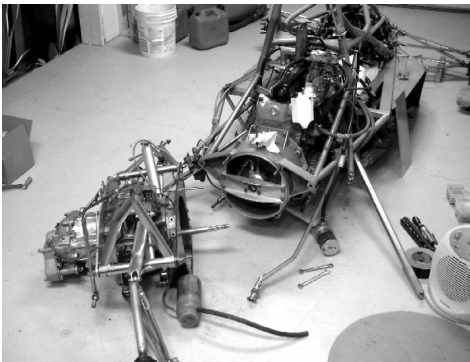




KNOCKff

Official Publication of the Mohawk-Hudson Region Sports Car Club of America

DECEMBER 2007



◀ **From this,
to this!** ▼

National Solo Champ Jim Garry with his Formula Ford at the National Runoffs in Topeka will be a featured article in the next few months of the KO. Jim has written in detail how hard work and persistence over an extended period of time can finally bring the desired result. Look for his feature in several installments in the next few months of the KO.

Solo National Championships Topeka, KS - September 25-28, 2007



LAST PAPER ISSUE!

**This is the last paper issue
of the KnockOff.
We will become a
paperless publication using
the internet for publication
in 2008 and beyond.
Look for a copy online
at our website:
www.mohudsc.ca.com
or in your email
if you have signed up.**

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**MoHud Slate of
2008 Officers**

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The KnockOff is the official publication of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, Sports Car Club of America. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Mohawk-Hudson Region or of the Sports Car Club of America.

The general membership meeting is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm at The Orchard Tavern, 68 No. Manning Blvd., Albany, NY.

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Go to the MoHud web site (see below), click INFO, click ELECTRONIC MAILING LIST, click LWGATE, click Subscribe to Mo-Hud DIGEST, fill out form, click SUBSCRIBE.

<http://www.mohud-scca.org/>

ADVERTISING RATES

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Qtr Pg	5x3	\$10.00	\$50.00
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RE GENE TRICOZZI REPORT

I want to open with an update regarding Mo-Hud's next year's race program at Lime Rock Park. Jack Hanifan, Harry Adalian and I met with Georgia Blades, Lime Rock Park's General Manager, and Skip Barber. We were greeted with a warm reception and had a very constructive meeting. We were able to come to terms with Georgia and Skip who were very clear with us that they wanted Mo-Hud to be part of their racing schedule in 2008. It was truly a pleasure to feel we have established a sense of cooperation mutually beneficial to both parties. For those of you who may not know, Skip Barber is a Mo-Hud member and his roots in Motorsports are with both SCCA and Mo-Hud.

Jack Hanifan and Tom Campbell represented our region at the mini-con held in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. A major part of the mini-con is the NARRC meeting which establishes the dates and which region sponsors those dates available at Lime Rock Park in 2008. Jack and Tom chose a weekend date in June and Mo-Hud will split the weekend with Northern New Jersey taking Friday and Mo-Hud taking Saturday. Saturday will be a regional race and Friday will be an event of Northern New Jersey's choice. I think this is the best possible

choice for Mo-Hud since the one day event will offer us the best opportunity for a profitable race.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given me and ask that you continue the same support for Jack. It has been a pleasure working with both Bruce Kosakoski and Russ Burckhard in Mo-Hud's Solo program. They have worked tirelessly to keep Solo alive and well and we owe them a huge thank you. I am disappointed I wasn't able to do more for our race program; sometimes no good intention goes unpunished. I also want to thank the members of the board, Bruce Kosakoski, Chip Van Slyke, Geoff Stim, Dave Wachtel, Harry Adalian, Dick Stewart and Pete Smith. Mo-Hud has the support of others whose work behind the scenes is very much appreciated and I want to thank them as well; our Knockoff editor Lisa Hanifan, race official licensing Clark Nicholls and Scrutineering Rich Welty.

In closing I want to wish Jack all the best and let him know we are all behind him and ready to help whenever needed.

Reminder: submissions to the KO should be e-mailed to Lisa Hanifan and the deadline is the 15th of the month.

Gene

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Financial Report from Chip Van Slyke, Treasurer

You don't hear from me much in these pages, but I would like to take a moment to talk about club finances. This being one of the last printed editions of the knock-off, I wanted to inform you of what is going on to drive this and other decisions.

In the past 4 years, our club has seen a major change in our cash-flow situation, driven primarily by the fact that the annual road-race has not been as profitable as it was in the 1990s and early 2000s. This profitability allowed us to subsidize activities for the membership including partial expenses for divisional and national conventions, food at membership meetings, awards at the annual banquet, the 50th anniversary celebration, equipment for the Solo and racing programs, and special social activities during the year.

The board of directors has had to re-think club finance since the amount of discretionary income has been reduced. We have three primary revenue streams: Club Racing, Solo, and member dues. In the past, the race was the primary source of revenue and net income. Since that income has become essentially zero, membership dues has become the most significant source of net income. Our goal is to spend this where it will have the most impact.

The following are some detail of how the club's major activities will be impacted by today's financial reality.

Knock-off: The BOD has made the decision to go 100% electronic for the publication of the regional newsletter starting in 2008. Publishing and mailing the newsletter currently consumes all of the revenue from member dues. The philosophy has been: if a member gets nothing else from their membership, they get a newsletter that is worth their annual dues. However, given the change in our cash flow, the membership dues has become a more important revenue stream. The BOD has decided that this revenue will be better spent maintaining other programs, rather than continuing to supply a printed newsletter. This was a difficult decision, and we know it will upset some people. I liked getting a printed newsletter, but I understand that our money may be more effectively spent on other activities.

Divisional and National Conventions: This includes three significant events throughout the year: the NEDiv Mini-Con, NEDiv Round-Table, and SCCA National Convention. The BOD feels that participation in these events is vital to the future of the club. These events help to vitalize our event specialties such as Stew-

arding, F&C, Registration, Scrutineering, as well as our inclusion in decisions that affect the entire division including the NEDIV Council and the NARRC and NYSRRC committees. This seems like political esoterica even to me, but I support these efforts having been a solo-er, club-racer, and NARRC treasurer. I can see how those decisions affect me as a participant.

Club Racing: The lost profitability of the regional race was due primarily to increased track rental cost at Lime Rock Park. The cost went from about \$8000/day in 2002 to \$26000/day in 2007. To balance the books, we raised entry fees from around \$190 per day to around \$260/day for a 1 day event. This had the result of reducing the number of entries to the point where total revenue dropped. This year was particularly difficult because we needed 200 entries to break even on the event, but we only got 121. During the last few years, we were able to weather the storm because of our cash reserves but that has come to an end. It has now become necessary to take more serious action. There is no indication that racing at LRP will be profitable in the future, however, discussions with track management have at least explained our tenuous financial situation with them, and we expect to be able to better manage risk at LRP in the future.

Solo Program: The Solo program will continue relatively un-affected, current problems with sites not withstanding. The Solo program has been more or less a break-even operation since I have been involved with it. This includes generating enough revenue to maintain and improve their equipment with only occasional help from the club at-large to fill in the valleys.

Annual Banquet: This year, the cost of the banquet has increased significantly. Although this may appear to be a result of the problems with the race, it is more due to cost inflation in the catering business in general. What we subsidized in the past were extras but the cost of the meal itself has been a break-even deal. Last year we saw a dramatic increase in the cost of catering, and we had to decide whether to change to a cheaper venue, or increase the price. We put it up to a vote, and the membership preferred to stay at a nicer venue like Mallozzi's.

With these changes, the BOD expects our finances will stabilize, even if the race cannot make a profit. We have had to make some tough financial decisions, but the club remains strong. Mo-Hud is more than just its bank account. Mo-Hud is great people.



COMPETITION CORNER...

Jack Hanifan, Chairman

Dec 2007



Competition Report

MoHud Regional Road Racing Championship

It is that time of year again; we will be presenting T-shirts to every driver who enters. In case you didn't know, the deal has always been if we made money on the race, we would spend money on the championship. I assume you know the race in 2007 was a financial disaster, but I've obtained sponsorship for the T-shirts. Come to the banquet and find out who our sponsors are and thank them.

The rules are: you can count any 5 races; they can be Nationals, Regionals, Pro or Enduros. If you were in an Enduro you must actually have driven in the race. The MoHud race is a double point's race, and this year it was a double regional so, if you ran both races you can count them both as a double. If you worked the MoHud race you may choose another race(s) to count double.

Points are awarded for each race as follows: 1st 20, 2nd 15, 3rd 12, 4th 10, 5th 8, 6th 6, 7th 4, 8th 2, and 9th and higher 1pt. In addition you get one point for every other car in your class that you beat. The other cars must start i.e. you can count a DNF but not a DNS.

Your best 5 races should be totaled. Remember you can win one race and finish 2nd

in another but the 2nd place race could have more points if it was a larger field. The races must have been run in 2007 and you have until November 28th to submit your points. Send your points to me at JackHanifan@hotmail.com

2008 Race

Last month Gene, Harry and I went down to Lime Rock Park and had a very enjoyable two hour conversation with Skip Barber. The end result is MoHud will be putting on a race at LRP in 2008. The date is June 7th and it will be a one day regional. So save the date, more information after the first of the year.

Stewards

My term as NeDiv Executive Steward ends with the New Year. I am pleased to announce that Tom Campbell has completed his SIT program and is now a Divisional Steward joining Dave Canavan also a Divisional Steward; John Sheridan as a Divisional Chief Steward and Roly Heacox and myself both National Chief Stewards.

NARRC Banquet

Congratulations to Dick Stewart and Jon Waterhouse who received Championship trophies at the NARRC Banquet. Bob Smart finished 2nd in his class and I received the Henryk Szamota Award.

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MEETING MINUTES

11/7/07 Mohawk Hudson Region SCCA November General Membership Meeting

Meeting brought to order at 7:30pm by Gene Tricozzi, RE

Nominating Committee:

Nominations are; Directors, Dick Stewart, Gene Tricozzi, Bruce Kosakoski - Activities Director, Peter Smith - Secretary, Geoff Stim - Treasurer, Chip VanSlyke - Asst RE Rolly Heacox – RE Jack Hanifan

Treasurers Report: Chip VanSlyke
(see attached report from Chip)

Membership Report:

5 new members for a total of 374

Webmasters report:

Latest solo results are posted, message board 126 registered users, 3689 posts – solo group is extremely active – awards banquet registration forms are online at our website.

Solo Report: Russ Burckhardt

Last event 88 entries, everyone got 4 runs each and then 90 fun runs. There were a few issues at the event – wind blowing leaves through the timing mechanism – lots of false starts. Half way through the first session the tent almost blew away, control had to move to the van. Otherwise a successful event. Burt designed a great course, there are a couple bad sections in the lot that were not felt. Russ got his first FTD. News channel 9 showed up at the event. They did an interview with Bruce K about the solo program. Jim Garry contacted the Times Union and submitted info for an article in the paper. The gentleman writing the article has contacted Russ for more information. There were also articles this year in the Schenectady Gazette and the Johnstown Newspaper on the Solo program. There are a few site prospects for next year. Jack H brought up that at the Minicon, it was mentioned by Kathy Barnes, that across the nation there have been a lot accidents at solo events. Jack reinforced the need for safety stewards, waivers, and registration.

Good job by Russ this year as Solo Chair

Competition Report: Jack Hanifan

Next issue of KO will be the last issue of the KO on paper. Look on the website for 2008 issues.

Jack, Gene, Harry met with Skip Barber at LRP. They had a 2 hour discussion with Skip and Georgia regarding the race this year. We ended up paying for this years race and established a single day event date for next year at the same rate as this year. MoHud selected the June 7 date at LRP (Saturday) the nearest

events previous to this are 2 weeks before at New Hampshire and 4 weeks before at Pocono. The second SCCA LRP event will be June 20 and 21. The third event will be August 2nd and third a National by NNJ. The last event will be the NARCOFFS on 9/26 and 9/27. There is also a dual national at Nelson Ledges next year on Memorial Day weekend, May 24, 25, 26. MVR and GLR will each sanction an event. Tech party is tentatively scheduled for April 6 per approval by BK. There are 4 races scheduled at Thunderbolt next year schedule is currently tentative. Jack and John Sheridan attended the Runoffs in Topeka this year. John was pace car driver for 1/3rd of the races. Today was the first day of runoffs coverage on Speed.

NARRC Meeting – attended by Tom Cambell for Jack Hanifan. There was a early morning forum. There is a 10 weekend 15 races scheduled for next year. Tentatively a 2nd double at Pocono next year. Point structure pays down to 20th place. There will be double points at the NARCOFFS. There is a simplified bonus track structure. There is no more prize money.

Harry Adalian on LRP meeting. Availability of just one day events. We could ‘mix’ the event with another club as long as there is only one contract and one insurance. Harry concerned about giving date back to LRP. His feeling is that LRP will give date to a competitors club. Harry requested availability of MoHud putting on pro-events. Georgia suggested submitting a proposal to LRP for MoHud to put on the events. Currently LRP has an arrangement with the NY Region to put on all Pro events for LRP.

Tom Cambell reports that NE says Palmer will open earliest in '09. They need money. All zoning approvals are OK.

NARRC Banquet MoHud champions are Dick Stewart and John Waterhouse

Tom Cambell is now a full time divisional steward.

Old business: none

New business: none

Nominations for next years officers are approved by the membership.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Geoff Stim, *Secretary*



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- Any Typeface, Color and Style

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DECEMBER 2007

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MoHud is going “Green”!

We will no longer have to sacrifice a tree (ok, a sapling) to publish our newsletter. We will be entirely paperless from this issue forward. It will be as easy as opening your web browser to www.mohudsc.ca.com to the link for the KnockOff.

Make sure to check out future ***expanded issues*** since mailing costs will no longer inhibit the number of pages. Ads in our newsletter will now find a much wider audience than just our local members.