

MoHud Officials' journey to the SCCA National Convention proves worthwhile.



MoHud RE Russ Burckhard, DJ McArdle, Asst. RE Jim Bucci, and Competition Chair Jack Hanifan were part of the representatives from MoHud at the convention.

Attending the SCCA National Convention is a very important function for our MoHud officials. Learning first hand the inner workings of the national office and all the various specialities and administrative intricacies assists our elected officers in making MoHud as viable as possible. Our officers and speciality chiefs can now serve our membership with a greater knowledge of policy and procedure within the national organization.

There were not as many down moments to enjoy Las Vegas as I'm sure they would have liked. Some were able to find an afternoon or evening to do some exploring. They have been hard at work developing the events for throughout the upcoming year. Join them at the next membership meeting on March 2nd at the Orchard to hear the reports for the various programs and update of regulations.



John Sheridan, Earl Hurlbut, and Tom Campbell stroll under Las Vegas lights.

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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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Qtr Pg	5x3	\$10.00	\$50.00
Bus Crd	3x2	\$5.00	\$25.00

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RE REPORT

Russ Burckhard March 2011

The National Convention was this past month out in Las Vegas. Mohud was well represented with seven members in attendance. Tom Campbell, Jim Sheridan, Jack Hanifan, Jim Bucci, Trish Bucci, DJ McArdle, and I all made the journey. The 3 day convention was jam packed with seminars that would appeal to all aspects of the SCCA. I spent most of my time at Regional Executive training type meetings, but was able to get to a couple of others as well. I sat in on a couple of SOLO meetings, a data acquisition meeting, and a Street Survivor meeting as well.

The region did not go un-noticed last year. Due to the efforts of DJ McArdle during the PDX at Monticello, the Mohawk Hudson region was voted as the Northeast Division PDX/Time trial of the year. As far as how we ranked nationally with that event; we were in the top three. A very impressive effort considering Mohud has not held a PDX in many years. I cannot thank DJ enough for his hard work and dedication to the PDX program. We also need to thank the Patroon BMW Club for their support as well. In talking with Matt Rowe, the Divisional Steward for Time Trials and PDX's, he was very impressed with the level of professionalism at the event. He said that "it was hands down the best event in the Division".

I met our new Area 10 Director John Walsh and we had a few brief conversations. John is an interesting guy with what I will call an obsession with bacon. My first clue was when at the Hall of Fame induction banquet he pulled out a tube of bacon. It looked like a large tube of toothpaste but was filled with a bacon flavored paste. Now having a tube of bacon would not make you obsessed with it, but having two tubes probably would. So that is what I am basing my opinion on. Well that and the conversation about bacon that followed. Here are a couple of items you may want to look up if you would like; bacon brownies and candied bacon. When John comes to our region, we will have to make sure that we have some bacon on the menu. Seriously, John is a great guy and Area 10 is lucky to have him as their representative. He is a worthy replacement for John Sheridan as our leader.

Here is some National info. Net income was around \$500,000. Investment reserves are around \$3 million. There are about 41,760 members. This is down about 4% from this time last year. There were about 9,400 new members last year. Some items to look forward to in 2011 from National are multi-year memberships, new Pro-Solo timing equipment, new software for technical and administration, and a newly redesigned website.

Membership discounts that are available for you and your friends to renew or join are: up to \$45 for working at a sanctioned club race, \$10 for referring each new member, \$35 discount for being in the military, \$45 membership for a 1st Gear membership, \$15 discount for being referred, up to \$30 for weekend memberships, \$35 for first 3 years under new worker club racing program. Members that refer other members could be eligible to be entered into a drawing for entry into Skip Barbers Racing School, a \$1,500 Tire Rack certificate, or a \$500 SCCA gift certificate. The region will also get incentives if we reach certain goals. 2% growth will gain Mohud \$20-30 for each member above the goal. 80% retention will get Mohud up to a 15% discount on 2012 sanction fees.

My entire trip was not all about the SCCA. There was some fun to be had. DJ and I took a ride into town and went to an indoor go-kart track. Pole position speedway left some \$5 off coupons at the convention. Who am I to turn that offer down? We ran two races and got beat both times by another driver. We also watched this driver in between our two races as we sat and discussed our lines and what we could do to go faster. While watching, you could tell that this driver could drive and be patiently aggressive with getting by the lap traffic. The man at the table next to us told us that the driver was with him and runs the course about 3 times a day about every day of the week. We explained to him who we were and about the SCCA and said that the driver definitely has a future in racing and that the SCCA would be a great starting point. When we finished our second race we talked to the driver. She was a very nice girl and told us that she regularly gets told she needs to get into racing. She will probably wait a while because she is only twelve years old. I know I will get some flack because I was beat by a twelve year old girl, but I am not alone. Her times were some of the best at the track. So as a challenge to you all, the 2012 National Convention will again be in Las Vegas. If you think you can do better than I did against this young lady, start making your plans to go and we can try it together.

Congratulations to Clark Nicholls. Clark Nicholls was NNJR's Pit Lane Worker of the Year, selected by NNJR Pit Chief Bart Carlevaro. Clark knows that he will be getting a Wire Wheel Car Badge as his "Than'Kew Award."

2011 SCCA National Convention Las Vegas, NV



2011 SCCA National Convention

Report from Jack Hanifan

Wednesday February 9, 2011 found six MoHud members on the Southwest “el cheapo” nonstop to Las Vegas. Tom Campbell, Russ Burckhard, DJ McArdle, Jim and Trish Bucci and myself arrived at 4pm local time. We met John Sheridan who flew in from Jacksonville and the seven of us were at the hotel within the hour. Wednesday night was spent in the hotel and talking with friends, many of whom we only see at the Runoffs or sojourns to the Southeast Division.

Thursday The day began with a short greeting by our President Jeff Dahnert and a few housekeeping announcements. The first session I attended was the **Fed Ex Doc Store**. Fed Ex has made an arrangement with SCCA that allows us to purchase services and products at a discount. Wesley Newell, the Fed Ex account manager, explained the benefits to the regions and the process to use the document store. I have been following up with him to see if it will indeed save money. My second morning session was **Risk Management** - Pete Lyon discussed the current risk management concerns which SCCA has.

Leadership Luncheon - Regions were honored for their increase in membership and activities. Alas, MoHud did not receive any awards.

What's Your Pickle? - The first afternoon session was a lengthy two-plus hours but entertaining non the less. It dealt with providing good customer service. We were reminded “our members are our customers and we have to make them happy”. This session pointed out many little things we can do to make our members feel like they are getting value for their dollar. The last session of the day was the **Annual Meeting and Town Hall**. The Annual Meeting is the time when our President/CEO Jeff Dahnert gives the state of the Club address. He reports on the status of the club with details of the various areas (SCCA Inc, Pro Racing, SCCA Enterprises and SCCA Foundation) as well as financial reports on the status of the club. All areas of the club except Enterprises turned a profit and the loss for Enterprises was very small. The Town Hall section puts the 13 Board of Directors in front of the membership to answer their questions about the club. We were ably represented by our new Area 10 Director John Walsh. Many issues were raised but the most-asked question concerned elimination of National Administrators for the various racing specialties. The last meeting of the day was the **SCCA Welcome Reception** - Adult beverages (Diet Coke) and hors oeuvres were served with a chance to talk to friends.

Friday The day began early with a 7am breakfast with the members of the Court of Appeals. At 8am all the Stewards were immersed in an all-day Workshop. Dave Nokes and Fred Cummings assigned us to various teams and we spent the entire day working on different issues and problems. The results are being tabulated and will be released to all Stewards in the club in the near future. The SCCA Stewards program is dedicated to improving the Racing program so racing is Safe and Fair.

Saturday Saturday began with the Club Racing Board (CRB) Town Hall chaired by Bob Dowie. Members of the CRB answered various questions on Club Racing. I spent the next session on some Court of Appeals (COA) business and then attended the **Executive Stewards Town Hall**. Chairman of the Stewards, David Nokes, hosted the meeting where we were represented by our own Earl Hurlbut. They held a discussion of stewards' actions during 2010 and introduced the SIT (Stewards in training) Ground School.

The Club Racing Luncheon – Club racers and workers were honored for their 2010 work. John Sheridan was honored for his six years on the BOD.

continued on next page

Following lunch, I attended the **Calendaring and Online Sanction Introduction** - We will soon be able to obtain our sanction numbers online with a minimum amount of effort. This process should begin in May.

The next session I spent on some COA business. Then last session on Saturday was the Steward Workshops at which each of the assigned groups presented their conclusions.

Saturday night was the last event of the Convention - the **Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet** - Karen Babb, John Bishop, Jim Fitzgerald, Tracer Racing (Chuck Billington & Tom Foster) and Harro Zitza were the new inductees to the Hall of Fame.

SCCA President and CEO Jeff Dahnert ended the evening and banquet with reflections and a look to the future. "Evenings like this truly underscore the character that runs through this organization," Dahnert said. "I want to congratulate the award winners tonight, and our new Hall of Fame class. To everyone that was here this week, I want to thank you for your participation and encourage you to take what you've learned back to your Regions. Let's all work together to make SCCA an even better place."

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not mention the Convention sponsors: *Honda, Mazdaspeed, Honda Racing, Subaru and Sunoco.*

The 2011 Official Sponsors of SCCA are: BF Goodrich, Black Magic, Gumout, Hawk, Pace American, Racing Radios, SafeRacer, Sunoco, Tire Rack and Volkswagen.

Member Update

As many of you know, our rallye chairman Jim Bishop was seriously injured in a volleyball incident. Jim is recovering from a severe spinal cord injury at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital in Schenectady.

His girl friend Troy continues to keep us updated on his condition. Her latest email contained this message:

"Jim is continuing to improve. He has increased the strength and range of motion in his arms and is continuing to improve his grasp. He still does better with his left arm and hand, but his right side is also improving."

Jim has enjoyed having visitors but still wants to limit visiting to one person/couple per day.

Please continue to schedule short visits with his friend Julie at jbablin910@nycap.rr.com

Thank you!

SOLO Report

Russ Burckhard

The Solo Advisory Committee meeting was held on February 4th at Eric Smith's house (thanks to him and Pat for their hospitality). We have a tentative schedule worked out that I am waiting for site owner approval. I will post events as I get confirmation. The Supplemental rules were updated to keep up with the changing times. The committee also went over what we will need and what would be nice to have for the upcoming season.

I had a nice trip to Las Vegas for the National Convention. It was a great time with a lot to be learned. Solo at the National level had 75,000 entrants last year. There were 8 tours with an average of 256 entrants. That is up 3% from last year. Pro Solo held 8 events as well and averaged 194 per event. The National Championships had 1153 entrants. 15 Divisional events contained 1,300 entrants. 1,901 Regional events were where the other 70,000 entrants competed. That is down 5% from last year. Ten drivers won the Solo Triad award this year.

Good news from SCCA is that the sanction and insurance will not be going up this year.
Russ

COMPETITION REPORT

MARCH 2011

2011 March Competition Report

TECH PARTY- the Annual Tech Party is scheduled for Saturday April 16th at Bob Karl's Sales and Service, 2791 6th Avenue, Troy, NY. 12 Noon. Bob closes at noon so please do not arrive early. The Region will provide hot dogs and soda, if you would like to bring something else to share, feel free to do so. If you are thinking about a vehicle either search Bing Bob Karl Sales or use your smart phone to scan the QR code to view his inventory.



There are no major changes for this year, Snell SA 2000 or newer helmets are still acceptable. Now is the time to check your belts and harnesses, remember **SFI belts** are good until December 31st of the year two years after the date of manufacture. If for example the date of manufacture is in 2008 the belt was good until Dec 31st 2010. You need a new belt. **FIA belts** are normally good for 5 years and the date of expiration will be on the belt, they are good until the last day of the year marked.

It is not too early to think about the requirement for **head and neck restraints; they will be required as of 1/1/12. They must meet SFI 38.1 or FIA 8858** specifications. They may be a Hans device or any other restraint which meets the requirements.

MoHud Race- A one day Regional for **NARRC and NYSRRC** points- **Saturday July 2nd 2011, at Lime Rock Park**, save the date

NeDiv Roundtable is scheduled for March 5th at Pocono Manor near Pocono Speedway. Bob Dowie, Chairman of the Club Racing Board will be there to answer any questions. All are welcome.

Pocono- NNJR is hosting a Double Regional at Pocono on May 7 & 8. NNJR is assisting us with our race and they need help for their race. They need both drivers and workers who can help set up late afternoon, early evening on Friday the 6th. If you can make it please let me know, the more we have the faster the work will go.

Rational-NHMS – reminder the 1st race of the year is a Rational at New Hampshire April 30, May 1st .

Membership Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm.

Russ advised that at the Board Meeting held in January Jack Hanifan had tendered his resignation as Asst RE. The Board has appointed Jim Bucci as his replacement.

Secretary – motion to accept January membership meeting minutes was approved.

Treasurer – no report.

Membership – Jim Bucci (in Dave Wachtel's absence) gave a brief report. The Chapter has 326 members to date. There were 5 new members joining in January.

Solo – the Solo Advisory Committee will be meeting shortly to begin working on this upcoming season's race schedule. The Rally that had been scheduled for the end of February has been canceled due to Jim Bishop's recent accident. Jim remains at Sunnyview Rehabilitation, recovering from a recent spinal injury sustained while playing volleyball.

Rally-cross – SCCA will no longer be sanctioning rally-cross events held on frozen water, e.g., lakes.

PDX – DJ reported that LRP has offered us a ½ day date (to be shared with the LRP Club), October 22, 2011. DJ will work up a budget for review.

Activities – last month's Kart even was well attended, with 18 participants.

Competition – The Tech Inspection Party will be held at Bob Karl's shop on Saturday, April 16th, 12:00 pm. The Northeast area's first Rational will be held at NHIS, April 30th – May 1st.

Old Business – the Region would like to put on a Street Survival event for newly licensed drivers. More information will be obtained at the upcoming Convention (next week in Las Vegas).

New Business –

- Chip provided a summary of the Region's budget for the upcoming year. Motion to accept the budget was unanimously approved. Solo needs 12 – 13 radios.
- We will need to either purchase new radios or purchase new batteries for the radios that we currently have.
- The Roundtable is scheduled for the first weekend in March. An informational flier is on the NESCCA website.
- 2011 banquet date has been reserved - Troy Elks Club on December 3rd, 2011.
- MoHud will be hosting the November 2011 Mini Convention in Saratoga. The Awards Banquet will be at the Saratoga Auto Museum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Monthly Membership Report 02/16/2011

New member report 02/16/11. From: 01/09/11 to: 02/16/11.

Please welcome these new members to the region.

Name	Joined	City	State
Victor Benson	01/22/11	Duanesburg	NY
Scott Cherry	02/07/11	Rexford	NY
Aaron Dweck	01/31/11	Saratoga Springs	NY
Emily Dweck	01/31/11	Saratoga Springs	NY
Laurie Dweck	01/31/11	Saratoga Springs	NY
Andrew Lauria	01/17/11	Wells	NY

There were 6 records printed.

Interests report generated on: 02/16/11.

Club Racing		
Victor Benson	Duanesburg	NY
Pro Racing		
Victor Benson	Duanesburg	NY
Rally		
Victor Benson	Duanesburg	NY
Solo		
Victor Benson	Duanesburg	NY
Scott Cherry	Rexford	NY
Andrew Lauria	Wells	NY

There were 6 records printed.

Anniversary Report generated on: 02/16/11 For the year 2011

Name	Joined on	Years
	March	
Walter J. Huber	03/01/71	40.1
Carol Campbell	03/03/86	25.1
Robert Beierlein	03/19/96	15.0
Roger Gilman Morse	03/23/06	5.0
Hannah L. Smith	03/23/06	5.0
Samuel W. Smith	03/23/06	5.0

There were 6 records printed.

There are 329 active members in the region.

The region seems to be growing again, albeit slowly. We have six new members join since the report published in the Feb. KO. Since there are 329 members in the region according to the latest report from National $329 - 6 = 323$. Hmmmm. Seems like 3 members disappeared and mysteriously appeared again. I think that these probably represent late renewals. Generally if one is recently dropped, if your membership number is still available, you can pay for the time you were not a member and have both your tenure and membership number restored.

Webmasters Report

It's been very quiet. If you have content that you want to get posted on our site, please email it to me for consideration. Appropriate articles, photos or other Mo-Hud related material is welcome.

Dave Wachtel

Membership Chairman/Webmaster