

From: SCCA Chicago Region cluboffice@scca-chicago.com
Subject: Chicago Region Piston Patter
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To: kevin.bowman1@gmail.com



Chicago Region, SCCA Piston Patter Newsletter

January 2024

Quick Links

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

Dear Kevin,

Welcome to the January 2024 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-----847-274-0283

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

[RE Marks](#)

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all the Chicago Region SCCA Members as we start the 76th year as a part of the SCCA. This should be another exciting year for our members, with a full schedule of Solo, Road Racing, Track Events/Time Trials, Rally/Tours, Car Shows and Social Events. Schedules for Road Racing and Track Events are set. Solo and other events will be solidified soon. Check the Website regularly and fill in your calendar for your favorite activities and see the latest news.

SCCA President's Update, December 2023

In early December SCCA President and CEO, Mike Cobb, presented an update on the status of the club. A replay of that update is available on the SCCA website under the Member Portal -> My Learning -> Member Content -> Annual Meetings and Updates.

2023 Annual Waivers

Annual waivers for 2023 are now available on-line. No need for forms or seeking signatures. Just go to SCCA.com and login to your Member Account Portal (MAP) and click on the "Online Store" and select "Licenses and Waivers". Select the waiver you need and follow the prompts. You will also need a photo of yourself to upload (Selfie). The waiver will be good until 12/13/2023.

2023 SCCA Nation Convention

The 2024 National Convention will be held virtually again this year. That means that anyone can be part of the convention. There is no charge to register, and sessions can be streamed on any PC, MAC, or Smart Phone. The link to Register is [HERE](#)

General sessions include the Annual Meeting, which reports on the state of the club at the national level. There are award presentations for Hall of Fame, Road Racing and Regions. There are "Town Hall" sessions for various club activities such as Club Racing, Time Trials, Solo and more. And finally, there are dozens of "How To" sessions for workers and leaders.

With the convention being free and no travel involved, I encourage every member of the region to register and attend sessions of interest.

Roger Vilmur

2024 Checkered Flag Party

February 17 at Ferrari Lake Forest.

You will not want to miss this year's Checkered Flag Party. Plans include a late afternoon social get together with hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and jazz band.



Party schedule will be:

4:00 - 6:00pm Check-in

4:00 - 6:30pm Social with complementary beer, wine, and pop
6:30 - 8:00pm Dinner
8:00 - 8:30pm 2023 Region Awards

This is a Chicago Region highly subsidized event to thank its members for their support in 2023 and all the previous years. Member fee is \$75 per person.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Steve Laske at laske.steve@gmail.com or 630-258-3820

**PLEASE register as soon as possible, so we know the size of the party attendance.
Your credit card will not be charged until the day of the party.**

To register now, please click [HERE](#)



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

CenDiv Spring training registration is open and we have a new facility this year:

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

Milwaukee Area Technical College - Mequon campus
5555 West Highland Road
Mequon, WI 53092-1143

Keep following for updates as more information becomes available!

"Subscribe to the SCCA CenDiv newsletter to keep up with changes to Spring Training as well as other Divisional news." <https://cendiv-scca.org/about/newsletter/>

Registration is OPEN and will close on March 5th. Please register for any specialty or interest that you have. There will be brief session contents published when we have that info from the leaders who will conduct the classes. We encourage you to join another group if your specialty isn't available at this time. You need not be an SCCA member to attend.

The hotel situation is currently being addressed and more information will be following soon - if you plan to stay at the hotel near the venue please register and choose that you will be staying and how many nights, so we can set up a block with the appropriate numbers to accommodate everyone and get the best rate possible.

Covid 19 Protocols will be considered depending on the situation at the time of the event. Each individual should consider their own needs and precautions.

We have the following National Staff guests scheduled to appear at this year's training.

Mike Cobb - President and CEO of SCCA
Chris Robbins - Director of Region Development
Abby Scher - Manager of Region Communication, Training & Events

Sessions planned are as follows:

Flagging and Corners, Race Administration, Registration, Stewards, Tech, Timing & Scoring,
Tire Rack Street Survival, Time Trials and Timed Events
Meet with our Divisional leadership to learn more about...Time Trails, Timed Events,

Track Night in America, and Enduro's, Road Racing

To register, click the following link; msreg.com/CendivST2024

Blackhawk Valley, Chicago, Land O'Lakes, or Milwaukee Region members are paid by the Regions, As in the past, there will be a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday at MATC provided at no charge. Lunch will be a Buffet - choices will be beef or chicken at MATC (more info to come). Sunday Continental breakfast at the hotel will be included for those attending the CenDiv Board Meeting

SCCA Hall of Fame

The Sports Car Club of America® is proud to announce the distinguished group of five who will next enter the SCCA Hall of Fame. Anatoly Arutunoff, Bruce Foss, Victoria "Vicki" O'Connor, Terry Ozment, and Fred Wacker Jr. will join the SCCA Hall of Fame as the class of 2024,

Three of these new inductees have been actively involved in Chicago Region.



Victoria "Vicki" O'Connor

Victoria "Vicki" O'Connor became involved in the SCCA in the 1960s when her husband, Bill, raced in Formula B. Hers was not an unusual introduction to the sport, but what she did next most certainly was.

Her motorsports career began with working for Carl Haas as his personal secretary. She was so effective that she became the natural choice to head up the Sports 2000 Racing Series. Based on that success, in the mid-1980s, SCCA Pro Racing asked her to organize and run a new series for Formula Atlantic on the East Coast to enhance the West Coast Atlantic Race series (WCAR), so O'Connor established the ProMotion Agency Ltd to run SCCA's East Coast Atlantic Racing (ECAR) series.

Under O'Connor's guidance, the ECAR series grew and prospered, attracting Toyota as the series sponsor and engine provider in 1989. This was the start of the hugely successful Toyota Atlantic Series. In 1991, WCAR was merged into ECAR, creating a national championship series – and O'Connor was tapped to head the organization. Also that year, Gerry Forsythe, one of CART's founding members, bought ProMotion Agency Ltd., placing O'Connor and her staff into the CART organization. From its SCCA roots, the series now gained prominence on a national stage.

In accepting the challenge, O'Connor helped design a hugely successful series that would launch drivers like Scott Goodyear, Dan Wheldon, James Hinchcliff, Danica Patrick, Graham Rahal, Simona de Silvestro, and more, into prominence.

There is so much that happens behind the scenes of a successful series that is integral to its success, from hiring staff, procuring insurance and contracts, arranging publicity, getting sponsors, developing schedules, securing contracts, overseeing advertising – the list is endless, and O'Connor did it all.

Terry Ozment

Terry Ozment has a long and illustrious history of involvement in SCCA leadership at the Regional, Divisional, National, and professional levels.

Joining Land O'Lakes Region in 1980 and serving the Club in many capacities, Ozment held licenses in Flagging and Communications, Registration, Race Chairman, Timing and Scoring, and Steward, and served as the CENDiv scheduling representative for five years. She was also on the Region's board as

treasurer, and served on the 1983 National Convention Committee, conducting seminars in creativity and volunteer management.

In 1986, Ozment moved to Chicago, serving on that Region's board in multiple capacities and spent two years as the Regional Executive. She was also active on many Divisional committees and was an active steward, including terms as Chief Steward for the June Sprints and Chief of Protest Central at the Mid-Ohio Runoffs.

In 1996, she joined the SCCA staff. Ozment's accomplishments as SCCA's Vice President of Club Racing include implementing a member-friendly attitude toward customer service, defining volunteer positions, and updating the structure of the volunteer program. Ozment managed the Runoffs efforts at five different venues and directed preliminary planning for a sixth, applied for – and received – a \$50,000 grant from the McLaren Foundation to fund training and annual reviews of track safety, led the staff launch of the U.S. Majors Tour program, streamlined the Club's competition licensing program, and more.

Even though she was no longer a Wisconsin resident, Ozment was awarded the state's Governor's Cup in 2013 in recognition for her long-time service in motorsports. Then in 2015, a year after departing the SCCA staff, she was presented with the John McGill Award.

After leaving the SCCA National Office, Ozment was hired by SVRA and then migrated to a leadership position with the Trans Am Race Group, both of which are collaborators with SCCA Pro Racing. In those roles, she continued to implement changes to improve the racing experience for participants, officials, and course workers.

When dealing with any issue, her first question was: "What is the right thing to do for the members?" SCCA is most certainly a better organization due to her attitude, example, and dedication.

Fred Wacker Jr

Fred Wacker Jr. was an early and – it could be said – founding member of the SCCA. Wacker was the co-founder of SCCA's Chicago Region in which he served as Regional Executive for three terms from 1948-'50. Then in 1952 and '53, Wacker served SCCA as its president.

An accomplished racer, Wacker participated not only in the States, but also in Europe in Grand Prix and Formula One racing. In fact, Chicago Region's Driver of the Year Award is named in Wacker's honor

But in the early years of racing, there were no dedicated racing courses, so SCCA races were held on the streets of cities such as Watkins Glen, where Wacker was an active participant. Unfortunately, Wacker was involved in an accident while racing at Watkins Glen in 1952, resulting in spectator injuries and one fatality. This accident prompted him and his peers to place more emphasis on safety issues as well as securing permanent racing environments that would increase safety for spectators as well as drivers.

Alongside Jim Kimberly (SCCA Hall of Fame, class of 2009), the two set out in Kimberly's plane searching for land for a racetrack – a search resulting in what is now Road America. But the search didn't end there. With his peers at his side, Wacker met with General Curtis LeMay (SCCA Hall of Fame, class of 2007), helping convince him to allow the use of air bases for road racing activities. The act of moving racing to dedicated circuits and airports placed road racing and SCCA in front of the public with a safer and more secure environment, ultimately changing motorsports into what it has become today.

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)
- . **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](#)

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](#) **November 30 – December 31, 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.

Mark G. Bieberstein
Nita Buffomante

Brian Furgalus
Kamil Kopko

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