



December 2020

BACKFIRE

A publication for, and by,
the members of the Western Michigan Region Sports Car Club of America



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Wishing you a Joyous Holiday Season
& Happy New Year!



2020 WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION OFFICIALS

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Webmaster

OPEN at this time

A Porsche Night Before Christmas

- a holiday reprint



Twas the night before Christmas where all through the shop
 Not an engine was leaking not even a drop
 The tires were filled to their max PSI
 In hopes that flat spots won't appear where they lie

As their batteries slowly charged from electricity on tap
 The Porsche's were prepared for their long winters nap
 I sat there all warm and snug on my couch
 Playing race driver video games so my skills would not slouch

When from beyond the garage there arose such a roar
 I sprang from my seat to the polished concrete floor
 With a click of a button the garage doors did raise
 I peered outside with my mind in a haze

The moon shown bright on the new fallen snow
 Giving the luster of mid-day to the object below
 When what to my wondering eyes should appear
 But a new Porsche Turbo with full racing gear

With a tap on the throttle the exhaust notes did sound
 I knew in a moment a flat six had been found
 To go up against a BMW or a Nissan GT-R
 With the new Porsche Turbo I knew I'd go far

Now Doctor! now Hoffman! now Carlson and Butzi!
 On Elford! on Patrick! on David and Hurley!
 To start the race we're off to the Ring!
 Through the corners and chicanes with this Turbo I'd fling

As they try to catch me, forced air is induced
 Nothing feels quite the same as that twin turbo boost
 Around and around the Ring I did go
 By holding the line I was anything but slow

Lap after lap the tarmac flew past
 I knew from the start I was going to be fast
 My foot on the throttle, I'm ready to shift
 If you find the apex there's no need to lift

As I round the last corner the checkered flag in site
 The race is mine without even a fight
 The marshals guide me over to the victory lane
 Where once again it's a Porsche's to gain

Upon the highest platform I stand
 Taking the win in the Porsche's homeland
 Time to go home... put the Turbo in gear
 The radio is up full so that all can hear

The speakers blaring as I drive out of sight

“Happy Holidays to all, and to all a good night”

Membership News

WMR welcomes our new or returning members

- Chrysalis Ashton - Wayland, MI
- Vincent Ashton - Wayland, MI
- Michael Becka - Dewitt, MI
- Archer Bennett-Taylor - Wayland, MI
- Quintin Bennett-Taylor - Wayland, MI
- Zavier Bennett-Taylor - Wayland, MI
- Malorie Bovee - Midland, MI
- Ross Harvey - Kalamazoo, MI
- Christopher Satterley - Howell, MI
- Colin Satterley - Howell, MI
- Ethan Satterley - Howell, MI
- Michelle Satterley - Howell, MI

Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 48 years Jan Downey
- 32 years John Gregg
- 20 years Scott Mathews
- 15 years John Brownlow
- 3 years Bill Elhart
- 2 years Howard Parks

“Nothing handles like a Ferrari...”

...but the Lancia Zagato comes damn close!
 Jody Scheckter, World Champion Ferrari Formula 1 driver.

1981 Lancia Zagato

- Fuel injection • 5-speed overdrive transmission
- Rack and pinion steering • Front wheel drive • Double overhead cam engine • 4-wheel independent suspension • 4-wheel disc brakes • Electronic ignition • Pininfarina styling
- Radial ply tires • Targa-style roof • 3-speed automatic transmission available

Base price: **\$11,880***

LANCIA ZAGATO
 Driving redefined.

For the name of the nearest Lancia dealer, call toll-free: (800) 447-4700, in Illinois, (800) 322-1400, in Alaska and Hawaii, (800) 447-0800.

*Manufacturer's suggested retail price. Slightly higher in California. Actual price is established by dealer. Taxes, license, freight, optional equipment and other dealer charges are extra. All prices subject to change without notice. †Lancia Division of Fiat Motors of North America, Inc. 1980.

It's more fun than a car. A car reflects the driving conditions of where it is engineered: In Japan, highway traffic seldom exceeds 45 mph. In America, our speed limit is 55 mph. But in Germany, the Autobahns have no speed limits. And the country roads have challenging S-curves and hairpin turns. Driving is fun. And the favorite high-performance choice is more than a car. It's a Volkswagen GTI.

Here's why: 0-50 mph in 7.2 seconds. Standing quarter-mile: 17.9 sec at 80 mph. Top speed: 108 mph. Lateral acceleration: 0.78g. Slalom speed: 61.3 mph. Braking: 60 mph to 0 in only 3.5 seconds.

When it comes to this kind of fun, nobody's more serious than the Germans. **It's not a car. The 1984 GTI \$8,350.*** **It's a Volkswagen.**

Confirms your love! **Power observed at speed limit.***MSRP's suggested retail price includes a 12-month unlimited mileage, limited warranty, trip, tax, license, dealer prep and \$1. © 1983 Volkswagen of America.

Our General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting

--- At ---

Pietro's Italian Restaurant

2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI



For the "off season" September thru April, we typically meet the 2nd Saturday of the month with an optional dinner at 6:00pm followed by the meeting at 7:00pm.



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the meeting at Pietro's has been cancelled

In it's place, we invite you to participate in our WebEx Teleconference on **Saturday, December 12, at 7 pm via telephone.**

To Join the Meeting

Just call: **1 646 558 8656**
or
1 312 626 6799

Enter the Meeting ID: **459 656 4413**

Region Calendar

December 12, 2020

(in-person) General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting has been cancelled. **We invite you to a Zoom Teleconference via telephone in its place.**

January 9, 2021

Annual Meeting of the Members will be a **Zoom Teleconference via telephone**

February 13, 2021

General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting
- **Method and Venue TBD**

March TBD, 2021

GLD Spring Training Seminar
- **Method and Venue TBD**

March 13, 2021

Our 2019 Awards Banquet will be at **Pietro's Italian Restaurant, 2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI.** Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:00p

Contributors

JIM WASHBURN
Backfire Editor

MARY ELLEN SICKLES
Secretary

DAYLE FRAME
Competition Manager

The 2021 WMR Officers and Board Members Nomination/Election Results

The results are in. Nomination ballots were received and tallied by Mary Ellen Sickles. For the five elected Board Member positions, **Lenny Basaj** was nominated for Regional Executive, **Ed Maklenburg** was nominated for Assistant Regional Executive, **Dave Ferris** was nominated for Treasurer, **Mary Ellen Sickles** was nominated for Secretary and **Karen Crider** was nominated for Director-at-Large.

In accordance with our bylaws, and the fact that all the nominees ran unopposed, an election is not required. — Therefore:

The 2021 Western Michigan Region Elected Board Members are as follows:

- **Regional Executive**, Lenny Basaj (unopposed nominee)
- **Assistant Regional Executive**, Ed Maklenburg (unopposed incumbent)
- **Secretary**, Mary Ellen Sickles (unopposed incumbent)
- **Treasurer**, Dave Ferris (unopposed incumbent)
- **Director-at-Large**, Karen Crider (unopposed nominee)

The current Board Members will gather for their final meeting of the year on December 12, 2020. The 2021 Board will officially begin their one year term on January 1, 2021

The 2021 SCCA Area 4 Director Election Results

Dear Fellow Members,

Thank you for your interest in my campaign.



First, thank you to the folks who voted for me. I appreciate your confidence in me and I will work hard to maintain that confidence. Thanks also to Director Merideth who reached out and wished me “good luck”. I’d also like to thank the many folks who emailed and texted me congratulations. Unfortunately, I was not able to respond to each one individually. I’m sure I’ll see most of you during the summer race season.

Second, I was pleasantly surprised when I reviewed the voting data on the [SCCA website](#). Our area had more people vote (609) than any other divisional race. This was 30% greater than the next highest vote total which was in Area 3 (SEDiv) at 470. It shows you care about your leadership and how that leadership works for the members.

Last but not least, things will start to move pretty quickly for me. I was told that my orientation would begin the week after Thanksgiving. I was also told that I’d probably be sitting in on the December BoD meeting so I could get an idea of how the meetings worked before my tenure officially started.

I will get an SCCA email address soon and will send that address out when I can. As my campaign stressed, I want to reach out for better communication with the membership. This will manifest itself in many ways including:

- I will email the membership at least monthly with a report about what I’ve been up to. I may also request input on a specific topic. This report will also be posted on our divisional [website](#). It may not be much of a report but I want to make sure our members are informed during my tenure as Director.
- I will work with the mangers of all the racing disciplines (Club Racing, Solo, Road Rally, Rally Cross, etc.) so I can attend as many of those events as possible.
- I will contact the RE’s of each region so I can find out when they hold their monthly meetings so I can sit in and participate where possible.

Thank you again and I look forward to my time serving the members of Area 4.

Dayle Frame

— coming soon —



SNO DRIFT
Rally

February 20, 2021
Atlanta, Lewiston, Hillman, MI

Photo by Tara Hurlin

SNO DRIFT
Rally

REAL CARS
REAL ROADS
REAL FAST

The advertisement features a central photograph of a blue and white Ford Focus rally car drifting on a snowy track, kicking up a cloud of snow. The car has several sponsor logos, including 'HANDZEL', 'GOLF MILL', 'Ford', 'BSM', and 'ARA'. The number '94' is visible on the side. The background shows a blurred crowd of spectators behind a safety fence. The overall design is dynamic and emphasizes the excitement of the event.

November Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2020, 7:06 pm
WMR Board meeting via teleconference

Board Members present: Wayne Rogers, Dave Ferris, Verne Wandell, Lenny Basaj, Jim Washburn, and Mary Ellen Sickles

Board Members absent: Ed Maklenburg

Other Members Present: Karen Crider, Rodney Sickles, Ted Flynn, Sam Rogers, Dan Moody, Dayle Frame, Carola Basaj, and Bruce Beauvais.

Secretary Report:

Mary Ellen Sickles: Our October Teleconference Meeting minutes were approved and printed in the November 2020 newsletter.

Regional Executive's Report:

Wayne Rogers: Welcome to everyone, and thank you to Ted Flynn for help with the Zoom connection.

Assistant RE's Report:

Ed Maklenburg: (not present)

Treasurer's Report:

Dave Ferris: - We will be moving part of our money to a short-term CD soon, to get a better interest rate.

Our financial situation is strong for continuing ongoing operations. Our checking balance as presented in this month's treasurer's report is reconciled and equal to our most recent bank statement. A copy of our monthly treasurer's report is available to our members upon written request. Verne Wandell made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jim Washburn and approved.

Competition Director's Report:

Dayle Frame: - There were 21 "ghost" entries for our August Majors. Thank you to Phil Lasco for his sponsorship of our event, we did not need to bill him, but would have had to cancel without his support of WMR.

There is a \$50.00 coupon for all the drivers and substitute drivers for our 2021 Majors event.

We have tentative dates for 2021. June 19-20 is tentatively scheduled for our regional and August 21-22 is tentatively scheduled for our Majors. These dates have been submitted to Grattan and to SCCA.

We need a contact person for MSR. Wayne Rogers volunteered to be the contact person for MSR.

Solo Manager's Report:

Dan Moody: - We had 69 entries for our October Solo. In the future we will need more gates to slow down speeds.

As a matter of record, we have been using the Furrin Group's timing equipment this year.

We still have a lot of interest in a Rally Cross program, but with the Covid-19 Pandemic, we did not have any events this past summer.

Newsletter Report:

Jim Washburn: - The newsletter deadline for submissions is November 25, 2020.

Chief of Specialty Reports:

F&C - Flagging:

Pete Hansen: (not present)

F&C - Communications:

Lydia Hansen: (not present)

Radios:

Bruce Beauvais: - No Report

Start:

Bruce Beauvais: - No Report

Grid:

Mary Ellen Sickles: - No Report

Timing & Scoring:

Dave Ferris: - In the future will need new software and decoder boxes.

Sound:

Carola Basaj: - We will need to send in the equipment for calibration this coming spring.

Course:

Wayne Rogers: - No Report

Tech:

Ed Maklenburg: (not present)

November Meeting Minutes

— Continued —

Old Business:

Bylaws Review: There have been no meetings since the pandemic started.

Race Trailer: The pop, water and hand sanitizer have been removed. The carport it is in has sides so the sun cannot hurt the tires. We can place it on jack stands and blocks for the winter..

Membership Person: Tom Smolenski has expressed interest, but we need to get the materials to him and tell him what needs to be done.

Currently the Hansen's have the materials & letters.

Fire Suppression Equipment: Our existing fire extinguishers all need to be checked and recharged if needed. We will look for a company in the Grattan area have this done this coming spring.

We have decided not to do foam for expanding our fire suppression capabilities, because of the PFAS in foam products. We should, however, purchase a Class D extinguisher for lithium battery and magnesium wheel fires.

Meetings: Our annual meeting in January will be by teleconference.

New Business:

Annual Awards Banquet: Our Banquet will be March 13, 2021 at Pietro's Italian Restaurant in Grand Rapids. It will be a plated dinner, rather than family style. We need to have the menu determined by around the first of the year.

Our WMR, SCCA Charter Renewal: Our charter needs to be renewed in December of 2020.

Our 2020 Tax Filing: Our 2020 taxes need to be filed in the first quarter of 2021.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Verne Wandell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Ferris, approved at 8:13 pm.

E Mail Votes Between Meetings:

On 11-17-2020 - Dave Ferris made a motion to purchase a used Dell Latitude or Precision laptop (both are business grade machines) for the purpose of maintaining the clubs MSR page. not to exceed \$424.00 Verne Wandell seconded. The motion was approved with 4 votes YES, 1 vote NO and 2 Board Members that did not respond to the vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Sickles,
Recording Secretary



WMR SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

Available Credits and Redemption Information

Credits earned with our Service Award Program may be carried over for the most recent two consecutive years.

SOME OF OUR MEMBERS have **unused credits earned in 2019**. These credits are shown on the chart on the next page. **These credits can be used, up until 11/30/2021**, for SCCA Merchandise or applied to your 2020 or 2021 membership renewal fees.

To use your credit for merchandise.

Review and note the item(s) at sccagear.com, then contact Dave Ferris, our club Treasurer, at 1988irocz28@gmail.com with the product information. He will verify your available credit, ask you to confirm the item number, size, color, etc, and ask you to send a check to him for the balance. He will then place the order to be shipped directly to you.

To use your credit for membership renewal.

When you receive your membership renewal information in the mail, contact Dave Ferris, our club Treasurer, at 1988irocz28@gmail.com to verify the amount of credit you have available. He will then explain what you need to do to apply this credit towards your membership fees.

WMR Service Award Program - Available Credits as of 12-01-2020

Member Name	\$ Credits Available as of 12/1/2020
Andrews, Sue	\$25.00
Barnes, Ray	\$25.00
Basaj, Anna	\$10.00
Basaj, Carola	\$25.00
Basaj, Lenny	\$25.00
Basaj, Maria	\$25.00
Basaj, Michael	\$25.00
Beauvais, Bruce	\$50.00
Beauvais, Sue	\$25.00
Beute, Scott	\$25.00
Boris, Jeff	\$25.00
Burnside, Gary	\$0.00
Crider, Karen	\$0.00
Cull, Phil	\$10.00
Dalziel, Robert	\$25.00
DeBoer, Bill	\$25.00
DeLoof, Steve	\$10.00
Ensing, Gordy	\$0.00
Felice, Ann	\$25.00
Felice, Ken	\$25.00
Ferris, Dave	\$0.00
Frame, Dayle	\$50.00
Frame, Melinda	\$10.00
Gaunt-Wandell, Lorrie	\$10.00
Green, Ric	\$25.00
Gregg, John	\$25.00
Gyulay, Jason	\$0.00

Member Name	\$ Credits Available as of 12/1/2020
Hansen, Debbie	\$25.00
Hansen, Lydia	\$0.00
Hansen, Pete	\$50.00
Hawley, Fred	\$0.00
Henry, Marc	\$10.00
Henry, Vicki	\$10.00
Jasperse, Michael	\$25.00
Lublow, Ed	\$0.00
Maklenburg, Ed	\$25.00
McCormick, Nathan	\$10.00
Moody, Dan	\$25.00
Orr, Bobbe	\$23.50
Rogers, Wayne	\$50.00
Secor, Jeff	\$25.00
Sickles, Mary Ellen	\$50.00
Sickles, Rod	\$50.00
Smolenski, Tom	\$50.00
Start, Tom	\$25.00
Steencken, Barb	\$25.00
Walters, Allison	\$0.00
Walters, Dave	\$0.00
Wandell, Verne	\$25.00
Washburn, Jim	\$25.00
Wilks, Deborah	\$25.00
Wilson, Cade	\$25.00
Woods, Tyler	\$0.00

Western Michigan Region of the SCCA Bylaws Review

A committee has been formed to review the WMR Bylaws and make recommendations to the BoD for revision. The bylaws have not been reviewed and updated since 2008. The committee consists of Ed Maklenburg (Assistant RE), David Ferris (Treasurer) and Dayle Frame (Competition Manager).

The committee realizes that this is big undertaking and would like the assistance of the membership. We ask all of you to please take a few minutes and read the bylaws (the current document is only eight pages long). If you need a copy, please contact me at hdf3.wtr80@gmail.com and I will gladly email you a pdf version of the document for you to review. After that, please feel free to contact any one of us with comments, suggestions, concerns, etc. No suggestion is too trivial or too complex and ALL will be afforded the attention they deserve.

The committee also realizes that this will take some time so there is no urgency for your response. We are just getting started and look forward to hearing from the membership through the course of the summer racing season and into the fall. We expect to have modifications incorporated by the end of the calendar year.

In addition, if you have had experience writing or editing other groups' bylaws, please contact us so we could tap into your past expertise with this kind of project.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing from you soon,

Dayle Frame, Competition Manager
Ed Maklenburg, Assistant RE
Dave Ferris, Treasurer



Annual Waivers for 2021

We wanted to let you know that our 2021 Event Waiver and Annual Waivers (Adult & Minor) have some slight revisions to include language regarding exposure to illness and communicable diseases.

Both event and annual waivers will be available in the coming weeks for purchase by Regions and will be available soon for download in the Member Resources - File Cabinet of the Member Account Portal at my.scca.com.

The update to the event waiver used by SpeedWaiver.com will be available for use by Regions no later than October 1, 2020.

Member Services is able to accept/process Annual Waivers **signed after September 1, 2020** for the 2021 calendar year, but note that "2021" must be the indicated year on the form. Adults can upload their **completed** Annual Waiver in color and their "selfie" photo in the Member Account Portal under "Upload Documents" on the "My Profile" page.

Let us know if you have any questions, we're happy to help at membership@scca.com.

Thank you!
SCCA Member Services

Inside:

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WHATEVER YOUR MARQUE...



Backfire is publication of the Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America.

The editor welcomes letters, articles and opinions of our members to be included in this publication provided that

1. The items are edited for grammar and improper expletives.
2. The content is not libelous nor unsupportable. The items must be received no later than the 15th of the month to be included in the next issue when and where space is available.

Submit articles to: Jim Washburn, 2385 Cedar Park Dr. Apt 310, Holt, MI 48842. Microsoft Word documents, PDF files and pictures can be emailed to:

Jwashburn.us@gmail.com