



November 2021

# BACKFIRE

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



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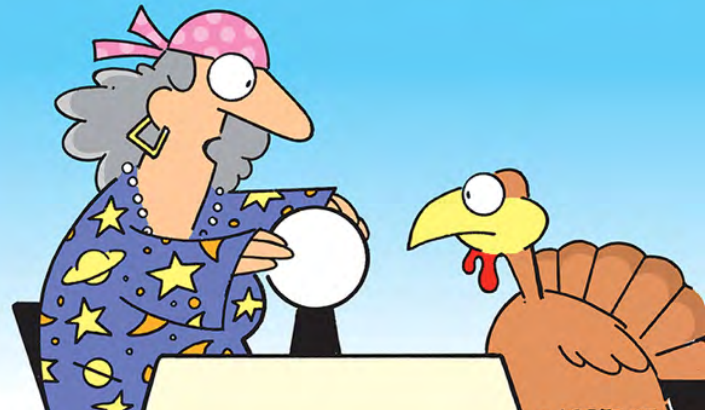
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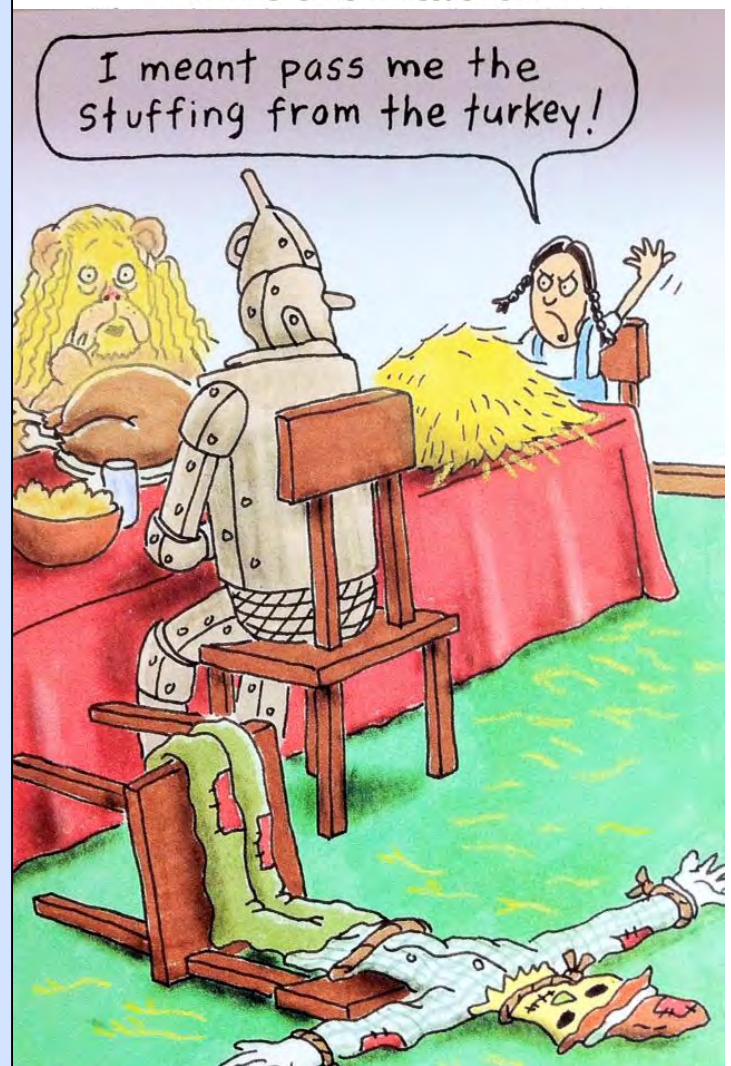
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"The good news is, you'll be spending Thanksgiving with a large group of happy people."



## 2021 WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION OFFICIALS

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## Membership News

WMR welcomes our new or returning members

Arnesh Bose - Grand Rapids, MI

Alice Burnside - Byron Center, MI

Stephen Gracheck - San Marcos, CA

Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 22 years Paulis Austrins
- 22 years Marc Henry
- 19 years Gary Burnside
- 11 years James Washburn
- 5 years Timothy Wetherbee
- 5 years Kimberly Wetherbee
- 5 years Taylor Wetherbee
- 4 years Maxwell Nicholson
- 4 years Mary O'Blenes
- 4 years Gregg Elhart
- 2 years William Melvin
- 2 years Annelise Melvin
- 2 years Kathryn Melvin
- 2 years Luke Melvin
- 2 years Molly Melvin
- 1 year Tim Cullen
- 1 year Justin Moreno
- 1 year Derek Burt
- 1 year John Salisbury
- 1 year Alexander Lozano
- 1 year James Millsap

## Own the fastest Colt in the world.

There's never been a standard production Colt as fast as the new Lancer 2000 Turbo \* 127 mph top speed (Source: Autocar 11.781) \* standing start ¼ mile in 15.5 seconds; 0-60 mph in 7.1 seconds (Source: Motor 15.8.81) \* 168 bhp (DIN) turbocharged Mitsubishi 'silent shaft' engine \* alloy wheels \* ventilated disc brakes all round \* front and rear air spoilers. See the 127 mph Lancer 2000 Turbo at your Colt dealer today!



## Throw it a curve.

Take the new Prelude out on a winding road. Accelerate. Feel it turn through a series of curves with precision. It's an impressive performance, one that began when Honda engineers asked a question. How could front-wheel drive and aerodynamic design work together more compatibly?

The answer was both innovative and simple. A low-profile, double wishbone front suspension. This gives the front-wheel-drive Prelude one of the lowest hoodlines on the road. And a low center of gravity that contributes to handling and stability.

Of course, you don't have to tear into a switchback in order to appreciate this Honda. Even standing still, **HONDA** the Prelude has its own beautiful curves. We make it simple.

© 1992 Honda and Honda Motor Co., Inc.

## Our General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, November 11, at 7 pm  
via Zoom.

### To Join the Meeting

On your computer click on this link  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4596564413>

Via telephone call: **1 646 558 8656**  
or  
**1 312 626 6799**

Enter the Meeting ID: **459 656 4413**



## Region Calendar

### November 11, 2021

Our General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting will be a Zoom Teleconference via your computer or telephone.

### December 9, 2021

Our General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting will be a Zoom Teleconference via your computer or telephone.

### January 13, 2022

**The Annual Meeting of our members** will be a Zoom Teleconference via your computer or telephone.

### February 10, 2022

Our General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting will be a Zoom Teleconference via your computer or telephone.

## Contributors

**JIM WASHBURN**  
Backfire Editor

**MARY ELLEN SICKLES**  
Secretary

**DAYLE FRAME**  
Competition Manager,  
SCCA - Area 4 Director

## The 2022 WMR Officers and Board Members Nomination/Election Results

**The results are in.** Nomination ballots were received and tallied by Mary Ellen Sickles. For the five elected Board Member positions, **Lenny Basaj** was nominated for Regional Executive, **Ed Maklenburg** was nominated for Assistant Regional Executive, **Dave Ferris** was nominated for Treasurer, **Mary Ellen Sickles** was nominated for Secretary and **Dan Moody** was nominated for Director-at-Large.

**In accordance with our bylaws, and the fact that all the nominees ran unopposed, an election is not required. — Therefore:**

The 2022 Western Michigan Region Elected Board Members are as follows:

- **Regional Executive**, Lenny Basaj (unopposed incumbent)
- **Assistant Regional Executive**, Ed Maklenburg (unopposed incumbent)
- **Secretary**, Mary Ellen Sickles (unopposed incumbent)
- **Treasurer**, Dave Ferris (unopposed incumbent)
- **Director-at-Large**, Dan Moody (unopposed nominee)

The current Board Members will gather for their final meeting of the year on December 09, 2021. The 2022 Board will officially begin their one year term on January 1, 2022.


## From The Editor

Due to my failing health, it is with deep sadness that I must inform you of my decision to resign, as of the end of the year, from my position as Newsletter Editor for the Western Michigan Region. As many of you have been aware, I have been having some medical problems over the past few years which are now presenting themselves with some vision issues which make it difficult for me to work effectively on my computer when putting together the Newsletter every month.

This was a difficult decision for me... As you know, I have been the Newsletter Editor for the region for 9 years. My tenure started the very first year of my membership. I am proud to say that over the course of this time, I have never missed a monthly issue.

I could not be more grateful for all of the opportunities I've had to grow and make lifelong friends during my time in this, and other positions I have held with the Region. I'd like to thank you deeply for all the support and encouragement you have provided me over these past 9 years.

Although I no longer can do the work I once could, I hope to remain a resource and aid in the transition to a new Newsletter Editor. Thank you so much for all the opportunities, and I wish everyone in the Region the very best.



James Washburn  
Newsletter Editor  
Western Michigan Region, SCCA

# We Need Your Help

## Help WANTED

### WMR / SCCA Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter Editor generates a monthly publication and distributes it to all Region Members.

- The editor shall produce a publication that is consistent, professional appearing and easy to read.
- The editor shall generate content that is relevant to the Region and SCCA activities.
- The editor shall create and include reports and advertisements of all the Region's events.
- The editor shall work closely with the Region's Webmaster to ensure accuracy and timeliness of shared information and stories.
- Once a newsletter is written, the editor's final job is to distribute it to readers.
- The editor shall save the newsletter as a pdf file and distribute it electronically through an e-mail list. It is the editor's responsibility to maintain an up-to-date list of readers.

A working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel or Macintosh Pages and Numbers or some other desktop publishing software is required.

Prior experience with newsletter creation and distribution would be helpful.

For more information contact:  
Jim Washburn at (517) 242-0702.

If interested in the position contact:  
Lenny Basaj at (231) 557-3694

## Help WANTED

### WMR / SCCA Facebook Page Moderator

This job handles the road racing side of the club. Postings include monthly meeting information, promoting the 2 club racing events each year (Regional in June, Majors in August), and responding to questions that come via messenger. It's low key for duties and mimics what is posted on the WMR web page and published in the WMR newsletter.

For more information contact:  
Karen Crider at (248) 981-9692.

If interested in the position contact:  
Lenny Basaj at (231) 557-3694

# October Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2021, 7:05 pm  
via a Zoom Teleconference

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

Board Members absent: Wayne Rogers

Other Members Present: Rodney Sickles, Dan Moody, Ted Flynn, Tom Smolenski, Scott Kennedy, and Ben Stitt.

## **Secretary Report:**

Mary Ellen Sickles: - No Report

## **Regional Executive's Report:**

Lenny Basaj: Welcome to everyone

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Dave Ferris: We made money on the club and solo racing.

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 treasurer's report, seconded by Karen Crider and approved.

## **Competition Director's Report:**

Dayle Frame: (not present)

Discussed having a Club Racing Director, a Solo Racing Director, and a Rally Racing Director. Discussed have the Race Chair also be Club Racing Director. This was tabled until the next meeting.

## **Solo Manager's Report:**

Dan Moody: Sunday October 24th is the next event. We already have 61 entries.

## **Newsletter Report:**

Jim Washburn: The newsletter deadline for submissions is October 24, 2021.

Jim is resigning as editor at the end of the year, due to health issues, after being editor for 9 years. He will work on transitioning with the new editor.

## **Area 4 Director Report:**

Dayle Frame: (not present)

## **Membership Chair Report:**

Tom Smolenski: No Report

## **Chief of Specialty Reports:**

### **F&C - Flagging:**

Pete Hansen: (not present)

### **F&C - Communications:**

Lydia Hansen: (not present)

### **Radios:**

Bruce Beauvais: (not present)

### **Start:**

Bruce Beauvais: (not present)

### **Grid:**

Mary Ellen Sickles: No Report.

### **Timing & Scoring:**

Dave Ferris: Will need to buy a case for the new timing equipment. Bruce may have one to use.

### **Sound:**

Carola Basaj: (not present)

### **Course:**

Wayne Rogers: (not present)

### **Tech:**

Ed Maklenburg: No Report.



# October Meeting Minutes

— Continued —

## Old Business:

**Fire Suppression Equipment:** Tabled, as we are waiting for Topeka's rules.

**Enduro Program:** Tabled, as we are waiting for more information from Topeka.

## New Business:

**Facebook:** Karen Crider is stepping down from being Facebook Page Administrator after 5 years. We will ask for volunteers in the newsletter.

**Nominations:** There were no nominations received prior to tonight's meeting.

The Slate:

Regional Executive: Lenny Basaj

Assistant Regional Executive: Ed Maklenburg

Treasurer: Dave Ferris

Secretary: Mary Ellen Sickles

Member at Large: Dan Moody

## Announcements:

None

## Next Meeting:

Thursday November 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

## Adjournment:

Mary Ellen Sickles made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Ferris, approved at 7:49 pm

## E Mail Votes Between Meetings:

None

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ellen Sickles,  
Recording Secretary



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## Notes from the Director's Chair

### Area 4 Director Update for November, 2021

I apologize for not getting an October edition of this out to you, but I was REALLY busy at the Runoffs (see more details below). I was a reserve pace/safety car driver, I crewed for a few drivers (we had six in our compound), I had some BoD meetings, I gave away some trophies in Winner's Circle and I actually got to watch a few sessions and races along the way. Our group also hosted the Prod/GTL party and raised almost \$2000 for the Worker Corps. If nothing else, the Runoffs is the one place where you can see your racing friends each year. The folks that, due to distance, you only see once a season.

First off the bat, I have a couple of quick announcements:

1. GLDiv Spring meeting will be on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> with a casual gathering the night before. Details will be announced as they are finalized on the [GLDiv website](#).
2. Mike Cobb will have his next Presidential address on 11/3 at 8p. More details can be found [here](#).

#### Video Conference Meetings:

- Club Racing Board (CRB) (9/7): The last meeting before the Runoffs was uneventful as no rules changes can occur. Most of them would be at the event so they could observe the fruits of their labor. The results can be seen [here](#).
- Electrified Vehicle Advisory Committee (EVAC) (9/8): Our first document (SCREV) was sent up the food chain for review. We viewed this as a major step forward and were proud to be able to develop something of this caliber so quickly. We continued with rules review and policies concerning interaction with tracks, regions, etc.
- GLDiv BoD meeting (10/7): I was more than happy to sit in on the GLDiv BoD meeting so we could focus on budget, rules, schedules, website, etc. We also worked on the Spring Training meeting. It'll be scheduled for 3/5 and details will be announced on the [GLDiv website](#) soon.
- EVAC (10/13): We continued work on other rules sets and had several wide-ranging discussions on several topics (car prep costs, battery safety, etc.).

- CRB (10/19): Due to the Runoffs, we slid back our regularly scheduled meeting from 10/5 to 10/19. As most of the advisory committees had not met since the Runoffs, the agenda was fairly thin but was completed. In addition, a broad discussion about policies and procedures in post session and post-race impound were examined.
- BoD (10/25): We had more good news about the financial position. Once again, we are ahead of the curve. Our Track Night in America, Time Trails and Solo events are hosting record entries. Unfilled positions are also helping keep costs down. As for me, I gave an EVAC update and reported on my visit to the Rally Cross national Championships. We also decided to cancel our November meeting (11/22) as we would be meeting in person a few days later (12/4).
- Rally Cross Board (RXB) (10/26): As this group just held their Championship event, they did some “post mortem” on the event and started looking forward to next season (events, rules changes, etc.).

#### SCCA Events:

- WMR Solo @ Grattan Raceway (9/6): I competed in this event in my new 2020 Chevy Bolt EV. I decided to stay in the H Street class and not classify myself in the EVX class so I'd have some competition. Other than one run, I got faster with each run and had a great time. I finished 8<sup>th</sup> of 13 so I didn't feel too bad about that. The video is on my [YouTube channel page](#).
- SCCA National Championship Runoffs (9/24-10/4): Boy was this a busy week. As Director, I had a few responsibilities during the event. I had volunteered to give away trophies in Winner's Circle ceremonies for three races (HP, BSpec, EP), I had a few meetings (both scheduled ahead of time and some that were impromptu) and I was a reserve driver for the Pace/Safety car team.

As a “non Director”, I had some stuff on my plate too. My group of friends have always thought that the mantra “there's safety in numbers” was true at the Runoffs, so we've generally set up compounds with several drivers. We've been doing this for years. This year we had six drivers all paddocked together. We shared meal prep, living quarters (Air B&B), infrastructure (power, compressors, welders, etc.) and generally worked together to help each other out. We had cars in HP (5), BSpec (1) and GT3 (1). In general, it was a pretty good week but a couple of DNFs and a visit to the hospital cast a bit of a cloud over the event.

- SCCA Rally Cross National Championships (10/15-10/17): I went to this event purely as an observer. I was not an official in any way. I wanted to see how they made their sausage, as it were. It was a blast and I had a great time. This event reinforced that notion that I need to try this type of competition to understand it better. Now if I can only find someone who will let me co-drive their car.....

- WMR Solo @ Grattan Raceway (10/24): I had usually entered my Bolt EV in Solo events in the H Street class. But I decided to help the EV national numbers by entering in the EVX class this time. Would have finished 7<sup>th</sup> of nine in HS.

November has me, once again, driving to Kansas City, MO for another BoD meeting (11/30-12/6). I'll use the trip to visit some family who lives nearby in Lawrence, KS

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have about any facet of the GLDiv. I want you to make the most of your membership and I will help out in any way possible to make that happen.

Dayle Frame

# STOLEN RACE CAR TRAILER

CONTAINING A 1999 SPEC MIATA, A GOLF CART, A HONDA SPREE, TOOLS ETC.



Trailer was stolen from a storage lot SW Michigan sometime between Labor Day and October 10. Please do me a favor and keep an eye out for the following on FB Marketplace, craigslist etc.

- A 1999 SM with floor drop, tunnel notch, cage by V2(painted blue) Motorsports. Tech inspectors- check the trunk area, the rear trunk area was recently replaced due to track incident and the interior portion of the trunk is not perfect.
- A white 28' Timberwolf Trailer.
- A purple Honda Spree with broken left mirror. Hoosier stickers were on the front.
- An EZ Go gas golf cart from the early 2000's with black cargo box and SM76 decals on front back. -12 TR Motorsports wheels-gray.
- A bunch of miscellaneous parts like brake pads, ecu's, drive shaft, knuckles etc.

Thank you,

Jeff Luckritz  
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## Inside:

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[twitter.wmr-scca.org](https://twitter.wmr-scca.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:

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