



BackFire

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

March 2003



B. BEAUVAIS

Mark Utecht and **Jeff Secor** fling snow in front of a crowd of rally faithful on their way to **1st** in Group N, and 5th overall in the Sno*Drift Pro Rally.

After two days and 17 stages of cold and snow, the pair were only 10:06 behind the 1st place Open factory team of **David Higgins** and **Daniel Barritt**; and 3:15 ahead of the 2nd place Group N Subaru of **Shane Mitchell** and **Paul Donnelly**.

Well done Mark and Jeff!

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The Backfire is a monthly publication of the Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America. The editor must receive items for publication no later than the 15th of the month to be included in the next month's edition, provided space is available. If space is not available, it will be published in the following month. As the Backfire is a publication for and by the members of WMR/SCCA, the editor is pleased to publish letters, articles, and opinions of its members, provided that: 1. They are signed. 2. They are edited for grammar and some expletives. 3. The content is not libelous and / or unsupportable. Articles may be reprinted without permission, provided credit is given to the author.

Submit articles to: Susan and Chris Peet, 411 Garfield Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 or to repeet68racing@aol.com

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2003 Cen Div Solo II Championship Series

Date	Region	Location
May 25-26	FTW	Grissom AFB - Peru, In.
June 21-22	DET	Wurtsmith Airport - Oscoda, Mi
July 13	SVR	Great Lakes Tech Ctr.- Flint Mi.
July 26-27	OVR	OSU - Columbus, Oh.
Aug 2-3	MIL	Miller Park - Milwaukee, Wi.
Aug 31	NWOR	BAX Global Inc. Toledo, Oh.
Oct 4-5	CIR	Rantoul/Chanute AFB
Oct 11-12	CIN	River Downs Horse Track
Nov 8-9	ALL	Awards Banquet / RoundTable
Cen Div Solo II Divisional Championship		
Aug 16-17	ALL	Grissom AFB - Peru, In.
Cen Div Area National Tour		
June 7-8	ALL	BAX Global Inc. - Toledo, Oh.
July 5-6	ALL	Grissom Aeroplex - Peru, In.
Cen Div Area Pro Solo		
June 28-29	ALL	Wurtsmith Airport - Oscoda, Mi.
Aug 9-10	ALL	Grissom Aeroplex - Peru, In.

2003 Michigan Club Racing Calendar

Date	Region	Track	Type
April 19-20	Detroit	Waterford	Drivers School
April 26-27	Indiana Northwest	Gingerman	National
May 3-4	VSCDA	Gingerman	Vintage
May 24-25	WMR	Grattan	Fiesta Regional
June 14-15	Detroit & Ft. Wayne	Grattan	National
June 28-29	Area 4	Gingerman	Drivers School
July 12-13	South Bend	Gingerman	Regional
July 19-20	SCCA Pro Racing	Gingerman	Pro SRF Pro SM
July 26-27	Detroit	Waterford	Regional
August 9-10	WMR	Grattan	National
August 16-17	VSCDA	Grattan	Vintage
August 30-31	WMR/LSR	Grattan	Regional

2003 WMR Club Rally

Sept. 13	Cadillac	

2003 Sno* Drift Pro Rally Results

O/A	CL	DRIVER		CO-DRIVER		CLASS	CAR	TIME
1	1	DAVID HIGGINS	UK	DANIEL BARRITT	UK	OPEN	MINI	2:02:15
2	2	TAPIO LAUKKANEN	AZ	LLKKA RIIPINEN	AZ	OPEN	SUBARU	2:04:16
3	3	JONNY MILNER	UK	DUNCAN McMATH	UK	OPEN	SUBARU	2:08:15
4	4	LAUHLIN O'SULLIVAN	CA	MARK WILLIAMS	MD	OPEN	MINI	2:09:30
5	1	MARK UTECHT	MN	JEFF SECOR	MI	GROUP N	SUBARU	2:12:21
6	2	SHANE MITCHELL	NY	PAUL DONNELLY	NY	GROUP N	SUBARU	2:15:36
7	5	DENNIS MARTIN	WI	KIM DEMOTTE	MO	OPEN	MINI	2:17:26
8	3	WYETH GUBELMAN	CO	THERIN PACE	CO	GROUP N	SUBARU	2:19:13
9	4	HENRY KROLIKOWSKI	MI	AL KAUMEHEIWA	MI	GROUP N	SUBARU	2:20:49
10	1	JONATHAN BOTTOMS	NY	ERIC DAHLGREN	NY	PGT	SUBARU	2:23:42

The air was crisp and cold as the Sno*Drift Pro Rally got underway Friday January 24th. Traction was good for the early teams, as the snow cover helped them get a strong start. But as the roads were swept clean, the underlying ice made the routes even more treacherous, especially when they were repeated after service. Then night fell... and it really got cold!

The woods at night in the winter are special. It's dead quiet, with a soft hush of snow falling through the trees. Then you hear them coming: pop...pop... sputter - spit - pop, as the first car negotiates the twists and turns up the stage. Then a flickering light, bouncing back and forth, up and down making the shadows dance. And they are there, right in front of you, moving faster than you would ever consider... in daylight! A squeal from the glowing brakes; snow flying as the tail drifts out. Hard on the gas now; blasting up the road with the same spits and pops that announced their arrival.

It didn't take me long to realize what I had been missing since the runoffs. The smells and sounds of racing. The scent of hot rubber and smoking brakes, along with the staccato notes of rev limiters and pop off valves infiltrated my brain; can't get that on the TV! And as the stage wore on, the action really heated up. I was working Blue Lakes; stage 2 and 4, which has a infamous corner at the bottom of a hill after a 1/4 mile or so of climbing straight. Out of the 50 or so that started, less than 10 got it right. The rest either went waaay past the corner, and up the opposite hill, or they hit the berm, sometimes with spectacular results.

Some of this entertainment came from J.D Niday, and Allan Kintigh in their Subie, and Karen Purzycki and Tyler Bell in their Fiesta. Niday and Kintigh flew by me at a about light speed. I can only imagine the pucker factor when they crested the hill to find the skating rink in front of them. They missed badly, and attempted a spin move that

some of the teams were using to good effect. Unfortunately, the car only rotated about 120 degrees, and backed into a nice thick tree at about 40 mph. One solid hit! And me without my trusty yellow flag! Everyone was OK, but it took them out of the rally. They were able to tape it up, and drive it back home to Wisconsin.

Karen and Tyler; both 16, were running along at a more sedate clip, but slid off ONTO the berm, getting completely high centered. The mob of spectators rushed over, picked them up, and sent them on there way. They wound up 22nd overall, 7th in Group 2 with a time of 1:03:33. 19:20 off the pace, but hey, they finished! Way to go! Saturday, Karen rode as her father Mike's co-driver in his CJ8 Scrambler. They were 14th overall, 4th in the open class with a time of 1:54:35.

Saturday morning came too early, too dark, and too cold. It took awhile for the program to get rolling, as some worker vehicles got stuck on the stages. With the course clear, the new Tag - Heuer start and finish controls worked great. Other than the ubiquitous faulty printer, the times were spot on. I worked the finish control on stage 9, which turned into start for 11. Then after a nice lunch at the senior center, We headed out to 17 for the last run of the day. A long smooth stage, it was dusk when the first of the Pro cars came through, and pitch black by the last one. Attrition took it's toll with 7 cars on Friday, and 10 on Saturday, not too bad considering the snow and ice.

Afterwards, it was good to sit down, have a slice of pizza, and a good chat with the rest of the lunatics. This was my second "drift", and I know I'll be back next year. How 'bout you? Just remember to pack your long undies, all 10 pair!

See you at the track... in 8 weeks.

Chris Peet

Sno Club Rally Friday Jan. 24 2003

<i>O/A</i>	<i>CL</i>	<i>CLASS</i>	<i>DRIVER</i>		<i>CO-DRIVER</i>		<i>CAR</i>	<i>TIME</i>
1	1	N	MARK COX	CO	JIM GILL	CO	EVO VI	44:13
2	1	PGT	SCOTT HARVEY	MI	KENT GARDAM	OH	TALON	44:22
3	1	O	DANIEL MALOTT	MI	MATT MALLOTT	MI	TALON	45:20
4	2	O	CHRIS GILLIGAN	NC	JOE PETERSEN	WI	ECLIPSE	46:15
5	2	PGT	DAVID LAFAVOR	MN	ROBERT LAFAVOR	MN	TALON	46:41
6	1	G5	ROBERT OLSEN	MN	CONRAD KETELSEN	MN	911	47:53
7	1	PROD	JAMES COX	MN	KAARI COX	MN	S-10	49:07
9	1	G2	DAVID CIZMAS	MI	GRADY STRUM	WI	VW GTI	49:30

Drift Club Rally Saturday Jan. 25 2003

<i>O/A</i>	<i>CL</i>	<i>CLASS</i>	<i>DRIVER</i>		<i>CO-DRIVER</i>		<i>CAR</i>	<i>TIME</i>
1	1	O	CHRIS GILLIGAN	NC	JOE PETERSEN	WI	ECLISPE	1:39:58
2	2	O	DANIEL MALLOTT	MI	MATT MALLOTT	MI	TALON	1:41:54
3	1	PGT	DAVID LAFAVOR	MN	ROBERT LAFAVOR	MN	TALON	1:44:50
4	2	PGT	PIOTR WIKTOKCZYK	IL	KAZIMIERZ PUDELEK	IL	IMPREZZA	1:44:58
5	1	PROD	JAKE HIMES	MN	SILAS HIMES	MI	SENTRA	1:46:28
6	1	G2	JOEL SANFORD	MI	SCOTT SANFORD	MI	CAVALIER	1:47:46
8	1	G2 (H)	PHIL SMITH	OH	DALLAS SMITH	OH	MGB GT	1:48:57
10	1	G5	ROBERT OLSEN	MN	CONRAD KETELSEN	MN	911	1:50:55
17	1	N	DANIEL DONDZIK	IL	LUKASZ SZELA	IL	WRX	1:59:25

Speed Channel will offer expanded coverage of SCCA Pro Rally this season. Along with Marty Reid Enterprises, they will focus on drivers and teams, giving the audience greater insight into the world of Pro Rally. Check out www.speedtv.com for details.

Broadcast Date	Event	Event Date
May 1	Sno*Drift	January 24-25
May 22	Rim of the World	May 2-3
June 26	Susquehannock Trail	June 6-8
July 14	Mid-Season Recap	
July 31	Oregon Trail July	12-13
August 21	Maine Forest	August 1-2
September 11	Ojibwe Forests	August 22-23
September 25	Wild West	September 6-7
November 6	Lake Superior	October 17-18
December 4	SCCA Pro Rally Season Review	

2003 Cen Div Club Racing Schedule

Date	Driver's Schools	Regionals	Nationals	SCCA Pro and Other Events
Mar 1 - 2	Cen Div Stewards and Workers Seminar - Merrillville, Indiana			
8 - 9	GET			
15 - 16	READY...			
22 - 23	GET			
29 - 30	SET...			
April 5 - 6	GO!			
12 - 13		INDY @ IRP D C #		
19 - 20	DET @ WAT #			
26 - 27	QUAD @ BHF #	QUAD @ BHF #	INR @ GM #	
May 3 - 4			BVR @ BHF #	VSCDA @ GM #
10 - 11				
17 - 18				SVRA @ RA #
24 - 25		WMR @ GRA D C #	MIL / CHI / BVR @ BHF #	
Memorial day				
May 31			OVR @ M-O #	
June 1				
7 - 8		MIL @ BHF D C #		AMA @ RA #
14 - 15			DET / FTW @ GRA #	VSCDA @ BHF #
21 - 22		JUNE SPRINTS	CHI @ RA #	SVRA @ M-O #
28 - 29	AREA 4 @ GM #	AREA 4 @ GM C #		GRAND AM @ M-O #
		MIL @ RA D C #		
July 4 - 5 - 6		BVR @ BHF D C #	INDY @ IRP #	
		CINCY @ M-O D C #		
12 - 13		SBR @ GM D C #	NEO @ NL #	
19 - 20	NEO @ NL #			BRIC @ RA #
				AMA @ M-O #
				SCCA PRO @ GM #
26 - 27		DET @ WAT #	MIL @ RA #	
Aug 2 - 3		FTW @ M-O D C #		CART @ RA #
9 - 10			WMR @ GRA #	
16 - 17		CHI @ RA D C #		VSCDA @ GRA #
23 - 24				CART @ M-O #
				ALMS @ RA #
30 - 31		WMR / LSR @ GRA D C #	NEO @ M-O #	
Labor Day				
Sept 6 - 7		OVR @ M-O D #		
13 - 14				
15 - 21	SCCA	VALVOLINE	RUNOFFS	MID -OHIO #
20 - 21				VSCDA @ RA #
27 - 28				
Oct 4 - 5		WOR @ M - O C #		
11 - 12	NEO @ NL #	CHI @ BHF C #		
18 - 19				VSCDA @ M-O #
BHF - Blackhawk Farms GM - Gingerman NL - Nelson Ledges				
IRP - Indianapolis Raceway Park GRA - Grattan RA - Road America				
WAT - Waterford Hills M-O Mid - Ohio D - Double / C - Champ Series / # - Confirmed				

Who's Who and What's What

For Sale

Most of a radio system : just add a helmet, earpiece, new p1225 battery, and optional antenna.

\$700.00 includes:

- 1- Motorola radius p1225 2 channel 4 watt big battery UHF radio with manual in great condition.
- 1- Speedcom headset with boom mic for the 1225.
- 1- Motorola radius p110 2 channel 4 watt big battery UHF radio (matched frequencies) in fair condition. Fits the battery eliminator below. Ear piece to speaker switch / jack is tempermental in speaker mode; never a problem with the helmet harness. Drill mount PTT button, wiring harness, noise suppression and battery eliminator (wires directly to car) antenna adapter fitting and crummy old plastic tool box to carry it all.

- 1- **HotLap System:** Receiver, display unit with bracket, 2 cables (i.e. one spare), 4 battery medium range beacon, tripod. \$200.00

Martin Waalkes 616-975-6174
waalkes@altelco.net

Lyn St. James...

The former Indy Car driver will speak at the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville, Monday March 10th for a fund raiser to benefit the Center for Women in transition. Cost \$125.00

Contact: Polly Diehl 616-355-9751
pollyd@ a place for women .org

Correction

To: Steve Voll
From: Dan Kolean
Subject VW GTI Test Drive

Steve;
Very nice article! We do appreciate the credit. I'd like to request two changes in the credits. Would you add Floyd Banadish as a member of our sale staff, and our web site address can be reached directly now at www.crownvolkswagen.com

Regarding the headlights, I did have them checked out and found they are aligned correctly. Due to the brighter nature of the new halogen headlights, manufactures are focusing lenses with a sharp horizontal cutoff to avoid blinding on-coming drivers. As you know, this creates a sharp cutoff of the beam fairly low over the road. I have found them to be significantly superior to my older generation headlights. It does take a little getting used to however.

Best Regards,
Dan

BUDGET

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Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

Next Meeting:

- March 15, 2003 7:30 pm
- Site: Crowne Plaza Hotel: In the restaurant off the main lobby.
- Location: 5700 28th Street, SE (just east of I-96 on the south side of the street).
- We'll supply the soda pop and snacks-come on out and visit with your friends

Don't forget to visit the WMR web site at <http://www.wmr-scca.org>

WMR-SCCA Backfire

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