



BackFire

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

May 2003



Brain Haupt from Springhill KS. and his "ventilated" Alfa at the 2002 runoffs

If your 2002 season included a little " added ventilation", we hope you put the long winter to good use and are ready to go. Are you ? Is your car together; annual tech up to date? Helmet still OK, how about your other safety gear? How about them round rubber thingies.

That goes for you workers also. Did you replace worn clothing and boots, get that new rain suit, gloves or hat? How about your camping gear, or your track bag, everything accounted for?

And how about your vehicles, is the family van ready for several months of hard use?

While there have already been several events in CenDiv, we'll have less than three weeks before our Memorial Day Regional at Grattan by the time you receive this. We know you're all as excited as we are. At least we hope so.

In This Issue

- Are you Ready for the 2003 Season?
- Wayne's World
- Kelly's Minute's
- Revised Schedule and Contact pages.
- Car Review : Mitsubishi Lancer EVO VIII

2003 Western Michigan Region Officials

Regional Executive

Race Control

Course Control

Wayne Rogers
1662 4 Mile Road
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-361-1163
wrogers280z@aol.com

Assistant Regional Executive

Phil Green
8757 Woodwren Dr.
West Olive, Mi. 49460
(616) 394-6855 w
(616) 875-8992 h
Philip.w.green@jci.com

Secretary

Membership Chairperson

Kelly Petty
338 Ridgewood
Kentwood, MI 49548
(616) 493-3835
norelation2@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Manager of Racing

Scrutineering

Competition Chairperson

Duane Bailey
4609 76th Street, SW
Byron Center, MI 49315
(616) 878-9830
dbailey_wmi@yahoo.com

Director at Large

Web Master

Dayle Frame
703 Pine Ridge Drive
DeWitt, MI 48820
(517) 669-0035
webmaster@wmr-scca.org

Director (Past RE)

Irene Dalziel
788 Bungalow, SW
Wyoming, MI 49509
(616) 532-9691
go tango 1 @aol.com

Director (Past RE)

Radios

Starter

Bruce Beauvais
12974 Beardsley
Greenville, MI 48838
(616) 754-9583
bsbeau@pathwaynet.com

Manager of Solo

Steve Brouwer
3624 12 Mile Road, NE
Rockford, MI 49341
(616) 866-3349
talongs@mindspring.com

Manager of Rally

Jeff Secor
3637 Curtis
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 662-9154
secorjb@iserv.net

BackFire Editors

Chris & Sue Peet
411 Garfield Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 343-6105
repeet68racing@aol.com

Flagging & Communications

Verne Wandell
7166 Lakeridge Place
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 353-9381
verne@valleyedit.com or
flagchief@valleyedit.com

Starter

Bobbe Orr
629 West South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 381-6317

Fire & Rescue

Gary Bailey
1445 Reeths Court
Muskegon, MI 49445
(616) 774-5106
baigar@attbi.com

Paddock

Tom Smolenski
1010 South Harbor Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 842-5027

Grid

Rod & Mary Ellen Sickles
513 Ash Street
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 372-1477
rmsickles@ameritech.net

Pit Lane

Linda Haslitt
3990 West 12 Mile Road
Berkley, MI 48072
(248) 542-9660
pitsone@use.com

Registrar

Sue Bailey
4609 76th Street, SW
Byron Center, MI 49315
(616) 878-9830
dbailey_wmi@yahoo.com

Sound Control

TBA

Medical Officer

TBA

Timing & Scoring

TBA

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

WAYNE'S WORLD

April 13, 2003



Well we are just a few days away from the start of the 2003-racing season here in the great state of Michigan. It looks as if we might have some cool weather to start out with again this year. I have put in my request for better weather this year than we had the start of the past one.

Detroit Region will have their driver's school on the 19th. & 20th. Of April. I hope that they have a good turnout for the event. I hope to see some of you down there working and having a good time.

We had the Tech Training session at Duane Bailey's shop on the 12th. of April and it was educational for those that attended.

We want to thank Ed Maklenburg and Barb Steencken for coming over here to do this for our region. Also we want to thank everyone that showed up to participate in the training. And then there were those that brought out their cars to be picked on during the day. This was not intended to be a session of just trying to find things wrong with the cars that were brought out. I think some of those that did have cars there found out a few things that will help them get a step ahead of what would have been found at the track on a race weekend. Thank you for letting the group use your cars for the training. Also we want to thank Dayle Frame for getting this put on the region website to get out the information about the training session. Along with the training they managed to tech some cars that come out for the day. This was something we will want to do again if possible next year.

There was a large turnout for the WMR general membership meeting Saturday night at the regular meeting place. We had a good meeting and everyone got a chance to bring up some of the things from the past few weeks. Some of the things brought up were about a new timing device Phil Green had information on from a race at Road Atlanta. We will have some information for all of you that show up at the national event at Gingerman on the 26th & 27th of April. And Phil will be putting something together for those that cannot make it there in the next issue of the Backfire if he does not have it ready for this one.

Workers that want to get a license for working a Rally event can do so soon. You will need to just let Barb Steencken know you would like to get one since you work the Rally events.

Now for what I had to talk about at the meeting. YES, It had to do again with getting more people involved with being a chief of one of the races this year. This will have to be done with the guidance of those that are the regular chiefs now. You can appoint someone that has the qualifications to do it and you will take the roll of asst. chief that event. This will give more workers the experience of what it takes to handle the specialty. We are all in need of making sure that we have well trained people to take over for us incase for some reason that we can not make a race. This will give those that are chief now a better look at how we have taught are workers we have working for us now. And it will give those of us a chance to really see what they can do if put in a place where they have to make some of the decisions we take for granted race after race. We were all at one time in their shoes and now would be a good time to see how well we did our jobs over the past few years. I don't want to sound as if I am trying to force out anyone that is the region's chief of specialty now. I just want to make sure that we don't follow suit to what has happened to all of us in SCCA in past years. If we train those we have now, it will make us all better at what we do. This will also make those that have worked for years want to maybe help get new faces in to do the same thing they do. All we can do is work at some kind of way to make WMR a region that will be proud of those we have now and everyone we will have in future years in this sport. I will do what ever it takes to make sure we have the best group of people in WMR and that we have people that want to come back for every event year after year.

My workers in Course Control will have to step up this year and do their part as chief at some of our events. I hope to see some new names submitted to Sue Bailey for Chief of Specialty this racing season. Just call and tell Sue who you would like to take the reins for the day and you be their asst.

Now for the thing most of you have been asking me for the past month. Yes I have been touch with Pro Racing with the help of Duane Bailey. We have just sent Pro Racing the track contract and with some luck we will have all the pieces in place for the event if they except. I will have some news for you one way or the other at the INR race the 26th of April.

That is it for me now. I will have to get this to Sue & Chris Peet tonight so it will make the Backfire this month. Hope to see everyone at the races in a week or so. Take care and remember we need all the members that we can get to come out to the events again this year. And this means anyone that wants to work. I don't care if you are a Solo or Rally member you are invited out to work with us. We can find something for you if you want to work one of the events. Everyone will be welcome to any of the WMR events and if you have any questions just contact me or one of the board members or chiefs of specialty.

Wayne I Rogers
RE WMR SCCA

MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING- MARCH 8, 2003

- Wayne calls the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. He starts off by welcoming and thanking everyone for coming.
- R.E. Report: The first topic of discussion was the banquet that was held on February 15, 2003. He thanked everyone that attended. He also commented on the food. It was very delicious and plenty of it for seconds if you wished. There was an abundance of prizes passed out too, everyone that came left with at least two things. They also showed us the new promotional video from Topeka and the new pamphlets that are coming out this year. Then there were the drivers awards and other prizes for all the board members and chiefs of specialty. Fun was had by all and no one left with an empty stomach or empty hands!
- The next topic was the national convention. Wayne Rogers (R.E.) and Phil Green (Asst.R.E.) both attended. They got to tour the new facility in Topeka as well as meeting other R.E.'s from other regions. They got their picture taken in front of the new building along with everyone else that was there. Wayne also met with Ken Grammer (from pro racing) to discuss having a pro race along with a restricted regional race at Grattan, possibly at the Labor day event. There are still a few bugs to work out, but so far it looks like a go. More to come on this later.
- Soon we will be able to renew our memberships on line! How exciting is that! More to come on this also.
- Starting in June or July, the SCCA's junior program will no longer be called Speed Freakz!, It will be known as "First Gear". It appears that the Speed Freakz! name seemed offensive to some folks and will be changed for that reason and others that weren't mentioned. Not only is the name being changed, but there will also be a rate increase, and it will only be available to people 21 and under, unlike Speed Freakz! which was 26 yrs. and under. All of the changes are listed in the new pamphlets that are available at the meetings, or call and request one from the secretary, Kelly Petty who's address and phone number can be found in the backfire and on the website www.scca-wmr.org.
- SCCA University- At the worker /steward seminar we all got to take a mini class developed by the SCCA to help in various areas of working an event. Classes are available to any member and they range from "How to get along with others" to "Problem solving" and "Chairing a successful event". The mini class that we attended was very interesting, the topics ranged from how to help a person find their favorite specialty, to, believe it or not, "How to fire a volunteer". More information on this will soon be available online.
- I.N.R. would like to have a training day for Flagging and Communications staff, since this is an area in which we are lacking help. They are thinking of possibly holding it the week before their Nat'l. in April somewhere by Kalamazoo. They are asking for volunteers who have experience in F&C to please come and help train the individuals that are willing to learn about F&C. There should be more information on this very soon.
- RACE CHAIR: Sue Peet (Memorial Day Race Chair) tells us that the theme for this event is going to be FIESTA! OLE! So dig out your ponchos and sombreros and join us at Grattan Raceway for our first event of the season! Its guaranteed that you will have a mucho mucho good time, so come on out and volunteer por favor! Muchas Gracias!
- Secretary Report: I would like to stress once again that you as members DO have a say about what happens in the region. All you have to do is come to a meeting and be heard. This is your right as a member so get out and exercise it! If you don't like speaking in public, all of the board members have e-mail addresses where you can reach them with any questions or concerns you might have. Also, if you are an inactive member, I would like you to contact me, and tell me if you can, why you're inactive. Maybe you live too far away from the track, or you're not sure what to do at an event. Whatever the case may be, I would like to know. Let me help you find your niche at an event. I'd be more than happy to help! I would also like to thank everyone that worked on, and came to, the Annual Banquet. It was good to see that corner workers do have other clothes besides white overalls, and believe it or not, grid people aren't really all green! Between the awesome eats, the awards for the drivers, and the socializing, it was a great time! The banquet committee is looking into holding our Banquet at English Hills Terrace again next year.
- I also want to encourage all members to come to our events and volunteer! There's something to do for everyone and it is very critical that we have enough workers to fully staff and hold a successful event. All areas from Tech, Timing & Scoring, Hospitality, Sound Control and even Flagging & Communications need all the help they can get to make our events happen, please take this seriously and come out and make West Michigan Region the best Race Region! Thanks!!!!

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2003 Central Division Officials

Executive Steward

Wally Sunderland
3990 Northview Terrace
Eagan, MN. 55123
651-994-0713
sundew@attbi.com

Deputy Executive Steward Area 4

Terrence Garrett
9292 East 131st Street
Fishers, IN. 46038
317-849-3543 hm
317-845-7381 fax
terrence_garrett@msn.com

Deputy Executive Steward Area 5

Bill Porter
622 Russet Lane
Mequon, WI. 53092
262-241-3867
wporter@tds.net

Safety Administrator

Rob Woolston
2080 Magnolia Avenue
St. Paul, MN. 55119
651-739-7837 hm
651-635-6756 wk
robert.woolston@unisys.com

Training Steward

Mike Engelke
40 Dove Avenue
Chilton, WI. 53014
920-849-7626 hm
920-431-3077 wk
meng@charter.net

Divisional Administrators

Scheduling

Liz Lowy
2036 S. 92nd Street #2
West Allis, WI. 53227
414-327-6033
Liz.Lowy@att.net

Registrar

Dorothy Harrington
340 Bellaire Road
Avon Lake, OH. 44012
440-933-8420
doubledlh@hotmail.com

Scrutineering

Bobbi Ross
4807 Stoneybrook Road
Cincinnati, OH. 45244
513-528-3232
rross@rcfc.com

Flagging & Communication

Tom Phillips
8053 Quailwood Court
West Chester, OH. 45069
513-777-0764
tomephillips@earthlink.net

Emergency Services

Dave Karling
2120 Sycamore
Hanover Park, IL. 60133
630-830-6452
dakarling@aol.com

Starters

Dee Greaves
1616 Venice
Dearborn, MI. 48124
313-593-0602
starterdee@yahoo.com

Race Control

Kathy Gall
14591 Mill Hollow Lane
Strongsville, OH. 44136
440-878-8989
rallye@ameritech.net

Sound Control

E. B. Lunken
9660 Cunningham Lane
Cincinnati, OH. 45243
513-831-9660

Assistant F & C

Ann Hefty
7811 Knoll Drive
Lino Lakes, MN. 55014
651-786-1164
ahefty@usfamily.net

Driver Licensing

Bob Lybarger
4929 West Abbington
McHenry, IL. 60050
815-344-2447
lre@compuserve.com

Timing and Scoring

Constance Peplowski
250 Chatham Way #143
Mayfield Heights, OH. 44124
440-442-4521
Times99@aol.com

National Car Numbers

Linda Breitenbach
5515 North Lotus Avenue
Chicago, IL. 60630
773-774-8602
TeamFuzz@email.msn.com

National Points

Mark Waggoner
3401 47th Ave. North #11
Brooklyn Center, MN. 55422
763-536-9558
m.waggoner@worldnet.att.net

Regional Points

Andy Welden
3414 Waterloo Drive
Indianapolis, IN. 46268
317-297-5474
a.welden@att.net

Medical

Dr. Jim Butler MD MPH
3513 Aspen Drive
Evansville, IN. 47711
812-499-4725
DrJWButler@FlightMD.com

Regional Champ Series

Phil Keirn
1660 East Cedar Mill
Columbia City, IN. 46725
260-244-3554
kmekeim@earthlink.com

Solo I Steward

Barry Burke
7718 Top Ridge Drive
West Chester, OH. 45069
513-777-8289 hm

Solo II Steward

Kent Weaver
4406 Cordell Drive
Kettering, OH. 45439
937-294-1315 hm
tiggerRacn@aol.com

Solo Safety Steward

Rick Swarts
9019 Split Tree Court
Indianapolis, IN. 46256-4389
317-842-5306
CMod73@aol.com

Solo Events Board Member

Marcus Merideth
33707 Glen Street
Westland, Mi. 48186-4595
734-722-5158
esp89@peoplepc.com

continued from previous page...

- Asst. R.E. REPORT: NONE
- TREASURER REPORT: Duane Bailey was unavailable this month.
- DIRECTOR AT LARGE: NONE
- SOLO: NONE
- PAST R.E. :NONE
- BACKFIRE EDITOR : Chris Peet would like anyone who has an article or ad for the backfire, to submit it no later than the 15th of the month. He also comments that the Backfire is going well and getting bigger with every issue. He also wonders what happened to the Solo people. If they want something in the backfire (like a schedule) please send it to him.
- OLD BUSINESS: Jim Brandt was at our meeting again and would like to remind everyone about the Cadillac Forest Rally that will be held on September 13, 2003 in Cadillac, Michigan. He's still looking for volunteers to help staff the event. He is also looking for Medical Personnel. To find out more about the rally there is a link on our website. Sue Bailey had mentioned that we are without a Timing and Scoring Chairperson since Betsy Ruszel is expecting a baby. She spoke with Connie Peplowski, and she has agreed to work our National event and is working on finding someone do work our Regionals for us. Thank you Sue for working on this for us! We are also in need of a Tech person that holds a National License, any volunteers?
- Last but certainly not least, Our next meeting will be April 12, 2003 @ 7:30 p.m. (note date... ed) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel 5700 28th st. S.E. WE WILL NOT BE IN THE BAR ! IT WILL BE IN THE MEETING ROOM THAT IT WAS IS BEFORE ! PLEASE DON'T FORGET THIS! Come out and socialize, have a sandwich and soda!! See you there!!! Until next time.

A motion was made by Kelly Petty to close the meeting , it was 2nd'ed by Dayle Frame. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

	DATE	SCHOOLS	REGIONALS	NATIONALS	PRO / OTHER	NATIONAL SOLO	REGIONAL SOLO
M A Y	3 - 4		ALL EVENTS ARE DOUBLES AND CHAMP SERIES EXCEPT WHERE NOTED BY d and / or c	BVR @ BLACK HAWK	VSCDA @ GINGERMAN		
	10 - 11						WMR @ SPARTA 5-11
	17 - 18				SVRA @ ROAD AMERICA		FTW @ GRISSOM AFB 5-18 SBR @ LAKE MI. COLLEGE 5-18
	24 - 25	Memorial Day Weekend	WMR @ GRATTAN	MIL/CHI/BVR @ BLACKHAWK		FTW @ GRISSOM AFB	DET @ THE PALACE 5-26 t
	31 - 1			OVR @ MID OHIO	CART @ MIL		
J U N E	7 - 8		MIL @ BLACKHAWK		AMA @ ROAD AMERICA	NAT. TOUR @ BAX GLOBAL	FURRIN GROUP @ WEST MICHIGAN AUTO 6-7
	14 - 15			DET / FTW @ GRATTAN	VSCDA @ BLACKHAWK		WMR @ TBD 6-14
	21 - 22		JUNE SPRINTS	CHI @ ROAD AMERICA	SVRA @ MID - OHIO	DET @ OSCODA	
	28 - 29	AREA 4 @ GINGERMAN	#AREA 4 @ GINGERMAN		GRAND AM @ MID - OHIO	PRO S2 @ OSCODA	SBR @ GRISSOM AFB 6 / 28 - 29
			MIL @ ROAD AMERICA				
J U L Y	4 - 5 - 6		BVR @ BLACKHAWK	INDY @ IND. RACE. PK.	CART @ CLEV +TRANS AM	N. TOUR @ GRISSOM AFB	
			CIN @ MID OHIO				
	12 - 13		SBR @ GINGERMAN	NEO @ NELSON LEDGES	CART @ TOR	SVR @ GREAT LAKES TECH CTR	WMR @ SPARTA H.S. 7-12
	19 - 20	NEO @ NL			BRIC @ ROAD AMERICA		FURRIN@ CRESTWOOD M.S. 7-19 SBR @ LK. MI. COLLEGE 7-20 DET @ VISTEON 7-20t
					AMA @ MID OHIO		
	26 - 27		DET @ WATERFORD	MIL @ ROAD AMERICA		OVR @ OHIO ST. UNV.	
A U G U S T	2 - 3		FTW @ MID - OHIO		CART @ RA	MIL @ MILLER PARK	WMR @ SPARTA H.S. 8-3
	9 - 10			WMR @ GRATTAN	CART @ MO SPEED W/C T	PRO SII @ GRISSOM AFB	
	16 - 17		CHI @ ROAD AMERICA		VSCDA @ GRATTAN	CENDIV CHAMPIONSHIP @ GRISSOM AFB	
	23 - 24				CART @ MONTREAL		WMR @ TBD 8-23 DET@COMPUWARE ARENA 8-23 t SBR @ TIRE RACK 8-24
					ALMS @ ROAD AMERICA		
	30 - 31	Labor Day Weekend	WMR/LSR @ GRATTAN (1)	NEO @ MID - OHIO	SCCA PRO @ GRATTAN	NWOR @ BAX GLOBAL	WMR @ GRATTAN 9-1 t
S E P T	6 - 7		OVR@MID OHIO d				
	9 - 12	SCCA TIRE RACK SOLO II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP @ TOPEKA					
	13 - 14	WMR CLUB RALLY @ CADILLAC					
	15 - 21	SCCA VALVOLINE RUNOFFS @ MID - OHIO					
	20 - 21				VSCDA @ ROAD AMERICA		SBR @ LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE 9-21
27 - 28						DET @ THE PALACE 9-28 t	
O C T	4 - 5		WOR @ MID - OHIO c			CIR @ CHANUTE AFB	
	11 - 12	NEO @ NL	CHI @ BLACKHAWK c				SBR @ TIRE RACK 10-12
	18 - 19	VSCDA@ MID OHIO					

Are You Ready?

Workers... With the season already underway, at least in some parts of the world, you may have had the chance to put your racing house in order. If you're like me, you haven't seen your gear since the runoffs. (All I needed for Sno*Drift was my whistle). Take some time before your first event and make sure what you think you have, matches what is actually there. Some while back, I wound up at the track without my... well let's just say clothing. A quick trip to the local Meijer's fixed the immediate problem, and making a checklist has fixed the long term problem. We select and pack what we need for each event from a master list of things we use for all the different types of events and specialties we work. Be it F&C, Grid, Tech, or Sob; and whether we're camping, in a hotel or returning home each night, our system makes it easy to pack only what's needed to suit each weekends needs. Take a few hours and prepare a list, it really helps. Nothing ruins a race weekend like not having what you need with you.

Make sure the family car is up to the task. You need to get there in order to have fun! Is the servicing up to date? Tires OK? Do you know how to get to the track, or how long it will take? Do you know when to be there? What time zone it's in? I don't know how many times I've heard someone say that they "thought" we started at 9am, when a check of the sups would have revealed the correct time. Don't have access to the internet? No problem; there is a list of contacts in this and every issue that would welcome a call from anyone wanting information on an event. I will personally find any information that anyone would need for any event you could possibly work, just give me a call.

Next, where are you going to work? Do you have the right equipment? Make sure last years gear is still up to the task. Be sure you have sun block, lip balm, bug spray, and whatever else you think you may need. An April event is quite different from a July event, (duh...). You may need long underwear and short sleeves... all in one day! Good shoes are a must, as most tracks are known for there gopher holes, so a good sturdy pair will be worth there weight. Are your nomex gloves still able to protect you, or did the mice get into your track bag during the winter? And how about that hat of yours? Protect your bean, use that hat!

Finally, it's time to rest. Where did you leave that chair, tent, and/or sleeping bag? Again, did any furry visitors make a home out of it during the winter? Was it raining at your last event last year, and did you remember to air it out last fall? How much of a camper are you? Do you bring it all, food, and all the requisite cooking gear. Or do you stumble out of your tent in search of the nearest set of golden arches? Is there a hotel in your future? Early booking is a must at almost all events. Mid-Ohio is a good example of a hard place to get a hotel if you wait too long, even for a regional!

So will we see you this year? We hope so. Even if you can only come to one event, even for one day, your service will be appreciated. More people = more fun.

Drivers... Now I'm not a driver ...yet, but I see the people who are ready and those who are not every time I work Grid. Well prepared drivers are calm and focused. Unprepared drivers are temperamental and nervous, not the best attitude for someone about to strap into a racecar. Again, preparation is the key; make checklists and use them every time. As a pilot I know the importance of a checklist. As an aircraft mechanic I've learned how to organize large projects, and have them ready on time. I find it works best to think backwards. If you have to be on the grid at 9:00am on May 24th, then you need to work a time line backwards from that point to allow you to get from that pile of parts you have on the floor in front of you now, to that 5 minute call on the grid a month (or less) from now.

Have Fun Safely. Don't succumb to "get to the track-itis". Take your time, if it's not ready, it's not ready. Saturday morning at the track is not the place to finish putting you car together. If it's unavoidable, make sure you take it easy on track. Take your time during practice to really shake out the car, and your brain. Remember, there are people all around you that will help you, all you need to do is ask. Did you torque those wheel nuts? Brakes bled and bedded in? Is the oil fresh, how about the filters? Just how old are those rains you haven't used? Did you have an agricultural experience last summer? Did you really look the car over good this winter? And how about that brain bucket, is it still in good shape, if it's older than Snell 95, it's time for a new one. Again, take your time, and if your just not ready, wait until you are. The last thing you want to see is me running towards you with a fire bottle. Seriously... you really don't want to see me run!

To all of you, please let us help you make your weekend as enjoyable as possible. If you have any problems, or need anything please let the officials know. Hope to see you out there. It's been a long winter, I can't wait .

Chris "Grid / Flagger / Tech weenie" Peet

Come out and join us
The WMR Memorial Day ^{*6}Fiesta^{*9} Regional
Grattan Raceway
May 24 and 25

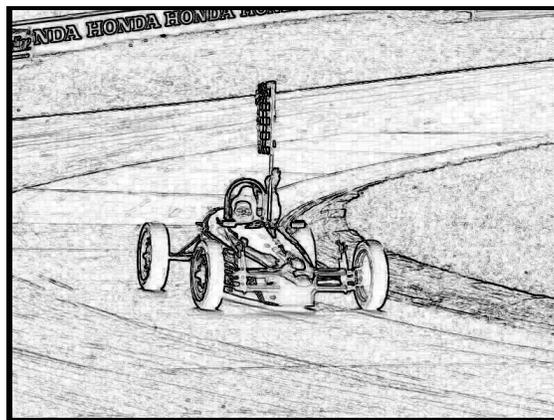
Part of the Central Division Champ Series
Presented in a Double Regional format

Sponsored by :
The Salvation Navy
Bob's House of Condiments
The Untied Dyslexic's Council
and
Bubba's "Near Meat" Burrito's
one bite and you'll be saying, "that nearly tastes like meat"

Aw come on out...it'll be fun!

and on a more serious note:

WMR Presents
The First Annual Ralph Ridge Memorial
Formula Vee Classic
Sunday May 25th
Honoring a good friend and true sportsman



Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

Next Meeting:

- May 10th, 2003 7:30 pm **The Last Meeting until October**
- Site: Crowne Plaza Hotel: in the restaurant.
- 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

Chris & Sue Peet
411 Garfield Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

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