

# KNOCKOFF



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

## November 2015

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

### A Bit of History...



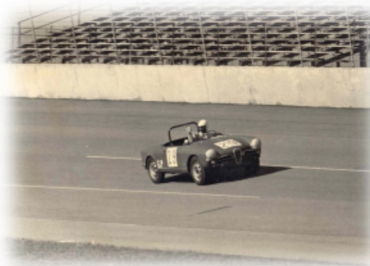
Racing") for the 2015 SCCA National Championship Run-Offs they actually continued a long-standing MoHud tradition on the high banks.

When MoHud members Charlie and Tom Campbell, Greg Goss, Jared Lendrum and Jeff Lehner made the trek to Daytona International Speedway (aka "The World Center of

In 1961 MoHud's Bill Kane went to Daytona to race in an SCCA National race. In those days the National Championship wasn't a single event but a series of races around the country. Bill won the G Production class at Daytona driving Alan Jaconsen's Alfa Romeo, and but for an accident late in the season could have been National Champion; instead he ended up second.



Here's a few photos from those long ago days. Can you spot one key difference in the DIS track configuration?



### Inside this issue:

November RE Report	Russ Burkhard	2
November Meeting Minutes	Ron Bass	2
Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet	Eric Smith	3
November SOLO Report	Russ Burkhard	4
Field Report from Daytona	Greg Goss	4
Mini Con(vention)	<i>Author Unknown</i>	5
Membership Report	Jim Garry	5
Lost Speedways ( <i>Special Report</i> )	SCCA Headquarters	6

#### OFFICERS & ADMINS

##### Regional Executive (RE)

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

##### Assistant RE

Eric "EJ" Smith  
[ejevo8@gmail.com](mailto:ejevo8@gmail.com)

##### Treasurer

Todd Boice  
[tboice1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:tboice1@nycap.rr.com)  
[Mohudregs@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Mohudregs@nycap.rr.com)

##### Secretary

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

##### Competition Chair

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

##### Rally Chair

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

##### SOLO Chair

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

##### Membership Chair

Jim Garry  
[jim\\_garry@verizon.net](mailto:jim_garry@verizon.net)

##### Knock Off Overlord

Tim Frink  
[FrinkTL@MSN.com](mailto:FrinkTL@MSN.com)

##### Chief of Pits

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

##### Scrutineering (Tech)

Todd Boice  
[tboice1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:tboice1@nycap.rr.com)  
[Mohudregs@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Mohudregs@nycap.rr.com)

##### Chief, Flagging & Comm.

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

##### Merchandise

Peter W. Smith  
[tbspete@gmail.com](mailto:tbspete@gmail.com)

##### Director

Bruce Kosakoski  
518.674.8816 (H)

##### Director

Dick Stewart  
[stewartco@aol.com](mailto:stewartco@aol.com)

##### WebMaster

Eric "EJ" Smith  
[ejevo8@gmail.com](mailto:ejevo8@gmail.com)

##### NeDiv License Chair

Peter W. Smith  
[tbspete@gmail.com](mailto:tbspete@gmail.com)

# Regional Executive

## November RE Report

*Russ Burkhard*

September 14<sup>th</sup> was the final car show at Guptill's. The attendance was the best of the year. Pete Smith brought his Mazda Miata to display. The Solo program has continued to benefit from us being there. We have had a number of people come to the Solo events to try it out for the first time compliments from the club by stopping by and talking with us. I am sure we will be back at Guptill's next year. If anyone has any other ideas on how we can get the word out about our club and its programs, please let me know.

The Tire Rack Street Survival (TRSS) event was held Saturday, October 10th, 2015, at the Saratoga Auto Museum. It was another successful event. The pavement has been repaired in spots, but unfortunately they added some islands that we had to work around. Bert Huiest came up

Friday night and put together the elements that were needed to hold the event in a course type design. Saratoga Auto Museum provided food and beverages and also gave use of their classroom.

The event ran pretty smooth. Bruce Kosakoski took care of the classroom training and did an excellent job for his first time. All of the students showed vast improvements throughout the day thanks in part to the instructors. We were just short of one on one instructor to student ratio. I did not mind because I was one of the lucky ones to have two students. RPI also helped out by sending a few students to assist with the event. As always, we could not do these without the help from the volunteers. A huge **Thank You** to everyone that helped and if you have not helped out yet, you are missing out on what I

believe is the most rewarding program that I have helped with for the club.

We will be holding the Mini-Con on 11/13 - 11/15/2015 at the Saratoga Holiday Inn. Rates are \$129 per night. Seminars will be \$40 including lunch per person, dinner and awards at the Saratoga Auto Museum will be \$60, or the whole weekend is \$100. We are still looking for help to put on this event. If interested, please contact Jack Hanifan, Pete Smith, or myself.

The end of the year is coming up and if you want to get more involved with the clubs inner workings, Officer Elections will be held for the December meeting. Let me or another Board member know if you are interested.

## October Member Meeting Minutes

*Ron Bass*

▶ Meeting called to order 7:30 pm.

Meeting minutes accepted as published in the Knock Off.

**Membership** – 387 members currently.

**Knock Off** – Tim Frink has volunteered to take over publication of the Knock Off. Thanks was extended to Lisa for her work as Knock Off editor for the past few years.

**Treasurer** – Todd summarized the previous month's income and expenses.

**Solo** – Potential sites are still being sought. An appropriate site has not been found to date. A Solo event was held September 13. There were 46 entries.

**Tire Rack Street Survival** – will be this Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Saratoga Auto Museum. There are 24 students and 20+ instructors currently registered.

**Rally** – GTA scheduled for October 24, Burden Lake Country Club. Registration at 3:30 pm. Details will be put up on the website.

**PDX** – no report.

**Activities** – there is interest in having Go Kart races again this winter – will be researched.

**Competition** – John Stimm Memorial will be at Thompson this weekend. Greg Goss provided a presentation on his recent experience at the Run Offs at Daytona. He finished 8<sup>th</sup> in STU. Tom Campbell also provided a presentation on his (Spec Miata) and his brother Charlie's (F Production) experience at the Run Offs. Charlie had a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish. Videos of all the races are at SCCA.com.

**Mini Con** – Friday night will be registration and welcome party. Saturday will be seminars throughout the day.

Awards banquet is Saturday evening, 6:30 pm, at the Saratoga Museum.

**Old Business** – MoHud has purchased a new van – an 1998 eight person passenger school bus.

**New Business** – old van needs to be disposed. Suggested that van be listed for sale in local classifieds and if there's no interest then be sold for scrap at the Port of Albany. Tow fund unanimously approved by membership - \$1000 will be distributed to MoHud members that ran the Run Offs (approximately \$150/competitor).

**Other Business** – Motion approved to offer a Matt Adalian \$20 gift card for helping MoHud purchase the new van. Jim Garry – RPI does not have any persons available to help us secure a new solo site.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm ◀



**MOHUD SCCA ANNUAL YEAR-END BANQUET**

*Eric Smith*

# **MOHUD SCCA ANNUAL YEAR-END MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET**



**Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

## **German-American Club of Albany**

32 Cherry Street, Albany NY 12205  
(Just off Fuller Rd near Central Ave)

**6:00pm cocktails – cash bar**  
**7:00pm dinner**

**\$25 Buffet includes:**

**Roast Beef, Chicken, Pork, Red Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes, Salad**  
Appetizers before, Dessert and coffee after  
**\$5 Children's portion (age 12 & under)**

We will once again be supporting Bob Karl's toy drive for Unity House. You can help support this worthy cause by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to the awards banquet.

**Kindly RSVP by Saturday, November 21st**

Mail your check (payable to: **MoHud SCCA**) and a note including number of attendees to:

Eric Smith  
7 Oneida Ct  
Slingerlands, NY 12159

Questions?  
Eric Smith [EJEvo8@gmail.com](mailto:EJEvo8@gmail.com) 518-858-4082

## November SOLO Report

*Russ Burkhard*



Last month I had stated that we would have Mark Daddio speaking at the Mini-Con. Unfortunately he has a scheduling conflict and will not be able to attend. But as I reported before, we will have Roger Johnson. Roger is the most famous Solo course

designer in the world. He has set up courses internationally as well as many National Championship, National Tour, and Regional courses. See his course design manual here [http://www.houscca.com/solo/courses/Course\\_Design\\_4-1-2.pdf](http://www.houscca.com/solo/courses/Course_Design_4-1-2.pdf) Roger is coming all the way from Texas to be with us. Let's give him a large and

enthusiastic audience. We also have Brian Connors, SCCA Solo Events Board Chairman coming. Brian will discuss the Solo program, where it is and where it is going.

I have also heard of a possible Solo Safety Steward Training class. You can get your initial

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

training or refresher to keep your SSS license.

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

## Field Report from Daytona

*Greg Goss*



We arrived on Saturday, found my mechanic, signed in and unloaded the car. I should have registered and checked the track but we headed to the beach to get settled into our condos. Two condos right on Daytona Beach so the girls would be comfortable.

We went to the track on Sunday to organize the trailer and get signed in. I ran into Elivan Goulart who was pitted next to me in the Mazda Paddock and he ask how my lap times were. I told him I was not signed up for the practice days and would go out cold on Monday morning at 8:40. He was shocked that I would attempt to qualify without any practice laps. It was 10 am and practice for my group was 10:30, it was unlikely I could sign up for the race, sign up for practice and get thru TECH in 30 mins but Paul convinced me to try. He readied the car and I headed to make my way thru the signup line, Tech line and Practice line.

By a strange twist of fate there was a big wreck which caused a 30 min delay and gave us enough time to get to the false grid. It was starting to get hot so the lap times were nothing to brag about 2:24 2:25. The afternoon I got down to 2:22. I made a decision that the Monday morning was going to be my best chance to get a good lap time and Elivan told me to go get new tires for the qualifier.

Well I found out that if you had not ordered your tires ahead of time then you were out of

luck. But another streak of luck - my tire size was very odd and they happened to have 4 spare sets. I got them mounted and had my other new tires balanced. I usually don't bother but at 150 mph the unbalanced tires shook the car violently. Monday morning we headed to the track by 7 am got everything ready for the 8:40 practice. It was cooler in the morning and it was our best chance to set a good qualifying time. They set the grid by you national points and we also had T2 and B-spec cars on track with us. I was in the last row of cars since I had only a few points for the Majors at WG 3rd place finish. Most guys qualify through the Majors but I did it through the Divisional series.

I went out and did my best but T1 and the bus stop were my downfall, just could not figure out how to get through them. T1 is an off camber, decreasing radius, blind apex turn that you enter at 150 mph, higher speed than I am used to and you need to trail brake and down shift to third. Its bumpy also.

Bus stop is the opposite of the one at Watkins, but still entering at speed in excess of 140 mph, it's tore up on the edges, very, very rough from the center to exit and constantly had cones and debris scatter during all 4 days of qualifying. It proved to be my biggest hurdle. After Monday's qualifier I get called to impound where we spend 2.5 hours standing around waiting for a guy to tear down his VW so they can measure his turbo restrictor. it was painful, hot as hell and we can not leave the car alone. I passed tech with only one issue, wheels were over 8" wide and technically illegal. But since they were OEM AP2 wheels they allowed it.

I posted a 2:19 for my time, it was good enough for 8th place on the grid. The pole sitter did a 2:05 which held for the entire week, second was 2:06 and that also held for the week. I practiced each day but all the other sessions were later in the day, the final one was at 4:40 which was very close to race time and it was brutally hot and humid. One day we had rain right before we went out, I used street tires but the track eventually dried. Each day I was being pushed backwards on the grid and even though we got the car handling better and knocked a second or two off my times, I ended up in 12th place on the grid for Friday's race.

On Friday at 4pm it looked like rain, race time was 4:20 and we decided to go with slicks. I put a set of new Hoosier R7's on the car, buckled in and headed to false grid. Paul got me settled in and then asked if I needed him in the pits. I said NO, go to the top of Elivan's hauler and watch the race. Off we go and there are rain drops on the windshield during the pace lap and I second guess my choice of tires. Too late to worry...it will be the same track for everyone.

The green flag drops and off we go, I got a clean start and before we make it to T3 there is a guy off and into the wall bringing out the first caution flag. One of the front runners is out and I am in 8th They clean it quickly and we restart, I settle in for about 5 laps, make some passes and move up to 6th before a huge wreck in T1 with the leader in the wall. Now I am in 5th at the 1/2 way point. Its a 14 lap or 40 minute race, which ever comes first. The pace car leads us around for 4 painful laps, painful for the others but not for me, I wanted to go green for only a few laps.

The green flies with 3 to go and I am watching the leaders pull away. They are much faster than me (leader is 11 mph faster on front straight). With 2 laps to go one of the guys comes charging out of the pack and is on my bumper. I am miss shifting going into the bus stop the last two laps and on the final lap he is on my bumper, bump drafting to the finish. He wants to pull out for the pass but he waits too long and we cross the finish line with 100th of a second between us !!

The big race was over and I finish in 5th place, we headed to impound where we wait and wait and wait...they never did finish inspecting the cars that night. I headed back to the paddock, changed and was called in for a protest. They said I passed under first caution. I check my video and sure enough I did, I did not see the caution light, I was looking for a flagger who was at the end of the straight, pointing his flag through the fence. By the time I saw him it was too late, I had passed the guy and it was on video. When I was behind the Miata he waved me by or so I thought, he was trying to point to the caution lights.

I didn't fight it, it just wasn't worth it. I was penalized 3 spots. I pulled the car out of the impound line and we went back and loaded everything up in the rain. I was happy with what I had accomplished, I never figured I would finish as well as I did after posting slow times all week. I got my time down to a 2:15 during the race, stayed clean, got good restarts and made it happen.

We spent two days on the road to get back to NY, spent Monday unpacking, mowing lawn and trying to recall all the events of the past week.



## November Mini Con Hosted by...US!

*Author Unkown*



The Mohawk Hudson Region of the Sports Car Club of America will host this year's annual Northeast Division Mini-Convention on November 13-14, 2015, at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs NY. SCCA competitors, crew, administrators and other members gather and plan out events for 2016, train stewards. Awards dinner at the Saratoga Auto Museum.

<http://www.saratogaautomuseum.org>

The schedule at the 2015 SCCA Northeast Division Mini-Convention NY will include a welcome reception on Friday evening November 13th at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs.

Saturday November 14th at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs the schedule will include administrative meetings for NARRC,

NYSRRC, Northeast Division, 2016 Club Race Scheduling and Stewards.

All attendees are welcome to participate in a series of Solo seminars.

### Speakers include:

Roger Johnson, Course Design Guru. Roger is the most famous solo course designer in the world, literally. He has set up courses internationally as well as many National Championship, National Tour, and Regional courses. Here's his famous course design manual: [http://www.houscca.com/solo/courses/Course\\_Design\\_4-1-2.pdf](http://www.houscca.com/solo/courses/Course_Design_4-1-2.pdf) Roger is coming all the way from Texas to be with us. Let's give him a large and enthusiastic audience.

Brian Connors, SCCA Solo Events Board Chairman. Brian will discuss the Solo program, where it is and where it is going. Come with questions and Brian will answer them.

Raleigh and Velma Boreen, SCCA Region Development Managers. The Boreens will

offer information about bringing out the best in our regional Solo programs.

A Solo Safety Steward training session presented by either the NEDiv Solo Safety Steward or a member of the SCCA Solo Safety Committee. This is the first step toward becoming a licensed Solo Safety Steward.

Solo Competition Driving. Take in the wisdom of a solo zen master as he discusses the deeper part of driving fast on an auto-cross course. An Evolution Performance Driving School instructor will present this seminar.

Saturday evening awards Banquet will be held at the Saratoga Auto Museum a great automotive experience.

A detailed schedule will be posted when it is available. The schedule will be emailed to all registered attendees.

If you have questions or need additional information please email [Mohudregs@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Mohudregs@nycap.rr.com).

We look forward to seeing you all there.

## Membership Report

*Jim Garry*

As of September 1<sup>st</sup> (the latest information available), the SCCA database shows that Mohawk Hudson Region membership stands at **388**, a decline of 35 from last month. In July and August alone, 44 people dropped off the regional list. This was mostly due to the Teen Street Survival School entrants not renewing the one year membership they receive when they register for the school. Thus 388 members is probably a more realistic accounting of our regional membership. This despite strong efforts by our Regional Executive and others to recruit new members. Should we try to have a car show in a mall next spring? Advertise in some manner? If anyone has ideas regarding recruiting new



members, please pass them along.

### New Members

Eleven people joined the Mohawk Hudson Region in August and September. They are listed here with their primary interest, if available:

- Jonathan Baniak, Ballston Spa (Club Racing)
- Abigail Chunilal, Schenectady

- Matthew Cushing, Greenwich (Time Trials)
- Erick Mesick, Concord, NH
- Sarah Ronsani, Germantown (Club Racing)
- Anthony Vaccaro, Plattsburgh (Club Racing)
- Joanne Vaccaro, Plattsburgh
- Kent Vaccaro, Plattsburgh
- Paige Vaccaro, Platts-

burgh

- Patrick Whitton, Rexford (Solo)
- Todd Wilson, Plattsburgh (Club Racing)

### Significant Anniversaries

#### **Five Years**

Doug Kelley

#### **Ten Years**

Jon Farbman  
Leigh McBride

#### **Fifteen Years**

Hillary Graff  
Michael Landau

#### **Fifty Years**

Karl Danneil

We honor all of our members but an extra shout out goes to Karl Danneil who celebrates his fiftieth year as an SCCA member this month.

## Lost Speedways

SCCA Email



### Saratoga Springs

With Labor Day in the books and a hint of fall in the air, it's time to set the slate of topics and presenters for the Saratoga Automobile Museum's most popular event, Lost Speedways.

"We'll welcome racers and fans on our traditional 'Saturday after Thanksgiving' date once again, which this year falls on November 28th," said event organizer Ron Hedger. "And like always, we'll have memorabilia on display along with a great slate of presentations as we look back at speedways and racers no longer with us."

Mark Supley, Lost Speedway's motorcycle expert, will discuss board track racing, a topic he addressed a few years ago but has since expanded. Vermont racing historian Bill Ladabouche will cover the old Otter Creek Speedway in Vergennes, where many New Yorkers raced back in the day, while Ken Parrotte will take the audience back to the early days of the Fulton Speedway, when Millard "Bub" Benway and his brother first opened it under the name Mil-Ray Speedway.

For sports car and road racing fans, Lime Rock Park announcer and racing historian Greg Rickes has researched the famed street race through Alexandria Bay and will share his findings. And for dirt track fans, racing columnist John Snyder, who made his Lost Speedways debut last fall, will return to talk about Victory Speedway, the original name of

the track now known as the Orange County Fairgrounds Speedway.

"The final segment will be our now traditional interview session," added Hedger. "Each year I invite one or two star drivers to talk about their careers and this year I'm hoping to have a pair from different backgrounds to answer both my questions and queries from the audience. As the event gets closer and possible conflicts are resolved, we'll be able to announce their names."

Another Lost Speedways tradition is that the event closely follows the opening of the museum's winter exhibit, which will be "Real Steel: Stories of Automotive Archaeology from Kevin Biebel." While Biebel's collection runs from a 1907 Success that looks like a buckboard with an engine to modern vehicles, racers will likely be most interested in his Kent Fuller built dragster, complete with Ford flathead engine and Hilborn fuel injection, which remains just as it came off the drag strip decades ago.

And for those who have enjoyed viewing the #2x modified coupe driven by the legendary Eddie Flemke, the car's owner, Long island collector Phil Elliston, has agreed to replace it with another historic treasure, the #888 wheeled by four-time national champion Rene Charland. The 'triple 8' will arrive in early October to allow time for items from SAM's extensive collection of Charland memorabilia to be displayed with it at Lost Speedways.

Lost Speedways 2015 will commence with memorabilia sharing from 11:30 am on, followed by the presentations at 12:45 pm.

The Saratoga Automobile Museum is located on the Avenue of the Pines in the Saratoga Spa State Park, just off Exit 13N of I-87, the Adirondack Northway. More information on SAM is available online at [www.saratogaautomuseum.org](http://www.saratogaautomuseum.org).

### **APOLOGIES TO JACK HANIFAN**

who submitted an article for publication that the editor (who shall remain nameless) missed and/or neglected to include in this issue. An attempt was made to reacquire it without success. It is also possible that it was included but attributed to the wrong author (the KO Overlord, while zealous for quality, essentially knows no one's name). The board will decide whether to forgive or execute...



### Miscellaneous Goo...

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

### **ADVERTISING RATES**

Type	Size	1 Issue	6 Issues
Full Pg	10x7	\$20.00	\$100.00
Half Pg	5x7	\$15.00	\$75.00
Half Pg	10x3	\$15.00	\$75.00
Qtr Pg	5x3	\$10.00	\$50.00
Bus Crd	3x2	\$5.00	\$25.00

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

### **Quote of the Month**

(from [www.brainyquote.com](http://www.brainyquote.com))

"It takes considerable knowledge just to realize the extent of your own ignorance."

- Thomas Sowell