

The Mo-Hud

Knockoff



Newsletter of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, Sports Car Club of America **April 2019**

The REport

MoHud Gets Involved in the SCCA/ Tire Rack Time Trials National Tour

As you are aware, the SCCA has reinvigorated and reintroduced a national time trials program. It began last year with the Time Trials National at the National Corvette museum track down in Bowling Green, Kentucky. 2019 will see 8 national tour time trial events culminating again with the national championships at NCM in Bowling Green.

I am very excited to announce that the Mohawk-Hudson region will be partnering with the New England region, SCCA, to present a national tour time trial event at Thompson Speedway on Saturday, July 6. It is going to be a great event. There is a large base of time trial participants in the New England region and MoHud has several members who are interested and have competed in time trial events. MoHud members also hold time trials competition licenses as well as administrative and safety licenses. At this time, I would like to thank Aashish Vemulapalli and DJ McArdle for stepping forward to represent MoHud at this event.

Time trials national tour events are a "no risk" for all hosting regions in 2019. If the event makes a profit, we split the profits 50/50 with the NER. If it ends in a loss, the national office will absorb it.

Time trials national tour events are also a great way to introduce members to flagging or corner marshalling. Please come and support the event. We need competitors, flaggers, and general help.



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

Coming Events: April and...

- **April 3:** Wednesday, 7:30pm. MoHud Membership Meeting. Lynn's Uptown Tavern, 15 Colvin Avenue, Albany.
- **April 6:** Saturday. Tech Party. 9am- 'til. Bob Karl's, 2791 6th Avenue, Troy.
- **April 25-26:** Thursday 5pm – 9:30pm; Friday 8am - 5:45pm. New England Region Competition Drivers' School. Thompson Motorsports Park. For details, see < motorsports.reg >
- **April 28:** Sunday, 8am to 5pm. Street Survival School at Saratoga Automobile Museum/ SPAC. Register as an instructor via < motorsports.reg > You'll come away with a good feeling after helping teens learn how to handle their cars in the real world of driving on the street.
- **May 4th:** Saturday. 9am – 4pm. MoHud Solo Test & Tune. Empire Aerosciences Museum site in Glenville
- **May 5th:** Sunday. 7:30am – 4pm. MoHud Solo 2019 Event 1. Empire Aerosciences Museum site in Glenville
- **July 5-6:** Friday – Saturday. SCCA/NER/CART/MoHud Time Trials. Thompson Motorsports Park. Work or run.



Road Racing Report

Jack Hanifan/Jim Bucci

Member Profile

Jeff Lehner 2018 Mohawk-Hudson Region Driver of the Year

"I'm thrilled and honored to be named the Mo-Hud Region Driver of the Year!

As far as the 2018 racing season, thanks to Rob Reeds purchase of a 4- car stacker trailer and Pat Stringer's (both great friends and fellow SRF3 racers) ability to help with some cross- country driving, we were able to attend some special "bucket list races" including Sebring and COTA.

The early start to the season certainly helped to get up to speed sooner (seat time!). Learned at VIR that it is important to stay on the actual racing surface, although that was the most exciting *off* I've ever had without any damage! At Summit point we learned it is best not to run into each other. At Pitt we learned how much we like it when it rains! (thank you, ice racing). Qualified 7th, finished 2nd Saturday and 1st Sunday in pouring rain. Had it been dry, Scott most likely would have won both days and I would MAYBE have been battling for 3rd -6th so that was the difference for the championship.

At Mid-Ohio I learned how hard it is to be fast at Mid-Ohio. Watkins Glen is just always so fun and super competitive. Rain again at New Jersey on Saturday helped a lot for a 2nd place finish and slight points cushion. Wet to drying conditions on Sunday along with now knowing that I could win this, resulted in almost losing it. Driving carefully or conservatively means everybody passes you! Very stressful! But awesome in the end."



Charging into Turn 1 at Palmer
... and resting afterward

Ice racing as cross-training for wet conditions? We see that he's run this February in an AME event on Lake George.

MoHud Technical Inspection and Picnic

Saturday April 6 12:00-3:00

Bob Karl's Sales and Service

2791 6th Ave

Troy, NY

Jim says....*"Come over to Bob Karl's. Enjoy some bench racing and great spring weather. Grab a burger or a 'dog and have your SCCA road racing car inspected for the upcoming season. Sunshine is guaranteed!"*

Jim Bucci and a few other MoHuders to be watching over several “novice” drivers at...
NER Drivers School - Thompson, April 25th, 26th



Ken Relation's boss Ford Shelby Cobra GT500RR. Factory tub built for Rehagen Racing and raced by Ford design engineer Dean Martin. Ken got the car last November from Team Shelby guy Tim Steve, after Steve had run NASA ST-3 at Road America a lot. After picking the car up in Wisconsin, Ken has upgraded the harness and taken care of the many checklist items to get the car ready for MoHud Tech Party. Then as driver/crew chief, it's off to Thompson...



Diane Malecki's old/new 1.6 liter Spec Miata2. 2019 race prep and spiffy paint job by Bob Karl's shop in Troy. Tech Party on the 6th, and then with crew chief Paul, it's off to Thompson...

SOLO Report – April

Russ Burckhard, and helpers

2019 MoHud Solo Schedule at the Empire State Aerosciences Museum site in Glenville.

Saturday, May 4th, Test & Tune session at the Empire Aerosciences site in Glenville.

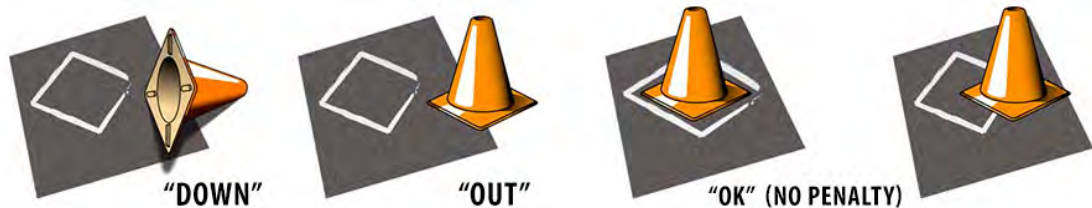
Sunday, May 5th, Event 1

Sunday, June 2nd, Event 2

Sunday, June 30th, Event 3

Sunday, August 4th, Event 4

Sunday, August 18th, Event 5



- The Solo Advisory Committee has been informed that rental for the Glenville site will increase to \$550 per event this year. Last year, site rental was not factored into event registration fees. For this year, the Committee has recommended a modest increase in registration fees by \$5 per entrant to help cover site rental. Several Committee members pointed out that MoHud entry fees will still be lower than any Solo program in the area.

- The Committee has also recommended a slight change in the "trophy rules." This year, a class or overall winner need not be a "regular" MoHud member. Their thinking is that while a "weekend-only" member would be better off \$\$\$ joining SCCA/MoHud directly, there are some people who are just not "joiners."

MoHud has been awarded a \$2,000 Tire Rack-SCCA Regional Development Grant to purchase and operate new timing hardware for the Solo program. Our grant application proposed to purchase a WiFi-based timing system to provide more efficient setup, and to overcome the problems of frequent cable disconnects. We also budgeted a modest allowance for a software interface between the new hardware and existing timing and scoring software.

Announcing the award, SCCA's Rick Meyers noted that "voting was very close this year and the committee found it challenging to narrow down the list of recipients to receive limited funds. We received 52 completed proposals with a total grant request of over \$141,000 for projects valued at \$413,000. This year, all of the proposals received had merit and the committee faced a difficult task."

Purchase of the new hardware, followed by shakedown sessions, should see the new setup ready to roll by the second or third Solo event this Summer.

The Time Trials are Coming...

Aashish Vemulapalli

Take the focus and concentration needed to lay down a competitive time in solo, multiply that time by a factor of 4 or 5, add a mix of flaggers manning corner stations and a road course hitherto privy only to club racers and track day bros, and you will have laid down a timed lap at the SCCA Time Trials.

Unless you swore off social media and news media for the past year you will have heard of the first ever Time Trials Nationals that was held at the end of September last year. An event attended by several solo champions, semi-Pro race car drivers and the guy that always finishes mid-pack or lower at the MoHud solo events. You will also have heard that the SCCA National office will be conducting the Tire Rack SCCA Time Trials National Tours at tracks across the country.

Two such events will be happening at tracks within close proximity to us. The first event will be at Pitt Race (or Beaver Run) at the end of April and the next event will be on the Friday and Saturday following July 4th at Thompson Speedway in Connecticut.

Registration for the Pitt Race event has opened and while it's still early, there are only 31 entries. From the names I recognize it appears to be fellow cone-dodgers like me and like you.

So what is drawing people to the SCCA Time Trials program? For one it is another program that has the potential to meld participants from all SCCA programs. You could be the divisional club racing champ or the divisional solo champ (yes there will be a Northeast Divisional solo event) or the chump that's writing this article, the Time Trials program will welcome you with open arms.

The classing of cars is broad and accommodating of almost all cars that you'd see at a local autocross event. In fact a majority of the cars at TT Nationals were cars that had cone scuffs on their fenders vastly outnumbering cars that'd traded paint in club racing. You don't have to have dyno sheets for your cars or go through an impound process where your car may be taken apart. You just show up with the car you want to drive and as long as it is safe and not posing a hazard, you'll be given a license to run. Just ask Chris Meeks, my fellow competitor at TT Nationals. Chris showed up in a handed-down EG hatch with an automatic transmission, but still had a great time no different to Adam Benaway who won the class.

The atmosphere was convivial much like our solo events with drivers willing to help with fixes and with suggestions on lines to improve speed. The days are bookended by a drivers' meeting in the mornings and a party at night, the latter providing plenty of opportunities to bench race amongst friends.

The cost of a multiday event is cheaper than the average cost of a single track day at some tracks in the Northeast. Factor in an additional transponder rental for \$20 and you are still under the cost of a single day High Performance Drivers Education event at Lime Rock.

Participants are divided into groups based on experience rather than classes. A group coach is assigned to each group whose main task is to provide feedback, and more importantly, emphasize safe behavior on track during impound sessions. Coaching examples include: staying within track limits, lifting to help a Miata by in a safe passing zone, and precautions to be taken prior to rejoining the track after going four wheels off.

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Time Trials, cont'd

The National Tour events will consist of unofficial practice sessions on the full course on day 1 with an official timed Track Sprint at the end of the day. A Track Sprint is a point-to-point run on a portion of the track with a start and finish much like autocross with cars being sent out at a 10-15 second interval.

The second day will have official "Time Attack" lapping sessions on the full track with all cars in a group on track together and will end with another official Track Sprint. Your best time for each official session is taken and totaled together to determine results and the top three drivers with the lowest total over two days take home trophies.

It is like adding competition to a Track Night in America event and for the track day enthusiast to see how they measure up in a class with vehicles that have similar performance potential.

At a track day (which really is a drivers education event) you are learning to be a better driver and possibly using data to improve session upon session. But at the end of the day you're still in the woods as to how you compare to a similar car that's running either in your group or another group. This is fair, as a track day and drivers education event is all about self-improvement via classroom and in-car instruction. But in order to see how you compare time wise, the options available are Time Trials or Road Racing. Out of all the TT options out there, the SCCA program has the lowest barrier to entry. You could have wings and splitters, or be a wingless bird or be running something as refreshingly analog as a Lotus 7, there will be a class for you.

As track day memes go, you don't have to wait a full season to build your car for this program. All that is needed is the desire to participate and you'll be classed fairly based on the mods you have or don't and you will have enjoyed the experience. And you can do all this with peace of mind as Hagerty's is offering insurance that you can purchase and that will cover you in case you put a wheel off and go for a ride to the nearest barrier.

Look no further than the philosophy of the program at TimeTrials.scca.com. While this includes a quest for personal best performance, competition is only one aspect of the philosophy. The event is designed to be engaging, accessible and inclusive. Friends and family are welcome - proof was all the families I saw at Time Trials Nationals. Significant others, kids, friends and four legged friends were all part of the experience. And what's more everyone seemed to have a great time mingling with everyone, drivers, families, event officials and staff as well as sponsors like Tire Rack, Hagerty's, KONI, Apex Pro and Bridgestone.

So what's keeping you from signing up? It can't be cost, as attending a solo tour or club race will likely cost you the same amount when you factor in all the overheads. It definitely can't be time away from family as the Time Trials program would love to have your family attend. So you don't have as much experience driving on a track, but that hasn't stopped others attending and think back to the time you never turned a wheel in anger at autocross. You never let that hold you back from trying it. So why stop and pause now?

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Time Trials, the pitch...

Maybe the event at Pitt Race is too soon and your car is hibernating or you don't expect to be done with pre-season prep, but what is keeping you from the July event at Thompson?

You could choose to staff the event if you want to see what the event is all about. Sign up as a flagger or to work grid. Bring the wife and kids or friends if you prefer. There are plans to create a great event for all attendees, plans that may or may not include fireworks. Set a personal best and then relax in the company of friends at the end of the day. Once you do it, I guarantee you will be hooked just as I was. The only difference is I drove over a 1,000 miles to Kentucky and you'll have to drive a fraction of that to Thompson!

-Aashish



This Cyclops II, with added ballast, would appear to fit into Time Trials Category 4.

Your car? Check the rules at:

< <https://timetrials.scca.com/articles/2011523-updated-proposed-category-rules-released> >

Membership Report- April 2019

-Jim Garry Mohud Membership Chairman

After a long period when our membership numbers held steady in the 390 realm, we've consistently climbed over the past two months and now stand at a healthier 421. We hope that these new members will take part in region activities and will be contacting them to offer information regarding all that Mohawk Hudson Region has to offer.

After having 19 new members join in January and February, there are ten new members as of the halfway point in March.

New members in March:

Maurizio	Cassano	Duanesburg
Alexandra	Crivineanu	Cohoes
Thomas	Grouard Lillelund	Saratoga Springs
Maggie	Miller	Ballston Spa
Alexander	Scaptura	Rensselaer
Andrew	Scaptura	Rensselaer
Adam	Weitz	Niskayuna
Emile	Wilwol	Watervliet
William	Ziganto	Salem
Michael	Zimicki	Bondville, VT



Seven of our new members have selected Solo as their interest, three have chosen Club Racing, and two Rally. The total adds up to more than the number of members because you are allowed to choose more than one interest.

Significant Anniversaries in April:

Sarah Diehl	5 years
Jon Kirschman	5 years
Moises Samaniego	10 years
Trish Bucci	10 years
Ken Lendrum	15 years
W. Stickle Wells	25 years
Eric Weiss	40 years



Congratulations to all and thank you for your dedication to the club.

Last month I left a long time member off the significant anniversaries list for March. My sincerest apologies to an outstanding member, Dave Hathaway, on his 50th SCCA Anniversary!

- Jim

Board of Directors Meeting- February 25th

Maggies Sports Bar, Albany
Call to order - 7:10 pm.

Attending - Bruce Kosakoski, Russell Burkhardt, Paul Malecki, Jim Bucci, Trish Bucci

By Laws - Jim has suggested some minor changes. The bylaws will be presented to the membership at the March meeting for approval.

National Convention and the Mini Con - Jim Bucci attended both conventions. One of the issues that was of general interest at both conventions was where Regions should place their efforts - should they focus on attracting new members or should they expend more effort on enhancing the experience of current members? There was general discussion on the future focus of the Region.

July 5 - 6 - Mo Hud is considering partnering with New England Region on the SCCA National Time Trial Tour. It is scheduled for Thompson. We will be asking members to volunteer to help with the new program.

Budget/Treasurer - Paul provided a summary of the previous year's income and expenses. Paul suggested that the Region consider budgeting capital expenditures for the Solo program, e.g., updated timing equipment, laptop, to further strengthen and support the program.

Solo - 2019 fees will be raised \$5/entrant. This is the first increase in several years. The Empire State Aerosciences Museum is proposing to increase the venue rental fee \$50/event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

- Ron Bass



There's no such thing as having too many Jaguars! Get started on your own "prowl" today!

(This prowl: F-Type, XK8, E-Type)

Membership Meeting- March 6th

Uptown Sports Bar, Albany
Call to order - 7:30 pm.

February meeting minutes accepted unanimously.

Treasurer - previous month's income and expenses summarized. Paul stated that since our annual expenses and income is consistent year-to-year, it is not necessary to actually prepare/submit a formal budget.

Solo - the 2019 schedule is being prepared.

Street Survival – the event is scheduled for April 28 at the Saratoga Auto Museum. Student registration is now open. The school is about 1/2 full.

Road Racing - Tech Parties will be Saturday March 30 at North Country Subaru and Saturday April 6 at Bob Karl's. Starting times are 12:00 noon. A Driving School will be at Thompson on April 26. NE Div Formula F Championship Award was presented to Chip Van Slyke. Worker Awards for 2019 were presented to Peter Kraft and Dan Gorss.

Membership - Mo Hud now has 410 members. Member anniversaries were noted.

By Laws - Rich Welty offered a motion to accept the ByLaws that were published in the October 2018 Knock Off. Diane Malecki seconded the motion. The ByLaws were unanimously approved by the members present.

Time Trials – a National Time Trial program is being developed and promoted by National. A Time Trial will be held at Thompson on July 5 -6. Mo Hud will be partnering with New England Region to put on the event. Jim asked that members consider volunteering to assist - e.g., flagging.

Social Media - Rich Welty gave a presentation on use of social media to promote Region activities. Goal is to attract younger new members. He agreed to do background work/research on options but requested that a member be designated to take the lead in the future.

Board Meeting - next Board meeting will be Monday, April 1, at Maggie's, 7:00 pm.

Next general membership meeting will be at the Uptown Tavern on April 3rd. We will need a new meeting location for May/June. Recommendations requested from the general membership.

Meeting adjourned - 8:40 pm.

- Ron Bass

Mo-Hud Officers and Contacts

Regional Executive (RE)

Jim Bucci hdjimb@gmail.com

Assistant RE

Eric "EJ" Smith EJEvo8@gmail.com

Treasurer

Paul Malecki paul@dianenpaulmalecki.org

Secretary

Ron Bass m3apx@aol.com

Club Racing Chair

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)

Richard Welty: See his Facebook page

Chief, Flagging & Comm.

Richard Alexander dweebdad@msn.com

Activities Director

Open. Contact Jim Bucci if interested ...

Merchandise

Chip VanSlyke chipperv@earthlink.co

Director

Bruce Kosakoski bkbbmw@gmail.com

Director

Chip VanSlyke chipperv@earthlink.net

WebMaster

Eric "EJ" Smith ejevo8@gmail.com

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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 Maggies, Western Avenue (Rt. 20), Albany, across from the SUNY-Albany main entrance.



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