat winners taking home their second or even a third flag. ***"It's not just another race"*** No race weekend would be complete without a party and the June Sprints is no exception. After the checkered flag drops at the end of

the day on Friday and Saturday the evening parties and dinners begin. The Friday night party is usually pizza and beer (wine, soda, and water also). Saturday's party has giveaways for our volunteers and dinner is a buffet style sit down white table cover event. This year's Grand Marshal is John Doonan, President of IMSA. John will feel right at home here, having grown up at Road America and as a member of Chicago Region he will have many stories to share and catching up with old friends, and joining in on good laughs and great times.

It's not just another race, the June Sprints has been and still is the event of the year. An opportunity for old and new friends alike to gather, enjoy the competition on the track, the sights, sounds, and smells of racing. Over the years, famous drivers, notorious race cars, and dear friends have gathered here at Road America, to celebrate the Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints®.

If you want to be part of this historical event, the action, the comradery contact the Chicago Region SCCA club office at 847-729-2211 or Cluboffice@scca-chicago.com to learn more. Reach out, make the call, it's more fun trackside than you can imagine, remember, ***"It's not just another race"***

GENEVA CONCOURS *d'Elgance*

August 28, 2022

Chicago Region is still looking for cars for its large display at the 2022 Geneva Concours d'Elgance. If you have a sports car or race car that is unique, has some history, or just plain fantastic, come join us at the Geneva Concours d'Elgance on Sunday August 28, 2022.

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 Region will hold its own concours at the Geneva show. 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 are being distributed to members at region events. please get a pair and display them on your car to help promote the 75th anniversary.

A 75th anniversary book covering the history of the Region from 1948 through 2023 is currently being put together. **We are looking for old historic photographs for the anniversary book.**

If you have any photos, please contact Claire Ball, 306 Weston Ct., McHenry, IL 60051: cell 847-660-3460: pdmassociates@comcast.net.

HELP MAKE THE REGION'S 75th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

May Trivia Question



Question: What was the last year street races were run in Elkhart Lake?

April Trivia Quiz

Below is a 2019 picture of several of the Regions REs.

Question: Who was the first RE, not shown?
How many total years did the REs in this picture serve the Region?



Answer: The first RE was Fred Wacker.

The total number of years served by the RE's in the picture is 25.

2022 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.

Timothy Alexander
Tyler Anthony
Thoma Castillo
Mark Chenoweth
Nate Cicero
John A. Dittrich
Jon Dutton
Roger Egeland
Jose Esquina
John Harkenrider III
John Harris
David Jones
Kody Kraus
Jakub Kropiwnicki
David Missak

Trevor David Reinke
Glenn T. Rhoades
Brandon Routson
Robert Saville
Henry Sheeran
Andrew Skura
Anna Skura
Lucas Smalec
Randy Storbeck
Kyle Strassburger
Emanuel Talquenca
Mitchell Robert Terry
Ethan Tyler
Andrii Vovk

2022 Chicago Region Social Events

5/7/22 Spring Tour/Rally, How'd we get here
8/28/22 Geneva Concours, Region Car Display
10/19/22 Member Membership Meeting, TBA

11/16/22 Annual Membership Meeting, TBA

2022 Chicago Region Road Race Events

6/17-19/22 June Sprints, Road America
8/27-28/22 Kettle Double Regional, Road America
9/10-11/22 Fall Classic Regional, Autobahn
10/8-9/22 Fall Sprints, Blackhawk Farms

2022 Chicago Region Solo Events

5/21/22 Solo Event 2, Route 66 Raceway
5/22/22 Solo Event 3, Route 66 Raceway
6/8/22 Solo Event 4, Route 66 Raceway
7/17/22 Solo Event 5, Route 66 Raceway
9/18/22 Solo Event 6, Route 66 Raceway
10/1-2/22 Solo Event 7&8, Route 66 Raceway

2022 Chicago Region Track Days

5/27/22 Track Day 1, Autobahn
6/10/22 Track Day 2, Autobahn
7/2/22 Track Day 3, Autobahn
7/29/22 Track Day 4, Autobahn

Time Trials

8/27/22 Road America
9/10/22 Autobahn
10/8/22 Blackhawk Farms
