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Greetings, fellow SCCA aficionados of West Michigan Region!

As the leaves turn brilliant shades of red, orange, and yellow and the crisp autumn air sweeps across the picturesque landscapes of West Michigan, it can mean only one thing for motorsports enthusiasts: the thrilling WMR racing season is coming to a close. The month of October marks the culmination of months of high-speed action and intense competition.

Racing in the Heart of the Great Lakes State:

West Michigan has a rich tradition of SCCA racing, with a passionate volunteer base and an impressive roster of drivers. From the rolling hills of Grattan Raceway to the iconic curves of Gingerman Raceway, Throughout the season, these tracks have been the backdrop for countless hours of exhilarating racing action.

Throughout the season, we witnessed awe-inspiring performances, intense rivalries, and, unfortunately, a few heart-stopping moments. From record-breaking lap times to breathtaking passes, the drivers showcased their skill and determination at every turn. But racing isn't without its challenges, and several incidents tested the mettle of the competitors, reminding everyone of the inherent risks in motorsport.

One of the most captivating aspects of the West Michigan Regions racing season is the fierce competition for championship titles. In all of our classes drivers battled for points and prestige throughout the year.

As the sun sets on another thrilling season of SCCA racing in West Michigan, the anticipation for the 2024 season is already building. The dedication of the drivers, the passion of our volunteers, and the picturesque venues make this region a true motorsports paradise. The 2023 season may be over, but the memories and excitement will undoubtedly carry on until the engines roar to life once more in the spring. Until then, West Michigan's motorsports enthusiasts can look back on a season filled with speed, drama, and unforgettable moments.

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

October 12, 2023

-WMR-SCCA Monthly Meeting on Webex

-Board Members present: Lenny Basaj, Ed Maklenburg, Dave Ferris, Dan Moody, &

-Mary Ellen Sickles

-Board Members absent: Wayne Rogers

-Other members present: Matt Koster, Robyn Koster, Rod Sickles, Tom Smolenski, Ben Kaluski, Scott Beute, & Lance Loughman.

-The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

-Regional Executive: Lenny Basaj.

Welcome to everyone.

-Treasurer Report: Dave Ferris: The treasurer report was sent to the board. The Labor Day Solo made just over \$1000.00. Our financial situation is strong for continuing ongoing operations. Our checking balance as presented in this month's treasurer report is reconciled and equal to our most recent bank statement. A copy of our monthly treasurer report is available to our members upon written request. Mary Ellen Sickles made a motion to accept the treasurer report, seconded by Dan Moody and approved.

-Club Racing Program Manager Report: Bruce Beauvais: Not present.

-Solo Program Manager Report: Dan Moody: October 22 is our next Solo. 57 racers have entered already.

-Rally Cross Program Manager Report: Scott Beute: Detroit Regions next Rally Cross is November 4-5 Fall Colors Day/Night Rally Cross at I-96 Speedway, near Lake Odessa. They are using part of the oval, service roads and infield. Please check the Detroit Regions website for future events.

-Newsletter report: Matthew Koster, editor. The newsletter will be monthly, not sure of the date. He did a great job on the first issue.

-Area 4 Director Report: Dayle Frame: Not present. Dayle is running for re-election, please vote by logging onto my.SCCA.com, sign in, and select Member Resources, then select Surveys and Voting. SCCA Headquarters announced that there will be no co-sanctioned road racing events in the future. All cars will have to meet SCCA rules and have SCCA logbooks and pass the annual safety inspection.

-Membership Chair: Tom Smolenski: The September letters were sent out. We went from a large to a medium region as we have 396 members. 400 plus members are needed to be a large region.

-Chief of Specialty Reports:

-Flagging: Pete Hansen/Nathan McCormick: Not present.

-Communications: Lydia Hansen: Not present.

-Timing and Scoring: Dave Ferris: In car flagging will be mandatory in the future. The Divisions will purchase the Flagtronics Systems. The investment to the driver is approximately \$100.00.

-Radios: Bruce Beauvais: Not present

-Start: Bruce Beauvais: Not present

-Grid: Mary Ellen Sickles: No report.

-Sound: Carola Basaj: Not present.

-Course: Wayne Rogers: Not present.

-Tech: Ed Mecklenburg: No report

-Old Business: None

-New Business:

-Slate of Officers for 2024:

-Regional Executive: Lenny Basaj

-Assistant Regional Executive: Ed Mecklenburg

-Treasurer: Dave Ferris

-Secretary: Mary Ellen Sickles

-Member at Large: Dan Moody

-Member at Large: Ben Kaluski

-Past President: Wayne Rogers

-Ben Kaluski replaces Jim Washburn for the rest of 2023. Lance Loughman contacted Dave Ferris after the October 1st deadline. We thank Lance for his interest in being on the board and will keep him in mind for the future. Since none of the positions are contested there is no need for an election. The Slate of Officers are appointed to serve in 2024.

-ACAT Sponsorship: Joe from Advanced Clean Air Technologies, which manufacture catalytic converters, wants to sponsor one of our races next year.

-Announcements: Matt Koster makes trophies, if we are in need of his services.

-Next meeting: November 9, 2023 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.