



January 2021

BACKFIRE

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



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Winter does not mean
we need to stop having fun!



2021 WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION OFFICIALS

Regional Executive

Lenny Basaj
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(231) 557-3694
lenny.basaj@gmail.com

Secretary and Grid

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rmsickles@comcast.net

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F&C - Flagging

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Paddock and Membership Chair

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Treasurer, Timing & Scoring and Webmaster

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Rally Cross Chair

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scott.beute@gmail.com

Membership News

WMR welcomes our new or returning members

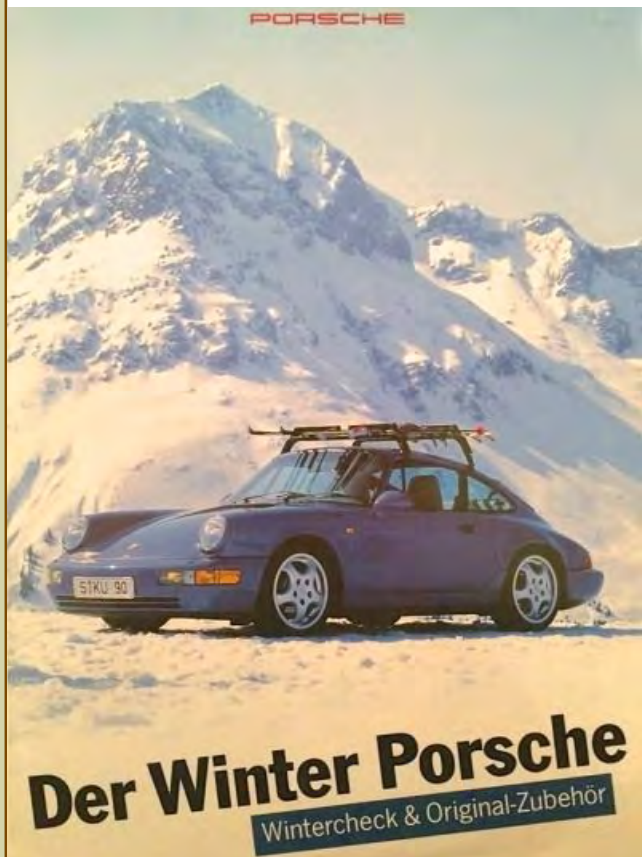
Brian Brewer - Grand Rapids, MI

Michael Low - Wyoming, MI

Eric Turgeon - Marine City, MI

Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 39 years Edward Wagner
- 34 years Susan Green
- 18 years Martin Doane
- 3 years Timothy Westenburg
- 2 years Pieter Vanderlaan
- 1 year Christopher Crisenbery
- 1 year Emily Crisenbery
- 1 year Judy Crisenbery
- 1 year Sara Crisenbery
- 1 year Ben Stitt
- 1 year David Heinrich
- 1 year Hayley Heinrich
- 1 year Joshua Heinrich
- 1 year Tina Heinrich



Our Annual Meeting of Our Members

--- 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 Zoom Teleconference on **Saturday, January 9, 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

January 9, 2021

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

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 5,6, and 7, 2021

GLD Spring Training Seminars
- **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

April 10, 2021

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

Contributors

JIM WASHBURN
Backfire Editor

MARY ELLEN SICKLES
Secretary

DAYLE FRAME
SCCA Area 4 Director and,
WMR Competition Manager

The 2021 WMR Officers and Board Members Nomination/Election Results

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 2021 Board will officially begin their one year term on January 1, 2021

Thank You WMR

I case it slipped by you (and in this age of political chaos and pandemic, why wouldn't it), I was elected by the members of Area 4 to the SCCA Board of Directors (BoD).

First, I have many people to thank for this and the first group is the WMR membership. I'm going to guess that my cajoling, browbeating and persuading of my fellow members got old after a while and for that I will apologize. But in the end, we won by a substantial margin and that margin started close to home.

Second, I wanted to make sure that as Director I would communicate with all the membership of Area 4 but not to the detriment of my own region. If you have any concerns about policy on a national level (program directives, rules changes, etc.) please be sure to address them to me at my new, official SCCA email address (dframe@scca.com).

Third, I will utilize a variety of paths to make sure that any member of Area 4 can interact with their Director.

1. I will write a monthly "Notes from the Director's Chair" and have it emailed to all members (make sure your email address is accurate in your SCCA account).
2. I'm already working on upgrading our divisional website so it's more active, accurate and responsive. Eventually, I'd like it to have a page for my schedule and my monthly newsletter.
3. "Ask the Director" session at our monthly WMR virtual meeting (in person soon, we hope).
4. I will do my best to make sure I attend as many Area 4 events as possible which will include most of the events here in MI. This includes events from all of the SCCA competition disciplines (Club Racing, Solo, Time Trials, Track Night in America (TNiA), Road Rally and Rally Cross).

Last but not least, I will need to step back from my day to day, official support of the region as I cannot allow any hint of a conflict of interest when it comes to WMR policy, events, personnel, etc. Correspondence by me must not be misinterpreted by others as coming from the "Dayle the Director" as opposed to "Dayle the WMR Competition Manager" or other "Dayles" (I've worn a lot of hats over the years). Since I've retired from Club Racing and have sold my team's gear and I am not on the WMR BoD anymore, this shouldn't be too difficult to execute. I wanted to make sure the WMR membership understood that there will be times I cannot wade into an issue that involves WMR.

One more thing.....the 2021 season will be just as challenging as 2020 was. The pandemic is not going away anytime soon. But as we all get vaccinated and the cold winter ebbs away from us, we should be able to marshal our forces and put on the high-level events that WMR is famous for. I ask you to please reach out to our Board (and me if needed) and step up to support your region's events this season. Believe me, you get more out of it than you put in and your region needs your support in these trying times. Start by attending a monthly meeting and introducing yourself to folks there.

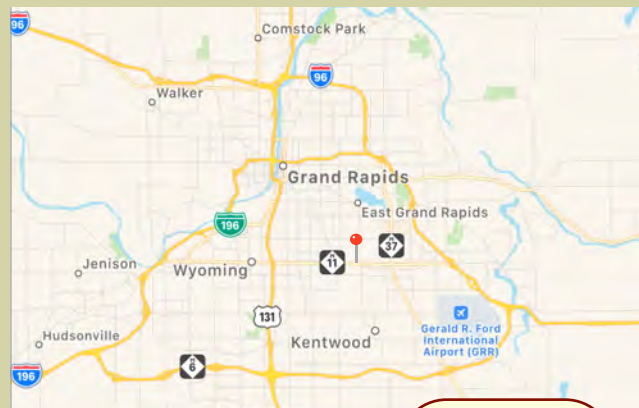
Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Dayle Frame (259138)
WMR Competition Manager
Area 4 Director

Western Michigan Region Annual Awards Banquet



- ✓ Date: **Saturday, March 13, 2021**
 - ✓ Time: **Cash bar opens 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

— 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.

December Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2020, 7:04 pm
WMR Board meeting via teleconference

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

Board Members absent: Ed Maklenburg, Verne Wandell

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 November Teleconference Meeting minutes were approved by the Board and printed in the December 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: - He sent the treasurer's report to the Board by email.

He has deposited the substitute entry money. 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. Mary Ellen Sickles made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Lenny Basaj, and approved.

Competition Director's Report:

Dayle Frame: - We just need to get our sanction numbers from SCCA headquarters.

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.

Dave Ferris made a motion to have the same entry fees as last year. Lenny Basaj seconded, it was approved.

Solo Manager's Report:

Dan Moody: - No Report

Newsletter Report:

Jim Washburn: - The newsletter deadline for submissions is December 24, 2020.

Chief of Specialty Reports:

F&C - Flagging:

Pete Hansen: (not present) He had mentioned no supplies were needed.

F&C - Communications:

Lydia Hansen: (not present)

Radios:

Bruce Beauvais: - The radios are functioning at this point.

Start:

Bruce Beauvais: - No Report

Grid:

Mary Ellen Sickles: - No Report

Timing & Scoring:

Dave Ferris: - No Report

Sound:

Carola Basaj: - No Report

Course:

Wayne Rogers: - No Report

Tech:

Ed Maklenburg: (not present) Wayne talked to Ed and he will chief our regional and Larry Panneman will chief our Majors.

December Meeting Minutes

— Continued —

Old Business:

Bylaws Review: Karen Crider volunteered to take Dayle's place on the committee. Ed Maklenburg and Dave Ferris are the other members on the committee.

Members are encouraged to look at the bylaws and make comments to the committee.

Membership Person: Tom Smolenski Not present. SCCA headquarters has materials and training for membership. Wayne will contact Tom.

Fire Suppression Equipment: There is a copper based extinguishing agent which is used for lithium fires. The cost for a 30 lb bottle is approximately \$850.00. There is also a sodium based extinguishing agent which is used for magnesium fires. The cost for a 30 lb bottle of this type is approximately \$600.00. The older the wheel, the more magnesium there will be in the alloy (vintage cars).

We will contact other regions to see what they are using.

Annual Awards Banquet: Our Banquet will be March 13, 2021 at Pietro's Italian Restaurant.

Dave Ferris made a motion for WMR to pay for members to attend our banquet at no charge. There will be a limit of 30 people. Lenny seconded and it was approved.

Our WMR, SCCA Charter Renewal: Our charter needs to be renewed in December of 2020. SCCA wants us to file our charter and our IRS official determination number electronically.

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

New Business:

GLDiv Spring Training: The folks at the Great Lakes Division of the SCCA are asking for ideas for a possible virtual format for their annual Spring Training event usually held in person in March.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Dave Ferris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lenny Basaj, approved at 8:01 pm.

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

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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