

**From:** SCCA Chicago Region cluboffice@scca-chicago.com  
**Subject:** Chicago Region Piston Patter  
**Date:** November 1, 2023 at 9:33 AM  
**To:** kevin.bowman1@gmail.com



## Chicago Region, SCCA Piston Patter Newsletter November 2023

### Quick Links

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

Dear Kevin,

Welcome to the November 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



**November 29, 2023**  
Annual Meeting  
Blackdog Shop

### 2024

**February 17, 2024**  
Checkered Flag party  
Ferrari Lake Forest



### 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  
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**

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## [RE Marks](#)

### Chicago Region's new Board of Directors

The 2024 Nomination committee has completed their work, and we have a new slate of board members to be installed at the November 29 Annual Business Meeting. The new members starting their 3-year terms are Heather Ingraham, Linda Novak, and Rich Walke. Heather Ingraham is starting her first term and is currently the chair of the Tack Events Committee and works at our events as a registrar and flagger. Linda Novak is starting her second term and is our current board secretary, member of the Activities Committee and supports our events by being a registrar. Rich Walke is starting his first term and is long time racer also involved with Pro Racing and IMSA.

The returning board members besides myself are Chris Greger, Rick Bentson, Peter LaSueur, Anthony Serrecchia, and Dave Tatge.

I would like to thank the Nomination Committee, Dave Tatge (Chair), Jerome Cahuzac, Jeff Kumler, Ed Locke, Steve Laske, Jim Marinangel, Mike Smith, for their time and effort. Lastly, I would like to thank Ed Locke and Michael Varacins, whose terms are ending, for their racer's perspective and business expertise that they brought to the Board.

### Chicago Region's Annual Business Meeting & More

Our annual Business meeting will take place at BlackDog Racing in Lincolnshire, Illinois on November 29. This important meeting will install the Region's Board of Directors for 2024.

Also end of year reports from:

1. The Treasurer on the financial status of the Region
2. Competition Committee
3. Solo Committee
4. Track Events Committee
5. Street Survival Committee
6. Rally/Tours Committee
7. Activities Committee

I encourage everyone to attend and hear these important reports and have an opportunity to ask questions and comment.

Roger Vilmur

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## [2024 Chicago Reion New Board of Directors](#)

In accordance with the Chicago Region Bylaws, the Region has selected the following three Region members to serve a three-year term on the Region Board of Directors.

### **Linda Novak**

Linda Novak has been a member of Chicago Region SCCA for 12 years. She began in Track Events, volunteering with the organizing committee and working as a registrar and starter. She worked in F&C for several years and now is a regular volunteer with road racing registration. She has served on the Activities Committee since its inception in 2016. Ms. Novak is a retired corporate communications writer, editor and consultant.

### **Heather Ingraham**

Heather is the daughter of a dad who liked to carve canyons and a mom with a deep knowledge of racing history, and she is the slower sibling of a sister with two National Solo championships.

Heather's involvement with the Chicago Region SCCA began in 2018 with a couple of seasons of autocross, but she really found her home in TrackSprint and SCCA Time Trials. Wanting to get to know the tracks better, she began volunteering at check-in, at Track Night in America, and with F&C. Heather has enjoyed working as a member of the Chicago Region Track Events board, in Impound and Grid at Time Trials Nationals, and looks forward to helping at the 2024 Runoffs at Road America.

When she's not volunteering, you can usually find Heather behind the wheel of her bright blue BRZ, getting seat time and grinning from ear to ear.

## Rich Walke

Rich has been an avid motorsports fan since high school days when his dad would take he and his brothers to various Indy Car and NASCAR races at Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Michigan. His focus on sports cars and road racing began while driving up I-90 toward Rockford following a black EP MGB being towed on an open trailer. All he could think about was how do I get involved.

That drive up I-90 led to the purchase a very used Austin Healey Sprite just before his sophomore year in college. He began autocrossing that car the following summer with SCCA and other groups. That led to the purchase of a non-running MG Midget which became his dedicated autocross car and ultimately his first road racing car. After graduation he took the Midget through a Midwest Council driver's school in September, 1976. That humble beginning led to a life-long journey in motorsports, racing with Midwest Council, SCCA Club Racing, SCCA Pro Racing and IMSA. During those years, he won fifteen championships, the June Sprints, and finished as high as third at the SCCA Runoffs.

Early in his career he was involved in club management through the Salt Creek Sports Car Club, one of the Midwest Council clubs. During that time, he served as Race Director for two races, and served on the Board up through being the Club President.

On the non-racing personnel side, Rich has been happily married to his wife Karen since 1987. They have two wonderful daughters, Kellie and Jessica, who both reside in the Lakeview area of Chicago. When not working on race cars, Rich enjoys working on his collector cars, traveling, boating and relaxing in Lake Geneva, and an occasional round of golf.

On the professional side, Rich is a Fire Protection Engineer, having worked for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in multiple capacities for 43 years. After retiring from UL in November 2019, he founded a fire protection consulting and training company under the name of Creative Technology Inc.

Rich is looking forward to giving back to the club which has given him so much enjoyment over the years.

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## Notice of Annual Meeting

**2023 Chicago Region, SCCA General Membership Meeting  
"75 Years of Momentum"**

**November 29, 2023**

Chicago Region Board of Directors invites you to join us for our next General Membership meeting which will be the Region's Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at **Blackdog Speed Shop, 600 Barclay Blvd, Lincolnshire, IL 60069**. There is always something interesting to see at Blackdog, from the race cars to the cars in the shop and in the showroom.

"RE" Roger Vilmur had announced the three candidates nominated to serve on the Region's Board of Directors, Linda Novak, Rich Walke, and Heather Ingram, they will be elected to the BoD at the November Annual Membership Meeting. Leaving the Board will be Ed Locke, and Michael Varacins. We hope you can attend this gathering of club members and guest, meet the current and new members of the Board of Directors and thank Ed and Mike for their service to the club.

The Region is also going to take this opportunity to acknowledge our members at this Membership Meeting. The Chicago Region is fortunate to have many loyal and long-term members, which participate and support the Region. We are going to present anniversary pins to recognize those that have reached a milestone year of membership. We are also going to recognize and thank our committee volunteers for all their time and support with our Committee Service gift as a memento of their service to the Region in 2023. We hope all those invited in both groups can attend to be honored!

So come join us won't you, visit with friends, enjoy the Blackdog experience, and share with us as we bring the Chicago Region's yearlong celebration of "**75 Years of Momentum**" to a close.

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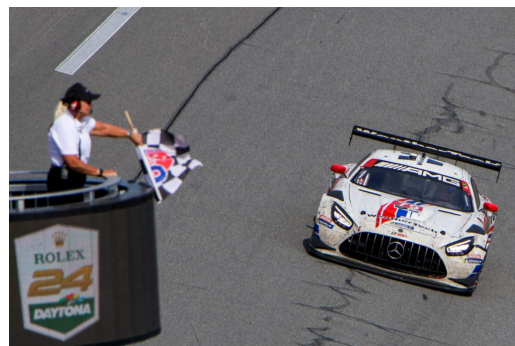
**Chicago Region SCCA October General Membership Meeting**

The Chicago Region SCCA Membership Meeting was held on Wednesday October 18, 2023 at WeatherTech.



Our guest speakers for the evening were Bob McKee and Tom Simpson. Bob and Tom shared with us some fascinating facts and history about the McKee Race Cars and other cars that were designed and built by McKee Engineering. There was a video presentation which told the story of Bob McKee's racing history. The story began with Bob's hot-rod Ford Model A's, continued into stock car racing with Tiny Lund, Indy Car racing with Roger Ward, road racing in CanAm and F5000, and on. Some interesting cars that passed through Bob's hands, there was the 1967 McKee MK10 Can Am racer which starred in the movie "Winning" with some guy named Newman. Bob's 1968 Howmet TX, the only gas-turbine-powered car to take home a victory in racing competition. McKee engineering also built electric cars, and three wheeled motorcycles.

For a link to the video shown at the meeting, click [HERE](#).



We also had a surprise visit from Cooper MacNeil, who shared some stories about his winning the GTD Pro class victory in the 61st Rolex 24 at Daytona and invited us to view the winning car which sat in the next room

There was also some other business presented by RE Roger Vilmur. Roger announced the three candidates nominated to serve on the Region's Board of Directors, Linda Novak, Rich Walke, and Heather Ingram. They will be elected to the BoD at the November Annual Membership Meeting. Roger also spoke about the Region's quest to find a leader for the Membership Committee. If you're a people person, and would be willing, and would like to serve the Region, our membership, and the club in this



person, and would be willing, and would like to serve the Region, our membership, and the club in this role contact Roger, or any other member of the Board.

Our next General Membership meeting will be the Region's Annual Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at Blackdog Speed Shop, 600 Barclay Blvd, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. We hope you can attend this gathering of club members and guest, meet the current and new members of the Board of Directors.

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## The 2023 Chicago Region SCCA Fall Tour

### "75 Years of Momentum"

Brought to you by GOATS "Get Out and Tour Series"

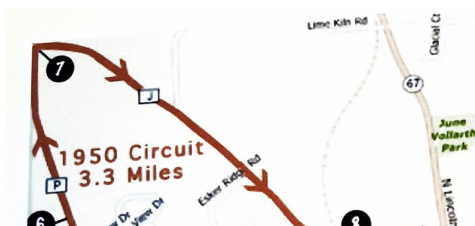
**October 21, 2023**



**"In 0.54 miles turn right at the stop sign for Rt.23 follow County A directions to continue on A (get left quickly)."**

Sounds simple right, and it was, but not until you arrived at the location and saw what the route instructions were telling you to do. Our Rally Master John Sutton out did himself this time. Now I know if you ask him, he'll tell you the roads were to flat, not enough elevation change, or to straight, not enough curves, etc. But that's because he's a perfectionist, and has done so many of these tours, that it allows him to be particular about the route.

As part of the Chicago Region SCCA 75th anniversary celebration, on October 21st the Chicago Region put on a special G.O.A.T.S. (Get Out and Tour Series) event celebrating "75 Years of Momentum". For those that joined us they had a very enjoyable day. It was sunny, a bit cool, with sixteen drivers and navigators all gathered and chomping at the bit to hit the backroads as it were. We had a variety of cars entered, there was a Lotus Evora GT, a Viper, several Porsches, and three generations of Miatas, Corvettes, a Maserati, and a BMW 128i. It was quite a show of cars which looked very impressive all lined up at the end point on Lake Street in Elkhart Lake. As mentioned earlier we had a great route, sunny skies, and comfortable temperatures for riding in a car. The fall colors were fantastic, brilliant reds, yellows, and orange, and all the trees were full of leaves. Even as we headed north and came under some cloud cover the colors remained bright and vivid. You couldn't have asked for more, and the drive on the Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive was spectacular!





The drive took most about three and one half hours to complete and ended in Elkhart Lake, WI, at Siebkens Stop Inn Tavern. The tavern is located on Lake Street at the “Hard Left” corner which was part of the original 1951 and 52 Elkhart Lake street race course. This was a fitting location for an end point where everyone gathered for lunch and some socializing surrounded with racing history, and a tavern covered in racing memorabilia. All entrants were given a copy of the Jim Swintal print “The Hard Left” showing “John Fitch leading the 1951 Elkhart Lake street race in a Cunningham C2R entering the Hard Left at Siebkens”. Fitch was the eventual winner of that race. Also maps of the original street race course were made available for those that wanted to take the drive and see the race course.

Steve Laske

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### [Still Looking for Membership Committee Chairperson](#)

The Chicago Region SCCA Board of Directors is seeking the right person to refine the roles and responsibilities of the membership committee. Ideally that person will possess the organization and people skills to recruit interested committee members and step into the role of interim Chairperson. As a starting point some general thoughts have been discussed.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- a) Welcome new members to the SCCA family.
- b) Develop an overall strategic plan for membership, utilizing data and practices from growing regions.
- c) Conduct membership recruitment.
- d) Review memberships to retain members and upgrade weekend members.
- e) Report to the Board of Directors on Committee activities

#### **Desired Qualifications:**

- a) A people person, easily interacts with the public.
- b) Have a marketing background or is marketing savvy.
- c) Knowledge of how to use Social Media to promote SCCA.
- d) Able to plan and organize tasks and delegate assignments.
- e) Ability to create and manage a budget.

**It's time to get involved and help the Region.**

**Anyone interested in taking on this challenge, contact the club office at 847-729-2211.**

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### [Solo Report](#)

2023 was a great season for Solo. Chicago Region SCCA Solo hosted The Learning Curve Autocross school to start the year followed by eight Solo points events. We Hosted an SCCA Solo National Tour and we conducted a Tিরerack Teenage Street Survival School. We sent Solo Ambassadors to work

booths at three car shows and the NASCAR Chicago Street Race. All Solo points events were held at Rt66 Raceway and offered six competition runs to all who attended. Two events and the Learning Curve had free food giveaways at the conclusion of the events. The Tripod Challenge was won by Milwaukee's Mike Leeder in an F-Street classed Mustang, and we did lose Helga.

Chicago Region had a large Novice class every event and we hope that trend continues. The region gave away over 400 T-Shirts as trophies and National Tour SWAG, all bearing our logo.

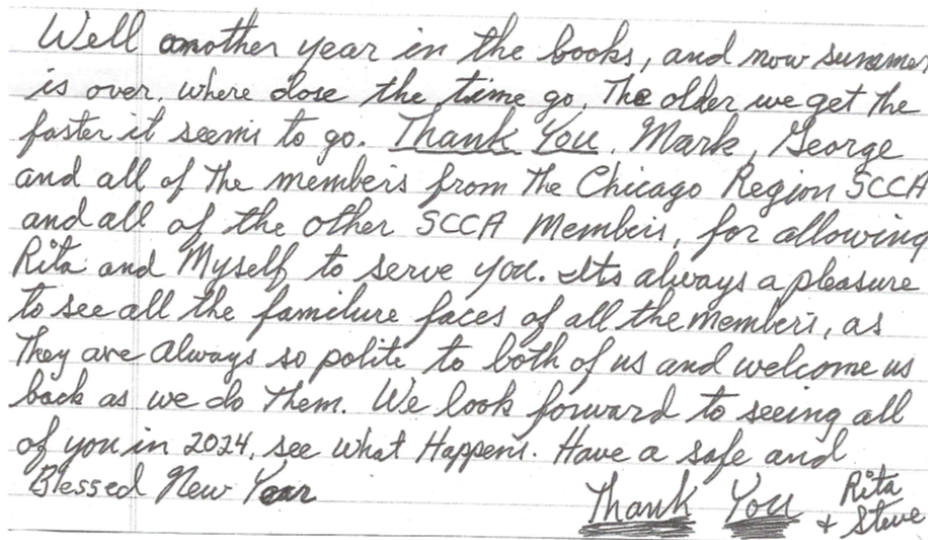
We are planning to have a Solo National Tour in 2024 and are working on the 2023 Solo Banquet and Trophies. Thanks to everyone who joined us this year or supports from afar. Thank you to our sponsors, K&M Magnetics, Summit Racing and Chris Gregor at ReMax Suburban Realty. The Solo board wishes you all a happy and healthy off-season.

The 2023 Chicago Region Solo Board  
Chris Perry, Solo Chairman  
Brian McGreevey, Director  
Drew Tonnesen, Director  
Chris Gregor, Director  
Kati Bianchi, Director  
Mark Lopotko, Director

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### On The Green Stuff

The year 2023 is quickly coming to a close. But before we reach out and let our thoughts start to morph into what 2024 will hold for us, I have one more note I received at the conclusion of the Competition Season. What event would be complete without a beer or glass of wine served by our favorite couple Rita and Steve Bender. Below is a note from them:



Well another year in the books, and now summer is over, where does the time go, The older we get the faster it seems to go. Thank You, Mark, George and all of the members from the Chicago Region SCCA and all of the other SCCA Members, for allowing Rita and Myself to serve you. Its always a pleasure to see all the famillure faces of all the members, as they are always so polite to both of us and welcome us back as we do them. We look forward to seeing all of you in 2024, see what Happens. Have a safe and Blessed New Year  
Thank You Rita + Steve

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### 2024 Hoosier Super Tour Schedule

(Note: The schedule below is subject to change. Keep an eye on **SCCA's Hoosier Super Tour webpage** for the most up to date schedule listing.)

- **Jan. 12-14: Sebring International Raceway; Sebring, FL**  
(Central Florida Region - Southeast Conference)
- **Feb. 17-18: NOLA Motorsports Park; Avondale, LA**  
(Southwest Division - Southern Conference)
- **Feb. 23-25: Buttonwillow Raceway Park; Buttonwillow, CA**  
(Cal Club Region - Western Conference)

(Car Club Region - Western Conference)

· **March 8-10: Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta; Braselton, GA**

(Atlanta Region - Southeast Conference)

· **April 20-21: Hallett Motor Racing Circuit; Jennings, OK**

(Ark Valley Race Group - Mid-States/Southern Conference)

· **May 11-12: Portland International Raceway, Portland, OR**

(Oregon Region - Western Conference)

· **May 17-19: Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, Ohio**

(Ohio Valley Region - Northern Conference)

· **May 31-June 2: Watkins Glen International; Watkins Glen, NY**

(Finger Lakes Region - Northeast Conference)

· **June 21-23 Road America – Chicago Region® June Sprints®; Plymouth, WI**

(Chicago Region - Northern Conference)

*One additional event will be added.*

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## [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](#).

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## [2023 Chicago Region New & Returning Members](#)

September 29 – October 29, 2023

Chicago Region is pleased to welcome the following new and returning 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.

Kevin Bachar  
John Warner Haluska  
Chris Hutter  
Peter Kong

Derek Lamanna  
Maciej Machaj  
Alfred Rotiroti

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

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