



**SCCA**  
Sports Car Club of America



# BACKFIRE

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

**May, 2005**



Good news:  
It's *finally*  
racing  
season.



Bad news:  
It snowed  
on the INR  
national.



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### 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, pictures 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: Dayle & Melinda Frame, 703 Pine Ridge Drive, DeWitt, MI 48820 or to backfire@wmr-scca.org.

# Phil's Phensy

Race season is upon us. I don't think Mother Nature got the message in time for Gingerman though. If you weren't at the Gingerman National put on by Indiana Northwest Region, you missed what would hopefully be a once in a lifetime event. On Sunday, race day, the track had about 4 inches of slushy snow covering it. There were snowmen in the paddock and even one manning the yellow flags at turn 10 later. The Chief Steward, along with some other clever people, twisted the GCR as much as possible to get the competitors a "finish" and some national points. The races were shortened to 30 minutes, like they would do a rain race. Then using the logic of 1/2 distance makes a "legal" race, they were shortened to 15 minutes. All races were run behind a pace car under full course yellow. This made the most sense for all involved. Driver's went home with points and a finish. There are photos posted on our website at [www.wmr-scca.org](http://www.wmr-scca.org) and on INR's website at [www.inr-scca.org](http://www.inr-scca.org).

With that mess over, we are looking forward to beautiful weather for Memorial Day weekend for Western Michigan Region's annual double regional at Grattan. If you are a WMR member, I would like to invite you out to this event. You can sign in as a guest in Registration and enjoy the weekend without the usual \$10 charge. Double regional schedule is typically qualifying in the morning, then races in the afternoon. Both Saturday and Sunday schedules are very similar. For more schedule information, go to our website at [www.wmr-scca.org](http://www.wmr-scca.org) and download an entry form. The entry will have all of the schedule information in it. If you have any questions, feel free to call me or Kendra at 616-875-8992. Come on out and enjoy the races!

Phil Green

## Off the Cuff

Solo! It is coming together. I was pleased to see Solo people at the recent WMR meeting. RJ Pruitt and Paulis Austrins are going to share the chair role for the Solo group, with help from Bruce Beauvais, his wife Sue and the Furrin group. This will make for a good year. I would recommend to any and all to try their hand at a Solo event. It will give you a new appreciation for the sport. A Solo event is a perfect place for a new driver to learn the skill of car handling. The event can be entered by all over 16 and a street car can be used. The SCCA has started new competition events for Solo drivers. WMR and the new Solo chair persons will be

investigating these events and may in the future include some of these in Solo competitions. A new Solo event schedule will be coming soon to the web site. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all to participate in this year's WMR events. Take the time to smell the burnt rubber and clutch material. Nothing like burnt rubber in the morning! WMR is a club here to serve its members. If you have any ideas that can make the Club better, please speak up. The more ideas that come forward, the more activities we can have. I believe that there are a large group of members out there that are missing a lot of fun. All you have to do is to show up at an event and identify yourself and the club will do all it can to ensure that you have a good time!

Steve Brown  
Assistant RE

## Wayne's World

First, I want to apologize to everyone for not getting my article into the Backfire the past couple of issues. I had a few things going on and working 24/7 hasn't been much fun. But now I think I have things in place, and I should be able to continue my articles in the Backfire again.

I hope to see all of you at the races this summer. I hope the weather will be as good for us to start out our season as it was for us at the Berlin races in Marne this weekend. Sunny and lots of cars to make things interesting. This should be a good year for all of us and the drivers as well.

Western Michigan Region and all of our neighboring regions will be working together again to make this a safe and fun year. I hope that we get to work with some of our Rally and Solo II members at a few of the events this year. We all need to see if we can get out to a few of the other events that go on within the regions. This includes Solo II and whatever the Rally people need help with.

INR will be hosting our first National Race of the season this weekend at Gingerman. I have been talking with my Course Control and Fire and Rescue workers, and it looks as if we will be well staffed in those areas. I hope that the rest of the specialties will be as lucky. If this Backfire issue comes out after the INR race, I hope to see you at the VSCDA Race the following weekend. That will be a three day event again this year. Come on out and help, enjoy all the great food that the VSCDA provides and most of all enjoy all of the great old cars.

Remember to bring along a friend to the races this year. I think that if we could do this, then we might get a few new workers who could enjoy doing what all of us love to do during the summer months. And, for a few of us, even extend the fun into the winter months at times.

I have to go for now, but remember when you see Phil Green and Steve Brown during the summer stop them and let the boys know what a good job they are doing. I know they would like to hear it from you.

See you soon at the races and in the next issue.

Your past RE and Wreckless Driver,

Wayne Rogers

# Solo Update

I was asked to get something written to include this month to update you all on the WMR Solo Program. Here goes.

As many of you know Matt Malicki stepped down from his position as WMR Solo Manager. Even before this time I had planned to step up and help out as much as possible for the coming season. Well, now I have stepped up to the position Matt left vacant.

I guess first and foremost most people are wondering if the WMR is going to be hosting any autocrosses this year. Yes, we are. It will be a transition year, yet we are still planning on running the staple events at Sparta and Grattan. Dates have not been confirmed for any events at this point. However, the Grattan event is tentatively planned for the usual, Labor Day. Other than those two venues no other plans have been made. There has been some talk about getting new venues and trying to use some that have been used in the past. At this point it is my goal to get through this year using only existing and known venues that are known to work well for us. What that basically means is that we will more than likely only run about three events this year. My goal is to pick up at least one event other than one at Sparta and the Grattan event. My first thought would be to try and use the Wings Stadium in Kalamazoo again. Any feedback you have on that or other venues would be appreciated.

I really can't go much further without mentioning all the support that I have gotten in getting this process started. Thank you all for helping so far. We have a long way to go to get the WMR Solo program to where it could be though. Please be patient and help out as we work towards making all of our events as good and memorable as possible.

If you would like to keep up to date on the latest developments the best place to check or ask is at the WMAS (West Michigan Autocross Series) Yahoo group. This is a joint effort between the Furrin Group and the WMR. The web address is as follows:

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/wmas/>

Please feel free to visit there and join and post any questions or comments that you may have. Or you can e-mail me directly (contact info on page two).

Thanks,  
R. J. Pruitt

# Secretary's Report

Hello Everyone!

I hope that this message finds you all in good health and enjoying the beautiful weather that we've been blessed with. Hopefully it will carry through to our race weekends as well. Speaking of races, the first one being held in our region will be the I.N.R. Nationals at Gingerman Raceway . The host region being Indiana Northwest Region. The race date is April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.

Our first event is, of course, the Memorial Weekend Double Regional which is held at Grattan Raceway. The date for this is May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. I don't know about you but I can't wait to smell the racing fuel and rubber burning, and see all my racing buddies again! To hear the grid whistles and revving motors AAAAHHHHH! Then to complete it all, to turn on the two-way and here that Verne has everything under control! Yes it's finally racing season!!!

There is one other thing I'd like to mention, during the off season I managed to net a fairly decent job. Unfortunately this said job requires that I work every other weekend. I will soon have vacation time to use on race weekends but unfortunately have missed a couple of our monthly meetings and have not been able to report the meeting to you, the members. Fortunately there are people like Judy Brown who stepped up to the plate and played secretary in my absence. Thank You Judy for helping me to keep our members informed of what happens at the meetings. You are greatly appreciated. Thank you again.

There is one other thing I'd like to mention and that is the open invitation to all members and their friends to come out to the events that we put on and see what they are about. At least come out and watch a few races. We want to share the fun! My husband and I have been working along side Wayne Rogers as Course Marshals for six years. This season is our seventh and we love it!! So come out, it's free if you show your membership card to the gals in registration. How can anyone resist free fun!! Be sure to come by Course Control and say hello! Until next time.

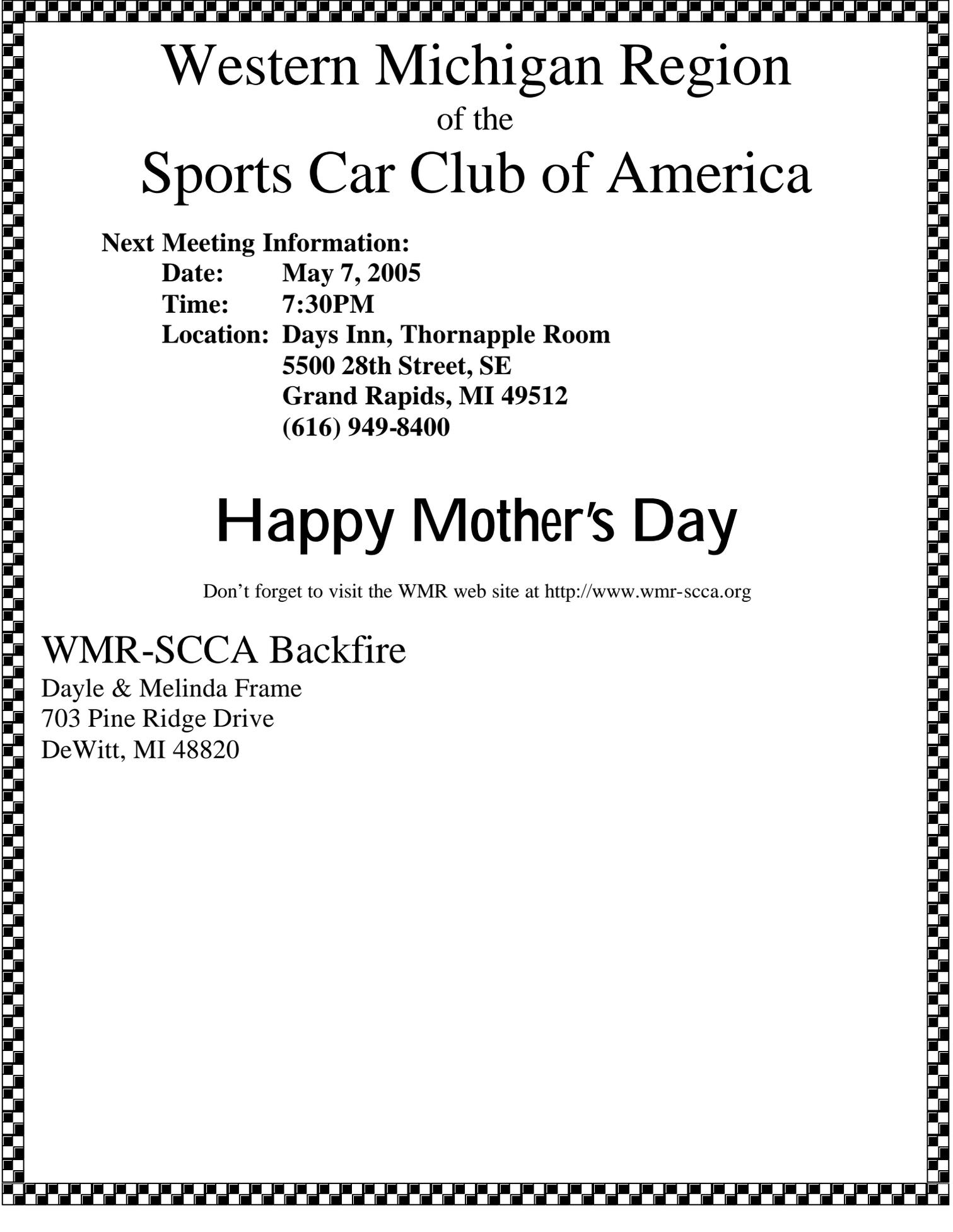
Kelly Petty

Secretary/Membership Chairperson

# 2005 CenDiv Club Racing Schedule

Date	Driver's Schools	Regionals	Nationals	Other
4/23, 4/24	Quad@BHF (D)	Quad @ BHF	INR @ GM	
4/30 - 5/1	DET/WHRRI @ WAT		BVR @ BHF	VSCDA @ GM
5/7, 5/8		INDY @ IRP (D, C4)		
5/14, 5/15	NEO @ NL		DET/FWR @ GRA	SVRA @ RA
5/21, 5/22			MIL @ BHF	ALMS @ MO
5/28, 5/29		WMR @ GRA (D, C4)		
6/4, 6/5		MIL @ BHF (D)	OVR @ MO	AMA @ RA
6/11, 6/12				
6/18, 6/19		MIL @ RA (D)		F1 @ IMS
		SBR @ GM (D, C4)		VSCDA @ BHF
6/24 - 6/26			CHI @ RA	
7/2, 7/3		CINCY @ MO (D, C4)	INDY @ IRP	
7/9, 7/10		BVR @ BHF (D)		
		NEO @ NL (D, C4)		
7/16, 7/17		DET/WHRRI @ WAT		BRIC @ RA
7/23, 7/24		MIL @ RA (R)	MIL @ RA	
		NEO @ NL (R, E)		
7/30, 7/31		FWR @ MO (D, C4)		
		CHI @ ABJ		
8/6, 8/7		WOR @ MO (D, C4)		
8/13, 8/14		CHI @ RA (D)	WMR @ GRA	
8/19 - 8/21			NEO @ MO	VSCDA @ GRA
				ALMS @ RA
				ASA @ MM
9/3, 9/4		WMR/LSR @ GRA (D, C4)		MWSCC @ GM
		MIL @ MM (D)		
9/10, 9/11		OVR @ MO (D, C4)		
9/17, 9/18				VSCDA @ RA
9/19 - 9/25			RUNOFFS @ MO	
10/8, 10/9		CHI @ BHF		
10/15, 10/16				VSCDA @ MO
ABJ = Autobahn Joliet / BHF = Blackhawk Farms / GM = Gingerman / GRA = Grattan Raceway / IRP = Indianapolis Raceway Park				
MO = Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course / MM = Milwaukee Mile / NL = Nelson Ledges / RA = Road America / WAT = Waterford Hills				

- This schedule is tentative. It may, and probably will, change. Look for updates on the CenDiv website (<http://www.cendiv-scca.org/>).
- (%) = Area 4 regions involved are DET, FWR, SBR, INR and WMR
- D = double regional; R = restricted regional; C4 = CenDiv East Regional Champ Series event; T = tentative; E = enduro



# Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

**Next Meeting Information:**

**Date:** May 7, 2005

**Time:** 7:30PM

**Location:** Days Inn, Thornapple Room  
5500 28th Street, SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512  
(616) 949-8400

## Happy Mother's Day

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

**WMR-SCCA Backfire**

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