



Chicago Region, SCCA

Piston Patter Newsletter

July 2023

Quick Links

Region Website
Club & Membership
Incentive Programs
Road Racing
Autocross/Solo
Contacts/ Classified
Motorsportreg

Dear George,

Welcome to the July 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**

July 14-16, 2023 National
Tour Solo
Route 66 Raceway

July 22, 2023
Track Day #4
Autobahn South course

August 13, 2023
Solo Event #4
Rt 66 Raceway

August 18, 2023
Track Day #5
Autobahn North Course

August 19, 2023
Track Day Sprints
Autobahn North Course

August 20, 2023



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

Solo Event #5
Rt 66 Raceway

August 26-27, 2023
Double Regional Race,
Road America

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

A list of all Chicago Region solo, track day, rally, and meeting dates are provided at the end of Piston Patter

RE Marks

June Sprints

Just returned from June Sprints, and what a weekend it was. The last Hoosier Super Tour event of the year was attended by over 400 cars. They tested their skills on the newly paved 4-mile road course at Road America. If you would like to see replays of the weekends, check it out on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/@SportsCarClubofAmerica/streams>

Also, at the June Sprints Dinner Saturday night award presentations were done. First, I presented the Spirit of the Sprints to Mark Bingheim for his efforts in keeping everyone fed, hydrated and making sure equipment was always in the right place.

Helga Meyer was presented the 2022 Member of the Year Award and Sue Green the 2022 worker of the Year Award for their continued excellence in providing registration services.

And the Cen-Div Hall of Fame inductions were announced.

George Laws announced the induction of Robert Stone and Bev Heilicher announced the induction of Tracy Gauper.

Congratulations to our awardees and inductees on their well-deserved recognition.

Nominations Committee

No one challenged the Nomination Committee Slate put forth by the Board. The slated committee is now free to make their selections for the 2024 Board of Directors. The seats of Ed Locke, Linda Novak, and Michael Varacins are open. Linda and Michael are eligible to return for a second term. Ed is completing his second term and will not be eligible to return until 2025.

Anyone interested in joining the board or would like to nominate someone for the board should contact either Dave Tatge or Ed Locke. Their contact information is on our website

Solo National Tour Hosted by the Chicago Region

On July 14th through the 16th the Chicago Region is hosting the Tire Rack SCCA Solo national Tour. We are pleased to be able to host this event as a part of our 75th anniversary celebration at our Solo hangout Route 66 Dragway.

The National Tour competition takes place over two days with a different course each day, just like Solo Nationals. Drivers get three runs on each course with their best time from each added together for the final class standings. Runs are timed to 1/1000th of a second and knocking a cone down means a penalty of 2 seconds added to that time. So, register if you want to compete or just come down to watch the action.

Roger Vilmur

JIM HAYNES 1933-2023



With great sadness the Chicago Region SCCA has just learned of the passing of Jim Haynes. Jim, a two-time SCCA National Champion driver, purchased Lime Rock Park in 1964 from its builders and over the next decade first as owner and then as general manager, shepherded the facility's growth from near bankruptcy to internationally recognized motorsports venue

Following his tenure at Lime Rock Park, Jim worked with the SCCA's national office and for many years was president and general manager of Elkhart Lake's Road America. Jim was a good friend of the Chicago Region, and many of its members.

He will be missed.



Jonathan Laun
Receives Prestigious Governor's Cup at the WeatherTech Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints®

Road America, – June 26, 2023 – Jonathan Laun, the former Chairman of the Board at Road America, was honored with the Governor's Cup at the WeatherTech Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints. This highly regarded award, presented annually at the June Sprints in collaboration with the Chicago Region SCCA, celebrates the dedication and passion of amateur racers, devoted volunteers, and motorsport enthusiasts who wholeheartedly contribute to the advancement of Road America and the sport.

Laun's unwavering commitment to Road America spans an incredible 44 years, making him the longest-serving member in the history of the board. Since his election in 1978, he has held numerous esteemed positions within the organization, including Treasurer and Vice President, before assuming the role of Chairman of the Board in 1990, which he held until 2018. Throughout his tenure, Laun's leadership and invaluable insights have been instrumental in shaping Road America's growth and prosperity.

Laun's association with Road America began during his college years, when he worked summers for Clif Tufte, the founder of Road America, in the 1960s. Since then, under Laun's astute stewardship, the track has undergone significant transformations, witnessing the implementation of substantial infrastructure improvements. The track's profits have consistently been reinvested. With the construction of numerous new buildings and the introduction of enhanced safety measures and track modifications, enhancing the experiences of fans and competitors alike, the track continues to prosper as America's National Park of Speed.

Solo Report

Chicago Region is hosting a Sports Car Club of America Solo National Championship Tour July 14th through the 16th at Rt66 Raceway. Over 140 racers from 18 states have signed up so far and registration is still open! Former Solo Chairman Mike Razny is in charge of course design and setup so expect a fast, fun and technical track! Friday will feature a Staring Line Drivers school for anyone new to the Solo National Tour format and an Evolution Advantage school for the more advanced racers.

Following the morning classes, we will host a Test and Tune course for approximately 4 hours to get your ride dialed in for the Champ Tour. Friday night will also host a welcome party for all in the early evening. Competition days are the 15th and 16th only, Friday is optional. If you have not already, get signed up today.

[2023 Tire Rack SCCA Chicago National Tour \(motorsportreg.com\)](https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/2023-tire-rack-scca-chicago-national-tour-route-66-raceway-solo-776831)

<https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/2023-tire-rack-scca-chicago-national-tour-route-66-raceway-solo-776831>

This year is the 50th Running of the SCCA Solo National Championships and it has sold out in almost record time. Four hours and fifteen minutes is approximately how long before people were put on the waitlist. Fifty-eight Chicago Region regulars are signed up and a handful more on the waitlist. Chicago Region is poised to make a great showing at the 50th SCCA Solo National Champs. Let's represent Chicago Region well and bring home some hardware everyone!

Locally we have hosted three Solo events so far with great attendance and success. Our next points events will be August 13th, with Tri-State hosting an event at Rt66 on the 12th for a two-day weekend of autocross! Then on August 20th we will host our 5th Solo points event of the year. Registration for those events will be opening shortly!

<https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/2023-championship-autocross-event-4-rt-66-raceway-scca-chicago-844879>

<http://msreg.com/CR2023E4>

<https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/2023-championship-autocross-event-5-rt-66-raceway-scca-chicago-412292>

<http://msreg.com/CR2023E5>

Chicago Region Solo volunteers recently staffed the Chicago NASCAR race. Dave Tatge and Solo Chairman Chris Perry along with Billy Becker, Jerry Pichman, Noah Dropkin and Brian, Bea and Kate Regganie staffed a tent at the downtown Chicago NASCAR street race to spread the word of the Sports Car Club of America. A first for Chicago and an experience of a lifetime. Thank you to NASCAR, our volunteers and everyone we got an opportunity to speak with. We hope to see you having #FunWithCars with us soon!

Last but not least, this upcoming weekend is the Annual Tri-State Sports Car Council Grissom trip in Peru, Indiana! Saturday July 8th is an all-day test and tune and Sunday July 9th is an autocross points event. They need some people to sign up! Get out there and race Solo with us and TSSCC!

<http://msreg.com/tsscc-2023-tnt>

<http://msreg.com/tsscc-2023-07-09>

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2023 CHICAGO REGION
JUNE SPRINTS®

68 CONSECUTIVE YEARS.
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YOUR
TEAM

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Just returned from the 2023 Chicago Region June Sprints® - what a weekend, 421 drivers, 221 volunteers, and over 1500 crew members. Nine races Saturday and nine more on Sunday. I say again "what a weekend"!! It was a weekend full of close racing, some great moments and some less than great. If you missed it, please plan on attending the Kettle Moraine Double Regional at Road America on August 26th and 27th.

At the June Sprints dinner on Saturday evening awards were presented to Mark Bingheim, the Bob Stone Spirit of the Sprints; Helga Meyer, The Burdie Martin 2022 Member of the Year; Sue Green, The Dave Morell 2022 Worker of the Year. CenDiv presented the 2022 Hall of Fame to Tracey Gauper and the late Robert Stone.



Mark Bingheim
Bob Stone Spirit of the Sprints Award



Helga Meyer
Burdie Martin 2022 Member of the Year Award



Sue Green
Dave Morell 2022 Worker of the Year Award



Tracey Gauper
CenDiv 2022 Hall of Frame Award

The dinner, a joint effort of Chicago Region and Hoosier tires, was a great success. The menu selection by Rick Bentson was widely praised and the keynote presentation by Gran Marshal Mark Weber was a reminder of the distinction between Pro and Amateur sports.



Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints® trophy, “It’s not just another trophy”

Many of you participate in the road racing activities of the club and specifically the June Sprints. Many other club members have and share interests in other specialties within the club and never see or experience the road races. Of these two groups there is still a smaller group that see a Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints trophy. The June Sprints trophies are unique to the Sprints and we would like to share with you what they look like. The Sprints trophies are a hardwood plaque with engraved art work created for us by Jim Swintal. There are eight different trophy designs and they are in a rotation used once every eight years. For this year, the Region's 75th Anniversary, a special design was created providing a special trophy for the winners and subsequent trophy positions.



The design for this year shows four different race car groups from specific significant June Sprints. The first car a Ferrari from the 1956 Inaugural June Sprints. The second car a Formula B from the 25 Anniversary of Chicago Region, 1973 June Sprints. The third car a Spec Racer Ford from the 50 Anniversary of the Chicago Region, the 1998 June Sprints, and finally the GT-1 car representing this year, our 75 Anniversary, 2023 June Sprints. Everything is engraved on this trophy which is different from the other trophy designs where an engraved metal plaque indicating the race class and finish position is affixed to the trophy.

To win at the June Sprints and receive one of these trophies is special. This year we wanted the trophy to be more significant, to be different, “not just another trophy”. Because it’s the June Sprints, “It’s not just another race”.

NASCAR Chicago Street Race

July 1-2, 2023

The Region would like to thank all its members how staffed the Chicago NASCAR race weekend. The weather was wet. However, the racing event was great for Chicago and NASCAR and Chicago Region was a major part supplying the corner flagging.

Also, a special thanks to Rick Bentson for coordinating and supervising the Chicago Region involvement with the event.

GENEVA CONCOURS *d'Elegance*

Car enthusiasts will gather together again this year in Geneva, Illinois and view a beautiful collection of antique, classic and modern automobiles. Participants from all over the Country will display their prized automobiles on Third Street and some will be awarded one of the coveted "Benz" Trophies. Third Street is the heart of Geneva's charming downtown shopping district lined with shops, restaurants, parks and historical buildings. This event is open to the public at no cost making this a wonderful family event with something for everyone to enjoy and marvel. The Geneva Concours d'Elegance is your only opportunity in the area to view this fantastic collection of award-winning, unique and rare automobiles. Celebrate with us this year on:

Sunday August 27, 2023 from 10:00am to 4:00pm

The Chicago Region SCCA will again participate in the Geneva Concours d'Elegance in Geneva Illinois with the Chicago Region's "Concours for Sports Cars" being a featured group. The 2023 Geneva Concours d'Elegance will include its usual display of fine automobiles and will feature the following:

- Celebrating the Springfield Rolls Royce
- Continental – Edsel Ford's Dream
- Cars of the Classic Era
- Micro Cars – Meeting the Need
- Tuner Cars – Powering Today's Excitement (Fast and Furious)

Chicago Region SCCA, Celebrating 75 Years of Momentum



This will be the eighteenth year of the Geneva Concours which 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.

If you have a sports car or competition car and would like to enter it in our event, please email Peg Ball, registrar (pegball@comcast.net) to receive or submit the entry form or if you have any questions contact Steve Laske at laske.steve@gmail.com or 630-258-3820. If you are looking for something that is fun and enjoyable to do, please come and join us.



**CHICAGO REGION SCCA DISPLAY
MEADOWDALE CAR SHOW
September 9, 2023 10:00am - 3:00pm**

The Region has been invited to bring a car display and informational table to the 15th Annual Meadowdale Motorsports & Memories Car Show. The invitation was extended by Linda Daro, Founder and Chair of the Midwest Racing Preservation Association (MiRPA). The event will take place on Saturday, September 9th from 10 am to 3 pm.. Spectators are welcome and free of charge. Last year, the show drew a record 500 entries.

The car show is held on the original site of the former Meadowdale Raceways in Carpentersville, IL. The track was built in the late 1950's and its inaugural race held September 14, 1958 was sanctioned and run by the Chicago Region. The “ghost track” has been transformed into a forest preserve. Although the 3.27 mile track with its famous Monza Wall no longer exists, sections of the circuit remain. The car show, along with the Region's display, will be positioned on what was the main straight.

The Meadowdale show offers a wonderful opportunity to promote the Club and “having fun with cars” to hundreds of spectators. If you would like to join the fun and excitement by showing a special car, please contact Bob Malm at 847-695-0368 before August 15th. Race cars are particularly welcome as they attract attention to the display.

To learn more about the Meadowdale Car Show and MiRPA, visit their website, mirpa.org.

**Chicago Region SCCA
G.O.A.T.S. Backroads Tour
October 21, 2023**

I know summer has just begun and we are currently in the middle of our racing, autocross, and track event seasons, HOWEVER. The 2023 Chicago Region Fall Tour will be here before you know it. Are you wanting to get out and drive some great backroads, feel the cool breeze rush past you, and see some great scenery? WELL.

The Chicago Region's next backroads tour will be Saturday, October 21, 2023 and the G.O.A.T.S. are wanting you to join them for an enjoyable backroads drive through northern Illinois and Wisconsin. We are planning a drive up to Elkhart Lake, so save the date and watch Piston Patter and MotorsportsReg for more information as the date draws near. See you there,

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

2023 Chicago Region SCCA Photo Contest **"Just Got Better"**

As a throwback to the 1990's when the Chicago Region held a photo contest, the Activities Committee has established a photo contest as a vehicle to record our anniversary year with photographs. We are requesting our membership to take photos at all of our events through the end of October, using a digital camera or their cell phone. The photo categories' are open to the photographer's imagination. We are asking for photos of events, meetings, people (group or singles), action photos, quite moments, cars (both street and racecars) just about anything that shows who we are and what we are all about.



We only want digital photos and are requesting these photos are entered by the photographer through our link on the Region's Website <https://scca-chicago.com>. Once you're on the web site click on the "Contact Us" tab then click on "Media Submissions" in the drop down window. This will open the page to allow photo submissions. Make sure to record your name, the subject, and details about the photo so we know what it is about. The photos which are submitted will become property of the Region and may be used by the Region in Piston Patter and or other media promotions moving forward.

This is where it gets better! Starting with the month of June entries, a selection committee will review the photos and select one as the months out standing photo. The photographer of the monthly photo will receive a \$25.00 gift card. The photos which are selected each month beginning with June and running through the remainder of the year will then also go through a selection process. For the photographer of the photo chosen as the outstanding photo of the year, the Chicago Region will pay the photographer/members 2024 annual membership dues.

**We are looking forward to your participation and photo entries,
remember this will only be a success if you participate.**

Thank you, the Activities Committee

Chicago Region SCCA Apparel

SCCA now has an apparel store selling T-shirts, polos, hooded sweatshirts, pullovers, full-zip hoodies, hats, and safety vests with Chicago Region and SCCA logos.

For apparel information and to purchase items, click [HERE](#).

June Trivia Quiz



Question: The June Sprints started in 1956 following the path of sports car racing that started in 1950 on the streets of Elkhart Lake, WI. How long was the first street race circuit?

Answer: The first street race was 3.65 miles.

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.

Cameron Aaron	Julia Loffredi
Jim Amedeo	Kevin Loffredi
Rob Barton	Thomas Logue
David Brooks	Szymon Machaj
Toni Buhrke	Conor McGowan
Kurt Cichowski	Charles Meagher
Michael N. Colucci	Jeffrey Meyers
Nathaniel Cueto	Andrej Milovic
Aileen DiPascal	Benjamin Morales

Jianan Du
Danielle Dvorak
Mike Franz
Marcin Gluc
Brad Goldstein
Trevor Harris
Tim Haussermann
Larry Hovey
Vitauts Jankovskis
Adrienne Keil
Alex Keil
Blaine Loffredi

Rosario Picone
Scott Renshaw
Dan Rheaume
Alejandro Ruiz
Rajeev Sahu
Nathan Sanda
Mason Smith
Reese Sorensen
Hunter Taylor
Kevin Tong
Leo Wiznitzer
Kevin Zumbek

2023 Chicago Region Road Race Schedule

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 Autocross/Solo Schedule

July 8-9 Grissom TSSCC
July 14-16 RT66 SCCA Solo Champ Tour
July 22-23 Road America TSSCC/ Milwaukee Region SCCA
August 12 RT66 TSSCC
August 13 RT66 Chicago Region SCCA Event #4
August 20 Rt66 Chicago Region SCCA Event #5
September 3 Rt66 TSSCC
September 5-8 Lincoln Nebraska SCCA Solo National Championship
September 17 RT66 Chicago Region SCCA Event #6
September 23-24 Boomers TSSCC
October 7-8 RT66 Milwaukee/ Chicago Region Events #7 & #8
October 15 Rt66 TSSCC

2023 Chicago Region Track Day Schedule

Track events:

7/22/23 Autobahn south course
8/18/23 Autobahn North Course
9/8/23 Autobahn South Course

Track Sprint:

8/19/23 Autobahn North Course