



November 2019

BACKFIRE

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



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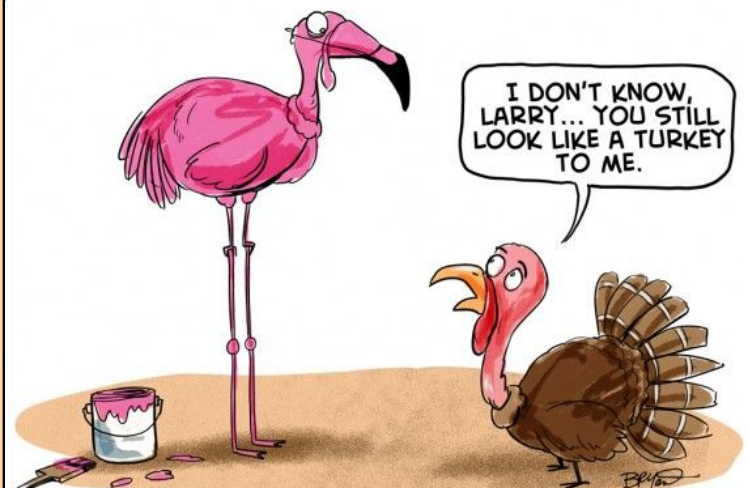
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“Why the silence?”

As Thanksgiving approaches...



2019 WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION OFFICIALS

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Webmaster

OPEN at this time

Membership News

WMR welcomes our new or returning members

- David Auner - South Lyon, MI
- Adam Daly - Zeeland, MI
- Daniel Detloff - Byron Center, MI
- Luke Loskutoff - Kalamazoo, MI
- Annelise Melvin - Grand Rapids, MI
- Kathryn Melvin - Grand Rapids, MI
- Luke Melvin - Grand Rapids, MI
- Molly Melvin - Grand Rapids, MI
- William Melvin - Grand Rapids, MI

Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 28 years Lee Brouwer
- 20 years Paulis Austrins
- 20 years Marc Henry
- 17 years Alice Burnside
- 17 years Gary Burnside
- 9 years James Washburn
- 6 years Kenric Rose
- 3 years Timothy Wetherbee
- 3 years Kimberly Wetherbee
- 3 years Taylor Wetherbee
- 2 years Maxwell Nicholson
- 2 years Mary O'Blenes
- 2 years Gregg Elhart
- 1 year Alicia Boatman
- 1 year Cameron Boatman
- 1 year Connor Boatman



YES, IT WILL FLY.

If you don't believe it, strap yourself into the cockpit of a Volvo 740 Turbo and take off. This flying machine will rocket you from a standing start to legal speed in 6.7 seconds.* Faster than a BMW 325e. Faster than an Audi 5000S Turbo. Faster, even, than the much-touted Saab 16-valve Turbo. "Enough juice to kick you squarely in the seat of the pants," exclaims *Autoweek*. "...A brisk rush of surprise and pleasure... Exemplary performance and handling," says *Road & Track*. So check into your Volvo dealers and log some time in the intercooled 740 Turbo. No pilot's license required.

*Based on tests conducted by Car And Driver.

THE 740 TURBO By Volvo

© 1988 VOLVO OF AMERICA CORPORATION



GT UP AND GO.

You can sit back and read about the new Volkswagen Golf GT. Or go strap yourself into one and read the speedometer. Zero to 50 in 6.4 seconds, thanks to the German-engineered Golf GT's high-performance 1.8-liter fuel-injected engine and 5-speed close-ratio transmission. You can sit comfortably in your easy chair. Or experience the feel of 4-wheel independent sports suspension, front and rear stabilizers, rack-and-pinion steering and 60-series low-profile tires on 14-inch alloy wheels. The new Volkswagen Golf GT. In two and four-door models. Why sit here reading about it? Get up and go test drive one.



The new Golf GT

©1988 Volkswagen. *See dealer for details.

Our General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting Location

--- Please Join Us At ---

Pietro's Italian Restaurant

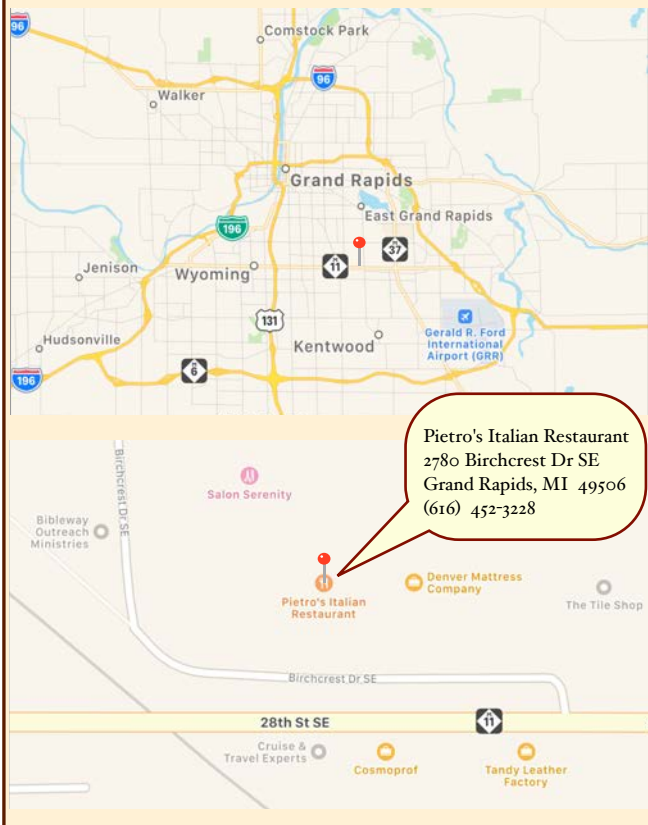
2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI



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 November 9, 2019.



Region Calendar

November 9, 2019

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

December 14, 2019

General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting at Brann's Steakhouse & Grill, 4157 Division Avenue S, Wyoming, MI. Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

January 11, 2020

The Annual Meeting of our members will be at Brann's Steakhouse & Grill, 4157 Division Avenue S, Wyoming, MI. Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

February xx, 2020

TBD

Contributors

JIM WASHBURN
Backfire Editor

BRAD YONKERS
Solo Program Manager

MARY ELLEN SICKLES
Secretary

2019 GREAT LAKES DIVISION

SOLO SERIES SCHEDULE

- June 2 South Bend Region - Grissom Aeroplex, Peru, IN
- June 22 & 23 Indy Region - Grissom Aeroplex, Peru, IN
- July 14 Fort Wayne Region - Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, IN
- August 17 & 18 Detroit/Saginaw Valley Region - Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda, MI
- Sept 21 & 22 Cincinnati Region - Traders World, Cincinnati, OH
- October 19 South West Virginia Region - Grand Central Mall, Vienna, WV

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

www.soloseries.org

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2019 WMR SOLO SCHEDULE

- September 2 WMR Labor Day Event at Grattan Raceway Park, Grattan, MI
- October 26 WMR Grattan Event #2 at Grattan Raceway Park, Grattan, MI

Contact **Brad Yonkers** at bradyonkers@gmail.com for more information.

2019 GREAT LAKES DIVISION

CLUB RACING SCHEDULE

- April 13 GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School (classroom) at Waterford Hills
- April 27 - 28 GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School (track time) at Waterford Hills
- May 2 - 5 VSCDA "Gingerman Spring Brake Drivers School & Races" at Gingerman
- May 18 - 19 DET / SBR "Bert Olson" Majors Double Event at GingerMan
- May 31 - June 2 OVR "Race of Champions" Majors Double Event at Mid-Ohio
- June 22 - 23 SVRA Vintage Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio at Mid-Ohio
- June 22 - 23 WMR "Unrestricted" Double Regional at Grattan
- July 13 - 14 OVR Double Regional at Mid- Ohio
- July 20 - 21 DET/INR/SBR Double Regional at Gingerman
- July 27 - 28 DET/INR/SBR Time Trial National Tour at Gingerman
- August 2 Cincinnati Region PDX at Mid-Ohio
- August 3 - 4 Cincinnati Region Double Regional at Mid-Ohio
- August 10 - 11 WMR "Last Chance" Majors Event at Grattan
- August 16 - 18 VSCDA "Vintage Grand Prix Au Grattan XXX" at Grattan
- October 8 - 13 2019 SCCA National Runoffs at Virginia International Raceway (VIR)
- October 25 OVR PDX at Mid-Ohio
- October 26 - 27 OVR Double "Sprint Classic" Regional at Mid-Ohio

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

www.motorsportreg.com

October Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2019, 7:07 pm
Pietro's Italian Restaurant, Grand Rapids, MI

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

Board Members absent: Jim Washburn, and Verne Wandell

Other Members Present: Rod Sickles, Barbara Steencken, and Scott Beute

Secretary Report:

Mary Ellen Sickles: Our September meeting minutes were approved and printed in the newsletter. There was one correction, however, post publication: *Lenny Basaj moved to adjourn, seconded by Dave Ferris at 8:46 pm.*

Regional Executive's Report:

Wayne Rogers: Welcome to all members present.

Treasurer's Report:

Dave Ferris: - 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 moved to accept the report, Lenny Basaj seconded, it was approved.

Competition Director's Report:

Dayle Frame: (not present) - Dave Ferris reported that trailer day will be Sunday, October 27, 2019 with everyone meeting at the storage space at 10:00.

Solo Report:

Brad Yonkers: (not present) - Dave Ferris reported our next Solo is October 26, at Grattan. Brad will be stepping down as Solo Manager next year, as he and his wife are starting a family.

Newsletter Report:

Jim Washburn relayed that the newsletter deadline is October 25, 2019.

Chief of Specialty Reports:

F&C - Flaggging:

Pete Hansen: (not present) - No report.

F&C - Communications:

Lydia Hansen: (not present) - No report.

Radios:

Bruce Beauvais: (not present) - No report

Start:

Bruce Beauvais: (not present) - No report

Grid & Pit:

Rod and Mary Ellen Sickles: - No Report

Timing & Scoring:

Dave Ferris: - No Report

Sound:

Carola Basaj: (not present) - No report

Course:

Wayne Rogers: - No Report

Tech:

Ed Maklenburg: - No Report

Old Business:

Long Term Race Trailer Storage (Carport): Wayne Rogers has picked up all the materials for the carport, roof, 2 sides, rods, anchors and bolts. Both ends will be open and it is forest green. It will be located just past the gas pumps.

Paper postcard or newsletter: Discussion of need for a paper postcard or newsletter once per year for approximately 265 members. Temporary members should get one too. It is 35 cents to mail a postcard. It would include a box to check if they want a Backfire emailed or a hardcopy.

BMW Club: We have not heard anything from the National office regarding the BMW club racing with us at the regional are in June. Because of Run-offs we figured it would be a while before we heard anything, but should have an update by the next meeting.

October Meeting Minutes

— Continued —

Old Business -continued :

Elections: The only nominations received were:

Regional Executive: Wayne Rogers

Assistant Regional Executive: Ed Maklenburg

Secretary: Mary Ellen Sickles

Treasurer: Dave Ferris

Member-at-Large: Lenny Basaj

New Business:

Annual Meeting and Banquet: It was decided our Annual Meeting will be in January 2020 and the Awards Banquet will be in March 2020.

2020 Club Racing Schedule: Wayne Rogers reported that the contracts were signed with Grattan. Our Regional event will be June 20-21, 2020, and our Majors event will be August 8-9, 2020. Dave Ferris sent a check to the GLDiv to cover the scheduling expense.

January 2020 SCCA National Convention: Dave Ferris will go to represent us. If there is any further interest in going please let one of the Board members know.

Announcements:

Scott Beute was wondering if we'd be interested in doing some Rally Crosses. Discussion was that we did have the cones and some of the supplies but not the personnel needed to put one on.

Adjournment:

Ed Maklenburg moved to adjourn, seconded by Dave Ferris, approved at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Sickles,
Recording Secretary





To My Fellow WMR Members,

I will be stepping down from my position as Solo Manager for the 2020 race season, so we are looking for a new member or members to handle the duties of this position.

Although this is not an overly difficult or time consuming position, it does require some attention to detail. The Solo Manager is responsible for setting up events, ensuring the solo equipment arrives at the event site on time, overseeing the flow of the event, and filling out an event audit report afterwards.

I am willing to help the new Solo Manager in the background and with overseeing the events for 2020, but I cannot commit to attending the events.

If you are interested or have any questions, please reach out to me at bradyonkers@gmail.com or call 616-204-8806 to discuss the position in more detail.

Without a new volunteer for next year, WMR will not be able to host autocross events in 2020!

Sincerely,

Brad Yonkers
WMR Solo Manager

WMR SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

Available Credits and Redemption Information

Credits earned with our Service Award Program may be carried over for the most recent two consecutive years.

SOME OF OUR MEMBERS (see below on the next page) have **unused banquet tickets and credits earned in 2017 and 2018**. The 2018 banquet tickets may be used for our next Banquet and the both the 2017 and the 2018 credits can be used for SCCA Merchandise or applied to your 2019 membership renewal fees. (The 2017 credits however, will expire when the new plan year begins on December 1, 2019.)

To use your credit for merchandise.

Review and note the item(s) at sccagear.com, then contact Dave Ferris, our club Treasurer, at 1988irocz28@gmail.com with the product information. He will verify your available credit, ask you to confirm the item number, size, color, etc, and ask you to send a check to him for the balance. He will then place the order to be shipped directly to you.

To use your credit for membership renewal.

When you receive your membership renewal information in the mail, contact Dave at 1988irocz28@gmail.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 Dave. He will forward it to SCCA where it will be processed.

WMR Service Award Program - Available Credits as of 11-01-2019

Member Name	Banquet Tickets Available as of 11/1/2019	\$ Credits Available as of 11/1/2019
Andrews, Sue	0	\$25.00
Barnes, Ray	0	\$50.00
Basaj, Anna	0	\$10.00
Basaj, Carola	0	\$25.00
Basaj, Lenny	0	\$25.00
Beauvais, Bruce	0	\$100.00
Beauvais, Sue	0	\$50.00
Boris, Jeff	0	\$50.00
Burnside, Alice	0	\$10.00
Burnside, Gary	0	\$10.00
Crider, Karen	1	\$100.00
Cull, Phil	0	\$35.00
Dalziel, Irene	0	\$10.00
DeLoof, Steve	0	\$20.00
Doane, Marty	0	\$10.00
Doane, Nancy	0	\$0.00
Ensing, Gordy	0	\$35.00
Ferris, Dave	1	\$0.00
Frame, Dayle	0	\$35.00
Frame, Melinda	0	\$25.00
Gaunt-Wandell, Lorrie	1	\$20.00
Green, Ric	1	\$25.00
Gyulay, Jason	0	\$50.00
Gyulay, Mary Beth	0	\$0.00
Hansen, Debbie	0	\$0.00

Member Name	Banquet Tickets Available as of 11/1/2019	\$ Credits Available as of 11/1/2019
Hansen, Lydia	0	\$50.00
Hansen, Pete	0	\$0.00
Hawley, Fred	1	\$45.00
Henry, Marc	0	\$25.00
Henry, Vicki	0	\$0.00
Lublow, Ed	0	\$10.00
Maklenburg, Ed	0	\$25.00
McCormick, Nathan	0	\$10.00
Orr, Bobbe	1	\$50.00
Redlon, Larry	0	\$25.00
Rogers, Wayne	0	\$50.00
Secor, Jeff	0	\$0.00
Sickles, Mary Ellen	0	\$63.10
Sickles, Rod	0	\$50.00
Smolenski, Tom	0	\$75.00
Steencken, Barb	0	\$25.00
Walters, Allison	0	\$10.00
Walters, Dave	0	\$10.00
Wandell, Verne	1	\$40.00
Washburn, Jim	1	\$0.00
Williamson, Aric	0	\$10.00
Williamson, Sara	0	\$0.00
Woods, Thomas	0	\$10.00
Woods, Tyler	0	\$10.00
Yonkers, Brad	1	\$0.00



For Immediate Release

2019 Workers of the Year Celebrated at VIR Runoffs

ALTON, Va. (Oct. 11, 2019) -- From the Runoffs to the Hoosier Racing Tire Super Tour, U.S. Majors Tour to regional weekends, SCCA® road racing events are made possible thanks to the tremendous effort of SCCA workers. And each year a handful of workers are recognized for their enormous contribution. Those individuals are bestowed with Worker of the Year honors, presented by Mazda



Award recipients have shown dedication throughout the season to their Specialty, events, Region, competitors, fellow workers and the SCCA; exhibited strong skills, good leadership, and a willingness to go above and beyond what is expected; and provide excellent customer service to everyone encountered. SCCA members submitted Worker of the Year nominations, and winners were then selected by the SCCA National staff with input from Division leadership.

The Flagging and Communications Worker of the Year is North Carolina Region's Heather Clark. During her service to the SCCA Clark has served on the Region board, been Flag Chief and Assistant Chief for the last three years, and her experience and attitude has earned her the respect of fellow workers and drivers as she took on the role of a teacher and leader.

2019 SCCA Workers of the Year - Continued

Cal Club's Tracy Roper is the Grid & Pits Worker of the Year. Roper, who attended her first Runoffs® only a couple of years ago, has left a deep impression on the Club by never missing a race with her local region, being one of the first to arrive and always looking for more responsibility and things to learn.

Elizabeth Thiel, of Finger Lakes Region, has taken "plays well with others" to new heights in earning the Worker of the Year award for Race Administration. Theil presents a positive, professional attitude with track management, workers, drivers and partners as she handles the routine and not-so-routine events which pop up on race weekends for regions, the SCCA U.S. Majors Tour and Hoosier Racing Tire SCCA Super Tour.

A 29-year SCCA member, New England Region's Terry Roberts is the Registration Worker of the Year, an honor earned by being a wonderful ambassador to the SCCA at and away from the track in her years of service. At the track, Roberts has worked all over the East Coast in both Northeast and Southeast Divisions, and she has been a staple at the Runoffs® for more than a decade. Off track, Roberts' can-do attitude has been flexed by coordinating annual meetings and serving as the Divisional Administrator.

The 2019 Scrutineering Worker of the Year is the "contagiously warm" Bernie Novak of San Francisco Region. Novak has participated in SCCA events as a scrutineer since 2011 and is known for her planning and coordination while interacting with drivers and fellow workers with a smile. Outside of her specialty, Novak has also gotten her competition license and participated in the Tire Rack Time Trials National Tour powered by Hagerty in a continuing quest to spread her enthusiasm on and off track.

Larry Kurkowski holds many specialty licenses, but it's his time in the start stand which has earned this Florida Region member the SCCA Starter of the Year. On the way to the honor, this 36-year SCCA member has worked events from Florida to Minnesota and served on the Runoffs start team since 2008 as Assistant Chief and then Chief Starter.

2019 SCCA Workers of the Year - Continued

The humility, grace, thoughtfulness and patience of Washington D.C. Region member Steve Pence has earned him the title of Steward Worker of the Year. Pence, who now splits his stewarding time between SCCA and FIA, has spent time in the SCCA as a driver, instructor, flagger, steward and Majors and Hoosier Super Tour Race Director. In each of those positions, Pence has garnered respect through transparent and sincere communication.

Steel Cities Region member Jeff Hutzelman is the Timing & Scoring Worker of the Year. Hutzelman strives to serve the SCCA wherever and whenever needed, working frequently out of division and at the Runoffs® setting examples for others with his dedication. It is Hutzelman's delivery of excellence which leads him and the rest of the Worker of the Year group as shining examples of the SCCA spirit.



Since 1995



Since 2001



Since 2003



Since 2019



For Immediate Release

2019 Runoffs Race Videos Now Available for Viewing at SCCA.com

TOPEKA, Kan. (Oct. 18, 2019) -- There were three days of amazing racing Oct. 11-13 at VIRginia International Raceway to cap off the [2019 SCCA® National Championship Runoffs®](#). For those who missed the live online race broadcasts or want to go back and relive the excitement, it's now possible to catch up on all the action with free [2019 Runoffs race videos](#) available for viewing at SCCA.com. Later this year, select 2019 Runoffs races will also air on CBS Sports Network.



With nearly 600 entries across 28 different car classes, this year's 26 events featured thrilling battles for the win, tight racing throughout the fields, several surprises, and heartwarming storylines. Video coverage, presented by Mazda, was again anchored by Greg Creamer with help from Ryan Myrehn (SportsCar365 writer), Tom O’Gorman (pro driver) and Heyward Wagner (pit reporter), as well as Runoffs announcers Andy Hollis and Larry MacLeod.

The SCCA National Championship Runoffs has evolved into what is now commonly agreed to be the pinnacle of American motorsports. Since 1964, the SCCA has crowned Road Racing's National Champions through the winner-take-all, single race Runoffs format with dozens of separate races over three days. This year's 56th annual Runoffs at VIRginia International Raceway was the first time SCCA's National Championship was conducted at the 18-turn, 3.27-mile venue found along the border of North Carolina and Virginia.



