



SCCA
Sports Car Club of America



GREAT LAKES
Division
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 2008



May the Luck of the Irish be with you this racing season.

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- 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 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 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: Bruce Beauvais

I opened my newspaper tonight and found the George Ranney had passed away. George passed after a long and accomplished life at 92. George was a member of my church. More importantly, George was a past R.E. of Central Western Michigan Region, SCCA. I don't know when he was in office just as don't know when we dropped the "Central" out of our name. It was there in 1962 and gone by 1973 when I first began to hang around sports cars and SCCA.



Back then, we met at the Holiday Inn on 28th St. in Wyoming. You descended into the basement meeting room and were met by a greeter who checked your name and guest status. They checked members for a nametag and collected a fine if you weren't wearing it. For most men the meeting was a coat and tie affair. The bar at the back of the room was a busy place. A brief and sometimes loud meeting took place. The meeting was followed by entertainment. Either some recent racing film- recent was being in the last year or a guest speaker. The entertainment might even be heard over the noise at the bar. After the meeting, the bar closed and a number of members retired to the bar upstairs. A lot of those things, we've lost.

We've lost most of the social function of the group. Racing films are a recurring item on cable and satellite systems. The interchange of ideas between drivers and between workers now happens everyday via the Internet. User groups and forums unite not just the local people but around the country. A couple of the groups I'm on have members throughout the world adding a new viewpoint to the exchange. I know from watching the size of the kegs diminish at Grattan that we don't drink like we used to. The need for a gathering of like minds has lessened. Or has it?

What first got you involved in SCCA? Who helped you? Tom Start, whom I worked with, hauled me in. Tom Pattison took me to races as a rank, know-nothing crew person. Someone else invited me to navigate a rally for them. A lot was based on personal relationships. Drivers took co-workers and interested neighbors as crew. Worker types invited the same to come join the fun at the races. All based on social interaction.

All this leads to what have you yourself done to help? Invited significant others to SCCA events? Talked to the neighbor's kid who wants to know what's in the trailer? What are those stickers on your car? Talked to the kid who changes your oil to see where his passions lie? Explained to a co-worker what those funny photos are on your desk or screensaver? One of our first jobs ought to be to recruit one more person to join our fun. Our second job is to keep them interested. I'll try to my part by keeping meetings informative and useful. Then we can go to the bar and talk about the good parts and the great times we've had playing with cars.

Bruce Beauvais
RE: WMR

General Membership Meeting Minutes

WMR General Meeting
Corner Landing, Ionia, MI
Feb. 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order by RE Bruce Beauvais. There were 7 members present.

Minutes of the last meeting were not read.

Treasurer-elect Jai Deagan discussed our present financial situation, and presented a tentative format for a monthly financial report.

Past RE's Wayne Rogers and Phil Green were not present.

Asst. RE-elect Verne Wandell was not present.

Director-At-Large Dayle Frame initiated a discussion on race entry forms, chiefs and stewards for the May and August races. Registrars and Tech chiefs are set. Entry fees for both regional and national races will be increased.

Several members are headed to Toledo March 8 for the Spring Training meeting; Steve DeLoof, Dayle and Melinda Frame, others?

Old Business; The Region's cash flow (or lack thereof) was discussed. Ideas from the membership on how to improve the situation will be welcomed. There was discussion on creating a template for race chairs and a budget report for each race. Sue Bailey reported that she had created a budget page for each race in 2006 and they were in the file for 2006.

Only 3 election ballots were returned as of Feb. 9.

Bruce will find out what the new ambulance rates will be for 2008.

New Business; The May meeting will be concerned with by-laws changes. Notices will be in the next two Backfires.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Sue Beauvais
Interim Secretary

Wounded Turtle goes to the Runoffs (part 2)

(continued from the November edition of the Backfire)

Meanwhile it was Wednesday and that meant that the prod party was that evening. In addition, Melinda was flying into Kansas City, renting a car and driving over in the morning. She had gotten there by 12:30 or so. I had to go meet her out by the registration building and get her checked in. Once we did that it was off to the local supermarket (Dillon's) and pick up the 70 packages of hamburger and hot dog buns that I had ordered a couple of weeks before. We got the buns, 200 pounds of ice and plenty of soda pop for the party. When we got back Melinda took over and set up our paddock area so we could host the party (setting up tables, starting the grills, icing the soda and beer, setting out the food, etc.). Things were finally starting to settle down as the party started. It was now time to relax, exhale and enjoy the evening. My guess is we had 150 to 175 people there and it was a wonderful time. As it was gearing up, a guy from SCCA came over to me and asked if I wanted to be interviewed on a live webcast. Sounded cool to me. He wanted to chat about the prod party and my involvement over the years. So he hands me a cell phone and I get to chat with Mike Dickerson about the party (among other topics). I could just barely hear him over the din of the party but I was able to make out enough to babble about things for a few minutes. After the interview was over, I had to get back to the serious work of a party host. The suare lasted until late into the evening and everyone had a wonderful time. Through a lot of hard work by a lot of folks, we raised \$1100 for the Runoffs workers. This gift was raffled off, (\$50 at a time), at various worker parties through the week. After it was all said and done, we cleaned things up so we'd have less to do the next morning.

Now it was Thursday and we had to get back to the serious part of the week. We had a Lotus that was having starting issues and an MGB that had barfed a motor. A deal had been reached to replace the bad MGB motor (it would be ours to use if the driver we borrowed it from got through the last qualifying session without injuring his motor). But we had to remove it before we could install the replacement motor. John was tasked with that job. While he was working on that, we had issues to resolve with the Lotus. We found a regimen to get it started and off we went to the last qualifying session. He ran very strong and moved up to fourth on the final grid. Race day was three days away and we had a lot of work to do. This crew chiefing was tough work.

Friday was an off day for me as crew chief for the Walkers. A couple of friends of mine (Bryan Floyd in GTL and Rob Bax in HP) were racing today and I wanted to support them for the day. Both had new cars this year and had been up and down during the season. I figured the least I could do was give them a bit of a hand during the week and today was there day. The GTL race was the first of the two and we were scheduled to be on track at 10:25. Bryan is a cool customer and was all set for the race. As he had no radios, I was 'pit board boy' while he was on track. I worked the pit board as he worked his way through the race. He started 24th and finished 20th. The good work during the race was tempered by some REALLY bad noises coming from the motor (post race analysis showed a broken cam, valve train, two pistons and bunch of miscellaneous crud too....ouch!). We got his car back to the paddock and started prepping Rob's car for his race. More next month.....

Letter from the Editors

A couple of things in my out box this month:

One, due to our region's financial situation, we can't afford to print and mail editions of the Backfire for a few months. Our Regional By Laws require us to publish a newsletter and we will. Distribution will, however, be by posting editions on our regional website. Please check the website during the first few days of the month to download the latest issue. Any member who does not have internet access (and desires a copy but can't get one) can contact me and I will make the necessary arrangements to insure that they get an issue. This situation may change once we are more financially solvent. Whether we go back to mass mailings is still up for debate. I know its nice to receive a copy of the newsletter, but it does take quite a bit of time and expense to print and mail 200 copies of the Backfire. As always, we'll update you as the situation changes.



Two, congratulations are in order for Wayne Rogers (past RE among other things) as he has returned from Zhanjiang, China a married man. His bride Shuhua will be coming to Michigan as soon as some paperwork is completed.

Three, last but not least, we're in the process of amending the By Laws. If you have suggestions for consideration, please contact Bruce Beauvais (see contact info on page two of this edition) as he is the Chairman of the By Laws Committee. These proposed amendments will be posted on the website (www.wmr-scca.org) on or before April 1st. A ballot to vote on these amendments will be mailed to the membership by April 25th. Ballots have to be returned by May 15th. Further details will be posted on the website (when the amendments get posted).

Dayle & Melinda

Member Anniversaries

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

One Year: David & Perri Ann Thocher

Five Years: none

Ten Years: David Reid

Fifteen: none

Twenty Years: Walt Nelson

Thirty Five Years: none

GLDiv Club Racing Schedule

Date	Driver Schools	Regionals	Nationals	Other
3/1	Steward Training in Toledo, OH			
4/19, 4/20	GLDiv@NL(D)			
4/26, 4/27			INR@GIN	
5/3, 5/4		Indy@ORP(D)(C)		
5/10, 5/11			DET/FWR@GRA	
5/17, 5/18				
5/24, 5/25 (Memorial Day)		WMR@GRA(D)(C)	NEO@NL	MVR@NL (NEDIV national)
5/31, 6/1		OVR@MO(R)	OVR@MO	
6/7, 6/8				
6/14, 6/15				
6/21, 6/22				
6/28, 6/29				
7/5, 7/6		Indy@ORP(R)	Indy@ORP	
7/12, 7/13				
7/19, 7/20				
7/26, 7/27		NEO@NL(D)(C)		
8/2, 8/3				
8/9, 8/10		CIN@MO(R)	WMR@GRA	CIN@MO (PDX)
8/16, 8/17				
8/23, 8/24		SBR@GIN(R)	SBR@GIN	
8/23, 8/24		NEO@NL(R)(24hr)		
8/30, 8/31 (Labor Day)		WOR@NL		WOR@NL (PDX)
9/6, 9/7		OVR@MO(D)(C)		
9/13, 9/14				
9/20, 9/21				
9/27, 9/28		Indy@ORP(D)(C)		
10/4, 10/5				
10/6 to 10/12			Runoffs	

C = Champs Series Event; D = Double; R = Restricted; T = Tentative

GM - GingerMan Raceway / GRA - Grattan Raceway / ORP - O'Reilly Raceway Park

MO - Mid Ohio / NL - Nelson Ledges / WAT - Waterford Hills

Western Michigan Region of the Sports Car Club of America

Next Meeting:

- Date: March 15th, 2008 at 7:30PM
- Site: Corner Landing
- Location: 128 West Grand River Avenue / Ionia, MI 48846 (northwest corner of M-66 and Grand River Avenue; on M-66 just north of I-96) / 616.527.2169
- We'll supply the soda pop and snacks; come on out for the fun and visit with your friends.

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

WMR-SCCA Backfire
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