



Chicago Region, SCCA Piston Patter Newsletter

September 2023

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Dear [REDACTED]

Welcome to the September 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

September 8, 2023
Track Day #6
Autobahn South Course

September 9-10, 2023
Double Regional Race,
Autobahn

September 17, 2023
Solo Event #6
Rt 66 Raceway

October 7-8, 2023
Double Regional Race,
Blackhawk Farms

October 7-8, 2023
Milwaukee/ Chicago
Region Events #7 & #8
Rt66 Raceway

October 21, 2023
Fall Tour
To Elkhart Lake

October ???
Membership Meeting



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



Ed Wachs

10/9/35 – 8/5/23

**Devoted 62 Year
Region Member**



Regretfully, the Region has lost another longtime member who was an important part of the early growth of Chicago Region's road racing activities.

Eddie was one of the early pioneers in Chicago Region road racing. His true passion was going fast. First in race cars as a driver and a team owner – in CanAm and Indy Series and also at LeMans

[RE Marks](#)

Central Division Representative

The Chicago Region SCCA is a member of the Central Division SCCA (CenDiv). As a member we have representation on the CenDiv Board of Directors. Mike Smith has represented the Chicago Region for several years and has served as the board's president. Mike is stepping down at the end of the year to become the Executive Steward for the CenDiv. On behalf of the membership, I would like to thank Mike for his years of service on the CenDiv Board.

At the last Chicago Region Board meeting the CenDiv Representative position was discussed, nominations made, and a vote determined our new representative. Ed Locke accepted the nomination and was voted in as the Chicago Region SCCA representative on the Central Division Board of Directors. Ed, a long time Chicago Region member, is currently on the Chicago Region Board and is our Treasurer. Ed's second term ends in November. In the past Ed has been a RE and has either worked or participated in solo, track events, and road racing. With his broad SCCA experience and engineering and business background we believe Ed will be a very effective representative of the Chicago Region. So please join me in congratulating and thanking Ed for taking on this important new role.

Chicago Region Combo Events

We just completed our first combo event of the year at the Kettle with Double Regional Road Racing combined with an Enduro Race. Our next road racing event will also be a combo event. This will take place at Autobahn Country Club's South Course on September 8, 9, and 10. On the 8 Autobahn Country Club is sponsoring a test day. At the end of the Test Day, Chicago Region is holding an evening Track Day for drivers at all experience levels, novice, intermediate and advanced. Each level will have 3 sessions. Saturday will be the first day of the Road Race weekend combined with a Time Trial for intermediate and advanced drivers. The Time Trail sessions will be mixed with the road race sessions. Sunday the 10 will conclude the weekend with the second day of Road Racing. This is a weekend for everyone interested in cars, participants, racers, workers, and spectators. Come and join the fun. Registrations can be found at motorsportsreg.com.

Roger Vilmur

[Help Wanted: 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.

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



June 10, 2023

The Chicago Region of the Sports Car Club of America hosted the TireRack Street Survival School this summer. We had a sold out student registration list and plenty of in car coaches and volunteers on hand. The weather was absolutely perfect for the day. The multiple classroom sessions and hands-on driving experiences will hopefully prove to be invaluable to everyone who attended.



Knight Transportation and driver Aaron Williams provided an 18-wheeler semi-truck for everyone to get a view from their prospective. Seeing full size cars and trucks disappear from truck drivers view is quite an eye-opening experience for student, coach and parent alike.





One student suffered a tire puncture which was turned into a tire changing and tire plugging lesson.

We successfully discharged a vehicle airbag to demonstrate the power used to deploy vehicle airbags. And we briefly ran a mixed element course at the end of the day with some students taking their parents along to show them all that was learned.

[Solo Report](#)

Chicago Region has hosted five Solo events at Rt66 Raceway this season all with good attendance. We had fast, fun, and challenging courses with lots of smiling faces. The Novice class has been quite large at every event, which is always a pleasure to see. We even have seen an uptick in spectators this year. Thank you all for coming out. We cannot do it without you.

The Solo team now takes a break in the action as a large portion of Chicago Region members are heading to the 50th running of the Sports Car Club of America Solo National Championships in Lincoln, Nebraska. September 5th-8th at Lincoln Airpark over seventy regulars and at least another twenty former Chicago Region members will be taking part in the sold-out event. Safe Travels and good luck to you all. Let's bring home some hardware.

Chicago Region's next Solo points event is at Rt66 September 17th. Registration is open! Get signed up early for the best deal. <http://msreg.com/CR2023E6>

Then we will conclude our 2023 Solo season with the Annual Tripod Challenge on October 7th and 8th. The Tripod Challenge is a competition between Milwaukee, Chicago, and Minnesota Region Autocross drivers. In recent years Minnesota has joined forces with Indiana and Iowa Region racers to field a team. Even with the combined effort, Helga the TriPod Trophy has remained in Chicago for a few years now. Last year Dan Simms earned the pleasure of taking Helga home in 2022. We are hoping to keep the Tripod Challenge winning streak going. Join the fun and help us out. The winner is determined by a bracket style shootout with the top 16 on index from each heat on Saturday. They then race head-to-head on Sunday until one driver emerges victorious. A "guess the winner" contest offers prizes for whoever fills out their 32 driver challenge bracket most correctly.

Registration for both days of the Tripod challenge opens soon! Don't miss out on your last chance to race Solo with Chicago Region SCCA this year! You do not have to attend both days. They will be run like normal Autocross events, so join the fun at Rt66!

Saturday 10/7 <http://msreg.com/CR2023E7>

Sunday 10/8 <http://msreg.com/CR2023E8>

Lastly we would like to thank our 2023 Season Sponsors:

K&M Magnetics

Summit Racing

Chris Gregor - ReMax Suburban Realty

Shirts 101

Chicago Region SCCA Gear Store

Best Regards,

The Chicago Region SCCA Solo Board

<https://scca-chicago.com/autocross/>
<https://www.motorsportreg.com/orgs/scca/chicago/solo>
https://shirts101.store/scca_chicago_region/shop/home
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChicagoRegionSCCA/?ref=share_group_link

SCCA Chicago Region Solo (@chicago_region_scca_solo) • Instagram photos and videos

GENEVA CONCOURS *d'Elegance*

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Car enthusiasts gathered together again this year in Geneva, Illinois to view a beautiful collection of antique, classic and modern automobiles. Participants from all over the Country displayed their prized automobiles on Third Street and some were awarded one of the coveted "Benz" Trophies.

The Chicago Region SCCA participated in the Geneva Concours D'Elegance with Chicago Region's "Concours for Sports Cars" being a featured group.

The weather was fantastic and it brought out a very large show attendance of car enthusiasts all day long both viewing the main street car displays and the Region's cars.



The Reion would like to thank all its members who brought out 30 display cars and the fun committee that helped put on the event and manned the Region's membership booth. Special thanks to Steve Laske for his hard work organizing and putting on the event.



**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. 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.

**The 2023 Chicago Region SCCA Fall Tour
"75 Years of Momentum"
Brought to you by GOATS "Get Out and Tour Series"**

October 21, 2023



As part of the Chicago Region SCCA 75th anniversary celebration on October 21st the Chicago Region will be running another G.O.A.T.S. (Get Out and Tour Series) event. Join us this fall as the colors are changing for another drive through southern Wisconsin to Elkhart Lake on some of the most scenic backroads there are to enjoy.

This G.O.A.T.S. (Get Out and Tour Series) backroads tour will provide you with an enjoyable day of driving, using great Wisconsin backroads providing scenic views and plenty of turns and elevation changes. The drive will take approximately three to four hours to complete (about 150 miles) ending in Elkhart Lake WI at Siebkens Stop Inn Tavern. located on the original 1951 and 52 Elkhart Lake street

race course at the Hard Left corner. The GOATS thought this was a fitting location for an end point where we can all gather for lunch and some socializing surrounded with racing history. Join us won't you!

Event Information:

When: Saturday October 21, 2023

Registration: Pre-event registration is required. Entry deadline is midnight Sunday October 15, 2023
To register: click [HERE](#).

Entry Fee per car: \$15.00 SCCA Members, \$35.00 Non-members (Weekend membership for all non-member drivers is required (membership fee is included in entry). 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: Granny's Diner of Richmond, 11302 US 12 in Richmond IL. 60071 (at the intersection of US12 and N. Burlington Rd.) Check-in at the event will open at 8:00 am, with the first car off promptly at 9:00 am. The restaurant opens at 7am if you would like to grab a bite to eat before the tour begins.

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

[On The Green Stuff](#)

As you read this the Chicago Region Kettle Moraine Event will be history. Race Entries, volunteer counts and the weather are all predicted to be very good, and we always have room for more of each. Thankfully, we have two more events soon. September 9 & 10 at Autobahn Country Club and October 7 and 8 at Blackhawk Farms Raceway. Both of those events provide a wonderful opportunity to try out a new Specialty. For assistance in making that contact call the Chicago Region office at 847-729-2211. They will be happy to put you in contact with the right person.

If you are unsure as to where your interest should lead you, we have the cure. On October 7th at the Blackhawk event, we will conduct a tour of the various specialties with descriptions and onsite visits with each specialty. Contact The Chicago Region office at 847-729-2211 to Register and receive additional information.

[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, quiet 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

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 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 & Returning Members](#)

July 28 – August 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.

Dan Boldt
Lai Ching Fulton
Nathan Fulton
Steve Fulton
Rodney Harris
Maximillian Karpiak
Jonathan Klein

Tim Kobler
Steve Lanchak
Evin Lloyd
Saul Montoya
Michael Pignotti
Herb Williams
William Wittkamper

[2023 Chicago Region Road Race Schedule](#)

9/9-10/23 Double Regional Race, Auytobahn
10/7-8/23 Double Regional Race, Blackhawk Farms

[2023 Chicago Region Autocross/Solo Schedule](#)

September 5-8 Lincoln Nebraska SCCA Solo National Championship
September 17 RT66 Chicago Region SCCA Event #6
October 7-8 RT66 Milwaukee/ Chicago Region Events #7 & #8

[2023 Chicago Region Track Day Schedule](#)

Track events:
9/8/23 Autobahn South Course





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