



Chicago Region, SCCA

Piston Patter Newsletter

August 2023

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Dear George,

Welcome to the August 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](#)

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

Solo Event #5
Rt 66 Raceway

August 26-27, 2023

Double Regional Race,
Road America

September 9-10, 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

Double Regional Race,
Auytobahn

September 8, 2023

Track Day #6
Autobahn South Course

September 17, 2023

Solo Event #6
Rt 66 Raceway

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

New Executive Steward for CenDiv

As of the first of the year CenDiv will have a new Executive Steward. Chicago Region's Mike Smith has accepted the position of Executive Steward for CenDiv. As the current Chicago Region representative and CenDiv board president, Mike will be stepping down from these positions. The Chicago Region Board will be looking to assign a new CenDiv representative soon. And I would like to thank Kevin Coulter, the outgoing Executive Steward, for his years of service in the role.

Worker Leadership and Sustaining the Region

I am sure most of you have heard of requests for more workers at our events. That situation has not changed. However, the board is beginning to recognize that there is a new worker issue facing the region. That is the aging of our leadership in some worker specialties and committees, especially in club racing which has 13 worker specialties. These leaders have been doing this for years, finding new ways and honing the process. How do these leaders pass that knowledge down to the next generation of leaders?

The first thing that the leaders need to think more about is succession planning. Who is going to replace them when they are no longer able or desire to be the leader. The ideal situation is that every leader has another person in training and even sharing the workload as they learn. You never know when you may be forced to give up that position because of health, relocating, family or just plain burn-out. The only other acceptable situation is that when a leader feels that it is time to let go, they find their replacement and train them before they move on

Second, not all our leaders have written anything down. The knowledge is in their heads. Now I'm not talking about what the specialties must do. That is covered well in operations manuals and training that goes on at the national and division level. It's how those are done, especially in preparation for an event. As a result, the board is asking our specialty leaders to create a specialty check list. We want our leaders to prepare the following on paper, "Here is the list of what I do before an event, during an event and after an event." There are also seasonal tasks that need to be written down. Such as, event dates and contracts with tracks and venues, agreements between the club and sponsors and partners, and maintenance of equipment.

The board has asked the committees to encourage our leaders to do these two things. We hope that this will ensure that the region can deliver the events you want.

Participants don't forget that we cannot have events unless members plan and execute those events. Consider helping the committees or worker specialties plan events so you can enjoy them or encourage a family member or friend pitch in.

Roger Vilmur

NASCAR Chicago Street Race **July 1-2, 2023**

The weekend of July 1-2 featured an event unique to both the city of Chicago and to NASCAR. Unique to Chicago in that it hosted the first-ever street race around Grant Park in the heart of Chicago's downtown. Unique to NASCAR in that it was their first-ever street race, and the first event hosted and promoted by NASCAR itself rather than a host race track.

Chicago Region featured prominently in the running of the event by being contracted by NASCAR to provide the Corner Workers for the races.

Over 30 SCCA volunteers, including some from as far away as North Carolina and Texas were on hand to keep an eye on the drivers and provide critical flagging and communications to keep both the drivers and race control informed of incidents and conditions on the track.

This was a unique event for Chicago Region as well as for Chicago and NASCAR, requiring a "figure-it-out-as-we-go" approach. Thanks to the efforts of the key people involved on the SCCA side - Kat Beigel and Heather Ingraham (Registration), Jeff Reglin (Flag Chief), Tiffany Bingheim (race control communicator) and Mark Bingheim (Event Chair), and Roger Vilmur (radio equipment expert), we represented the SCCA and Chicago Region very well.



Our contract with NASCAR also provided space in the public area for a membership booth. Dave Tatge organized the setup and staffing for the booth. With great support from Chris Perry and a half dozen Autocrossers we had great staffing for this effort. The team passed out literature and engaged with interested people, answering questions and explaining what Chicago Region-SCCA is all about. Many thanks to all who helped out!

You could say the weather was less than cooperative on both days. The Xfinity Cup race on Saturday was suspended just short of halfway due to persistent lightning in the area. The plan was to finish the race on Sunday morning until torrential rains changed those plans. In another unique first, the Xfinity race was called complete even though it was 3 laps short of halfway.

Continuing rain for most of the day Sunday (up to 8 inches in parts of the area!) resulted in a delay to the start of the NASCAR Cup feature race due to standing water on the track and pit lane, but the rain stopped just before the start and the hardy crowd who stuck out the monsoon were treated to a surprisingly good race.

Even though they had to put up with long days and drenching rain, to a person the SCCA volunteers really enjoyed the racing and came away with a new respect for the talent of the NASCAR drivers. Everyone is looking forward to next year (and to better weather)!

Thanks again to everyone who participated in making the event a success!

A special thanks to Rick Bentson for coordinating, organizing, and overseeing the event.

**[Kettle Races Coming to Road America](#)
[August 27-28, 2023](#)**



You're invited to Road America to compete or volunteer at Chicago Region's Kettle Moraine Double Divisional races August 27-28, 2022. Registration is now open.

To register, click [HERE](#)

Named for the beautiful, rolling terrain that is home to Road America, the weekend offers two full-length divisional races and is a Runoffs qualifying event for 2022 and a CenDiv Championship Series points

event. The entry fee for two days is \$595; for one day, \$465. The Kettle welcomes cars competing in the SRF2 Challenge Series and the Rust Belt IT series. For details on fees, visit the registration page. Volunteers are needed in all specialties. Lunch is provided Saturday and Sunday, and there will be a party and dinner on Saturday night.

GENEVA CONCOURS *d'Elegance*

Sunday, August 27, 2023

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 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 we are in the heat of summer 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, watch the fall colors, and feel the cool breeze rush past you? 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 enjoyable backroads drive through Wisconsin. We are planning a three hour drive up to Elkhart Lake as part of the Region's 75 Anniversary celebration. The drive will be beginning near Richmond IL. and ending in Elkhart Lake at Siebkens Stop Inn Tavern for lunch, so save the date and watch Piston Patter and MotorsportsReg for more information as the date draws near.

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

[On The Green Stuff](#)

If you haven't figured it out by this time an explanation is needed – OTGS is a blatant attempt to get you involved in Road Racing, be that as a Driver, Volunteer or Spectator. A warning or disclaimer once involved there is no turning back. The excitement of being up close to the action makes everything else so ordinary. If you are involved don't stop reading. Introduce your favorite pass time to a friend, acquaintance, neighbor, boss, or employee.

If you are not involved find out how by contacting the Region office at (847-729-2211). We have areas to get involved that reach from 1 hour to full days. We can adjust your available time and experience to allow you to get hooked – oops involved.

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/member's 2024 annual membership dues.

Chicago Region SCCA Photo Contest - June Winner



Congratulations Miroslav Knava, your action photograph of the Mini Cooper GP3 at the Autobahn County Club Time Trial on June 9th has been selected as the winner in the Chicago Region SCCA photo contest for the month of June. The selection committee was very impressed with your photo of the Mini Cooper in full focus and everything else in the photo blurred representing motion. Very well done.

Miroslav is an active member of the Region's Track Day/ Time Trial group and his photo captured the action at one of our events. For his winning entry Miroslav is the recipient of a \$25.00 gift card and his photo is now entered for the yearend award.

Chicago Region SCCA Photo Contest - July Winner



Congratulations Claire Ball, your photograph of your 1967 Camaro SS Pro-Touring Convertible at Watkins Glen International raceway is just what we mean when we say "Fun With Cars". The photo captured you just before entering the racetrack property for some quick laps on the world famous racetrack.

Claire is a fifty-year member, joining the Region when Team Carrera was brought in to begin the Region's Solo group. For his winning entry Claire is the recipient of a \$25.00 gift card and his photo is now entered for the yearend award.

[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](#).

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.

Alberto Ayerza
Francis Butterworth
Jackie Ding
Daniel Draeger
Emily Draeger
Makinzie Draeger
Waylon Draeger
Maria Fernandez Davila Pastor
Mitch Lelito
Tianyi Ma

Kyle McKiou
Duncan Millar
Rachel Miller
Bernard Toland O'Connor
Lucas Radomski
Jim Rich
Michael Ron
Jerry Samounry
Arturo Soto-Nevarez
Jonathan Zhu

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

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:
8/18/23 Autobahn North Course

9/8/23 Autobahn South Course

Track Sprint:
8/19/23 Autobahn North Course

SCCA Chicago Region | 921 Lawn Circle, Western Springs, IL 60558

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