

Mohud Brings Good Food, Cheer, to Lime Rock



Vince, Sal, and Max Serve up
Margaritas and snacks.



Diane and Paul dish out
generous servings of Ken's chili.

Thanks to all that volunteered and brought food and drink for the paddock crawl this year.

From the Editor

This month's issue features the region's "homecoming" race, the annual Paddock Crawl at Lime Rock Park. The weather held out except for some wet driving Saturday morning. I sat out the rain due to my back, but got to watch some exciting racing including Jared's battle for the lead in B-Spec.

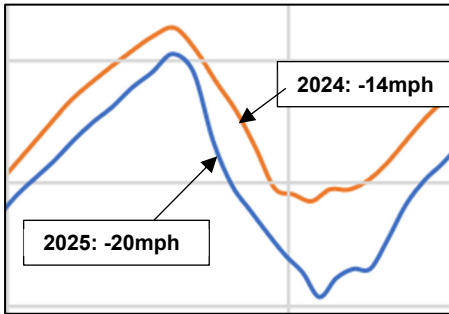
Seems like Mohud couldn't avoid mechanicals this year but that didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits.

And thanks to all the interest in how the motor in the FF was running, evidence that my articles on the rebuild are being read.

For my part, Lime Rock was disappointing (technically if not spiritually) because my lap times were off by about 2 seconds. I first attributed this to the tires, which took a while to fire up, then thought that with only 10 heat cycles that couldn't possibly be it. Which points to the motor and the suspicion that leaving the compression ratio at 9.0:1 (vs the 9.3:1 allowed by the rules) was to blame. But a thorough analysis of the data points back at the tires. I fortunately had a download of my qualifying 57.6 from last year for comparison. Most turns show more speed scrubbing in '25 than '24. Furthermore, most of the straights show more speed increase in '25 than '24, good news for the motor. So, time to get some new tires and try again!

See full results for Mo-Hudders at the Paddock Crawl on Page 8.





Uphill turn speed, 2025 vs 2024

Also, Happy 50th anniversary Clark Nicholls!. Besides his work as a racing marshall, Clark was a great supporter of the solo program back when I was the Solo Chair. I have lots of memories including the Ice Trials on Lake Onoto and the Buick. But I will always appreciate his friendly wave at pit out at Lime Rock. See the full write-up in the membership report.



What's Happening

July 2	Membership Outing. Guptill's Ice Cream, Route 9, Cohoes. 6:30pm
July 4,5	Midnight Madness Regional Race. Thompson Speedway Motorsport Park, Thompson CT. https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/ner-midnight-madness-3-thompson-speedway-motorsports-park-scca-new-987518
July 13	MoHud Solo Event #1. Tech City, Kingston NY https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mohud-solo-2025-event-1-tech-city-kingston-ny-scca-mohawk-hudson-574770
July 27	MoHud Solo Event #2. Tech City, Kingston NY https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mohud-solo-2025-event-2-tech-city-kingston-ny-scca-mohawk-hudson-131420
August 1-3	SCCA Solo National Tour. Seneca Army Depot, Romulus NY. https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/2025-tire-rack-scca-finger-lakes-national-tour-seneca-army-depot-solo-098687
August 10	Mohud Solo Event #3. Tech City, Kingston NY https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mohud-solo-2025-event-3-tech-city-kingston-ny-scca-mohawk-hudson-088791
August 14-16	Last Chance Majors. Thompson Speedway Motorsport Park, Thompson CT. https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/ner-northeast-last-chance-majors-5-thompson-speedway-motorsports-park-278558
August 24	MoHud Solo Event #4. Tech City, Kingston NY https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mohud-solo-2025-event-4-tech-city-kingston-ny-scca-mohawk-hudson-622555
Sept 1-5, 2025	Solo National Championship – Lincoln Airpark, NE https://www.scca.com/events/2007929-2025-tire-rack-scca-solo-national-championships-lincoln-airpark
Sept 29-Oct 5, 2025	The Runoffs National Championship – Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI https://www.scca.com/runoffs

Check out the full regional calendar at:

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=4l0pcskqj0sbmtg8scke5et658%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America%2FNew_York

Friday in the Park with MoHud

NER Paddock Crawl. Lime Rock Park June 13th, 2025

~ PaulM.



The annual gathering of MoHud and New England Region racing clans once again filled Lime Rock's Paddock A and Paddock B with trailers, race cars, tents, portable BBQ grilles, and, of course, racers.

Diane and I planned to crew for Ken Relation, although Michelle Relation does all the work of a typical three-person support team without needing extra help. Joining the entourage was Michelle's brother Bob and sister-in-law Sue.

MoHud clan members attending for the weekend included Richard Welty, Sal Baisley, Vince Gentile and Mike Harmuth overseeing Tech, with Chris Brassard, Michael Gabryszewski, Doug Garrison, Jared Lendrum, Austen Levesque, Max LuxRamos, Ken Relation, Chip Van Slyke, Leon Zavos, and Ed Zemeck racing. Up in the tower Marianne and Johannes Kraus kept Timing & Scoring on track, while Greg Rickes once again was "The Voice of Lime Rock" on Saturday. Down on the track, EJ Smith and Ray Tetrault Jr served as flaggers, keeping everyone as safe and orderly as possible.

We arrived around 8am on Friday. Ken was in Paddock B, about as far as you can get from the Start/Finish line but close to Grid entry.

Although he and Michelle had arrived only one hour earlier, his flags were flying high above Camp Relation and Ken was trying out his new "cool suit."



Meanwhile, Diane and I offloaded her E36-M3 and drove it up to the autocross track, where we left it with "For Sale" posters in hopes that a "drifter" or two would covet this really fun car. A number of 18-25 year-olds expressed enthusiasm, but did not have big enough weekly allowances to buy the object of their excitement.

But, selling a race car is like fly-fishing for trout. Got to make a lot of casts to land the right buyer... loaded the car back on the trailer later in the day...

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Paddock Crawl - II

Close to Camp Relation we encountered Chip Van Slyke playing with different carb jets for his Formula Ford, trying to compensate for lower cylinder compression that followed engine rebuilding over the winter – as chronicled in past KOs. A little more head-shaving (...the engine block, not his...) is scheduled in the future.



Chip with the "Ford of Thesus," so named because only a few of the original parts remain.

In the late first century Plutarch asked: if a damaged ship had all its parts replaced was it the same ship? He was thinking ahead to auctions of rotted Ferrari chassis, and vintage racing cars that are spiffier now than when they left the assembly shed....

I wandered over to Tech to watch Richard Welty's team at work. On the way back did a classic doubletake when I spotted Diane's old teal and silver Spec Miata. It's now raced by Ryan Creaturo from Colchester, Connecticut. Neither he nor his crewing father had any extensive knowledge of the car's history and were delighted to learn that it was Bob Karl Sr.'s own mount. Senior Mr. Creaturo met Bob some years back at used car auctions, and subsequently learned there was a whole family of Karl racers, but had no idea that he was now tending to the patriarch's own car. I related what I knew about the car's racing history, and pointed out that a picture of the car in its original red, white and blue livery hung at the base of the track's tower. As I left, Ryan handed me a small sticker portraying the car as it races now; said he hands these stickers out to kids, many of whom love to sit in the seat making engine sounds and pretending...



On track, 10-minute practice / qualifying sessions for each group were scheduled, in typical SCCA fashion, to start precisely more or less at 10am.

Ken was in Run Group 5, so there was time to watch other groups in their sessions. In Group 1 we watched Jared, Max, and Ed. Then after a while just Max and Ed. That did not seem good.

We soon learned that Jared's Mini blew its "new" engine. What we didn't know is that Jared had a plan B in mind...

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Paddock Crawl - III

Waiting for Group 5's turn at warmups, Michelle kept track of Ken's need-to-be-on-grid time while he fussed with a few things. If you know Ken, you are not surprised he shows up with a spic-and-span car. A poster for having "Fun With Cars" while looking back to the SCCA salad days epitomized by "Gentleman Jim Kimberly" and Briggs Cunningham.



Group 5 out on track around 11:30 and I concentrated on comparing Ken's shift point going onto the main straight with Ron Lombardo's. Ron driving the only other Mustang in Group 5/T1; has the 302 "Coyote Boss" engine, so about 100hp more than Ken, but at least instructive to watch as he does his first shift almost 200 feet before Ken's. But not knowing what comparative gears they were running, wasn't much more than just spectating.

Hey! With about 2 minutes to session end, where's Ken? We gathered he was off the course. Going up to Tech/Impound I saw #98 with a scuffed-up right side and a pool of liquid underneath. Ken says he heard a "pop" at the end of the straight and figured something broke. Applying the brakes did nothing to retard a slide and spin into the tirewall.

Back at Camp Relation, the car continued to leak something that tasted more like water than anything else. Could it be a blown engine block freeze plug? Jared came by, as now he had some time on his hands as a result of his Mini blowing its newest engine... Crawling underneath the wounded Mustang to take videos, Jared confirmed that there was a clear leak coming from the engine block near the freeze plug. Not something you can fix at the track.

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Paddock Crawl - IV

Taking #98's misfortune stoically, Ken fired up the portable grille for lunch while we headed for the Lime Rock food court. We asked for the highly recommended "Polish Lager," but were served Ocean State Lager brewed in Pawtucket. Rest of the afternoon was spent watching the run groups in their "Qualifying" sprint races.

As engine sounds died down from the sprint races, preparations for "Paddock Crawl" began. Middle lane in Paddock A became a culinary bazaar. On the north side MoHud set up its traditional Margarita bar led by Sal, Max and Vince, accompanied by Richard Welty's taste of fine Scotch, and the Relation's Mexican themed chili and Modelito cantina. On the south side New England Region set up its version of Golden Corral. Our setup was leisurely, but within an hour it was wall-to-wall people swapping greetings and stories. Bonhomie.



Around 8 o'clock we joined the Relation parade up to Great Barrington. Arriving about 9, we found that Holiday Inn Express management had chosen that afternoon to resurface its main parking lot, closing off the perfect parking slots for two race car trailers and tow vehicles. Ken tried going into the rear lot, but found that Robert Frost's saying about backing out was of no help. He finally got free and took the trailer a mile down the road to a supermarket lot. We decided to simply go home.

Maybe it was not a Grand Day Out, but we're glad we went and enjoyed being with our racing friends in both Clan MoHud and Clan NER.

PS: Thanks for EJ and Greg for adding some details...

NER Paddock Crawl. Lime Rock Park June 14th, 2025



RESULTS - MoHud Racers



Group 1

Max LuxRamos	BMW-Mini	1 st in B-Spec
Ed Zemeck	Miata	6 th in SpecMiata2
Michael Gabryszewski	Mazda RX-7	4 th in ImprovedTouring7

Jared Lendrum prevailed upon Bill DeGotsis to bring Bill's Mazda2 to Lime Rock overnight in order to run in the final Group 1 race. Unfortunately the M2 was traumatized by the rush and expired on track...

Group 2

Chip Van Slyke	Crossle62F	2 nd in Formula Ford
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Group 3

Chris Brassard	SpecRacerFordGen3	6 th in SpecRacerFordGeneration3
Doug Garrison	SpecRacerFordGen3	9 th in SpecRacerFordGeneration3

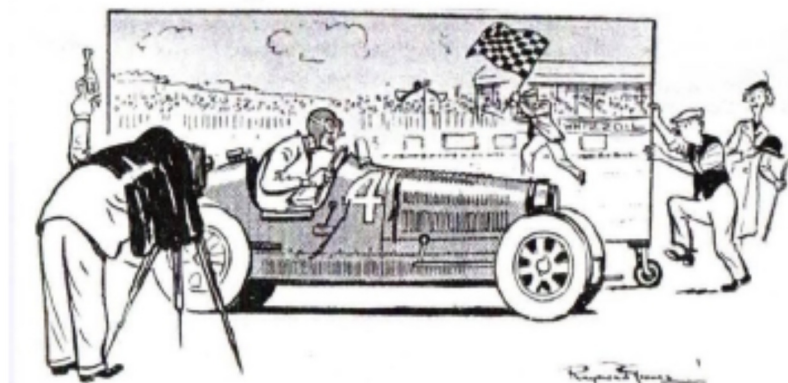
Group 6

Tyler Reynolds	VW HC-F5	5 th in Formula Volkswagen
Christopher Zarzycki	Caracal D Formula V	8 th in Formula Volkswagen
Christian Flagg		7 th in Formula Volkswagen Vintage
Leon Zavos	Predator P3 Formula V	DNF

Group 7

Austen Levesque	Toyota GT86	3 rd in Touring3
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The above all taken from NER's Official Results. Some drivers may or may not be enrolled MoHud members.



Membership Report

On June 25th Mohawk Hudson Region membership stood at 346. This is a continued increase for the year and an additional 6 members compared to last month. It's also a membership gain of five straight months, which we haven't experienced since beginning the long slow pull out of our bottomed-out numbers of the pandemic. We haven't had this many members since May 2020 when we were in a nose dive. A year earlier in May 2019 we had an extraordinarily strong membership number of 450, some say an anomalously high figure. This had fallen to 369 by December of 2019, and continued to decrease during the pandemic. Yes, our drop off began before the pandemic. But 2025 has seen a pleasant monthly increase. Let's hope we continue it.

New Members in May and June

Chase Marino, New Paltz

Timothy Burke, Clifton Park

Steven Dweck, Saratoga Springs

Elise McCleneghen, Galway

Richard Henry, Long Beach

Thomas Daley Sr., East Greenbush

Larry Eckler, Copake

Surya Chakrabarti, Glenville

CHENXUGUANG Zhu, Troy

Welcome everyone. We hope to see you at an event or perhaps at our ice cream social at Guptils on July 2nd.

Significant Anniversaries in July

Five Years

Shelby Blanchette - Shelby has actually been in the club a little longer but the vagaries of the SCCA membership system put her at 5 years. Shelby served admirably as our Regional Secretary while on the Board of Directors.

Ryan Pappalau - Ryan too has been in SCCA for longer than five years. We're glad to have him as a member.

Ten Years

Gregory Burckhard - Gregory is a member of the well-known Burckhard clan who loves driving and playing with motor vehicles.

Tracey Burckhard - Known affectionately as Race Mom because she takes care of everyone she can, Tracey is quite fast on an autocross course and helps the club in many ways including serving as MoHud's Activities Chairperson.

Fifty Years

Clark Nicholls - That's a long time Clark! Clark has served in countless roles for the Region including the following licensed road racing specialties: Chief of Pits, Grid & Pit, Registrar, Sound Control, T&S, Race Administration, Starter, Scrutineer, and F&C. He's also served as the Region's Knock Off Editor, Membership Chairperson, Competition Chair, Thank you for your tremendous service to the club Clark.

Clark really fits the phrase "lifelong enthusiast". Raised in Pittsfield, he attended RPI before returning to the Berkshires, where he still resides. In addition to his MoHud involvement he was a long-time member of the local Berkshire Motor Sports Club, involved in both autocross and rallye events.

He was part of the highly-regarded group of Pit Marshalls that staffed many events over the years, both club and professional, at Lime Rock Park, along with visits to many other tracks. He also frequently attended the SCCA National Championship RunOffs when they were held at Road Atlanta.

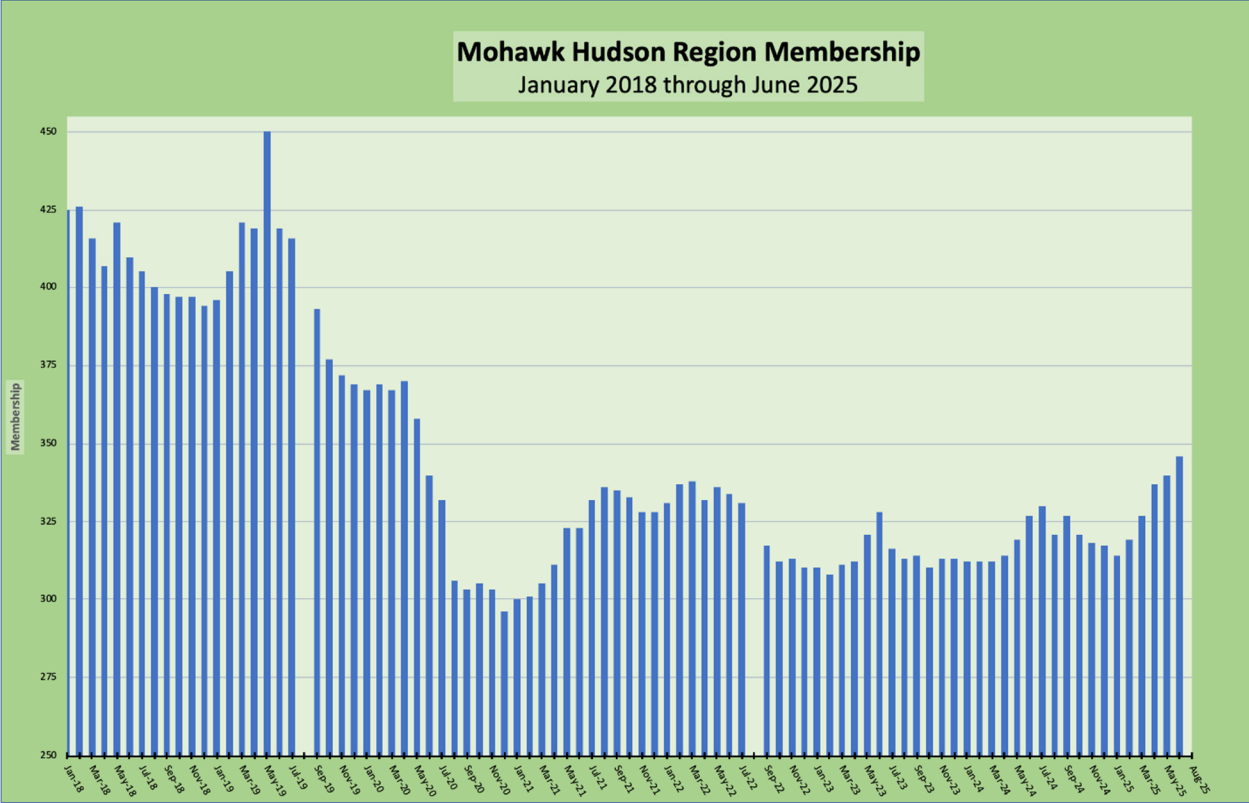
Clark's involvement with MoHud included a long tenure as the editor of The Knock-Off. He also had a strong connection to the British marque Triumph, with a strong affinity for Spitfires.

For many years Clark also took organizational responsibility for the annual Pittsfield Ice Trials, one of the highlights of the winter season.

Clark was the recipient of MoHud's Member of Excellence award a few years back in recognition of his many contributions to the region, including the preservation of the region's history by digitizing the comprehensive archives of The Knock-Off going back to the first edition in 1956.

These days Clark spends some of his days as weekday corner marshal at Lime Rock. He's also frequently seen at VSCCA events supporting the racing efforts of his long-ago RPI roommate Frank Filangeri.





Rally Report

On Sunday, April 13th, we gathered for the Mohawk-Hudson Region's "Waving Grass Rally". FYI, Sacandaga is an old Mohawk term meaning "the land of the waving grass". We had 10 adventurous teams compete and enjoy a fun-filled and scenic Spring drive.

The road rally was a Game, Tour, Adventure (GTA) rally requiring driver / navigator teams to find checkpoints and travel any route they choose to get there. The teams began their journey from the Amsterdam I-90 Exit 27 Park & Ride Lot at 10:00 am in search of eight checkpoints and numerous bonus items across Montgomery, Fulton, Saratoga, & Warren Counties.

Upon check-in, each team was assigned a team number, starting order, and start time. All teams received a safety brief and instructions at the driver / navigator meeting.



Once directed, a team was handed their rally road books and given the "all clear" to depart. The road books were filled with details to travel to a specified location (checkpoint) and document their arrival with a photo. ...Then, on to another checkpoint, and so on.

During the teams travels from Amsterdam, to Hagaman, Galway Lake, Hagedorns Mills, Fish



House, Batchelorville, Corinth, Hadley, Conklingville, Northville (just to name a few). Teams could earn extra points for finding many various bonus items. Teams kept an eye out for several bonus items, such as cannons, Purple heart signs, Fonda Speedway pace car, Texaco signs, Triumph signs, live Canada goose standing on two feet, and an Easter Bunny.





Checkpoint 1: "Mother and Child at the Mohawk River" statue at the Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Bridge.



Checkpoint 2: Chuctanunda Creek at Michael Douglas Park



Checkpoint 4: Batchelorville Bridge



Checkpoint 5: Hadley Parabolic Bridge.



Checkpoint 7: Copeland Covered Bridge.



Checkpoint 8: Northville 5&10.



Sport Island Pub (Finish):

At the five and dime, teams were instructed that to get credit for the checkpoint, they needed to purchase \$2.00 worth of candy.

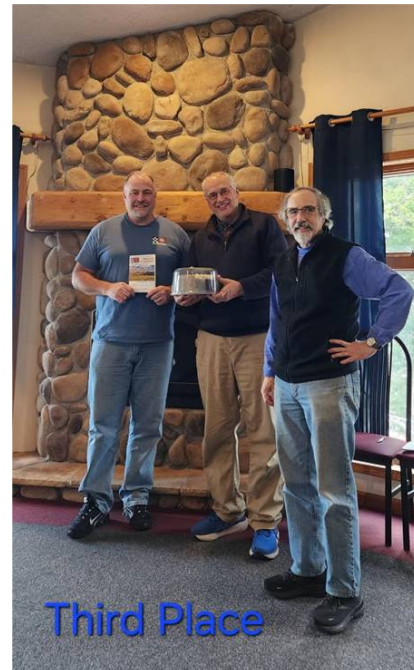


After everyone's points were tallied, the top four teams were awarded trophies (choice of cakes) at the finish point, the Sport Island Pub in Northville. The Pub gave us the scenic 2nd floor banquet room and had a great menu for us to choose from. At the banquet room, Rally Master Ken, collected candy from each of the teams placing it all into an Easter Basket. The basket busting of candy was auctioned off to the crowd by our very own Assistant Regional Executive, Eric Smith. Lucky for him, his wife and Regional Treasurer, Pat Clair was the high bidder at \$40.





4th Place – Team: Randolph Racing, LLC
(Lucienne Ford & Jozef Mankovecky)



3rd Place – Team: Niki Lauda
(John Mishanec & Bill Dosch)



2nd Place – Team: Duckies & Bunnies
(Russ, Lindsey, & Tracey Burckhard)



1st Place – Team: Wicked EV
(Tina, Karson, & Matt Crowley)



We hope you'll consider joining us at the next Fall road rally on October 26th, 2025 and have #funwithcars.

Submitted by:

Ken Relation, Rallymaster / Road Rally Chairperson

Michelle Relation, Road Rally Safety Steward

Treasurer's Report

Mohawk-Hudson SCCA Treasurer's Report - July

At the end of May 2025, the accounts totaled **\$25,854.48**.

June banking activities:

- Income for the SCCA Membership dues (May 2025).
- Closed Citizens Bank account; Moved remaining funds to Broadview FCU Money Market/Checking.

As of June 23, 2025, the accounts totaled \$26,634.48.

Looking ahead:

- SCCA Foundation Grant funds deposit for TRSS.
- EZ Pass refund for closed "Personal" account.
- July's income and expenses for two MoHud Solo events in Kingston.

Enjoy July's car events!

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