

KNOCKOFF ff

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

January 2016

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 to sign up for delivery to your email inbox.

There's a New King in Town...

HERE in Albany!

Russ Burkhard has been succeeded as Regional Executive by none other

than the famous James (aka "Jim") Bucci, effective January 1, 2016.

Let's spend the time between this issue and the next attempting to come

up with a way to welcome him properly to his new post. For now, let's just bask in the warm glow that emanates from the group photo of our leadership for the new year.



From Left to Right: Eric "EJ" Smith (Assistant RE), Ron Bass (Secretary), Jim Bucci (NEW Regional Executive), Pete Smith (Activity Chair), Todd Boice (Treasurer), Russ Burkhard (Outgoing RE), Dick Stewart (Director), and Santa Claus (a.k.a. St. Nicholas, Kris Kringle & Pelznickel).

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Regional Executive

January RE Report

Jim Bucci

Either way, no report was received. In the interest of fairness, no one expected me to publish a newsletter for January, so only a couple people provided content for an issue that wouldn't normally exist. So, instead please enjoy this fine picture of Elvis Presley as you read the welcome note from our fearless leader:

"I just wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'm really looking forward to being Regional Executive in the coming

year. We've got some new and interesting ideas for meetings and events and I hope you'll be along for the ride.

Our first general membership meeting of the new year will be Wednesday, January 6th at The Orchard Tavern, 68 N. Manning Blvd. Albany.

Greg Rickes, the "Voice of Lime Rock Park" will repeat his Lost Speedway presentation on the Alexandria Bay sports car races. Formalities start precisely at 7:30. Hope to see you there.

For the good of the sport,
Jim Bucci
Regional Executive"



January Member Meeting Minutes

Eric Smith for Ron Bass

▶ A vote was cast for an uncontested slate of officers (pictured on [page 1](#)).◀

Banquet WAS the meeting





WINTER ISN'T THE OFF SEASON

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\$20 buys 20 minutes on the race course during the lunch time break
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 Track day rules apply

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January SOLO Report

Russ Burkhard



I hope everyone is enjoying their holiday season. Back at the beginning of December we had our Annual Awards Banquet. I would like to congratulate all of the Champions, Trophy winners, and Specialty Award winners. I also want to thank everyone that came to a Solo event;

competitors, workers, family, or friends. Everyone is important to the program. In keeping with the tradition, here is the speech that was presented at the banquet.

2015 SOLO Trophy Presentation

Welcome to the Solo portion of the 2015 Mohawk Hudson Awards Banquet. We started 2015 with a Test and Tune, followed it with six points events, and finished the year by helping with a Street Survival events at SPAC.

Our average attendance dropped 11 this year to an average of 51 participants at each event. This is the first drop we had since 2012. I am guessing the weather had some to do with it as well as the loss of Fortitech. We had about 112 different people all together. This is down 40 from last year. This year we had 17 that made all of the events. This is 1 more than last year. We had another thirteen that only missed one event. At the other end 49 only made it to one event. This is 26 less than last year.

I would like to thank our site owner, the McCarty Ave OGS lot. We had all 6 of our points events there plus the season opening test and tune.

There are a lot of people I need to thank; Our Safety Stewards are Bruce Kosakoski, Arne Beebe, Phil Shoemaker, Tom Moeller, Phil Redington, Scot Carpenter, and Tracey Burckhard. Phil Shoemaker continued to do registration with help from Miguel Tiexeira. Course design was a challenge this year. I took over with help from Jon Kirschman, Clifton Cearley, and Matt Wilson. We started off a little shaky, but improved each event until the final 2 events when Jeff Grossbard took over. Eric Smith and Tom Moeller continue to do a great job with Timing and Scoring. Carmine Russo did a great job again as Chief of Tech. Also thanks to everyone else that has helped out with the events. I would like to thank my fellow Solo Advisory Committee members. Andy Furlong, Bruce Kosakoski, Tom Moeller, Eric Smith, Lyndon Peck, Tom Moeller, Arne Beebe, and Phil Shoemaker for planning the season and deciding who gets the awards. A special thanks to all of the competitor/workers at every event. We couldn't do it without you. We also need to thank the Board of Directors and all of our members. At the end of this season the club purchased a bus to carry the Solo equipment.

We made significant changes to the Solo classes for 2015. Mohud added the Novice class in 2011. This year the Novice class continued to be popular with 23 entrants. The Street Tire class which was added the same year to help to accommodate the competitors that did not wish to deal with

the expenses and complexities of the R-comp tires was dropped this year. The Street (formerly Stock) class grew again this year as we increased to 42 competitors this year. The big change this year came with the addition of the Pro Class. We broke out the perennial winners and formed a class with those and anyone else that wanted to be in it. This opened up the other classes to have new champions. The new class didn't disappoint as we had 15 entrants in a very competitive class and four new champions in the other classes.

Before we get to the trophies, I must thank my car owner. My wife Tracey. It continues to be a pleasure to co-drive with her. This year a couple of times during the events she set better times than me early in the day. Fortunately for me I was able to go faster and beat her by the end of the event saving my pride, but it will just be a matter of time before I will wind up behind her.

Class Trophy Winners

Street

8th Place from BS Jon Kirschman
7th Place from FS Ray Nelson
6th Place from BS Andrew Bernstein
5th Place from GS Tracey Burckhard
4th Place from DS Clifton Cearley
2nd Place from BS Miguel Teixeira
2nd Place from GS Joseph Lagdao
1st Place from HS Ian Wallace

Street Prepared

3rd Place from BSP Joseph Cassidy
2nd Place from FSP David Trifaro
1st Place from ASP Dan Whaley

StreetTouring/Modified

4th Place from STR Aashish Vemulapalli
3rd Place from SMF Scot Carpenter
2nd Place from STX Timothy Frink
1st Place from STU Stephen Zavos

Kart

2nd Place from KM Ian Morse
1st Place from JA Johnathon Burckhard

Novice

4th Place from NFS Aaron Bailey
3rd Place from NDS Jose Martinez
2nd Place from NCS Adam Wright
1st Place from NES Saul Morse

Pro

9th Place from XFSP Bill Bennett
7th Place from XCP Arn Beebe
7th Place from XFSP Lyndon Peck
6th Place from XBS Phillip Redington
5th Place from XSM Eric Smith
4th Place from XHS Carmine Russo
3rd Place from XEP Andrew Furlong
2nd Place from XGS Russell Burckhard
1st Place from XSTS Jon Staude

Specialty Trophies

Novice of the year

This year's Novice class had three strong competitors that rose to the top of the standings. Saul Morse, Adam Wright, and Jose Martinez. These guys won 5 out of the 6 events, had 4 second place finishes, 5 third place finishes, and their worst finish was a single fourth place finish between them. The point spread between 1st and 3rd was a mere 24 points,

(Continued next page)

January SOLO Report (Continued)

Russ Burkhard

Novice of the year (Continued from previous page)

but the difference between 1st and 2nd was only 1 point. The Solo Advisory Committee had a tough choice and in a split decision, the 2015 Novice Driver of the Year is Saul Morse.

Most Improved Driver

The winner for this year's Most Improved Driver didn't have finishes that were too bad in class last year. With two second place and a fifth place finish he finished tenth in class despite missing 4 events. This year he had two 1st places, three 3rd places, and a 5th place finish in class. The Pax list is where we judge and shows that he had a pretty good improvement from last year. Last year he had an average Pax of 40. This year he did better. His Pax finishes were 27, 35, 17, 27, 27, and 17 for an average of 25. Last year he was a novice, this year he closed out the championship by finishing second in his class. The 2015 Most Improved Driver is Timothy Frink.

Female Driver of the Year

This year we had a total of 10 women that competed this year but only 2 ran the full season and they both competed in the Street class together. The one had her first full season this year after a couple of partial years while the other has been pretty much running full schedules since 2011. While both of these women have been improving since they started competing, one of them ran consistently at the top of both class finishes and Pax finishes. Her class finishes were 4th, 5th, 6th,

5th, 4th, and 5th for an average of 5th. Her Pax finishes were 8th, 9th, 12th, 11th, 12th, and 11th for an average of 10th. This year's Female driver of the year is Tracey Burckhard.

Driver of the Year

This year's Driver of the Year should come as no surprise. He had finished the top of his class in five out of six events. The final event he had missed otherwise he probably would have swept the season. He had the Fastest Time of the Day at two events. His Pax finishes were 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, and 2nd for an average finish of 1.2. No one else was even close to him as the next highest average was a 4.3 for a full year competitor. The 2015 Driver of the Year is Jon Staude.

Worker of the Year

As always I wish I could give out many of these awards and not to just one person. Many people help out throughout the year and I would like to take a moment to thank everyone that has helped with the Solo program this year. This year's winner has won in the past. He shows up early ready to help out with whatever is needed, works his assignment and whatever else is asked of him and helps out at the end of the day to load up the van. For the second year in a row the 2015 Worker of the year is Miguel Teixeira



The 2015 season has been completed. It is now time to work on the 2016 season. The Solo Advisory Committee will be meeting to set the schedule soon. Keep an eye out for a tentative schedule in the next month or two.

A Holiday Reminder (You Might Have Seen This One)

Your KO Overlord

Choose your ride. Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.



DRUNK DRIVING
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.

Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

TRSS Report (Apologies, this was *supposed* to print LAST month)

Jim Bucci



Photos from the Tire Rack Street Survival program hosted by MoHud-SCCA, Patroon BMWCCA, and the Saratoga Auto Museum. Many thanks to the museum, our sponsors, instructors, and all who helped make it a very successful event.



Membership Report

Jim Garry



Welcome!

Total membership as of December 17 is **424**, down six from last month.

There is just one Significant Anniversary this month and it's Peter Kroth celebrating his 15th year as an SCCA member, all of them in Mohawk-Hudson Region.

We had two new members in November, which is the latest information available from the national office:

1. Mark Bour, Troy
2. Joanna Czajkowski, Mechanicsville

Banquet Pictures—Club Racing Winners)

Various



▲ Justin Noble, Co-winner, MoHud Driver of the Year



▲ Tom Campbell accepting for his brother, Charlie Campbell, Co-winner, MoHud Driver of the Year



▲ Evan Karl, MoHud Rookie of the Year



▲ Richard Welty, Dave Riggi Memorial Award

Banquet Pictures— SOLO Awards, etc.

Various



▲ Tim Frink, MoHud Solo Most-Improved Driver



▲ Jon Staude, MoHud Solo Driver of the Year



▲ Saul Morse, MoHud Solo Rookie of the Year



▲ Miguel Teixeira, MoHud Solo Worker of the Year Driver



▲ Sorry, but the only trophy picture I have/found was this one of Aashish Vemulapalli accepting his 4th place trophy.



▲ Tracey Burkhard, MoHud Solo Female Driver of the Year



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 SearchQuotes.com)

"Let's not spend New Year's Eve trying to figure out where to spend New Year's Eve."

- Unknown