

The Mo-Hud

Knockoff



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

November 2017

The REport

Done, finished, terminado, finito, fini.

The 2017 competition season is over. Hope you all had a great year and got to drive it home or drive it on to the trailer after every event.

Look inside for details on our annual meeting and awards banquet being held on Saturday, December 2.

2017 Mohawk-Hudson Region Road Race Championship

It is time for all Mohawk-Hudson region drivers to compile their points for the MoHud region drivers' championship.

You can count any five (5) SCCA races in which you competed in 2017.

The John Stim Memorial held Oct 6-7, 2017 at Thompson Speedway counts double.

Points are awarded for races as follows:

1st-20, 2nd-15, 3rd-12, 4th-10, 5th-8, 6th-6, 7th-4, 8th-2, 9th and higher-1.

In addition, you receive one point for every car in your class that you beat.

Total your best 5 finishes and email me at jjbucci@hotmail.com with your name and points total by November 10. Please put mohud driver points in the subject line.

In addition, any MoHud driver that would like a 2017 MoHud driver t-shirt, please email me your name and t-shirt size by November 10. Please put mohud driver tshirt in the subject line.

Year-end awards

We need nominations for our year end awards: Driver of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and the Dave Riggi Award.

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

Coming Events: November and...

- **November 1:** Wednesday, 7:30pm. MoHud Membership Meeting. Orchard Tavern, 68 North Manning Boulevard, Albany.
While the formal meeting starts at 7:30pm, we start gathering around 6pm to share time with our fellow members.
Contact: Jim Bucci hdjimbu@gmail.com
- **November 4:** Saturday, 2:00 – until. MoHud Fun Rally. Starts at Cumberland Farms, 1159 Troy Schenectady Rd., Latham.
Contact Rally Chair, Trish Bucci: trimar71@gmail.com or 518-728-8943
- **November 25:** Saturday, 11am – 4:00ish. Lost Speedways program at Saratoga Automobile Museum. Details this issue of the KO.
Contact Ron Hedger @ 518-885-7481 or rjhmedia@juno.com
- **December 2:** Saturday, 6:00 – until. MoHud Annual Awards Banquet. German-American Club, Albany. Details below.
- **January:** Maybe. Ice racing season may or may not open, depending on the cooperation of the Great Icemaker. Check out the Adirondack Motor Enthusiast Club's website < icerace.com > to follow plans for several races and perhaps a time trial or two in '18.

Annual MoHud Awards Banquet and Meeting Saturday, December 2nd, 2017 German-American Club of Albany 32 Cherry Street, Colonie

6pm – Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar
7pm – Dinner – Buffet Style German fare (chicken, pork, and beef entree options)
8pm – Club Racing and Solo Awards following Dinner

Please remember to bring an unwrapped toy donation for
Bob Karl's Sales & Service's Holiday Drive
benefiting Unity House of Troy

The MoHud Banquet price is \$25 per adult, \$10 per child.

Your RSVP must be received by November 25th; send to Eric "EJ" Smith, 7 Oneida Ct, Slingerlands, NY, 12159. Make your check out to "MoHud SCCA," and note the total number in your party (members and guests).

Questions? Email EJ at EJEvo8@gmail.com.

The Solo season has ended. Another season of road racing is in the books. What's a car-lover to do now?

Rally!!

MoHud is hosting a fun, social rally. This is a gimmick rally, not a TSD - no complicated math to calculate average speed, just a driver and a navigator working together to plot the most efficient course to a win. Join us for the..

Highways to History Road Rally Saturday, November 4th

Your automobile must be street legal. Each car needs a driver and a navigator. Feel free to bring your kids along to help out.

Local map(s), GPS and/or your smartphone are encouraged for this rally. You will also need a means of taking digital photos as you visit several historic destinations.

The rally will end at a local restaurant where we will enjoy food, drink and, if history does in fact repeat itself, plenty of rally stories. And of course there will be trophies!

When: Saturday, November 4th

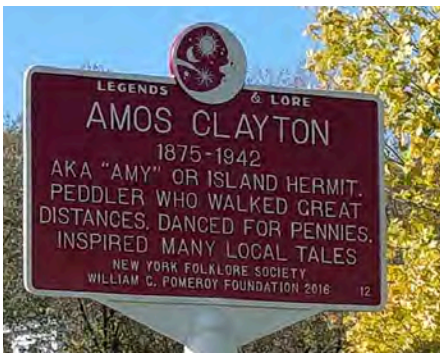
Where: Cumberland Farms, 1159 Troy Schenectady Rd.,
Latham (west of the Latham traffic circle)

Cost: \$15/car

Time: Registration at 2:00pm, cars off at 3:00pm.

Note: there will be a driver's meeting at 2:30pm during which instructions/information will be given out; teams will have from the conclusion of the driver's meeting until 3:00pm to plan their attack.

Anyone is welcome to participate. One person in the car needs to be an SCCA member, weekend memberships will be available at registration and are free for this event.



Questions?

Contact Rally Chair, Trish Bucci:
trimar71@gmail.com
or 518-728-8943

November 2017 Competition Report

Written and submitted by Jim Bucci on behalf of Jack Hanifan.

The John Stim Memorial was held at Thompson Speedway the weekend of October 6-7. Thank you once again to the New England region for allowing the tradition of the John Stim Memorial to continue.

Several Mohawk-Hudson region members made the trek east to compete. This event was also the final New York State Road Racing Championship (NYSRRC) and NeDiv (NEDRRC) race of the year. At least one MoHud driver was in the hunt for both a NYSRRC and NEDRRC class championship and needed a couple of good finishes to secure the title. The format was a qualifying session and one race Friday and two races on Saturday.

Jason Smith (American Sedan) set the bar with 2 first and one second place finish. Jason also set a new track record on Friday.

Chip VanSlyke (Formula F) had a strong showing with 2 thirds and a 1st on Friday.

Ron Bass (Formula Vee) got things dialed in on Saturday, improving on his 16th place Friday finish with a couple of 12th place finishes on Saturday.

Jim Bucci (Touring 4) finished 3rd across the board securing his 2nd consecutive NYSRRC class championship and first NEDRRC season championship.

Scott Stickle (Historic Racing Group) rounded out his weekend with a well-deserved top 5 finish in Saturday afternoon's feature race.

....*We miss you Jack. GET WELL SOON*



On the Grid for the Group 3 Race

– a great day to be racing

MoHud Racers at the John Stim Memorial

Pics by Jim Bucci et al



Ron Bass Reminds Us
That Formula V is Pure Fun



Jason Smith's Well-groomed Pony



Jim Bucci Hides Boundary Layer Control
in Plain Sight

(hint: it's tiny bubbles on the graphic)



Chip VanSlyke Aims for the Apex



The Exhaust Note from Scott Stickle's E-Type Rattles Teacups for Miles Around

November 2017 Solo Report

- Russ Burckhard

The season is over and we unofficially have champions. It looks like all my predictions in the last issue could come true. Once we figure it all out and the Solo Advisory Committee figures out the winners of the specialty trophies, I will put my presentation together and all of the winners will be officially announced at the Banquet.

I would like to thank everyone that attended this year and for all of your hard work at the events. Without you we would not be able to have such great events.

See you on December 2nd at the German American Club.

Board Meeting Minutes, September 25, 2017

Orchard Tavern, Albany Call to order - 7:305 pm.

Budget – Solo will need new traffic cones for next year. Vince will review last year's budget and revise for the upcoming year. It will be presented to the Board at the January meeting and then presented to the general membership at the February meeting for a vote. Bruce and Dick will review the van insurance policy and see if there's anything else available at lower cost.

Worker Awards – need to decide on status of the various awards, including the Dave Riggi award, for awarding at the Holiday Banquet.

Club Status – the Solo program remains very solid and strong. Attendance has been very consistent over the year. Fiscal resources needed to put on a Club Race remains a barrier. Direction of the Club is positive.

Administration – would it be helpful for a Club PO Box for general mail? Board decided against – monitoring will be an administrative burden.

Holiday/Awards Banquet – scheduled for first Saturday in December (December 2). Will need to get notice to members so they can rsvp (November Knockoff issue).

Club Officers – need to designate a nominating committee for next year's officers slate. Knockoff will ask for volunteers. Interested individuals (anyone who wants to be on the committee or anyone who wants to run for and office) should attend the October membership meeting.

Tow Fund (Runoffs) – will designate a set dollar amount to the tow fund with a cap per attendee as we did last year. Board will ask membership if portion of the Tow Fund should be extended to Mo HUD workers attending the Runoffs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

- Ron Bass -

November Membership Report

- Jim Garry - jdgarry10@gmail.com

Very brief report this month.

We're holding pretty steady with our total membership numbers at 457.

No new members since Sept 28.

Significant Anniversary

Richard Walsh, Oklahoma City, OK, 45 years. *Yes, Richard is a MoHud member.*



Attention: MoHud Workers and Volunteers !!!

We are attempting to re-establish a worker awards program for the Region and we need your help.

If you have worked at or volunteered for any SCCA event (e.g. race worker, TRSS volunteer or instructor) please email me:

1. your name
2. event(s) worked and in what capacity

...by Friday, November 10, 2017. Email Trish Bucci at trimar71@gmail.com

Worker awards will be given at the MoHud annual meeting and awards banquet on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

General Membership Meeting Minutes, October 4, 2017

Orchard Tavern, Albany
Call to order - 7:30 pm.

Treasurer report – last months income and expenses summarized.

Membership – Mo HUD presently has 457 members. There are four new members since September 1. Significant Anniversaries were summarized.

Solo – last event had 81 entrants. Overall there were over 420 entrants over the season. 98 were novices. Last event had 6 novices.

Street survival – scheduled for October 22 at the Saratoga Auto Museum. There is a full complement of students. A couple of instructors are still needed. Please contact Kevin Belden for info.

Road Rally – scheduled for Saturday, November 4th, "Highways to History" rally. Instructions will be presented at 2:30 and start at 3:00 pm. Dinner to follow. Start is at Cumberland Farms Troy Schenectady road just past Keeler.

Activities – Awards Banquet will be Saturday, December 2, at the German American club in Colonie. November 10/11, MiniCon in Maryland. Please contact Jim Bucci if you're interested in attending.

Knock Off – reminder- deadline for articles is the 15th of the month.

Competition – John Stim memorial race at Thompson is October 6 and 7.

Officer Nomination - if you're interested in running of an office please contact Nominating Committee, Dick Stewart or Bruce Kosakowski.

Board meeting – will be on Monday October 30, 7:00 pm, at the Orchard Tavern.

Saratoga Auto Auction – there were 210 cars. Mo Hud was well represented.

Nationals – Tow Fund – motivation approved to contribute a stipend, \$125 to attendees and \$50 to flaggers, if they provide an article to the Knock Off or an oral presentation to a membership meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

- Ron Bass -

Mo-Hud Officers and Contacts

Regional Executive (RE)

Jim Bucci hdjimbu@gmail.com

Assistant RE

Eric "EJ" Smith EJEv8@gmail.com

Treasurer

Vince DePaul vjdepaul@gmail.com

Secretary

Ron Bass m3apx@aol.com

Competition Chair / Activities Director

Jack Hanifan jackhanifan@hotmail.com

Rally Chair

Trish Bucci trimar71@gmail.com

SOLO Chair

Russ Burckhard russtduck@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Jim Garry mhr.membership@gmail.com

Chief of Pits

Clark Nicholls cwnicholls@aol.com

Scrutineering (Tech)

Open.

Contact Jim Bucci or Jack Hanifan if interested...

Chief, Flagging & Comm.

Richard Alexander dweebdad@msn.com

Merchandise

Chip VanSlyke

Director

Bruce Kosakoski 518.674.8816 (H)

Director

Dick Stewart stewartco@aol.com

WebMaster

Eric "EJ" Smith ejevo8@gmail.com

NeDiv License Chair

Dick Patullo (NER) patullo@verizon.net

KnockOff

Paul Malecki paul@dianenpaulmalecki.org

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 1st 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...

- Campbell Racing at the Runoffs, cont'd
- Lost Speedways - an afternoon of racing nostalgia



Campbell Racing at the 2017 SCCA Runoffs, Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Report 5 - Wednesday, September 27th, Qualifying

This was the third of four qualifying sessions and things are not getting any better. Well, that's not exactly the case. The weather has gotten much better - only about 80 today and our lap times have improved for both the SM and FP cars. However, in both classes most everyone else's time also improved and at the end of the day both cars were further back in the grid than at the start of the day.

The SM car took a big hit, moving from just above the 60 car cut line to about 10 places below the line. This means that the next step towards getting into the championship race is to finish in the top 12 of the "last chance race" tomorrow afternoon. It will be difficult. Charlie spent some time after this morning's qualifying session working on the alignment and weight distribution.

The FP car also improved a bit but lost one place on the grid, back to 9th place. To give you an idea of how much improvement is happening, our time today would have been fast enough for 2nd place on Monday. So we are making small gains while others are making significant improvement. The car seems to have the power; it showed in on the dyno Sunday afternoon and our top speed is around 4th highest of all, within a mile an hour of the best. Top speed here, at the end of the front straight, is a bit over 125 mph. The transmission is still coming out of 3rd gear under braking and the steering effort has increased to the point it was getting difficult to drive. This evening the crew spend a lot of time trouble shooting the steering system and, we believe, finally found the problem - a bad lower ball joint on the left side; so perhaps this problem is in the past. We also removed the transmission, for the second time this week, and in the morning our transmission builder will be pulling the special gear sets we installed for this track and putting them into the spare transmission which doesn't seem to have the problem which we believe is in the shifting mechanism. The spare gave us great service for most of the summer so all we need is just one more race. We'll know tomorrow.

Charlie is also getting some coaching from some of the professional drivers that Mazda brings in to support their club racers. Perhaps it will all come together tomorrow?

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Campbell Racing at the 2017 SCCA Runoffs - cont'd



Report 6 - Thursday, September 28th, Final Qualifying

Qualifying is finally over – it has been a long week! And we had a really good day.

As I wrote yesterday, Charlie had fallen out of the top 60 in the SM car and would have to race his way into the big race. The “Last Chance” race was at the end of the day today. He started 4th of 28 cars. He was in the lead at the end of the first lap and led all the way to the next to the last lap when he got a little wide after hitting a curb more aggressively than he should have and the two cars behind him went by. But on the last lap he was able to get back around one of those cars and had a half car overlap on the leader at the finish line. He was very pleased with the car; the work he did yesterday on the set up paid off. He turned in a best lap about a half second faster than his best all week. So he finished second and still hasn't stopped smiling. He'll start 62nd of 72 cars in the championship race tomorrow. I'm taking bets on how many places he can advance – my money is on 15.

Earlier in the afternoon was the F Prod final qualifying. He started in ninth place and immediately reported that the transmission and the steering problems we had been fighting all week were finally gone. By the end of the session he had turned in the 5th fastest lap, about a full second better than in earlier sessions. More impressive was that he was setting the highest top speed on the front straight of the entire group. His best speed before today, by my data, was about 124 mph. Today we turned 132 mph on two different laps. No one else was close.

The only bad news was that during the SM race he did miss a shift and damaged the transmission; it won't go into 2nd gear. So we did our third transmission change of the week this evening. We are getting rather good (well-practiced) at this task. Three transmission changes in one event is a record.

The whole team is upbeat tonight and looking forward to the races tomorrow. The SM race is scheduled to start at 11:45 and the FP race at 2:35. Look for videos at < SCCA.COM > to see some great racing, not only our races but all 28 races occurring over the next three days.

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Campbell Racing at the 2017 SCCA Runoffs - Race Day

Report 7 – Friday, September 28th; Race Day

What a day! I hope many of you were able to real-time watch some of the racing from the Runoffs. It is great stuff and always is, year after year. (*Videos are still available at < SCCA.com > - ed.*)

The SM race started at 11:40 this morning. You'll recall that Charlie was starting 62nd in a field of 72. The "Spec" Miatas are so closely matched that anywhere in the field there is likely to be someone to race with. You can have barrels of fun no matter where you are. Of course it is a little more "fun" to be racing for the win than for 50th place.

The race got off to a clean and fast start. In fact, it ran the full race distance, 45 miles, without a single full-course yellow. I wouldn't have bet on that. As I expected, Charlie started well and immediately began moving forward. By the end of the 3rd lap he had gained 10 positions. From then on it was a little more difficult but he was picking them off one or two at a time until, by the end of the race, 19 laps, he was in 43rd position. He had gained 19 places. And he had a great time doing it. This is the kind of close, wheel to wheel racing Charlie loves. And, he said with a big smile on his face at the end, there wasn't a mark on the car. He can load it on the trailer and be ready for the next event, wherever that may be.

Then there was the FP race in the afternoon. Charlie has just two hours between the end of the SM race and the start of the FP race. Time for a light lunch, drinking plenty of fluids and a bit of a rest. And, of course, the telling of a few post-race stories. Then it was on to the grid. He started 6th in a very strong field. Miatas were in positions 1, 2, 5 and 6 with two rather old but beautiful MG Midgets in 3 and 4. It could truly be anyone's race. Charlie made an outstanding start, anticipating the green just perfectly and went from sixth to side by side with the leader going into the first turn. And then he made a pass for the lead going through the turn that was just amazing. But it couldn't last and he was third at the end of the first lap. For the next four laps the lead cars were passing each other all over the track. Third, fifth, back to third – it was difficult to keep track of; especially from my limited view in the pit lane. I can't wait to see the video.

And then, as he started the fifth lap he radioed that "something is wrong". And then, "the brakes weren't working well" and the car wouldn't steer properly. He slowed and drove it back to the pits. At first, with the car sitting still, there was nothing visible but the left front was definitely very hot and smoking a little. I thought, perhaps, he had overheated the brakes and that they would cool if he went back out and did an easy lap. But as he returned to the track it became obvious that the problem was terminal and he went around slowly, returning to the pit lane and retired the car. Back at the trailer we jacked the car up and quickly discovered that the problem was a failed left front wheel bearing. A simple problem which, had it occurred any time earlier in the week, would have been fixed in 15 minutes. As the crew chief and chief mechanic I feel bad that I didn't anticipate this. Sometimes you just can't predict these failures. The race went on without us, of course, and even with two full course yellow periods, the pole sitter led every lap and won his first championship. Although he is from Kansas, he has been a good friend of ours for many years and Charlie and I are both happy for him. Perhaps next time will be our turn.

So, the long week at Indy is completed. It was full of trials and tribulations. We have had easier Runoffs events in the past and certainly some with much better outcomes. But this isn't the first time we failed to finish. Both cars are coming home healthy and accompanied by a long list of work to be done over the winter so that they will be even better next year. In spite of the disappointments and the hard work, we just spend a week surrounded by many good friends from all over the country sharing our passion for race cars and all that goes with them. And it all occurred at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway!

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Campbell Racing at the 2017 SCCA Runoffs - some pics

Thanks for all your interest in what we do. We get a lot of enjoyment out of it and like to share it with our friends when we can.

- Tom and Charlie

#89 is the F Production car: our moment of glory, leading the race coming out of the first turn.

#98 is the Spec Miata car: including a picture of drafting down the front straight at 120 mph.

#7 on page J2 is run by Dean Busk of Chandler, Arizona (publicity shot)



Lost Speedways - an afternoon of racing nostalgia



Ron Hedger tell us that the lineup for the Saratoga Automobile Museum's annual Lost Speedways program got even better this week with the addition of noted sports car owner Rob Dyson, who will journey from his Poughkeepsie, NY home to discuss the IMSA championship winning LMP675 Prototype he recently donated to the museum.

Always the biggest event of the year at SAM, Lost Speedways is once again set for its traditional "Saturday after Thanksgiving" date, November 25th, with an all-star lineup of speakers looking back at a wide variety of topics.

Dyson will be joined by Ken Parrotte, who will recall the 1967 racing season, a landmark year both locally and nationally, while former NASCAR head chassis inspector and post-race teardown supervisor Randy Hedger will tell tales of his encounters with various crewchiefs, creative cheaters and the parts he confiscated from them. He will also recall some unusual experiences while driving the Sprint Cup pace car.

The venerable New York State Fairgrounds mile in Syracuse, recently bulldozed in the name of "progress," will be the focus of the final two presentations. *SAM Racing in NY* gallery curator Ron Hedger will take a look back at Labor Day racing on the mile in the 50's and early 60's, then interview famed car owner Randy Ross and longtime Syracuse competitor Dickie Larkin about their experiences at Super DIRT Week.

As always, the action will kick off with a display of shared memorabilia at 11 am, followed by the formal presentations at 12:15 pm. Normal museum admission charges will prevail, with museum members admitted free of charge.

Contact: Ron Hedger @ 518-885-7481 or rjhmedia@juno.com or < <http://www.saratogaautomuseum.org> >