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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 2024

Quick Links

Region Website
Club & Membership
Incentive Programs
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Motorsportreg

Welcome to the December 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.

2025 Event Calendar

February 15, 2025
Checked Flag party
Lake Forest Ferrari

March 15-16, 2025
Spring Training (tentative)

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





RE Marks

I'm Back!

Well, I'm back for one more issue of REmarks. Traditionally the newly installed board of directors elect their officers right after the Annual Membership Meeting. Because a significant number of board members could not make the Annual Membership Meeting, the board members that were present voted to postpone the election of officers to the December board meeting.

This is where things get interesting. Technically I'm not on the board anymore and cannot vote on any business before the board, but according to Bylaws, officers are not relieved of their duties until a new officer is elected. So, both Chris Gergor as Treasurer and me as Regional Executive are still performing our duties until the board elects new officers. Chris Gregor still gets to sign checks, and I get to write one more REmarks.

Volunteering Deficit

So, what is the biggest impediment to the success of the Chicago Region SCCA. It's not financial, it's not the lack of venues, it's not the lack of events. It's the lack of volunteers. A couple of events this year, road racing and track sprints, may have been cancelled if not for the last minute efforts of specialty chiefs and committees. And it is not just one specialty, F&C, Safety, Tech, and even Stewards had issues with volunteer staffing this year.

We were provided with several volunteer recruiting solutions through the student consulting team at Northern Illinois University. But that is going to take volunteers and time and money. In the meantime, I have a suggestion, at least for the road racers. Some of our volunteers have crossed over to being drivers too. And when they are not racing that weekend, they are volunteering. So, I am suggesting that majors racers come out and volunteer at the regional races and regional racers volunteer at major races. That includes drivers, family and crew.

For those that run Solo, Track Events, and Track Sprints, they have established run/work opportunities that you should be taking advantage of.

For more information, please contact the committee chairs or members listed on our webpage under <https://scca-chicago.com/contact-us/>.

Happy Holiday Season

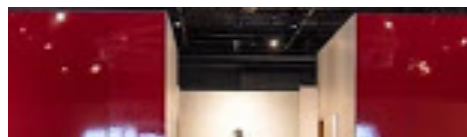
Finally, I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. See you all at the Checker Flag Dinner and Awards in February.

Roger Vilmur

2025 Checkered Flag Party

And Ferrari Driving Experience

February 15, 2025





Each year, the Chicago Region celebrates its members' accomplishments and service at the Checkered Flag Party. The party is a way to thank members for participating in and staffing region events. Because the region had a highly successful 2024, we're planning a different type of party for 2025.

- The party will still include time to socialize, great cars to look at, good food with complimentary drinks, and the region's year-end awards – **all for a special entry fee of \$25 per person.**
- As a special feature, Rick Mancuso, owner of the Ferrari dealership, will give a brief presentation on what it takes to start a small business and grow it into the largest Ferrari dealership in the the United States and some inside information on Ferrari.
- **A rare opportunity to experience driving a Ferrari sports car.** All drivers must be 25 years or older. The drives will be contingent on the weather and available driving time (first come first serve based on registration time)

Watch your email for a member party invitation and January Piston Patter for more details and registration information to the Checkered Flag Party and Ferrari drive.

Mark February 15 on your calendar.

[Chicago Region, Sports Car Club of America](#) [2024 Annual Meeting](#)

On Tuesday November 19th the Chicago Region SCCA held its November General Membership / Annual Meeting at Blackdog Speed Shop. "RE" Roger Vilmer called the meeting to order and provided an update on Region activities, followed by the Annual Meeting. The annual meeting is the account of the Region's activities through reports from the various specialties. Following the reports Roger introduced the three individuals elected to the Board of Directors for 2025, Peter LaSueur (returning for a second term), Chris Dvorak, and Jeff Kumler. Roger then thanked the retiring board members for their service to the board and the club. After the business portion of the meeting had concluded service and membership awards were presented. The membership awards which are anniversary pins are presented to members reaching the SCCA milestone years. This year the Region presented two notable anniversary pins, the first to Bob McKee with 60 years, and with 70 years of membership Gerald Risner. Unfortunately Mr. Risner was unable to attend the meeting. After the membership awards, came service awards, presented to individuals who had served on committees within the Region. Following the meeting there was time to walk through the Speed Shop and take in the unique collection of vehicles on hand.

The following is a brief introduction of the two newest members of the Region's Board of Directors.

Chris Dvorak SCCA Bio

Chris was interested in cars from a young age. His father also liked cars and owned some classic

1930's cars from his childhood. As a youth Chris was reading every car magazine he could get his hands on and most articles of that era were covering muscle cars so that had his interest. Not able to afford a fast car, he bought a few fast motorcycles as a teenager, which he also drag raced. The same month he graduated college he bought a Z28 Camaro and continued his drag racing for a few years with that and various Corvettes he'd bought. Attending the Chicago Auto Show in the late 70's he came across the SCCA booth and saw a drivers school for something called Solo 2 or Autocross. He didn't know what it was but signed up and the rest was history. He was hooked. Claire Ball was his instructor! Now a SCCA member of 41 years driving everything from Corvettes to S2000's, Lotus Exige, Integra R, Porsche, Miata's and more. He's attended 31 consecutive Solo Nationals winning 21 trophies. He's participated in numerous track day events and Track Sprints. During the 90's and early 2000's he ran the SCCA National Pro Solo Series and National Tours. He was a member of the SCCA National Solo Timing and Scoring Team. Chris has also chaired many Chicago Region Solo events over the years. He's instructed at most Solo Learning Curve Schools since joining and many Teenage Driver Survival Trainings.

On the personal side, Chris is married for 48 years to Lynda with two adult children and two grandchildren. He worked in the banking industry for almost 40 years primarily in IT managerial positions. He retired from BMO Harris Bank in 2014. Spare time is spent with grandchildren, traveling and of course autocrossing almost every weekend from spring thru fall. After so many years of enjoying the benefits of club membership, he'd like to contribute back.

Jeff Kumler SCCA Bio

Jeff's life journey began in the wide-open spaces of North Dakota, where he was born into a military family. This nomadic upbringing took him across the United States and Europe, offering him a unique perspective on the world and, as he fondly recalls, a rather unusual amount of time spent throwing up in the family car during long trips. This early experience with travel, combined with his love of cars, set the stage for a lifetime passion for automotive performance. From a young age, Jeff was captivated by the mechanics of cars. Over the years, he has owned a wide range of vehicles, primarily foreign and manual, each adding to his deep appreciation for driving. However, it wasn't until later in life that he dove into the world of competitive motorsports. After a series of back surgeries ended his competitive paintball career, Jeff sought a new adrenaline rush and he found it at a local autocross event. Instantly hooked, he channeled his competitive spirit into the sport and began his journey behind the wheel. In 2000, Jeff became a member of the BMW Car Club of America (BMW CCA) and became active in the club's autocross program. His passion for the sport quickly grew, and after several years of competing, he expanded his horizons by joining the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) in 2006. Since then, Jeff has been a consistent and dedicated participant in multiple clubs, including the SCCA's regional Solo Series, always pushing his skills while building lasting relationships within the motorsports community.

While autocrossing has been a central focus of Jeff's competitive driving, he has also embraced track events. After attending his first High Performance Driving Event (HPDE) with BMW CCA nearly two decades ago, he was hooked on the thrill of track driving. With years of autocross experience under his belt, Jeff was quickly moved from Novice to Intermediate during his first HPDE school. Since then, he has continued to attend multiple HPDE, SCCA Track Days/Nights and Track Sprint events each year, sharpening his driving abilities and gaining valuable experience on various Chicagoland tracks. In addition to his own driving pursuits, Jeff is passionate about teaching others. As a certified instructor with several clubs, he has found immense satisfaction in helping students improve their skills, providing guidance and feedback to ensure they drive safely and confidently. Teaching has allowed him to share his love for the sport while fostering a new generation of enthusiasts.

When not behind the wheel, Jeff resides in Elgin, Illinois, with his wife of 30 years and their three dogs and cat. A seasoned IT management professional, Jeff has spent much of his career leading teams in the tech industry and is currently a Cybersecurity Sr. Director at Alight Solutions. Despite his demanding work life, he always finds time to nurture his love for cars and motorsports, ensuring his passion remains at the forefront of everything he does.

[2024 Chicago Region Competition Committee Annual 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 two 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 which remains strong. The number of members involved in our road Racing events continues to be strong.

The year started with the Cendiv Spring Training for 134 Volunteers.

The Division Drivers School Double Divisional event 290 participants (drivers, crew & volunteers) a small decrease from 2023.

Four Road racing events with 917 Drivers, an increase of 167 from 2023.

Pro series support volunteers 160

Our events for 2025 will continue with the same schedule of Training, Drivers School, The Chicago Region June Sprints. Kettle Moraine, Summer Event, and the Fall Sprints.

Thank you to Competition Committee members, Specialty Administrators and Volunteers for a successful 2024.

Happy Holidays to all!

2024 Solo Year End Report

For the 2024 season we had no major financial expenses and were approximately on budget for the year.

We thank our sponsors for the 2024 Season, K&M Magnetics, Shirts101 who host the Chicago Region SCCA Gear Store, Chris Gregor at Remax Suburban and Summit Racing. Thank you to the Route 66 Raceway staff and NASCAR.

In 2024 Chicago Region SCCA Solo started with our 2023 banquet where we awarded and celebrated last year's trophy winners and special awards recipients. Ryan Weddle was awarded the Dave Morello worker of the year award for his efforts in timing and scoring with regards to the Track days and Solo programs. Ian Berman was presented an RE Recognition award for his efforts with the new drivers at our Solo events. Dan Simms was awarded as Soloist of the year for 2023 for outstanding driving and sportsmanship. Our 2024 Season class winners got embroidered jackets and our Top Twenty drivers overall got embroidered sweatshirts from our Chicago Region Gear Store.

For events, Chicago Region hosted our long-standing season opening drivers school, The Learning Curve at Rt66 with great turnout.

The Solo Board and volunteers from the Solo community along with other Chicago Region members hosted the Tirerack Teenage Street Survival school at Rt66.

Chicago Region Solo hosted our first ever advanced drivers school at Rt66, the Evolution Performance Driver School Phase One. That was a sold out event.

Chicago Region proudly hosted a Sports Car Club of America Solo National Championship Tour on the SCCA Road to Lincoln Championship schedule. We gave away commemorative Chicago Tour T-shirts to all in attendance.

The Solo points schedule featured 8 events, all with better attendance than the past few years. The Novice class was well attended each event. Every event scored at least six runs and one event

offered fun runs. Two events we bought pizzas for everyone at the awards ceremony. We awarded new T-shirts from The Chicago SCCA Gear Store for event trophies at every event and had gift certificates and coupons from our sponsor Summit Racing.

We hosted the Tripod Challenge to finish off the Solo points season. The Tripod Challenge is a traditional three way battle that originally was between Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois Solo racers. It now allows any region to try and win in a bracket style shootout. The winner of the Tripod Challenge has the right to take home Helga the Tripod Challenge Trophy and add an adornment to the infamous trophy to recognize their achievement.

The Solo Board was able to secure the site for a Test and Tune the Friday before the Tripod Challenge. Last year Milwaukee Region won the Tripod Challenge. This year we wanted some extra practice.

After this years 32 driver Tripod Challenge bracket shootout challenge was narrowed down to one Milwaukee region driver and one Chicago Region driver. It would be our own Chicago Region Solo Board member Mark Lopotko who was the winner of the bracket shootout. Mark earned the right take home Helga the Tripod Challenge trophy. Congratulations Mark and thank you for bringing Chicago Region Solo the Tripod Challenge victory.

Looking forward to 2025 we hope to host The Evo School again. The Solo Board is already in talks with the SCCA National office regarding a Solo National Championship Tour at Rt66 for the third year in a row 4th in 5 years. And also talks of a new exciting National Time Trial & Solo crossover event at Rt66 Raceway in 2025. And we of course plan to start the 2025 season with The Learning Curve autocross school and follow it up with at least 8 Solo points events. We will also host a Tirerack Street Survival school and last but not least the Tripod Challenge where we hope to keep Helga where she belongs, sweet home Chicago.

Thanks to this season's Chicago Region Solo Board, Drew Tonnessen, Kati Bianchi, Chris Gregor, Brian McGreevy, and Mark Lopotko. Thank you to our Chief Safety Steward Aruch Poonsapaya. Thank you to our Master of Timing and Scoring Ryan Weddle.

Thank you to Chris Perry, Solo Chairman for the past 3 years, Solo board member for 5 years total and former Vice President of Tri-State Sports Car Council leading up to SCCA Solo Board service. He is a 16 year member of Chicago Region SCCA and was awarded as the Chicago Region SCCA Soloist of the Year in 2016. He designed the first Solo National Championship Tour course at Rt66 Raceway and was the Event Chair for the next two SCCA National Tours to be held locally. He has designed over 35 Autocross courses throughout his years of membership and was instrumental in the launch of the Tracksprint program initiated by TSSCC. Chris also pioneered the SCCA Gear Store after attending a seminar at the SCCA National Convention. Chris more than doubled the social media followers on Facebook and tripled the following on Instagram during his time of service. He also wrote many award speeches and typed up the Solo Report for the Piston Patter during his time on the board. Chris has stepped down from his board position to focus on family and hopes to return in the future.

Your 2025 Board was elected at the November Solo Board meeting. Please welcome Tim Raad to the Solo Board and welcome your new Solo Chair for 2025, Andrew Stein. Returning to the Solo Board are Chris Gregor, Kati Bianchi, Mark Lopotko and Brian McGreevy.

Thanks everyone, it's been fun.
Smooth, Fast, Clean and Faster Every Run.
Chris Perry

[2025 SCCA National Solo Schedule](#)

First, a word of warning: What you're about to read is somewhat tentative. Second: Despite the 2025 SCCA® National Solo® schedules not being 100% locked in, we're too excited to keep it a secret.

2025 Tire Rack SCCA ProSolo Championship Series Schedule

March 14-16, 2025: South Texas - Naval Air Station Chase Field, Beeville, TX*

March 21-23, 2025: Las Vegas - Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, NV

March 28-30, 2025: Las Vegas - Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, NV

March 20-30, 2025: Las Vegas - Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, NV
 April 4-6, 2025: Atlanta - Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton, GA
 April 25-27, 2025: Crows Landing, Crows Landing, CA*
 May 17-19, 2025: New Jersey - New Meadowlands Sports Complex, East Rutherford, NJ
 May 22-24, 2025: Lincoln - Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE
 June 6-8, 2025: Brunswick - Brunswick Executive Airport, Brunswick, ME***
 June 20-22, 2025: Toledo - Toledo Express Airport, Swanton, OH*
 July 2-4, 2025: Bristol - Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, TN
 July 18-20, 2025: Packwood - Hampton Mills, Packwood, WA*
 Aug. 29-31, 2025: Tire Rack SCCA ProSolo Finale - Lincoln Air Park, Lincoln, NE

2025 Tire Rack SCCA Solo National Tour Schedule

Feb. 21-23, 2025: Phoenix - Arizona Motorsports Park, Litchfield Park, AZ
 March 21-23, 2025: Red Hills - Spence Field, Moultrie, GA
 April 11-13, 2025: South Texas - Naval Air Station Chase Field, Beeville, TX*
 April 25-27, 2025: Oklahoma Tour - Frederick, OK*
 May 2-4, 2025: Crows Landing, Crows Landing, CA*
 May 25-26, 2025: Lincoln - Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE
 May 30-June 1, 2025: Grissom - Grissom Aeroplex, Bunker Hill, IN
 June 13-15, 2025: Charlotte - zMAX Dragway, Concord, NC*
 July 5-6, 2025: Bristol - Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, TN
 July 11-13, 2025: Cleveland - IX Center, Cleveland, OH
 July 11-13, 2025: Packwood - Hampton Mills, Packwood, WA*
July 25-27, 2025: Chicago - Route 66 Raceway, Joliet, IL*
 Aug. 1-3, 2025: Finger Lakes - Seneca Army Depot, Romulus, NY*
 Sept. 1-5, 2025: Tire Rack SCCA Solo National Championships, Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE

2025 CAM/XS/ Club Spec Shootout Schedule

May 2-4, 2025: St. Louis - St. Charles Family Arena, St. Charles, MO
 Aug. 8-10, 2025: Grissom - Grissom Aero Plex, Bunker Hill, IN
 Aug. 30: Lincoln Invitational - Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE
 * Dates are tentative

*** Potential four-day format with ProSolo June 4-6 and Solo National Tour June 7-8

2025 Central Division
Tentative Race Schedule

2025 CenDiv
TENTATIVE

REV 02
 09/19/24

Date	Drivers' School	Regional	Majors	Other Events	Track Events / TRSS
Feb 22 - Feb 23					
Mar 1 - Mar 2					
Mar 8 - Mar 9					
Mar 15 - Mar 16				Spring Training	
Mar 22 - Mar 23					
Mar 29 - Mar 30					
Apr 5 - Apr 6					
Apr 12 - Apr 13	CenDiv @ BHF 4/11/25	CenDiv @ BHF (D)			
Apr 19 - Apr 20				Easter	
Apr 26 - Apr 27					
May 3 - May 4			BVR/Milw @ BHF		
May 10 - May 11				Mother's Day	
May 17 - May 18					
May 24 - May 25		LOL @ BIR (D)		Memorial Day	
May 31 - Jun 1					
Jun 7 - Jun 8			Chgo @ RA (ST)		
Jun 14 - Jun 15				Father's Day	
Jun 21 - Jun 23				Indy Car @ RA	
Jun 28 - Jun 29					

Jul 5 - Jul 6		Milw/BVR @ BHF (D)		
Jul 12 - Jul 13			Milw @ RA	
Jul 19 - Jul 20				WIC @ RA
Jul 26 - Jul 27			LOL @ BIR	
Aug 2 - Aug 3				IMSA @ RA
Aug 9 - Aug 10				
Aug 16 - Aug 17				
Aug 23 - Aug 24		CHGO @ RA (D)		INDY CAR @ MM
Aug 30 - Aug 31		LOL @ BIR (D)		Labor Day
Sep 6 - Sep 7		CHGO @ ACC (D)		
Sep 13 - Sep 14				
Sep 20 - Sep 21				
Sep 27 - Sep 28			Runoffs 9/26/25	
Oct 4 - Oct 5			Runoffs 10/05/25	
Oct 11 - Oct 12		CHGO @ BHF (D)		
Oct 18 - Oct 19				

HOLIDAYS:

Apr 20 - Easter
 May 11 - Mother's Day
 May 26 - Memorial Day
 Jun 15 - Father's Day
 Jul 4 - July 4th Holiday
 Sep 1 - Labor Day

REGION CODES:

BVR - Blackhawk Valley
 CHGO - Chicago
 LOL - Land O' Lakes
 MILW - Milwaukee

TRACK CODES:

ACC - Autobahn / Joliet, IL
 BHF - Blackhawk Farms Raceway / Rockton, IL
 BIR - Brainerd Int'l Raceway / Brainerd, MN
 MM - Milwaukee Mile / Milwaukee, WI
 RA - Road America / Elkhart Lake, WI

OTHER CODES:

T - Tentative
 D - Double
 DS - Driver School
 ST - Super Tour

MATC - Milwaukee Area Technical College / Milwaukee, WI
 DCTC - Dakota County Technical College / Rosemount, MN

[2025 Chicago Region Solo Event Schedule](#)

Solo 2025 event schedule is being worked on should be in January 2025 Piston Patter.

[2025 Chicago Region Car Show and Social Event Schedule](#)

Dates for Chicago Region social events should be in January 2025 Piston Patter.

2/15/25 Checkered Flag Party
 5/17/25 Elgin High School Car Show
 8/22/25 Geneva Concour
 9/6/25 Meadowdale Car Show
 TBD Spring Rallye

[Chicago Region SCCA Apparel](#)

Time to start your Christmas shopping.

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](#).

2024 Chicago Region New & Returning Members
November, 2024

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.

Samuel Bowman
Scott Bowman
Ryan Gamble
Molly Gray Saltenberger
Brendan O'Connor

Joseph P. O'Connor
Alexander Policht
Michael Saltenberger
Robert Szopinski
Titas Urlakis

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