

The Mo-Hud

# Knockoff



Newsletter of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, Sports Car Club of America **September 2020**

## The REport

### Golf Outing Results

Eleven golfers made their way to Burden Lake Country Club on Thursday, August 13 for the inaugural Mohawk Hudson Region's Jack Hanifan Memorial Golf outing. I am happy to report that all teams drove, pitched, and putted their way to a podium finish.

One over par meant the team of John, Leigh, Anthony, and Jim finished in third place. "Dickey's Group" was one under par in second place and the team of Tim, Tom, and Harry carded a 4 under par 32 to take top honors. Thank you Dick Stewart for once again setting up the event. We all had a great time.

### September membership meeting

Please join us on Wednesday, September 2 at Guptill's Ice Cream (1085 New Loudon Rd, Cohoes) for our Mohawk-Hudson Region general membership meeting, car show, and ice cream social. Bring a cool car to show off and hang out with fellow MoHud members. We'll have a reserved area of the parking lot set aside for us. Plenty of room for social distancing and please bring your face mask.

6:00-7:00pm Ice cream (on your own), socializing, and bench racing.  
7:00pm Membership meeting

See you there...



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

**In this issue of the KO:** Golf tournament pics; Road Racing, Solo and Membership reports; Some social notes; Dyson exhibit at SAM; Journal article by Aashish; Notices of a number of upcoming events...

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## Coming Events: September and...

- **September 2:** Wednesday. First membership meeting of the Fall at Guptill's, the ice cream and car show capital of the capital region. Take exit 7 off the Northway to Route 9; Guptill's is approximately 1 mile north. While the meeting won't start until 7pm, members are encouraged to bring out their 4-wheeled beauties starting at 6pm. MoHud will have a corral on the Eastern side of the large parking lot. Park reasonably apart and wear your masks; a modest prize will be handed out for the most appropriate PPE.

Ice cream is "buy your own." Meeting will be held in some manner not yet revealed – perhaps a bullhorn will be used by the RE.

- **September 20:** Sunday. 8am-4pm. Solo Event #3. Tech City, Kingston. Same spot as Events #1 and #2. Register online at: < <http://msreg.com/MoHudSolo2020-Sept20> > No on-site registrations, and COVID rules (masks, distancing) will continue to be followed.

- **October 6:** Wednesday. 7:00pm. Easing back into a semblance of days gone by, the October Membership meeting will most likely be held at the Gateway Diner on Central Avenue in Albany. Jim Bucci will blast e-mail if there is any change in location.

- **October 18:** Sunday. ~~Tire Rack Teen Survival~~ at SPAC. Cancelled. COVID restrictions on State property. Kevin Belden urges us to mark our calendars for Sunday, April 25, 2021, for our next opportunity to be helpers and instructors in this rewarding exercise.

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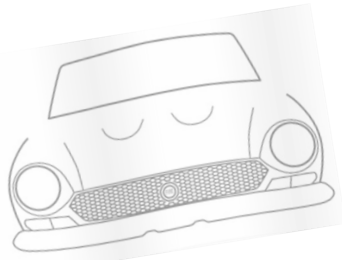
## A Few Notes from the KO's Social Desk...

- **TJ Hanifan** has put Jack's FIAT "project" collection up for sale. A 1971-124 sport coupe, 1971-124 sport coupe racer (nasty dent in right-hand rear panel), 1972- spyder, plus a bunch of related parts for a bundled price of 7,500 USD. While the KO doesn't do ads, pictures were posted on the MoHud Facebook pages. If interested, call TJ at 518-424-5597.

- **Roly Heacox**, who is MoHud's senior continuous member, is ensconced at Marchand Manor, an Assisted Living facility at 121 Main Street, Sharon Springs, 13459. Bob Karl reports that Roly is in reasonable health, but could use an occasional note from MoHud members to keep Roly's connection with the club alive. Greg Rickes has volunteered to dig up some background information on Roly's longtime service to MoHud with an eye toward a KO appreciation story.

- **Karl Daniel**, who along with partner Eleanor Morris is/are next in line after Roly in MoHud seniority, bought a Jaguar F-Type coupe just before the COVID thing started. Not sure if he kept the Viper or realized that a Viper and a Jaguar do not normally co-exist peacefully in the same household.

- **Evan Karl's** first race car was Roly's green Miata.



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## Jack Hanifan Memorial Golf Tournament



(clockwise)

Traffic jam on the first tee

Leigh practices his swing

Annual father and son selfie



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## more: Jack Hanifan Memorial Golf Tournament



Lining up a shot

Harry holding court

Tom probably talking about Miatas



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# SOLO

## PAX: Determining Solo Top Dog

The term **PAX** refers to a handicap system for Solo events that seeks to score cars on the basis of the class they run in. The PAX handicap for any class is a decimal number that is multiplied by any car's overall time to arrive at a ranking of the relative quickness of a driver, taking into account the type of car driven. In theory, drivers being equal, a Miata running in C Street Prepared should wind up dead-even in PAX-indexed results with a Ford Cobra running in F Street.

Devised by Rick Ruth of the Chicago Region for use in the SCCA ProSolo series, the correct name of the system is RTP/PAX "Racers Theoretical Performance/Professional Autocross." Adopted by many SCCA regions for local events, it is widely known by the generic term "PAX." The index numbers are based on performance of individual class cars in many events throughout the country, and are revised each year. The lower the decimal number for your class, the better chance of topping the PAX chart at any event.

The complete results for MoHud Solo events numbers 1 and 2, both run at Tech City in Kingston, are available through the MoHud website. Here, we present the top five for each event so that MoHud members who've not participated in a Solo event can get a better idea of who might be aiming for bragging rights overall.

Event1-TechCity - Sun 07-19-2020								
Timed Entries: 47								
Pax Pos.	Class	Driver	Car Model	Total	Factor	Pax Time	Diff.	From 1st
1	XSTR	Austin, Nick	02 Honda S2000	42.623	*0.827	35.249	0	0
2	SSR	Teixeira, Miguel	Ariel Atom	42.017	*0.843	35.42	0.171	0.171
3	STS	Huchro, Matt	96 Mazda Miata	43.81	*0.812	35.573	0.153	0.324
4	XGS	Burckhard, Russell	19 VW GTI	44.984	*0.792	35.627	0.054	0.378
5	XSTS	Sell, Joe	92 Honda Civic	43.919	*0.812	35.662	0.035	0.413
Event2-TechCity - Sun 08-16-2020								
Timed Entries: 54								
Pax Pos.	Class	Driver	Car Model	Total	Factor	Pax Time	Diff.	From 1st
1	XHS	Monti, Scott	17 Ford Fiesta ST	43.091	*0.780	33.611	0	0
2	XSTS	Sell, Joe	92 Honda Civic	42.35	*0.812	34.388	0.777	0.777
3	XSTR	Austin, Nick	02 Honda S2000	41.68	*0.827	34.469	0.081	0.858
4	XHS	Garry, Jim	09 Volvo C30	44.388	*0.780	34.622	0.153	1.011
5	STS	Huchro, Matt	96 Mazda Miata	42.677	*0.812	34.653	0.031	1.042

## SOLO Tech Notes from EJ: Considering new real-time results reporting capability

We discovered last weekend that our new AXware software has obsoleted the former freeware we used to provide live results to entrants via our local WiFi network. I did some research and also asked questions on the national SCCA member FB page. Got some feedback and several regions pointed me to the AXware live timing module that AXware offers. With it, we'd need to set up a way to transfer our data up to a designated spot on our [mohud-scca.org](http://mohud-scca.org) website (Russ and I discussed this and figured we could use one of our cellphones as a hotspot to do the transfer live). The advantage would be it would be available over the Internet, and thus hopefully would have greater coverage at an event than our own WiFi router and entrants connecting to it.

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# Road Racing

## New Hampshire Motor Speedway, August 8<sup>th</sup>

After winning Race 1 by 4.958 seconds, and Race 2 by 0.961 seconds, **Evan Karl** eased up to a 0.5227 winning margin in Race 3 to leave all the other Spec Miatas who showed up in his dust. Said he was bound and determined to do better than last year.

Other MoHud racers, in what was for most people the first race of the year, were **Ron Bass** in his Formula V, **Jeff Lehner** and **Patrick Stringer** in their Spec Racer Fords. Jeff missed a podium in his Race 3 by approximately 4/10s of a second.

## Thompson Speedway, August 22<sup>nd</sup> *Midsummer Night's Dream*

Imagine running through a nighttime construction site on the Northway, but with 2 out of every 3 lights shut off. That's how the racers were running on the Thompson course the other weekend. Oh, by the way, you couldn't use your headlights.

Are you surprised to learn that **Evan Karl** again beat all comers in Spec Miata? Are you surprised that at one point he was fiddling around with his radio hookup down the main straight? He had 33 cars chasing him. Said he was bound and determined to do better than last year.

After hard duty this Spring and Summer as an essential worker, **Ken Relation** dusted off his bright red Mustang to run in the T1 class. Got 2<sup>nd</sup> in class both races. If you are aware of the circumstances that led to a mashed front end at this track last year, you'd remind him that "living well is the best revenge."



Evan... and Ken... during daylight *James Ray Photos*

## Racers: See Your Results Here

If the KO's reporters are not at a race, the best they can do is search Race Monitor for names they know. To make sure you are recognized, please send a brief e-mail after each weekend of racing to < [hdjimbu@gmail.com](mailto:hdjimbu@gmail.com) > or [paul@dianenpaulmalecki.org](mailto:paul@dianenpaulmalecki.org). A bit of comment, and any pictures taken by your crew or the press, are welcome.

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## Membership Report- July/August 2020 -Jim Garry

*Mohud Membership Chairman*

< mhr.membership@gmail.com >

**As of August 18th**, our membership stood at 306, down from 332 four weeks ago but only a few since the turn of the month. We are now at our membership nadir going back to 2011. During this time of decreased income many of our compatriots are feeling the financial pinch and allowing their membership to lapse. We hope to see them again soon. Also please note that thirteen of those lapsed memberships were Teen Street Survival students who had received free memberships.

Since last month four new members have signed on with our Region. And I am aware of two or three potential new members who came to watch our Solo event in Kingston on August 16th.

### **New members Since July 21**

*Dean Bloch*, Kingston (Selected Rallycross as primary interest)

*Edward Unkel*, Hudson

*Andrew Mayer*, Middletown (Selected Solo as primary interest)

*Sean Sullivan*, Poughquag

Welcome gentlemen.

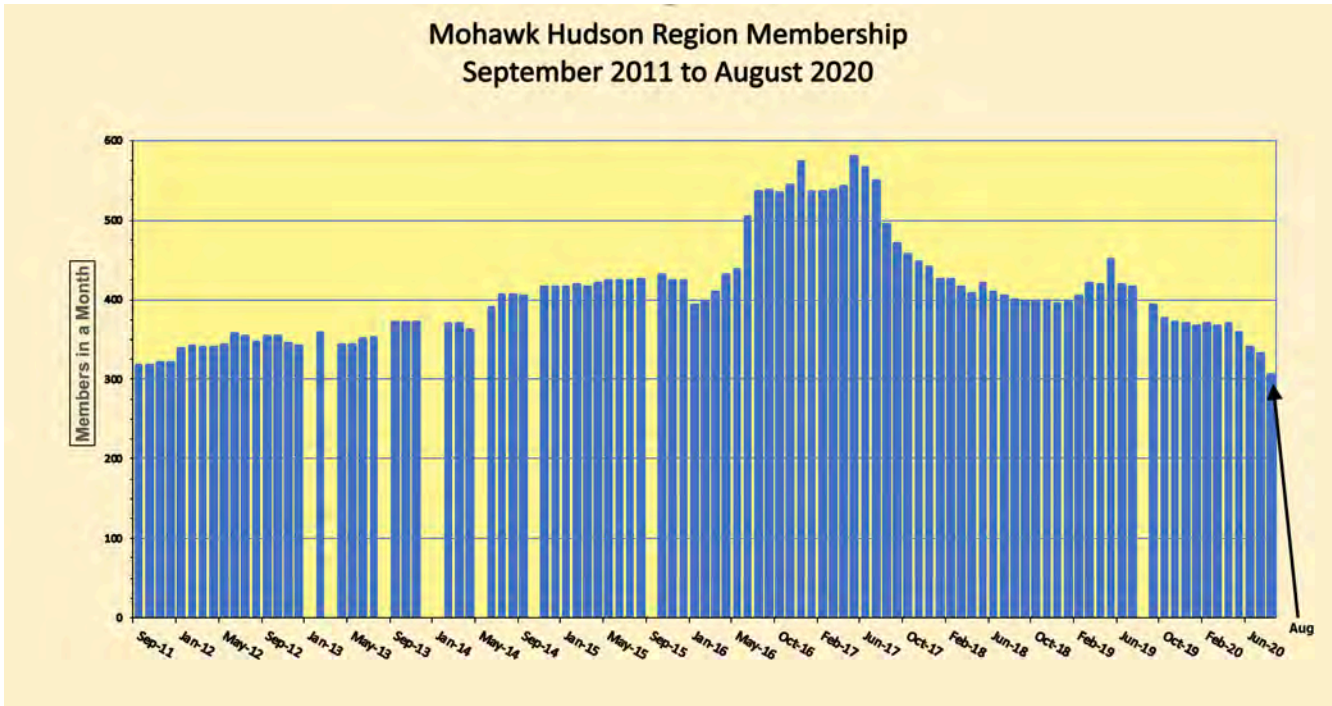
### **Significant Anniversaries for September**

*Joanne Vaccaro* 5 years

*Kent Vaccaro* 5 years

*Les Apple* 25 years





**Saratoga Automobile Museum Slowly Getting Back to Pre-COVID** - Greg Rickes

In this season when we've been deprived of so many automotive events of all types, the Saratoga Auto Museum is a kind of oasis. In compliance with state protocols have now opened their exhibit space once again.

Featured for this summer is the Dyson Collection, owned by well-known Poughkeepsie racer Rob Dyson, whose teams have been a fixture in American sports car endurance racing, broadly spanning IMSA, GrandAm, and the American LeMans Series. Dyson, as you'll discover, started as one of us, an SCCA weekend warrior.

The cars not only cover a number of Dyson Racing entries, but also Rob and son Chris's broader automotive interests, going back a long way into early motoring history, and including a number of pristine road-going cars as well as racers.

The museum is open to the public on a reserved time-slot basis; typically your party can be booked for a two hour time block. While it doesn't help the museum's bottom line, the socially-limited attendance means you won't be competing for space to view and appreciate the cars from all angles. To start your visit use this link:

< <https://www.saratogaautomuseum.org/reopening> > The Dyson Collection will be on display through the fall.

Also on the museum's schedule is their popular annual auto auction, coming up Sept 18 & 19. If you're not ready to be in on the bidding there's always a need for volunteers. Many MoHud members can attest to the fun factor for helping to put on this grand occasion. Preparing for the auction is a week-long activity, so regardless of when you're available there's likely a way for you to join in.

To volunteer for the fourth annual Saratoga Motorcar Auction, please email < [auction@saratogaautomuseum.org](mailto:auction@saratogaautomuseum.org) >



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## A Few Gems from the Dyson Exhibit at SAM

A Gurney Indy Eagle; One of the first Indy Coopers; an IMSA Prototype Racer; and a 1913 Isotta-Fraschini...



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## Mo-Hud Officers and Contacts

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Jim Bucci

**Rally Chair**

Ken Relation

**SOLO Chair**

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**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)

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Open. Contact Jim Bucci if interested ...

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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...

- Aashish on the GingerMan Time Trials



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## TT in the Mitten ...

- Aashish Vemulapalli

**On the way home** from the 2020 Tire Rack SCCA Time Trials National Tour at GingerMan Raceway Powered by Hagerty, after I'd waved goodbye to Frank Putman (who was Detroit-bound) and headed South towards Ohio, I started thinking back about the event—how I'd done and more importantly the spirit of the champions I observed there. (*Ed's note: Gingerman is in the Southwest corner of the Mitten – Michigan's lower peninsula for those of you who've never lived there – where, on a clear day, you can see Chicago across the Lake, sort of...*)

The SCCA Time Trials program is an Experiential program and is not recognized as a championship. But, in the approximately 100 miles spent on track (from a 1700-mile round trip) and the time spent in the paddock, I not only observed champion-level driving on track but champion-like behavior in the paddock. Whether you call time trialers podium finishers or wannabe club racers, there is no denying their champion spirit.

The program is drawing in autocrossers, club racers, track day enthusiasts and even a rallycrosser who showed up and acquitted himself very well in the low grip surface and conditions of GingerMan Raceway. The event drew a sold-out crowd (102 participants) from as far away as Long Island and South Carolina. The weather was extreme on both days of the event but everyone, participants, event planners and workers, endured and in doing so, championed the "one team" spirit of Time Trials.

I arrived at the track after sleeping in from a 12-hour drive from home in Upstate New York. Frank Putman was kind enough to save me a spot in the paddock next to him and even lent me tools so I could change wheels. Nicholas Zelisko (known for what is called the **Zelisko Hop** at NCM Motorsports Park) stopped by with his posse to say hi. Seeing that I was signed up for the event, he shared videos from his previous events at GingerMan earlier in the week. He rode out with me for the parade laps as he talked me through the corners and provided information I could use. He'd set a 1:45 there and my goal was to get somewhat close to that. Funnily enough, Nick too wanted me to get there – he said I could stop by and discuss corners at any time.

Bernie Kaeferlein is another Time Trials fixture. I first met him in 2018 at the Time Trials Nationals. Bernie was not only competing at GingerMan, but was also the coach for the group I was in. Bernie is very affable and blessed with a good spirit. So, as much as he had to deal with a herd of mewling cats, he handled it with grace and good humor, and kept the group from getting into too much trouble. Bernie didn't have to accept the coaching assignment, choosing to focus instead on competing. But the fact that he volunteered as well as finished on the Sport 6 podium attests to the champion spirit in him.

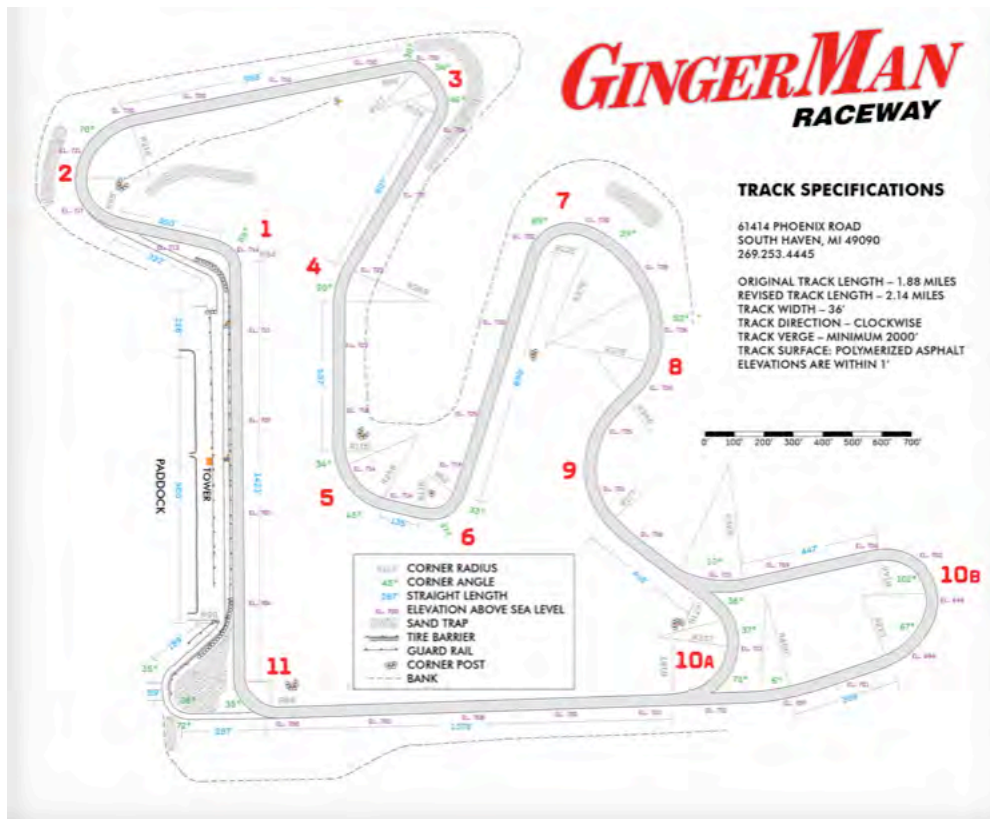
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## Gingerman II ...

Sharing Day One with another event meant that the Time Trials National Tour got underway at noon on Saturday. It was a typical Midwest summer day with high-heat and humidity. There was a steady wind that helped deal with the oppressive conditions and the later start meant that the sessions ran in relative quick succession.

The nature of the track at GingerMan is forgiving on most corners given the wide runoffs and lack of obstacles to hit. This meant that people were pushing for a fast time including yours truly who went four-off at Turn 1 and sheepishly reported back to pit-lane to consult with Coach Bernie. I wasn't the only one – another car dropped fluid on track and the resulting cleanup meant that our second time attack sessions were reduced to 15 minutes for all groups.



Credit goes to the team running the event here for staying on top of all the things they had thrown at them and ensuring that the event ran like clockwork. John Hunter once again stepped up to play event lead and the rest of Time Trials team including Heyward Wagner, Jon Krolewicz, Kristen Poole, Brandy Wiggans, Tom O'Gorman and Andie Wolfe donned multiple hats which meant they not only played their primary event role, but also stepped in to help in other capacities.

It wasn't just the Time Trials team though. Seeing that help was needed to set up for the Hagerty Party, several volunteers stepped up and helped to organize a fantastic social distanced dinner at the track. Family members of participants and some drivers helped with tasks like filling up cups with condiments, filling coolers, organizing tables and the logistics and even helped with serving food in a safe manner.

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## Gingerman III ...

Any mention of the Hagerty Party would be unfinished without mentioning Mark and Stephen Miller. They've taken on the thankless task of feeding all of the participants at most Time Trials events. If I had to ballpark the number of people fed at GingerMan, I'd say it had to be around 150 including crew members. Mark and Stephen were at Virginia International Raceway for a Track Night in America on Thursday. Knowing that the local butcher would close at 5 PM on Friday and knowing that they had to start preparing a day ahead for the party, they drove all night from VIR with only a few stops for rest in between. They fired the smoker up on Friday evening and had a delicious meal ready on time by Saturday just as the track action came to an end. And, they did all of this while also competing at the event in their NB Miata. If you're at any subsequent Time Trials events where the Millers are handling party duties, be sure to thank them for their hard work.

Sunday arrived all dark and ominous and with dire weather predictions from all the local news channels. TrackSprint sessions were scheduled to run that morning and they started on time. I made my way to grid way ahead of time and stood by watching John Hunter listening to calls on his radio. His brow was furrowed no doubt, and I am sure there were many things he was pondering, but he gave me a big smile and asked how I was doing.

Before I headed to grid for the TrackSprint, I was on my way to make a pit stop when Dan Griewisch accosted me and pulled me along with the group he was taking over to look at a track map on a facility building. I'd met Dan at Thompson Speedway and we had a brief conversation. So, it was certainly very generous and helpful of him to pull me in with his group of friends and give us his take on the TrackSprint layout and where grip lay. I set a decent time on the TrackSprint and the credit for that goes to Dan. He didn't have to help me. I was, but an acquaintance. But he did and that made me all the more happier for him, when he finished first in the Sport 5 class.



Aashish in Attack Mode

*Photo by Clarus Studios*

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## Gingerman IV ...

After my TrackSprint was complete (including a delay for lightning), the paddock was beset by more bad weather. This moved the event schedule into the afternoon as one more group had yet to complete their TrackSprint. Come time for the time attack sessions, I was in the group that went out as the rain started pelting down again. I came back in with a decent wet lap time and a slim hope arose from deep within that perhaps I might have a chance at winning a trophy.

But track conditions improved and the others in my class were able to keep their positions with good lap times. Rain is called the great equalizer and it really did play its part when fellow New Yorker, James Barry, pulled out all stops and made the most of drying conditions to set a time in his 2019 Subaru WRX STI that moved him to Overall Fastest Time for the event in addition to a class win. As I look at lap times within my group, the lack of aero on my car may have impeded me from closing the gap to the podium, but I can take satisfaction from consistent lap times in two different sessions where the grip only went from bad to worse.

I was happy to see Nick Zelisko win the Max 3 class and to see his brother, Brian, take second place in Max 1 – second to a McLaren 720S. Nick was happier than I was about my lap times, saying I was doing very well for being at GingerMan for the first time in a car that he felt was under-prepped. Dallas Reed, the hardest working Time Trials driver in my book, not only won his class after going off (to avoid a spinning car) and damaging his front wing. He worked all-night to get his car fixed and won the Spirit of Time Trials award for his efforts. Having watched Dallas in action since 2018, there was no one else that deserved it more than him.

Sportsmanship was on display on track as well. Chen Chen, who was running his Scion FR-S in the same class and group as me caught up to me on track and I let him by past Turn 6 by backing off the gas to allow him to go by. He then returned the favor on the following lap as he lifted to let me by. John Li, who was faster than me, but for some reason was gridded behind, caught up to me and could have gone all 'Max Verstappen' on me at the entry to Turn 5. But as he explained later in paddock, he saw no reason to try and pass me at a section on the track where both of us would have gone home with damaged fenders. He was gracious too and said I had nothing to apologize for. Likewise, Michael Trask, Chris Finnigan and Nicholas Bondi were also well-mannered on the track as I watched them allow me and others by in the spirit of true sportsmanship.

I saw Karl Rademacher again. Karl not only helped crew for John Krupa who finished on the podium in the U1 class, but also got out on track to help flag a corner. This isn't the first time that he's helped support the event either. Karl was also in action at the 2019 Time Trials Nationals where he helped by flagging a corner.

By now, I hope I've been able to illustrate how these many individuals and their stories contributed to the success of the event. The weather may have pounded us but couldn't dampen our collective spirit which enabled the successful running of a sold-out event. There was only a single award for Time Trials Champion but as you can tell there were champions galore at GingerMan Raceway for the *2020 Tire Rack SCCA Time Trials National Tour Powered by Hagerty*. These champions were not just podium finishers, but event officials, crew, workers, family members and every one that participated and drove to the limits afforded by their car and skill. They cheerfully adhered to social distancing norms but didn't let the rules of maintaining distance keep them from ensuring the next person was having a good time too. Everyone there was a champion individually and by being at their best, championed the running of the event.

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## Gingerman V ...

Before hitting the road, and as the paddock was emptying out, the Millers, Frank Putman and I came together for a group elbow bump in the spirit of "one for all, all for one." I think that moment perfectly highlighted this event and what the Time Trials program is all about.

My sincere thanks to the Time Trials Program staff for facilitating my participation at this event by waiving the cost of entry. To Harry Adalian, who remotely looked at my data and told me where I should push harder. To Nick for his support and encouragement and to Frank for saving me a spot in the paddock, sending me home with beer and for suffering me as a companion for two whole days.

*- Aashish*



Aashish, Friends,  
& the official TT Smoker

*Top Photo by Clarus Studios*



*Ed:* As noted in the KO last month, at the close of the Gingerman TT, Aashish was awarded the Time Trials Champion Award for his tireless promotion and participation in what is SCCA's newest and fastest growing series...