

# The Mo-Hud

# Knockoff



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Newsletter of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, Sports Car Club of America

October 2019

## The REport

### Is it over?

Our road racing/Solo season has just about come to an end here in the northeast. Look for season recaps and results in this and future issues of The Knockoff.

### Street Survival

As I write this there are still student spots available for our October 20 event at the Saratoga Automobile Museum. Also, we are in need of help with instructors, cone-shaggers, traffic control, and registration. Please consider giving of few hours of your time to help keeps teens safe while driving.

### Were you there?

Our new general membership meeting spot, the Gateway Diner, seems to be working out well. I heard several positive comments about the food and friendly staff after the September meeting. The area where we meet has plenty of room so please consider bringing a friend the next time you attend our general membership meeting. It's a great way to introduce them to the world of MoHud and the SCCA.

### Drive south

As singer/songwriter, John Hiatt, wrote:

*Just a little off course But I left that motor running  
Now if you're feeling down and out...Come on baby drive south.*

Best of luck to all the MoHud members driving south to compete or work at this year's SCCA national Time Trial championships and national road racing Runoffs.

*For the good of the sport - Jim Bucci*  
Regional Executive

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## Coming Events: October and...

MoHud Weekend: The last weekend of September will see MoHud autocross at the Berkshire Mall, and a number of MoHud members at the National Time Trials in Bowling Green. If you're not going to Bowling Green, make it a MoHud weekend by either running in the autocross or just stopping by to watch while on the way to some bicycling on the nearby trail or just touring the Berkshires.

- **October 2:** Wednesday. 6:30pm. MoHud membership meeting at the Gateway Diner, 899 Central Avenue, Albany.

- **October 8 - 13:** Tuesday - Sunday. SCCA Runoffs at VIR. Cheer MoHud drivers, crew and workers at the annual SuperBowl of Club Racing. Watch live streaming at < <https://www.scca.com/pages/runoffs-live-video> >.

- **October 18:** Friday. "Wear Your Helmet to Work Day." Details/ story on a following page.

- **October 20:** Sunday. 8:00am - 4:30pm. Tire Rack Street Survival Course at Saratoga Auto Museum/ SPAC. Registration for instructors at < <http://msreg.com/TRSSInstructorRegOct20> > If you've been an instructor, you know the drill. If You haven't, we guarantee that you'll feel proud at the end of the day, having guided a teen in learning how to handle their (or mom's) car in extreme situations.

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## Jim Garry Awarded the Solo Cup

**No**, not the Solo Cup you get when you buy an \$18 beer at the ballpark, but the *SCCA Solo Cup*.



According to SCCA: "The Solo Cup is presented to Sports Car Club of America members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Solo events program. Winners are selected by the Solo Events Board from nominations submitted by the membership at large. "

Jim may not have scored well on the cone courses at the Solo Nationals this year, but he scored at the top of the chart in the eyes of the solo community. Congrats, Jim.

And there's more in this month's KO Journal...

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# Road Racing Report



*Jack Hanifan/Jim Bucci*

## U.S. Majors Tour Northeast Conference 2019 Point Champions

Congratulations to Mohawk-Hudson Region road racers **Jason Smith** and **Charlie Campbell** on their Majors Tour Northeast Conference 2019 Point championships.

Two points was the winning margin in the American Sedan® class. Jason Smith edged out James Jost, 155 points to 153 points, with both competitors driving Ford Mustangs.

Charlie Campbell continued his winning form in securing another championship in F-Production driving a Mazda Miata.

The Northeast Conference began its 2019 schedule with an exciting Hoosier Racing Tire SCCA Super Tour at VIRginia International Raceway. Round 3 and Round 4 then took place at Summit Point Raceway in West Virginia, followed by a single race weekend in May at Pittsburgh International Race Complex. June also saw a single event, which was a Hoosier Super Tour at Watkins Glen International in Upstate New York. The calendar then closed out in July with Round 9 and Round 10 at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in Connecticut before the final weekend of racing at New Jersey Motorsports Park.

### More:

- Club Racing winds down in the northeast as October sees us checking out new snowblowers. September 8<sup>th</sup> saw MoHuders at Palmer (New England Region); September 21 at Watkins Glen (Finger Lakes Region), and looking forward to October 4<sup>th</sup> at Thompson (NEDRRC).

- SCCA Runoffs, October 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> will see Campbell Racing (Tom and Charlie) at Virginia International Raceway, once again going for glory in Spec Miata and E Production. Look for their adventures in the November KnockOff Journal.

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## Road Racing: Palmer Pics

## Sept 7-8



Evan Karl's GoPro shows why it was a good idea for Palmer to remove the jersey barriers at pit-out/Turn 1 and go to soft markers.

Having avoided the spinning Miata, Evan went from last to 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Look for the full video on his Facebook page.



Rich Alexander enjoys the gourmet lunch that Busters prepares for course workers, while Bill Dergosits looks for the source of “the wobble.”



EJ Smith shows us a panoramic view of Turns 11 and 12, left to right. Note the many black lines evidencing vehicle trajectories toward the barriers at 12.

# Racing by the Numbers- Data Analysis Comes to Club Racing

**Any time you've watched a Formula 1, World Endurance Cup or NASCAR race, you've seen shots of race engineers peering into dozens of screens filled with realtime data, screens that dictate race strategy in ways that legendary team leaders such as Alfred Nuebauer or Enzo Ferrari never dreamed of. A trickle-down form of such data acquisition and analysis is now available to club racers through AIM Technologies (Italy), used by SCCA to monitor car class performance, and used by some MoHuders to monitor their track performance with the help of Harry Adalian.**

The data is collected by an AIM Solo or Solo2 unit, mounted atop a car's dashboard, using GPS signals. During practice or a race, lap times, lap differentials, and other data can be displayed easily to aid in race setup and strategy. But the real nuggets come from downloading the accumulated data into software such as AIM's Race Studio. Below we see a screen shot of data projected by Harry during a recent BMW-HPDE event at Palmer (running clockwise).



As Harry explains, the graph peaks generally represent the car (speed), the valleys represent suspension efficiency, and the rest represent the driver's actions. Here, the vertical line shows five cars near the end of the main straight heading for Turn 14; four high-horsepower cars averaging 111mph, with a "momentum car" doing 94. All the cars exhibit somewhat similar braking and acceleration curves, with the momentum car lagging until Turn 8, where it begins to match the cornering speeds of the others. Most important for the momentum car driver, it shows where work is needed on braking and acceleration, especially the latter, in 14-13 and 11-10. This one plot in dynamic form could be the basis for at least an hour's worth of analysis for all five drivers. Useful stuff!

If you find this kind of activity compelling, talk to Harry about the SCCA data acquisition project, and the interesting, useful, times to be had as a volunteer data acquisition official in club racing.

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## Road Racing: Karl Family Weekend at the Glen

**Fingers Lake Region hosted the Karl Family weekend** at the family's favorite track, Watkin Glen, September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The organizers provided enough playmates for the Karl fleet of Miatas to additionally qualify the weekend as a Regional Race. They called it "The Fun One."

Group 1 races (B-Spec, Spec Miata, Spec Miata2, E Production, Sports Racing Ford 3, Super Touring Lite, Improved Touring A, Improved Touring R, and Improved Touring S) saw the whole BK Motorsports team of Bob, Bob Jr., Dominick and Evan, mixing it up.

The double headline news is that Evan won the 1 hour Enduro, trouncing all the other SMs by 25 seconds, and that Bob Sr. announced that he was hanging up his driver's suit after a dream season of racing with his grandson.

According to Race Monitor, the Karls were joined for the weekend by MoHud members Jason Smith, T.J. Hanifan, Doug Garrison, George Kline, Jeff Lehner, and Pat Stringer,.



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## October 18<sup>th</sup>: Wear Your Helmet to Work Day

Helmet maker Stilo and Grassroots Motorsports Magazine are promoting *Wear Your Helmet to Work Day* as "the one day of the year we can share our motorsports passion with the rest of the world (or at least the rest of the office.)"

If you search online, you'll find that Stilo also has a product promo going on, so there's that aspect of the celebration...

While *Wear Your Helmet to Work Day*... sounds kind of silly, sort of like *Talk Like a Pirate Day*, (you missed it; it was September 19<sup>th</sup>), do you have something on your desk or on your office wall that serves as a motorsports conversation starter? Good way to share your "fun with cars" experiences.

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# Membership Report- September 2019

*-Jim Garry Mohud Membership Chairman*

As of September 18<sup>th</sup> we have 393 members in the region, dropping our numbers to under 400 for the first time since early Spring. Later this year I intend to do some research to try to determine who has allowed their membership to lapse and why. This will involve some cold calling, which I am not particularly good at or fond of doing. Anyone want to assist? Please get in touch with me. < mhr.membership@gmail.com >

## **New members in August and September:**

<b>Welcome to</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Interests</b>
<i>Jennifer Carchidi</i>	<i>Hudson</i>	<i>Solo</i>
<i>Jiayu Liu</i>	<i>Troy</i>	
<i>Salvatore Baisley</i>	<i>Schenectady</i>	

## **Significant Anniversaries in September:**

<b>Five Years</b>	<b>Twenty Years</b>	<b>Twenty-Five Years</b>
<i>Grzegorz Biel</i>	<i>David Ferguson</i>	<i>Raymond Gilman</i>
	<i>Joan Ferguson</i>	<i>Jeff Tyburski</i>



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# Board Meeting Minutes, August 28, 2019

~ Ron Bass

Gateway Diner, Albany.

Meeting called to order - 7:00 pm

**Attending** - Jim Bucci, Trish Bucci, Bruce Kosakoski, Paul Malecki, Eric Smith, Chip Van Slyke.

**Annual Banquet**- On track for the annual banquet? Eric to verify date/time/details w/German-American club (1/4/2020?) and report back.

**SCCA Foundation**- BOD approved \$500 donation to SCCA Foundation in support of their fundraising effort to support the SCCA archives and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**Nationals, Runoffs**- Tow money for national championships (road racing, Solo, etc) Cap at \$1000. To be paid to both competitors and workers attending national championship events. \$100/competitor, \$50/worker paid based on submission of article for KO or presentation/recap at membership meeting.

**Succession Planning/Business Continuation**- If reelected, 2020 will be Jim's last year as RE. Early 2020 Jim/BOD will renew focus on succession planning. Will put notice in next KO that "election season is coming up"

**Bylaws update**- Eric will post bylaws to archive on MoHud website. National will get latest version with charter renewal.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53PM

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## Looking for a competition car?

- The MoHud Facebook pages frequently list a member's car. Post if you are looking for something.

- Evan Karl is selling one of the BK miatas.

- Pete Smith is selling his F-Production Miata and an MG Midget for vintage racing. < tbspete@gmail.com >

- James Ray of the New England Region has occasionally Facebook-posted race car offerings from near and far, asking the question: is this car worth it?

- The old go-to website has been < <https://bringatrailer.com> > , but these days their listings tend to be more up\$cale, and the bidding process turns some people off.



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# Membership Meeting Minutes, September 4,

Gateway Diner, Central Avenue, Albany

Call to order - 7:32 pm

**Treasurer** - previous month's income and expenses were summarized.

**Membership** - although a formal Membership report was not available, Jim Bucci indicated that the Region currently has approximately 400 members.

**Time Trials** - Mo Hud recently participated with New England Region in running the Time Trial at Thompson on July 4th weekend. Diane Malecki reported that she enjoyed the format and the opportunity to drive solo at a competition level. She noted that one of the positive aspects was that participants had a lot of track time.

**Knock Off** - no report.

**Street Survival** - is scheduled for Sunday October 20. 14 students and 12 instructors are presently signed up. Instructors and volunteers are needed for cone retrieval, registration, and course set up/rear down. Please contact Jim, Tricia Bucci, or Kevin Belden (for instructor registration) if you're available.

**Officers** - Jim suggested that the Region needs to give consideration to officer succession planning. He asked that any members interested in more active participation consider shadowing the current officers.

**Road Racing** - upcoming races include Palmer, the Fun One at the Glen, and Thompson.

**Solo** - a number of Mo Hud members are participating at the Solo Nationals including Jim Garry and Arnie Beebe.

The first Berkshire Mall Solo event was held last month. There were 60 entrants, with a number of new attendees from western Massachusetts.

**Old Business** - Rich Welty will be developing new Facebook and YouTube pages for the Region. He intends to post videos of Chapter racing activities. Contact Rich for more information.

**New Business** -

**Tom Campbell** reported on the upcoming Saratoga Auto Auction. It will be on Friday September 20 and Saturday September 21. Featured car is the 1969 John Wyer Gulf Mirage BRM V-12. Driver and mechanic volunteers are needed to help run the auction. Please contact Tom if available to help.

**A Ford vs Ferrari Private film screening** will be on November 14th, 7:00 pm, at the Bow Tie Cinema in Saratoga Springs. Pete Smith is selling his F Production Midget. Contact Pete or Tom Campbell for information.

**Jim Bucci has new MoHud t-shirts** for sale at \$10 each . They will be available at upcoming Mo Hud events.

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## Membership Meeting Minutes, September 4, cont'd...

**Aashish** has donated to the Chapter a number of \$50 gift certificates that can be used for either a future Track Night in America or a National Time Trial event. Contact Jim if your interested in obtaining one of the gift certificates.

**A motion was unanimously approved** for the Chapter to donate \$500 to the SCCA Foundation. Greg Rickes then offered to double the donation with his personal funds.

**Runoffs, Solo Nationals** – a motion was unanimously approved for the Chapter to provide a stipend of \$100/racer and \$50/worker (total cap of \$1000). In order to obtain the stipend, the member must either submit an article for the Knock Off or do a presentation at an upcoming membership monthly meeting.

**Officers** - Nominating Committee will solicit member interest for upcoming 2020 officer elections.

**Carlton Foster's daughter** has sent a hand written thank you for the Region's donation to the Michael J. Fox Foundation in remembrance of her father.

**The next scheduled monthly membership meeting** will be on Wednesday Oct 2 at the Gateway Diner on Central Avenue, Albany.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.



Have a desktop display you'd like to share? Let the KO editor know about it.

This one tells several stories...

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## Mo-Hud Officers and Contacts

### Regional Executive (RE)

Jim Bucci [hdjimbu@gmail.com](mailto:hdjimbu@gmail.com)

### Assistant RE

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### Treasurer

Paul Malecki [paul@dianenpaulmalecki.org](mailto:paul@dianenpaulmalecki.org)

### Secretary

Ron Bass [m3apx@aol.com](mailto:m3apx@aol.com)

### Club Racing Chair

Jack Hanifan [jackhanifan@hotmail.com](mailto:jackhanifan@hotmail.com)

### Rally Chair

Trish Bucci [trimar71@gmail.com](mailto:trimar71@gmail.com)

### SOLO Chair

Russ Burckhard [russtduck@gmail.com](mailto:russtduck@gmail.com)

### Membership Chair

Jim Garry [mhr.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mhr.membership@gmail.com)

### Chief of Pits

Clark Nicholls [cwnicholls@aol.com](mailto:cwnicholls@aol.com)

### Scrutineering (Tech)

Richard Welty: See his Facebook page

### Chief, Flagging & Comm.

Richard Alexander [dweebdad@msn.com](mailto:dweebdad@msn.com)

### Activities Director

Open. Contact Jim Bucci if interested ...

### Merchandise

Chip VanSlyke [chipperv@earthlink.co](mailto:chipperv@earthlink.co)

### Director

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For more information about the Mohawk-Hudson Region SCCA, and membership in the Sports Car Club of America, go to < <http://www.mohud-scca.org> >

Membership meetings of the Mohawk-Hudson Region SCCA are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, excepting July and August. See the "Coming Events" page of the KnockOff, or MoHud's Facebook page for meeting place and time.



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# The KnockOff Journal

This Month...

- Ken Hurd on Jim Garry's Journey to the Solo Cup



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**Jim and I have been co-drivers for a long time.** The highlight of our trek to Lincoln to attend this year's Solo Nationals came at the awards banquet where Jim received the 2019 Solo Cup award.

I felt Jim was worthy of such an honor, and I nominated him earlier this year. I also asked Karen Babb to do the same. I have known Jim about 38 years. We are good friends, we share our love for Solo racing, and from the start of our competing together shared our racing knowledge in terms of driving and car preparation. We spent many years racing our own Mazda RX-7s and also as co-drivers. This helped us to fast track to National Champions. Along the way Jim became involved in the workings of the Solo program, and helped it grow into what it is today. His accomplishments in the Solo Program are:

Solo Events Board:

After serving as Northeast Divisional Solo Steward for 1986 (which brought a National caliber event to Western New York Region, including Jim's course design), the Solo Events Board ("SEB") invited him to join, and he served from late 1987 through the end of 1992. During that period he made significant contributions to the many accomplishments of that board. His efforts to improve the Solo Program continued long after his tenure on the board right up to the present time. Highlights follow:

- His SEB worked to create the "new" C Mod, which had previously been a low subscription sports racer class. The improvement of C Mod placed Formula Fords, Formula 440s, and Solo Vees into the class. It was an immediate hit with 40 entries the first year. Jim's familiarity with formula cars and SCCA classing provided major benefits to the rule making of this class.
- During his tenure on the SEB, the A Modified class was improved so that ultra-lightweight cars requiring incredibly expensive materials and engineering were rendered not necessary. This kept the class open to more members.
- Jim had a major hand in rewriting the antiquated protest and appeals sections of the rulebook, bringing them much more into line with what we see today.
- Jim was the Stock Category liaison while on the SEB and oversaw the first major change to the classing of the category since the inception of national rules.
- Fun fact: Jim was the person who came up with the name "Tour" for the then newly created national series of autocrosses.

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## Jim Garry, cont'd.....

- During his SEB years a political battle unfolded that Jim recognized as crucial to the health of the program. Despite his shy nature, he unselfishly made a courageous stand to ensure that the Club continued to operate for the benefit of all members.
- Jim also presented what might have been the first Solo related Regional Development seminar at a National Convention, understanding the critical need to help regions improve their Solo programs.
- Recognizing the significance of safety to the Solo Program, Jim attended what might have been the very first Solo Safety seminar at the 1982 National Championship event in Chicago. He later became one of the first Solo Safety Instructors. Today he is the Northeast Divisional Solo Safety Steward. During this time the Division's number of Solo Safety Stewards has risen.
- He served on the Regional Development Committee until that group's mission was deemed complete after many years.
- He served on the Modified Advisory Committee for 7 years and provided his years of expertise and creativity to the ongoing development of the Modified Category. Most significantly, when the SCCA Club Racing program completely revised the Sports Racer Category upon which B Modified is based, he recognized the severe impact this would have on the class and wrote a white paper to guide the necessary changes needed in the Solo Rules to make a smooth transition with the least upset to the existing class participants.
- Jim's most inspired subject was and remains course design. Designing courses has always been one of Jim's greatest satisfactions in SCCA. He has designed two National Championship courses and many Tour/Pro/Divisional courses as well as countless regional courses, which he continues to do. He has mentored many aspiring national and regional course designers.
- From the time he was new to the Club he understood that course design was the most critical factor in providing an enjoyable experience to autocross participants. He saw there was a complete lack of course design training in SCCA and with his appointment to the SEB he seized upon the opportunity to create and organize a national level training program. His course design seminars at the SCCA National Conventions of the 80s and 90s were an important step in bringing SCCA autocrossing into its modern period. This was the first effort on the part of the SEB to bring course design up to a national standard. He continued the seminars for many years after his time on the SEB and his work led directly to the current gold standard of course design presentation, which is Roger Johnson's course design manual.
- Years after his retirement from the SEB, a problem course design at a Tour event in Toledo inspired Jim to devise and advocate for the creation of a Course Approval Committee for Tour & Pro courses. He recognized that course designs at these prestigious events had to be of an exacting standard in order to maintain the reputation and success of SCCA's National level events. He worked diligently with National staff to make the committee happen. It continues to this day and he remains an active member.

**Since joining SCCA in 1980**, Jim has contributed mightily and consistently to the National Solo program. In the 1980s and 1990s he was the prime mover for improving course design at the National level as Karen Babb alluded to when she accepted her Hall of Fame award at the National Convention in February of this year. Through his decades of dedication and self-sacrifice, his thoughtfulness and insight, and his love for SCCA autocrossing, he has been a major asset to the Solo program and has helped the program to grow and mature.

Congratulations on the Solo Cup Award, Jim! It is well deserved!

*Gratefully, Ken Hurd*