



February 2018

# BACKFIRE

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



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## Happy Valentine's Day!



# 2018 WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION OFFICIALS

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**Scrutineering**

TBA

Our General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting Location

--- Please Join Us At The ---

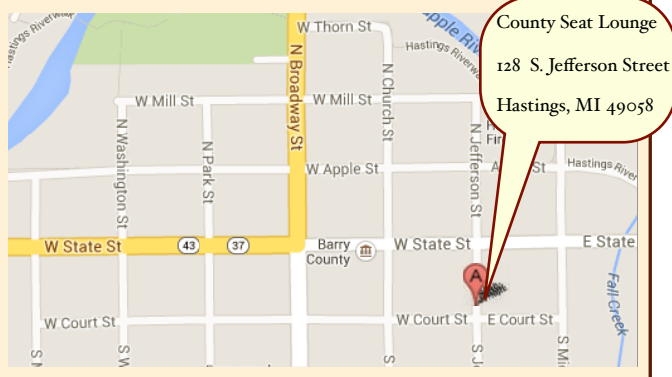
County Seat Lounge



For the “off season” October 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.



Our next meeting will be February 10, 2018.



County Seat Lounge  
128 S. Jefferson Street  
Hastings, MI 49058

Calendar

**February 10, 2018**

General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting at the County Seat Lounge, 128 S Jefferson Street, Hastings, MI Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

**March 10, 2018**

GLD Spring Training Seminar at the Findley Inn in Findley, OH

**March 17, 2018**

General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting at the County Seat Lounge, 128 S Jefferson Street, Hastings, MI Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

**April 14, 2018**

General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting at the County Seat Lounge, 128 S Jefferson Street, Hastings, MI Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

**May, 2018**

LET THE RACING SEASON BEGIN !  
(No Meetings until the end of the Racing Season)

Contributors

JIM WASHBURN  
Regional Executive and Backfire Editor

FRED HAWLEY  
Assistant RE and Awards Program Committee Member

DAYLE FRAME  
Competition Manager and Service Awards Program Committee Member

MARY ELLEN SICKLES  
Secretary

## 2018 GREAT LAKES DIVISION SOLO SERIES SCHEDULE

- TBA TBA #1
- TBA TBA #2
- TBA TBA #3
- TBA TBA #4
- TBA TBA #5
- TBA TBA #6
- TBA TBA #7
- TBA TBA #8
- TBA TBA #9
- TBA TBA #10
- TBA TBA #11
- TBA TBA #12

For more information and  
to Register for a specific event go to

[www.soloseries.org](http://www.soloseries.org)

\* \* \* \*

## 2018 WMR SOLO SCHEDULE

- **April 21** **WMR at Michigan Adventure, 1198 W Riley-Thompson Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445**
- September 3 WMR - Labor Day Event at Grattan
- TBD WMR at Michigan Adventure, 1198 W Riley-Thompson Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445 TBD

Contact **Brad Yonkers** at  
[bradyonkers@gmail.com](mailto:bradyonkers@gmail.com)

**for more information.**

## 2018 GREAT LAKES DIVISION CLUB RACING SCHEDULE

- **April 22** **GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School (classroom) at Waterford Hills**
- **April 28 - 29** **GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School (track time) at Waterford Hills**
- May 3 - 6 VSCDA "Gingerman Spring Brake Drivers School & Races" at Gingerman
- May 19 - 20 SBR/DET/WOR Double Regional at Gingerman
- June 1 - 3 OVR "Race of Champions" Majors Double Event at Mid-Ohio
- June 9 - 10 NeOhio Double Regional at Nelson Ledges
- June 23 - 24 SVRA Vintage Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio at Mid-Ohio
- June 23 - 24 WMR "Unrestricted" Double Regional at Grattan
- July 7 - 8 SBR / DET "Bert Olson" Majors Double Event at GingerMan
- July 14 - 15 OVR Double Regional at Mid- Ohio
- August 3 Cincinnati Region PDX at Mid-Ohio
- August 4 - 5 Cincinnati Region Double Regional at Mid-Ohio
- August 11 - 12 WMR Majors Double Event at Grattan
- August 17 - 19 VSCDA "Vintage Grand Prix Au Grattan XXX" at Grattan
- October 5 OVR PDX at Mid-Ohio
- October 6 - 7 OVR Double "Sprint Classic" Regional at Mid-Ohio
- October 16 - 21 2018 SCCA National Runoffs at Sonoma Raceway

For more information and  
to Register for a specific event go to

[www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com)

# Membership News

## WMR welcomes our new or returning members

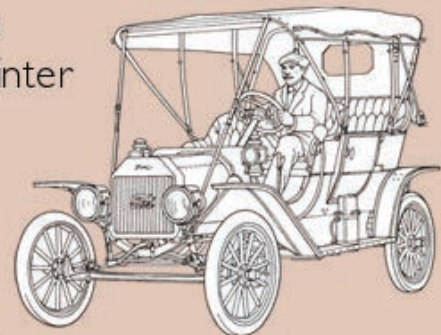
- Nik Harwood - Parma, MI
- Blake Mahnken - Pinckney, MI
- Daniel Moody - Middleville, MI
- Paul Thieme - Grand Rapids, MI

## Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 44 years James Downey III
- 43 years Gordon Ensing
- 32 years Perri Thocher
- 25 years Hank Fairchild
- 20 years Dayle Frame
- 18 years Melinda Frame
- 18 years Heather Futcher
- 18 years Robert Futcher
- 10 years Christopher Williams
- 9 years John Stachelek
- 5 years Anthony Fornetti
- 4 years Glenn Bryant
- 4 years Donald White
- 4 years Todd Brayton
- 4 years Teresa Brayton
- 4 years Hunter Brayton
- 3 years James Reinhard
- 3 years Marie Savage
- 3 years Tyler Woods
- 2 years Gregory Stamm
- 2 years Abijah Taylor
- 2 years Samuel Carter
- 2 years Jim Teachout
- 1 year Warren Terrell
- 1 year Don Sjolín
- 1 year Jacob Wierengo



Welcome to Michigan:  
 where People  
 forget how to  
 drive every winter  
 but become  
 expert race  
 car drivers...



someecards  
 user card

## Attention all Members

As a region, we are approaching a critical juncture in club leadership and oversight for our region. After the 2018 race season, Dayle Frame, one of our two Race Chairs, and Verne Wandell, the second of our two Race Chairs and Regional Treasurer will be relinquishing their responsibilities to pursue other ventures. Dayle will be concentrating on his racing activity as a driver participant and Verne along with his wife Lorrie will finally be enjoying their retirement by traveling around the country in their motorhome.

Dave Ferris has stepped up to takeover Lorrie's responsibilities as Chief of Timing and Scoring, but we still will need a new Treasure and Race Chair for both our Regional Event and our Majors Event.

In addition, we are looking for someone to step up to take on the Chief of Sound position and someone to be our Chief of Driver Information for these two events.

Please take some time to reflect on you involvement with the club and the opportunity to contribute in its ongoing operations and activities. Please consider stepping up and filling one of these positions. Please contact Dayle Frame, Verne Wandell, or Jim Washburn for further information. (Our contact information is posted in the "2018 WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION OFFICIALS" section on page 2 of this newsletter)

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## Important Notice

The SCCA National Headquarters in Topeka had a problem with generating and mailing out membership renewal documents in recent months. Your membership may have inadvertently expired due to this situation. This happened to 23 of our members whose membership was due to expire in October 2017. Please check you most recent membership card to see if your membership has expired and you have not received your renewal documents. If you are in this situation, please call the SCCA National Headquarters at (800) 770-2055 and ask to speak with the Membership Services Department. You may renew your membership over the telephone with a credit card or request them to send you the renewal documents in the mail.

# January Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2018, 8:06 pm  
County Seat Restaurant, Hastings, MI

Board Members present: Jim Washburn, Fred Hawley, Mary Ellen Sickles, Bruce Beauvais, Verne Wandell, Lenny Basaj, Wayne Rogers

Board Members absent: None

Other Members Present: Carola Basaj, Suzy Beauvais, Gary Burnside, Alice Burnside, Karen Crider, Dayle Frame, Melinda Frame, Lorrie Wandell, Debbie Hansen, Pete Hansen, Ed Lublow, Ed Maklenburg, Barbara Steencken, Rod Sickles, Tom Smolenski, Tyler Woods, & Tom Woods.

Guest: Tom Pattison, Chad Burnside, Ellie Burnside, Tammi Vanderschaaf, & Alyssa Kelly.

## Regional Executive's Report:

Jim Washburn: Announced our WMR elected Board Members:

Regional Executive: Jim Washburn (unopposed incumbent)

Assistant Regional Executive: Fred Hawley (unopposed incumbent)

Secretary: Mary Ellen Sickles (unopposed incumbent)

Treasurer: Verne Wandell (unopposed incumbent)

Director-at-Large: Lenny Basaj (unopposed incumbent)

Jim thanked all officers, workers and drivers for all their efforts to help WMR this past year.

## New Business:

Membership pins awarded by our Regional Executive, Jim Washburn:

15 years Carola Basaj

15 years Alice Burnside

15 years Gary Burnside

20 years Lorrie Gaunt-Wandell

20 years Verne Wandell

30 years Rod Sickles

30 years Mary Ellen Sickles

30 years Suzy Beauvais

30 years Bruce Beauvais

Great Lakes Division Championship Trophies were presented to:

Lenny Basaj 1st place in ITB

Tyler Woods 1st place in FC

Outstanding Member of the Year Award was presented to:

Tom Smolenski

## Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ellen Sickles,  
Recording Secretary



## Remember...

Attending our regular General Membership / Board of Directors Meetings will help you accumulate points for our WMR Service Award Program. Each meeting you attend will provide you 25 points. Prizes will be handed out at our Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet for various levels of points accumulation.

We typically meet the second Saturday of the month, October through April, with an optional dinner at 6:00pm followed by the meeting at 7:00. Check our Region Calendar for the specific dates. -- *Please join us*

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## Congratulations to WMR member Doug Fetrow



Photo Credit: Cal Club SCCA

Doug was named Cal Club SCCA F&C worker of the year. Doug currently lives in California to be close to family and is very active in the race events on the West Coast.

All of us in the WMR miss his participation at our events here in Michigan, but we're always happy to see him on the road as we travel to other events across the country.

Great job Doug!



2017

WMR ANNUAL MEETING and AWARDS BANQUET



(Left to Right) Gary Burnside, Alice Burnside, Ellie Burnside, Chad Burnside



Lenny (Left) and Carola Basaj



Barbara Steencken (Left) and Ed Maklenburg

2017  
WMR ANNUAL MEETING and AWARDS BANQUET



(Left to Right) Thomas Woods, Tyler Woods, Alyssa Kelly, and Tammi Vanderschaaf



Tom Smolenski (Left) and Tom Pattison



Ed Lublow (Left) and Rod Sickles

2017  
WMR ANNUAL MEETING and AWARDS BANQUET



(Left to Right) Pete Hansen, Debbie Hansen, and Fred Hawley



Verne (Left) and Lorrie Wandell



Suzy (Left) and Bruce Beauvais



Wayne Rogers (Left) and Rod Sickles

2017  
WMR ANNUAL MEETING and AWARDS BANQUET



(Left to Right) Karen Crider, Dayle Frame and Melinda Frame



Rod (Left) and Mary Ellen Sickles



Lorrie (Left) and Verne Wandell



Alice(Left) and Gary Burnside

Tom Smolenski,  
2017 WMR  
Outstanding Member of The Year



2017

## WMR ANNUAL MEETING and AWARDS BANQUET

Remarks by Jim Washburn, WMR Regional Executive

Good evening,

I hope you enjoyed your dinner this evening... Welcome all of you.

We need to thank Rod and Mary Ellen Sickles for our pre-dinner snacks and desert this evening. It was Mary Ellen that made all the arrangements for tonight's banquet.

We also need to thank Fred Hawley, Dayle Frame, and Verne Wandell, our Member Service Award Program Committee for the outstanding job they did in putting together a program which made it possible for many of us to earn a free dinner ticket for our banquet tonight or at least some credit towards our membership dues or SCCA merchandise. If any of you have any ideas on how to further improve this program, I am sure they would welcome the feedback.

My name is Jim Washburn. I am your Regional Executive and Newsletter Editor. I would like to introduce you to our 2018, Western Michigan Region, Officers and Board of Directors:

- Our Assistant RE, for a third term, is Fred Hawley
- Our Treasurer, also pulling a third term, is Verne Wandell
- Our Secretary once again is Mary Ellen Sickles
- Our Director At-Large pulling a second term is Lenny Basaj
- Our Director (Past RE) and Chief of Radios and Start continues to be Bruce Beauvais
- Our second Director (Past RE) and Chief of Course is our longtime member Wayne Rogers

I want to thank all those who have served on the Board for helping me get through another year as your RE. Your knowledge, your guidance, and your patience with me as I have struggled to learn what is required of the RE has made this job pretty easy for me.

Over the course of seven years with this organization I have learned that the most rewarding part of being a member is participation and involvement. Though not a driver, I have enjoyed coming to our events and lending a helping hand whenever I could.

The first month of my membership, I attended my first Board of Directors Meeting. We all know the club is about racing... however in my case, it is also about the friendships and fellowship I have gained over the years. These friendships began at that very first meeting and has expanded and strengthened with every event and every meeting I participated in.

THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THESE OPPORTUNITIES!

At this point, I would like to provide you with some information as to the state of our membership, but before I do this I would like to thank our Membership Co-Chairs Pete and Debbie Hansen. Their primary focus has been on reaching out to new members and investigating ways to get all our members further engaged and involved with the region.

In 2017, we added 69 new or returning members to the region. Our region had 259 members at beginning of the year, and 282 at the end of the year. This is a net gain of 23 members and represents a 8.9% increase in membership for our region. In looking at the national membership tallies broken down by region for the same period, most of the other regions took a big hit in membership representing a loss of almost 3%. Unfortunately in 2017, we had 49 members of our region that did not renew their membership. This represents in a retention percentage to 82.2%. The percentage for SCCA nationally was between 71 and 75%.

As you can see, we are growing and are retaining members, at a percentage level, greater than the national average... however, I believe the true measure of health for a region is member participation levels. This is the number we need to put our focus on.

The difficulty and challenge is to get our membership more involved with the club and more specifically with our region. We need more members to step up to the plate and volunteer their services, whether it be participation in our events, or to the leadership and administration of the club's affairs. I look around and see the same core group of members shouldering the weight of keeping this club viable.

It is the same core group that come up with all the ideas, formulate these ideas into an actionable plan, and finally take the responsibility to bring these plans to a positive action to move our region and the club in general forward.

I implore all of you to step up... get involved... and take up the challenge that, (has been up to now) shouldered by this core group.

Please consider joining us at our regular monthly meeting (October - April) in Hastings for dinner and an opportunity to offer your input to the the officers and members of the Board of Directors of the region.

Thank you very much and have a great year as we move forward into our 2018 racing season.

Regards,

Jim Washburn

Regional Executive

Western Michigan Region, SCCA

**Spring Training**  
**March 10, 2018**



**Findlay Inn & Conference Center**  
200 E Main Cross St, Findlay, Ohio 45840  
(free parking)

**\$25 per attendee**

*Guest Rooms: \$84/night + tax  
Call 800-825-1455 (419-422-5682) and  
ask for the Sports Car Club rate  
(Code: SCC18).*

**Register by March 5** to save your seat!  
*(The more clearly you write, the more accurate the attendee roster will be.)*

**Fee: \$25/person**

**Attention**

The Region will cover the registration fee for all WMR members who wish to attend this Convention.

If you would like to attend, please submit your name and contact information to Jim Washburn at [jwashburn.us@gmail.com](mailto:jwashburn.us@gmail.com) or you can call me at (517) 242-0702 **by March 5, 2018.**

I will collate the names and submit them along with payment of fees to the Convention Registrar en masse.

**(Note: Pre-registration is required... if you wish to register on your own, the Region cannot cover the registration fee.)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Region of Record \_\_\_\_\_ Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## 2017 WMR SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

### Point Redemption Information

The WMR Board of Directors has approved the rewarding of worker points for 2017, based on the points shown on the chart dated December 1, as follows:

- ✦ Members who have the **top 10 points totals** will be awarded a free ticket for the annual banquet on January 13 and \$50 credit which can be used for SCCA membership renewal, purchase of SCCA merchandise, or banquet tickets for family or guest.
- ✦ Members who rank 11th through 20th in the points standings will receive a free ticket for the banquet and \$25 credit to be used as described above.
- ✦ Members who rank 21st through 30th will receive \$25 credit.
- ✦ Members ranking 31st and below will receive \$10 credit.

**For free Banquet Dinner Tickets or to use credits** for the banquet, you **must make banquet reservations** with our club secretary, Mary Ellen Sickles, by January 7, 2018. You can do this via email at [rmsickles@comcast.net](mailto:rmsickles@comcast.net) or by phone at (517) 372-1477. This is necessary for arrangements that need to be made with the banquet facility.

#### How to use your credit for membership renewal.

When you receive your membership renewal information in the mail, contact Verne Wandell, our club treasurer ([verne@valleyedit.com](mailto:verne@valleyedit.com)) to verify the amount of credit available. Then mail the renewal form and a check for the difference between your renewal amount and the available credit to Verne. He will forward it to SCCA where it will be processed.

#### How to use your credit for merchandise.

Select item(s) at [sccagear.com](http://sccagear.com) and contact Verne ([verne@valleyedit.com](mailto:verne@valleyedit.com)) with product information. He will verify your available credit, ask you to confirm item number, size, color, etc, and ask you to send a check to him for the balance. He will place the order to be shipped to you.

**Yes, we wish it were easier** to apply these credits for membership and merchandise, but for numerous reasons we haven't been able to simplify the procedure.

SOME MEMBERS have **unused credits from 2016**. You will be contacted by email and a list will be published in the January Backfire. This credit carried over from last year may be combined with credit earned this year and applied to banquet reservations for members or their guests.

## 2017 WMR Service Award Program Results

#	Member Name	Total 2017 Points with Bonus(es)	Participation Increase Bonus	"First Timer" Bonus	Free Banquet Dinner Ticket	Earned Credit
1	Wandell, Verne	1275	100	0	Yes	\$50
2	Beauvais, Bruce	975	100	0	Yes	\$50
3	Frame, Dayle	970	50	0	Yes	\$50
4	Yonkers, Brad	925	100	0	Yes	\$50
5	Sickles, Mary Ellen	850	50	0	Yes	\$50
6	Crider, Karen	750	100	0	Yes	\$50
7	Gaunt-Wandell, Lorrie	750	50	0	Yes	\$50
8	Hansen, Pete	675	100	0	Yes	\$50
9	Hawley, Fred	575	50	0	Yes	\$50
10	Washburn, Jim	550	0	0	Yes	\$50
11	Smolenski, Tom	525	25	0	Yes	\$25
12	Orr, Bobbe	475	100	0	Yes	\$25
13	Rogers, Wayne	475	25	0	Yes	\$25
14	Sickles, Rod	475	0	0	Yes	\$25
15	Hansen, Debbie	450	100	0	Yes	\$25
16	Basaj, Lenny	425	100	0	Yes	\$25
17	Beauvais, Sue	400	25	0	Yes	\$25
18	Ferris, Dave	400	100	0	Yes	\$25
19	Frame, Melinda	400	50	0	Yes	\$25
20	Hansen, Lydia	325	50	0	Yes	\$25
21	Boris, Jeff	275	50	50		\$25
22	Henry, Marc	275	25	0		\$25
23	Maklenburg, Ed	275	0	0		\$25
24	Otte, Matt	250	0	0		\$25
25	Basaj, Alex	225	50	50		\$25
26	Gyulay, Jason	225	50	0		\$25

## 2017 WMR Service Award Program Results

#	Member Name	Total 2017 Points with Bonus(es)	Participation Increase Bonus	"First Timer" Bonus	Free Banquet Dinner Ticket	Earned Credit
27	Secor, Jeff	200	50	0		\$25
28	Barnes, Ray	175	25	0		\$25
29	Cull, Phil	175	25	0		\$25
30	Steencken, Barb	175	0	0		\$25
31	Dalziel, Irene	150	25	0		\$10
32	DeLoof, Steve	150	25	0		\$10
33	Ensing, Gordy	150	25	50		\$10
34	Lublow, Ed	150	25	50		\$10
35	Stachelek, John	150	25	0		\$10
36	Williamson, Aric	125	25	0		\$10
37	Anderson, Eric	100	0	0		\$10
38	Andrews, Sue	100	0	0		\$10
39	Basaj, Anna	100	0	0		\$10
40	Plank, Chris	100	25	50		\$10
41	Doane, Marty	75	25	0		\$10
42	Woods, Thomas	25	0	0		\$10
43	Woods, Tyler	25	0	0		\$10

# Free Stuff!

When we were cleaning out our race trailer and preparing it for winter storage, we came across a few items that we decided to pitch. Dayle Frame, our Competition Director, suggested that we offer the items to any of our members who would like them free of charge.



A "PurpleEast" banner is left over from the WMGP back in 1999. - It is printed on vinyl.



A cloth SCCA banner. - We have no idea where it came from.



A corrugated plastic display panel is made for us by Danny Kellermeyer. - We used it at the 2013 MIAS.

WMR Backfire Editor  
Jim Washburn  
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Holt, MI 48842

## Inside:

WMR Calendar, 2018  
2018 GLDiv Racing  
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[facebook.wmr-scca.org](https://facebook.wmr-scca.org)



[twitter.wmr-scca.org](https://twitter.wmr-scca.org)



## 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 and pictures can be emailed to