

The Mo-Hud

# Knockoff



Newsletter of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, Sports Car Club of America **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

## SCCA Trans-Form Series Announced!

(Topeka, KA, April 1<sup>st</sup>) **The Sports Car Club of America** has announced a new competition program called the "Trans-Form Series" in partnership with Hasbro Industries. Based on variations of the classic King Midget micro car, the series calls for standardized, but transformable, variations - called "Spec-Midges" - to be run in parallel with existing SCCA programs such as Solo Autocross, Time Trials, Club Racing, and Trans-Am.

**SCCA CEO Mike Cobb** stated that "the purpose of the Trans-Form Series is to build on our action theme of 'fun with cars,' while appealing to a young audience who have grown up playing with, and being entertained by, the Transformers franchise. The Trans-Form Series will allow participants to move through the Solo Autocross, Time Trials, and Club Racing series, building to the fabulous TransAm Series. We are happy to partnership with Hasbro in this exciting new venture, and hope their corporate cross-sponsorship of SCCA's TransAm Series will ~~bait-out~~ bring new resources to our Pro Racing ventures."

**For Solo Autocross and Time Trials events**, the Spec-Midge specs call for a standard King Midget Model 2, powered by a Rotax 900 Series engine, and a custom-tailored Penske suspension featuring adjustable coil-over shock absorbers. Competitors will be required to use Hoosier 22500R60B tires on any 10.5 inch wheel. No body modifications are allowed, although a standard roll-cage has been designed for both safety and chassis stiffness.



Spec-Midge Model 2 With Street Tires for Track Night in America (before cage install)

[more >>>](#)

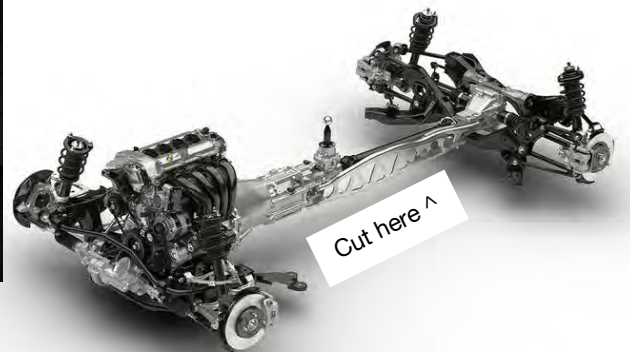
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## Trans-Form, cont'd

**For Club Racing**, the Spec-Midge R will be based on the King Midget Model 3 or a transformed Model 2 with 115 lb. lower weight allowance. Running gear will use the Mazda Miata X-frame, shortened by 13 inches. "Fortunately we have a stockpile of over 200 such units stored in building 7 of the Philip Billard Municipal Airport in Topeka, the result of over-optimistic expectations for the **MSP** (Miata Sports Prototype) series announced in April of 2018," according to Eric Prill, SCCA VP for Competition. Allowable body modifications for Spec-Midge Rs include a rear wing and wheel flares, while tires will be Hoosier SM-7s and SM-Rs



Stock Model 3 and Spec-Midge R Running Gear



**For the Trans-Am Series**, the Spec-Midge T will feature a fiberglass King Midget 3 body molded to fit the standard TransAm TA2 tube frame, running gear, and allowable engines.

**As part of the SCCA - Hasbro partnership**, the King Midget Scooter has been appointed the official pit scooter for all SCCA events, while the Hasbro "Bumblebee" Camaro by Penske Chevrolet will be the SCCA pace car for 2020.

**Summing up**, SCCA CEO Mike Cobb noted that "this entire program would have never come to pass without Roger Penske's recent purchases, in a single afternoon, of Midget Motors Corporation and Hasbro, Inc. (NASDAQ: HAS)."

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### The REport for April 1<sup>st</sup>

A big *Thank You* to the SCCA mothership for allowing the KnockOff to publish the first details of the new Trans-Form competition program. This makes up for their recent slighting of one of our members, and forgetting to tell us that we were awarded the "best TRSS program" several years ago.

- for being good sports...

*Jim B.*

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## **Calendar:** *Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote* *The droghte of March hath perced to the roote...*

- **April 1:** Wednesday. "Count" Eliot Zborowski died this day in 1903 when his Mercedes crashed at the La Turbie hill climb above present day Monaco (whose rock-face two MoHuders climbed on their 1999 honeymoon). His son Louis was later known for his home-built Chitty-Bang-Bangs powered by WWI aero engines.
- **April 1:** Wednesday. Hugh Troy Day in Ithaca, New York. Near the spot where Cam Argetsinger drove an MG for the first time, old-timers will gather to celebrate Hugh Troy's exploits, such as the-day-Hugh-used-an-elf-foot-wastebasket-to-make footprints-on-snow-covered-Beebe-Lake-and-most-residents-stopped-drinking-Ithaca's-Beebe-Lake-water-until-the-word-got-out-as-to-who-was-behind-the-caper.
- **April 1:** Wednesday. 7:30pm. MoHud monthly membership meeting on MoHud FaceBook site. Post something, Like or Comment.
- **April 5:** Sunday, 12:30pm - 7ish. MoHud GTA Rally is postponed, but you can E-rally by posting a current WRC car picture or story on the MoHud FaceBook site during that time slot.



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### **SCCA Adds Bumblebee Camaro to Member Benefits**

**SCCA in cooperation with Hertz and Hasbro** has added the Penske Chevrolet Hasbro Bumblebee Camaro to the lineup of rental cars available exclusively to SCCA members over 25. Due to the scarcity of these models, they are available only at airports close to Penske Chevrolet dealerships. Thus, the current locations where these cars may be rented are limited to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Indianapolis International Airport (IND).

According to a statement put out by the Penske Automotive Group of Bloomfield, Michigan, "we hope to have these vehicles at many more locations once Mr. Penske's negotiations to purchase the Chevrolet Division of the General Motors Corporation have been completed; this could be as early as next Tuesday. Added to Mr. Penske's 35% of Hertz and other corporations, this will further his goal of controlling every automotive entity in the Continental United States."



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## MoHud Tech: Autocross and Track Day Tire Swaps

**One of the hassles** of Autocross and Track Day events, including SCCA Time Trials, is the need to switch between highway tires and the tires you're going to use in the competition. Now, however, a team operating in Eastern Europe has come up with a simple Formula 1-style single-lug-nut conversion that can be done in your own garage with tools you already own. And the beauty of this conversion is that you won't need an air compressor rig and a pit crew of 22 in order to get the job done when you arrive at the event site.

Look for **Garage 54** on YouTube, scrolling to find the episode named *Formula-1 style single lug nut conversion*. Not only will you find good coverage for this project, you'll find many more videos of potential use in order to have more fun with cars.



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## The Marlin Perkins Memorial Lecture

**The Jaguar** is known to use its coat as camouflage as it patiently waits for innocent prey to come within leaping range.

Here, Jim has photographed a very patient Jaguar. Try not to disturb it.

*- Marlin*



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## From the Racing Archives: Targa Florio

**The Targa Florio**, run in Sicily from 1906 to 1977, was renowned for dangerous conditions as spectators crowded the roadsides for better views of the racers. If you've ever driven in rural Sicily away from the smooth roads of Palermo, you'll appreciate the danger of averaging 46kph in 1906, let alone over 100kph in the 1970s.

Originally run in the Spring, the Targa is now run as a rally/tour in September, a shadow of its former glory.



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## Where Did Volkswagen Beetles Really Come From?

**Years ago, your parents** probably told you that little Volkswagen Beetles came from a factory across the Atlantic Ocean where the workers ate schnitzel and wurst (worse?) and yodeled across the valleys instead of using a Bell Western Electric dial telephone like we did here.

Well, you're now old enough to know the truth!

Volkswagen Beetles are the fruit of a tree (*Arborae Bavarae*) once found in abundance throughout the United States, but are now found only in scattered locations. One such location is the City of Albany, in upstate New York.

*Arborae Bavarae* were bred in Bavaria c. 1808 to honor the upcoming marriage of Prince Ludwig of Munich to Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen. The first trees bloomed in early September of 1810, coinciding with the marriage celebration which later came to be celebrated as the first Oktoberfest. For more than 135 years the fruit of the trees was the miraculous source of royal carriages for the House of Wittelsbach. Brought to the United States in 1947 as WW II reparations, many of the *Bavarae* seedlings were planted by ex-GIs as part of the GI-Bill/VA mortgage loan requirement that new homes purchased under the Bill had to have a tree in the front yard.

From 1949 to 1974, these were the US source of VW Beetles, harvested by crews of resettled European refugees, who brought, among other things, bretzles and real beer to the US. The 1974 *Bavarae* blight, some say spread by US Big Three auto dealers, wiped out most of the species, with a few trees in out-of-the-way places such as Albany continuing to occasionally bear fruit.

In Albany, a Beetle maturing on a tree planted on private property is, of course, property of the landowner. However, some trees are found in the City's right of way. As the City rarely bothers to check for such fruit (it looks like a parked car), owners often exercise self-help under the international law of salvage (as ratified by the 1989 Convention) and deeds that grant "rights, if any, to the center of the street..." As few deeds in Albany contain this phrase, only a few lucky property owners can reap the windfall of a Beetle dropping right at their doorstep.

Pictured here are two Beetles spotted last September in the Albany Pine Hills neighborhood under surviving *Arborae Bavarae*.



**The Annual KO Coloring Page:  
A Porsche 911 for Those Who Missed the 911  
Market Bottom a Few Years Back and Always  
Wanted One in Bahama or Signal Yellow...**

