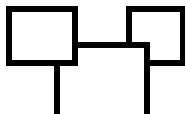




# BACKFIRE

A Publication for and by the Members of the Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

January / February 2004



**Congratulations are in order!  
Your WMR Member of the Year for 2003 is:**

**Jimmy Brandt**

For his dedication to the sport, and determination in making the 2003 Cadillac Forest Club Rally one of the best in the country. Thanks Jimmy from all of us.

**Here is a note from the “Sunny South” and a 43 Year Member to us in the “Cold Tundra”:**

Howdy!

I would sure like to be with all of the WMR mob again, but it just ain't in the cards. Not in this winter. Not from this distance. And (but never say “never”) not at my age ..... well-I-I, maybe sometime----but not this time.....Ninety, risin' ninety-one, makes a warm parlor more attractive than a cold highway.

But, be that as it may, you'all (sweet potato accent, please) have yo'selves a real pig-wrasslin' good time for the good ole Annual Meeting and Merry Moments!!!

And Christmas Greetings to ALL-----From

The Most Senior Course Marshal in the Region (and maybe in the SCCA—how do we know?)

**John Primm (Ocala, FL)**

John: We would welcome you to any of our meetings or events if you ever come north. Let us know if you do have plans. We can arrange a meeting around you. We would like to celebrate your time with us. Thanks and Take Care,

Your WMR Friends

# 2003 Western Michigan Region Officials

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\*cannot issue log books

## Sound Control

TBA

## Medical Officer

TBA

## Timing & Scoring

TBA

### Changes this month

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## WMR Celebrates our Members

### 40 Year Pin – Joined in 1963

**Bill Hallandal**                      **Bellaire, MI**

### 35 Year Pin – Joined in 1968

**Chuck D. Shapiro**                      **Grand Rapids, MI**

### 30 Year Pin – Joined in 1973

**Duane Bailey**                      **Byron Center, MI**

### 25 Year Pins – Joined in 1978

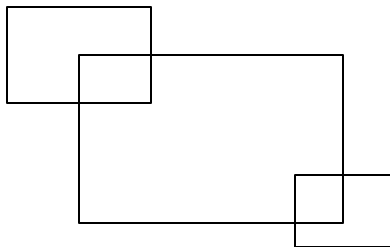
**Sue A. Bailey**                      **Byron Center, MI**  
**Thomas C Start**                      **Caledonia, MI**  
**Jimmy Brandt**                      **Lake Odessa, MI**

### 20 Year Pins - Joined in 1983

**Frederick J Hawley**                      **Okemos, MI**  
**Allan Tolle**                      **Ada, MI**

### 15 Year Pins – Joined in 1988

**John L Gregg**                      **Eaton Rapids, MI**  
**William J Johnson**                      **Tecumseh, MI**  
**Robert D. Lamoreaux**                      **Ann Arbor, MI**  
**Walt Nelson**                      **Hilton Head, SC**



### 10 Year Pins – Joined in 1993

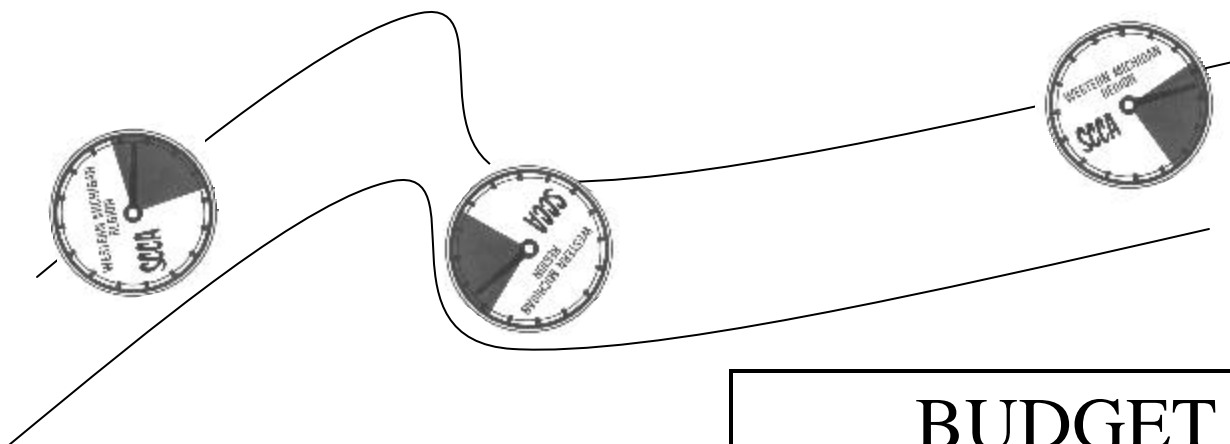
<b>Scott Desenberg</b>	<b>Buchanan, MI</b>
<b>Nick Devnick</b>	<b>Haslett, MI</b>
<b>Hank Fairchild</b>	<b>Sparta, MI</b>
<b>Jonathan Start</b>	<b>Caledonia, MI</b>
<b>Tim Thatcher</b>	<b>Rockford, MI</b>
<b>Gregory Bonzelaar</b>	<b>Fort Worth, TX</b>
<b>George A Fetzer JR</b>	<b>Jackson, MI</b>
<b>Leroy E. Orth</b>	<b>Mason, MI</b>
<b>Emily Ours</b>	<b>Marshall, MI</b>
<b>Jeff Secor</b>	<b>Hudsonville, MI</b>
<b>Stephen C Zelent</b>	<b>Toledo, OH</b>

### 5 Year Pins – Joined in 1998

<b>Henry N Adamson</b>	<b>Lake Forest, IL</b>
<b>June L Atsma</b>	<b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>
<b>Megan L. Atsma</b>	<b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>
<b>Judy Cull</b>	<b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>
<b>Davis L Dalton</b>	<b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>
<b>Eric C Downing</b>	<b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>
<b>Shane A Force</b>	<b>Grand Haven, MI</b>
<b>Dayle Frame</b>	<b>DeWitt, MI</b>
<b>Larry Furst</b>	<b>Fennville, MI</b>
<b>Robert G Hardin</b>	<b>Paw Paw, MI</b>
<b>B J Harrington</b>	<b>Grand Ledge, MI</b>
<b>Jeff Janus</b>	<b>Rockford, MI</b>
<b>Kay Janus</b>	<b>Rockford, MI</b>
<b>Christopher Peet</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, MI</b>
<b>Sarah Peet</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, MI</b>
<b>Susan Peet</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, MI</b>
<b>David Reid</b>	<b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>
<b>Robert R Ruszel JR</b>	<b>Portage, IN</b>
<b>Dan Schonberg</b>	<b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>
<b>Todd C Schumacher</b>	<b>Sand Lake, MI</b>
<b>Cody Thon</b>	<b>Mason, MI</b>
<b>Danton Thon</b>	<b>Mason, MI</b>
<b>John Thon</b>	<b>Mason, MI</b>
<b>Sharon Kay Thon</b>	<b>Mason, MI</b>
<b>Alan J VanderHulst</b>	<b>West Olive, MI</b>

### This month's notes:

- Note the changes to the Officials page.
- Looking for some winter fun? Check out the Ice Run on Saginaw Bay Feb 14 ; 28 and Mar 7 For more info contact the organizers @ 989-695-6731.
- Looking to learn more about Racing? Ne-Ohio Region is holding a Clinic on March 20 at the IX Center in Cleveland. There will be three tracks; Beginner, Advanced; and Solo. They will be building a Spec Miata, which will be auctioned off at the 12 hour of Nelson Ledges July 23 thru 25. For more info contact : NeOhio Region at neohio-scca.org, or Sherrie Weitzenhoff at sweitzenhoff@aol.com / 330-666-2627 before 9pm or Connie Peplowski at times99@earthlink.net.
- Please take note of the date swap for our August and September races. The Labor Day event is now a National.
- Spring Training is coming March 6 and 7 in Indy at the Brickyard Crossings.
- As in past years, we are in need of people in many worker specialties. Our big need is for Fire and Rescue and Course control, along with our perennial need for T&S, Tech, Pit and F&C people.
- Note the Location change for our monthly meetings. Feb 14, Mar 13, Apr 10, and May 8 we will be meeting at the Days Inn; 5500 28th St SE. in Grand Rapids, just East of I-96. 2nd Floor, Thornapple Room. Phone # 616-949-8400.



## BUDGET

### AUTO PARTS

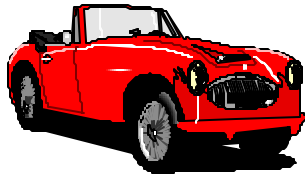
1955 TURNER  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
M -F 8AM—5 PM  
SAT 9AM—2 PM  
616-364-4544

Owner : Jim Gepford

### TOWING, INC.

TIRE CHANGES  
JUMP STARTS  
UNLOCKS  
616-249-9244

Accounting :  
Becky Blattner



# WAYNE'S WORLD

Well this looks as if we might have another great year here in WMR-SCCA. Things are coming around faster and better already now that we have a schedule and starting to plan out all of our events already.

We just had the WMR Banquet last Saturday night and 47 people showed up to enjoy the food and get together. Everyone had a good time. There were plenty of gifts to give away and more awards handed out during the evening. Thanks to Sue and Duane Bailey and Kendra and Phil Green. They sure know how to get the job done and make things work out right. THANKS to them we had a good time.

Now to introduce to you your 2004 WMR - SCCA Board

RE – Wayne I Rogers

Asst RE – Phil Green

Treasurer – Duane Bailey

Secretary – Kelly Petty

Director At Large – Dayle Frame

Past RE – Bruce Beauvais

Past RE – Kent Williamson

This weekend January 16, 17, and 18<sup>th</sup> will be the AutoRama downtown Grand Rapids. WMR will have 5 cars this year in our area. There will be 1 Solo II car, 1 Rally car, and 3 Roar Race cars on display. There will be more about this in the next newsletter. With such a short notice about what we could do this should be a fun weekend in the new Devos Center. Maybe we can build on this show and do even better for next year.

The Sno\*Drift Pro Rally will also be at the end of January in Atlanta, MI. Hope to see all of you that always make it up there for that event. Maybe this year there will be some SNOW up there to play in for a change.

The race schedule will be in this Backfire for all of you to see what events you can come out to and work or race in. There will also be some information in this issue or the next one on the Solo and Rally events coming up for 2004.

Please note the change for this year at Grattan Raceway. We will be having our second Double Regional event on August 7/8 and the National will be on Labor Day weekend. These changes were done to keep from having 2 Nationals back to back. Our National would have been one week before the National at Mid Ohio. So note these changes and we hope to see all of you there.

I hope to have a lot more for the next Backfire after these two weekends coming up.

Also remember the Spring Training Session will be on March 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> in the city of Indy. at the Brickyard Crossing. Nice place, out front of the 500 Race Track. The meeting rooms are in the main building beside the motel.

I guess this will be all for now. I will see some of you in the weeks to come and the rest of you in a couple of months at the tracks. Keep warm, stay out of the snow banks and don't make to many snow angels. Look around in the snow for some more helpers that might be interested in working some of the WMR events.

Till next time,  
Your RE – Wayne I Rogers

## WMR Tech Notes

Hello to all you racers out there, it's almost racing season ... OK it's the middle of winter but you have to be positive, right? First of all let me introduce myself. For those of you who haven't met me, I'm Chris Peet, the newest Techie for WMR. I've spent the last few years working with some of the area's best Scrutineer's, and although I have a lot to learn, I'm ready to help you have a better day at the track.

I'm approaching my duties with a "customer service" attitude. Again, I'm here to *help* you, not to be an obstacle that you must endure. In this I also need your help. I would like to do most of my annuals off track if possible. For those unable to do so, please let me know prior to the event so I can be ready. We have a Tech day in the works for March, watch for the date in next months Backfire.

The best way to get thru Tech is to be prepared. Know your car, as it applies to the GCR. Make sure your tech sheet is filled out completely. Relax... remember, this is supposed to be fun.

This year the focus is on belts. Please make sure that your harness meets the new reg's. I would hate to have you come out and be giggered at the track for out of date belts. Belts are good until Dec 31 - 2 years from the date of manufacture. So any belt made before Jan 02 is unusable. You may be able to recoup some of your cash by offering your old belts to our Solo friends. Same goes for your old helmets, extra lids at a solo event is a good thing. For those of you that use a Hans device, be aware that there is a recommendation by the comp board to allow FIA 2" belts to be used in conjunction with the Hans, effective 1/1/05. Please contact the board with your comments.

Fuel ports are another area that we need to address. There was an incident at Mid-O last year where the cell made it thru the impact intact, but the placement, and /or type of port allowed it to fail, causing a big leak. Do yourself a favor, make sure your port is in a safe place.

And in a related area, check your fire bottles. We had a few empty, or out of date bottles last year. Weight is the only positive way to check a bottle, and please check your actuation systems. Nothing could be worse than pulling the handle only to have it come off in your hand. And another thing from the Grid guy in me... pull your safety pins on the grid at the 3, they are required to be armed prior to entering the track.

Please feel free to contact me at: [repeet68racing@aol.com](mailto:repeet68racing@aol.com) / 269-343-6105 hm / 269-969-8400 wk / 269-330-0182 c

**Greens and Checkers**

**Chris Peet**

# Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

**Next Meeting: Feb 14th 7:00pm New Location**

**Days Inn ; Thornapple Room ; 2nd Floor**

**5500 28th Street SE Grand Rapids, Mi. 49512**

**616-949-8400**

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

## WMR-SCCA Backfire

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