



March 2020

BACKFIRE

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



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2020 WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION OFFICIALS

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Membership News

WMR welcomes our new or returning members

- Ted Flynn - Stanton, MI
- Jean-Pierre Guedes - Clinton Twp, MI
- Justin Hutmacher - Fowlerville, MI
- Matthew Koroleski - Lapeer, MI
- Juan Marchand - South Haven, MI
- Michael McCue - Adrian, MI
- Michael Merrick - Kalamazoo, MI
- Angela Moody - Middleville, MI
- Jonathan Start - Caledonia, MI
- Kashton Start - Caledonia, MI
- Michael Thomas - Okemos, MI

Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 54 years Bobbe Orr
- 35 years David Thocher
- 33 years John Herman
- 32 years Walt Nelson
- 23 years Mark Wilsdon
- 21 years Kim Ockerlund
- 21 years William Ockerlund
- 19 years Paul Thieme
- 18 years Steve DeLoof
- 18 years Carola Basaj
- 8 years Mike Sprague
- 6 years Michael Tanner
- 2 years Russ O'Blenes
- 2 years Gordon Stoney
- 2 years Adam Walters
- 2 years Alison Walters
- 2 years Julia Walters
- 1 year Kyle Davenport

FROM THE LAND OF BRITISH RACING GREEN



In international automobile races, green is the official color of the cars of Great Britain - Britain. Homeland of the drivers who won eight of the last thirteen Grand Prix Championships. Homeland of three of the top five racing drivers of all time. And the land that introduced sports cars to America.

Our Triumph TR2 was one of these immortal automobiles. And today we make two true open sports cars that carry on the heritage of the land of British Racing Green.

THE CLASSICALLY BRITISH TRIUMPH TR6.

The successor to the TR2, TR3, and TR4, the TR6 is one of the last wind-in-the-hair open sports cars.

It offers a high-torque, high-revving 2500cc six-cylinder engine. As well as a fully-synchronized 4-speed transmission, 4-wheel independent suspension, front disc brakes, and rack-and-pinion steering.

As Motor Trend magazine observed, "It was a lot of car in the beginning, and it's a lot more car today."

THE RACE-BRED TRIUMPH SPITFIRE 1500.

The Spitfire is truly a piece of history, named after the fighter-plane that won the Battle of Britain.

It shares many features with the TR6, such as a fully-synchronized 4-speed transmission, 4-wheel independent suspension, rack-and-pinion steering, and front disc brakes.

A 1500cc four-cylinder engine gives the car sparkling acceleration. And its

cornering power is in the same league as the \$5,400 Datsun Z series, the \$6,900 Alfa Romeo GTV and the \$12,000 Porsche 911.*

All of which helped Spitfires win the F Production National Championship in Sports Car Club of America competition for the past two years.

The classically British TR6 and the race-bred Spitfire 1500. In the British tradition of open sports cars.



*To be precise, 87% according to the 1973 Car & Driver road test. For the name of your nearest Triumph dealer call: 800-447-4700. In Illinois call 800-322-4400. British Leyland Motors Inc., Leonia, New Jersey 07460.

What can be conceived can be created.

For the name of the authorized Ferrari dealer nearest you, call these numbers toll-free: (800)477-4700 or, in Illinois, (800)322-4400, in Alaska and Hawaii, (800)477-0890.

Our Annual Awards Banquet

--- Please Join Us At ---

Pietro's Italian Restaurant

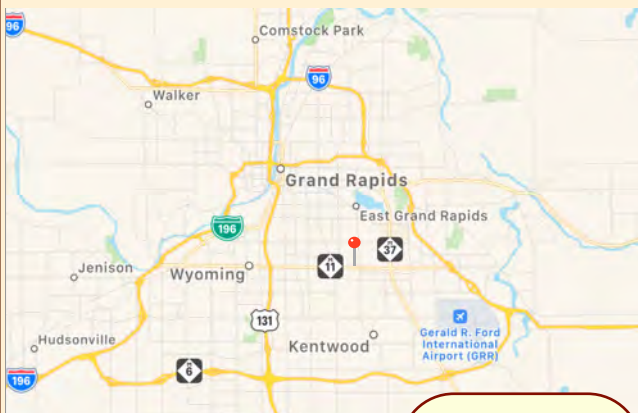
2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI



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 March 14, 2020



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

Region Calendar

March 7, 2020

GLDiv Spring Training Seminar at the Ramada Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN

March 14, 2020

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 11, 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 7:00p

May, 2020

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

Contributors

JIM WASHBURN

Backfire Editor

VAL MCCAMMON

Event Coordinator, GLDiv - SCCA

MARY ELLEN SICKLES

Secretary

DAYLE FRAME

Competition Manager

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

* * * *

2020 WMR SOLO SCHEDULE

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

Contact **Dan Moody** at dlmoody268@gmail.com for more information.

2020 GREAT LAKES DIVISION CLUB RACING SCHEDULE

- April 19 GLDiv/WHRRI Driver's School (classroom) at Waterford Hills
- April 25 - 26 GLDiv/WHRRI Driver's School (track time) at Waterford Hills
- April 30 - May 3 VSCDA "Gingerman Spring Brake Drivers School & Races" at Gingerman
- May 9 SBR / INR CRE-Enduro-Track Event at GingerMan
- May 16 - 17 SBR / DET "Bert Olson" Majors Double Event at GingerMan
- June 20 - 21 WMR "Unrestricted" Double Regional at Grattan
- June 25 - 28 SVRA Vintage Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio at Mid-Ohio
- June 26 - 28 DET/WHRRI 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



Grassroots motorsports for the eastern Great Lakes and Ohio River valley.

Get Ready for 2020 – Spring Training!

Shake off winter and get ready for spring – Spring Training, that is! It’s the kick-off to all the excitement that will race across Great Lakes Division in 2020.

On **Saturday, March 7**, we’ll gather at the **Ramada Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN**. This new conference center location offers tons of meeting space for this year! Located centrally in the division, with easy access off I-69, it also offers cost-effective guest rooms (\$99/night, with 2 breakfast buffets included), and ample free parking.

And with more space, we’re adding even more sessions, including an all-day Time Trials track in addition to the annual full-day Solo Track! And numerous National SCCA staff will present on a variety of topics, plus excellent GLD members are anxious to share the National Convention sessions they presented in Las Vegas.

There’s something for everyone – the agenda is building and getting fuller each day. Plus, we’ll use online registration via MSR again this year! If you prefer, we’ll offer an option for paper registration, too.

Online registration is almost ready. In the meantime, **book your overnight room at the Ramada Plaza**. The discounted room rate is **\$99** and includes 2 breakfast buffets! Call them at **800-854-9517 (or 260-484-0411)** and ask for the “**Sports Car Club**” group rate. Rates are good for either Friday or Saturday March 6-7, or both if you’re spending the weekend.

NEW FRIDAY EVENING OPTION: A private Friday evening social at the hotel, from 5:00-9:00pm. For only **\$8 per person**, we’ll carry in amazing Italian pasta and salad from the renowned Casa d’Angelo restaurant, where locals wait more than an hour to dine on a Friday evening. Watch for it when the MSR registration opens.

Registration is open on MSR! The jam-packed agenda is attached (PDF). So jump onto MSR and get registered for \$30 per person, which includes lunch buffet! To join the new Friday evening social (read on), add the “\$8 per person option.” Here’s the direct MSR link: [2020 GLDiv Spring Training](#)

For more information, contact Val McCammon, Event Coordinator, at pyramid@bluebirdview.com

Spring Training March 7, 2020



**Ramada Plaza &
Conference Center**
305 E. Washington Center Rd
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
(easy access off I-69, lots of meeting rooms and free parking)

Guest Rooms Fri &/or Sat: \$99/night + tax
Includes 2 Breakfast Buffets!
Call 260-484-0411 and ask for
"Sports Car Club" rate

Register by March 2 to save your seat! After that, call Val to be added
(The more clearly you write, the more accurate the attendee roster will be.)

Fee: \$30/person

Attention

The Region will cover the registration fee for all WMR members who wish to attend the GLDiv Spring Training sessions.

If you would like to attend, please submit your name and contact information (see below) to Dave Ferris at 1988irocz28@gmail.com by **March 2, 2020**.

He will collate the names and submit them along with payment of fees to the Spring Training Registrar en masse.

The hotel has a special rate if you want to arrive the night before the event, however, the cost of the hotel will not be paid by the club.

Name: _____

\$_____ (\$30/person)

FRIDAY SOCIAL OPTION: \$8 for local specialty Italian pasta/salad/dessert @hotel with bottled water, some beer & BYOB

\$_____ (\$8 Fri social option)

Address: _____
Street City State ZIP

ENTRANT TOTAL: \$_____

Region of Record _____ Specialty _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

GREAT LAKES DIVISION Spring Training March 7, 2020

Friday Evening Social!! 5:00-9:00 pm \$8 Registration Option (*Local Gourmet Italian & Desserts*)

RAMADA Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN

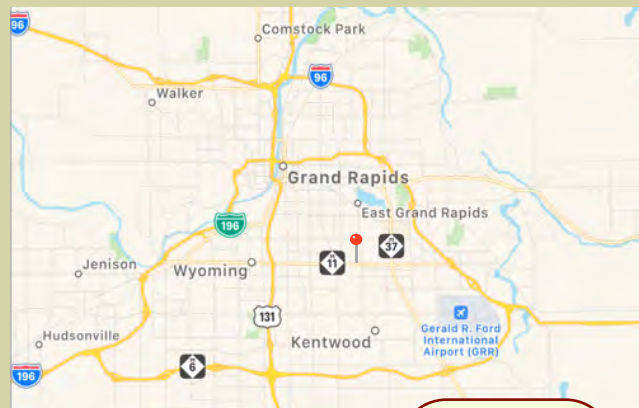
ROOM	MAUMEE-ST. JOSEPH	ST. MARY'S	OLD FORT	AUBURN	CORD	DUESENBURG	BOARDROOM
				All-Day Solo Track (Ray Jason)		All-Day Time Trials Track (Corrine Carter)	All-Day Steward Track (Duane Harrington)
7:00-7:45	Registration & Continental Breakfast						
7:45-8:15	Opening Session						
8:30-9:30		Road Race Tech 201 Alan Garside, DA	GLD REs Meeting Tony Brown, GLD President	All-Day Solo Track: Detail Coming	Registrars Peggy Dietz, DA	All-Day Time Trials: Detail Coming	Stewards (Closed Session)
9:45-10:45	Success through Succession: Stop the 3-4-Year Burnout Scott Dobler, SCCA National Coordinator	Regional Racing Ideas Jeff Luckritz, SCCA Leadership Academy Dean	Road Rally Safety Steward Training Mike Bennett (Detroit Region) (↓ continues below ↓)	All-Day Solo Track: Detail Coming	F&C Ed Arthur, DA	All-Day Time Trials: Detail Coming	Stewards (Closed Session)
11:00-12:00	Leadership: Making SCCA Activities More Attractive Jeff Luckritz, SCCA Leadership Academy Dean	SCCA New Member Portal, Membership & Waivers Aimee Thoennes, SCCA Manager of Member Services	Road Rally Safety Steward Training (con't for 30 min) Mike Bennett (Detroit Region)	All-Day Solo Track: Detail Coming	F&C Ed Arthur, DA	All-Day Time Trials: Detail Coming	Stewards (Closed Session)
11:45-12:30	Lunch New GLD Website Intro! Solo Series & Divisional Awards						
12:30-1:30	It All Starts with Respect: New Code of Member Conduct Chris Robbins, SCCA Director of Region Development						
1:45-2:45	Get to Know & Use the New GLD Website! Rob Dietz, Webmaster & Peggy Dietz	TRSS: Tire Rack Street Survival Scott Dobler SCCA National Coordinator		All-Day Solo Track: Detail Coming	B Engaged: How to Increase Class Participation in Road Racing Frank Schwartz (Detroit Region)	All-Day Time Trials: Detail Coming	Stewards (Closed Session)
3:00-4:00	Resolving & De-escalating Conflict Chris Robbins, SCCA Director of Region Development	Hosting a Rally Trek Wendy Harrison (Indy Region)	Racing Regions Reps & Exec Steward Meeting Duane Harrington Road Racing Exec Steward	All-Day Solo Track: Detail Coming	Track Events/Time Trials SPECIFICS TBD Heyward Wagner, SCCA Senior Director, Marketing & Experiential Programs	All-Day Time Trials: Detail Coming	Stewards (Closed Session)
4:00-5:00	"Chat with Marcus" Marcus Meredith, Area 4 Director		DAs & Exec Steward Meeting Duane Harrington Road Racing Exec Steward	Securing Sponsorship Frank Schwartz (Detroit Region)	Becoming a Race Steward: Everything You Always Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask! Lauri Burkons, Training Steward		

Printed 4/24/2020 at 11:45:00 AM. UPDATES to be posted

Western Michigan Region Annual Awards Banquet



- ✓ Date: **Saturday, March 14, 2020**
 - ✓ 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 or you can use any of your available **free Banquet Tickets or Credits** from the WMR Service Award Program
 - ✓ Menu: **Italian Spring Rolls, Meatballs Ricotta** for appetizers. Then **Classic Caesar or House Salad, Linguine al Fresco and Penne Marinara**, followed by **Grilled Rosemary Chicken and Lemon Butter Tilapia** for your entree. Finally **Layered Lemon Cream Cake and Chocolate Chip Cannoli** for desert.
- *****
- ✓ **RSVP** to Mary Ellen Sickles **by March 7, 2020** via email at rmsickles@comcast.net or by phone at (517) 449-6694



February Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2020, 7:05 pm
Pietro's Italian Restaurant, Grand Rapids MI

Board Members present: Ed Maklenburg, Lenny Basaj, Mary Ellen Sickles, Dave Ferris, and Wayne Rogers

Board Members absent: Jim Washburn, Verne Wandell, and Dave Ferris

Other Members Present: Dayle Frame, Rod Sickles, Karen Crider, Bruce Beauvais, Tom Smolenski, Daniel Moody, Angela Moody and Dustin Moody

Secretary Report:

Mary Ellen Sickles: Our January Annual Meeting minutes were approved and printed in the February 2020 newsletter.

Regional Executive's Report:

Wayne Rogers: Welcome to all members present. We need a new membership person for our region, if anyone is interested please let me know.

SCCA dues will be discounted for people aged 24 and younger by 30%. Active duty or veterans of the U.S. Military will receive a 20% discount. Call the National office and Military persons also need a copy of their Military ID or their DD-214 honorable discharge papers.

Assistant RE's Report:

Ed Makenburg: - No Report

Treasurer's Report:

Dave Ferris: - The report was emailed to the Board. 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. Ed Maklenburg made a motion to accept the report, Lenny Basaj seconded, and it was approved.

If anyone is going to the GLDiv Spring Training, please let Dave know so he can send in the attendees names and registration fee with one check.

Competition Director's Report:

Dayle Frame: - Dave Ferris, Scott Beute and myself were at a Rally Cross today, checking it out and getting information. Club Racing Chair, Bruce Beauvais, has contacted specialty chiefs, Q-it-Up, & tent rentals for our races.

Solo Manager's Report:

Dan Moody: - We will need 4 helmets. He has met with Furrin Group also.

Newsletter Report:

Jim Washburn relayed that the newsletter deadline for submissions is February 24, 2020.

Chief of Specialty Reports:

F&C - Flagging:

Pete Hansen: (not present)

F&C - Communications:

Lydia Hansen: (not present)

Radios:

Bruce Beauvais: - He got a new headset for the base station.

Start:

Bruce Beauvais: - No Report

Grid:

Mary Ellen Sickles: - No Report

Timing & Scoring:

Dave Ferris: - MyLaps is going to TR2 transponders. They can be purchased for \$500.00 or by subscription. They can be exchanged, contact MyLaps. For Solo and Rally Cross a T & S hose system would be \$3000.00. Discussion ensued.

It was decided to leave our fee for timing and scoring the same as it has been.

Sound:

Carola Basaj: (not present)

Course:

Wayne Rogers: - No Report

Tech:

Ed Maklenburg: - No Report

February Meeting Minutes

— Continued —

Old Business:

WMR Service Award Program: If we have more than one chief for an area (different chiefs for the Regional and Majors) we will pay both person's memberships as incentive to have people volunteer. Lenny Basaj made a motion to accept this, Ed Maklenburg seconded and it was approved.

Postcards: The postcards have been ordered and will be here this coming week. The printer had a coupon for 500 business cards for \$20.00. After discussion it was decided to have some printed with contact information for our club.

The SCCA National Convention: At the National Convention it was announced that there will be a Trial Membership for passengers, ride-along's, and volunteer workers for Solo and Rally Cross events. It would not apply to drivers; they would still need full or weekend SCCA membership. The Trial Membership would be free and would include SCCA insurance coverage. We could publish the rules that would apply to the free Trial Membership individuals in the event Supp's.

Bylaws Review: Dave got some information at National Convention. No meeting is set up yet.

New Business:

WMR Equipment Storage Area: There was a discussion of size and deadline of May 1st to have shelving, equipment and race trailer moved to Grattan. April 4th we will have a trailer day to move the shelving. April 18 we will move equipment. (Tentative dates-more info to come).

Announcements:

A new membership person is needed, we will place an article in the Backfire.

Adjournment:

Mary Ellen Sickles moved to adjourn, Lenny Basaj seconded, approved at 7:53 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 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

Inside:

Membership Recognition,
WMR Calendar, GLDiv
Racing Schedule, GLDiv
Spring Training Info, Awards
Banquet Info, Board of
Director Meeting Minutes



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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, PDF files and pictures can be emailed to:

Jwashburn.us@gmail.com