

# KNOCKOFF



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

## *Spring has finally come!*

*Warm weather, flowers, & a new race season starts again!*

- Check out the Spec Miata Guidelines on page 7.
- Solo events schedule per Russ, see page 4.
- New MoHud arrivals, page 4-5.
- Exec board and membership meeting minutes on pgs 9-11.



Race Stewards Tom Campbell & Dave Canavan keep track watch at NHIS this April and just what they see from their chairs. Bottom, the tulips in Albany's Washington Park last May.



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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.

### ***SUBSCRIBE TO THE MO-HUD MAILING LIST:***

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/>

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Type	Size	1 Issue	6 Issues
Full Pg	10x7	\$20.00	\$100.00
Half Pg	5x7	\$15.00	\$75.00
Half Pg	10x3	\$15.00	\$75.00
Qtr Pg	5x3	\$10.00	\$50.00
Bus Crd	3x2	\$5.00	\$25.00

*All ads must be prepaid. Noncommercial classified ads run in three (3) consecutive issues and are FREE to MEMBERS*

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# RE REPORT

Jack Hanifan

## F & C

Congratulations to **Rick Alexander** and the rest of the NARRC F&C leadership. The Flag school at LRP was a huge success. It was evident at NHMS for the first event when there were over 40 flaggers on Friday. As a driver, I really appreciate the flaggers we have at LRP and NHMS. I have driven at every track in NeDiv (and a few in SeDiv) and the NARRC flaggers are the best. Having that many well trained workers is not something we should take for granted. Kudos to Peter Kroth who attended the school and flagged at NHMS.

## Stewards

The entire MoHud Steward corps was at NHMS for the season opener. Tom Campbell, Dave Canavan and I were the operating stewards while John Sheridan did double duty manning black flag and sitting in on a SOM hearing. Roly Heacox was the tech steward. Walt Huber was Chairman of the Stewards.

## Our Race

Things are progressing but volunteers are always needed, come to the meeting & get involved.

## Solo

As I write this MoHud's first solo event is scheduled for the upcoming weekend. The weather forecast is excellent. I know we will have another excellent event.

## RE's Monthly Contest

Each month we will publish a photo, with a question about it. The first member to email or call the RE on his cell phone with the correct answer will win a prize. The prize will come from the vast collection of MoHud inventory. 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.

### 09 May Photo Contest

Congratulations to last month's winner-Al Smith. Al correctly identified Lee Wallard of Altamont,NY as the driver of the Belanger Special #99. Lee drove the 99 to victory in the 1951 Indianapolis 500. This month's question - **Identify this race track.**



# **SOLO Report** by Russ Burckhard

## **May Report**

Spring is here and so is the new SOLO season. By the time you are reading this, we may have had our first events of the year. April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at Adirondack Community College is the setting. The construction has been completed and some of the lot has been paved. Hopefully they will pave the rest of the lot over the summer. It will be nice to be back there. Saturday's event is a test and tune, school combo. Those who wish to get instruction will get it and those who just want to have some seat time can get that as well. Sunday's event will be the first points event of the year. We will have 2 more events at ACC and I just got paper work for another three events. I will confirm them when I get the contracts signed. Here is the schedule as of this writing:

April 25, 26 at ACC, School, Event 1  
 May 2 at Seneca, Test and Tune  
 May 31 at ACC, Event 2  
 June 12-14 at Seneca, National Tour  
 June 28 waiting for contract, Event 3  
 July 11, 12 waiting for contract, Test and Tune, Event 4  
 Aug 8, 9 at Devens MA, NE Divisional  
 Aug 16 looking for location Event 5  
 Aug 30 looking for location Event 6  
 Sept 5 at Seneca, Test and Tune



Sept 20 waiting for contract, Event 7  
 Oct 4 at ACC, Event 8

## **Arrival!**

I also want to pass news of our newest course designer. Alexander Charles Huiest was born on March 16<sup>th</sup> to Bert and Sarah. He was 8lbs 7oz. and 21.5 inches long.

## *Another Spring Arrival!*



In case the proud parents did not send their own pictures, here is the “2027 Rookie of the Year”.

Oscar Van Slyke was born Friday, March 3.

7 lbs, 14 ozs.



Mom and baby are both doing well and Chip, Angie, and big sister Marisol are all happy he’s finally here.

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# COMPETITION CORNER... May 2009

Jack Hanifan, *Chairman*

## NHMS & Toyos

We have had our first race in NeDiv. NER hosted a Driver's School and Regional at NHMS. **Dr. Dick Stewart** started 4<sup>th</sup> on hard tires and when they got heat in them he charged to the lead to take the win in FV.

Other MoHud drivers and their finishes were:

**Steve Dweck** 5<sup>th</sup> ITS

**Patrick Stringer** 3<sup>rd</sup> SRF

**Demetrius Mossaidis** 6<sup>th</sup> ITA

There were not any MoHud drivers in SM but it was interesting. In SM, Ken Payson had the pole on RA1's. He ran the first 10 laps nose to tail with the 2<sup>nd</sup> place car which was on 888's. Which would lead one to believe the tires are equal, but let's remember it was Ken Payson!

There has been a lot of controversy about the 888's but as drivers learn how to set them up, they appear to be a good tire.

The setup information from Toyo is posted here; note the lower tire pressures compared to the RA1.

## Competition Licenses

The staff in Topeka seems to be taking about 2 to 3 weeks for processing licenses. Try to get your applications in early; if it seems to take a long time do not hesitate to call them at **800-770-2055**. They have been good about emailing you a confirmation, if you need it for the weekend.

Check out the setup guidelines on the next page.

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*These guidelines were submitted by both RE Jack Hanifan & Area 10 Director, John Sheridan*

## **Spec Miata Setup Guidelines**

The information provided in this guideline are general recommendations, your final setup may deviate from what is stated here.

	RA1		R888	
	Full Tread	4/32nds	Full Tread	4/32nds
<b>Stiffness</b>				
IP (kPa)	220	220	220	220
Load (kg)	370	370	370	370
Kz (N/mm)	245	233	272	251
Ky (N/mm)	158	178	188	194
Kx (N/mm)	454	473	495	495
IP (PSI)	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
Load (lbs)	816	816	816	816
Kz (lbs/in)	1,397	1,328	1,550	1,431
Ky (lbs/in)	901	1,015	1,072	1,106
Kx (lbs/in)	2,588	2,696	2,822	2,822
<b>Cornering Power (CP) / Cornering Force (CF)</b>				
CP (kN/deg)	1.03	1.35	1.25	1.46
CF w/4deg Slip Angle (kN)	2.98	3.69	3.72	4.02
CP (lbs/deg)	231.6	303.5	281.0	328.2
CF w/4deg Slip Angle (lbs)	669.9	829.5	836.3	903.7

As shown in the chart above the Proxes R888 is stiffer (higher spring rate) and creates more cornering power and force than the RA1. These changes in tire design might require chassis setup changes and driving behavior to maximize performance and wear.

### **Shaving**

The R888 was designed to be raced on at full tread depths (6/32nds). In back-to-back testing, a full tread depth R888 is faster than an RA1 that has been shaved to 4/32nds. Racers looking to maximize wear life should strongly consider using the R888 at full tread depths. The R888 can also be shaved for an increase in performance, but less remaining tread means less usable life.

### **Air Pressure**

The R888 can be used at lower hot pressures as compared to the RA1 because of its design. Decreasing the air pressure will improve contact pressure and footprint shape. A recommended hot pressure range is 32 – 38 psi. For a light weight vehicle such as the Spec Miata, 32 psi hot is a good starting point.

### **Tread Temperatures**

The optimum tread temperature for the R888 is 160°F to 220°F. Below 140°F and above 250°F the tire may not provide sufficient grip. Generally there will be a 35°F temperature gradient from inside to outside shoulder, with the inside shoulder being the hottest. Most distance and time on a race track is in a straight line therefore, the inside shoulder is hottest because of negative camber. The same temperatures across the tread face should not be expected.

Understand the track layout before pit entry. If for example there is a long right hand turn before entry, the left tires will be hotter. Take tire temperatures and pressures after a few laps to get the temperatures and pressures stabilized and come in after a hot lap.

### **Camber**

To maximize the potential of the RA1 a lot of negative camber might have been required. The R888 on the other hand produces more camber thrust at the same camber angles as the RA1, therefore less negative camber might be beneficial. Reducing negative camber will improve contact pressure distribution across the tread face improving wear. Start at -2.5° in the front and -3.0° in the rear. Analyzing the tire temperatures, wear, and chassis behavior will help you dial-in the optimum camber for your setup.

### Front Toe

One of the benefits of the increased stiffness of the R888 is the improved steering response over the RA1. Setting the front with a little to zero toe out will likely improve wear life, straight line speed, and stability with minimal sacrifice to steering response. The exact setting will vary depending on driver and situation.

### Driving

Due to the higher cornering performance compared to the RA1 a driving style with less slip (steering) angle is possible. As shown in the chart above the R888 is generating more cornering force at a typical 4 degrees of slip angle. The RA1 would require more slip angle to generate comparable forces. The R888 will be quickest when it is not sliding too much or being over-driven.

### Graining

The following are reasons why race tires grain:

- The tire was not properly brought up to working temperature. This will cause the tires to slide and not adhere to the track surface.
- Low track temperatures will not allow tire to come up to proper working temperatures.
- A vehicle that is setup poorly in suspension or alignment.

If graining is seen on the front tires the car may be understeering. The front tires are not generating enough grip (or rear tires may be generating too much) therefore the front tires are sliding creating this wear pattern.

Graining will contribute to poor grip and sliding which can cause more graining in an endless cycle.



## April Board Meeting Minutes (3/23/2009)

Meeting was called to order by R.E. Jack Hanifan at 8:00 PM.

### **Knockoff**

Jack reported that the April issue of The Knockoff has been posted online.

### **Membership**

Dave Wachtel e-mailed to report 4 new members from the previous Membership report.

### **Activities**

Pete Smith reports that the only current activities scheduled are the Golf Tournament and Go-Kart Night.

### **Solo**

Russ Burckhard reported that the region has received approval from Adirondack Community College to for 3 weekends during the season. The first events will be held April 25 & 26 with a School/Test & Tune to be held on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> and the first points event to be held on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Russ has purchased a hand-cart to assist in picking up cones after completion of an event and that the timing equipment has been shipped to be repaired.

While at the NEDiv Roundtable, Russ attended a seminar on Sound Control as starting this season at Solo Nationals there will be a restriction of 103 dB.

Finally, Russ reported that MoHud's course designer Bert Huiest and his wife Sarah welcomed their son, Alexander Charles, into the world on March 16.

### **MoHud Van**

Russ is still shopping for new insurance for the MoHud van. In the meanwhile, the region is paying on a monthly basis. Russ received a quote from Progressive but the equipment in the van was not covered under that quote.

### **Competition**

The Annual Tech Party is scheduled for April 5 at Bob Karl's Auto Sales in Troy.

There is a new tire rule in NEDiv for Showroom Spec Miata (SSM) for 2009. RA1 tires may be used if they were purchased prior to January 1, 2009. Otherwise, 888 tires must be used for SSM.

For the MoHud National, the Chiefs of Specialty have been named as follows:

Race Chair: Gene Tricozzi

Flagging & Communication: Rich Alexander

Pit: Clark Nicholls

Grid: Peter Kroth (National) & Dennis Curley (Pro IT)

Timing & Scoring: Marie Heacox

Registration: Nancy Boice

Tech: Richard Welty

Sound: TBA (Peter Perrault?)

EMS: Provided by Lime Rock Park

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

*Submitted by Peter Kroth, MoHud Secretary*

## April Monthly Meeting Minutes (4/1/2009)

Meeting was called to order by R.E. Jack Hanifan at 7:30 PM.  
Minutes from the March Monthly Membership Meeting as presented at the meeting were approved.

### Knockoff Report

The April issue of The Knockoff is posted on the MoHud web site.

### Treasurer's Report

Chip Van Slyke reported income of \$400 and expenses of \$2161 for net income of -\$1761.

### Membership Report

Dave Wachtel reported the latest new members and notable anniversaries. Special recognition was given to Dave Hathaway for his 40-year membership.

### Web

Dave reported that the Solo schedule has been updated.

### Solo

Russ Burckhard reported that the region has received approval for 3 weekends at Adirondack Community College. The first two events will be held Saturday and Sunday April 25 and 26. The 25<sup>th</sup> will be a School/Test & Tune and the first points event will be held on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Additional events have been scheduled for Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The timing equipment has been shipped out for repairs and Russ has been receiving e-mail updates on the repairs.

At the NEDiv Roundtable, Russ attended a seminar on Sound Control as starting this season at Solo Nationals there will be a restriction of 103 dB.

### Competition

Jack reported the 2-day Flagging & Communication School was held March 28 and 29 at Lime Rock Park. The first day featured classroom sessions and the second day involved on-track scenarios. The school was well-attended with 128 experienced and novice attendees.

The annual Tech Party is scheduled for 4/5/2009 at Bob Karl's in Troy. Squier Designs plans to attend.

Jack gave a reminder about "Hard Cards". Currently, they are free for all members with a Competition license or for anyone who volunteers for 2 days during a season and can be used for an annual waiver with the appropriate signatures from a licensed Registrar.

Jack advised that the region will receive sponsorship assistance from Driving Impressions for the National and Pro IT race. Part of the assistance will be help in mass mailings. In addition, the region has received a set of Hoosier tires for a possible raffle. Jack is looking for assistance with lunch for both days to help lower costs to host the event.

### Board of Director's Report

John Sheridan reported that changes are being made to Fast Track to make the publication more user friendly. The biggest changes will be clarifications as far as what is a proposed rule change as opposed to what is an adopted rule change by the CRB. John also advised that the CRB is looking to set up a specific time of year for rule changes.

John advised that SCCA National is looking at possibly setting up a program for 15-year-olds to participate in SCCA events. The biggest question is liability.

John also gave the following statistics from SCCA National:

- Current membership is down 1645 members from this time last year.

- Competition licenses are down 796 from this time last year.
- Entrants in Club Racing are also down.

### Saratoga Auto Museum

Bill Green, Historian for the International Motor Racing Research Center spoke on March 22, 2009. The annual car show is scheduled for May 16-17, 2009.

### OLD BUSINESS

NONE

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Track Days

DJ McArdle advised that Patroon Chapter of BMW club has scheduled 2 Track Day events for June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Watkins Glen and July 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> at Calabogie.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

*Submitted by Peter Kroth, (Oscar Van Slyke's proud uncle) MoHud Secretary*

*PLEASE NOTE: Phone numbers and email addresses  
will no longer be posted in membership reports.  
The decision to do this was reached at Exec. Board meeting on 4/27/09*

## Monthly Membership Report 04/18/2009

New member report 04/18/09. From: 02/09/09 to: 04/18/09. All records.  
Please welcome these new members to the region.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Joined</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
Deborah Berry	04/13/09	Catskill	NY
Ron Carl Jr.	02/09/09	Troy	NY
Dan Flynn	03/08/09		
David Allen Galletly	02/15/09	Glenmont	NY
Marc Mondesir	03/31/09	Rensselaer	NY
James Rulison	03/09/09		
Carmine G. Russo	03/12/09		
Alfie Merchant	04/17/09	Queensbury	NY

There were 8 records printed.

### Interests report generated on: 04/18/09.

#### CLUB RACING

Deborah Berry	Catskill	NY
Ron Carl Jr.	Troy	NY
Dan Flynn		

*Continued on next page*

Carmine G. Russo  
 Alfie Merchant                      Queensbury NY

**SOLO**

David Allen Galletly                      Glenmont      NY

Carmine G. Russo  
 alfie merchant                      Queensbury NY

There were 8 records printed.

### Anniversary Report generated on: 04/18/09 for the year 2009.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Joined on</b>	<b>Years</b>
	<b>March</b>	
David P. Hathaway	03/01/69	40.1
Robert B. Wright	03/01/74	35.1
Joseph A. Genovese Jr	03/24/99	10.0
Robert M. Stevens	03/04/99	10.1
Jared Lendrum	03/27/04	5.0
	<b>April</b>	
Eric Weiss	04/01/79	30.1
W. Scott Stickle	04/12/94	15.0
James W. L'Episcopo	04/17/04	5.0
Kenneth Lendrum	04/06/04	5.1
Frank Noguera	04/23/04	5.0
	<b>May</b>	
Greg Rickes	05/16/89	20.0
Jason W. Smith	05/12/94	15.1
Michael C. Squier	05/18/94	15.0
Shaina Bass	05/21/04	5.0
Eileen Pikul-Bass	05/21/04	5.0
Kenneth G. Vanwert	05/06/04	5.1

There were 16 records printed.

There are 348 members in the region.

## Membership Analysis

	March	April	Monthly Change	
			Raw	Percentage
<b>2008</b>	354	367	+13	+3.6%
<b>2009</b>	361	343	-18	-4.9%
<b>Year over Year</b>	+7 (+1.9%)	-24 (-6.6%)		

Above is a table representing membership change both from last month to this month and “year over year” for March and April. The membership counts are taken from reports downloaded from the SCCA National web site.

A full eighteen members have not renewed or have moved out of region since last month\*. This is a decrease of nearly five percent. Compare this with last year where the same period showed an increase of over three percent. To compare the April numbers from last year, the decrease is twenty four members or 6.6%. Nearly all of the attrition represents an abrupt change over the two months of 2009 rather than a gradual change over the course of the entire year. It’s a little speculative to draw conclusions from these data but it would not be illogical to assume that this is a result of the current economic difficulties.

There are a couple of oddities here. Note that there was an increase of nearly seven percent month to month in 2008. The reason for this rather large month to month increase is not typical. It’s not due to members joining up at a solo event. Perhaps there was an early driver’s school?

\*There is no way to tell which is the case from the reports that National furnishes to membership chairs.

### Webmasters Report

The web site is pretty much up to date. The latest Solo schedule has been updated with dates and venues, most of which are firm.

I just discovered a great web site that features F1 pod casts from two British “fans” who are both knowledgeable and entertaining. Long time F1 journalist Joe Saward is a frequent and hilarious guest. Audio of back “issues” are available. Check out “Sidepodcast - Your Weekly F1 Podcast”. ([www.sidepodcast.com](http://www.sidepodcast.com))

Dave Wachtel

Membership chair/Webmaster