



# BACKFIRE

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

April 2007

## Your New Leadership Team:



Wayne Rogers-Regional Executive  
 Steve Brown-Assistant RE (not pictured)  
 Bruce Beauvais-Director (Past RE)  
 Kent Williamson-Director (Past RE)  
 Dayle Frame-Director at Large  
 Sue Beauvais-Secretary (Interim)

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# 2007 Western Michigan Region Officials

## Regional Executive-###

### Chief of Course

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### Director (Past RE); Radios; Starter

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### Competition Chairperson-###

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### Director at Large; Webmaster

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### Treasurer-###

TBA

### Secretary (interim)

Sue Beauvais  
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Battle Creek, MI 49015  
(269) 963-0602  
repeat68racing@aol.com

## Registrar-###

TBA

## Sound Control

TBA

## Medical Officer

TBA

## Pit Lane

TBA

### - changes made this month

To obtain a copy of the Region's corporation By-Laws, please email the editor (frameh@msu.edu) or go to the BoD page on the regional website (<http://www.wmr-scca.org/j60BoD.htm>) and download it from there.

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 frameh@msu.edu

## RE Report: Wayne's World

First of all, I want to let everyone know that there have been a few changes in the WMR Board. I have come back on board as RE of WMR after Phil Green resigned and left this seat open. I will be in this position until this fall when we have elections for all the WMR Board positions. At that time I will again run for RE to make sure that Western Michigan Region has someone that can do the job. This will be my goal until we have someone else that wants to learn all about what it takes to run the region and take care of all the needs it requires.

We got off to an unexpected start at first but we now are on the right track. With a number of past RE's and people that have had a lot of experience with taking care of business in the region, we will run things again as always in past years. And with help from all the members we want all the input from you on anything you think needs to be brought up. Doing this through the right channels of contacting any of the board members and voicing your thoughts or opinions on all matters. This is the only way we can take care of matters that are brought to our attention. I expect all the board members to help you with your questions and bring them to us as soon as possible.

Now for the important part of my job. I want to thank all of you for all the work you did last year to make all the events either racing, solo or rally a success. We could not have put on any of the events in the region without help from members and workers that showed up to help out. I am now going to ask for your help again this year and I want to ask if you could try to see if you can find other people that might be interesting in coming out and helping out by working one of our events doing what you do. With more help in all the areas at any event it just makes for a safer event and in the long run it makes all of you a better group. We are always looking for workers at the car events in every specialty. We can start them in any area and see if they like it and if not they can move to something else until they find the right specialty that they like. The more help we have the easier it is on any of the specialty areas.

There are a lot of members that can help out with training in your specialty. We need to teach all of our workers how to become a chief or captain in what they do. We have all forgotten that the more of us that know how to take charge and step up and chief a specialty the better that makes our region in the coming years. This is the time to think about the future years of WMR and making sure we have members that can step up and fill in if we have other members out for any reason. This can be just the beginning of something we have overlooked in the past and now is the time to start filling the shoes of the people that are gone. I will be willing to sit down and explain anything I know to those that want to learn.

I also want to let the Solo and Rally members know that we are open for your questions, thoughts or needs. I have little experience in these areas, but other board members have years of experience in these areas behind them. We all want to make all of our members and all types of racing in WMR better for everyone. Call me or e-mail me and I will do my best to head you in the right direction to get things done. I will work for you if you give me the chance. You have to contact me first before I can help.

WMR has an meeting for all the general membership. The meeting date is on the back cover of this Backfire. I hope to see more of you there and with your help we can get more done to make WMR number one again in this division.

That is it for now. I have had little time to get this together and the editors have to set it all up in just a few days. If anyone wants to put something together to put in the Backfire, photos or information on events they were at or even an article to be read, just send to the editors and they will contact you about it.

Your RE of WMR-SCCA,  
Wayne I. Rogers

## February Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- Attending: Phil Green, Duane Bailey, Dayle Frame, Bruce Beauvais, Wayne Rogers
- In the absence of a Secretary, notes taken by Bruce Beauvais
- Meeting called to order by R.E. Phil Green at 7:45
- Secretary- No report, in the absence of a Secretary at the last meeting, no notes exist.
- Treasurer- No written report. Treasurer orally notes that the Labor Day regional lost about \$6000, We have about \$10,000 in the treasury. Board asked Treasurer to have a written report available to the Board and copies for member inspection by the General Meeting date.
- Asst. R.E.- Absent- no report.
- Director at large-Reports that he has been contacted about member concerns. He will clarify those concerns by the next meeting.
- Past R.E. (Wayne) Reports that Gary Bailey may not be available as Chief of E.S. for 2007 season.
- Past R.E. (Bruce) Reports that he has been contacted about a treasurers report by members- Report to be available by next General Meeting.
- Membership- Absent. Dayle reports for chairperson that she is organizing member reports with an aim of member retention
- Backfire Editor- Editor had asked for contributions by 2/25 but had not received any by today's date.
- Club Racing Manager- Duane and Phil had met with Grattan management regarding the Labor Day Regional. Grattan was reluctant to drop the date. Phil reports that he has contacted Detroit Region to share the Labor Day Weekend. The idea explored was to have a PDX in the morning session and a three hour enduro in the afternoon session. PDX participants were to be encouraged to help staff the enduro. Workers were expected to be in short supply as the event would be against the new Detroit Grand Prix. Issues to be finalized included cost / profit shares with Detroit, confirming Labor Day weekend as a WMR date, and how to handle refueling. Phil has the point on those issues.
- Rally manager- no report- the office is vacant
- Solo II manger- covered in the Labor Day report. WMR is unlikely to get the Safety Stewards approval the Labor Day Monday event. The speeds have gotten over the Solo II limits. Detroit Region has offered to assist to create an acceptable course.

### Old Business

- Annual meeting- there was no annual meeting for 2006. Items that occur at that will be handled at the next General Membership meeting. Bruce offers to produce the list of Officers, region appointees and RAs. Duane will get the awards.
- General Membership meetings- Bruce offered a schedule of proposed dates. May 12 should be moved to May 5 due to Detroit at Grattan. Oct.13 should be moved to Oct.6 due to Run-offs. Bruce will confirm date with Days Inn and submit a schedule to the Backfire editor. Room rate has increased to \$150 reduced to \$100 by negotiation.
- New Business-The need to fill the secretary position was discussed. Sue Beauvais will fill in as interim Secretary. Bruce will submit a " Help Wanted" to the Backfire editor.

Meeting adjourned 9 PM

## Letter from the Board of Directors

To the WMR membership,

As has been published in this edition, WMR has lost the valuable services of several of its key members. Phil Green (Regional Executive), R.J. Pruitt (Assistant Regional Executive), Duane Bailey (Treasurer, Club Racing Manager and Competition Director) and Kendra Green (Registrar) have all resigned their positions effective immediately (see the letters below). It is important to inform the Region membership, as well as the Divisional and National authorities, that WMR has new personnel in place and fully expects to execute its scheduled slate of Club Racing and Solo events for this season.

The new Board of Directors will consist of the following members:

Regional Executive-Wayne Rogers  
Assistant Regional Executive- Steve Brown  
Director (Past RE)- Bruce Beauvais  
Director (Past RE)- Kent Williamson  
Director at Large- Dayle Frame  
Treasurer-position to be filled at a later date  
Secretary (interim)- Sue Beauvais

All of these members have considerable previous experience and are looking forward to the challenges ahead. Actions have already begun to fill the Treasurer position as well as the other non-Board level positions of Club Racing Manager, Competition Director and Registrar.

Please feel free to contact any members of the Board if you have any questions, comments or suggestions. Our contact information is listed on page two of this edition (and all others).

Thank you for your time,  
WMR Board of Directors

## Resignation Letters

**To: Western Michigan Region BOD & All members of WMR SCCA**

Please accept this letter as my formal notice of resignation from my position of Regional Executive & Race Chair for Western Michigan Region SCCA, effective immediately.

With "Super" Sue Bailey resigning last year, we needed some help in a lot of places. Some have committed to help and haven't lived up to their commitment, and others have not stepped up to help. I think it really became clear just how much Sue was doing for the club. This would have been difficult enough to recover from if we had people that did step up to do the work. But we didn't, and the same work would now be spread out between even fewer people that were already getting burned out.

Remember, this is a volunteer club. Nobody is compensated for the work put into this club. It takes hundreds of hours of work to put on a race of the caliber we are now used to having, and we do this three times per year. This time doesn't include regional meetings, BoD meetings, Divisional meetings, meetings with the track, equipment repairs, etc, etc, etc.

We have made HUGE strides towards being the best club in the division. I believe we are in the best position we have been in years. We have the right equipment and people in place. This didn't all happen by itself. I have had a great time promoting the club, and making things happen. It has been a great experience for me to broaden my horizons.

## Resignation Letters (cont'd)

But, with the recent events and activities, I also feel my integrity has been questioned by a few, and I am apparently guilty until proven innocent. I have nothing to hide, and have had my focus on promoting the club as best I can. This is supposed to be fun. However, the events of the past several weeks have proven to me that this is becoming a full time job. The fun is not there anymore, and hasn't been for a while.

I am proud of what we have accomplished during the past 6 years I have been with WMR. Look at the quality of our events in the past couple years. We had 2 of the 3 events in the Division with increased participation last year. Our events were well staffed, especially when compared to some other events in the Division. That tells us that things are going well.

I am torn between feeling like I am abandoning the club, and doing what is right for my family and me. When a decision like this comes up, there's only one right answer and that is my family.

I would be happy to discuss any more details on my decision with anyone in the club. I'll even buy the beer.

Phil Green

Former Regional Executive, Race Chair, Pace Car Driver, etc.

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### **TO ALL WESTERN MICHIGAN BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:**

Due to the events of the last couple of weeks and after much thought and consideration, I am tendering my resignation as Treasurer and Competition Director of Western Michigan Region, SCCA effective March 17, 2007.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with WMR over the past few years. However, working in a volunteer organization is supposed to be fun. When it quits being fun, it is time to do something else.

In addition, it feels like my honesty, ethics and integrity are being challenged. I have nothing to hide and am proud of the work I have done. I feel the Region has made major strides forward in several areas, but when even a few members start making accusations without knowing all the facts, it becomes an intolerable situation.

I will be glad to go into more detail with anyone who wishes to contact me.

Thank you for your understanding,  
Duane Bailey

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**To: Western Michigan Region of the SCCA**  
**From: R. J. Pruitt**  
**Date: 3-13-07**

**All concerned members,**

I have no qualms about any actions of the current WMR SCCA Board of Directors. I am however, concerned

## Resignation Letters (cont'd)

that my "nomination" and "voting" in as the Assistant Regional Executive has been the spark to ignite a fire of emotions and misconceptions for several members. I have no first hand knowledge of any of the past incidents that are still open sores. However, I cannot see myself enjoying working on the board that tries to rebuild this region. I therefore regretfully resign as the Assistant Regional Executive for the Western Michigan Region of the SCCA effective March 17, 2007.

I will continue as the Manager of Solo for this season. This is a position that I solely volunteered for. When I volunteered, I had high hopes that we could get back to a good and full Solo program in short order. I have yet to see any significant member participation in this field and worry that there really is no desire among the members to rebuild the solo program. I feel I need to give this one more season of effort. Beyond this season I cannot make any commitments at this time.

Thank you for your understanding in these matters.

If you have any questions contact me by phone, e-mail or face to face.

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To all Board Members and General Membership:

With heavy heart I am writing to you today. I have made a very difficult decision, I am resigning as Registrar of Western Michigan Region SCCA, effective immediately.

I have always told myself that when this job wasn't fun anymore that I would resign. Well thanks to a small group of members this job is no longer enjoyable. I also refuse to subject my family and myself to the unnecessary turmoil and stress created by this small group of members.

So in closing I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as registrar. Also thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,  
Kendra Green

## Worker's Corner: Verne Wandell (cont'd)

This one is going to be a bit different. If you are part of the F&C staff you won't learn anything new here. Read on if you want but I am really addressing this message to all the club members I don't know and have never met. One thing that has become apparent to me with the recent upheaval in the leadership of the club and ensuing scramble to put a season together against almost impossible odds is that I have never met the majority of members in a club I have been a part of for almost 10 years. Think of that a minute. I work every race event that WMR puts on, both our own and VSCDA, and have attended all of the banquets since joining. For a year or two I went to quite a few meetings as well and yet, as I consider the two hundred plus members on our rolls I bet I have never met over 20% percent of you. That's a shame.

SCCA, and especially WMR, is a family. It has an active core of enthusiastic race fans and that core is a community of warm, friendly people. We have a strong sense of purpose that brings us together, sharing a common experience several times every race season, and I am not talking about just the F&C discipline but the many other rolls that need filling at each race event as well. Something is happening at the core of the club though that is very troubling. It is dwindling. Because of age, burn-out, too much responsibility and too many

## **Worker's Corner: Verne Wandell (cont'd)**

competing life requirements our club is suffering and is at a crossroads. All of us need help and we need it soon. Whether it is in the administration of the club, help at events, help with a social calendar or just supportive presence – we need help.

When you joined the club you had a passion for one, or some, of the things we do. Flagging, timing, towing, operating, watching, helping in some other manner . . . something about SCCA or WMR drew you to the club and that passion, whatever it is, leads you to continue to pay your dues every year. Please take a moment out of your busy life to remember just what that excitement was all about. I can promise you, whatever originally drew to our organization still exists and it probably is available in spades. For the next meeting, for the next event, won't you please come out and join us? I and a lot of other would love to meet you or see you. We need your help and I promise (and I'm sure the rest of the leadership will as well) to make you welcome, to nurture your participation, to give you the training you need and provide the opportunities you desire to bring you more fully into the club. My phone number and email address are available elsewhere in this issue. If you have questions or concerns don't hesitate to use them. I know I have a desperate need for 12 people in F&C so that WMR can be self-sufficient at its racing events. Why it is more important now than ever before is another story but know that you are needed and will be welcomed.

Verne Wandell  
Chief of F&C

## **Solo Report: R.J. Pruitt**

I am writing to you all in an attempt to explain what has happened over the past few weeks. Specifically I want to explain a bit more about my resignation from the Assistant RE position. I may also touch on my thoughts and feelings about this region as a whole.

I am an autocrosser. I got started in Solo II in 2002. My first event was at the Sparta High School lot with the WMR. I really enjoyed that event and have been trying to stay active since then. Two kids, a few moves and few jobs later I find myself with everything but time to spare.

It was the late winter or early spring of 2005 that brought me into a leadership role in the WMR. Matt Malicki had been the WMR Solo Manager and he realized he had to give that up. As soon as I heard that he stepped down, I knew it was my chance to step up. Even prior to this I had planned to get involved in planning and helping any way I could with the WMR.

I saw the 2005 solo season as a chance to rebuild. We didn't have a lot of events but the few we did have went well and were very fun. In 2006 I had even more commitments personally and we lost one of our venues. Two events. Good events? Yes. A lot of events? No.

There are a few things that could have been different to make 2006 more of a success.

I realize that I can't continue to be the only person planning and running the events.

In January of this year Phil Green gave me a call and asked if I would like to be the Assistant RE for the region. He had a few reasons to ask me this. First and foremost he and I agree that the region needs to be drawn together.

We support two distinct motorsport activities: Solo and Club racing. Historically these two activities have been operated completely independently and with very few shared resources or personnel. The people that participate in the two activities have a lot to offer to the region, specifically to those participating in the other



## **Solo Report: R.J. Pruitt (cont'd)**

activity. Imagine an autocross in which we have club racers helping plan and run the event. Or imagine a club race at Grattan in which we have autocrossers working corners or helping in timing and scoring.

When I took on the role as Assistant RE it was specifically for this reason.

We (Phil, Duane, Dayle and I) all knew that there should be a nomination and election process to make this happen. But we are also realistic and understand that in the past three years our peak membership turnout at a general membership meeting was probably about 15-20 members. This to us was a sign that there was a lack of interest among the members in the activities, planning, and leadership of this region. Which could also be taken as a sign that the members felt the job being done was adequate.

We were apparently wrong...or were we?

As soon as the board started to make some changes to the status quo we started to hear from some select members. We didn't follow the by-laws of the club. I really truly wish that was the only complaint we heard from the members. From where I stand that is the only valid and current complaint brought before the board. Every other grievance recently discussed was anything but recent.

The members that have raised their voices and the issues that they have raised have made it apparent that some members really aren't interested in the betterment of the activities, planning and leadership of this region.

I have every intention of continuing my attempt to keep the WMR Solo program alive...if just barely.

If that is the only thing I have that the members of this club want from me then that is all I will offer.

Will this club continue after the events of the past few weeks? Yes. Will the club come out of this better? I truly hope so.

Thanks for listening,  
R. J. Pruitt  
Manger of Solo WMR SCCA

## **Tech Shed: Chris Peet**

Hey I can see the ground! That means the next racing season is almost upon us, and it's time to dust off the rule book again. Lots of changes to the GCR this year, time will tell if the new rules will have any profound effect, but there are some things that haven't changed. This is the time to look at your suits, shoes, gloves, helmets and belts. Did the squirrels think that nomex is considered part of a high fiber diet? Does your winter "coat" make the seams of you suit a bit more stressed than they normally would be? Does that shiny new helmet fit inside the car, or leave enough clearance under the roll bar? I would sure hate to point these things out to you the next time we meet. So do yourself a favor and do some "i" dottin' and "t" crossin'. OK, soap box removed, you can return to your normally scheduled programming

Chris Peet  
Your WMR Tech dude.

## T&S: Lorrie Wandell

### WHAT THE HECK IS T & S?

T & S is Timing and Scoring. Our function is to report the race by recording each competitor's speed, scoring him/her according to the number of laps completed and the order in which the car crossed the start/finish line; and to produce accurate results of the race.

Sounds easy, right? In earlier days stopwatches were used to track driver's lap times. Each timer was assigned one or more cars to record lap times on time cards. This is done electronically now. Scoring involves recording the position of each car in the field by recording the car numbers on a lap chart in the order they cross the start/finish line. The lap chart shows the number of laps completed by each competitor and his/her position within the running order at any given time in the race. Electronic timing has become more and more sophisticated and different computer programs calculate lap speeds, running order and number of laps completed. Transponders and timing lights electronically record the times and send them to the computer programs. Tapers are an integral group in T & S. They manually record each car number as it crosses the start/finish line. Then there are the auditors, runners, computer operators, lap charters and communicators.

As you can see there are many different jobs in Timing and Scoring. Each is important for a smooth team operation. New to T & S? We'll have you start taping and in short time operating the computer if you wish. Some people just prefer to tape. No problem, that's great! Others prefer computers and are a natural at it. We are one of the few specialties where minors can volunteer. Bored? Want something to keep you busy? Come up to the tower! We are always sheltered from bad weather and have air conditioning for those hot summer days! In T & S we are the first to know who officially won a race. More advantages? We don't have to start as early as many others at the track. You can work with your friends or family. What more could you ask for?

So all you friends and family of drivers, crew, officials, corner workers and Solo members-come check Timing and Scoring out! Are you club members that would like to become active in the club once again? Wander on down to the race track!

Working in T & S is fun and rewarding. Watch a race while you work and have first-hand knowledge of the running order. Help to produce the official results for the race. Be a part of a great team working towards making a race a race!

Any questions? Email me at [lorrie@valleyedit.com](mailto:lorrie@valleyedit.com) or call me at 269-665-0645.

See at the race track soon!

Lorrie Wandell

Chief of Timing and Scoring

## **Nomination Committee: Bruce Kroll**

During the membership meeting on March 10, 2007, I volunteered for, and was appointed to be the chairman of the Nominations Committee for the Fall of 2007 elections to the WMR Board of Directors. The following members had agreed to serve on the committee: Bobbe Orr, Verne Wandell, Steve Brown, and Jane Williamson. The committee is currently short one member required to constitute a full committee according to our bylaws and efforts are being made to fill the vacancy caused by the withdrawal of Jane Williamson. All members of WMR can expect to be contacted by one of the committee members. We will be very interested in ascertaining your level of interest in standing for election for one of the positions on our board of directors. Our bylaws call for annual elections for all positions on the board except for the two past Regional Executive positions. We will be seeking candidates willing to stand for election to serve the membership of WMR in the following positions: RE, Asst. RE, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Member at Large. The members currently serving in those positions are of course encouraged to stand for election should they so choose.

WMR has over 200 members but only a fairly small percentage of those members have been active in the club's various activities. When you are contacted by a committee member, please be prepared to help us determine what might be done to increase the involvement and participation of our membership. We will be asking questions relating to your interest in activities such as race weekends, Solo events, rallies, social events, and membership meetings.

Please recognize that your region needs your involvement. We need your input on determining how we might best serve your needs. If you'd prefer NOT to wait until you are contacted by a committee member, please feel free to contact any one of us.

Bruce Kroll 616-846-4429

Bobbe Orr 269-381-6317

Verne Wandell 269-217-2489

Steve Brown 616-935-9634

## **Anniversaries**

Congratulations to the following WMR members who celebrated membership anniversaries in March:

One Year: Mark Higgins, Dwight Knupp, Kyle Reith

Five Years: none

Ten Years: Joan Bolt, Joe Mock

15: none

Twenty Years: Mary Ellen Waalkes

Twenty five years: Danny Moon, James Ohanesian

# Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

## Next Meeting:

- Date: April 14<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 Arbor Day

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

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