



April 2019

BACKFIRE

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



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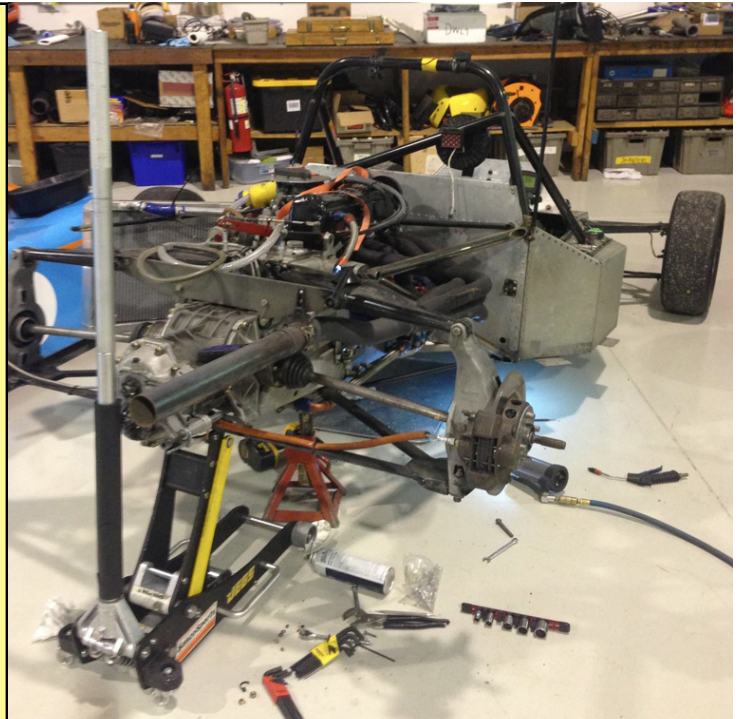
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Scrutineering

OPEN at this time

Our General Membership / Board of Directors Meeting Location

--- Please Join Us At ---

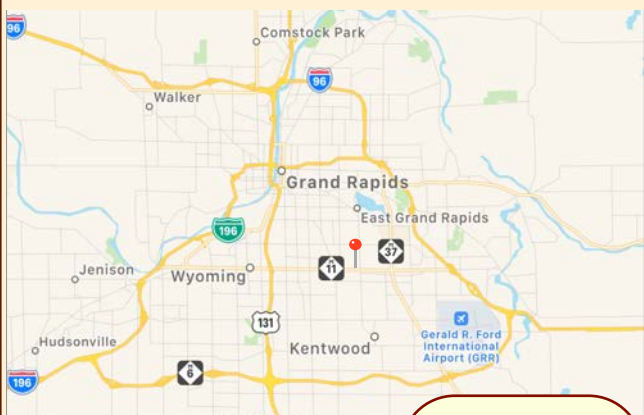
Pietro's Italian Restaurant
2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI



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 April 13, 2019.



Region Calendar

April 13, 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 7:00pm

May, 2019

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

Contributors

JIM WASHBURN
Backfire Editor

PETE and DEBBIE HANSEN
Membership Chairs

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
- September 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

* * * *

2019 WMR SOLO SCHEDULE

- TBD TBD
- September 2 WMR - Labor Day Event at Grattan
- TBD TBD

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

2019 GREAT LAKES DIVISION

CLUB RACING SCHEDULE

- **April 13** **GLDiv/WHRRI Driver's School (classroom) at Waterford Hills**
- **April 27 - 28** **GLDiv/WHRRI 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

Membership News

WMR welcomes our new or returning members

- William Beam - Lansing, MI
- Whitney Hoganson - Howell, MI
- Michael Jasperse - Grand Rapids, MI
- William Maddox - Grand Rapids, MI
- James Yost - Grand Rapids, MI

Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 43 years Elizabeth Eslaire
- 37 years Danny Moon
- 28 years Leonard Basaj
- 22 years Joan Bolt
- 22 years Joe Moch
- 16 years Nancy Doane
- 15 years Mattison Ockerlund
- 15 years Samantha Ockerlund
- 14 years Diane Johncock
- 14 years Steve Johncock
- 7 years Jason Porritt
- 5 years Haopeng Zhang
- 3 years Ted Johnston
- 3 years Abby Risse
- 3 years Kerry Risse
- 3 years Kylee Risse
- 3 years Thomas McNamara
- 3 years Cade Wilson
- 3 years Jameson Savage
- 2 years Chris Brooker
- 2 years Benjamin Mitchell
- 1 year Kevin Sonberger
- 1 year Christopher Beukema
- 1 year Bjorn Larson
- 1 year Pete Zorn
- 1 year Justin Ignas
- 1 year Andy Hopkins
- 1 year Rashad Luster

Kick a little asphalt.

Our sincere apologies to highway road crews everywhere. But with a high-performance 1.8-liter fuel-injected engine strapped to its aerodynamic body, the German-engineered Volkswagen GTI just can't help but eat up the road. Add to that the performance qualities of a 5-speed close-ratio transmission, 4-wheel independent sports suspension, front and rear stabilizer bars, 4-wheel disc brakes, rack-and-pinion steering, Pirelli P600 tires and the Volkswagen GTI just can't help but give you the ride of your life.

Test drive the GTI. After all, driving should be fun, not a pain in the asphalt.



Look at it this way, it's either an expensive sportscar or a very reasonable racecar.

The new generation Porsche 911 Turbo is not an automobile built to the standards of a mere street car, but to the impossibly high standards of a race car. From its immensely-powerful 315-horsepower turbocharged Porsche boxer six engine, to its massive ABS-fortified four-piston disc brakes, it is not just the world's ultimate sportscar. It is the ultimate Porsche.

The result? An automobile capable of accelerating from zero to sixty in a mere 4.25 seconds, and able to stop shorter than any production car in the world. Which is why a showroom stock version of the new 911 Turbo so handily defeated the world's reigning supercars to win the inaugural IMSA Bridgestone Potenza Supercar Championship.

True, that extra ten percent that separates the truly exceptional in this world from the merely good doesn't come easily. Or cheaply. But after one test drive, we're confident you'll agree, it's worth every penny.

The Porsche 911 Turbo.



For more information call 1.800.252.4444.

2018 WMR Awards Banquet

March 9, 2019, 8:00 pm
Brann's Steakhouse, Wyoming, MI

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

Board Members absent: Verne Wandell, Jim Washburn

Other Members Present: Dayle Frame, Melinda Frame, Rod Sickles, Bruce Beauvais, Suzie Beauvais, Pete Hansen, Deb Hansen, Ray Barnes, Carola Basaj, Ed Maklenburg, Irene Dalziel, Sally Rogers Martinez, John Gregg, Stephanie Gregg, Tom Start, Cade Wilson, Rhea Wilson, Marc Henry, Vicki Henry, Ken Felice, Ann Felice, Bobbi Orr, Tom Smolenski, Bill DeBoer, & Kathy DeBoer

Board Actions:

Wayne Rogers nominated Ed Maklenburg for the position of Assistant Regional Executive. Seconded by Mary Ellen Sickles, approved by Lenny Basaj and Dave Ferris. During prior e-mail discussions Verne Wandell and Jim Washburn endorsed the selection of Ed.

Membership Recognition:

Membership pins were presented to the following attendees:

William DeBoer 5 years
Debra Hansen 5 years
Pete Hansen 5 years
Ann Felice 10 years
Kenneth Felice 10 years
Raymond Barnes 15 years
Dayle Frame 20 years
John Gregg 30 years
Thomas Start 40 year

GLDiv Champs:

Certificates were presented to the following drivers attending:

Lenny Basaj STU First place
Cade Wilson FC Second place

WMR Outstanding Member of The Year:

Our Outstanding Member of the Year award was presented to Dave Ferris

Announcements:

Last weekend Tom Smolenski won the Great Lakes Division John Peterson award for his many years of service to racing.

Business conducted by email between meetings:

Dave Ferris made a motion to approve \$25.00 per person for registration to the GLD Spring Training in Finley OH. Seconded by Verne Wandell, the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Sickles,
Recording Secretary



Congratulations to Dave Ferris, 2018 WMR Outstanding Member of The Year



Congratulations to Tom Smolenski

Winner of the 2018 Great Lakes Division
John Peterson Award



A Stretching Exercise

By Pete and Debbie Hansen



As with many of us, our involvement with other types of racing can be far reaching. Personally, we have worked VSCDA vintage events, Lemons weekends and for the past 8 years now road rally in the form of Sno*Drift. Mind you, 8 years still makes us newbies in light of those we work with. Still it has become an event that is looked forward to for months leading up to it.

Our 35th wedding anniversary was coming up and we wanted to do something special to commemorate. Since it is a January date the choices were somewhat limited. Our love for all things racing led us to decide on whether to travel to Florida for the 24 Hours or to this unknown event (to us) that we had heard talked about in our car club meetings; Sno*Drift. We had been to Daytona before and it was enticing, but it is a long journey and we didn't want to spend that much time traveling, so Sno*Drift it was. That was 2012. We made a great decision.

In past years we have experienced warm weekends where the roads were literally running with melted snow and ice and cold ones where the temperature dipped into the -20F to -30F range when we started out for the stage we were assigned to. Each posed a challenge and yet each has continued to build those fond memories that we seek. This past year was certainly one of the coldest ones we've experienced. Amazingly there were still hundreds of spectators at the stages we worked braving the bitter cold. No one was disappointed. What's not to like? Icy roads, huge snow banks and race cars banging off of them trying to defy the challenge of driving at break-neck speeds on snow covered ice.



The past 8 events we have been part of were all different and yet enjoyable for many good reasons. However, as with many race weekends, the event is only the tip of the iceberg. The friendships both created and solidified have become the highlight of our winter.



All of this is said to encourage each of us to spread out and try something new. Maybe it's not a new event. Perhaps it's just trying another specialty on your "normal" race weekends. Maybe it's to travel to a sister region to see how they do things. Never know, you might learn something. At a minimum it will give you a chance to reflect on the job you've done in the past and see if there is room for improving your effort. Go ahead, stretch yourself. You might like it.

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**. These banquet tickets may be used for our upcoming Banquet in March and the credits can be used for additional Banquet Tickets, SCCA Merchandise or applied to your 2019 membership renewal fees.

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 4-01-2019

Member Name	Banquet Tickets Available as of 4/1/2019	\$ Credits Available as of 4/1/2019
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	\$50.00
Frame, Dayle	0	\$35.00
Frame, Melinda	0	\$25.00
Gaunt-Wandell, Lorrie	1	\$75.00
Green, Ric	1	\$25.00
Gyulay, Jason	0	\$50.00
Gyulay, Mary Beth	0	\$0.00
Hansen, Debbie	0	\$0.00
Hansen, Lydia	1	\$50.00
Hansen, Pete	0	\$0.00

Member Name	Banquet Tickets Available as of 4/1/2019	\$ Credits Available as of 4/1/2019
Hawley, Fred	1	\$85.00
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
McCue, Michael	0	\$0.00
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
Stachelek, John	0	\$10.00
Steencken, Barb	0	\$25.00
Trotter, Bob	0	\$0.00
Walters, Allison	0	\$10.00
Walters, Dave	0	\$10.00
Wandell, Verne	1	\$95.00
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	2	\$50.00



Marcus Merideth
Director – Area 4
Great Lakes Division
mmerideth@scca.com

Information for Area 4 Members – March 2019

Dear Area 4 Members,

Hello, following up with some things from the GL Division Spring Training.

Record attendance this year and some great discussions. Many thanks to Val McCammon for all the hard work and everybody else who pitched in to help and present.

One of the questions was where do you find the 2019 Convention presentations.

From the front page of SCCA.COM, click the ABOUT tab, then DOWNLOADS and scroll down to the "Convention 19 Downloads" area. (<https://www.scca.com/downloads>)

During the GLD Inc, meeting, the bylaws were discussed. It is time for a review of the bylaws and Tony Brown (President of the GLD Inc.) is looking for a member resource to help with this process. If you are able and willing to help out the Division, please let Tony know at tonybrown_bah@yahoo.com.

Below is the current memberships and the current discount programs. Sorry for my confusion on the issue, hopefully it is clear with the below information.

Thanks for your time and attention! See you out playing with cars in the near future.

Marcus Merideth
Area 4 Director

2019 WHRRI/SCCA Driver's School Application Instructions

The Competition Driving School is for individuals wishing to compete in "Wheel to Wheel" competition events sanctioned by WHRRI, the SCCA, and other sanctioning organizations accepting the WHRRI driving school permits.

The school consists of a day of classroom instruction and two days of On-Track instruction. This year we will also be offering an open track day to test your car and get some of the butterflies out before your on track sessions. The school is accredited by the Sports Car Club of America "SCCA". Students successfully completing the training are presented with a Novice Competition Permit.

Dates and Locations:

- Open Track Day (optional) - Saturday 4/13/2019 (9am - 5pm)
 - The WHRRI Road Course
4470 Waterford Road, Clarkston, MI 48346
- Classroom Instruction - Sunday 4/14/2019 (8am - 6pm)
 - Main Club House (on the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club [OCSC] grounds)
4470 Waterford Road, Clarkston, MI 48346
- On-Track Instruction - Saturday 4/27/2019 and Sunday 4/28/2019 (8am - 7pm both days)
 - The WHRRI Road Course
4470 Waterford Road, Clarkston, MI 48346

In order to participate in the WHRRI Competition Driving School, the following requirements need to be met:

1. Student requirements:

- b. Age - The participating student must be 18 years or older at the time of the on-track session. A waiver may be pursued through the WHRRI Board of Directors for students 16 and 17 years of age at the time of the On-Track Session. The waiver must be approved by the Board of Directors before the On-Track sessions.
- b. Medical – The participating student must provide a completed medical examination form prior to the On-Track session. The form is available through the SCCA website at: www.scca.com The physical exam must be completed within 3 months preceding the On-Track event.
- c. Safety Gear - All drivers are required to present personal safety gear, suit, shoes, gloves, and helmet, as required by the SCCA General Competition Rules “GCR” including a head and neck (HANS) restraint device, for inspection to participate in all On-Track events.

2. Vehicle requirements:

- a. Vehicle/Crew Preparation - Student must provide the vehicle to be used for the duration of the school. Preparation and maintenance of the vehicle is the responsibility of the student. Crew support at the time of the event is highly recommended and encouraged. The school will be held rain or shine and it is highly recommended rain tires are available for use during the school.
- b. Vehicle Safety Equipment – All cars must meet all safety requirements as defined by the SCCA General Competition Rules for the particular type of car being used and will be inspected. Car numbers are required and must meet specifications as defined in the GCR. Rules relating to performance characteristics will not be scrutinized.
- c. Mufflers – All vehicles must have a muffler installed in the exhaust system. All vehicles must meet noise restrictions as described in WHRRI supplemental regulations.
- d. For guidance and assistance with race car rentals and support, email drschoool@waterfordhills.com

3. Novice Permits/Membership requirements:

- a. Novice Permit - In order to receive a Novice Permit (required for participation in sanctioned race events) upon successful completion of the school, membership in WHRRI or SCCA is required. The WHRRI driving school does not require membership with either WHRRI or SCCA for participation, but NO novice permits will be provided at the end of the school if membership was not completed prior to the start of the school. Novice permits can be applied for at a later date. Additional costs may be incurred.
- b. WHRRI – Membership in Oakland County Sportsman Club, “OCSC”, is required for membership in WHRRI. Details of WHRRI membership can be found on the WHRRI website. A WHRRI novice permit is presented to the student upon successful completion of the school. The cost of the WHRRI permit is included in the school registration fee.
- c. SCCA – If applying for an SCCA Novice permit, membership in SCCA is required. Details of SCCA membership can be found on the SCCA website. An SCCA novice permit is presented to the student upon successful completion of the school. An additional cost is required for the SCCA Novice permit.
- d. Both – A student may apply for a novice permit from both SCCA and WHRRI if desired. Membership requirements for both clubs are required. The additional SCCA novice permit fee is required.

4. Early Registration Fees:

- a. First Time Student:
 - II. WHRRI Members \$395.00
 - III. SCCA Members \$520.00 (includes SCCA Novice permit)
 - IV. Non Members \$460.00 (No Permit provided upon completion of school)
- b. Returning students – Students that have participated in the WHRRI school or held a competition license within past 5 years qualify for a returning student discount:
 - I. WHRRI Members \$295.00
 - II. SCCA Members \$420.00 (includes SCCA Novice permit)
 - III. Non Members \$360.00 (No Permit provided upon completion of school)

- c. Open Track Day (optional) - Separate Registration is required. Register Early Space is Limited! :
 - I. WHRRI Members: Online/Pre-Pay \$175, Day of Event \$200
 - II. Non-WHRRI Members: Online/Pre-Pay \$200, Day of Event \$240
- d. REGISTER NOW - If application is received after April 9th, please add an additional \$100.00 to the appropriate fee as listed above.

Registration for WHRRI Drivers School

The registration process for the school is through the MotorsportsReg website.

The process is very intuitive and gathers information such as:

- Student Information (Name, Address, Phone, etc)
- Car Information (Make, Model, Car Number, Transponder Number, etc)
 - If you are renting a car and don't know this info yet, leave it blank.
- Permit/Membership Information (WHRRI, SCCA or non, etc)

To begin the registration process for the 2019 DriversSchool, you can go directly to MotorsportReg.com

Flagging & Communications School at Waterford Hills

What's it all about?

Have you ever watched racing on TV, or been to a road race (like the Detroit Grand Prix, for example)? Have you seen those people in white standing at the corner stations, wielding flags and fire bottles, or running to cars that have been involved in an incident? Well, that's what F & C turn marshals do. We use communications equipment (land lines or radios) to speak to the control tower, and we use flags and hand signals to communicate with the drivers and with each other. Our primary job is to maintain a clear racing course for the competitors in a race. We also have the best "seats" in the house to watch a race from, and being a marshal is very exciting and rewarding. You get to meet some pretty terrific people, too.

The School

The school consists of a Saturday morning classroom session, where we teach you the basics of flagging and communications. At Waterford Hills, we flag according to SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) flag rules. All students are provided with a SCCA flag manual for further study. The classroom session covers such things as:

- The flags
- Basic communications
- Safety (of primary concern)
- Equipment (what you need, what to wear, what to bring)

After the morning session, students will be taken on a tour of the paddock and introduced to the various car classes and vehicle types. The remainder of the afternoon will be spent working with our experienced marshals on a turn station, putting into practice everything they learned during the morning. Students are encouraged to return on Sunday, where they will once again work with our experienced marshals on a turn station. Debriefing will take place each evening with the instructors, to answer questions and share experiences.

Sounds great! How do I sign up?

Simple! Contact **Chip Bliem, WHRRI F & C Chief** at flagcomm@waterfordhills.com, to sign up for the school. If you are between 16 and 18 years of age, you will need to note this in your email. (Minors require a notarized minor consent form signed by a parent or legal guardian in order to participate. We can help with arrangements for a notary, and provide you with the forms.) A confirmation email will be sent to you, along with updates when necessary.



For awhile now, I have been talking about a new iRacing series. Well it opened earlier this week! That means it is time to get started competing. Now, SCCA has a few resources for you on this. Check out the registration page if you haven't here:

<https://www.scca.com/pages/iracing-scca-srf-series>

If you don't know anything about iRacing, check out what Hagerty wrote about them here:

<https://www.hagerty.com/articles-videos/articles/2019/03/12/scca-goes-virtual-with-iracing>

And finally, SCCA wrote up a how-to guide-for-dummies too! Check that out here:

<https://www.scca.com/articles/2011613-iracing-how-to-get-started>

Isn't that cool? More and more, SCCA is all about access, and they are working to create ways to engage their members.

Have you told your friends about it yet? I know you've got friends that need to be in the SCCA. If you get them signed up, you both are entered in a drawing to win some free stuff! This week, we are teaming up with Bridgestone to give away \$500 for use at any Firestone Complete Auto Care location! That is more than plenty enough to get some tires for your daily, or mount up those race tires you've been looking at.

Have good week, and keep your foot in it!

Kerrie Speed



VSCDA kicks off its 2019 Race Season with its Driver's School followed by a weekend of racing at Gingerman Raceway in South Haven, Michigan. GingerMan is a safe, 2.2 mile challenge, designed by Alan Wilson and with a growing national reputation. It rewards excellent technical driving skill with two long straights and lots of complex turns, incorporating camber and elevation changes.

The weekend starts with VSCDA's highly-regarded Driver's School on Thursday afternoon, May 2nd, with a required classroom session. May 3rd is an all day on-track school-very busy, very exciting and very fun! We try to have a 1 to 1 ratio of experienced racer/instructors for each student. That evening, driving privileges are awarded and accomplishments celebrated at a great barbecue. Upon graduation, you gain racing privileges recognized by VSCDA, as well as most other vintage groups in the VMC Organizations (3 race events with an "X" on your car, incident free required).

When

Thursday, May 2, 2019 - Sunday, May 5, 2019

Where

Gingerman Raceway
 61414 County Road 388
 South Haven, Michigan 49090 USA

Registration Deadline

Friday, May 3, 2019

Inside:

WMR Calendar, 2019
GLDiv Racing Schedule,
Membership Recognition,
WMR Awards Banquet
Report, WMR Service
Award Program Info, 2019
WHRRI/SCCA Driver's
School Info



facebook.wmr-scca.org



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