

KNOCKOFF ff

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MOHAWK-HUDSON REGION SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA

November 2015

The Knockoff is the official publication of the Mohawk-Hudson (MOHUD) Region, Sports Car Club of America (SCCA). Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of MOHUD or the SCCA. The general membership meeting is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM at The Orchard Tavern, 68 N. Manning Blvd, Albany, NY. To subscribe, go to www.mohud-scca.org/about/knock-off to sign up for delivery to your email inbox.

LOST SPEEDWAYS PARTICIPANTS READY FOR THE GREEN FLAG - AND LUNCH



The Saratoga Automobile Museum's wildly popular "Lost Speedways" auto racing program, long a "Saturday after Thanksgiving" tradition for area fans and racers, is set to "go green" once again. And for the 2015 edition, on Saturday, November 28th, a common complaint has been addressed.

"The only complaint I ever get is that people get hungry," said organizer Ron Hedger. "They come to the museum when we open at mid-morning, peruse the memorabilia displays, look at the exhibits in all the galleries and then enjoy the afternoon presentations, all without lunch. To address this issue, we have engaged the good people at Bravo's Catering to

provide a light buffet menu of pizza, pasta, bread and soft drinks."

The "Lost Speedways 2015" program will include Mark Supley's look at board track motorcycle racing, Ken Perrotte's memories of the Fulton Speedway when it was known as the MilRay Speedway, and Greg Rickes' tales of sports cars racing in the streets of Alexandria Bay. John Snyder will relate the story of the Orange County Fairgrounds early years, when it was known as Victory Speedway, while Bill Ladabouche will recall the days when New Yorkers like Pete Corey and Kenny Shoemaker dominated Vermont's Otter Creek Speedway. And to close out the program, DIRT modified star Kenny Tremont and Oswego supermodified star Otto Sitterly will discuss their outstanding careers and

recent developments in their areas of racing during Ron Hedger's traditional interview session.

Museum visitors will also enjoy viewing additions to the Racing in New York Gallery, including a Jaguar driven by sports car legend John Fitch and a Richard Petty Pontiac recently donated to SAM by longtime racer Roger Griffith, as well as the newly opened "Real Steel - Stories of Automotive Archeology" exhibit in the Golub Gallery.

The Saratoga Automobile Museum opens at 10 am, with the Lost Speedways memorabilia display set for 11:30 and the presentations scheduled to begin at 12:45.

More information about SAM and Lost Speedways, which is free to members of the museum, can be found online at

www.saratogaautomobilemuseum.org

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Regional Executive

December RE Report

Russ Burkhard

As I was looking back to write this report I see that I have been your RE for the last 5 years. A lot has happened in this time and I am honored to have been a part of it. I have decided to not run for re-election for 2016 but I will be staying on as the Solo Chair. The Nominating Committee has the new slate of officers for 2016. The only change will be for the top spot. Jim Bucci will be voted in at the banquet and will serve as Mohud's new RE. So thank you for letting me be your leader and welcome to Jim.

We held the Mini-Con on 11/13-15/2015 at the Saratoga Holiday Inn and it seemed to be well attended. Saturday started off with a Breakfast with the Directors. Terry Hanushek, Dick Pattula, and John Walsh are the current SCCA Directors in

the Northeast Division. Bob Dowey was also in attendance. He will be replacing the outgoing Dick Pattula at the end of the year.

Here are the highlights of that meeting; FIA has approached SCCA to oversee Formula 4. Pro and Enterprise are going through a re-org. Track night of America had over 2000 entrants and SCCA will model it for another year. 78% of new SCCA members leave within the first 3 years. Insurance and sanctioning look to be holding steady and little to no increase is expected. Runoffs to be held at Mid-Ohio in 2016, Indianapolis in 2017, and the west coast in 2018. There is talk to keep Runoffs at tracks for two years at a time to lessen the burden of the National staff but they do not want to lock in for

multiple years. The Vegas Convention is looking to do some better grassroots education to try and better the info that the regions can use. The Solo Nationals set an attendance record in 2015.

The NeDiv awards banquet was held at the Saratoga Auto Museum after the Mini-Con. Ron Hedger gave us a detailed account of where the current show came from and some history about each of the cars. Dinner was delicious and the awards portion went off without a hitch and I was happy to see that the majority of the winners were in attendance.

The Awards banquet is approaching. Save the date to join in the fun. It is December 5th at the German American Club:

<http://www.germanamericanclubofalbany.com/>



Jack Hanifan at Mini-Con



Chris Mosely at Mini-Con



December Member Meeting Minutes

Ron Bass

▶ Call to order 7:40 pm.

Secretary - minutes accepted as published in the Knock Off.

Membership - 388 members in September now up to 430 members, most who joined as part of the recent Tire Rack Street Survival. Jim also announced member anniversaries.

Knock Off - all agreed that the Knock Off looks very good. There were a couple of minor typos in the most recent Knock Off. Eric will work with Tim on proofreading prior to publication. AMEC wants to place an ad in the Knock Off. Motion unanimously approved to place ad free of charge.

Treasurer - Todd summarized previous month's income and expenses.

Solo - seven helmets have aged out so we will need to purchase new helmets.

TRSS - 24 attendees at the recent Tire Rack Street Survival in Saratoga. School was sold out with a few individuals wait listed. Special thanks to Tom Campbell for helping make the arrangements with the Saratoga Auto Museum as well as to all the instructors and volunteers who

helped with the event. The museum would like to do two schools next year.

Rally - social rally was held on October 24. There were five entries. All had a good time.

PDX - no report.

Activities - karting and golf will be held next year. If anyone has any other ideas, please contact Pete Smith. Eric will try to schedule karting for the winter.

Competition - John Stimm Memorial Regional Race at Thompson had good attendance. Justin Noble did well in FV. Regional Championship - Jack will be compiling results.

Old Business - District Boy Scout Jamboree - a number of MoHud members attended. A lot of discussion with the scouts about autocrossing and racing. Holiday Banquet will be on Saturday, December 5th, at the German American Club, \$25/person, \$5 for children. Cash bar at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Bus/van - van has been disposed of. Prices for graphics/wraps for the new bus are being researched. Mini Con - has 100 entries to date. Schedule has been sent out by email as well as posted on MSR. Jack summarized the overall

schedule and agenda. There will be a number of seminars for both solo and club racing on Saturday. Award ceremony and dinner will be at the Saratoga Museum Saturday evening. Cocktails at the museum at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7:30 pm, with awards following. Motion discussed and approved to purchase a projector for use at the upcoming Mini Con and Awards Banquet (rental for two events will be about the same as purchase).

New Business - 2016 officer slate was presented to membership: Jim Bucci, RE; Eric Smith, Asst RE; Todd Boice, Treasurer; Ron Bass, Secretary; Pete Smith, Activities; Bruce Koskaowski and Dick Stewart, Directors. No other members were nominated for officer.

By Laws - term limits, suggested by Jim Bucci, needs further discussion. There are also specific activities in the by laws that are not currently being done. Do we continue, modify, or eliminate these functions. Topics will be put on agenda for future membership meetings starting in January. Jim, Eric, and Russ Gorman are currently on the by laws committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. ◀



Board Member Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2015 *Ron Bass*

► Call to order 7:22 pm.

Knock Off - Upcoming Holiday Banquet will be advertised in the KO. We will again be collecting toys for Unity House of Troy.

Treasurer - no report.

Solo - no report.

Tire Rack Street Survival - the recent school had 24 students and 18 instructors. A hydrant was available for the skid pad. At future schools, traffic needs to be monitored throughout the day to insure that cars don't park in areas where the school is held. This year's school was held on the same weekend of the Thompson regional race. In the future, we should try to avoid having TRSS on the

same race day if possible.

Rally - was this past Saturday - had 5 entries. Todd and Nancy Boice won.

PDX - no report.

Activities - we will probably have a Go Kart race series this winter.

Competition - Thompson was well attended and went smoothly.

Old Business - we had an offer of \$500 for the old van. The offer was accepted by the Board. Mini Con - Jack is finalizing schedule. In addition to a full Solo seminar schedule, Tom Campbell will do a seminar on the Majors. MotorSportReg is also scheduled to be on the

schedule and will do a seminar. An email blast will be sent out with the final schedule. 61 persons are registered to date.

New Business - Holiday Banquet will be at the German American Club on Saturday, December 5th. There will be a cash bar. Nominating Committee - needs three members in good standing for the Committee. Current officer slate is: Jim Bucci for RE, Eric Smith for Asst. RE, Todd Boice for Treasurer, and Ron Bass for Secretary. A Discussion ensued on if we want to change the bylaws to incorporate term limits for officers. This issue will be brought up for discussion at the upcoming membership meeting. ◀

A Holiday Reminder

Your KO Overlord

Choose your ride.

Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.



DRUNK DRIVING
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.

Save a Life
New York Department of Transportation

December SOLO Report

Russ Burkhard



On November 14th Mohud hosted the Mini Convention at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga. Jim Garry put together a great slate of presenters that did not disappoint. It was an informative day that seemed to leave all attendees satisfied. I stayed in the room all day and at times there were over 40 people in attendance.

The Regional Solo Development hosted by Velma and Raleigh Boreen started the day. They started by stating that because there are no longer any divisional Solo events that there was not a need for the Solo Divisional Steward as outlined in the rule book. This title has been replaced with a Solo Development Coordinator. In our area this person is Mark Andy (marka@maracing.com). The next item they talked about was the Solo Cook Book (see http://cdn.growassets.net/user_files/scca/downloads/000/008/734/COOKBOOKALL.pdf?1438358923).

This book gives a good idea of what goes on in the Solo program and ideas on how to improve it. Their next topic was on minor waivers (MS-2A) and how to fill them out. They also gave the 2016 National event dates that may interest people in our area:

5/7-8	?	?
5/14-15	Pro Tour	Washington DC
5/25-26	Champ Tour	Washington DC
7/17	Match Tour	Pittsburg PA
7/30-31	?	Wilmington
?	Champ Tour	Peru

Please note that I tried to write these as fast as they rattled them off and I could not find on the internet to confirm before submitting for this issue.

Roger Johnson kept us interested for the next 3 sessions with his course design seminar. See http://www.houscca.com/solo/courses/Course_Design_4-1-2.pdf for the presentation he went off of. A basic summary is:

Don't get them lost, be creative but not bizarre, ask for reviews, use a variety of elements, avoid off camber turns, make course flow, only put pointers on inside of turns, line the course, avoid visual confusion, be open to suggestions but stay true to your design, position finish first and start second

then fill middle, have a 100' straight before finish, plan worker stations, and note errors so you don't repeat them.

Raleigh came back for a seminar on Solo Safety Training. The program was developed in 1976 and became a program in 1981. Prior to this safety for the most part was only focused on the spectators. The renewals for Safety Steward are now 3 years and SCCA is working on being able to renew licenses online.

Solo Competition Driving by Anthony Crea was next up. He gave us a few tips on how to become better drivers. Tie up loose ends before events. You don't want to be stressed and that should allow you to be more focused and enjoy it more. Travel to other regions/clubs to see how you stack up and to get feedback on improving. Look ahead. How far do you look? Not at all? 1-2 gates? 2-4 gates? More than 4? The benefits are not being surprised when approaching an element. Thinking ahead allows you to plan ahead. Both of these help you to plan ahead for your turns, braking, and accelerating. It can also help to fix mistakes from prior runs. Look ahead while walking the course. A few more tips. Don't be afraid to ask for help, seat time is key, and focus on how to fix mistakes instead of worrying about making them again.

Brian Connors ended the day with an update on the State of Solo. The last Solo Town hall meeting was posted on the website <http://www.scca.com/videos/1971722> SCCA is looking into an online registration, results program for the solo program.

CAM is a new Class in the Solo department. It is the Classic American Muscle. Rules can be found here http://cdn.growassets.net/user_files/scca/downloads/000/010/078/2016_CAM_handout_-_Rules_Final.pdf?1446494308. It is basically for the big three manufacturers front engine rear drive vehicles aimed to attract Classic Muscle Car Enthusiasts. This is something we can try to push at the next Guptil's car show.

Brian Connors



Raleigh Boreen



Anthony Crea



Roger Johnson

Mini-Con Report

Jim Garry



In November our region hosted this year's Northeast Division Mini Convention. For those who have not heard about this annual meeting, it mimics the SCCA National Convention but on a much smaller scale. There's always a town hall meeting with our representatives on the SCCA National Board of Directors (NEDiv has three Directors by the way), there are meetings for Regional Executives, race stewards and workers, race scheduling meetings (these can get interesting as each region vies for tracks and dates of their preference), and more. There is also a banquet in the evening along with awards presentations.

Normally lacking at the convention is much content for autocrossers. Over the years when MoHud hosts a Mini Con we've tried to put together a Solo "track"; a series of informational presentations on various autocross topics that run at the same time as the scheduling, steward, and race worker meetings held in nearby rooms.

We've had some successes and failures. This time around there was a lot of effort put into creating some very good content. But of equal importance was getting the word out about them. Social media was a primary avenue of advertising but phone calls and personal emailing was also used. The result was a solid series of presentations along with a very good attendance.

The convention was held at the Saratoga Springs Holiday Inn. Registration and an informal get-together with snacks took place on Friday evening. First up on Saturday morning for all attendees was "Breakfast with the Directors". After that, the Solo track started with "Regional Solo Development" presented by Velma and Raleigh Boreen. These long time autocrossers have a great deal of expertise on how to maximize a regional Solo program. They are now officially part of the National Field Staff and they travel to these meetings as well as to local regions to share their knowledge and also explain how to obtain assistance from the National Office. They imparted a lot of very useful knowledge to the crowd.

Next up was (trumpets please) course designer extraordinaire Roger Johnson all the way from Houston Region with a three hour presentation on course design. The first two hours were based on his famous [course design manual](#) with a lot of extra information inserted. Please take a look at the link for details.

Giving the presentation shoeless (his sneakers were still musty from the previous weekend's event held in a Texas storm), we were treated not only to the in-depth explanation of course design techniques contained in his manual, but we got a good taste of his famous humor. An interesting segment of the talk focused on how course designing is an art but the designer must strive to be a commercial artist as opposed to a fine artist. The course must not only be beautiful in its own right, but must satisfy the entrants.



Roger & some of the Solo track crowd

He reflected on the National Championship course he set up this year (his 13th such effort) and how his use of a few particular sections failed because it forced drivers to follow a very specific line which caused a high pylon count. In turn, this resulted in more than a few dissatisfied customers. He pointed out how in one location in particular, had he opened the element up it would have still rewarded the drivers who stayed on the most efficient line but would not have added cone penalties to others who strayed. Just losing a few tenths to even a full second is enough of a loss without having to add the full two second penalty to it. And remember, not only do autocrossers hate hitting cones (except DJ), they don't like having to pick them up either.

Lunch in the hotel followed the first two hours of Roger's presentation. After lunch we were treated to another hour with Roger, this time using some new information he put together just for this convention.

After a long, rousing round of applause for Roger, we had an hour of in depth Solo Safety Steward instruction with Raleigh. SCCA has eliminated the annual safety steward renewal and has gone to a three year licensing program. This includes the requirement for "continuing education", which makes a lot of sense since after a few years it isn't difficult to forget details of this program. It also gives us an opportunity to catch up with new safety issues and techniques. And remember, this program is vital to the outstanding safety record of SCCA autocrossing which in turn keeps our insurance premiums as low as possible. If you missed this opportunity for instruction

but would like to be a safety steward, MoHud has at least two licensed Safety Steward Instructors who would be happy to help you attain a license.

An hour with Evolution Autocross School Instructor and high school teacher Tony Crea followed. If you didn't attend the Convention, then you missed out on the opportunity to pick up some good pointers on how to improve your skills to drive fast on a Solo course.

The Solo presentations concluded with a visit with SEB chairman Brian Connors who discussed the state of the Solo program. Some interesting information: The interactive web Town Hall Meeting conducted by the SEB with about 150 members was very successful this year and will be used in the future. A concept for creating an SCCA event registration site that would offer no credit card fees to regions is being investigated; as with other similar sites (MOTORSPORTREG.COM for example) this site would offer registration and results. But SCCA is looking into combining live timing options on the site. An online solo safety steward training program is being investigated which would allow the required continuing education requirements to be fulfilled without leaving home.

The Convention concluded in the evening with a banquet held at nearby Saratoga Auto Museum where attendees were able to take in the exhibits, mingle and catch up with each other, and get some good food. An awards presentation followed.

During the day and evening, several members approached me and remarked that the Solo track was very successful. I'd get a chuckle from them when I'd counter that with the speakers and topics we had, I don't know why a hundred people didn't turn out for the Solo track. I just don't understand why other SCCA autocrossers don't share my level of enthusiasm for this stuff!

But in the end, we had over 40 people sitting in on Roger's seminar and only slightly less on the others. To put this in perspective, that's like getting 150 entrants for an autocross at the McCarty Avenue lot.

A very large debt of gratitude is due to all of our speakers who took time from their weekends to make their way to Saratoga to share their wisdom with us. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Velma and Raleigh Boreen, Roger Johnson, Tony Crea, and Brian Connors. Their devotion to the Club and its improvement is gratefully acknowledged. And thank you to the members who also took time to attend. It really was a fun and informative day. Certainly those who took part will improve their region's programs by bringing back the information presented.

Membership Report

Jim Garry



As of November 16th MoHud has 430 members, an increase of 42 members from last month! As you may recall from November's Membership Report, our member levels decreased by quite a bit when the members we picked up from last year's Teen Street Survival School dropped off the roles. But this month we picked up quite a few new members due to the recent school, along with another eight who joined independent of the school. This reveals that quite a bit of our membership is based on the teens and their families that get a membership with the school.

One member thought that the car show idea mentioned in this column last month was a good one. I'd be willing to chair such an event if others expressed an interest in participating. Please contact me if you want to show your car at a local mall next April. Send email to me: jim_garry@verizon.net.

New Members in October

(the latest information available from National)

Kevin Althoff Staten Island
 Kathy Althoff Staten Island
 Ian Castle Round Top
 Brendan Coletta Ballston Lake
 Raymond Coletta Ballston Lake
 Lillian Czajkowski Mechanicville
 Ronald Czajkowski Mechanicville
 Brian Dewey Leeds
 Sean Dewey Leeds
 Barbara Dill Lake Placid
 John Duro Albany
 Beth Falk Wellesley, MA
 Carole Gaudet Woodstock, VT

Max Hooper Schenectady
 Dave Hooper Schenectady
 Alexis Horwedel Delanson
 Traci Horwedel Delanson
 Cameron Keenan Staten Island
 Donna Keenan Staten Island
 Ian Kehoe Chester, VT
 Kelley Kehoe Chester, VT
 Michelle Maneri Schenectady
 Mary Mauriello Round Top
 Kristen Norray Berne
 Tim Norray Berne
 Kerri Pangburn Scotia
 Kimberly Pangburn Scotia
 Patrick Reilly Voorheesville
 Sean Reilly Voorheesville
 Alexis Ryder Rotterdam Junction
 Karen Ryder Rotterdam Junction
 Thomas Salamida Delmar
 Frank Salamida Delmar
 Claire Saunders Woodstock, VT
 Eric Shinebarger Ballston Spa
 Shelly Shinebarger Ballston Spa
 Dillon Smith Lake Placid
 Sarah Steiner Westfield, NJ
 Jay Steiner Westfield, NJ
 Jack Stringer Ballston Spa
 Joseph Szymanski Schenectady
 Zoe Tunkelrott Wellesley, MA
 Jack Wyman Woodcliff Lake, NJ
 Susan Wyma Woodcliff Lake, NJ

Significant Anniversaries

November

Jon Farbman - 10 years
 Hillary Graf - 15 years
 Michael Landau - 15 years

December

Peter Kroth - 15 years

Engagement is key to retention.
 Retention trumps recruitment every
 day of the week. Outcomes are more
 important than outputs.



Into The Woods Rally

Trish Bucci

The Into the Autumn Woods Rally was held on Saturday, October 24. We had perfect fall weather and an abundance of bright and beautiful fall leaves as the route meandered through plenty of woodsy areas in Rensselaer County. There were 5 rally entries, thank you to all of you for supporting the MoHud Road Rally program. An extra thank you to Todd and Nancy Boice who have attended every rally we've held since I've been rally chairperson.



Miscellaneous Goo...

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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. Non-commercial classified ads run in three (3) consecutive issues and are FREE to MEMBERS.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

(from thoughtcatalog.com)

"People can't concentrate properly on blowing other people to pieces if their minds are poisoned by thoughts suitable to the 25th of December."

- Ogden Nash

