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Subject: A New Chapter: Continuing the SCCA West Michigan Journey Together

Dear SCCA West Michigan Family,

I hope this message finds you all in good spirits and surrounded by the unmistakable hum of engines and the thrill of SCCA adventures.

It is with mixed emotions that I share some personal news with you all. Life's twists and turns have presented me with an opportunity to embark on a new chapter outside the boundaries of West Michigan. While the prospect of exploring new roads is undeniably exciting, it comes with a touch of bittersweet realization that I'll physically be moving away from our vibrant SCCA community.

However, I want to assure each one of you that my commitment to our shared passion remains unwavering. As your Newsletter Editor, I will continue and strive to provide you with incredible stories about our club, our events, and, most importantly, about the amazing individuals who make up our SCCA family in the West Michigan Region.

In the spirit of commitment and continuity, I am thrilled to announce that I will continue to fulfill my duties as your Newsletter Editor remotely from Central Wisconsin as Robyn and I have been wanting to move closer to the available track work that I do at Road America. Thanks to the wonders of technology, distance will not hinder our connection, and I will continue to be at our regional events if the series at Road America do not conflict with our terrific WMR racing. I am dedicated to ensuring that our newsletter remains a vibrant and dynamic reflection of the West Michigan SCCA spirit.

Modern communication tools will keep us seamlessly connected, allowing me to stay updated on events, achievements, and the exciting news that makes our club special. I am genuinely excited about the opportunity to contribute to our newsletter from my new location and to share insights from the broader SCCA community.

Moreover, I encourage each one of you to share your experiences, stories, and updates with me. Our newsletter is a collective effort, and your input plays a vital role in making it a true representation of our shared passion. I have created an email address that you can send me things that you would like for me to review and put in the newsletter. That email address is wmrbackfirenews@gmail.com.

As I embark on this new adventure, I am filled with gratitude for the friendships and memories created within SCCA West Michigan. I am confident that distance will only strengthen our bond, and I look forward to continuing this journey together, albeit from a different zip code.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or simply want to share a story for the newsletter, don't hesitate to reach out.

See you on the podium!

Revvng with enthusiasm,

Matthew Koster

Backfire Editor, West Michigan Region SCCA

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2023 NEW MEMBERSHIP

Logan Dupree

Frank Gumino

Andrew Naranjo

David Swallow

Charles Warren



MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

Marc Henry - 24 years

Gary Burnside - 21 years

James Washburn - 13 years

Kimberly Wetherbee - 7 years

Taylor Wetherbee - 7 years

Timothy Wetherbee - 7 years

Greg Elhart - 6 years

Mary O'Blenes - 6 years

Annelise Melvin - 4 years

Kathryn Melvin - 4 years

Luke Melvin - 4 years

Molly Melvin - 4 years

Williams Melvin - 4 years

Derek Burt - 3 years

Tim Cullen - 3 years

Alexander Lozano - 3 years

Justin Moreno - 3 years

John Salisbury - 3 years

Arnesh Bose - 2 years

Alice Burnside - 2 years

James Doane - 2 years

Steven Gracheck - 2 years

Steven Beem - 1 year

Everett Howell - 1 year

John Khargie - 1 year

Dan Krueger - 1 year

Aaron Nicholson - 1 year

Aiden Weaver - 1 year

January 11, 2024

WMR-SCCA Annual Meeting on Webex

Board Members present: Lenny Basaj, Ed Maklenburg, Dave Ferris, Dan Moody, Ben Kaluski & Mary Ellen Sickles

Board Members absent: Wayne Rogers

Other members present: Bruce Beauvais, Scott Beute & Rod Sickles

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Regional Executive: Lenny Basaj. Welcome to everyone.

Treasurer & #39;s Report: Dave Ferris: The treasurer & #39;s report was sent to the board. We made money in 2023 and had a great year with our Club and Solo racing events.

Our financial situation is strong for continuing ongoing operations. Our checking balance as presented in this month & #39;s treasurer & #39;s report is reconciled and equal to our most recent bank statement. A copy of our monthly treasurer & #39;s report is available to our members upon written request. Mary Ellen Sickles made a motion to accept the treasurer & #39;s report, seconded by Ed Maklenburg and approved.

Club Racing Program Manager & #39;s Report: Bruce Beauvais: Mid-West Council and Detroit Region wants to discuss joint racing events. WMR and Detroit Region had a meeting last Monday and one this coming Monday.

Solo Program Manager & #39;s Report: Dan Moody: No report.

Rally Cross Program Manager & #39;s Report: Scott Beute: Detroit Region has printed their Rally schedule. Part of the Milan track is pavement is tarmac, a small part is dirt. There were several Rally & #39;s held there.

Newsletter report: Editor: Matthew Koster: Not present. He will be getting a newsletter out soon.

Area 4 Director Report: Dayle Frame: Not present.

Membership Chair: Tom Smolenski: Not present.

Chief of Specialty Reports:

Flagging: Pete Hansen/Nathan McCormick: Not present.

Communications: Lydia Hansen: Not present.

Timing and Scoring: Dave Ferris: The spare printer had died, it now has a new circuit board. This should revive the printer.

Radios: Bruce Beauvais: No report.

Start: Bruce Beauvais: No report.

Grid: Mary Ellen Sickles: No report.

Sound: Carola Basaj: Not present.

Course: Wayne Rogers: Not present.

Tech: Ed Maklenburg: No report

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Detroit Region is interested in doing our Regional with us.

Ben Kaluski is putting together a letter to ask for volunteers to help with the specialties, and with the board positions.

State of the Club: WMR hosted 2 Road Races and 2 Auto Crosses, all successful. We are starting to get into Rally Cross, and are hoping to host one in the future. We have 388 members and are in a good position as a club and looking forward to another good year.

Our charter is approved for 2024.

Announcements: SCCA's virtual convention is next week. Please check out some of the classes. March 2 is Spring Training in Fort Wayne. The club will pay for your registration fee to attend.

Next meeting: February 8, 2024 at 7 pm on Webex

Adjournment: Dave Ferris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dan Moody, approved at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Mary Ellen Sickles, Recording Secretary

STAY ENGAGED DURING YOUR OFF SEASON

SCCA racers in West Michigan, like many other amateur and professional racers, can stay engaged and productive during the off-season to maintain and improve their racing skills, prepare their vehicles, and stay connected with the racing community. Here are some activities they can consider:

1. Vehicle Maintenance and Upgrades:
 - Use the off-season to perform necessary maintenance on their racing vehicles, including engine overhauls, suspension adjustments, and brake system maintenance.
 - Install any planned upgrades or modifications to improve the performance of their car.
2. Driver Training:
 - Participate in advanced driving and racing schools to further develop their skills.
 - Consider enrolling in defensive driving courses to enhance their overall driving abilities.
3. Fitness and Conditioning:
 - Maintain physical fitness through regular exercise and conditioning to stay in peak racing shape.
 - Focus on endurance and strength training to handle the physical demands of racing.
4. Sim Racing:
 - Engage in sim racing as a way to practice and refine racing skills, especially during the winter months when outdoor racing is less feasible.
 - Join online racing communities or leagues for competitive sim racing experiences.
5. Networking and Community:
 - Attend SCCA meetings and events to stay connected with fellow racers, share experiences, and plan for the upcoming season.
 - Volunteer for club activities or events to contribute to the local racing community.
6. Vehicle Setup and Testing:
 - Fine-tune and optimize their vehicle's setup by testing and experimenting with different configurations.
 - Attend track days or private test sessions to gather data and make adjustments.
7. Review and Analysis:
 - Analyze data from previous races and practice sessions to identify areas for improvement in driving technique and vehicle setup.

- Watch race footage and study onboard camera footage to learn from mistakes and successes.

8. Event Planning:

- Plan and schedule the races and events they intend to participate in during the upcoming season.
- Make necessary travel and accommodation arrangements for out-of-town races.

9. Sponsorship and Fundraising:

- Work on securing sponsors or funding for the upcoming season.
- Develop marketing materials and proposals to attract potential sponsors.

10. Volunteering and Community Involvement:

- Give back to the racing community by volunteering at events, working as a race official, or mentoring new racers.

Remember that the off-season is also a good time for relaxation, recuperation, and spending time with family and friends. Balancing racing with other aspects of life is important for overall well-being. Additionally, the specific activities and opportunities available in West Michigan may vary, so it's a good idea to stay in touch with your local SCCA chapter for region-specific events and resources.

WE NEED YOU!

Most of the positions of responsibility for operating the club are held by folks that are dedicated to the club but have been in the same position for a number of years.

We really need your help to sustain our club and continue to offer everything we do here at Western Michigan SCCA.

We're looking for volunteers:



Board Member

Very minimal remote winter commitment. Summer commitment; ~5-10 hours per month, contingent on voluntary event participation

2024-2025 Positions

- Regional Executive & President
- Assistant Regional Executive
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director at Large (2)
- Past RE/President



Chief Specialty

Primary responsibility is to manage and run the specialty for the local events and report back to the board

Openings:

- Timing & Scoring
- Webmaster
- News Letter
- Grid
- Pit
- Course
- Fire-Rescue Safety
- Social Media
- Registration
- Club Racing Manager
- Competition Manager
- Start
- Solo Manager
- Rallycross Manager
- Sound Control
- Radio
- Flagging & Course Communications
- Scribe
- Membership
- Paddock



WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION SCCA

Volunteer Benefits & FAQ's:

- Annual SCCA dues covered (\$95)*
- Meet fellow motorsport enthusiasts
- Learn all about SCCA events and be a part of the crew that makes it all happen
- Board meetings are remote

For more information about WMSCCA visit

www.wmr-scca.org/

-OR-

Email Lenny (WMSCCA President):

lenny.basaj@gmail.com

-OR-

Respond to the email with the board members on copy

*\$95 USD for board members and chiefs a specialty who serve their full one-year term, pending President approval.

