

# THE KNOCK OFF

April 2024 Issue

MOHUD ON  
FACEBOOK



MOHUD ON THE WEB



## THE REPORT

The season has now officially started, having several of our members make it out to events down in the warmer parts of the country.



Mohuds's own Pete Kroth shows them how it's done at the NER Flagging School

First we had a battle in Max 4 at the Time Trial National Tour event down at VIR with Adam Wright taking the honors of top Mohud member while his son Aaron competed in the same car. Nigel Boyce also took part in the competition

sporting a new look for his Civic Si, keep an eye out for him now competing in SMF while autocrossing. Another event to kickoff the season was the 12 Hours of Sebring where EJ Smith and flaggers from NER had a great view from turn 10 of the leading GTP car flipping after impacting the tire wall. Lastly, several members made it out to the NER F&C and fire rescue school. It was a good reminder for those of us with years of experience as well as those that have been long time track participants but have never flagged.

You might have noticed at this point the F&C event occurred on the 24th and articles for the KO are due on the 20th, but the season is already shaping up to be a busy one. Additionally if this was submitted on time I wouldn't have been able to announce some events that Mohud has officially scheduled.

First off, we have a schedule for our autocross events this year! July 21st and 28th and August 11th and 25th we will be back down at Tech City in Kingston. If you don't want to wait that long, PSCC's first event will be on April 14th. If that is still too long to wait, NNJR had their first event at Metlife stadium on March 23rd and will have events each Saturday until April 6th. Another event now on our calendar is another one of Ken Relation's famous GTA rallies kicking off from Rexford. Registration is now open for that, expect another informational drive around the capital region with a bit of competition mixed in. Last of the new events, we have signed a contract with Palmer for Mohud to host our very own Time Trial on June 29th while Patroon BMW hosts a HPDE. Timing equipment will be the very same from the TT National Tour and this will be a great event for drivers of all skill levels.

As for some updates on existing programs starting to kick off, there will be 3 tech parties in the area. If you have never made it to a tech party, they are a great place to see some neat cars and talk with drivers about what goes into club racing (and there is usually free food). April 13<sup>th</sup> we will be up at North County Subaru in Queensbury, please be aware that due to the number of vehicles on hand there will likely be parking concerns. Any updates for how we will be handling vehicles with larger trailers will be shared to our Facebook page. Next weekend on April 20<sup>th</sup> will be the HRG tech party down at Jim Glass Corvette down in Kingston. This is primarily for HRG drivers but SCCA tech inspectors will also be attending. Lastly we have one the following weekend again on April 27th at Bob Karl's in Troy. As mentioned in the previous KO, April will be the opening of Track Night in America with the first in the area being at Thompson on April 16th. One last event that is close to me is our April 21st Tire Rack Street Survival at the Saratoga Auto Museum. As of the writing of this we have 15 registered volunteers. Amazingly we have 24 students registered with another 5 on the waitlist, which is fantastic! But unfortunately we are going to need additional help for the event to operate safely. If you have any interest or questions about the TRSS or any other events I mentioned, feel free to reach out to me.

See you at the April 3rd monthly meeting at the Metro 7 Diner.

Sal Baisley

## From the Editor

Its crunch time. On-track events start in April so its time to start working out that time line to see if you're going to make it. For me it will be the Test and Tune at Thompson on April 19<sup>th</sup> (held alongside a driver's school for anyone looking to get their competition license). Doing a pre-season test is more critical this year due to the new suspension components. I still need to get the motor back in, dyno the shocks (optional), finish alignment/setup and get my "new" data acquisition system wired up. Thanks to Tom and Charlie Campbell and Harry Adalian for helping to get this going. For the first time I will have speed, g's, air-fuel, rpm, etc synced. In the overly-ambitious department, I'm going to try strain gages on the suspension. I'll Keep you posted how this went.

The region gets going with its first event on April 21, the Tire Rack Street Survival at Saratoga Auto Museum. Volunteers always welcome.



Road racers are treated to not one but two tech inspection events! Thanks to Jared Lendrum of North Country Subaru and Bob Karl of Bob Karl's Sales and Service. Bring your car and beat the rush at your first race!

No special April edition this month like past years. But Paul Maleki has provided us with the feature on page 4.

Hope you don't have body work on your critical path, but if you do, this month's feature is part 2 of body work: finishing.

## ***What's Happening***

April 3, 2024	General Membership Meeting, Metro 7 Diner, Latham. Social 6 p.m., meeting at 7. <a href="https://www.metro7diner.com/">https://www.metro7diner.com/</a>
April 13, 2024	Annual Tech Party, North. North Country Subaru, Queensbury NY, 11:30am
April 21, 2024	Tire Rack Street Survival, Saratoga Auto Museum, Saratoga NY. <a href="https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mohawk-hudson-scca-24-1-saratoga-automobile-museum-tire-rack-street-survival-706504">https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mohawk-hudson-scca-24-1-saratoga-automobile-museum-tire-rack-street-survival-706504</a>
April 27	Annual Tech Party, Bob Karl's Automotive, Troy NY. 12:00pm
May 10-11	NER Opening Day Regional Road Race at Palmer Motorsports Park (event #1 in Mohud Championship). <a href="https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/ner-season-opener-w-cre-palmer-motorsports-park-scca-new-england-club-racing-195003">https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/ner-season-opener-w-cre-palmer-motorsports-park-scca-new-england-club-racing-195003</a>
May 11	Spring Auto Show at Saratoga Automobile Museum
Sept 2-6, 2024	Solo National Championship – Lincoln Airpark, NE
Sept 28-Oct 6 2024	The Runoffs National Championship – Road America, Elkhart Lake WI
Oct 24-27, 2024	Tire Rack SCCA Time Trials Nationals – NCM Motorsports Park, Bowling Green KY

Check out the full regional calendar at:

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=4l0pcskqj0sbmtg8scke5et658%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America%2FNew\\_York](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=4l0pcskqj0sbmtg8scke5et658%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America%2FNew_York)

# If we're going to have fun with cars, we need a mascot!

## Gnomesay'n?



At the last meeting, several back-benchers started talking about how we need to make MoHud activities more attractive to a younger audience. Like, having a mascot.

Every sports team or event has a mascot these days to promote itself and for fans to bond with... Mascots take all kinds of forms, from somebody running around in a costume, to emblems on T-shirts and coffee mugs.

Sure, we have the nice MoHud logo, but it's kinda formal and, let's face it, corporate. While we need to have a formal graphic for awards and street cars, we also need something to represent our fun side.

Richard Welty bought up an example of a guy who has a gnome



Nice, but doesn't seem to be us: MoHud having fun with cars.

We ought to "roll our own" image.

Do a sketch. Come up with a "tag." Send it to Chip at KnockOff headquarters, or bring it to the next meeting. We'll all work on it; and when it suits us, there's an underwriter in



Count Zborowski,  
with a tip o'the cone to Hugh Troy,

## Saratoga Automobile Museum Presents: The Spring Auto Show

Saturday May 11, 9am-2pm



Members who would like to present their car, contact Chip at [chipv87@gmail.com](mailto:chipv87@gmail.com).

# Tales From the Track

The Mohud Road Racing committee presents the 2024 regional road-racing championship. For many years long-time member and road racing chairman Jack Hanifan administered this series as a way to recognize members' racing accomplishments.

In that tradition, we are re-starting it with some tweaks to hopefully improve the inclusiveness and member experience. You will not have to register for the series or submit your results. Anyone who competes with Mohawk-Hudson as their region of record displayed in the race results is automatically counted. (for dual memberships, please contact the points keeper). Our goal is to emphasize participation so every race counts. In addition to a traditional finish position points scale we will use a Jack Hanifan favorite: a "point for every car you beat" which makes every position count. The series will include the 6 closest SCCA races to the Mohawk-Hudson Region and will include divisionals, non-divisional regionals, and even one majors.

The points structure will be as follows:

<u>Finish position in class</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	20
2	19
3	18
4	17
5	16
6	15
7	14
8	13
9	12
10	11
11+	10

The following races will be scored:	
May 11-12	Palmer (divisional)
June 13-15	Lime Rock Paddock Crawl (divisional)
July 6	Thompson Midnight Madness (regional)
August 8-10	Thompson Last Chance Majors
Sept 6-8	Palmer Pig Roast (regional)
October 17-19	Thompson Championship (divisional)

Plus 1 point for every car in class you finish in front of.

The fine print: Standings will be overall versus individual classes. All races will be scored, no drops. Only the sanctioned races for the weekend will be scored (IOW one race per sanction which is usually the last race of the weekend). Qualifying races do not count. Incomplete or cancelled races will be scored based on the grid for that race. Cancelled races with no grid will not count for the Championship. DNFs and DNSs will count for minimum points if you qualified. (DNSs that did not qualify will not count because they may be no-shows that were not removed from the results.) Drivers that switch classes will have points added together (if the points keeper notices, if he doesn't, then please notify him). Dual memberships that do not show Mo-Hud as the scored region are eligible if the points keeper is informed.

We will be presenting awards at the Mo-Hud Annual Meeting in January of 2025. Standings will be posted in the Knockoff at the end of the season. I will try to post at least one mid-season update.

- Chip VanSlyke, Points keeper

# Membership Report

By Jim Garry

As of March 21<sup>st</sup>, Mohawk Hudson Region has 312 members. We continue to hold steady at a low membership enrollment.

## New Members in March

Justin Ereio, Altamont

Edward Gorman, Central Islip

Robert Sanson, Saratoga Springs

Justin checked off Pro Racing as his major interest

Welcome to all and hope you can come out to an event or our monthly membership meetings. We'd enjoy meeting you!

## Significant Anniversaries in April

### Ten Years

Jon Kirschman - Jon is a dedicated autocrosser and has been our course designer for many years.

### Fifteen Years

Trish Bucci - Trish has retired to Florida with husband Jim but was very involved in region management for a long time. And she was co-chair of our Teen Street Survival School with Jim.

### Twenty Years

Ken Lendrum - Another member of the famous Lendrum racing family.

### Thirty Years

W. Scott Stickle - Scott is an active road racer. His E-Type is a highlight of the HRG.

### Forty Five Years

Eric Weiss - Eric is a well known road race worker specializing in Grid & Pit.



# The DIYer

## Body Work Part 2: Finishing

Last month we discussed structural repairs. Once that's complete, we can proceed with finish work.

If you are painting, a lot of this work can be done with body filler. I'm going to use gelcoat essentially as body filler. It works similarly: slower to work because it's harder than body filler, but when you finish, you are finished with matched color (well...sort of. I don't have a 100% color match. A virtual impossibility with a mid-'80 Northern Irish yellow. See Gelcoat Notes KO March '24). But I'm not ready to cross that line to painting so I'm sticking with a close match and strategically placed graphics.) One note on body filler: if your body color is light e.g. white or yellow, use a white body filler to reduce color bleed through. Another advantage of body filler is it won't run on vertical surfaces. If using gelcoat, you will need to rotate the parts so your working surface is horizontal.

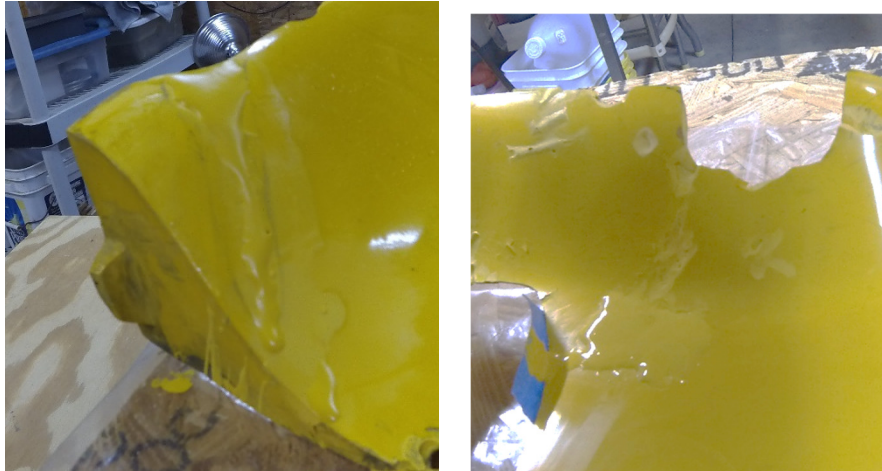
Following structural repairs, I now have big flaws on the outer surface that need to be addressed.



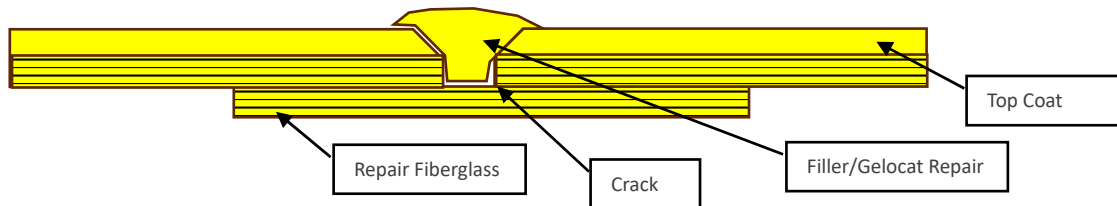
**Surface Cracks and Flaws**

If the filler from the flaws are all proud of the surface because your structural repairs leaked through, you just saved yourself a step. Most likely however, there will be low spots. With a grinding tool, blend the flaws out to allow for a nice pool of resin to fill. The depth should be at least as deep as the outer surface resin (typically .01-.02) but no deeper than the repair fiberglass.

Once these are ground out and cleaned with acetone, mix up a small amount of gelcoat/filler. Estimating the quantity takes some practice but for small cracks we're usually talking 5-20ml. For the catalyst, I prefer to use a 1ml syringe to get a good 50:1 ratio vs the dripping method often given with fiberglass instructions. Carefully fill the cracks by pouring the resin into the crack.



Flaws Filled with Gelcoat



The next step is sanding. Start by block sanding with a fairly coarse (80 grit) sandpaper to get the basic contours of the body. Correct block sanding is the best way to make sure you end up with straight lines on your bodywork. For concave surfaces such as I have here, cylindrical blocks must be used. I have added tape barriers to the end of my blocks in an attempt protect the existing bodywork from heavy scratches from the 80 grit. Anywhere the 80 grit hits will need to be finish sanded.



Sanding Blocks

One common question is wet sand or to dry sand? The answer is wet sand unless you have a commercial vacuum system or you like getting dust all over your garage. (And I mean everywhere. This includes going *under* tarps on things you thought you were protecting. I'm still finding yellow dust from 2017.) Wet sanding will keep the dust under control. For concave surfaces always use a convex shaped sand block. Convex blocks should never be moved parallel to their axis (unless you want that exact radius cut in your bodywork). The technique for flat or round blocks should employ a crisscross pattern. Take three or four strokes in one direction, and then cross over those lines at least at a 20 degree angle (doesn't have to be 90). Keep an old toothbrush handy for cleaning out the sandpaper.

After the first round of sanding, you're likely to find low spots and you will need to repeat the above process to get the right contour. After 2 or three rounds most of these low spots should be gone. At this point you may have one or both of the following: 1) pin-holes, or 2) subtle low spots 5-10 mil deep that the sand block doesn't get. Pin holes are pretty easy: just mix up a small amount of gelcoat and apply with the tip of some shop wire. For those little low spots it's a judgement call. For a show-car you will keep filling and sanding until it's perfect. But for a race car, often doing some local sanding with a finer grit sandpaper like 180 directly on your hand makes those flaws disappear.



### **Annoying Low Spots**

Once you are happy with the contour of the body (don't trust your eyes, use your hands) you are ready to start cleaning up the scratches. Another advantage of wet-sanding is when you clean the dust off the surface, the standing water is really good at showing you where the flaws are in places that fool your eyes. The progression of sanding should go approximately 2 X grit size for each successive step. In this case I used 80 – 180 – 320 – 600 – 1000 – 2000. If you are painting you can stop at 320. (Also I'm not convinced 2000 is worth it.)

Continue with the criss-cross technique of sanding. One tip: After contouring with 80 grit, I alternate criss-cross pattern with a swirling or random pattern. This helps to see if you have cleaned up the previous level of scratching. The last sanding round should always be criss-cross however.

Each layer of sanding must cover the previous layer plus about ½ inch to blend into the existing body work. One of the hardest parts of finish sanding existing body panels is making sure you have blended the scratches into the existing finish. This is where wet-sanding makes things difficult. Water hides the scratches and transitions. In this case, I used a wax crayon to mark the extents of the scratches/sanding. The next layer of sanding needs to go to that line plus ½ inch.



**Crayon Lines used to Define Extents of Previous layer of Sanding**

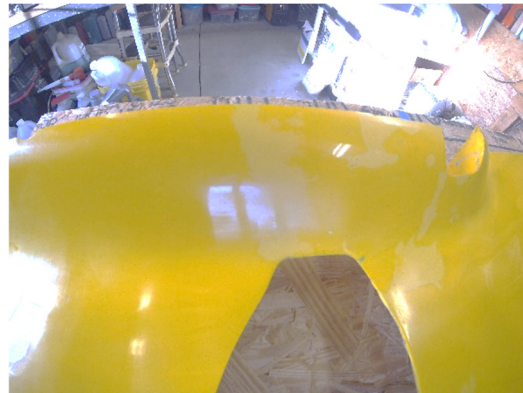
Another tip: remember those low spots from the 80-grit contouring step? Make sure you don't miss them since they are a little low and can be passed over. After contouring, it is not necessary to block sand so it will be easier to catch these spots.



**Panel After 1000/2000 Grit Sanding**

After 2000 grit is finished (or 1000; I've done it both ways and not sure 2000 is worth it), the panel is ready for rubbing compound. Rubbing compound is basically a very aggressive polish. This is where the shine happens.

Patience pays off here. You can get a basic shine after 3 or 4 passes but if you keep at it, you can get that really deep shine. It depends on your patience. In this case I got some areas looking really good and others just so-so. The photos don't show the difference between un-polished and polished very well. But I can say I am satisfied with the result. You may now opt to polish and wax depending on your preference for time vs quality.



**Panel After Rubbing Compound**

In the photo, the mis-matched colors are noticeable. These got a little better after compound but didn't go completely away.

In conclusion, while there are some flaws and the color does not match, I am still pleased with how this project came out. The shape is an almost perfect match and the shine is better than I expected. If painted, this repair would be indistinguishable from the original bodywork.

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**Mohawk-Hudson SCCA Monthly Membership Meeting on March 6th 2024 at 7:04 PM** Location: Metro 7 Diner

Officers Present: Paul Malecki, Salvatore Baisley, Chip Van Slyke, Russell Burckhard

Total number of members: 18

Vincent Gentile makes a motion to accept the meeting minutes as published in the March Knock Off, Sheri DeJan seconds motion and passes

### **Membership Report - Jim Garry**

- 309 Members as of today
- 3 new members in 2024
- About 60 members below where we were pre-pandemic
- Alex and Andrew Saptura - 5 year anniversary, autocrossers
- Michael Zimicki - 5 year anniversary (lapsed membership), professional driver coach
- Dan Flynn - 15 year anniversary, club racer
- Carmine Russo - 15 year anniversary, autocrosser
- Jared Lendrum - 20 year anniversary, club racer
- Bob Wright - 50 year anniversary, club racer and FRP series owner
- David Hathaway - 55 year anniversary

### **Knock Off Report - Chip Van Slyke**

- If you have any contributions please try to get them in by the 20th
- Working on fixes links in KO
- Will continue serving as needed, but content might thin out during season

### **Treasurer Report - Paul Malecki**

- March 2nd - \$28,761.82
- February bank statement reconciled
- Van April 2024-2025 insurance same as last year \$1,375; paid on March 2nd
- Brought up financial audit, Sal to follow up with EJ

### **Solo Report - Russell Burckhard**

- Expecting 4 dates for solo at Tech City lot in July and August

### **TRSS - Salvatore Baisley**

- Spring event will be April 21st at Saratoga Auto Museum
- Volunteers needed

### **Rally - Salvatore Baisley (Provided by Ken Relation)**

- April 14th GTA starting in Rexford

### **Track - Salvatore Baisley**

- Board approved shared event with Patroon BMWCCA on June 29th at Palmer
- April 27th Patroon HPDE at Lime Rock Park
- Only other SCCA Time Trials in the northeast are:
  - June 15/16th at Pocono with the TT National Tour
  - August 24/25th at Pittrace with the TT National Tour
  - September 21st at Thompson with CART
- Track Night in America registration open for April and May

**Road Race - Rich Welty**

- First Mohud annual tech party scheduled for April 13th at North Country Subaru
  - Will be parking concerns, will coordinate with more information later
- Second Mohud annual tech party scheduled for April 27th at Bob Karls
- Additional date at Jim Glass Corvette on April 20th
- NER holding F&C and fire school training Sunday March 24th at Thompson
- NER Drivers school and Test and Tune Friday April 19th at Thompson
- Chip has finalized rules for Mohud Regional championship
  - Will consist of events at Lime Rock, Palmer, and Thompson
  - Rules to be published in following month's KO

**Activities - Russell Burckhard (Provided by Tracey Burckhard)**

- Looking to possibly hold a family day at Saratoga Auto Museum

**Old Business**

- Russ is investigating cone purchase, discussing group buy with another region
  - \$7.65 for standard cones, \$9 for red cones

**New Business**

- EJ has ordered 500 new stickers for \$255. Will be arriving on 3/12, will be at all future events
- Vin Gentile brought up the car show at Saratoga Auto Museum on May 11th
  - Sal to reach out to museum to organize our display

Motion to adjourn by Peter Kroth, seconded by Philip DeJan and passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Meeting minutes recorded and submitted by Salvatore Baisley

**Mohawk-Hudson SCCA Board Meeting on March 4th 2024 at 7:02 PM**

Location: Zoom

Officers Present: Paul Malecki, Salvatore Baisley, Chip Van Slyke, Eric Smith

Total number of members: 5

### **TRSS - Salvatore Baisley**

- Currently at 17 registered
- Sanction submitted for October date
- 12 instructors registered at this point, instructor email to be sent shortly
- Russ confirmed available for setup on Saturday
- Reminder from Paul to add Fire department to COI
- Adam working with Price Chopper for food donation

### **Proposal for Time Trial - Salvatore Baisley**

- Updated proposed date is Saturday June 29th at Palmer
  - Only conflict is the Julyish sprints at Watkins Glen
- Received provisional contract from Palmer
  - \$14,000 base rental
  - \$1,500 for flaggers
  - \$2,000 for medical transportation
  - \$2,000 for an additional hour of rental
- Adam explained that hourly blocks will be implemented for insurance reasons
  - Incidents on track will be covered by the insurance of the scheduled group
- EJ brought up questions about people attending both events
  - Will likely only be Advanced and Instructors from Patroon
  - Question of discount for dual drivers
- Timing will be rented through Kevin Greer
  - Total cost for timing and transponders will be \$1,250
- Interest in a divisional TT championship in the future
- Paul expressed interest in the language in the contract between Mohud and Patroon
  - Adam reviewed the template from national for co hosted events
  - Clause in contract will be needed to cover damage to track
- Adam motions to get agreement signed between Mohud and Patroon. Once that is completed we sign the contract with Palmer and submit a deposit
  - Motion is seconded by EJ and passes

### **Stickers - Paul Malecki**

- Expressed interest in stickers with the new Mohud logo
- Motion to order 500 stickers by Paul as long as the cost is under \$400
  - Motion is seconded by Sal and passes

### **Cones - Paul Malecki**

- Reminded that there was a motion to purchase cones for the region but has not heard anything since
- Sal to bring that up as old business at the Monthly meeting

Motion to adjourn by EJ, seconded by Chip and passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM

Meeting minutes recorded and submitted by Salvatore Baisley



**Regional Executive**

Sal Baisley

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**(518) 380-6675**

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**Assistant Regional Executive**

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**Treasurer**

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**Director**

Chip VanSlyke

[chipv87@gmail.com](mailto:chipv87@gmail.com)

**Autocross (Solo) Advisory Committee**

Russ Burckhard

**Tire Rack Street Survival Program**

Your Help Needed – contact Sal to volunteer!

**Track Events (Track Night and Time Trials)**

Sal Baisley

**Racing Program Committee**

Paul Malecki &

Rich Welty (Technical Scrutineer)

518-269-8232 (cell)

[rwelty@averillpark.net](mailto:rwelty@averillpark.net)

**Road Rallye Program**

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**Merchandise**

Chip VanSlyke