



**SCCA**

Sports Car Club of America



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.

**March, 2007**

## Member of the Year: Lorrie Wandell



### In this issue:

WMR Officials	p2	Wayne's World	p9
RE Report: Phil's Philes	p3, p4	Anniversaries	p9
Letter from the Editor	p4, p5	Help Wanted by Bruce Beauvais	p10
Solo Report by R.J. Pruitt	p5, p6	GLDiv Schedule	p11
Worker's Corner by Verne Wandell	p7, p8	Next meeting information	p12

# 2006 Western Michigan Region Officials

## Regional Executive

Phil Green  
8757 Woodwren Drive  
West Olive, MI 49460  
(616) 875-8992  
pwgreen@centurytel.net

## Assistant Regional Executive-###

### Manager of Solo

R.J. Pruitt  
4097 Sandy Ridge Court  
Dorr, MI 49323  
(616) 681-0218  
rupertjamal@yahoo.com

### Treasurer

### Club Racing Manager

### Competition Chairperson

Duane Bailey  
4609 76<sup>th</sup> 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  
frameh@msu.edu

### Director (Past RE)

### Radios

### Starter

Bruce Beauvais  
12974 Beardslee  
Greenville, MI 48868  
(616) 754-9583  
bsbeau@pathwaynet.com

### Director (Past RE)

### Race Control

Wayne Rogers  
1662 4 Mile Road  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
(616) 361-1163  
wrogers280z73@netzero.net

## Secretary (interim)-###

Sue Beauvais  
12974 Beardslee  
Greenville, MI 48868  
(616) 754-9583  
bsbeau@pathwaynet.com

## Membership Chairperson-###

Melinda Frame  
703 Pine Ridge Drive  
DeWitt, MI 48820  
(517) 889-1117  
framem@msu.edu

## Backfire Editors

Dayle & Melinda Frame  
703 Pine Ridge Drive  
DeWitt, MI 48820  
(517) 669-0035  
frameh@msu.edu  
framem@msu.edu

## Flagging & Communications

Verne Wandell  
125 South Kalamazoo Mall  
Suite #602  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
(269) 217-2489  
verne@valleyedit.com

## Timing & Scoring

Lorrie Wandell  
125 South Kalamazoo Mall  
Suite #602  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
(269) 217-2489  
lorrie@valleyedit.com

## Starter

Bobbe Orr  
629 West South Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
(616) 381-6317  
missclairol@access4less.net

## Fire & Rescue

Gary Bailey  
1445 Reeths Court  
Muskegon, MI 49445  
(231) 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

## Scrutineering

Chris Peet  
123 Sherwood Drive  
Battle Creek, MI 49015  
(269) 963-0602  
repeet68racing@aol.com

## Registrar

Kendra Green  
8757 Woodwren Drive  
West Olive, MI 49460  
(616) 875-8992  
pwgreen@centurytel.net

## Sound Control

TBA

## Medical Officer

TBA

## Pit Lane

TBA

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

## RE Report: Phil's Philes

First I must apologize for the silence over the last few months. Seems that everyone just had plates that were too full with usual life and the membership meetings just didn't happen. Same goes for the Backfire and Banquet. I'm as guilty as anyone for not sending Dayle anything to add for the Backfire. I will say that there was only a couple of inquiries to the BOD. I sure hope this isn't a sign that our membership is becoming disinterested.

It has recently come to my attention that our Bylaws are in need of some attention. Seems that they were last revised in the 1980s. Technology has changed, and this needs to be reflected in our Bylaws. I would prefer that we get some help from the membership to form a committee to review and propose changes to the current Bylaws. We will have more on this soon. Many thanks to Dayle and Melinda Frame for organizing and retyping the original document to make it more email friendly. Please be patient, this could take some time. Especially during this time of the year as race season quickly approaches.

Race season is almost upon us. We are deep in the process of preparing for our racing season. We have some new ideas in the works for both the Memorial Day weekend Regional and the Labor Day Regional. I can't go into details yet, as we don't have the details complete nor approvals yet at this time. Hopefully within the next month this will change and I can give you all the details, at least for the Memorial Day weekend race. Should be an exciting racing year.

We will be a bit more shorthanded this year than normal in some key areas. We all need to train our replacements. We need to train back up Chiefs in all specialties. If you haven't been out to a race lately, please come out to see what it's all about. We will be happy to help you get started.

**Member of the Year Award:** I am proud to announce that **Lorrie Wandell** has earned the Member of the Year Award for 2006. I could write paragraphs about what Lorrie has done for our club, but I think Verne Wandell said it best, and I would like to take a quote from him:

"Lorrie Wandell has been the chief of T&S for all 2006 WMR events. She has also been chief for one Detroit national, one INR national, one driver's school as well as was scheduled to be chief for the failed FWR event at GingerMan. Beside that she was chief for the VSCDA event at Grattan that was assisted by our region. She also assisted at the other local VSCDA event at and at the Indy national. All this might be considered par for the course if you did not take into account the delight of the stewards and the NA with the speed and accuracy of the results and the fact that it was her first year as chief and, as a matter of fact, her first full season in T&S.

Lorrie was a divisionally licensed corner worker for our region, assisting in many of the training duties, when she found out about our desperate need to have someone qualified to head up T&S. In the course of a single season, working with our region's personnel and with the NA of T&S she worked our events, traveled to other regions and clubs, learned the equipment and the skills, and gained the time and experience necessary to perform as chief for all the above-

## **RE Report: Phil's Philes (cont'd)**

named events.

In the middle of this season Lorrie made the personal decision to help an ailing co-worker by going through the testing and operation necessary to donate a kidney. She scheduled the operation so as to not interfere with her commitments to the club and, in fact, had her first race after surgery before she returned to work.

If you check with the chief and operating stewards of the races that Lorrie was in charge of I believe you will find them unanimously in agreement that Lorrie, indeed, represents everything that the club should hold as a standard of professionalism and personal commitment to one awarded the honor of worker of the year."

Thanks to all who helped out in 2006. Let's make 2007 even better!

See you at the track!

Phil Green  
Regional Executive

### **Letter from the Editor**

As Melinda and I compiled this edition of your Backfire, I was struck by a couple of things. One, there is a common theme (that I will amplify upon later in this article) about an urgent need for more volunteers to come out and support the club's events. And two, that the region has been coasting and we need to get the membership re-energized and more involved at all levels.

As for the first topic, Phil, R.J., Wayne and Verne all make valid points in their articles that worker attrition has claimed its toll over the years and volunteers are needed in all disciplines. Both Solo and Club Racing are in the same situation. I work F&C for Verne and know first hand that the issue is getting critical. The Great Lakes Division schedule (see page 11) has not changed much from our part of the CenDiv schedule of the past few years. But there are still a lot of events in our area that need our support. Whether its F&C, T&S, course control, pits, grid....they all need volunteers. I'm as guilty as anyone as I have never been to a Solo event to support them. That WILL change this summer. I am pledging to attend our Solo events and volunteer my services to help R.J. with this endeavor. I urge all members to evaluate their level of participation and contact one of us about how to serve. I know plenty of national racers that could work regional events and vice-versa. I see a membership list with almost 300 members so we shouldn't have trouble staffing our events. I know you'll have fun and meet like minded folks doing the same.

To address the second topic, I make the following observation: All of us joined this club for one reason or another. For most of us it was because we like race cars, the competition and the

## Letter from the Editor

social aspect of the club. Its time to look in the mirror, folks. Both those of us in leadership positions for not providing the guidance and the membership for not giving the leadership input on the course of the region. Our Club Racing and Solo schedules have been static. Mostly because we've had no feedback to the contrary. We cannot work in a vacuum. The actions of the Board should reflect the wishes of the membership. However, if the membership doesn't come forward with suggestions about meetings, events, etc., the leadership must act on its own. Any and all ideas about how to make this region stronger WILL be listened to. I challenge all members to come forth with valid suggestions as to the course of this region. Nominations for next year's Board will be needed and you may be the key to the future. Over the course of the next few months the Board will be grappling with several very important topics. Input will be needed. Will it be yours?

To that end, I ask that everybody consider coming to a General Membership Meeting. The Board needs your input and the only way to have constructive dialogue is face to face. Our meetings for the 2007 calendar year are as follows: March 10<sup>th</sup>; April 14<sup>th</sup>; May 5<sup>th</sup>; September 8<sup>th</sup>; October 6<sup>th</sup>; November 10<sup>th</sup>; December 8<sup>th</sup>. The good news is that after a couple of years of having multiple locations, all of these meetings will be at the same time and place (7:30 PM at the Days Inn in Grandville on 28th, SW near I-196) for the entire year. We had to move a couple of these from their traditional second Saturday of the month as races interfered with the May and October meetings. Thanks to Bruce Beauvais for locking the region in on these meetings so we have some continuity. As usual, WMR will supply pizza or subs and soda pop.

I'll get off my soapbox now. I thank you for your time. If you have any questions (on or off the record), please do not hesitate to contact me (see page 2 for contact information). Remember the Director at Large is the conduit to the Board from the members....use me.

Dayle Frame

WMR Director at Large / WMR Webmaster / WMR Backfire Editor / Great Lakes Division Webmaster / National Competition License / Divisional F&C License / Phil's Whipping Boy

And don't think you can get away from a Team Turtle update (and also because I had space to fill).....here is the winter project.....



## Solo Report

What is the state of the Solo program in the Western Michigan Region of the SCCA?

I have asked myself this question more times over the past few months than I can remember. I have yet to come up with a good answer.

I have come to one conclusion...I can't answer this question on my own.

If this the Solo program is going to exist at all we will need to get more member input, involvement and leadership.

If you have a desire to keep SCCA sanctioned Solo events in West Michigan, I need you to get in touch with me. We need people to fill some critical roles:

- ⇒ Event Chair People – We need people to step and help with the planning running and general activities for specific events.
- ⇒ Site Procurement – We need someone to be a liaison between the WMR and potential new solo sites.
- ⇒ Registrar- We need someone to manage registrations and payments for events. This person needs to be able to general questions about event and make sure that all participants are paid and properly registered.

These are just a few major needs right now. I have essentially done all of this and more for the past couple of seasons. This isn't to say I haven't had help from several individuals for the past couple of seasons as I surely have. I just really feel that there is a lack of interest in keeping good SCCA solo events active in this region.

As of right now I can only commit to planning and running a single event alone this season. What event this is and where it will take place is yet to be determined.

One thing I do know is that if there is a Solo event at Grattan this year it will be unlike any Solo events there in the past. The event will likely not be a Solo II event. We are looking at several possibilities as no one wants this event to die. In the current offerings of the SCCA there are possibilities, yet we will be more lim-

## Solo Report (cont'd)

ited on the number of participants and also the experience level of the participants.

The future of Solo events in general is in the hands of out members. I am dedicated to helping lead the charge to reinvigorate the WMR SCCA but I cannot do it alone.

Please contact me at [rupertjamal@yahoo.com](mailto:rupertjamal@yahoo.com) to get involved and informed. I will be planning a meeting to specifically address solo needs in the upcoming weeks. This meeting will likely coincide with a WMR general membership meeting. Please stayed tuned and alert for details on this.

R. J. Pruitt

Solo Manager / Assistant RE

## Worker's Corner

Another season is right around the corner and it's time to start thinking about how to handle the challenges and opportunities that await us. According to Ann Hefty, the national administrator for F&C, there is no change in the rules or protocols for flagging. There is, however, a change in the license renewal process. You will no longer need to submit your logbook (or copy of your logbook) with your renewal application. Instead you will be asked to list the events you worked in the specialty during the past year and check a box on the application form to certify that the information provided is true and accurate.

Folks from other regions in the division have proposed having the lead communicators get together to try to provide a common ground for consistent communications across the division. If you have any suggestions or comments, things you have heard and liked or not liked, please let me know so I can throw those suggestions into the conversation. You can always contact me through email at [flag-chief@valleyedit.com](mailto:flag-chief@valleyedit.com). I check mail on a very regular basis.

Recruitment and retention have to be most important on all of our minds this year. This year a job change is going to keep one of our most valued workers from being with us as much as we have come to expect. William Tomscheck is going back to school to study to become a Microsoft certified IT specialist. He is going to commit all the time to us that he can but will, of necessity, be unavailable for many local events. I hope you join me in wishing William well in his endeavor.

In past seasons we have counted on supplementing our small (but capable) work force with those from other regions. In turn we have helped many regions

## Worker's Corner (cont'd)

out who use our local track. While the separation of the old Central Division into two divisions will have a little impact on our ability to draw from outside our region, the anticipated loss to pro events is significant. Following is a list of local events and the competition for our time and services.

- The INR national at GingerMan on April 28 and 29 is up against the Quad school involving 4 regions in CenDiv at Blackhawk Farms. This is no change from last year.
- The VSCDA driver's school at GingerMan on May fifth and sixth is up against the BVR national at Blackhawk.
- Our Memorial weekend double at Grattan, May twenty sixth and seventh remains in the clear as does the Detroit/ Fort Wayne national at Grattan May twelfth and thirteenth.
- The Fort Wayne regional scheduled for July 28 and 29 at GingerMan is up against the Cat National at RA.
- The WMR national, scheduled for 8/11 and 12 at Grattan is scheduled against a Cincinnati regional at Mid-O and the Champ Car/ALMS race at Road America.
- The following weekend the VSDA race at Grattan is in the clear.
- South Bend's national at GingerMan on August 28 and 29 competes with a Chicago regional at RA and the 24 hour race at Nelson Ledges.
- Finally, our double regional at Grattan over Labor Day weekend is up against the return of the Detroit Grand Prix featuring IRL and ALMS at Belle Isle.

As you can see we have a full schedule with lots of competition but we do have the wherewithal to make this another highly successful season. First, make sure you get out and support the other regions as they come through our area. Secondly go to one friend and tell them what we do and how much you enjoy it. We participate in one of the greatest amateur sports in the world and week in and week out we have the best seats in the house. Let your enthusiasm be your selling point. We need fresh blood in our ranks and there is no reason, given the population of West Michigan and its enjoyment of motor sports, that we cannot become self-sufficient this year.

Don't forget Spring Training for all specialties is in Toledo this year on March 3. If you haven't planned to go please reconsider.

Verne Wandell  
WMR F&C Chief

## **Wayne's World**

This will be the first time I have done this in a couple of years. And I have to admit that I am a couple of years behind in doing so.

As of this week I will be looking for help in Course Control. Our group has dropped in numbers the past couple of years due to other interests and those moving on to other areas in the region.

We have a good group of people working with us and we need even more people to step up and bring along a vehicle to help out with flat towing vehicles back in from the track and helping with cleanup of cars and most of oil and liquid spills. I don't care if you have never done anything like this before. We will be glad to help you through the learning stage and before you know it you will be looking for others to come and learn what it is all about.

WMR will need a lot of help in many areas this coming racing season. If you or anyone you know might be interested in getting involved just contact me at 616.292.0714. I will get you into the right place you might want to work or at least try to see if it is something you would to try. We welcome everyone and I will try to do my best to see that you will find the right place you can help out the most.

WMR is in need of your help and only you can help make the difference. Do you want to come out and try?

Wayne I. Rogers  
Past RE and Chief of Course Control  
Also "someone that cares"

## **Anniversaries**

Congratulations to the following WMR members who celebrated membership anniversaries last month:

One Year: Joshua Heinrich, Kelly Mason, Heidi Alexa  
Five Years: Paul McClorey, Carola Basaj, Steve and Charlene DeLoof  
Ten Years: Mark Wilsdon, Christopher Fortune  
Twenty Years: John Herman

## Help Wanted

Help Wanted. Usually when this note appears this time of year, it is a plea for more members to become active in Region activities. Usually as a volunteer to staff races, WMR's principle events. Consider that as well as the racing season is near. The real reason is that there is a vacancy on the Board of Directors.

Kelly Petty, after several years as region secretary, has resigned. She has had some job changes in the last year or so and has found herself unable to devote the time needed to this job. The Board thanks Kelly for the years she served in this job. We are in need of someone to fill that vital job.

The Secretary receives the official mail for the region and is responsible to disperse it to the RE and to the Board. Some items go to the Backfire editor for publication to region members. The Secretary also gets what used to called the "green bar" report of region member numbers and address every month. I understand that much of this is sent by e-mail currently so internet access is very helpful. The secretary also records the minutes of Board meetings and the General Membership meetings. A copy of the minutes of each meeting then goes into the region files. The secretary can any member interested in the position. Any member is any member, male or female, who would like to fill the position. The Secretary is an elected position and is a voting member of the board. All of which means that you can help guide WMR onto bigger and better things.

Interested members should contact any Board member. A vote will be taken at the next Board meeting to confirm the new Secretary, who would fill the remainder of Kelly's term until November 2007. The new Secretary may then stand for election should they choose. Please consider stepping forward and helping form WMR's future.

Bruce Beauvais  
Past RE / Director

# Great Lakes Division Club Racing Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Track</b>	<b>Region</b>
3/3	Steward / Worker Seminar in Toledo, OH		
4/27, 4/28	Double Regional	Nelson Ledges	NEO
4/27, 4/28	National	GingerMan	INR
5/5, 5/6	Double Regional	ORPI	Indy
5/5, 5/6	Driver's School	GingerMan	VSCDA
5/12, 5/13	National	Grattan	DET / FWR
5/26, 5/27	Double Regional	Grattan	WMR
6/2, 6/3	Restricted Regional	Mid Ohio	OVR
6/2, 6/3	National	Mid Ohio	OVR
6/9, 6/10	Double Driver's	GingerMan	GLDiv
7/7, 7/8	National	ORPI	Indy
7/28, 7/29	Double Regional	GingerMan	FWR
7/28, 7/29	National	Nelson Ledges	NEO
8/11, 8/12	Restricted Regional	Mid Ohio	Cincy
8/11, 8/12	National	Grattan	WMR
8/18, 8/19	Au Grattan	Grattan	VSCDA
8/25, 8/26	Restricted Regional	Nelson Ledges	NEO
8/25, 8/26	National	GingerMan	SBR
9/1, 9/2	Double Regional	Grattan	WMR
9/8, 9/9	Double Regional	Mid Ohio	OVR
9/29, 9/30	Double Regional	ORPI	Indy
10/5	PDX	Mid Ohio	WOR
10/6, 10/7	Double Regional	Mid Ohio	WOR
10/12-10/14	Runoffs	Heartland Park	SCCA

# Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

## Next Meeting:

- Date: March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:30PM
- Site: Days Inn
- Location: 3825 28th Street, SW / Grandville, MI 49418 / (616) 531-5263
- We'll supply the soda pop and snacks; come on out for the fun and visit with your friends

*Happy Easter and Passover*

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

## WMR-SCCA Backfire

Dayle & Melinda Frame  
703 Pine Ridge Drive  
DeWitt, MI 48820