

# THE KNOCK OFF

January 2025 Issue

MOHUD ON  
FACEBOOK



MOHUD ON THE WEB



## THE REPORT

Hello all,

As we approach the holiday season I started to think back to the gifts that I have received throughout the years and how they have impacted me, leading to my involvement in racing. I know that initially the Hot Wheel cars that I was focused on from a very early age definitely was a start, believe that there were at least 50 that lived in a drawer that was under my bed. The first time I was able to explore powersports was the 50cc dirt bike that I got for Christmas, believe that I would have been around 5 or 6 at the time. The 2 best parts of this was that I was living in a small trailer park at the time so I didn't really have anywhere to use it, but even more importantly I didn't know how to ride a bike for another 2 or 3 years so it needed to have training wheels. To this day I still have not gained the skills to ride a dirtbike offroad, which I made apparent while traveling around Road America at the Runoffs.

A few years later this was traded in for a Honda TRX 90, which was the true first source of my need for speed. At my father's house we carved a track through the woods by hand which I would do lap after lap trying to push it to the limits



1994 Buick Century (Stock Photo)

through an area only about a foot wider than the quad. I had some fun incidents on that, like falling off and running over myself or

hitting a ditch and flipping over the handlebars while still holding on. As this quad was abused by dragging trees around the property and being pushed as hard as it could be it was time to look for the replacement.

Back on the theme of Christmas presents (around the age of 13 I believe) was trading up the Honda for a Yamaha Warrior 350 with a FMF exhaust. For those not familiar with power sport exhaust brands, imagine the sounds of motorcycles that you hear doing double the speed limit in the summer and you will get the picture. This was the first vehicle I owned that had a clutch so there was a bit of getting used to there. The move up from the TRX to the Warrior represented about a quadrupling of the power, which I was of course able to handle. My dad picked it up on

the 10th as I remember and it was getting dark so I could only do a short lap around to feel it out. The next day I went down to give it a shot in the light and made it just under 2 laps before nailing a tree and ripping the front right suspension off. Thankfully for me, my dad is a pretty good welder and was able to have it back up and running by Christmas day, and as far as I remember that is the only time that I actually wrecked that quad. The tree, now referred to as "Sal's tree", is still standing and has a scar where it was hit. After college the quad was sold off as I could only use it while visiting my family, but there are many gifts that have stood the test of time for racing.

For Christmas when I was 17 it was my first year owning a car, a baby blue 1994 Buick Century that was gifted from my step-grandfather. It was missing hubcaps so my dad found some on ebay to complete the look of the mid 1990s. But more importantly I got my first socket set, which at the time I was a bit annoyed about. I had gotten my mother a socket set for Christmas that year, which she still uses and is stored in the same spot to this day, so I wondered why I would possibly need one while I was living at home. For anyone that has seen me out at the track, autocross, or anything that would require tools, that black Craftsman toolset is the same one that I have had for all those years. The metric allen keys that were stored in a bag were the first to go within years of owning it. The next and most tragic loss was the 10mm wrench which was lost during the building of the TT car. Most recently the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " ratchet/hammer has finally decided after all the abuse I have thrown at it to call it quits, but otherwise those tools have now been used to build essentially every vehicle I have used to this point.

As I think of it, more and more of the tools that I use whenever I am working on my car come to mind as being Christmas presents. The first that comes to mind is the Irwin channel locks (which again I didn't think I would use that much) that have a push button mechanism for adjusting the size. Next is the ratcheting metric wrenches that have all been abused in one form or another, causing quirks with each size that need to be remembered before using. Funny enough, the 10mm from that set has been designated as the backup for the missing Craftsman. My trailer tie downs are one of the most recent presents, having at least 20k miles of travel use on them and used in lifting various cars and engines to move around the property.

A few presents that come to mind but not directly are all the video games that I have owned throughout the years. Anyone who joins a zoom meeting with me will see the wall behind me filled with boxes through the years. I remember getting Forza Motorsport 4 for my Xbox 360 and playing hours and hours of racing, as well as tons of other racing games. Another gift that I need to include is the year that I upgraded the tires on the Mustang. In 2019 tires were a bit cheaper than they are now, but the 295/35R19s that were "needed" to fit the new wheels I purchased were around \$350 per tire. That year my parents each "purchased" a tire for me so that I could get the car up and running for autox. As your assistant RE can attest, I would have been much better off buying the 200tw tires instead of the 300tw that I did.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and maybe I was able to give some gift ideas for the car enthusiast in your life. Thank you all for a great 2024 season as we wrap up the year and look forward to 2025. I hope to see many of you at our annual banquet on January 11th at the Factory Eatery in Ballston Spa.

Thank you,

Sal

## ***From the Editor***

Join us Saturday, **January 11** at the Mohawk-Hudson Region Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet.

Featuring:

- Fine food from The Factory Eatery, Ballston Spa
- Awards:,Solo, Road Racing, etc.
- Top notch conversation, bench racing, and re-living epic moments from the season
- Cash Bar



Doors open at **6:00**

Buffet Dinner at **6:30**

\$30 per adult, \$10 for children under 12

Register on Motorsports reg: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mohud-2025-annual-meeting-banquet-factory-eatery-spirits-scca-mohawk-hudson-580061>

Thanks to Paul Malecki for providing most of this month's content!

And thanks to all who contributed last year. I'm really proud of the publication we've been able to put out, exceeding my expectations during my first year as editor!

-Ed.

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

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|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Jan 11, 2025</b>        | <b>Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, The Factory Eatery and Spirits<br/>Ballston Spa, NY</b><br><br><a href="https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mohud-2025-annual-meeting-banquet-factory-eatery-spirits-scca-mohawk-hudson-580061">https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mohud-2025-annual-meeting-banquet-factory-eatery-spirits-scca-mohawk-hudson-580061</a> |
| <b>Jan 16-24, 2025</b>     | <b>SCCA National Convention</b><br><br><a href="https://www.scca.com/pages/nationalconvention">https://www.scca.com/pages/nationalconvention</a>   |
| <b>Sept 1-5, 2025</b>      | <b>Solo National Championship – Lincoln Airpark, NE</b>  |
| <b>Sept 29-Oct 5, 2025</b> | <b>The Runoffs National Championship – Road America, Elkhart Lake,<br/>WI</b>  |

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)

## ***Meme of the Month***



Credit to Marisol VanSlyke for finding this gem

## The Collector's Shelf

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### What's With the Blue Ferrari?



**This month** we look at a curious example of a 1950's Dinkey Toy Ferrari in blue, when everyone knows a Ferrari should be red. What's the story?



If you search the internet for a Dinkey Toy Ferrari, 99.9% of the offerings will show a blue car with a yellow nose.

But the real prize is a red one, made not in Dinkey Toys' home in England, but in France. If you look closely, the French version uses a slightly different casting and incorporates a textured grille. And although the grille can be explained by the fact that production of the French version started several years after the original, it does not explain the color.

One theory is that Dinkey-England was prevented by Ferrari from using the red color as part of an intellectual property squabble. Another theory is that Dinkey-England was staunchly pro-British in its offerings. Pro-British?

If you know your early F-1 racing history, you will be familiar with Prince Birabongse Bhanudej of Siam who lived in England and raced in the '30s through '50s as "Bira." His cars were always painted in the national racing colors of Siam, a light blue with yellow banding. And while he never owned a Ferrari, he drove a Ferrari 125 in the 1948 Italian Grand Prix for *il Commendatore*. It's my theory that the Dinkey-England Ferrari was colored blue with a yellow stripe to honor that drive.

*~ Paul M.*



# Breaking Industry News

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## Jaguar Sends Iconic Leaper to Coventry

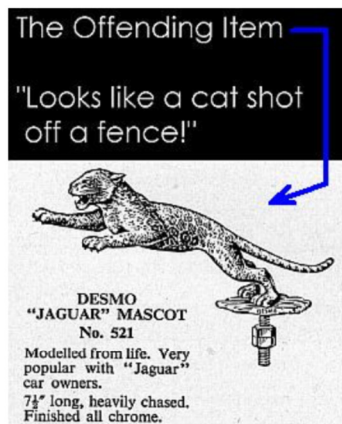


**Following a campaign of breathless hype**, Jaguar unveiled its *rebranding* during the Art Basel Miami Fair a few days ago.

Despite Jaguar's enthusiastic presentation of several silly virtual car designs, nobody addressed why Jaguar has copied the Dyson vacuum-cleaner typeface for its new logo, nor why the iconic Leaper has been pretty much pushed aside. The professional design community has not been impressed.

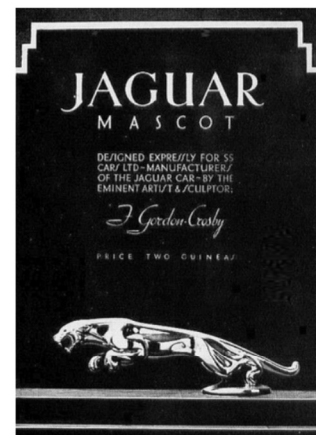


In 1937 Jaguar's Sir William Lyons commissioned illustrator F. Gordon Crosby to design the original Leaper for adornment of the early SS Jaguars. Lyons had seen a third-party "bonnet mascot" that offended his sense of style and wanted something more in keeping with his idea of how Jaguar should present itself.



< N.O.T.D!

Proper! >



Leaper P.2 follows...

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Leaper P.2 ...

**The Leaper adorned the bonnet** (hood) of every Jaguar sedan well into the 1980s, and was available as an option for the XK 120-150 sports car series.

A Leaper on the bonnet of an XK is a matter for heated discussions among owners and fans. Some maintain that it enhances the value of the car. Others maintain that it devalues the car, as it does not aesthetically "fit."



As a lark I asked my AI assistant to draw me an XK150 coupe. Then, I asked it to put a Leaper on the hood. After several tries in which a Leaper was pasted all over the front end, I received an illustration that got the right design, but at three times the right size. Amusing.



Although I've bailed out of Jaguars, there's still a few models out there I'd love to own: a 120 Coupe with C-Type mods; an XC75 with a V-12; a "lightweight" E-Type... In the meantime, my reaction to the new direction of Jaguar has been to invoke an Aztec curse on their efforts.

~ Paul M.





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**Get in Line Now for '06 or '07 Delivery!**



**If you just had to have an original Hummer**, or think the Tesla truck looks sharp, the '06 "ultra-high luxury" Jaguar is for you. Everybody will know what it is, because if they get down on their hands and knees they can make out a tiny Leaper badge just in front of passenger door.

Oh, before you plunk down a 5 Bitcoin deposit, I should pass along a bit of aesthetic insight... An angular box-like shape that may look quite attractive while at rest, does not look very attractive when in motion. It's a result of our culture-based brain wiring, and explains, among other things, why flying saucers always look scary when they fly by.

*~ PaulM.*

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# The Annual Gift Guide – 2024

*By Paul Maleki*



## Spindizzies



**Well into the 1940s**, racing gas-powered spindizzies on large slot tracks was a serious adult sporting proposition. Eric Zausner's spindizzy "encyclopedia" is available through Amazon or ABE Books; you can find excellent copies in the \$80 range... As a coffee table volume weighing 7.4 pounds and containing 241 pages of incredible photographs, plans and histories, it makes the heart go faster every time you open it.

- To meet changing tastes in the 1950s, Cox gave new life to their Thimbledrome racers by selling them with a string tether instead of a model airplane motor.

- If the collector bug bites you, bring a large wallet to the table for a prewar model. But if you want to have active fun, a search of E-Bay will get you a pair of serviceable racers for about \$400. Then all you need is a buddy or grandchild, and a large empty garage or a nearby basketball court to start racing... Can't figure out how to do that? You can start back-to-back and do pursuit elimination, or do single car lap times, or whatever seems like a good idea.

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## Race Car Cookie Cutters



Porsche 911 prices gone too high for you? A seller on ebay whose handle is "LoudCufflinks" will ship you a 911 cookie cutter in a color of your choice for \$12 plus shipping. I'm thinking that "Neon Yellow" would be close to those 1970s 911 colors.

Another ebay vendor, "drukowanko," offers both stampout and outline cutters for 22 international racetracks. About \$20 shipped for some, but whole sets are discounted.

Gingerbread bake party, anyone?

## RetroMod Racer Caps

Wanna look like Graham Hill?

Boston Scally Company < [bostonscally.com](http://bostonscally.com) > offers a galaxy of soft-brimmed caps in different panel construction, weaves and colors. They all run about \$50 each.

Facebook keeps telling me that Peter Kroth likes these, although I can't remember seeing him wear one. But then he hangs out with a much faster crew than I do these days





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## Padding About the Paddock



So much more efficient than feet or pedals, an e-bike or scooter is the best choice for racers that cannot fit a golf cart in/on their rig...and HiBoy is the class of e-bikes and scooters. Sturdy, good battery life, reliable.

With consumer spending having shifted from "things" to "services" (tried getting reservations in a good restaurant these days?) HiBoy has been offering big discounts. Point your search engine to HiBoy.

## Your Breakfast Croissant Deserves an Appropriate Mug

<https://printerval.com/the-automobiles-ettore-bugatti-mugs->  
\$8.95 plus shipping.



## The Perennial Pad Promo

We mention these every year. Comfy and useful working on a car, doing exercise indoors, or weeding in the garden. 45" x 25" unfolded. \$43.79 at Amazon or 39.99 at NAPA. Get several; you'll thank me after a few instances of saving your knees or your back.



# Membership Report

By Jim Garry

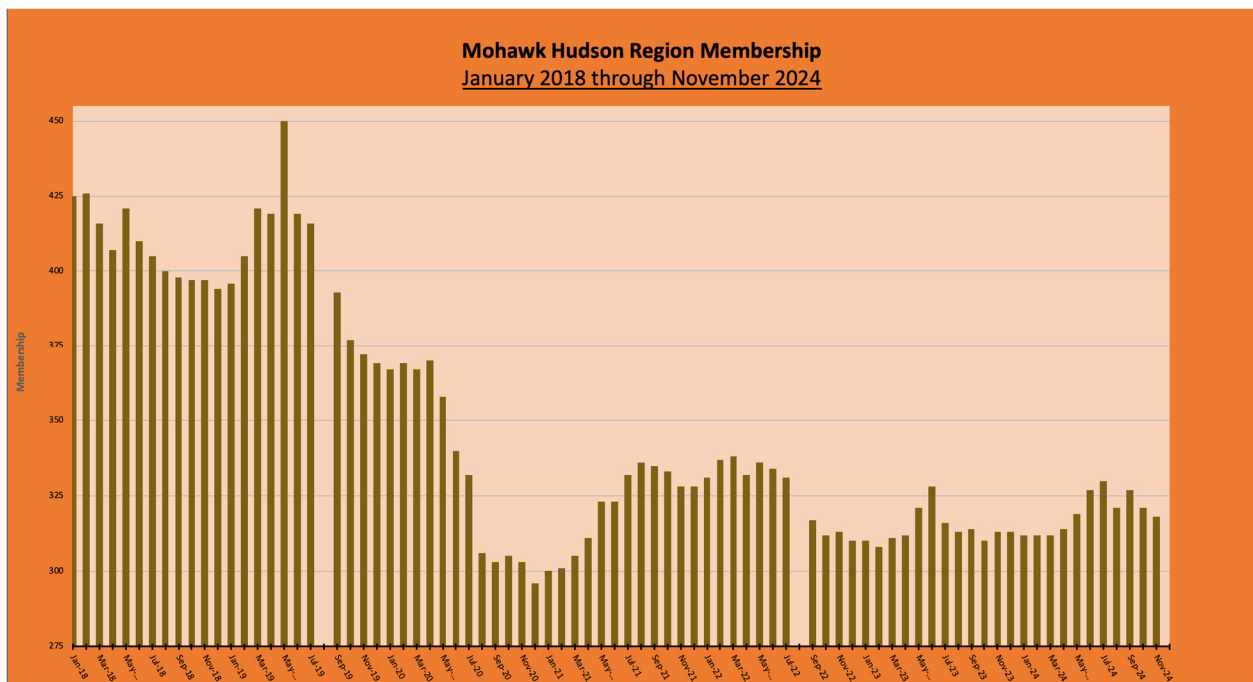
As of November 21st, Mohawk Hudson Region's membership count stood at 318. For 2024 our numbers ranged from 312 to 330 but in order to return to our pre-pandemic position we'll need to add at least 50 members. This seems a daunting task. Region Leadership will be discussing this during the winter. But if anyone has any thoughts please email to me at [mhr.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mhr.membership@gmail.com).

New Members in October and November

None

Significant Anniversaries for November

None







### **Regional Executive**

Sal Baisley

[MoHud.RE@gmail.com](mailto:MoHud.RE@gmail.com)

**(518) 380-6675**

### **Secretary**

Shelby White

[Shelby\\_Blanchette@yahoo.com](mailto:Shelby_Blanchette@yahoo.com)

### **Director**

Russ Burkhard

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

### **Assistant Regional Executive**

Eric Smith

[ejevo8@gmail.com](mailto:ejevo8@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

Paul Malecki

[paul@dianenpaulmalecki.org](mailto:paul@dianenpaulmalecki.org)

### **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**

Ken Relation

[Kenneth.Relation@dot.ny.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Relation@dot.ny.gov)

### **The Knock-Off (newsletter)**

Chip VanSlyke (interim editor)

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

### **Race Flagging & Communications**

Rich Alexander

[dweebdad@msn.com](mailto:dweebdad@msn.com)

### **Membership**

Jim Garry

[mhr.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mhr.membership@gmail.com)

### **Social Activities & Events**

Tracey Burckhard

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

### **Merchandise**

Chip VanSlyke