

The Mo-Hud

# Knockoff



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

June 2021

## The REport

### Too many hats, not enough heads

If you've ever received an email from me, you'll see I have a few titles in my signature that relate to the administration of our region's business. For MoHud, my roles include:

- Regional Executive
- Webmaster
- Solo Timing & Scoring Chief
- Solo Advisory Committee member
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The question is... why do I have so many? The answer is a bit complicated. I fill all these roles because I believe in the mission of our region and SCCA, and I enjoy doing it, but I can't find someone to take over for me when I'm asked to fill in for yet another role. It also happens that no one else has expressed a desire to take over any of these roles. However, it was not my desire to fill all of these roles simultaneously. That's where you can help out.

A few years back, our then RE, Jim Bucci, suggested the board start reaching out to individuals and attempt to put together a succession plan. It was a great idea. For those of you who haven't been in the corporate world for a while, a succession plan is typically a plan for filling positions/roles that you know will become open in the future. The idea is to make sure that competent people are available to seamlessly fill the roles when the time comes.

The challenge these days is getting members to step forward who a) want to help by committing to filling these roles, and b) have the skills necessary to fulfill them to the benefit of the club. I'm not the only one who has this 'more hats than one' issue. We have a member who currently has two hats to wear - Knock Off Editor and Treasurer - and is hoping to hand off the Knock Off Editor hat to a member. I'm hoping we can accomplish that soon and relieve him of his Editor duties. If we had members who were interested in wearing the Knock Off Editor, or Webmaster, or Timing & Scoring Chief hats, we could probably make that happen. If you've ever seriously given consideration to helping the Region and serving your fellow MoHud members by volunteering, we'd like to hear from you. Training and mentoring are available. We've had some members step up recently and have been a welcome addition to our leadership. Let's hope we have more waiting to step up and share their talents with us.

~ *EJ Smith* Regional Executive

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## Coming Events: June and...

- **June 2:** Wednesday. 7:00pm. Monthly membership meeting returns to the Gateway Diner! 899 Central Avenue in Albany. Those that will be eating dinner at the Gateway will start arriving about 6pm. Just like the old days...

- **June 9-12:** Friday-Saturday. NER "Paddock Crawl" Road Racing at Lime Rock Park. No spectators, but potential flaggers can contact EJ <[ejvo8@gmail.com](mailto:ejvo8@gmail.com)> or Ric Alexander <[dweebdad@msn.com](mailto:dweebdad@msn.com)> Read the supplemental regulations at [motorsportsreg.com](http://motorsportsreg.com).

- **June 9-12:** Friday-Sunday. SCCA Time Trials at NCM Motorsports Park in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Visit the SCCA website to learn more/ enter.

- **July 3-4:** Saturday-Sunday. SCCA Time Trials at NCM Motorsports Park in Bowling Green, Kentucky. MoHud is sending a contingent; visit the SCCA website to learn more/ enter. Contact Aashish Vemulapalli for the lowdown. <[aashish2@gmail.com](mailto:aashish2@gmail.com)>

- **July 11:** Sunday. 8am - 5pm. Solo Event #2. Tech City, 550 Enterprise Drive, Kingston.

***Traditionally MoHud has no formal meetings in July and August, but several events have been held on a regular basis: the Golf Night and a night at Funplex (see below). We are not sure about the golf night, and seek input on a Funplex event.***

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## Shall we do another MoHud night at Funplex??

**In recent years Mohud has held a family night at Funplex** in East Greenbush. Early August; maybe the 4<sup>th</sup> or so this year?

Karting, miniature golf, and all the other entertainments Funplex offers, at a discount price of \$20 or so for 2+ hours. Prizes given out for some of the "competitions."

Shall we do it again? If you think you'd attend, send an e-mail to EJ or any of the Board Members listed on the last business page of this KnockOff.



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## MoHud at the Saratoga Automobile Museum- May 15th

~ EJ

MoHud recently had the honor of displaying a selection of our members' competition cars in front of the Saratoga Auto Museum as part of the museum's Spring Car Show. What a gorgeous day! I've been coordinating our display for as long as I can remember, and this year we had a great turn out of volunteers from all types of SCCA competition, including Solo, Rally, Road Racing, and Time Trials:

- Maclin Norray - T4 Subaru BRZ (Road Racing)
- Pierre Massena - ESP Subaru WRX (Solo)
- Tom Campbell - FP Mazda Miata (Road Racing)
- Caleb Pockock - Rally prepped Subaru RS (Rally)
- Chip Van Slyke - Formula F Crossle (Road Racing)
- Arn Beebe - CP Ford Mustang (Solo)
- Diane & Paul Malecki - SM Mazda Miata (Road Racing)
- Jeff Lehner - SRF3 (Road Racing)
- Sal Baisley -DP Mazda Miata (Solo)
- Shelby Blanchette - STX Subaru BRZ (Solo)
- Kirby Vaillant-White - SMF Honda Civic (Solo)
- Michael Budai - SMF Honda Civic (Solo)
- Bruce Kosakoski - DS BMW 328is (Solo)
- Adam Wright - STX Subaru BRZ (Solo and Time Trials)
- Tracey Burckhard - GS VW GTI (Solo)
- EJ Smith - SM Mitsubishi Evo 8 (Solo and Time Trials)
- Russ Burckhard - MoHud Region Bus



Throughout the day these members engaged with visitors who stopped by our tent or vehicles to discuss what MoHud has to offer, questions about how they might participate with their vehicles, and to learn about the vehicles on display. We handed out some promotional brochures that were created and provided to us courtesy of Paul Malecki. We even had some familiar faces of members stop by to visit with us or just say hi. We'll hopefully be invited back by the museum to do it again next year.



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# SOLO – Event #1 and National Tour at the Meadowlands

~ Russ Burckhard

**We had our first event of the season at Tech City** on May 16<sup>th</sup> and did it challenge us. The course was a challenge for many drivers who struggled to stay on course. A total of 39 runs were scored as *off course* and 131 cones were hit. Part way through the first heat I added pointer cones in multiple spots where most of the participants got lost. That helped but did not totally stop people from getting lost. We had just less than a third of the 67 drivers that were listed as novices so that did not help the situation. We were unable to send a second car until the previous car was almost finished. This added to the other things that slowed the event and we were only able to get 4 runs apiece and pushed the event finish time to after 5:00.

Being the first event of the season, we all had to get back into the groove. I started the Novice walk through late. That made the drivers meeting late. Timing had a few hiccups with the timing software. Rain briefly made an appearance. All of these slowed the event to a crawl. I am not blaming anyone or anything to cause any of this, but I am blaming myself for the biggest delay and it was totally my fault. I forgot to get gas for the generator prior to the event. Fortunately, I had a small can of gas left in the bus that almost filled the generator. I thought it would be enough when I put it in, but I was wrong. We wound up running out of gas late in the last heat which caused a big delay (Thanks to Bruce Kosakoski for loaning us enough gas to finish the event). I apologize for the oversight and promise to never do that again.

The course was technical, tight, and hard for some to follow. It had tight turns with bursts of speed in between. My data had just about every corner in the low 20-mph range. Speed between those elements were as high as 45 on one straight, but mostly 35-40 mph. With the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest raw and top Pax, the course seemed to suit my G Street GTI and driving style. Matt Huchro had the second fastest time and second fastest Pax in his STS Miata. Nick Austin had the fastest raw time and third fastest pax in his STR S2000. Scott Monti and Phil Reddington rounded out the top 5 on the Pax list. Fastest novice was Logan Manning in his STS Fit. It was nice to see that we had 6 women competing. Tracey Burckhard was the highest finisher followed by Shelby Blanchette and Sheri Dejan. There was some interest from some of the female spectators that I talked to. Hopefully, they will be joining us at the next event.



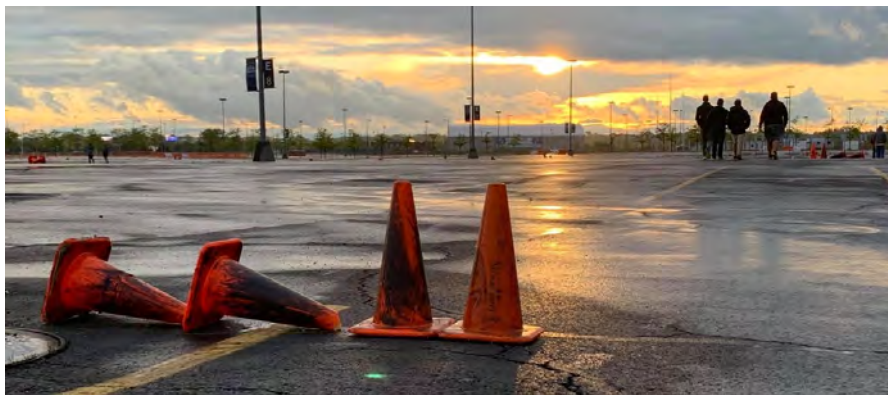
**Earlier, on May 11<sup>th</sup>, Tracey and I ventured down to the SCCA Solo National Tour** at Meadowlands New Jersey. We were happy to compete with fellow Mohudders Shelby Blanchette and Kirby Vallant White. Your assistant RE, Sal Baisley, came down Sunday to offer moral support. Shelby and Kirby co-drove Shelby's BRZ for their first Tour. Saturday was extremely wet as they floated their way around the course. Sunday was their first time driving a large, dry National course. With limited seat time at a large event with a lot of very talented drivers, they did well. Kirby finished 10<sup>th</sup> in class and Shelby finished 13<sup>th</sup>.

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## SOLO – Meadowlands, cont'd

**Since Tracey won the Wendi Allen Scholarship**, we set up an ambitious Tour schedule. NJ was the first on the schedule. Our first day we were greeted with a brief rain shower as we made our way over to grid. Water and a sealed pavement do not mix as I found out on my first run. The rain had stopped prior to the heat starting. The course was wet, but slowly drying. My first run had me leading the class until the second drivers made their runs. At the end of the first run, Tracey had the fastest run. Unfortunately, a late cone call moved her to second. My second run on the driest course I would run that day was a learning experience filled with mistakes. Tracey struggled as well going a little slower and collected 3 cones in the process. Tracey moved into last place and I went to second. Our last run it started to sprinkle. I fixed a few mistakes and closed the gap to first to about 6 tenths. Tracey did an awesome job and moved up to 7<sup>th</sup> place. I think if we had one more run we both would have done much better, but, the tours only give you three runs and those who can capitalize rise to the top.



**The second day was much dryer.** I made my first run and was .087 slower than the leaders first run. This gave me a glimmer of hope to be able to catch him and at least take the top spot on the second day. Tracey was not up to speed yet on her first run, but ran well enough to move her to 6<sup>th</sup> overall. On my second run I had a brain fart and tried to make my own course. I quickly recovered as to not go off course, but the damage was done and I had lost time early in the run. Fortunately I had a better second half of the run and went .7 faster than my first run. It was just too bad that the leader went 1.8 seconds faster than his first run. I was still solidly in second overall, but I had dropped 1.5 seconds behind him. Everyone else picked up and Tracey was dropped to 8<sup>th</sup> place prior to her second run. She needed to find some time and she did just that. She shaved almost 4 seconds off her first run. This put her solidly in 7<sup>th</sup> place.

Unfortunately, she would not be able to climb any higher due to the big difference from day one results. For my final run I knew where I had to improve on the course and set out to do it. It was looking good right up until 3-4 corners from the end. I overdrove going in and messed my line up. As I tell the novices in the novice walk through "a mistake in one turn can screw up the next 5-6 turns". Fighting to save the car in the last couple of corners, I felt the time slipping away. Despite all of this, I managed to go .3 seconds faster. As luck would have it, I clipped a cone on the last corner as I tried to save it and had to use my 2<sup>nd</sup> run time. On the bright side, the run was not enough to move into first and I was solidly ahead of third, so I was able to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Tracey on the other hand was locked in 7<sup>th</sup> and unless she could beat the leaders best run, that was where she would finish. So that meant a no pressure run. She used that to her advantage and ran .3 faster. So, she learned and improved each run and will use that information at the next Tour in Peru Indiana.

I am so proud of her. ~ Russ

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## Rally- “The Way We Were” Winners

~ Ken & Michelle Relation



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Team Barker... all smiles underneath their Covid masks. Ken on right...



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Team Kookier  
(They look familiar)



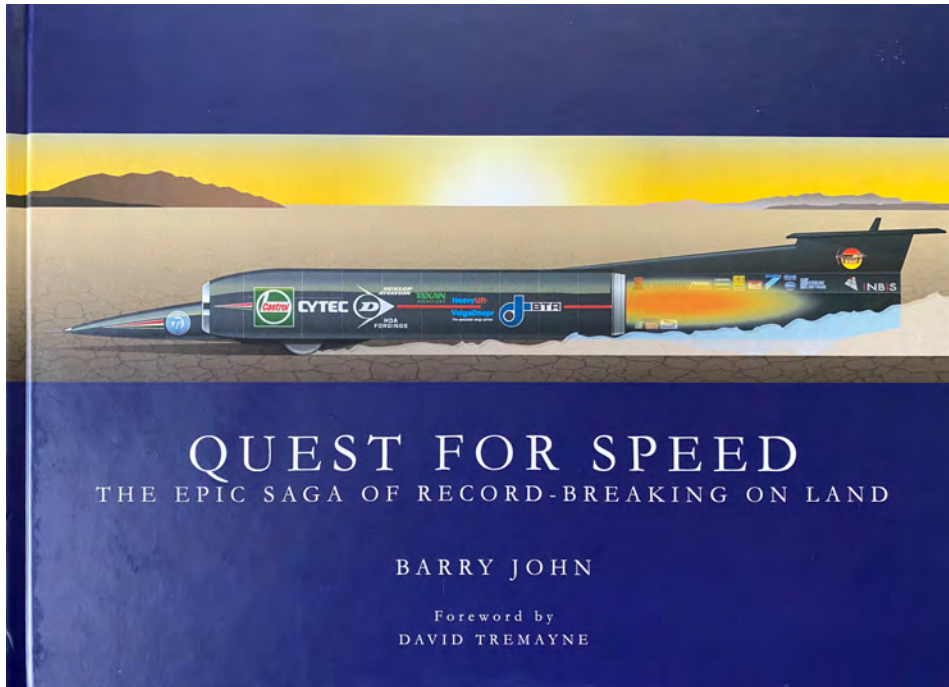
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Team Crowley

**Ten teams** had a great time getting to know the heritage of (mostly) Columbia County by looking for monuments, taking pictures of objects, and touring several historic sites.



The Fall rally will be a traditional time-speed-distance challenge, so start practicing on your Curta calculator. Refer to the April 2017 KO to bone up on Curta references.

# The Holiday Gift Guide – early bird edition

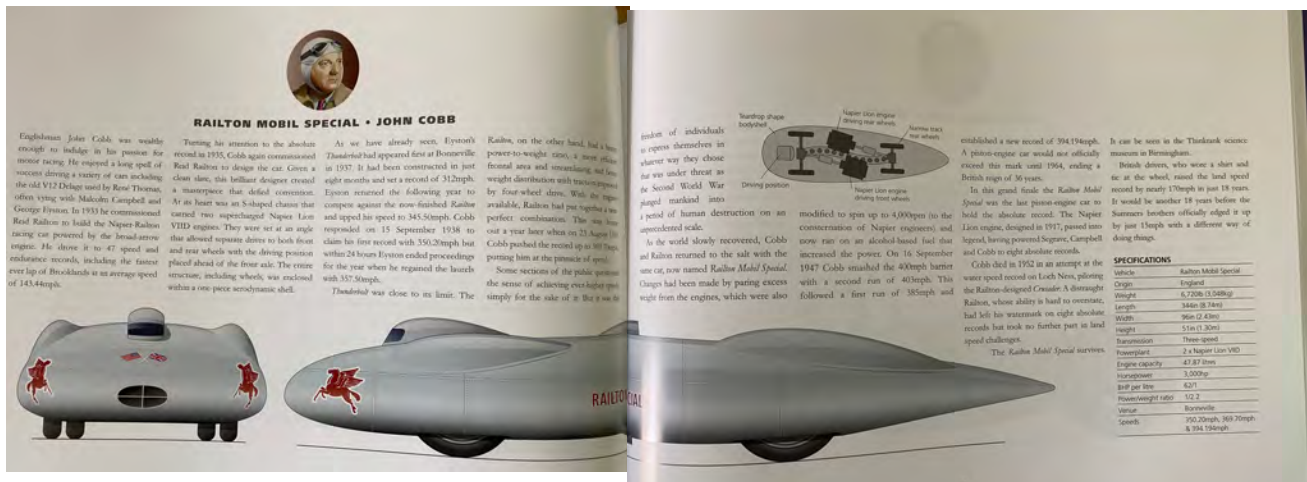


**WOW!**

The author has filled 184 pages with facts, stories and illustrations of every significant land speed record holder from the electric buggies of the 1890s to current day jet-powered wheeled missiles. And everything in between. Malcolm Campbell's *Bluebirds*, Burt Monroe's world's fastest Indian; Romolo Ferri's 125cc Lambretta streamliner, John Cobb's *Railton*; Walt Arfons' *Wingfoot Express*, and on and on...

Should appeal to anyone from age 9 to 90. It's that good. Less than 25 bucks from Amazon. Buy a bunch. Will encourage some and please all.

Oh, did we mention that we like it?



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# Road Racing

~ PaulM

## Hoosier Super Tour: Virginia International Raceway: April 9-11, 2021

Greg Rickes reports that we missed another driver racing at VIR as a MoHud member: **John Kuitwaard**. Neither the mothership nor Race Monitor websites seem to say more, so John, if you are reading this please raise your hand for proper recognition.

## Hoosier Super Tour: Pittsburg International Raceway: April 30-May2, 2021

**Jeffrey Lehner** ran his SRF3 (Spots Race Ford) against a large field from all over the Northeast, all hoping to qualify for the National Runoffs at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway at the end of September. **Charlie Campbell** christened a new SpecMiata, but teething problems kept it from showing its potential. Look for Tom Campbell's report in this month's Journal.

## NERRC (New England Regional Race Circuit) Opening Weekend: Palmer, Mass: May 1-2

**Jared Lendrum** beat **Evan Karl** to the finish line in race 3! That got your attention, didn't it?

The MoHud contingent also included the following over the weekend:

**J.C Ogle** once again running his SpecMiata2 (that would be the smaller 1.6 liter engine).

**William Dergosits** in his B-Spec Mazda.

**Ed Zemeck** in his SpecMiata2.

**Maclin Norray** in the Subaru BRZ he built over the winter.

**Ken Lendrum** in his "new" Subaru BRZ.

So about Jared beating Evan: The run group in Race 3 mixed T4 (all those BRZs) with SM (all those SpecMiatas). Not surprising then that a well-prepared and driven BRZ could finish ahead of a well-prepared and driven SpecMiata. But Evan led all the SMs in this race - and all weekend for that matter.

Jared also ran his "old" Subaru WRX in T3. Not sure if the most trophies over the weekend went to him or Evan.

Today's word is "anomaly"

Definition: Unusual, not the normal state of affairs.

Example: an SM in front of Evan is an anomaly.

Pic thanx to James Ray





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## Membership Report- June 2021 -Jim Garry

*Mohud Membership Chairman*

< mhr.membership@gmail.com >

**Happy Days!** Membership continues to climb. As of May 21st we have 323 members in our region, up 12 from this time last month. Twenty two new members since April 1.

### **New Members** (Primary interest, if chosen, is in parentheses)

<b>Cameron Smith</b>	Troy (Solo)
<b>David Trifaro</b>	Watervliet
<b>Benjamin Howard</b>	Valley Falls
<b>Josiah Howard</b>	Valley Falls
<b>Philip Redington</b>	Averill Park (Solo - Phil is a long time member who let his membership lapse in 2020)
<b>Jason Jendzeizyk</b>	Schenectady (Solo)
<b>Margaret MulCahy</b>	Schenectady
<b>Gianna Liberatore</b>	Ballston Spa
<b>Gregory Liberatore</b>	Ballston Spa
<b>Dellon Moy</b>	Albany
<b>Keith Norton Jr</b>	Corinth
<b>Eric Tse</b>	Latham (Club Racing, Track Days, Solo, Street Survival)



### **Significant Anniversaries**

#### **Five Years**

**Sean Thompson** - Sean is an enthusiastic autocrosser

**Roxanne Gould** -

#### **Ten Years**

**Lyndon Peck** - Lyndon has actually been a member for about twice as long as this but is only listed in the database as a ten year member because of gap in membership a decade ago. Lyndon is an all-round good guy, good driver, and enthusiastic MoHud member. "I finally became a SCCA member after I (re-)started autocrossing with MoHud around 2003? Prior to that I had been attending autocross events with FLR, SNY, CNY, Glen, etc. within a reasonable radius of RIT when I was in school - starting 1995-ish? Since getting involved with MoHud, I took the role of Worker Chief (a few years back now, maybe 2009?) and have been a member of the Solo Advisory Committee since, well... I've attended a few national and regional events through the years but not in a few years now with other priorities (of course), but would still like to eventually attend a couple of the larger events again. I've also been attending a few HPDEs each year for a few years now as those are always fun and quite the learning experience. Hoping to stay involved for many years to come and maybe even drag along a future member in, well, a few years from now..

#### **Thirty Five Years**

**Lester Figarsky** - Here's a brief write-up from Greg Rickes: Lester started racing in an MGB. He used to have a foreign car service garage just a few doors down from the Orchard Tavern where the club held our monthly membership meetings for many years. That was the first location I remember for MoHud's annual tech party.

"Wow Can't believe it's been 35 years! Have to give special thanks to Jack Hanifan -Pete Smith and families."

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## **Mohawk-Hudson Region SCCA Board Meeting of April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021; 7:04 PM**

Location: Zoom

Officers Present: Russell Burkhard, Eric Smith, Shelby Blanchette, Salvatore Baisley, Greg Rickes, Jim Garry, Paul Malecki, Rich Alexander, Bruce Kosakoski, Chip Van Slyke

Total Members Present: 10

### **Treasurer's Report - Paul Malecki**

- \$27,899.88 in account
- \$586.05 from Autocross number one
- Income from Rally, not processed yet

### **Knock Off Report- Paul Malecki**

- Knock Off ready to go
- Per Eric Smith no feedback for new editor yet

### **Membership Report- Jim Garry**

- 311 members
- 4 new members at end of March and 10 new members in April

### **Solo Report- Russell Burkhard**

- Not much to report

### **Time Trials and Track Report- Salvatore Baisley**

- Sign up for July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> event is this Wednesday, estimated only 60 SCCA spots

### **Road Racing Report- Paul Malecki**

- Full report of Tech Party will be in Knock Off
- Some people going to Palmer this weekend

### **Old Business**

- Per Sal, Russell and Tracey Burkhard brought bus to Bob Carl's for inventory
- Russ Gorman and Salvatore Baisley wrote everything down and tidied up bus
- Russell Burkhard labeled spots, took some items out that were unnecessary
- Noticed bus's registration was up, it was registered under someone not on the board, bus is registered now
- Treasurer would like a copy of registration

### **Financial Audit- Eric Smith**

- Will send emails to Salvatore Baisley, Kirby Vaillant-White and Sheri DeJan tonight to set up time to zoom to meet

### **SAM's Car Show- Eric Smith**

- Check with Tom Campbell, all MOHUD space in front of Musuem
- About 15 cars, bring numbers
- Rain date; next day but that is our first Autocross event

### **Knock Off Editor Search- Eric Smith**

- Only one person has inquired
- Paul Malecki would like to hand off responsibility
- Eric Smith will put something about Knock Off on Facebook and website
- Eric Smith will send out special mailing to members

### **Report On SCCA Annual Meeting- Jim Garry**

- 42,800 annual memberships, down about 1,800 members from 2018
- 2020 10,500 new members
- Less members but more membership money because less discounts are being given
- Made about \$747,000 for income last year

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## Mohawk-Hudson Region SCCA Board Meeting of April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021; cont'd

### **Promotional Materials- Eric Smith**

- 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary decals, initial quote was too much
- Sticker Mule has better pricing, will get a quote from them
- Greg Rickes suggests printed fliers
- We want something to hand out at the museum show, has our information, points to our website/Facebook
- Per Paul, has autocross pictures

Greg Rickes suggests, 2 business cards that can be folded, fun with cars info on one side and MOHUD info on the other side with a fold out schedule

- Per Russell Burkhard, having schedule locks in time period, they will have a shelf life
- Paul Malecki thinks both ideas would be good to do
- Eric Smith suggest supplement SCCA brochure with QR codes
- Per Salvatore Baisely, online presence is very important to appeal to younger generation

### **New Business- Eric Smith**

- Discussed possible in person meeting in May at Guptils, will decide at a later date

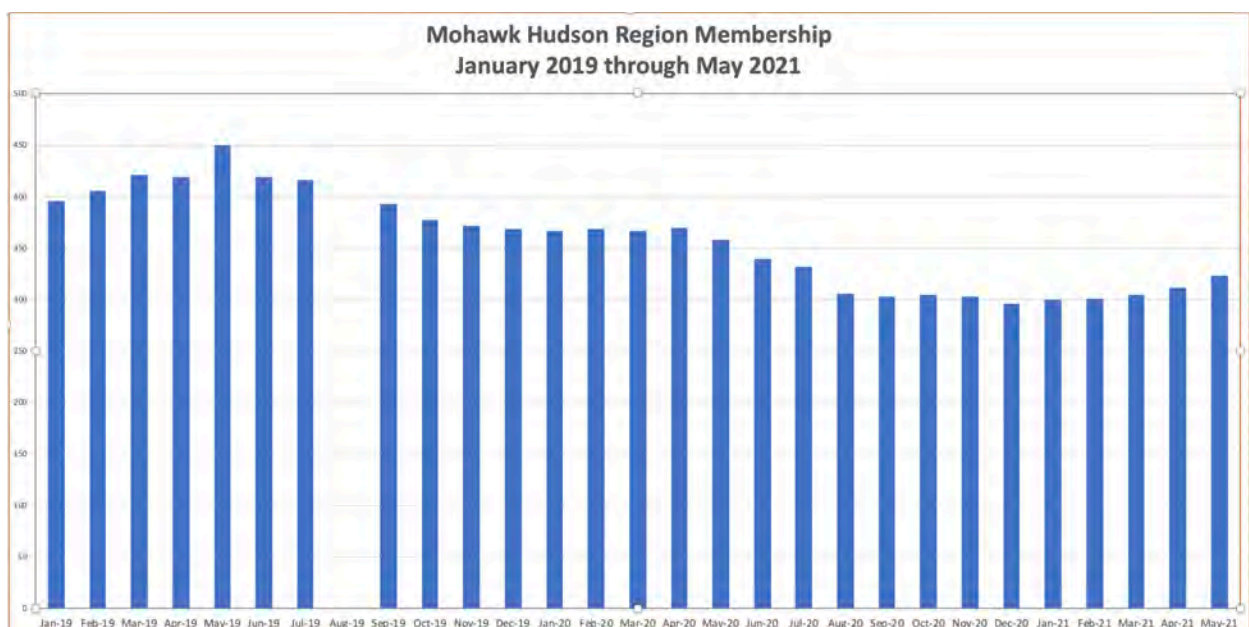
### **Social Media Strategy- Eric Smith**

- Kirby Vaillant-White willing to start doing Instagram; making posts
- Make getting media a worker's assignment per Bruce Kosakoski
- Make Kirby Vaillant-White in charge but have others that take photos at all events and send them to Kirby Vaillant-White, suggested by Eric Smith
- Software is available to automate premade posts

- Shelby Blanchette brings up helmet socks with MOHUD logo to sell
- Eric Smith had found cheap head socks to sell, unsure if will make a profit. Thinking about offering on Motorsportsreg.com with option of a loaner helmet
- Tentative yes for in person meeting at Guptils next month

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Shelby Blanchette.



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## Mohawk-Hudson Region SCCA Board "Media" Meeting of May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021; 7:15 PM

Location: Zoom

Officers Present: Eric Smith, Shelby Blanchette, Salvatore Baisley, Richard Welty, Bruce Kosakoski

Total members present: 6

- Richard Welty states club needs more YouTube content, he has an improved setup to help with audio quality
- Eric Smith proposes to diversify content

### Kirby Vaillant-White's Instagram Proposal

- Spread reach to people
- Post every other day or staggering posts increases chances of reaching people
- Programs like Hoot Suite exists that will automatically post premade content
- Visual stories will show how autocross is set up, how day goes ect.
- Post more recent events on YouTube
- Make a visual story with video and photos of the day and save some content in order to stagger posts
- Use archives of photos to fill in media gaps
- Richard Welty brings up including track and road racing
- Mentions MOHUD should be on all platforms of social media
- Kirby mentions it's easy to preload schedule and posts to Hoot Suite, anyone can access and we can have a shared login
- Salvatore Baisley points out we need to have admins to track who changes what
- Richard Welty wants to make sure we portray Mohud as one club, not different clubs
- Eric Smith proposes making each section in charge of finding people to submit content
- Kirby Vaillant-White suggests starting with one month worth of posts, try to find people to gather content
- Bruce Kosakoski mentions different people travel all over and it would be worth reaching out to them
- Important to explore all levels of driving
- Kirby Vaillant-White will need Instagram login information
- Bruce Kosakoski will try to get data from autocrossers, data would be for driving habits and cars
- Kirby Vaillant-White will work on setting up an account with Hoot Suite

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 PM Meeting minutes recorded and submitted by Shelby Blanchette



**Fun with cars?**



**Join Us!**

Road Rallies  
Solo Autocross  
Track Nights  
Time Trials  
Road Racing

Mohawk-Hudson Region  
Sports Car Club of America



**2021 Autocross Events**



May 16  
July 11  
August 8  
September 19  
October 3

Tech City – 550 Enterprise Drive – Kingston

Sign up: [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com)

Mohawk Hudson Region...



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## Mo-Hud Officers and Contacts

**Regional Executive (RE)**

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**Treasurer**

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**Secretary**

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**Director**

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

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

**Road Racing Chairs**

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

**Solo Chair**

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

**Track Chair** Time Trials and Track Nights

Aashish Vemulapalli [aashish2@gmail.com](mailto:aashish2@gmail.com)

**Rally Chair**

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**Flagging and Communications Chair**

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Open

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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, 7pm, at locations as announced on the Region's Facebook page.



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# The KnockOff Journal

**This Month...**

**- Campbell Racing at Pitt**



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## Campbell Racing 2021

*~ Tom Campbell*

### **Race #2 - Pittsburgh International Race Complex (Pitt Race) April 30-May2, 2021**

Second race of the year and the debut of Charlie's brand new Spec Miata.

As is our practice, we arrived at the track on Wednesday afternoon/early evening. Much less stress getting in and set up before the crowd shows up. We were planning on the Thursday test day to do the shakedown on the new SM and check out of the repairs to the FP car following the wreck at VIR (we racers call those "shunts"). However, it started raining overnight and rained steady all day long. It would have been a waste of time and effort to even try to go on track - to say nothing about an uncomfortable way to start the weekend. So we helped Charlie finish up some of the little things on the new car he hadn't time to do before leaving and just generally chilled out.

Friday morning was clear but cool and very windy. The FP car was in group 4 and had a good run. Charlie was 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in a 45-car mixed class field and 2<sup>nd</sup> in FP. As at VIR, there is another strong field in FP. 9 cars but 5 of the best in the country - three if they have 7 National Championships among them. It is going to be a tough weekend.

SM is group 6 so Charlie gets a little break between the two cars. Here, also is a large field of 41 SM competitors. Not quite as strong as at VIR but many of the same names. First time on track with the new car is performed flawlessly. Charlie was the 6<sup>th</sup> fastest but remember that this is untimed practice and it is hard to gage the real potential in this situation.

The first qualifying session of the weekend is on Friday afternoon. The rain started around lunch time and, although not steady, continued for a couple hours. The track was wet through the first three qualifying sessions and we decided that we would not take the FP car out on a wet track since the weather forecast for the second qualifying session on Saturday morning was for a dry and warmer day. Most of the group did go out, some on rain tires and others on dry slicks. The rain stopped just before the session started and there was a significant wind blowing. The result was that the track dried quickly and by halfway through the session was in good condition. So the guys on dry tires turned some really good times (better than in the morning); the guys on the rain tires generally went nowhere fast and most ruined their rain tires; and the ones like us that didn't go out wished we had.

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## Campbell @ Pitt, cont'd- qualy

**By the time of the SM qualifying session the track was fully dry.** Charlie was a little faster than he had been in the morning but so was everyone else. Early in the session he radioed that the car was pulling to one side down the straights and that the left front wheel was locking up under heavy braking. He wasn't able to improve on this early session times and near the end radioed that the transmission was jumping out of 4<sup>th</sup> gear and then a lap or two later that he no longer could get it into 5<sup>th</sup> gear. He ended in 16<sup>th</sup> place.

Back in the paddock he found that one of the front suspension adjustment bolts had moved and the alignment was significantly off causing the handling problems. And, of course, he needed to change the transmission before the Saturday morning qualifying session.

The second qualifying sessions were on Saturday morning. The FP car started at the back of the pack because we didn't have a qualifying time on Friday. There was too much traffic to set a good lap time during the first half of the session and then a car stopped on the track with his brakes locked up and the session was ended before they were able to get him clear. We would start 11<sup>th</sup> for race 1 in the afternoon. The SM qualifying went well but times were a bit slower than they had been on Friday afternoon. Charlie would start 16<sup>th</sup>.



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## Campbell @ Pitt, cont'd- races

**Charlie had a great start for the Saturday afternoon FP race;** starting 11<sup>th</sup> he was up to 7<sup>th</sup> at the end of the first lap, and picked up another spot on the second lap. He was now in 4<sup>th</sup> place in FP, all of whom were running well behind the EP leader who just motored away from everyone. He was in third place going into lap 5 when he was forced wide and off track in the first turn and recovered but fell back to 5<sup>th</sup> in class. He had also flat spotted the right front tire when he locked up the brakes trying to stay on track and that slowed his pace a bit. He had fallen about 15 sec. behind the 4<sup>th</sup> place car and there was just not enough time to close the gap. Under the circumstances, 5<sup>th</sup> wasn't too bad. And the car was running well, he set the second-best lap time in class.

The SM race, also, started well. Charlie advanced from his 16<sup>th</sup> starting spot to 10<sup>th</sup> on the first lap. And continued to improve all the way up to 7<sup>th</sup>. But on lap 6 he overdrove a corner and went off track and through the grass. He came back on in 14<sup>th</sup>. He told me after the race that he "just got greedy". He was able to work his way back to 12<sup>th</sup> and then missed a shift and fell back to 18<sup>th</sup> before recovering. At the end he finished 17<sup>th</sup>. As in the FP race, the finishing position didn't reflect how well the car was capable of running.



**Race 2 on Sunday for the FP car was frustrating.** We started in 4<sup>th</sup> place, 3<sup>rd</sup> in FP, because of the fast lap during Saturday's race. But immediately started falling back. The car just wasn't working as well as it had been on Saturday. The crew chief has to take the blame (that would be me). First the tire truck didn't have a new tire in our size so we had to put on a used tire to replace the one that was ruined during race 1. Then I made a bad suspension adjustment trying to improve the handling just a little bit. Instead I made it worse, although I suspect the used tire was part of the problem. And finally I put on a new set of brake pads, trying a different compound. Charlie reported that contrary to race 1, the rear brakes were locking up. I'll have to study on that a bit. So by half way Charlie had given up trying to stay with the leaders and cruised to the end to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place in FP.

The SM race started out as a single file parade. Charlie started in 11<sup>th</sup> based on his time during Saturday's race and stayed there for the first half of the race. Mid race he caught up the a small group of cars and was able to work his way up to 9<sup>th</sup> before a small contact while trying for one more position slowed him back to 11<sup>th</sup> where he finished. Still, this was well ahead of what he was used to with the old car.

So, both cars come home in good condition. The FP class is getting more competitive each year and this year's Runoffs, in Indianapolis, are really going to be a battle. The new SM is off to a good start and is going to repay the work Charlie has put into its construction.

Up next is the Majors race at Pocono Raceway on Memorial Day weekend.

~Tom and Charlie