



February 2021

BACKFIRE

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



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2021 WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION OFFICIALS

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Membership News

WMR welcomes our new or returning members

- Luke Loskutoff - Kalamazoo, MI
- Richard Pelkey - Williamston, MI
- Jim Ruiter - Hudsonville, MI

Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 47 years James Downey III
- 46 years Gordon Ensing
- 35 years Perri Thocher
- 23 years Dayle Frame
- 21 years Melinda Frame
- 21 years Heather Futcher
- 21 years Robert Futcher
- 13 years Christopher Williams
- 12 years Ross Harvey
- 8 years Anthony Fornetti
- 7 years Glenn Bryant
- 7 years Donald White
- 6 years Marie Savage
- 6 years Tyler Woods
- 3 years Daniel Moody
- 2 years James Reinhard
- 2 years Jake Lueder
- 2 years Thomas Klonowski
- 2 years Roger Sheler Jr.
- 1 year Michael Lake
- 1 year Michael Engle
- 1 year Samuel Fiumara
- 1 year Trent Mahnken
- 1 year John Retzer
- 1 year Andrew Temple
- 1 year Scott Harvey III
- 1 year Ike Keeler
- 1 year John Stuedemann
- 1 year Samuel Rogers



**THE R.A.C. RALLYE.
114 STARTERS.
30 FINISHERS.
1 WINNER.**

"The fiercest and toughest competition ever driven." That's what the motor experts called this year's RAC rallye. And attending to the fact was all but 30 of the 114 starters that fell by the wayside. There were faster cars than SAAB, sportier cars than SAAB, entered in the rallye that included 1,200 miles of special road stages as part of the course, back and forth across Great Britain. A rallye that ripped up cars for 40,000 kilometers. But SAAB V4's took both first and second place overall.

How come? How much did SAAB's front-wheel drive have to do with keeping it from skidding on some of England's roughest forest roads? How did SAAB's true aerodynamic styling help make it first past the checkered flag? These are questions best answered from behind the wheel of a SAAB, get behind one.

LATE NEWS FLASH: SAAB wins the "Mexico's 1000 Rallye"—the Baja Desert—the first passenger car across the finish line. And in record time.

SAAB OF SWEDEN
The only car in the world made by a manufacturer of advanced jet aircraft.



It's one-two Subaru in America's toughest rally.

GL Coupes take 1st and 2nd in class A of Totals' Press On Regardless!

A grueling, punishing course, more than 2000 miles of twists, turns, bumps, rocks, mud, potholes, sand, and fallen trees. That's the Total "Press on Regardless" Rally. It takes its toll of cars and drivers alike. Out of 57 starters, only 21 finished. But for the front wheel drive Subaru it was a smashing success. Two GL Coupes blazed through the deep Northern Michigan forest and Upper Peninsula wilderness to capture both first and second place in the Class A competition.

Four-wheel independent suspension outboard the bumps and rocks; rack and pinion steering tamed the twists and turns; and the strong over-quad horizontal engine pushed and powered the Coupes over every tough mile of the course.

Some of the other teams had never seen the GL. Coupes do its thing in a road rally before. They were surprised by the results. We weren't.

Prove it to yourself. Test drive a Subaru today under your toughest driving conditions. Subaru. The over-achiever.

SUBARU
Subaru is a registered trademark of Subaru of America, Inc. Performance. New Jersey 07109.

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, February 13, 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

February 13, 2021

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

March 5 -7, 2021

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

March 13, 2021

Our 2020 Awards Banquet has been cancelled.

April 10, 2021

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

Contributors

JIM WASHBURN

Backfire Editor

MARY ELLEN SICKLES

Secretary

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the following events may be Rescheduled or Cancelled.

2021 GREAT LAKES DIVISION

SOLO SERIES SCHEDULE

- TBA South Bend Region - Grissom Aeroplex, Peru, IN
- TBA Indy Region - Grissom Aeroplex, Peru, IN
- TBA Fort Wayne Region - Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, IN
- TBA South West Virginia Region - U of WV, Parkersberg, WV
- TBA Detroit/Saginaw Valley Region - Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda, MI
- TBA Cincinnati Region - Traders World, Cincinnati, OH

For more information and to Register for a specific event go to www.soloseries.org

* * * *

2021 WMR SOLO SCHEDULE

- September 6 WMR Labor Day Event at Grattan Raceway Park, Grattan, MI
- TBA WMR Event #2 at Grattan Raceway Park, Grattan, MI

Contact **Dan Moody** at dldmoody268@gmail.com

for more information.

To Register for a specific event go to www.motorsportreg.com

2021 GREAT LAKES DIVISION

CLUB RACING SCHEDULE

- April 10 GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School (classroom) at Waterford Hills
- April 24 - 25 GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School (track time) at Waterford Hills
- April 29 - 30 VSCDA Drivers School (classroom and track time) at Gingerman
- May 1 - 2 VSCDA "Gingerman Spring Brake Races at Gingerman
- May 14 - 16 DET / SBR "Spring Festival of Speed" Double Regional at Gingerman
- May 21 - 23 OVR "Race of Champions" Majors Double Event at Mid-Ohio
- June 12 - 13 NEO Restricted Regional at Nelson Ledges
- June 18 - 20 WMR "Unrestricted" Double Regional at Grattan
- June 24 - 27 SVRA Vintage Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio at Mid-Ohio
- July 9 - 11 NEO Double Regional at Nelson Ledges
- July 23 SBR CRE-Enduro-Track Event at Gingerman
- July 24 - 25 SBR / DET "Bert Olson" Majors Double Event at GingerMan
- July 30 - Aug 1 Cincinnati Region Double Regional at Mid-Ohio
- August 13 - 15 VSCDA "Vintage Grand Prix Au Grattan XXX" at Grattan
- August 21 - 22 WMR "Last Chance" Majors at Grattan
- September 3 - 5 OVR "Sprint Classic" Double Regional at Mid-Ohio
- Sept 25 - Oct 3 2021 SCCA National Runoffs at Indianapolis
- October 15 - 17 OVR "Autumn Classic" Double Regional at Mid-Ohio

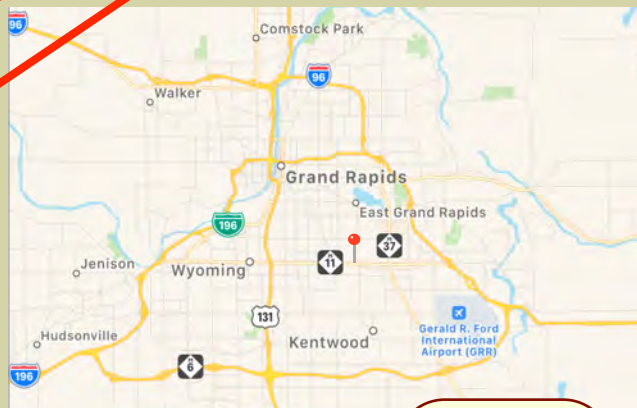
For more information and to Register for a specific event go to www.motorsportreg.com

Western Michigan Region Annual Awards Banquet



Cancelled

- ✓ Date: **Saturday, March 13, 2021**
 - ✓ Time: **Cash banquets at 6:00PM with dinner starting at 6:30 and the meeting starting at 8:30**
 - ✓ Location: **Pietro's Italian Restaurant** at 2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI. (see map)
 - ✓ Cost: **Free to all WMR Members.** \$25 per person for non-members and guests.
 - ✓ Menu: **TBD**
- *****
- ✓ **RSVP** to Mary Ellen Sickles **by March 6, 2021** via email at rmsickles@comcast.net or by phone at (517) 449-6694



Pietro's Italian Restaurant
2780 Birchcrest Dr SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 452-3228

Annual Meeting of Our Members Minutes

January 9, 2021, 7:02 pm
WMR Board meeting via teleconference

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

Board Members absent: Ed Maklenburg

Other Members Present: Dayle Frame, Rodney Sickles, Ted Flynn, Andrew Temple, Ben Stitt, and Carola Basaj

Secretary Report:

Mary Ellen Sickles: Our December Teleconference Meeting minutes were approved and printed in the January 2021 newsletter.

Regional Executive's Report:

Lenny Basaj: Welcome to everyone

Assistant RE's Report:

Ed Maklenburg: (not present)

Treasurer's Report:

Dave Ferris: - The treasurer's report was sent to the Board by email. We made money this past year primarily because of the substitute entry program.

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. Karen Crider made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Mary Ellen Sickles and approved.

Competition Director's Report:

Dayle Frame: - We still need to get our sanction numbers from SCCA headquarters. The two packets were sent to the Executive Steward.

We have tentative dates for 2021 as the final schedule is not set yet. June 19-20 is tentatively scheduled for our regional and August 21-22 is tentatively scheduled for our Majors.

Solo Manager's Report:

Dan Moody: (not present)

Newsletter Report:

Jim Washburn: - The newsletter deadline for submissions is January 25, 2021.

Chief of Specialty Reports:

F&C - Flagging:

Pete Hansen: (not present - emailed he had No Report)

F&C - Communications:

Lydia Hansen: (not present - emailed she had No Report)

Radios:

Bruce Beauvais: (not present)

Start:

Bruce Beauvais: (not present)

Grid:

Mary Ellen Sickles: - No Report

Timing & Scoring:

Dave Ferris: - No Report

Sound:

Carola Basaj: - No Report

Course:

Wayne Rogers: - Gary (Fire and rescue) had surgery but should be ok to work our summer races.

Tech:

Ed Maklenburg: (not present) It was reported that he may not be able to Chief our regional race in June due to health issues. We need to find a chief for the June regional.

Old Business:

Membership Person: Tom Smolenski: (Not present) In the file cabinet on the SCCA website there are instructional materials and training for membership people. Wayne will follow up with Tom.

Annual Meeting of Our Members Minutes

— Continued —

Bylaws Review: Karen Crider and Dave Ferris talked earlier this week and are about 2/3 done. They have been in contact with Ed Maklenburg. Members are encouraged to look at the bylaws and make comments to the committee.

Fire Suppression Equipment: Karen Crider has followed up with a couple of contacts to see what other regions are doing.

Annual Awards Banquet: No update because of restaurant shutdowns. Lenny Basaj suggested tabling this and do an email vote. We may have to cancel our banquet because of high COVID numbers. We will vote after the Governor and new President have made decisions on opening restaurants.

Our WMR, SCCA Charter Renewal: Our Charter was uploaded to SCCA in November. SCCA wants us to file our charter and our IRS official determination number electronically. We are still waiting on the IRS letter to send to SCCA.

Our 2020 Tax Filing: Our 2020 taxes need to be filed in the first quarter of 2021. - No updated information

GLDiv Spring Training: Will probably be remote this year, we are waiting on information.

New Business:

Area 4 Director Report: Dayle is on 3 committees for SCCA National Office, Club Racing, Rally Cross Racing and Budget committees. Dayle will sit in on monthly meetings and answer questions.

He was contacted by Topeka that Gingerman Time Trials need flagging volunteers this summer for a 2 day event weekend, July 17-18, 2021.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Dave Ferris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Karen Crider, approved at 7:59 pm.

E Mail Votes Between Meetings:

On 01-22-2021 - Karen Crider made a motion to cancel our Annual Awards banquet scheduled for March 13, 2021 and request refund from Pietros. Dave Ferris seconded. The motion was approved with 6 votes YES, and 1 Board Member that did not respond to the vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Sickles,
Recording Secretary



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 Karen Crider (Director at Large).

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 Dave Ferris at 1988irocz28@gmail.com and he 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,

Ed Maklenburg, Assistant RE
Dave Ferris, Treasurer
Karen Crider, WMR Director at Large



February 20, 2021
Montmorency County, Michigan



Volunteers, Ham Radio Operators and Medical Personnel

Contact the Chief of Personnel at SnoDriftworkers@gmail.com

For general information go to: www.sno-drift.org

**Real Cars* *

**Real Roads* *

**Real Fast* *



So you thought the racing season was over...

reprinted from a prior year *Backfire* and updated for 2021

Well, let me tell you, the season is just beginning for Performance Rallying in Michigan. The 2021 Sno*Drift Rally will be a one day event this year and held on February 20. It continues to be one of the the first events on the 2021 American Rally Association National Championship schedule and is presented by Sno*Drift Rally, Inc.

This race is not conducted on a prepared race track with cars running head to head as we would expect in road racing. No, instead, it is run on mostly snow and ice covered gravel surfaced back roads. The competitors race one car at a time against the clock, usually at one or two minute intervals. It is a flat-out competition with modified production cars over closed sections of rural roads blocked off from local traffic.

All of the entrants are team based. Each car has a driver and a co-driver (or navigator). Each team is given a route book just prior to the start of the event that describes the course in detail with diagrams of turns, as well, as notations of natural road hazards and spectator areas to watch out for. The co-driver (navigator) uses this book along with stage notes supplied by the ARA, local maps, odometers, and special equipment designed to keep the driver on course and on time. Each team is also allowed a one pass reconnaissance in non race vehicles to become more familiar with the roads.

All competition vehicles must be street legal with only those modifications allowed for the class for which the car is entered. Current rules restrict rally cars from using studded ice tires which makes finding traction for the drivers extremely difficult for the drivers. If there has been a good snowfall in the days leading up to

the rally, expect to see large snowbanks lining the roads. These snowbanks can be a help or a hazard for the drivers as they try to stay on the road.



The Sno*Drift rally was first held in 1973 as a National event as part of the SCCA Performance Rally Series near Grayling, Michigan. In 2002, the rally was expanded to cover two days, with the Sno portion of the rally covering day one and the

Drift portion on day two. In 2005, the SCCA transferred organization and marketing of ProRally and ClubRally to Rally America, Inc., with the Sno*Drift as the first event of the 2005 calendar, and thus the first event to take place under the Rally America organization. The event is currently sanctioned by the American Rally Association (ARA).



As in the past few years, the rally, will be headquartered in Atlanta, Michigan but will also utilize the towns of Lewiston and Hillman in Montmorency County.

With it being a one day event this year, the National Rally and one Regional Rally will take place simultaneously. All check ins will be done online and with social distancing protocols.

To help minimize the Covid risk we bring to the community, for the first time in our history, **there will be no spectators allowed for this event.** If you would like to catch all the slideways fun of Sno*Drift, you can volunteer to be a worker at the event. As usual, we still need all the help we can get.

For more detailed Competitor and Volunteer information please visit the Sno*Drift website at: www.sno-drift.org/

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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