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Subject: Chicago Region Piston Patter
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To: kevin.bowman1@gmail.com



Chicago Region, SCCA Piston Patter Newsletter December 2023

Quick Links

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

Dear Kevin,

Welcome to the December 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.

2024 Event Calendar

January 18-26, 2024

SCCA National
Convention

February 17, 2024

Checkered Flag party
Ferrari Lake Forest

March 16, 2024

CenDiv Spring Training
Milwaukee Area Technical
College – Mequon
campus

April 20-21, 2024

CenDiv Drivers School
CenDiv Double Regional
Blackhawk Farms



2024 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
Chris Gregor – Treasurer-----630-661-7167
Peter LeSueur-----630-569-5026
Dave Tatge-----630-880-0406
Rick Bentson-----708-289-5254
Heather Ingraham-----847-471-3218
Rich Walke-----847-438-3309

A list of all Chicago Region solo, track day rally and

[RE Marks](#)

Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays to all the Chicago Region members from the Board of Directors. May all of you have a happy and safe holiday season with your families and loved ones.

Board of Directors

The new board of directors is now in place as of the Annual Business meeting on November 29th. All the officers are returning except for the Treasurer, which is now held by Chris Gregor.

The 2024 Board Officers are:

- . Regional Executive: Roger Vilmur
- . Assistant RE: Anthony Serrecchia
- . Treasurer: Chis Gregor
- . Secretary: Linda Novak

In January we will confirm the liaisons between the board and the various committees and board contacts.

Chicago Region's Annual Business Meeting

On November 29 we held our Annual Business Meeting in accordance with the Region's By-Laws. The annual meeting serves two purposes. First is the ceremonial installation of the new board of directors as nominated by the independent nomination committee. The second is reports from the Board, Treasurer and the various committees that planned and supported the various events this year. The committees reported that they executed the plans they created for the year.

Financially none of the committees lost money this year. Many held 75 anniversary celebrations. The repaving of Road America helped the car counts for the Sprints and Kettle. Supporting the NASCAR Cup race in Chicago was an unexpected financial plus. The region hosting Solo National Tour Event was also a highlight this year. The region is in good shape for the start of the 2024 activities.

SCCA National Convention

Registration is open for the 2024 SCCA National Convention that will be held January 18-26, 2024. To register: https://whova.com/portal/registration/sccaa_202401/. The 2024 SCCA National Convention also holds special significance as we celebrate the Club's 80th birthday. This milestone anniversary provides a momentous occasion to reflect on the rich heritage and accomplishments of the SCCA throughout eight decades of motorsports excellence.

Roger Vilmur

[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.

Heather Ingraham

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.

Rich Walke

Rich has been an avid motorsports fan since high school days. He began autocrossing in an Austin Healy Sprite. 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.

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

[2023 Chicago Region, SCCA General Membership Meeting](#) “75 Years of Momentum”

The Chicago Region Board of Directors conducted the Region's Annual Meeting followed by the November General Membership meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at Blackdog Speed Shop.

“RE” Roger Vilmur began the business portion of the meeting promptly at 7:00 pm following an opportunity for members to socialize, enjoy some 75 Anniversary cake and beverages and take in the collection of race and collector cars on hand.



The business portion of the meeting had yearend reports from the Treasurer, Competition Chairman, Solo, Track Days, and the Activities Committee (see elsewhere for reports). Dave Tatge, Chair of the Nominating Committee introduced the three candidates, Heather Ingram, Linda Novak, and Rich Walke, followed by a vote cast by the Secretary to elect them to the Board of Directors. Roger Vilmur then introduced the two individuals, leaving the Board, Ed Locke, and Michael Varacins, and thanked them for their years of service. Later, after the close of the meeting the Board met to elect the Executive Committee of the Board for 2024. Roger Vilmur will serve as Regional Executive, Anthony Serrecchia as Asst. Regional Executive, Linda Novak as Secretary, and Chris Gregor as Treasurer.

The Region also took 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 presented anniversary pins to recognize those that have reached a milestone year of membership. We also recognized 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 wish to thank all those that were in attendance and hope you enjoyed the time visiting with friends, looking at the cars and helping the Chicago Region bring our 75 Anniversary Celebration, “75 Years of Momentum” to a close.

2023 Chicago Region Committee Annual Reports

Treasurer Report

Budgeting for 2023 included extra expenditures for celebrating the region's 75th anniversary. Despite these, the region will end the year in the black due to strong entry numbers at June Sprints, good cost control, and the efforts of our member volunteers. We expect large entries for the 2024 June Sprints because the Runoffs return to Road America next fall. This will help financial results in 2024.

Competition Report

The 15-person Competition Committee is tasked with the planning and execution of the Region's Road Racing program. These 15 members through Specialty Administrators and many Volunteers presented 4 Region Road Races, a Central Division Drivers School and Double Divisional, and staffing for three Pro series events.

The yearly Financial Results were positive, however some events, while improving over previous years, continue to present challenges. New and ongoing programs are being reviewed and developed to change future results.

While financial results are very important another statistic is equally important. Participation in activities continues to be strong. The year started with the Cendiv Spring Training for 146 Volunteers, up from 2022 by 34 volunteers. The Division Drivers School Double Divisional event 317 participants (drivers, crew & volunteers) an increase of 63 from 2022. Four Road racing events with 750 Drivers, an increase of 88 from 2022. Pro series support volunteers 156. Our events for 2024 will continue with the same schedule of Training, Drivers School, The Chicago Region June Sprints. Kettle Moraine, Summer Classic, and the Fall Sprints.

Thank you to Competition Committee members, Specialty Administrators and Volunteers for a successful 2023.

George Laws Competition Chairman

Activities Committee Report

The Activities Committee primary focus is on social activities and programs within and for the Region. 2023 was a busy year with numerous events and social activities taking place. The largest endeavor of the committee was the yearlong Chicago Region 75 Anniversary Celebration which began in late summer of 2022.

This year began with the Checkered Flag Party in February chaired by Peg and Claire Ball. The event this year took place at Ferrari Lake Forest and was the Region's official kick off to our 75 Anniversary Celebration "75 Years of Momentum".

The committee held three general membership meetings this year, one in the spring and two in the fall. The March meeting was held at Blackdog Speed Shop where we recognized club members with anniversary pins, committee awards were presented, and Peter Jankovskis our Area Director and President of the SCCA Board of Directors provided an overview of material presented and discussed at the CenDiv Spring Training event. There was no April meeting this year. The October meeting was held at WeatherTech, Cooper MacNeil stopped in to say a few words and our guest speakers were Bob McKee and Tom Simpson. Bob shared a video focusing on his racing and car design/construction career. The November Annual Membership Meeting was held at Blackdog Speed Shop where we recognized club members with anniversary pins, committee awards were presented. At this meeting the Region brought our 75 Anniversary celebration to a close with a cake and beverages.

We conducted three car shows to promote the club, the Region, and the sport. In May we participated in the South Elgin High school car show, we supported the schools automotive technical training program while promoting the clubs racing and autocross programs. In August we held our "Concours for Sports Cars" at the Geneva Concours in Geneva IL. We have continued to have 30 cars within our show providing the viewing public with a variety of sports and race cars to promote the club, the Region and support the event benefactor "LivingWell Cancer Resource Center". The committee also supports the MiRPA's Meadowdale, Motorsports & Memories Car Show held at the old Meadowdale Racetrack site. Linda Daro, Chair of the MiRPA's board has been very kind and providing us with an excellent location and space for our display at the show to promote the sport and the club.

The Committee conducted a yearlong photo contest with the intent to record our anniversary year. We did have entries throughout the year however overall, the program was not as successful as we hoped.

Rally Report

This year the Activities Committee added the Regions Rally program within our oversight. We held two Tour type rallies which are non-competitive social type events. In May we ran a backroads tour ending at "The Rafters" restaurant in Lena IL. where participants learned about the event name's sake "Ride the Rooster" and in October we enjoyed the fall colors on a drive to Elkhart Lake ending at Siebkens "Stop In Tavern" located at the "Hard Left" turn on the original 1951, 52 street race circuit. This year the rally program was not profitable, and we have adjusted our operating plan to address this going forward.

The year was an overall success, we met our overall budget plan and provided our membership with numerous social activities throughout the year.

Solo Report

The Solo team started the year with the Learning Curve training. They held eight events, all of which were well attended. They also staffed Street Survival and hosted a SCCA National Solo Tour weekend. The National Tour will return in 2024. Team members helped staff the membership display at the NASCAR weekend in Chicago.

Track Events Report

The 2023 Chicago Region Track Events season was bustling - and in the black!

We offered six track events + three "race weekend" time trials (TTs). For home dates, we accommodated advanced, intermediate, and novice drivers as well as those seeking to challenge themselves in the time trials group. We offered classroom sessions, pace laps, and instructors. The fun, supportive environment - including pizza! - created many repeat customers. We also hosted two Time Trial in a Race Weekend events and provided check-in and transponders for the Firecracker TT in June. We have been thinking about how to make these RW / TTs sort of a "home and home" series in the future.

This year, we welcomed just shy of 300 participants - an average of 35 entrants at each Track Event and 12 in each TT group - and interest in earning a TT license is growing. This encourages participants to become full members to be eligible for the license. Also, we celebrated the Region's major milestone with a 75-dollar discount for the Anniversary event. Participants enjoyed extra pizza afterwards and cleared out our entire supply of 75th Anniversary stickers!

Challenges? A few, but they're manageable. One is arranging the calendar to enable maximum participation for drivers juggling rising expenses and an increasing number of "track day" groups operating for profit. A second challenge involves staffing when big weekends -like NASCAR and the Cat Major - deploy many SCCA volunteers to other tracks. Happily, committee members stepped up in a big way and the events continued smoothly.

Finally, we are happy to say that our Track Days made money at all but one event (the heavily discounted Anniversary event).

As we look ahead to 2024, we are planning for a similar May-to-October calendar and even more opportunities for #funwithcars!

Mark Your 2024 Calendar

2024 Checkered Flag Party **February 17 at Ferrari Lake Forest.**

Plan to attend Chicago Region's highly subsidized party to kick-off the 2024 season and thank its members for their support in 2023 and all the previous years.



Welcome to another great season of Racing in SCCA!!!

CenDiv Spring Training will be on Saturday, March 16, 2024

Milwaukee Area Technical College - Mequon campus

5555 West Highland Road

Mequon, WI 53092-1143

Watch for updates as more information becomes available.

On The Green Stuff

The 2024 Competition Season calendar has been set. Starting in March with the CenDiv Spring Training on March 16 & 17th. We follow up with CenDiv Drivers School Double Divisional weekend April 19, 20,21 at Blackhawk Farms. The balance of Chicago's race schedule is:

Chicago Region June Sprints at Road America - June 21 to 23
Kettle Moraine Double Divisional at Road America – August 24 -25
Summer Classic Double Divisional at Autobahn – September 7-8
Fall Sprints Double Divisional at Blackhawk Farms – October 12-13

**We want to take this opportunity to wish everyone:
A Joyous – Safe – and wonderful Holiday Season.**

Tentative 2024 "NORTHERN CONFERENCE" Majors Schedule

May 17-19: Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course; Ohio Valley Region; Lexington, OH **Hoosier Super Tour**
June 21-23: Road America; Chicago Region June Sprints; Elkhart Lake, WI **Hoosier Super Tour**
July 6-7: Gingerman Raceway; South Bend Region; South Haven, MI
July 20-21: Road America; Milwaukee Region; Elkhart Lake, WI
August 17-18: Grattan Raceway; Western Michigan Region; Belding, MI

**Additional 2024 events will be added as they are confirmed for each Conference*

For the CenDiv 2024 Race Schedule, click [HERE](#)

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)
- . **March 8-10: Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta; Braselton, GA**
(Atlanta Region - Southeast Conference)

- (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.

[Chicago Region SCCA Apparel](#) [Great Christmas Gift](#)

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 & Returning Members](#) **October 30 – November 30, 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.

Roger Beck
Jason Diamond
Michael Dotson
Tres Drawhorn

Todd Hanson
David Kindt
Nicholas Lau
Tuan Le

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