

APRIL 2009

KNOCKOFF



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



Some famous MoHud folks were spotted at a famous eating establishment, the White Hut in Springfield, MA. Their trip to the Roundtable included this luncheon stop where Jack Hanifan insists on when going to whenever passing nearby. Rich Welty, Tom Campbell and Russ Burckhard may not have been as impressed as Jack surely is.

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

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RE REPORT

Jack Hanifan

Roundtable

Kudos to Tom Campbell, Rich Welty and Russ Burckhard for giving up a weekend with their families in order to attend the recent NeDiv Roundtable in Hartford Ct. Tom and I represented the region at both the NARRC and NYSRRC meetings. Russ represented us at the Solo meetings while Rich attended the Tech and other meetings. Kathy Barnes organized very informative training sessions for all segments of the club.

The Race

Planning is progressing on the race and some sponsorship has been obtained but we are still looking for more. Race meeting will be held with the board meeting on 3/23 at the Orchard.

Activities

Pete Smith has informed me that he has not received any requests for social events in 2009. He currently only plans on having the Golf Outing and the Go-Kart night. If you would like to see additional events please contact him.

No April Fools

Our April meeting is Wednesday April 1st at the Orchard Tavern- 7:30pm

Tech Party

Our annual Tech party is scheduled for 12 noon, Sunday April 5th at Bob Karl's Sales and Service in Troy. This event is open to all, come by and partake in the delicious hot dogs prepared by Chef Greg.

Monthly Contest

Each month we will publish a photo, with a question below it. The first member to email or call the RE on his cell phone with the correct answer will win a prize. The prize is guaranteed to have some value. Employees of the region are ineligible. The RE's decision is final. If anyone wants to provide a photo for future contests, please send it to the RE for approval..



Who was the driver of this car?

SOLO Report by Russ Burckhard

April Report

Wow, what a busy month it was for being so early in the year. I made the trip to Las Vegas for my first National Convention. There is a lot of information to digest in a short amount of time. In the three days of the convention, I went to 15 seminars and 3 lunches. I wound down every night by taking the family out for dinner and the touring of the local sites. I know what they mean when they say "the city that never sleeps". I was able to get some sleep, most of it was when I got back home, but I wasn't there to sleep. I got a lot of good information while I was there. I spent most of my time in Solo related seminars. There were a couple on operations, another on tech, Solo safety, Solo events board, and one on shop talk that included a SFI exam (rule book knowledge). I also went to a bunch that had to do with SCCA corporate operations. There was risk management, membership and volunteer programs, regional/national support, and one that was an operations overview. There was a lot of talk on a bunch of the new programs that are now out such as, annual waiver, volunteer incentive programs, membership programs, three year Solo Safety Steward license, new sponsorships, the return of the Trans Am Series, and a bunch of other things. There was a bunch of statistics that were talked about. Membership is flat at about 50,000, but there is a 20% turnover every year. SOLO had 100,000 entries last year of which 25-35% were weekend members.

A program that may be coming for SOLO has to do with safety. They are looking to adopt the Static Stability Factor program from the Federal Government. The SSF is a rating system that rates vehicles to determine their potential for rolling over. It looks like this may exclude some questionable vehicles that have the potential to roll over. A 1.3 rating is as low as will be allowed. Check to see where your vehicle is, you may be surprised.

Just when I thought I had enough of all of the seminars, I took a ride to Connecticut for the NE Roundtable. Here are some of the highlights of the information I got while there.

SCCA is looking to lower the age to get a competition license. They are also looking into some sort of fuel testing and trying to get some sort of Rule stability. Trans Am Series will have a 8 race season, 2 Pro and 6 regular races. Television is probably not going to happen for the runoffs. NEDiv held 9 Divisional races and 45 regional races for a total of 5962 cars. NE and CE Div had over 50% of club racers in the US, mostly due to SSM.

There were a few more Solo seminars for timing and noise and I also went to a Time Trial Safety Steward training course. While in the TTSS class, I found out more information on what will be needed for us to hold a PDX in our region.

COMPETITION CORNER... April 2009

Jack Hanifan, *Chairman*

SM and SSM Drivers

NARRC, NYSRRC and NERRC have all agreed to follow the same tire rule for 2009. All competitors must run either the Toyo 888 or Toyo RA1 tire. If the RA1's are used they must have been manufactured before 1/1/09. The MARRS rule is the same except that they will only allow the RA1 until 7/1/09.

Tech Party

The tech party is scheduled for 12 Noon, Sunday April 5th at Bob Karl's Sales and Service in Troy. Once again Chef Greg Rickes will be serving up his hotdogs extraordinaire. Once again a reminder to check your belts and suits.

MoHud Car Show Coming Up May 17!

Once more we have been invited to participate in the annual car show at the Saratoga Auto Museum. This year it will be on Sunday May 17. As in the past, we will have the position of honor on the front lawn of the museum. This is about the 6th year we have done this and it is always a great time. There is a big crowd to see our cars and lots of other cars in the show for us to enjoy. It has always been a great way to start off the summer car season. Tom Campbell will be coordinating our participation. Please let him know soon if you would like to put your car in the show. In any case, plan to stop by during the day and see how things are going.

Tom Campbell 587-2522, scca10director@juno.com

Published at the request of the author who is not a member of MoHhud.

John discovers the Miata Anti-dote

By Paul Paparella

This is the story of John. Back in days when the local mechanic still knew what a carburetor looked like, John was an avid SCCA racer. After years away from the track to raise his family, John decided to get back into racing. If nothing else, it would take his mind off of his wife leaving him for that tennis pro in a red Miata. So off he went to the next SCCA regional to check out the current scene.

John struck up a conversation with some racers in the paddock. "What's the hot car if I want to race a production based sedan?" he asked. The response was "Spec Miata is about the most popular thing going." Well, of course, John wasn't too excited about that. "What else do you have?" he asked. "Well, you could try Showroom Stock Miata," they answered. Not happy with the way the conversation was going, John walked over to the fence to watch the first race.

As it happened, the first group out was GT. After seeing the lead cars go by, he thought this was kind of interesting. At least it was, until a couple of GT3 Miatas came by, followed closely by a GTL Miata. That just got him thinking about how much money he lost when his former business partner skimmed from the top to buy a new Miata, then skipped town.

So back to the paddock he went to look around. John was never much of an open wheel kind of guy, but he looked at those too. Of course the first one he saw was a Formula Mazda. It had one of those annoying "zoom zoom" decals, just like the one on the Miata that the kid down the street drove, with the big boom box that wakes John up at 3 AM every Sunday morning.

Eventually he came upon some old timers standing around some cool old cars, like the ones John raced in the late '70's. Turns out they were Production racers. "Tell me more about Production," John asked, "I kind of like the older cars." "John, we've got to be honest with you," one guy said, "we love the old cars, too, but these days you need a Miata to win in E-Prod. "Or, if you don't want to spend so much on the engine, you could run a Miata in FP." "Those damn Miatas are everywhere," he thought, and then remembered that the IRS agent who audited him last year drove one.

By now it was afternoon, and there were just two races to go. Starting to feel discouraged, John wandered over to the false grid to see who was lining up for the next race. As he approached the grid, seeing an interesting mix of cars from the 1970's up through new models, John got his hopes up. Then as he walked down the line, he saw three Miatas in ITA, and five in ITS. One of them looked a lot like the car that ran a red light and wrecked John's classic Alfa last summer.

Continuing down the grid, he passed one SSB Miata, and a couple in T3. The last one he saw was the same color as the one his daughter was in when she got pregnant. "I give up – I guess SCCA just doesn't have anything for me," he thought.

John went to the food stand for a late lunch, and then headed for his car, not wanting to stay for the last race. As he walked towards the parking lot, he noticed crowds of people gravitating to the fences. Then he heard the rumble of the pack as it approached the starting line. As the green flag flew, he heard a roar of V-8's like he hadn't experienced since the heyday of Trans-Am. He turned towards the track just in time to see the leaders approach Turn 1. "What the hell is that Mini doing in between that Stingray Vette and the Shelby Mustang?" he thought. Then he saw a couple of BMW 2002's, a beautiful Jaguar, three MG's and a Corvair. "Man, these are the kind of cars I remember racing with," he thought.

After watching several laps of close racing but no bumping and rubbing, he realized these guys knew what they were doing, and were having fun doing it. He pulled out his stop watch, and saw that some of these cars were pretty darned fast, too.

After the race was over, he went back to the paddock and found a bunch of the guys from the race. They were all having a great time talking and laughing with each other, but were quick to answer his questions and offer him a beer. After hanging out with the guys for over an hour, John decided that SCCA did have a place for an old school guy like him, after all. The Northeast Division Historic Racing Group was just what he was looking for.

It wasn't until he was halfway home that it hit him. He realized that, besides being a great series, HRG was the only closed wheel race all day that didn't have single one of those damned Miatas!

This is a fictional story. Any similarity between the cars in this story and actual Miatas is purely coincidental. However, HRG is the real thing. For more information, look up HRG on www.nescca.com or www.historicracing.org.

NEDIV SCCA Historic Racing Group Schedule:

July 3-4 at Lime Rock (with VSCCA and Jaguar Club)

July 25-26 at Watkins Glen

August 22-23 at NJMP

Sept 19-20 at Watkins Glen

Oct 17-18 at NJMP

"The author of this story is not anti-Miata, enjoys watching Spec Miata races, believes Mazda and Miatas are good for SCCA, and thought the Miata he owned for two years was a great car."

Annual Tech Party

Sunday, April 5, 2009

12 noon

Bob Karl's Sales & Service

Troy, New York

Call Jack Hanifan for directions: 518-424-5597

This event is open to all.

Come by and enjoy the delicious hot dogs

prepared by Chef Greg Rickes

and get some detailed info

on the upcoming season from area racers.

Deadlines, Deadlines!

Time change have you dragging?

You're all still a bit sleepy from your winter hibernation?

Where are my articles people? While I love to pontificate as much as the next person, I really don't want to be one of the few voices of contributing members to the KO. I'm asking all you folks in MoHud to please send me current up-to-date information in a timely manner. I know there is more news than what's in here this month but I am left with very little region news. I sent out my usual notices to all regarding the deadline of the 15th of the month and it is now Sat., the 21st and it's still all I have to put in. Last month there was a plethora of subjects and articles. Maybe everyone is tired. But please, try to remember your lowly editor and get me some member news! I know you all love to hear news of any new babies, cars or human, or any interesting tales from repairs to adventures. Please share with us! Thanks!

National Convention photos show your leaders hard at work

Photos by Russ Burckhard

