



June 2019

BACKFIRE

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



IN THIS ISSUE

WMR Officials
Page 2

Region Calendar
Page 3

Membership Recognition
Page 4

2019
Great Lakes Division
Race Schedule
Page 5

Club Racing
Volunteer Worker Info
Page 8



Come Out and
Play With Us

2019 WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION OFFICIALS

Regional Executive and Course Control

Wayne Rogers
3615 Colonial Avenue N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 238-6186
wrogers280z73@netzero.net

Secretary

Mary Ellen Sickles
513 Ash St.
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 372-1477
msickles@comcast.net

Director (Past RE)

Verne Wandell
910 Davis St, #1
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 217-2489
verne@valleyedit.com

Membership Chair(s)

Pete & Debbie Hansen
12194 74Th Ave
Allendale, MI 49401
(616) 895-7661
hansens@altelco.net

Grid

Mary Ellen Sickles
513 Ash St.
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 372-1477
msickles@comcast.net

F&C - Communications

Lydia Hansen
330 Watson St
Coopersville, MI 49404
(616) 633-8923
liddyhansen@gmail.com

Assistant RE and Scrutineering

Ed Maklenburg
300 Jacole Drive
Milford, MI. 48380
(248)-685-2773
emaklenburg@frontier.com

Director at Large

Lenny Basaj
6629 Burton Woods Dr
Whitehall, MI 49461
(231) 557-3694
lenny.basaj@gmail.com

Competition Manager

Dayle Frame
703 Pine Ridge Dr.
DeWitt, MI 48820
(517) 575-9450
hdf3.wtr80@gmail.com

Radios and Starter

Bruce Beauvais
12974 Beardsley
Greenville, MI 48838
(616) 754-9583
bruce.beauvais@gmail.com

Paddock

Thomas Smolenski
1010 South Harbor Dr.
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 842-5027
tsmolenskis@yahoo.com

Treasurer and Timing & Scoring

Dave Ferris
6157 Nichols Rd
Mason, MI 48854
(517) 290-7128
1988irocz28@gmail.com

Director (Past RE) and Backfire Editor

Jim Washburn
2385 Cedar Park Dr. Apt 310
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 242-0702
jwashburn.us@gmail.com

Solo Manager

Brad Yonkers
7341 S Montcalm Ave
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 204-8806
bradyonkers@gmail.com

Sound Control

Carola Basaj
6629 Burton Woods Dr
Whitehall, MI 49461
(231) 557-3694
lbasaj@charter.net

F&C - Flagging

Pete Hansen
12194 74Th Ave
Allendale, MI 49401
(616) 895-7661
hansens@altelco.net

Webmaster

OPEN at this time

Due To Our Heavy Racing Involvement, Our Monthly 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



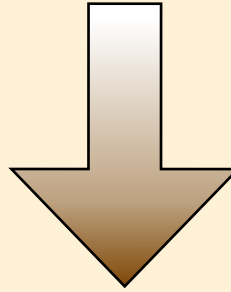
For the "off season" September thru April, we typically meet the 2nd Saturday of the month with an optional dinner at 6:00pm followed by the meeting at 7:00pm.

Our next meeting will be September 14, 2019.

Region Calendar

May, 2019

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



September 14, 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

Contributors

JIM WASHBURN
Backfire Editor

Membership News

WMR welcomes our new or returning members

Jerry Kulas - Holland, MI
 Michael Walton - Traverse City, MI
 Pammie Walton - Traverse City, MI

Congratulations to the following who celebrated membership anniversaries last month

- 51 years Chuck Shapiro
- 36 years Frederick Hawley
- 34 years Barbara Steencken
- 33 years James Esquire
- 32 years Mary Sickles
- 32 years Rodney Sickles
- 24 years Mary Gyulay
- 16 years Juan Marchand
- 11 years Charles McGee
- 7 years Bradley Yonkers
- 6 years Ralph Gilles
- 5 years Robyn Whalen
- 5 years Douglas Fetrow
- 4 years Matthew Caris
- 2 years Nicholas Kurdziel
- 2 years Carl Heideman
- 2 years Charlotte Heideman
- 2 years Christopher Heideman
- 2 years Hope Heideman
- 2 years Aaron Linke
- 2 years Austin Floyd
- 2 years Chris Felice
- 1 year Lawrence Redlon
- 1 year Jason Blair
- 1 year Tim Beek
- 1 year Kyle Greenwood
- 1 year Matthew Van Dyk
- 1 year Amanda Mahan
- 1 year Easton Mahan
- 1 year Scott Mahan
- 1 year Sophia Mahan
- 1 year Bryan Larson
- 1 year Robert Steffens



The new Honda S-600--It's the Smartest Car in Town!

Not only smart in style, but with Power to spare, yet easy to handle and easy to park, economical in cost and operation.

A superb engine that purrs along completely at your command. Spacious luggage compartment, comfort and elegance in fixtures and fittings.

See it, try it, you'll love it--the

HONDA S600



HONDA
 HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD. 3-3-1 Yamanashi, Chukyo, Japan
 THE AUSTRALIAN WOMAN'S WEEKLY - December 8, 1965



Take a pole-pull afternoon in country like this, on a sweeping, diving, twisting road like this. In any car it would be a jog. But in a Corvette it is unshakably close to pure poetry. For poetry-in-motion unites everything a Corvette does. The close, precise arc of its steering. The astringent thrust of its acceleration. The incredible taloned grip of its brakes. The supple suspension that seems to flow into and become part of the road. One thing is sure: if you haven't ever tucked in behind that big spring steel wheel and gone sweeping through Corvette country, you've missed the greatest driving pleasure you can know. Which is a pity, with your Chevrolet dealer so close! ...

Chevrolet Division of General Motors, Detroit 2, Michigan. **CORVETTE** by Chevrolet

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 Raceway Park, Grattan,
MI
- October 26 Grattan Raceway Park, Grattan,
MI

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

2019 GREAT LAKES DIVISION
CLUB RACING SCHEDULE

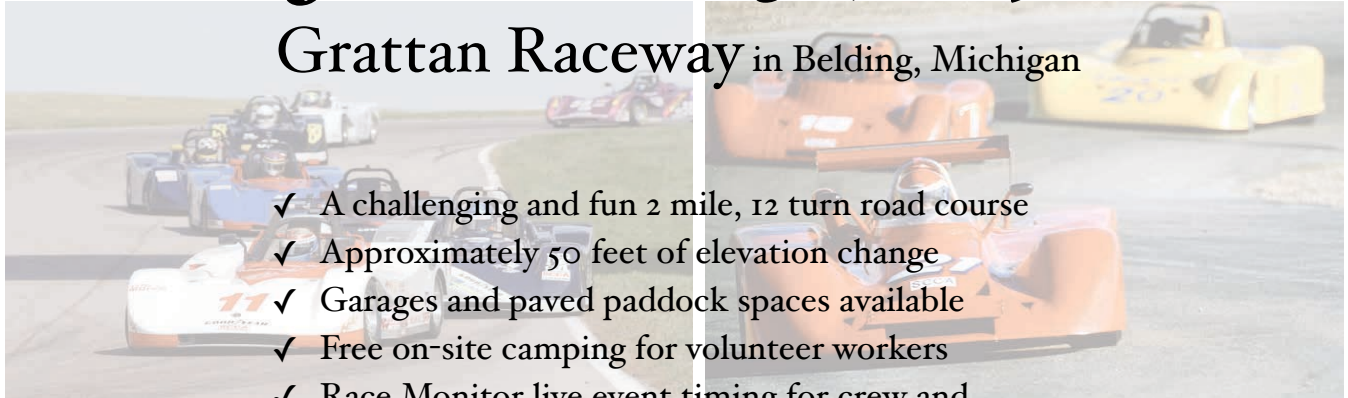
- April 13 GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School
(classroom) at Waterford Hills
- April 27 - 28 GLDiv/WHRRRI Driver's School (track
time) at Waterford Hills
- May 2 - 5 VSCDA "Gingerman Spring
Brake Drivers School & Races"
at Gingerman
- May 18 - 19 DET / SBR "Bert Olson" Majors
Double Event at GingerMan
- May 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

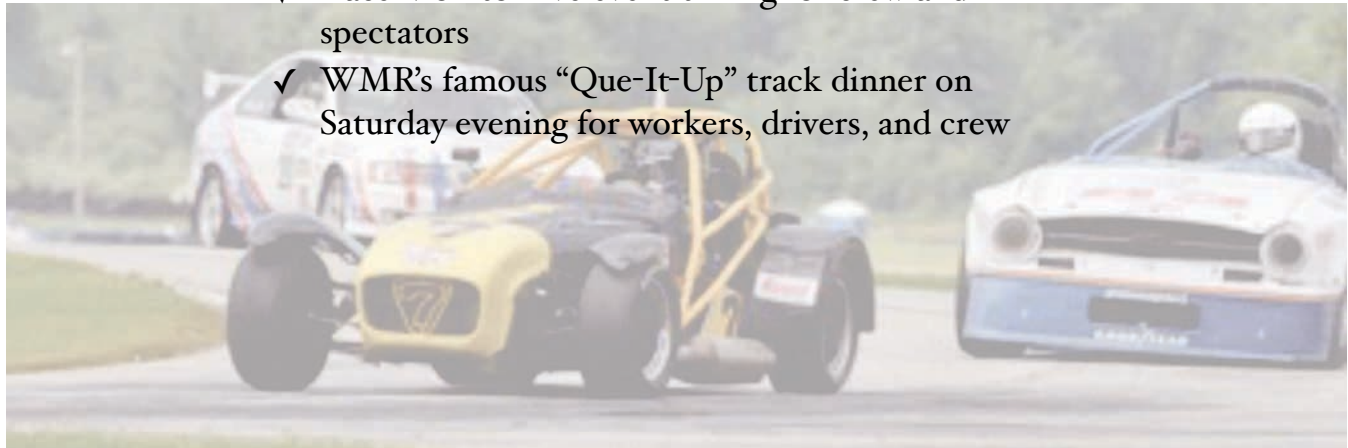


Come out for our
2019 WMR
“Original Unrestricted”
Double Regional
Club Racing Event
held by the
Western Michigan Region
June 22nd & 23rd, 2019

Grattan Raceway in Belding, Michigan



- ✓ A challenging and fun 2 mile, 12 turn road course
- ✓ Approximately 50 feet of elevation change
- ✓ Garages and paved paddock spaces available
- ✓ Free on-site camping for volunteer workers
- ✓ Race Monitor live event timing for crew and spectators
- ✓ WMR’s famous “Que-It-Up” track dinner on Saturday evening for workers, drivers, and crew



ATTENTION

— Club Racing Drivers —

If you need an annual technical inspection, please contact the Chief Scrutineer, Ed Maklenburg at emaklenburg@frontier.com or call him at (248) 685-2773 well in advance of coming to the track so we can minimize your wait time and the wait time of others.

Get Involved

A Call for Volunteer Workers

for the Upcoming Racing Season

How can I help? Don't worry, there are lots of ways!

Motorsports is more than just driving, and there are a million-and-one ways to get involved. Running an event requires the talents of a wide variety of dedicated individuals. Our members enjoy serving in all types of exciting positions. If you ever thought you might like to give racing a try... working races can give you valuable insights into driving, preparation, and the race tracks themselves. Getting involved as a race worker or an official is as easy as going to a local event and volunteering to help. There are lots of jobs to do... One of these might be just for you.

Those wanting to lend a hand are welcomed with open arms, and are rewarded with adventure, camaraderie, and friendship. Volunteers can register at any event even if they have no prior experience. We will provide the basic training and pair you up with an experienced worker. Over time you will grow into the position you like. Of course, if your first choice doesn't meet your expectations there are many more to choose from.

Workers are issued a license just like the competition drivers, and can work their way up through the four levels of licenses by participating at different events and gaining the knowledge and experience necessary to hold a National License. In addition to local events, SCCA licensed workers help staff most of the professional motor-sport events held in the United States including SCCA Pro Racing, IndyCar, IMSA, NASCAR, and Formula One.

If you are still unsure about which type of volunteer work you would like to do, just contact one of our Specialty Chiefs. The brief summary below is aimed at shaping your impression of what may fit your style and desire.

Registration

The Registrar is the intake person for our Club Racing events. The Registrar is responsible for checking in drivers, crew and workers for the event. The registration team work just outside the track



entrance at a registration station or desk where race credentials are verified, insurance waivers are signed, entry fees are collected, and information and schedules for the race weekend are distributed. Be the first official face they see, point them to where they need to be and make sure everyone gets started on the right track. If you have good organizational skills this could be the place for you.

For more information on this Specialty please contact: Marilyn Russell, Chief of Registration, at (rotaryracer@comcast.net) or call her at 260-338-0134.

Scrutineer / Tech

If you have interest in inspecting race cars and poking around under the hood, this might be an ideal place for you. There are two primary functions of tech. The first entails a complete pre-race visual inspection of all the safety equipment including driver suits, helmets, seat belts, shoulder belts, the roll cage, the fire system, and the general integrity and race worthiness of the car.

The second function is to impound cars at the end of a race to determine their legality with respect to the General Competition Rules and the specifications for their class (often times, the car's minimum weight). The Scrutineer is also responsible for post-race inspections possibly including mechanical teardown's due to a competitor protest

For more information on this Specialty please contact: Ed Maklenburg, Chief Scrutineer, at (emaklenburg@frontier.com) or call him at 248-685-2773.



Start

All eyes are on the Starter holding the flag at the beginning and the end of the race, but waving the green and the checker flags is just a small part of what Starters do. The Starter communicates the Chief Steward's instructions to the drivers through a series of colored flags, beginning with the green flag to start the race. In addition, the Starters maintain the lap count, the elapsed time for the session, and must follow the race order by charting the race as it unfolds. Throughout the race, the Starter also uses other flags, including: blue, black, red, yellow, white, and of course, the flag every leading driver eagerly awaits, the checkered flag!



For more information on this Specialty please contact: Jeff Secor, Chief of Start, at (jdsecor@charter.net) or call him at 616-662-9154.

Timing and Scoring

If you want to have the best viewing seat on the course, stay out of the weather and have first hand knowledge of whose who and whose winning, then, Timing and Scoring is for you. The function of Timing and Scoring (T&S) is to report the race by recording each competitor's speed, scoring him/her according to the number of laps completed and the order in which the car crossed the start/finish line; and to produce accurate results of the race. In earlier days stopwatches were used to track driver's lap times. Each timer was assigned one or more cars to record lap times on time cards. Things have changed a lot since then and now this is tracked electronically with computers and in-car transponders.

Join us and be a part of a great team that documents and generates the official results for the race. You will find working in Timing and Scoring is both fun and rewarding.

For more information on this Specialty please contact: Dave Ferris, Chief of Timing and Scoring, at (1988irocz28@gmail.com) or call him at 517-290-7128.



Flagging and Communications

Workers in F&C are the eyes, ears and hands of those in charge. One of the most visible specialties, these are the corner workers whom you see dressed in white at every race track in the United States. This specialty is actually made up of three subspecialties. Flagging, Communications, and Safety. The F&C worker takes a position along the course and uses flags and hand signals to communicate track conditions to each driver. They use an array of colored flags to communicate to the drivers about the condition of the track, and radio's or land lines to communicate with Race Control about incidents on the portion of track for which they are responsible. The third part of this specialty is Safety and as such they are the first responders to most incidents on the track. They are the first ones to arrive at an incident and help the unfortunate driver get out of harm's way. They also lend a hand and assist in cleaning up the mess left behind.



For more information on this Specialty please contact: Pete Hansen, Chief of Flagging, at (hansens@altelco.net) or call him at (616) 895-7661. or contact: Lydia Hansen, Chief of Communications, at (liddyhansen@gmail.com) or call her at (616) 633-8923.

Grid Worker's and Pit Marshal's

Grid worker's line up cars at the beginning of each session and are responsible for insuring that the race cars are placed in the proper order for the beginning of the race. They also check the driver's safety gear, and make sure they have their belts fastened, their helmet strapped, their gloves on, their window net is up, their arm restraints are on, and that they're ready to go. Lastly, they are responsible for traffic control as cars are released to the track.



For more information on this Specialty please contact: Mary Ellen Sickles, Chief of Grid, at (rmsickles@comcast.net) or call her at 517-372-1477.



The Pit Marshal's control action in the Pit lane... they serve as traffic cops and fire control personnel during practice, qualifying, and the race. They ensure that conditions in the Pits are safe at all times and make sure all personnel in the Pits follow the rules and procedures outlined in the General Competition Rules book. During the racing event, the Pit Marshal's are there to ensure the competitor's entry to and exit from the Pit area is done in a safe manner and to oversee the safety of car crews servicing the car.

For more information on this Specialty please contact: Duane Belisle, Chief of Pit, at (mazdaman86@msn.com) or call him at 574-875-9868.

Course Control

The Course Marshal's main responsibility is the clearing the track of disabled and stopped vehicles. Some of these cars may have a mechanical problem or they may simply have run out of gas and they need to be towed back to their paddock area. Course Marshal's may also assist in clean-up of the track during and after events in the event of fluid spills or other situations that may leave debris on the track surface.

In addition, the Course Marshal's may assist in the distribution of corner equipment and the maintenance of corner equipment, including fire extinguishing equipment between events.

For more information on this Specialty contact: Wayne Rogers, Chief of Course Control, at (wrogers280z73@netzero.net) or call him at 616-238-6186.



Sound Control

Want to get close to the action, but don't want to be in the action? If so, Sound Control could be for you. Those who staff Sound Control get to be out near the track and the action, but since their duty is to read the sound meter, they don't go out on the track like the F&C workers do.



Racing noise may be music to a fans ears, but to the nearby landowner it may not be so pleasant. On a race track with noise regulations, SCCA Sound Control officials monitor the sound level of passing race vehicles during all practice, qualifying and race sessions. The sound output of the cars is recorded during practice, qualifying and the race to ensure compliance with a set level, usually 103 decibels. These readings are logged by car number and class every lap when the car is clear of traffic that could interfere with the reading. Cars that exceed the maximum allowable level are reported to the operating Steward so that appropriate action can be taken to correct the problem and allow the car to return to the track.

Regular sound level meter calibrations as well as various weather conditions such as temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, and barometric pressure, are checked and recorded. As weather conditions change, they are again recorded and adjustments are made as necessary.

For more information on this Specialty contact: Carola Basaj, Chief of Sound, at (lenny.basaj@gmail.com)

We are asking all volunteers to sign up in the (workers) section at (wmr-scca.motorsportreg.com) before coming to the event.

This gives us a better idea of staffing levels for each of the specialties and allows us to better plan for the provided lunches, worker gifts, and the Saturday dinner party.

However, volunteers, especially first time volunteers, can alternatively sign up at the Registration desk at the race event.

WMR Backfire Editor
Jim Washburn
2385 Cedar Park Dr. Apt 310
Holt, MI 48842

Inside:

WMR Calendar, 2019
GLDiv Racing Schedule,
Membership Recognition,
Club Racing Volunteer
Worker 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