

KNOCKOFF



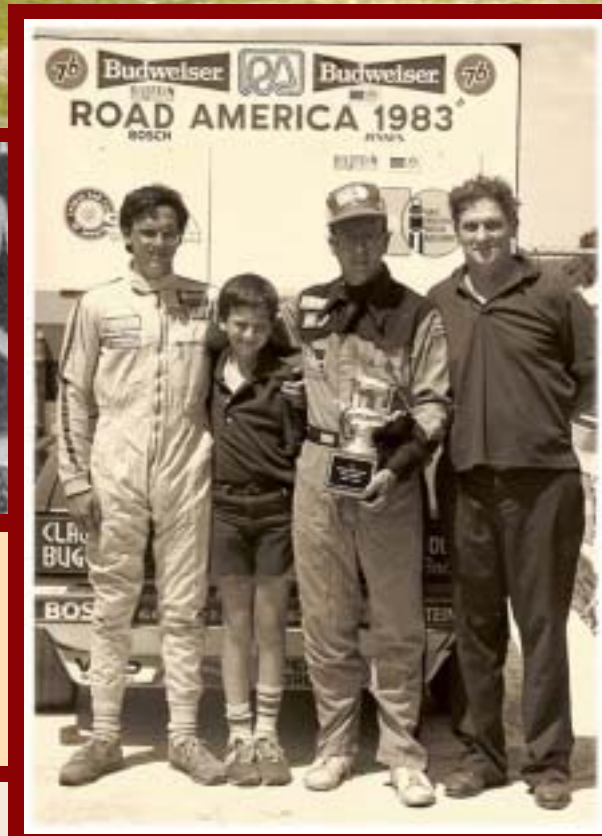
Official Publication of the Mohawk-Hudson Region Sports Car Club of America

MoHud and Racing lose a Champion Driver

PAUL HACKER

1947- 2009

Page 7



Above, Paul and Jean Hacker celebrate one of Paul's early victories. At right, from left to right: brother Karl, Karl's son Jed, Paul and their father Lou are seen at his Road America win in 1983. The "Hacker Express" continued for many years.

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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

PAUL HACKER

Well, the KO is late this month. It would have been out several days ago but the editor has been waiting for my article. I have had writers block because I knew I had to write about Paul Hacker. Paul started out as the MoHud Rookie of the year in his Showroom Stock Dodge Colt. This was back when Showroom Stock Cars were **STOCK**. There were no cages, only a roll bar. Cars did not have window nets, they had to use stock wheels, you could not change exhausts or add “trunk packages”, and you could not even paint graphics on them.

Paul went to Driver’s School at Pocono and when he was over a second under the track record, he was signed off. Needless to say this was the beginning of an unequalled career. Paul would go on to win the Car and Driver Challenge and 52 professional races. He holds the record for the number of IMSA championships won. He began as an autocrosser and ice racer and never forgot his beginnings, returning recently to win an AMEC Ice Racing Championship.

I can think of many stories but the one that probably reminds me the most of what Paul was like happened about 35 years ago at an Ice Race at Cossayuna Lake. It was the last lap, going into the last turn and I was in the lead with Paul right on my tail. There was no way he could pass me on the outside; all I had to do to win was go through that last turn without making a mistake. As I approached the braking point, I looked in my Wink and all I saw was Paul behind me – both hands off the wheel, hands held up next to his helmet and sticking his tongue out at me. In the second that I looked at him he got inside me and beat me to the finish for the win. I had such a laugh I did not even care about the win. In the last several days it has been said that Paul did it his way. This is certainly true and is one of the many things we will remember about him.

ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Meeting and Banquet is set for **Saturday December 5th at the Holiday Inn -205 Wolf Road, Albany 12205. Cocktails-6pm Dinner-7pm *Save the Date.***

2010 OFFICERS

Gene Tricozzi is heading up our nominating committee for the 2010 year. All of the present officers, with the exception of our Secretary Peter Kroth have indicated their willingness to serve another year. If any member would like to be nominated for Secretary or any other position, please contact Gene or come to the October meeting.

DON SOMMERS

Many of the racers who frequented NHIS might remember Don Sommers. Don was a starter and about 20 years ago joined the Stewards Program. He became a National Chief Steward and moved to Florida about ten years ago. He recently passed away; I will always remember him as an extraordinary steward.

2009 OCTOBER 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. This year I am working on sponsorships to pay for the shirts.

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 have actually driven in the race. 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 -1. In addition you get one point for every car in your class that you beat. Your best 5 races should be totaled. Remember you could conceivably win one race and finish 2nd in another but the 2nd place race could give you more points if the field was larger. The races have to have been run in 2009 and you have until November 15th to submit your points to me at JackHanifan@hotmail.com

RUNOFFS

Congratulations to Jeremy Treadway for a fine season. Jeremy won the NeDiv Championship in Formula Ford and had the pole by over a second at Road America. A bad fuel pump apparently cost him a chance at a National Championship.

CHEAP DATE AT NHMS

A few MoHud drivers made the trek over the hill to NHMS for the traditional Cheap date weekend. The double regional features qualifying and racing on both Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday

FV – Tony Leone dnf, Jon VandeCar 16th, Chris Zarzycki 4th.

SM- Al Smith 20th

SSM- Adam Figarsky 4th (he was listed as NER but we know he is MHR)

Sunday

FV-Chris Zarzycki dnf, Tony Leone 6th, Jon VandeCar 1st.

SM – Al Smith 23rd

SSM- Adam Figarsky 9th

STU- Jack Hanifan 1st

THE FUN ONE AT WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL

The Fun One also features Qualifying and Racing on both Saturday and Sunday. It was well attended by the MoHud drivers who did well.

Saturday

SSM- John Sheridan 13th, Werner Scheeren 7th,

SM-Scott Stickle 21st, BK Karl 12th, Ken Lendrum 9th, Alan Lendrum 7th, Michael Lo 6th, John Kuitwaard 5th, Jared Lendrum 4th, David Lendrum 2nd, and Charlie Campbell 1st.

SRF- Doug Garrison 11th, Pat Stringer 8th

FP- Tom Campbell 2nd

STU- Jack Hanifan 4th, Gene Tricozzi 2nd.

AS- Jim Sheridan 6th

HRG1-Kim Graff 2nd, Hillary Erin Graff 1st

HRG2- Brian Hannaburgh 7th, Charles Pond 6th, Mitchell Ware 2nd

Sunday

SSM Werner Scheeren 9th

SM-BK Karl 20th, Scott Stickle 18th, John Kuitwaard 8th, Alan Lendrum 7th, Jared Lendrum 6th, Michael Lo 5th, David Lendrum 3rd, Charlie Campbell 1st.

SRF – Doug Garrison 14th, Pat Stringer 7th.

FP- Tom Campbell 1st

STU- Jack Hanifan 3rd, Gene Tricozzi 1st.

HRG1-Kim Graff 3rd, Hillary Erin Graff 2nd.

HRG2-Charles Pond 4th, Mitchell Ware 2nd.

The SM results are fantastic, there were 36 SM cars and on Saturday MoHud had 7 of the top 9. On Sunday it was 6 of the top 8.

RESULTS

It is important to check the provisional results after your race. T & S does make mistakes; most of these errors are due to poor information from the transponder. If you've ever loaned your transponder to someone, or are using a borrowed transponder, the information on class and name may not get properly entered into the Timing and Scoring database. When you check the provisional results (you have 30 minutes) don't just check times. Check your class and other info; once they become final it is difficult to change. Points keepers and the National office use the results for year end awards and licensing.

Save the Date!

The MoHud Awards party will be held

Saturday, December 5th

Cocktails 6pm – Dinner 7pm

The Holiday Inn
205 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Worker of the Year Awards Announced at 2009 SCCA Runoffs

ELKHART LAKE, Wis. (Sept. 27, 2009) – The 2009 SCCA Club Racing Worker of the Year Awards were presented on Thursday, Sept. 24, at Road America, during the 2009 SCCA National Championship Runoffs.

Every year, the Sports Car Club of America requests nominations from its members for Worker of the Year in 10 categories. From the pool of nominees, a peer group from each worker specialty selects who they feel has earned Worker of the Year honors. Each of the Worker of the Year award winners will be featured in a 2010 issue of SportsCar. This year's winners include:

Flagging & Communications - Bob Newberg (Blackhawk Region)

Pit & Grid - Renee Angel (Cal Club)

Race Administration - Robey Clark (Texas Region)

Registration - Kay Imig (Milwaukee Region)

Scrutineer - Kyle Springer (Washington DC Region)

Sound - Barney Powers (Cincinnati Region)

Starter - John Horn, (Central Florida Region)

Steward - John Nesbitt (Washington DC Region)

Timing & Scoring - Linda Louie (Northern New Jersey Region)

There were no nominations in the Emergency Services category this year.

In a random drawing of the 2010 Workers of the Year, Barney Powers won a lifetime membership to SCCA.



A list of all previous Worker of the Year winners is available at www.scca.com. Award winners were recognized at the Worker of the Year party at the 2009 SCCA National Championship Runoffs at Road America, which concludes today.

Photo: Barney Powers and SCCA President Jeff Dahnert.
Credit: Eric Prill

PAUL HACKER 1947-2009

A Champion's Passing

By Greg Rickes

Paul Hacker, prolific in his success in the world of showroom stock racing, died in the early part of this weekend of August 29th, the victim of rapidly spreading cancer. Our paths crossed often, and I was witness to some of his notable racetrack accomplishments. We both got our start via the local gymkhana scene around the same time, in the late 1960s, and we even were in cars that were similar, though far from the same. Paul's was a blue Chevelle Supersport 396; mine had the same nameplate but was a six-cylinder, four-door, automatic. That portended how our paths would diverge.

Paul was determined in a manner rarely replicated among the local sports car contingent. Where for most it was a hobby, albeit a passionate pursuit, Paul expected much more. From autocross and ice racing he moved to the SCCA's showroom stock class, and achieved instantaneous success. Starting in a Dodge Colt he switched allegiance to Volkswagen when professional races were established for the newly-introduced Scirocco. He'd take that same make to victory in the 1975 Car & Driver Showroom Stock Challenge.

When VW hit upon the idea for a national touring series featuring the Rabbit (and later Golf) it seemed made to order for continuing the Hacker family racing tradition. Paul's father Lou had been a fixture on the local oval tracks when the phrase "stock car" was an essential truth. Paul's ideal was that racing should carry its own weight financially, the true essence of the term "professional".

As the racing world evolved from the 70s to the 80s and into the 90s Paul, teamed with his brother Karl, was always a force to be reckoned with, whether it was short sprint races or the challenging discipline of endurance racing. The Hacker Express achieved prominent success for Volkswagen, and later Oldsmobile, and finally Ford. But in spite of this proven track record Paul found very few opportunities to ply his skill in other arenas. As this segment of sport evolved away from self-sustaining to pay-to-play Paul seemed to get increasingly frustrated that marketing could trump merit.

With a feeling of almost forced exile Paul's role in the sport diminished. He had a few tries at team management, and harbored a hope that when Volkswagen re-entered the US motorsport scene with its TDI Cup there might be a place for him, but the current operatives were clueless about his pivotal role in a prior generation. In a sense he found his way back to his roots, achieving success in AMEC's ice racing series, and was keyed to take a larger role when cruel fate intervened.



Paul Hacker will be remembered for doing things his own way, and winning.

SOLO SOLO SOLO SO

SOLO Report by Russ Burckhard

October Report

It seems just like yesterday that we were getting ready for the first event. Now we are preparing for our final event. The drivers have one last chance to improve their point's position. Our final event for 2009 will be held at Adirondack Community College on October 4th.

It has been a good year. With all of the rain this year we have been extremely lucky and have had very limited amounts of wet courses.

Since the last issue, we have held 2 events and helped with a third. The first was at Wilton Mall on August 30th. If you remember, we hosted an event for the Electric City GTO club there last year for the GTO Nationals. They gained access to the site last year and had about 30 entrants for the event. The mall enjoyed having us there and was eager to have us back this year. I was a little worried about an event there due to the low turnout and the small lot. There wound up being nothing to worry about. The weather was great, Bert designed another great course, and the turnout was good. The malls seem like the place to hold events. We had 72 entrants who got 5 runs each. Eric Smith tried to get another Fast Time of the Day this year, but was not able to catch the ever-fast Alex Shchipkov, who has gone 2 for 2 at the Malls for getting the FTD.

The next event was held at Prospect Mountain for the Adirondack Corvette Club. Since I was in my brother's wedding that day I could not help out. Eric smith was out of town that day as well. John Danese stepped up and put on a great event. It was a wet day, but that didn't put a damper on the praise he and the others received for making the event a success.

The last event was held at The McCarty Ave. OGS lot in Albany. 57 entrants showed up on a cold, foggy morning that cleared up and turned into a beautiful day. The event started with a ceremonial release of homing pigeons by a guy who pulled into the lot with a trailer full of them and proceeded to let them go. He said they're going to fly the 125 miles back home. Everyone got 6 runs and a bunch of extra fun runs. This time Eric Smith got the Fastest Time.

The Solo Nationals were held in Nebraska this year. I'm sure Jim Garry will have an article on how he and Ken did. Alex Shchipkov finished second in DSP. After the first day, he was behind by over a half a second. He made up 3 tenths the next day but wound up .231 behind. Arne Beebe was set to make the trip when he had an accident while loading the new car on to the trailer. His foot got caught under a tire while pushing the car out of the garage. Fortunately, nothing was broken but he did wind up with an infection which eventually hospitalized him at the time he was supposed to be leaving for Nebraska. He was out of work for a while, having had a rough time with the antibiotics, but has since returned to work and well enough to compete at McCarty Ave. event.

Upcoming Events

October 4 Adirondack Community College Event 8

Year End Awards Banquet

December 5 Holiday Inn Wolf Rd. 6:00 pm

SOLO SOLO SOLO SOLO



Danielle O'Hara in Wagonzilla



Russ Burckhard in Gary Meier's Caprice



Kevin O'Conner with a wornout tire



*Zeke Wright
in his Mini*



Lyndon Peck



Checking times

MoHud Event Gallery

GOLF OUTING



Lee Favitta, Tom Campbell, Mike Larimer, and John Sheridan at Burden Lake Country Club



Frank Zalucki, Pete Smith, Doug Robertson, Thom O'Connor, Dick Stewart wait their turns.



Jack Hanifan and Pete Smith; who is paying and who won is not clear.



Is TJ Hanifan paying off Pete Smith or collecting?



Golf tourney winners: Dick Stewart & Jack Hanifan



Foursome: TJ Hanifan, Justin Cartwright's brother Andrew, Justin and Ed Berben

SOLO EVENT at CLIFTON COUNTRY MALL

Bob Karl Jr. waits in the sweltering heat for his next run thru the course.



Colleen Karl prepares to take the car for her turn at the course with her unidentified instructor.



Evan & Cassidy Karl sit with grandmother Mary, while Lisa Hanifan, their mom Colleen and grandfather BK Karl smile for the photo.



The MoHud Ladies Club: Lisa Hanifan, Denni Sheridan, Glenda Tricozzi, Diane Smith and Judy Sheridan enjoy the company amidst the garage din at Watkins Glen.



Jack Hanifan takes the checker at NHMS.

RE's Monthly Quiz/ Contest

No winner last month. No one correctly identified Jim Sheridan driving his brother's HP Sprite, his passengers were young Jim and John Sheridan. Coincidentally, a more current photo of the same 3 Sheridans was on page 7 of the Sept. KO. That photo, shot in the WGI garage, was taken about 100 feet from the original.

Editor's Note: Lisa Hanifan knew the answer to last month's photo quiz but was NOT allowed to participate. No 'employees' of the region, whaat?

This month, correctly identify the location of this photo and identify any 4 (four) individuals in it.



Monthly Membership Report

From: 08/21/09 to: 09/17/09 *Please welcome these new members to the region.*

Name	Joined	City	State
Josh Cameron	09/10/09	Athol	NY
Diana Chiappinelli	09/02/09	Northville	NY
Peter Ensign Mitchell	08/29/09	East Greenbush	NY
James D. Morgan	08/27/09	Cambridge	NY
Wade Robert Moulton Jr.	08/25/09	Queensbury	NY

There were 5 records printed.

Interests report generated on: 09/17/09

Club Racing

Diana Chiappinelli	Northville	NY
James D. Morgan	Cambridge	NY
Wade Robert Moulton Jr.	Queensbury	NY

Solo

Peter Ensign Mitchell	East Greenbush	NY
James D. Morgan	Cambridge	NY
Wade Robert Moulton Jr.	Queensbury	NY

There were 6 records printed.

Anniversary Report

Name	Joined on October	Years
Richard G. Stewart	10/18/84	25
Cassidy Karl	10/20/04	5
Colleen Karl	10/20/04	5
Evan Karl	10/20/04	5
Patrick Stringer	10/12/04	5

There were 5 records printed.

There are 351 members in the region, up 3 from last time!

I fielded just one call from a prospective Solo participant who hails from the northland, Tupper Lake way, and pointed him to the online registration to join up as well as to our excellent solo officials.

Webmasters Report

There have been intermittent failures in the bulletin board software. Since there has been no change to the actual board software a Google search seems to indicate that the problem may be hardware or database server related.

I have been informed by the board that we will be changing our provider. There are some decisions that need to be made regarding just what to do in this regard. The major issue is access to web site management tools (know as the panel). Access to the panel allows authorized people to manage mailing lists, email forwarding, databases as well as access to file management on the server.

When this all shakes out, I expect only minor outages as the web site gets transferred. I've done this before on a customer's site and it can go smoothly or not. We will try to make the transition as seamless as possible and will let everyone know as far as we can, when to expect any outages.

Regards

Dave Wachtel

Membership Chair/Webmaster

MEMBER POSTINGS:

For Sale

Four Hankook 205/60 R16-92T

Winter Tires (used one season), mounted on steel wheels – Mazda 6 bolt circle-

Full (mazda) wheel covers

No Reasonable Offer Refused

Call David McClumpha @ **518-767-2308**