



June 2020

BACKFIRE

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



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Membership News

WMR welcomes our new or returning members

- Diane Boyd - Annandale, VA
- Edgar Chavez - Wyoming, MI
- Jason Dew - Wyoming, MI
- Rick Evans - Rockford, MI
- Mark Griffiee - Rockford, MI
- Albert Post IV - Kalamazoo, MI
- Steven TenBrink - Fennville, MI

Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 52 years Chuck Shapiro
- 37 years Frederick Hawley
- 35 years Barbara Steencken
- 34 years James Eslair
- 33 years Mary Sickles
- 33 years Rodney Sickles
- 30 years Ric Green
- 25 years Mary Gyulay
- 12 years Charles McGee
- 8 years Brandon Blaga
- 8 years Bradley Yonkers
- 7 years Ralph Gilles
- 6 years Douglas Fetrow
- 5 years Matthew Caris
- 3 years Carl Heideman
- 3 years Charlotte Heideman
- 3 years Christopher Heideman
- 3 years Hope Heideman
- 3 years Aaron Linke
- 3 years Austin Floyd
- 3 years Chris Felice
- 2 years Jason Blair
- 2 years Amanda Mahan
- 2 years Easton Mahan
- 2 years Sophia Mahan
- 2 years Robert Steffens
- 1 year Albert Post IV
- 1 year Michael Walton
- 1 year Pammie Walton
- 1 year Jerry Kulas

TOYOTA MR2

SPORT T
Now you can have your MR2 with a new T-Bar Roof for classic open-air sports car motoring.

BEST INTERIOR
Car and Driver magazine editors called the MR2's ergonomic layout "the best in the industry." Optional full leather is the traditional sports car touch.

MR2. THE SPORTS CAR LIVES!
Strap yourself into the 1987 Toyota MR2 and find out what a real 2-seater sports car is all about. The 16-valve, twin cam, 112 hp EFI engine is mounted midship for near-neutral handling. Wind it up to the 7500 rpm redline. Upshift. The quarter mile flashes past at 16.5 seconds. Decreasing radius left-hander coming up. Charge it. Feel the .85 g lateral acceleration. MR2. Now you know.

WHO TOYOTA COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE!
Get More From Life... Buckle Up!

*Car and Driver magazine, June, 1986.
©1986 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

The super, sporting world of Firenza.

With Firenza Sport SL you've got a lot going for you. Like a 2300 twin-carb, ohc cross-flow engine that produces 150 lb/ft of torque at 3200 revs, gives you 85 mph in third and easily tops the ton, laws of the land permitting.

With performance handling to match too. Thanks to the wide, fat sport radials all round, positively-located, 4-link rear suspension and anti-roll bars back and front.

And with reclining, contoured front seats, easily read 7-dial instrumentation and easily reached controls you're left sitting comfortably free to enjoy yourself and all that Firenza Sport has to offer.

Firenza Sport SL. Recommended ex-factory price, including Car Tax: £1235 (plus VAT). Get the feel of one at your Vauxhall dealers very soon.

More facts and figures. Dual circuit, power assisted braking. Rostyle wheels. 175/70 radials on 5J rims. Rack and pinion steering. Four headlamps. Alternator. 28.7 mpg; touring consumption (Motor, 8th July, 1972). Full safety package. GM Euroservice 365 to simplify regular maintenance. Recommended ex-factory prices, including Car Tax: Firenza 1256 from 1957 (plus VAT) and Firenza 1800 from £1139 (plus VAT).

Firenza Sport SL
-it's a joy to drive!

In Memory of Richard “Dick” Meyers

July 24, 1938 - May 20, 2020

Friend of the Western Michigan Region, of the SCCA; Richard “Dick” Meyers of Troy, Michigan, passed away peacefully on May 20, 2020. Dick was born on July 24, 1938, in Evansville, Wisconsin, to Frank and Dorothy (Welty) Meyers. After receiving a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, he was employed by General Motors, where he enjoyed a 40-year career in Labor Relations. On May 27, 1961, he married the love of his life, Nena (Hamacher), and together they raised five children: Richie, Christine (Rick), Penny (John), Kathy (Rob) and Renea (Frank). They were further blessed with five grandchildren: Paige, Claire, Emma, Ben and Aaron. He is also survived by his sister, Mary, and preceded in death by his sister’s, Joyce and Doris.



Dick, also known as “Blackie” and “Chief,” loved auto racing and was a dedicated firefighter, two passions that served him well as a key member of the Detroit Grand Prix and Waterford Hills racetrack fire emergency units. He enjoyed a good cigar and was a long-suffering Detroit Lions fan and season ticket holder.

Dick will be greatly missed by his family and many friends who will remember him for his contagious smile, warm personality and well-lived life. A private family service was held on May 27, 2020 at Desmond Funeral home. A Fire Fighters memorial will be held at a later date.

Due To Our Usual
 Heavy Racing
 Involvement, Our
 Monthly Board of
 Director/General
 Membership Meetings
 Will Be On Hiatus For
 The Summer

 Please Join Us Again In The Fall
 At

Pietro's Italian Restaurant
 2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI



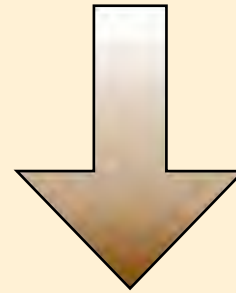
For the "off season" September thru April,
 we typically meet the 2nd Saturday of the month
 with an optional dinner at 6:00pm
 followed by the meeting at 7:00pm.

Our next meeting will be September 12, 2020.

Region Calendar

May, 2020

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



September 12, 2020

General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting at
 Pietro's Italian Restaurant, 2780 Birchcrest Dr SE,
 Grand Rapids, MI. Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

Contributors

JIM WASHBURN
 Backfire Editor

MARY ELLEN SICKLES
 Secretary

DAYLE FRAME
 Competition Manager

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

2020 GREAT LAKES DIVISION

SOLO SERIES SCHEDULE

- May 31 South Bend Region - Grissom Aeroplex, Peru, IN
- **June 27 - 28** **Indy Region - Grissom Aeroplex, Peru, IN**
- July 12 Fort Wayne Region - Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, IN
- July 18 - 19 South West Virginia Region - U of WV, Parkersberg, WV
- Aug 22 - 23 Detroit/Saginaw Valley Region - Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda, MI
- Sep 19 - 20 Cincinnati Region - Traders World, Cincinnati, OH

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

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2020 WMR SOLO SCHEDULE

- September 7 WMR Labor Day Event at Grattan Raceway Park, Grattan, MI
- October ?? WMR Event #2

Contact **Dan Moody** at dmoody268@gmail.com
for more information.

2020 GREAT LAKES DIVISION

CLUB RACING SCHEDULE

- TBD GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School (classroom) at Waterford Hills
due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- TBD GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School (track time) at Waterford Hills
due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- Cancelled VSCDA "Gingerman Spring Brake Drivers School & Races" at Gingerman
due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- Cancelled SBR / INR CRE-Enduro-Track Event at GingerMan
due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- TBD SBR / DET "Bert Olson" Majors Double Event at GingerMan
due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- **Cancelled** **WMR "Unrestricted" Double Regional at Grattan**
due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- **June 25 - 28** **SVRA Vintage Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio at Mid-Ohio**
- **June 26 - 28** **DET/WHRRRI Restricted Regional at Waterford Hills**
- July 17 - 19 OVR "Race of Champions" Majors Double Event at Mid-Ohio
- July 25 - 26 SBR/DET/INR CRE-Enduro-Track Event at Gingerman
- July 25 - 26 SBR/DET/INR Double Regional at Gingerman
- August 8 - 9 Cincinnati Region Double Regional at Mid-Ohio
- August 14 - 16 VSCDA "Vintage Grand Prix Au Grattan XXX" at Grattan
- August 22 - 23 WMR "Last Chance" Majors Event at Grattan
- September 4 - 6 OVR "Sprint Classic" Double Regional at Mid-Ohio
- October 3 - 11 2020 SCCA National Runoffs at Road America
- October 16 - 18 OVR "Autumn Classic" Double Regional at Mid-Ohio

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

Teleconference Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2020, 7:05 pm
Teleconference via WebEx

Board Members in attendance: Ed Maklenburg, Lenny Basaj, Mary Ellen Sickles, Dave Ferris, and Jim Washburn

Board Members absent: Wayne Rogers, and Verne Wandell

Other Members attending: Dayle Frame, and Bruce Beauvais

Continuing New Business:

The teleconference is a follow up from an April 11, 2020 teleconference where we discussed what effect the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Michigan's statewide *stay-at-home* orders would have on our scheduled Club Racing events this summer. This stay-at-home order *prohibits all public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring among persons not part of a single household.*

This teleconference was scheduled to discuss the status of Michigan's *stay-at-home* orders and to determine the feasibility of staging our upcoming Regional and Major's events.

The discussion lasted for over 40 minutes and several facets of the topic were discussed in detail.

Among these, was a discussion of the information provided by Bruce Beauvais, our Race Chair, regarding the needs and requirements for Personal Protection Equipment as mandated by SCCA national for the Pandemic.

Dayle Frame, our Competition Manager, presented information about how upcoming *Super Tour* events and the possible summer rescheduling of different Majors events of other Regions in the area may affect the participation of both Drivers and Volunteer Workers at our events.

Finally, we discussed whether or not we should cancel or reschedule our Regional event in June and our Majors event in August.

Following these discussions, a motion was made by Mary Ellen Sickles to cancel our Regional race in 2020. The motion was seconded by Jim Washburn. After further discussion, the motion was approved by all the Board Members present. Note: This decision and vote was not taken lightly.

Further, the Board decided to postpone a determination of the fate of our August Majors Event until more information is received as to the status of the Pandemic and Michigan's *stay-at-home* orders.

We scheduled a follow up teleconference for June 2, 2020.

Adjournment:

Dave Ferris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lenny Basaj, approved at 8:00 pm.

E Mail Votes Between Meetings:

On 4/21/2020 - Dave Ferris made a motion that we renew the hired and non owned policy at the cost of \$500.00 with K & K Insurance. Mary Ellen Sickles seconded. There were 5 aye votes, 1 nay and 1 Board Member did not vote. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Sickles,
Recording Secretary



With Regard to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Michigan's Statewide *Stay-At-Home* Orders

(The following is taken from an email Dayle Frame, WMR Competition Manager, sent to Drivers and Workers through MSR)

On May 06, 2020 the WMR Board of Directors met via teleconference. After much discussion, the Board decided to cancel our "Original Unrestricted" Double Regional at Grattan on 6/21 and 6/22.

It saddens us that we are forced to do this but the realities are that the COVID-19 pandemic requires us to look in the mirror and evaluate the situation with an overabundance of caution. There are a myriad of reasons that required this decision but one variable stood out. We just couldn't guarantee your safety. We could try like crazy and do all the right things....but it may not be enough.

Just so you know, there were many factors that influenced our decision:

- 1) **Worker age:** Many of our workers are old enough that their attendance would be in doubt. Would we have enough workers to host an event?
- 2) **PPE cost and availability:** If we decided to hold the event, what would it cost us to buy the PPE? Would it be available? Would we be denying it from frontline workers like nurses?
- 3) **Location:** Michigan has been hit very hard by the pandemic and we just don't think that it would be wise to hold an event of this size now.
- 4) **Stigma:** The Detroit metro area has been ravaged by this disease. When a large percentage of our workers, drivers and crew come from Detroit, would there be concerns to attend?
- 5) **Liability:** The SCCA has great insurance coverage. But it wasn't designed for this kind of scenario. Would we be liable if someone got sick because they attended our event? We didn't want to find out.
- 6) **Economic:** This event has suffered financially over the last few years...and that was under "normal" circumstances. With so many folks out of work these days, how many drivers/workers could afford to attend? Would it be an economic disaster for us?

As you can see, there were a lot of reasons that, when combined, forced our hand and we had to cancel this event. That said, at this point we are moving forward with hosting our Majors race at Grattan August 22-23. Depending on how things shake out over the summer, we may be forced to cancel that event as well. There are a lot of variables at play for all of us.



Revised Runoffs 2020 Qualification Path Requirements

May 20, 2020



Upon advisement from the Sports Car Club of America® (SCCA®) Road Racing Department and Club Racing Board, the SCCA Board of Directors (BoD) has approved a revision to invitation qualification criteria for the **2020 National Championship Runoffs®** taking place Oct. 3-11 at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.

Late in 2019, changes were made to the process in which drivers earn an invitation to the 2020 Runoffs, with a return to point standings performance criteria being included. However,

due to event interruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the belief is many Summit Racing Equipment SCCA Road Racing competitors could encounter difficulties qualifying for the 2020 Runoffs with points standards in place. Therefore, the decision has been made to scrap the points benchmarks this year. Instead, a participation model will be deployed for 2020 similar to that used for previous National Championship events.

Eric Prill, SCCA Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, noted the latest revisions for 2020 are designed to not only assist racers in getting to the Runoffs, but also help local SCCA Regions where event entries may be impacted by COVID-19 concerns.

“Obviously, the pandemic has created a very complicated situation for the Summit Racing Equipment SCCA Road Racing program and National Championship,” Prill said. “What we have done through the updated qualification path is strike a balance between the challenges some members face with attending events this season and the need for these events to remain successful, which is critical for the fiscal wellbeing of Regions and the Club as a whole.”

To qualify for the 2020 Runoffs, drivers will now need to participate in a minimum of three U.S. Majors Tour/ Hoosier Racing Tire SCCA Super Tour weekends and finish in at least ONE race. Up to TWO of these weekend participations may be replaced with any combination of Regional race weekends or substituted with paid entries for any of the remaining 2020 U.S. Majors Tour events not attended.

SCCA is rapidly constructing an online option for “substitute” registrations where drivers can submit entries and log Runoffs qualification credits for events “missed” due to coronavirus. The substitute entry process will be separate from normal registration for that event, with details being released at a later date. An action outside SCCA’s normal operating procedure, Prill noted this is being conducted to offset lost revenue for Regions.

“Club members are experiencing financial hardship this year, as are their local Regions,” Prill said. “A family united by the passion for racing, we all want to see people out doing what we love. This pandemic has impacted everyone, but we want to make sure Club members can get to the Runoffs while ensuring the health of Regions for a long time to come.”

Updated qualifying conditions for 2020 eliminates the need for a specific Pro path to the Runoffs as the new formula serves both interests. The Divisional and Defending Champion paths to a Runoffs invitation remain unchanged. It should be noted that endurance races remain excluded as counting toward Runoffs qualification, and plans for deployment of the new **Runoffs Appearance Fund** remain in place.

For more information on the 57th Runoffs at Road America, visit <https://www.scca.com/runoffs>.



REVISED

2020 SCCA Runoffs “Quarantification” Criteria

>>New for 2020 – Race starts were replaced with race finishes.<<

DEFENDING NATIONAL CHAMPION – The current defending National Champion may enter the Runoffs in the class(es) being defended, without meeting any of the below criteria. This provision may not be invoked two consecutive years in the same class, even if he/she repeats as a National Champion.

U.S. Majors Tour Path
*Requires the equivalent of 3 weekends – combinations may vary.
 Qualification criteria must be met for each class.*

FINISH

You must finish 1 Hoosier Super Tour or Conference Majors individual race in each class you wish to qualify in.
 A FINISH is defined as completing at least half of the laps of the overall race winner.

PLUS (complete one of the following options)

OPTION 1

Participate in **(2) additional Hoosier Super Tours or Conference Majors or Regional** event weekends in the same class. May be any combination of event types.
(Events may be in any Division or Conference. Must be 3 total unique weekends)
Example Combinations:
 2 HST
 2 Majors
 1 Major/1 HST
 1 Major/1 Regional
 2 Regionals

OR

OPTION 2

Participate in **(1) additional Hoosier Super Tour or Conference Majors or Regional** event weekend in the same class
AND
 Purchase **(1) SUBSTITUTE** event entry for an event you did not attend.
(Events may be in any Division or Conference. Must be 2 unique weekends plus purchase 1 substitute event entry.)

OR

OPTION 3

Buy **(2) SUBSTITUTE** event entries in the same class for Hoosier Super Tour or Conference Majors events you did not attend to satisfy 3 weekend requirement.
(Drivers who wish to qualify in multiple classes must pay a substitute entry/entries for each class)

Divisional Path

You must complete each step of the path: Participate and Point Standings

PARTICIPATE

Participate in 4 Runoffs qualifying event weekends

Must be in the same class, in a single division. Divisions may count U.S. Majors Tour events occurring in their Division. Check your local division championship program for details.

POINT STANDINGS

Finish in the TOP 3 in class (Top 5 for SM/SRF3) of your Divisional Point Standings. **Top 50% for Great Lakes and Central Division for 2020, space permitting.*

FINE PRINT:

- **SCCA Regional Event Weekends:** If a Region holds a Majors event with a Regional-sanctioned run group and a driver participates in both the Majors and Regional run group in the same Runoffs-eligible class, only Majors credit will be earned toward qualification. Regional events must occur between January 1, 2020 and a date not less than 2 weeks prior to the start of the Runoffs (September 21, 2020) and may be in any division. Excludes Enduros.
- The criteria in this document are minimum requirements.
- “Participate” is defined as turning a wheel on track in an official session (practice, qualifying, warm-up, race) and appearing in the Official Race Results.
- Qualification Examples (not an all-inclusive list):
 - Participate in 3 Hoosier Super Tour weekends with at least 1 HST race finish
 - Participate in 3 Conference Majors weekends with at least 1 Conference Majors race finish
 - Participate in 1 Hoosier Super Tour, 1 Conference Majors, 1 Regional weekend with at least 1 HST or Conference Majors race finish
 - Participate in 1 Hoosier Super Tour, 2 Regional weekends with at least 1 HST race finish
 - Participate in 1 Conference Majors weekend, 1 Regional weekend with at least 1 Majors race finish AND buy 1 SUBSTITUTE event entry
 - Participate in 1 Hoosier Super Tour with at least 1 HST race finish AND buy 2 SUBSTITUTE event entries.
- Substitute entries must be purchased through SCCA no later than September 21, 2020 to receive credit toward Runoffs invitation qualification.

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

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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