

The Mo-Hud

# Knockoff



NEWSLETTER OF THE MOHAWK-HUDSON REGION SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA (Mo-Hud)

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**December 2016**

## **The REport**

*Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, buon natale, Frohliche Weihnachten, joyeux Noel, Nollaig Chridheil!*

### **Short column this month.**

I just want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I've truly enjoyed being your Regional Executive for the past year and I'm looking forward to leading the Mohawk-Hudson region again in 2017.

Our first general membership meeting of the new year will be Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at The Orchard Tavern, 68 N. Manning Blvd. Albany. Bench racing and dinner (on your own) at 6:30pm. Meeting starts at 7:30pm. Hope to see you there.

A reminder that the Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the German-American Club takes the place of what would be a December meeting at the Orchard. You have made your reservations, haven't you?

And speaking of the Annual Banquet, if you are planning to attend keep in mind that we will again be supporting Bob Karl's Toy Drive for Unity House. Please support this worthy cause by bringing a *new, unwrapped toy* to the banquet.

For the good of the sport,

*-Jim Bucci-*  
Regional Executive

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## Tire Rack Street Survival at the Saratoga Automobile Museum November 6th

**To all those who expressed concerns about the weather** that might have been on Sunday, November 6, we say "Hope ya remembered your sunscreen." Yes, it was THAT nice of a day and yes, some of us did get sunburned. It turned out to be a great day and holy heck, did we have a great turnout, with 23 students going through the exercises.

On behalf of our classroom instructor, Brian Bailey, and our chief driving instructor, Kevin Belden, THANK YOU...thank you....thank you to all of our instructors and volunteers. These events cannot happen without you. We would also like to thank the Saratoga Automobile Museum for once again hosting our event and arranging breakfast and lunch for all our participants. Check out the photos below. *-Jim&Trish Bucci-*



Hard Braking!



Look at that Weight Transfer!



Thank you to George Swiatocha and Quad Graphics for the tractor-trailer blind spot demonstration

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## SOLO Report: Something in Our Xmas Stocking

**The State of New York has given us a present for next year:** the lot at McCarty Ave has been paved! Not like the patching they've done in the past, with a little here and a little there. The whole lot has been done. The off season will seem a little longer now that we will be waiting to use fresh, smooth, pavement.

Other than the news about McCarty, this report will be short and sweet, as I am working on the awards speech for the annual banquet. So make sure that you come out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at the German American Club to get a recap of the season.

I hope everyone has a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you all next year.

- Russ Burckhard -



*Watch out for that leaf...*

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## The St. Nicholas Day Problem... A suggestion for worried parents and grandparents

Tradition notwithstanding, a couple of oranges in a kid's stocking doesn't cut it any more on St. Nicholas Day (December 6<sup>th</sup>).

If you want your child, or grandchild, to pick up your love of hands-on work/play with cars, what to do? Lego Porsche, Caterham, Mini or Ferrari sets are a bit pricey, and more for "big holiday" giving... The Lego Mustang or Corvette are more affordable, but kinda ordinary. And good luck scoring a classic Schuco racer set.

But weep not! The Automoblox C9-R Sportscar (slightly under \$40) is a super put-together-all-kinds-of-ways car for 5 to 9-year-olds. You get lots of aero mods and Brembo brakes all around. And for racers, there are some Highcroft C9-R sets out there, featuring a tow vehicle and trailer. Imagine all the fun ~~you~~ [the kids] will have with these. But hurry, St. Nicholas Day is just a flip of the calendar away!

- Paul M. -



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## Competition Note

### Counterfeit Gear: not the same as buying a fake Gucci bag on Columbus Circle

**The SFI Foundation** has distributed a memo calling attention to non-major brand driver suits and shoes that have been sold as being SFI certified, using counterfeit SFI labels. Mike Hurst, Technical Manager for SFI has posted pictures of genuine and fake labels. He notes: "Please compare the certification labels on your shoes and suits against the photographs below. Take note in the difference in fonts on the shoe labels, there is an incorrect word on one of the shoe labels. In addition to the difference in the quality of embroidery, the reverse side of the counterfeit suit labels has a felt covering that is not present on the genuine label."

The SFI Foundation is an outgrowth of a program started many years ago by SEMA (Specialty Equipment Manufacturers Association) to test safety equipment for hot-rodders. Companies who want SFI certification sign a contract with the SFI Foundation; it obligates the companies to submit their gear for testing and requires the companies to buy their labels from SFI (this is part of how SFI funds their operations). Since there is only one source of the labels, they should all be identical.

Thanks to Richard Welty for the alert and his insight on the workings of the SFI Institute.

More at: <http://sfifoundation.com>



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## Competition: 2017 Runoffs Qualifying

**The mothership in Topeka has released the following:** "The SCCA Board of Directors has decided to simplify the qualification path for the 2017 SCCA National Championship Runoffs taking place in September at the iconic Indianapolis Motor Speedway."

"After receiving feedback from the membership, the BoD has opted to remove "points" criteria for Runoffs qualification as pertaining to the U.S. Majors Tour. Instead, racers must simply compete in three U.S. Majors Tour weekends, but also now have the option of substituting two Regional race weekends for one U.S. Majors Tour event. John Walsh, Chairman of the SCCA BoD, also said that each Hoosier Racing Tire Super Tour weekend still counts as one U.S. Majors Tour weekend."

"The Board felt it necessary to make it easier to understand what is required to receive an invitation to the Runoffs," Walsh said. "By making expectations simple and clear, competitors will know from the very beginning of the racing season what it takes to get to Club Racing's premier championship event, the SCCA Runoffs, starting in 2017 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway."

"The Divisional Championship path to the Runoffs remains unchanged, as well as the policy welcoming defending Runoffs winners. It should be noted that while the road to the Runoffs has been simplified, firm qualifying rules will be in effect stipulating drivers be within a percentage of a class pole time at Indianapolis Motor Speedway next year."

The competitor comments following this news release indicate that many regard the new rules as an "anyone can show up" system not based on merit/ effort. MoHud racers will, of course, decide on their own how the new "path" affects their route to Indianapolis the last week of September next year.

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## Take Not the Taconic

**Most MoHudders** are aware that vehicles with commercial plates, and all trailers, are prohibited on the Taconic and other New York State "Parkways." But how many are aware of NYCRR § 182.24:

"Insignia and signs on vehicles.

- (a) Nonrestricted vehicles, except taxicabs and vehicles owned and operated by governmental agencies, having any name, insignia or sign painted or displayed thereon are prohibited within the parkway system, except for identification purposes,
- (b) For purposes of identification, the name and address only of the owner of a nonrestricted vehicle appearing on the sides thereof in letters not more than two inches in height shall not be construed as being in violation of this Subchapter."

So in addition to the usual ticketing of drivers with advertising wraps and magnetic advertising signs on their cars, the New York State Police recently gave out a sheaf of citations to participants in a TV reality-show "rally" who were rolling along the Taconic. The miscreants had sponsor decals all over the sides of their cars... "not on our Parkway you don't," was the message.

Even pled down to V&T 1201(a) - parking with the right-hand wheels more than 12 inches away from the right-hand curb -- it's usually \$125 to 175 in fines. Don't say you haven't been warned!

- PaulM. -

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# Membership Report

**Membership total as of 11/15/16: 534**

**Last month MoHud was the top SCCA region in its size category for membership growth.** That can be attributed to several factors, the least of which are my efforts as membership chairman. Many of our new members are Teen Street Survival School students. When spring approaches, I will reach out and invite them to various MoHud events. Perhaps we can devise a special autocross class for them.

*- Jim Garry -*

## New Members

New Members, as of late October:

Joe Nolette

Jim Buckley

Schenectady

Gloversville

Club Racing, Pro Racing

Solo, Rally

## Significant Anniversary

### 20 Years: Madeleine Welty

It's significant to note that in addition to being a 20 year member of SCCA, Madeleine is also 20 years old.

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## Area 10 Director Election Results

SCCA Hq in Topeka has announced that results of the Area 10 Director election show Earl Hurlbut with 324 votes and MoHud's Jack Hanifan with 262. Jack has graciously conceded and urges all MoHudders to work with Earl for the good of the sport.

(Area 10 Encompasses Central New York, Southern New York, Western New York, Finger Lakes, Mohawk-Hudson and Glen Regions.)

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## General Membership Meeting Minutes, November 2, 2016

Orchard Tavern- Call to order - 7:30 pm

Previous month's meeting minutes accepted.

**Treasurer** - Todd Boice, Treasurer, was absent. In Todd's absence, Jim provided a brief summary of the previous month's income and expenses.

**Membership** - Region now has 544 members, down four from the previous month.

**Street Survival** - the school is scheduled for Sunday, November 6. (We had a full complement of students and instructors on that day).

**Knock Off** - reminder that deadline for articles is 15th of each month.

**Activities** - potential group outing at an Albany Devils hockey game this winter is in the works. Region is also working on a winter Go Kart series at Checkers Out in Johnstown.

Holiday Banquet is scheduled for December 3 at the German American Club. Cost will be \$25/person, \$10/child. A special announcement email blast and Facebook posting will be done. Members are encouraged to bring an unwrapped, new, toy to the banquet. The toys will be contributed to Unity House in Troy (through Bob Karl).

**Competition** - Mo Hud race at Thompson had 150+ entrants. Mo Hud members did well.

**Nominating Committee** - Todd would like to retire from his Treasurer position. Pete Smith, Activities Director, has resigned. A full officer slate will be presented at the Holiday Banquet.

**Area 10 SCCA Director position** - Jack Hanifan is one of the candidates running for the position. All members are encouraged to vote.

**By Laws** - Eric will reconvene the workgroup to work on updating the by laws.

**Old Business** - officer of slate has been completed - RE - Jim Bucci, Asst RE - Eric Smith, Secretary - Ron Bass, Treasurer - Vince DePaul, Directors - Dick Stewart and Bruce Kosakoski.

**Next general membership meeting** will be at the Orchard Tavern, January 4, 2017. **Board of Directors meeting** will be held 1/2 hour prior to the general membership meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

- Ron Bass -

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# Mo-Hud Officers and Contacts

**Regional Executive (RE)**

Jim Bucci hdjimbub@gmail.com

**Assistant RE**

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**Treasurer**

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**Secretary**

Ron Bass m3apx@aol.com

**Competition Chair**

Jack Hanifan jackhanifan@hotmail.com

**Rally Chair**

Trish Bucci trimar71@gmail.com

**SOLO Chair**

Russ Burckhard russtduck@gmail.com

**Membership Chair**

Jim Garry jim\_garry@verizon.net

**Chief of Pits**

Clark Nicholls cwnicholls@aol.com

**Scrutineering (Tech)**

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**Chief, Flagging & Comm.**

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**Merchandise**

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**Director**

Bruce Kosakoski 518.674.8816 (H)

**Director**

Dick Stewart stewurtco@aol.com

**WebMaster**

Eric "EJ" Smith ejevo8@gmail.com

**NeDiv License Chair**

Peter W. Smith tbspete@gmail.com

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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, 7:30pm, at the Orchard Tavern, 68 North Manning Boulevard, Albany.



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# The KnockOff Journal

This Month...

- Peter Chester, MoHud Member  
in the Late '60s, Reminisces...



## SCCA Regional Races Watkins Glen, New York Oct. 20, 1968 Mark II Sprite, H-Production

Not a great first race weekend. It was rainy, creating muddy conditions in the paddock & off the track if you spun, which I did more than once. I don't remember a lot about the weekend except it ended when an engine freeze plug (properly known as casting or Welch Plug) popped out thus losing the engine coolant. Turns out this was a common problem with Sprites, MGs & some other cars. Before I next raced I found some casting plugs that bolted into place eliminating the pop out problem.

It was the one & only race for me in 1968. I spent the winter working on my Sprite making it more reliable & competitive. I spent more money on the Sprite than I should have. In the picture you see my old \$65 1958 Ford Station Wagon tow/family car. For 1969 I replaced it with a \$350 Plymouth station wagon, not much of a step up, but in order to race I did a lot of skimping. As the old saying goes, "you need to have your priorities"!

*My Austin Healey Sprite Mk II,  
on the trailer as we were leaving the Glen.*



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>>> *Peter Chester, contd*

**"The Fun One" SCCA Regional Races, October 18-19, 1969**

12 lap Race 3, Saturday 10/18/69

Lap 8: I coasted into the pits with the car barely running. While people looked under the hood I sat there thinking, "now what has gone wrong." Turned out I was just out of fuel, the gas gauge showed 1/8 full, but it was empty. Another stupid mistake, should have verified the gas gauge accuracy when I first started racing. Live & learn.

I was shown finishing last in 17th place, not DNF, even though I was in the pits when the checkered flag dropped.

This is a good picture of me in the car, too bad it wasn't under better circumstances. How about those goggles! I think they are Tuta Vari goggles. They were probable vintage already when I bought them new in 1968!

One of the fellow Mowhawk-Hudson Region members took this picture & the other pictures I have of this race weekend. He even gave me framed copies of them; so nice of him. I feel so bad I can't remember his name.



*Race car drivers always looked dashing in those days...  
Reminds the Editor of Lorenzo Bandini.*

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>>> Peter Chester, contd

## "The Fun One" SCCA Regional Races, October 18-19, 1969

15 lap Race 9, Sunday 10/19/69; HP, CS, DS & D/SR



*At the "90" across from pits. Pete Chester #88 Sprite Mk II  
& Harold Kreighbaum #94 Sprite Mk I. Probable lap 8, 9 or 10.*

The lap chart I got from the track personnel showed I was in 3rd in HP on lap 9, 1st on lap 10, and 2nd from lap 11 to the end on lap 15. I remember Harold and I had a good tussle from lap 9 to the end. As I remember, after he passed me for 1st, I tried to get under him a couple of times at the steep drop-off at the "90" turn. It didn't work; due to the steep drop off I would just end up going wide, resulting in not getting a good line out of the turn -- Harold would just drive under me. It was an excellent race that I will always remember. Harold deserved the win, he was a good driver and did a better job, I enjoyed very much racing with him. This was a great way to end my 1969 SCCA racing season.

**- Peter Chester -**

