



BACKFIRE

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

November, 2005

WMR goes to the Runoffs®



Crisenberg



Vinkemulder



Start



Frame



McDermid



McClore



Knupp



Weidner



Futcher



Edwards

Eleven drivers from WMR competed at the 2005 Runoffs.



Cambern

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- changes made this month

\$\$\$ - divisional only, cannot issue
logbooks

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 exp letives. 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 webmaster@wmr-scca.org

RE Report: Phil's Philes

Racing season is finally over, and before you know it the snow will be here. This was a great year for many reasons. First, I want to thank everyone who helped put on all of our events. We couldn't have done it without you! Western Michigan Region put on three great race events and some great Solo II events.

As always, we are looking for some help in many areas. This is a club and we need some help from some club members to make things better, without burning out the ones who are doing all the work. There are a lot of off-season activities that need to get done as well. If you have an interest in getting involved in your club, give me a call or an email. My contact info is in the front of this publication.

Looking forward to next year, the race schedule is starting to form. It is supposed to be set at the CenDiv Roundtable on November 5th. If you would like to learn more about how different things work in the club, I urge you to attend this annual meeting. This year, it will be in Milwaukee. More information is on the Central Division website at www.cendiv-scca.org. From an early look at the schedule, next year will be a busy year for area workers. There will be additional races at Gingerman, including the return of the Michiana Driver's School.

Western Michigan Region's typical 3 events will go unchanged for 2006. We are set for Double Regionals on both Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, along with the National in August. Hope to see you there! If you have any promotional ideas, please let me know. It would be nice to get some spectators and interested folks to come out.

WMR faired pretty well this year at the Runoffs. For a region with approximately 360 members, 11 drivers from WMR competed at the Runoffs. Seven of those drivers qualified in the top 10 in their class, and eight finished their race in the top 10! Congratulations to those drivers!

And finally, for those of you who didn't know, we traveled to Ukraine this summer to adopt our daughter. We spent four weeks in Ukraine and came home July 14 with our six year old little girl, Dasha. She is adapting wonderfully. Our entire story is online at www.philgreen.blog-city.com if you are interested.

Phil Green

Assistant RE Report: Off the Cuff

I want to take the time to thank, in be half of WMR to R.J. and Paulis for doing a bang up job with the Solo events. Thank you, guys. To all that worked and help to make the Solo year successful, thanks. We are trying to expand the number of events for next year.

I want to express to our Solo people how important it is to come to the meetings and give the board their thoughts and wishes for the future. Without this input, WMR will not know or understand the needs for this form of racing. SCCA is working on a new form of competition that will allow street cars to have a new form of competition on the track. This would be worked into the regional race events. This will take input from people that do Solo and want to do Solo. There are a great deal of new things that can be done if we all work together.

I want to ask the WMR members if they would like programs at the meetings? What I had in mind is race set up, tire options, body and paint work shop. Solo drivers and the ins and outs of that, wheel to wheel driver experience, and so on. Let the board members know how you feel. See ya at the next meeting.

Steve Brown

Solo Report

First off I would like to thank everybody who helped with the Solo II season this year. I'm not going to name anybody because I'm sure I would forget a few names. You know who you are, so thanks to you. Also thanks should go out to all those that competed. If it were not for the participants, there would be no events, so thanks to you all as well.

Even with the late start we were able to pull off three successful events; Wings Stadium in Kalamazoo, Sparta High School in Sparta, and of course the finale at Grattan Raceway in Belding. The Kalamazoo event went quite well, even if the heat was oppressive, and the surface was... slick... to say the least. At least the rain held off till the trophy presentations. Everybody seemed to have a good time.

The Sparta events are always some of my favorites. Its not because of the speed, or competition, but exactly for the lack of it. Sparta is a small lot, which necessitates a tight, technical course. But the real fun for me is the fact that everybody seems to be there to have fun, oh and maybe do some racing too. This always seems to lead to a very laid back atmosphere, which I enjoy. If you are thinking about starting to run Solo II events, I think Sparta would be a great place to start.

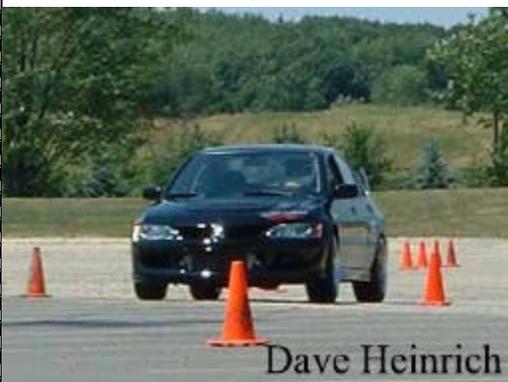
At the opposite end of the spectrum is the event at Grattan. With lots of people, lots of speed, and a long course, Grattan makes for some excellent driving, and lots of competition. Fortunately, nobody had to fill out any incident reports this year, which means everybody had a safe event. Even though there were some timing issues in the first heat (which cut the number of runs to three each), I think everybody had a good time, and saw some amazing speeds on the long straight.

For the '06 season we are looking forward to running events again at Wings Stadium, and Grattan. R.J. is exploring some leads on larger lots in the Grand Rapids area, but if those don't pan out, then we will be back at Sparta. We are also looking to work with the MSU Racing team to bring one or two events to the east side of the region.

For details on upcoming events keep watching the Backfire, the WMR web site (<http://www.wmr-scca.org/>), or our internet group at <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/wmas/>.

Paulis Astrins

WMR Goes to the Solo Nationals



Dave Heinrich

Two WMR members went to the Solo National championships in Topeka, KS and acquitted themselves very well. Congratulations to both of them.



Jeff Finkbeiner

Driver Name	Car Class	Finishing Position
Dave Heinrich	Street Touring Ultra	9 th
Jeff Finkbeiner	Street Modified 2	26 th

WMR at the Runoffs®

While your editor was driving his car at the Runoffs (albeit poorly), as usual, I saw plenty of familiar faces and tried to thank everyone for showing up and helping out. In addition to the WMR worker force, several drivers from WMR were in also participants. While I knew most of them and tried to keep up with how they were doing during the week, it was difficult as we were pretty busy with our own issues all week (we'll go into that at a later date).

Driver Name	Car Class	Qualifying Position	Finishing Position
Chris Crisenbery	H Production	2 nd	2 nd
Dayle Frame	H Production	17 th	19 th
Lance Knupp	Touring 1	5 th	3 rd
Tom Edwards	Formula 500	11 th	7 th
Jason Vinkemulder	Formula Mazda	6 th	5 th
Andy McDermid	American Sedan	4 th	2 nd
Craig Weidner	American Sedan	18 th	9 th
Jonathan Start	Showroom Stock C	10 th	9 th
Paul McClorey	Formula V	30 th	15 th
Rob Fletcher	F Production	8 th	33 rd
Clark Cambern	Formula Ford	4 th	3 rd

That being said, it was quite a pleasant surprise when I collated the results for the WMR team. Of the eleven drivers from WMR, seven of us qualified in the top ten. We also had eight drivers finish in the top ten. Most impressive (I think), is that nine of us finished higher than we qualified. I was one of the other two. IAs for me, it rained shortly before our race and I spun three times. The other driver was bumped off course on the first lap and sustained some damage that eventually lead to two pit stops to repair. These podium stampeding efforts included a 30th to 15th charge in the always competitive FV race by Paul McClorey. Among those eight top ten finishes were a pair each of seconds and thirds. I would hazard a guess that for region of this size, we had the best average finish for the drivers that competed (despite this author's poor performance).

All who participated deserve a big hand and a pat on the back. I know that I am very impressed and I think our membership should be as well. Please note the names in the table above so you can follow along as you watch the Runoffs coverage on SpeedTV (see below for the broadcast schedule).

Dayle Frame

SpeedTV Runoffs® broadcast schedule

H Production	11/13 @ 1PM	Formula 500	12/3 @ 1PM	Showroom Stock C	12/17 @ 1PM
C Sports Racing	11/13 @ 2PM	Touring 2	12/3 @ 2PM	Formula V	12/17 @ 2PM
Showroom Stock B	11/20 @ 1PM	Formula Mazda	12/4 @ 1PM	F Production	12/18 @ 1PM
Sports 2000	11/20 @ 2PM	American Sedan	12/4 @ 2PM	Grand Touring 3	12/18 @ 2PM
Grand Touring Lite	11/26 @ 1PM	Formula Continental	12/10 @ 1PM	Formula Ford	12/24 @ 1PM
Touring 1	11/26 @ 2PM	D Sports Racing	12/10 @ 2PM	Spec Racer Ford	12/24 @ 2PM
G Production	11/27 @ 1PM	E Production	12/11 @ 1PM	Grand Touring 2	1/1 @ 1PM
Formula Atlantic	11/27 @ 2PM	Grand Touring 1	12/11 @ 2PM	-	-

Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

Next Meeting:

- Date: November 12th, 2005 at 7:30PM
- Site: Days Inn (Thornapple Room)
- Location: 5500 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 for the fun and visit with your friends

Happy Thanksgiving

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

WMR-SCCA Backfire

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