



Chicago Region, SCCA

Piston Patter Newsletter

March 2023

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Dear George,

Welcome to the March 2023 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.

[2023 Event Calendar](#)

March 11, 2023

Solo Award Banquet
Dowers Grove

March 18-19, 2023

[CenDiv Spring Training](#)
Best Western Airport

March 22, 2023

Region Spring Meeting
Blackdog Race Shop

April 13-16, 2023

CenDiv Drivers School &
Regional Race
Blackhawk Farms

April 15-16, 2023

Learning Curve
Solo Driving Scholl
Route 66 Raceway



[2023 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-----847-571-4502

April 29-30, 2023
Solo Events #1 and #2
Route 66 Raceway

May 6, 2023
Spring Tour/Rally
South Beloit, IL

June 23-25, 2023
June Sprints Race
Road America

Chris Gregor-----630-661-7167
Peter LeSueur-----630-569-5026
Dave Tatge-----630-880-0406
Rick Bentson-----708-289-5254

**Chiago Region solo, track day, rally, and meeting dates
are listed to the left and at the end of Piston Patter**

RE Marks

Spring Training

CenDiv, SCCA Central Division, will be holding their annual Spring Training event on March 18 in Milwaukee. This is a great opportunity for workers at all levels to get up to speed on the latest changes in your road racing specialty or what's going on in Solo, and Track Days/Time Trials.

For those that are interested in working Flagging and Communication (F&C) but are new to the specialty, there is a special training session just for you.

Also, there are SCCA National Staff members scheduled to appear at this year's training.

Mike Cobb - President and CEO of SCCA
Chris Robbins - Director of Region Development
Abby Scher - Manager of Region Communication, Training & Events
John Hunter - Time Trials Program Manager
Jon Krolewicz - Senior Manager of Regional Track Program Development
Heyward Wagner - Senior Director, Rally/Solo and Experiential Programs

Use this link to register. <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/cendiv-spring-training-2023-best-western-airport-milwaukee-scca-158190>

Solo and Track Event/Time Trials Schedules

Solo and Track Event/Time Trails schedules have been completed and are now posted on our website and Facebook. They also include 75th anniversary special events. So, plan your 2023 "fun with cars".

Driver's School / Double Divisional Weekend

April 14-16, 2023 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 license 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.

Use the link below to register. <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/driver-schl-dbl-divisionals-cendiv-blackhawk-farms-raceway-scca-103953>

2024 Board of Directors Nomination Committee

The board is already thinking about 2024. 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 nomination committee. If you are one of these members and would like to serve on the nomination committee, please contact one of the board members.

Roger Vilmur

2023 Checkered Flag Party **February 18 at Ferrari Lake Forest.**

The 75th Anniversary Checkered Flag Party is history. If you missed it, it was a great party with 153 attendees. The 2-1/2 hour social get together with hors d'oeuvres, beverages, jazz band, and silent charity auction of collectable 75-year Region history items gave everyone a chance to talk about all sorts of sports car activities. The dinner had a choice of several entries with a beef carving station.



A special thanks to Rick Mancuso for hosting the party at his beautiful Ferrari Dealership. It was an opportunity to have a close-up view a large selection of amazing Ferraris.



The 2023 Checkered Flag Party silent charity auction was successful. There was a collection of several excellent auction items. Everyone had fun seeing and bidding for many racing history items. The auction raising \$1,050 for St. Jude Research



Everyone attending the Checkered Flag Party received a copy of the Region's 75th Anniversary Book covering the 75-year history of the Region, a Swintel 75th anniversary poster, dinner wine glass, prints of the Swintel seven-decade 6th and 7th artworks used for the June Sprints shirts, and one attendee at each table got to take home the anniversary engraved decanter center pieces.



[Racing History Visits the 2023 Checked Flag Party](#)

By Steve Laske

The Chicago Region has been celebrating their racing heritage and recent competition years with the Checkered Flag Party. In the recent past the party has been hosted by Chicago Region member and Ferrari dealer Rick Mancuso. Rick has always been a gracious host and the cars in the dealership are always available to view up close and personal.

If you have attended the Checkered Flag parties, you've witnessed firsthand the cars on display and the opportunities to enjoy them. In 2018 Rick Mancuso provided a Ferrari California and a McLaren 570 S for ride and drives. In 2019 Gerald Risner, a 60+ year member of the Region displayed its freshly restored 1954 MG TF and the following year Jerry Chak shared with us his 1946 MG TC on the display turn table. Both of these cars were impeccable and showcased the cars our founding members owned and raced. We lost 2021 due to the pandemic and in 2022 the Ferrari dealership wasn't available, so the Region moved the event to the Klairmont Kollection Automotive Museum in Chicago. The entire museum was open for our viewing pleasure with its eclectic collection of vehicles.

This year for the Chicago Region's 75th Anniversary Celebration the party was back at Ferrari Lake Forest and again like in the past Rick opened the showroom to allow us to walk among the Ferrari's and other special cars. This year just as in the past we also had a car on display. In keeping with the historical theme of display vehicles Tom Simpson shared his 1966 McKee MK VI CanAm car with us.



The 1966 McKee MK VI sports racing car was designed by Chicago Region member Bob McKee and built by McKee Engineering Corporation, in Lake Zurich, Illinois. This car is the second of three MK VIs made and the only one powered by a Chevrolet engine. Bob McKee began his racing career building stock cars for Tiny Lund and serving as crew chief for Dick Rathmann in Indy car competition. His first car in the MK series had a mid-engine design and tubular frame and was built for Illinois Chevrolet dealer and amateur racer Dick Doane. The following MKs, II through V were single concepts one off vehicles. The MK VI was an attempt at streamlining production and standardizing processes to increase output to three vehicles.

This MK VI's racing career includes Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), United States Road Racing Championship (USRRC) and Canadian American Challenge Cup (CanAm) competition. It finished first at the 1966 Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints® at Road America in the Sports Racing class. In USRRC competition in 1966, it finished second at Watkins Glen and fourth at Las Vegas. One of the subsequent models, a MK VII had its moment under the Hollywood spotlight when it was driven by Paul Newman in the movie "Winning" at Road America.

Current owner and vintage racer Tom Simpson was very kind to shared his car with us. Tom has owned this car for over 30 years and has raced it as recently as the 2018 Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion at Leguna Seca in Monterey California, and in 2019 the International Challenge with Brian Redman at Road America, in Elkhart Lake Wisconsin. Currently the car has just undergone a two-year full restoration and will soon be back on the track where it belongs.

Guests at this year's party enjoyed a real treat by viewing this racing treasure, and learning first hand from the owner/racer and its creator about the car and its history. It is not often that you can have an opportunity such as this. If you missed this Chicago Region SCCA 75th Anniversary event it's not too late to join in on other events. The road racing, autocross, and track event season is just starting up. There is a backroads tour type rally planned for early May, and the Geneva Concours d'Elegance this summer and other car shows. So watch Piston Patter and MotorsportsReg (MSR) for upcoming events.

Don't be left out, there's lots to do and become involved with.

2022 Chicago Region Outstanding Member Awards

The Checkered Flag Party, held February 18th at Lake Forest Ferrari, was the event where the Region honors The Best of the Best. Five awards were presented to members for their accomplishments during 2022. The “Fred Wacker Driver of the Year” was presented to **Chris Schaafsma** for his remarkable season which culminated with a SCCA national Championship at the 2022 SCCA Runoffs. Next was **Bartek Borowski**, “The Soloist of the Year” for his continuing dominance of the Autocross community.



Jerome Cahuzac was presented the “Track Day’s Person of the Year”. His efforts and continuing excellence in staffing events enabled the track group to prosper in 2022. **Claire and Peg Ball** were presented the “2022 REcognition Award” for their heroic efforts that include the 75th Checker Flag Party, the 75 Years of Momentum Book, and the monthly Piston Patter.



Lastly, the “Founder’s Award” was presented to **Dennis Bednar** for his continuing efforts to preserve what our Founders started.



The “Dave Morrell Worker of the Year” and the “Burdie” Martin Member of the Year” will be presented at the Chicago Region June Sprints®.



[CENDIV Spring Training](#)
[March 18th in Milwaukee](#)
[at the airport Best Western](#)

The following National Staff guests are scheduled to appear at this year's training;

- Mike Cobb - President and CEO of SCCA
- Chris Robbins - Director of Region Development
- Abby Scher - Manager of Region Communication, Training & Events
- John Hunter - Time Trials Program Manager
- Rick Myers - Director Rally/Solo
- Jon Krolewicz - Senior Manager of Regional Track Program Development

Program will include:

- Program Board
- SCCA Hall of Fame
- Meet with our Divisional leadership to learn more about...
- Time Trails, Timed Events, Track Night in America, and Enduro's
- Autocross (Solo)
- Road Racing

To register: Click [HERE](#)

Reserve your overnight stay by February 24th:

Contact hotel reservation Kelley Gadish – (414) 831-3657 which is her direct line. Be sure to mention Sports Car Club of America. If she is not available, please leave a message explaining who you are, what you want and a phone number for her to call you back. Do not leave personal or credit

card information on the voicemail. You can also call the main hotel line and ask for her in the sales office (414) 769-2100.

Chicago Region March Meeting March 22, 2023

The Activities Committee invites you to join us at our 2023 March Membership meeting on Wednesday March 22 at Blackdog Speedshop, starting at 7:00pm.

The Region will be presenting membership awards to those reaching milestone membership years. Following the awards presentation **Peter Jankovskis our Area Director and President of the SCCA Board of Directors** will be providing an overview of material presented and discussed at the CenDiv Spring Training event. If you are a driver Peter J is also going to discuss in some detail about the new rule requiring in car cameras in all race cars at all race levels. He is also going to discuss what is happening with the "Green to Checker" initiative. Where the program currently is and where it's headed.

Please come join us.

Mark Your Calander - March 22

Solo Report

This year we ask that you enjoy Mother's Day with Mom. Enjoy Father's Day with Dad. Go to all the Sports Car Club of America National Championship Tours and ProSolo Tours within 200 miles. Go to Spring Nats and the SCCA Solo National Championships. Then if you have a chance, come race Chicago Region SCCA at Rt66. Bring your friends and family too. It's going to be a GREAT year!

The Learning Curve April 15-16
Events 1 & 2 April 29 & 30
Event 3 June 4
Chicago National Tour July 14-16
TSSCC Vs. Chicago Region SCCA
TSSCC Rt66 August 12
Event 4 August 13
Event 5 August 20
Event 6 September 17
Tripod Challenge
Events 7 & 8 October 7 & 8

See you out there!
Chicago Region Solo Board

The 2023 Chicago Region SCCA Spring Tour/Rally “Ride the Rooster”

Brought to you by G.O.A.T.S. “Get Out and Tour Series”

May 6, 2023

The Chicago Region will be running another G.O.A.T.S. (Get Out and Tour Series) event. Join us this spring for another drive through northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin on some of the most scenic backroads there are to enjoy.

This Chicago Region SCCA, G.O.A.T.S. backroads tour will provide you with an enjoyable day of driving, using great backroads providing scenic views and plenty of turns and elevation changes. The drive will take approximately 3 hours to complete ending in Lena Illinois at The Rafters restaurant where we will all meet for lunch and some socializing. After lunch if you like you can visit the Lena Brewing Company and the Red Barn gift shop both are on the same property as the restaurant. Also, if you are wondering where the name for this tour came from, you will have to drive the tour to find out. Join us won't you and we will all know about “Ride the Rooster”.

Event Information:

When: Saturday May 6, 2023

Registration: Pre-event registration is required. Registration will be on MotorsportReg, <https://www.motorsportreg.com> watch the site, registration will open soon. The entry deadline for this event is midnight Sunday April 30, 2023

Entry Fee per car: \$15.00 SCCA Members, \$35.00 Non-members (Weekend membership for all non-member drivers is required, fee is included in entry) the weekend membership fee can be applied towards a full SCCA membership. All cars must have a driver and a navigator, any navigator / passenger who is not an SCCA member will be asked to sign a Trial Membership document at the starting point (no additional fees assessed).

Starting point: Flying J Travel Center, 16049 Willowbrook Rd. South Beloit, IL. 61080 (the northwest corner of I-90 /39 and Illinois Rt. 75) by the Denny's Restaurant. Check-in at the event will open at 9:00 am, with the first car off promptly at 10:00 am.

Brought to you by the Chicago Region SCCA, Get Out and Tour Series (G.O.A.T.S.)

2023 Chicago Region SCCA Photo Contest

The Chicago Region's Activities Committee is asking our membership to help document the Region's 75 Anniversary year by taking photographs. Use your camera, or your phone as long as they're digital photos. From these photos a committee will select photos that capture the action, the moment, photos which define who we are. Take photos at events and gatherings, send in the photos you think are special, capture a moment, or define who we are or what we do. The photos that are selected and their photographer will be recognized at our November General Membership Meeting.

Yes, it's a photo contest and we are asking the membership to join in and participate and submit your photos. We are setting up a link for those of you that want to participate. The link can be found on the

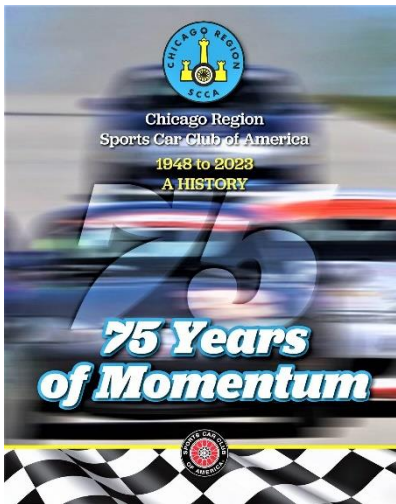
Chicago Region Website under the Contact Menu. We will communicate to everyone once the site is open. Again, I can't stress it enough, we are looking for photos from our events this year. Pictures of people having fun at all our events, action shots, quite moments, photos of cars (street or race prepared) you decide. Later this year an identified panel will review all the photos and select the photos that stand out. All the submitted photos will be categorized and posted on a special page on the regions website for all to enjoy. So, start taking photos, send them in, and have fun with this.

- Send in digital photos only.
- To: The link is coming, stayed tuned.
- All submitted photos will be cataloged and stored on the Region's website.
- Subject matter at the discretion of the photographer, the selection panel will have the final say on their content.
- All posted photos will be considered the property of Chicago Region and can be used in regional documents and postings.
- Entry deadline October 31, 2023 (midnight)

Contest winners will be announced at the November General Membership Meeting

[Chicago Region 75th Anniversary Book](#)

Initial copies of the 75th Anniversary book were distributed at the Checkered Flag Party. Additional copies of the book summarizing the 75-year history of the Region will be available at other Region events.





Greetings, ladies and gentlemen with an interest in our Gen 2 Pro Tour Series.

Consider this a **first announcement of the 2023 series**. We'll once again have an 8-race, 4 weekend schedule, but we'll start later this year. More information will follow, but here's the current plan:

Races 1 and 2: June 3-4, Blackhawk Farms
Races 3 and 4: August 26-27, Road America
Races 5 and 6: September 9-10, Autobahn
Races 7 and 8: October 7-8, Blackhawk Farms

Our hope to run the Milwaukee Mile this year was thwarted by the track reconstruction that will not be completed in time for a May race. Please put these on your calendar.

Jim Perry

SRF GEN 2 PRO TOUR 2023 Co-conspirator

P and B Motorsports

5157 North Loop Road

Larsen, WI 54947

(920) 594-1337

Email: jim@pandbmotorsports.com

Web: <http://pandbmotorsports.com/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PandBMotorsports>

[2023 Chicago Region Road Race Schedule](#)

6/23-25, 2023 June Sprints National Race, Road America
8/26-27/23 Double Regional Race, Road America
9/9-10/23 Double Regional Race, Auytobahn
10/7-8/23 Double Regional Race, Blackhawk Farms

[2023 Chicago Region Track Day Schedule](#)

Track events:

5/26/23 Autobahn South course
6/9/23 Autobahn Full course
7/1/23 Autobahn South course
7/22/23 Autobahn south course

8/18/23 Autobahn North Course
9/8/23 Autobahn South Course

Track Sprint:

6/11/23 Autobahn South Course
8/19/23 Autobahn North Course

2023 Chicago Region Autocross/Solo Schedule

2022 Awards Banquet

3/11 Emmitts, Downes Grove

Autocross: (tentative)

4/15-16/23 Learning Curve

4/29-30/23 Event 1 & 2

6/4/23 Event #3

7/14-16/23 Chicago National Tour Event

8/13/23 Event #4

8/20/23 Event #5

9/17/23 Event #6 Tripod Challenge

10/7-8/23 Events #7 & 8

Street Survival

5/13/23

2023 SCCA Northern Conference Major Tour Event Schedule

The following is a tentative 2023 U.S. Majors Tour Event Schedule. Dates may be subject to change until confirmed.

April 29-30: Blackhawk Farms Raceway; Blackhawk Valley Region; S. Beloit, IL

May 13-14: Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course; Ohio Valley Region; Lexington, OH

June 23-25: Road America; Weather Tech Chicago Region June Sprints; Elkhart Lake, WI is a Hoosier Super Tour

February Trivia Quiz



Question: What was the date of the first Can-Am race at Road America?
What was the record setting attendance at the event?

Answer: Sept 3, 1967 Record attendance: 53,000

March Trivia Question



Question: Match the first race dates at each of the following racetracks:

Blackhawk Farms
Elkhart Lakes Street
Meadowdale Raceway

1950
1953
1956

Answer: Will be in April issue of Piston Patter

2023 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.

Karl Baranowski
Matt Beale
Kyle Buchman
Jacob Clute
Demetrios Constantinidis
Nicole Constantinidis
Dan Dietzler
Daniel Escauriza
Simon Gamble
Thomas Glad
Raiden Han
Michael (Scoop) Heavey
James Kaikis
Dominick Keefe
David Klopfleisch

Elizabeth Kobler
Kyle Kobler
Dylan Kozarzewski
Gus Kozarzewski
Ryan Kozarzewski
Alexander Larsen
Sean J. Lovett
Evan Roman Markewycz
Mark McGuinness
August Ruff
Michael Rumney
Ian Schwarber
Cory Tallman
Augustin Wegscheider
Bacon Zelenka