



# The Knockoff

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

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**September 2025**

## MoHud Goes to SAM

### Race Cars, Show Cars, and an Art Car...

After several weather wipeouts, Saratoga Automobile Museum held its Spring auto show on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Following tradition, MoHud was invited to exhibit members' race cars; although this time on the show field rather than in front of the Museum. Members EJ Smith, the Burckhards, Sal Baisley, Mike Park, Vince Gentile, and the Maleckis brought cool cars on a hot day. They were joined by more than 1,000 paid show entries!

Mike Park drew a lot of lookers as he meticulously applied decals to the side of his over-the-top C-8 Corvette, while Diane Malecki offered kids the opportunity to sit in, and be photographed in, a real race car. EJ and the Burckhards showed off their Solo/Autocross cars, while Vince Gentile demonstrated the difference between a "civilian" Mustang and one that is ready for Time Trials and track days.

And if you ever doubted that MoHud membership was a family affair, you would have been pleased with the Burckhards. Tracey doing the hard work of coordinating the exhibit, and Russ sharing his encyclopedic knowledge of just about every car that came on the field with daughter Lindsey.

And then there was the "Art Car" - Sal's multi-paneled Miata. Every showgoer between 10 and 21 who passed by his car took a photo. One stylish-dressed teenager pulled a classic Polaroid SX-70 Land Camera from his fancy bag, and proceeded to take 3 carefully composed shots, placing each print in another fancy bag with great care. Probably featured in some Euro fashion magazine or who knows where in the online universe.

Turn the page to see the show...

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## MoHud at SAM



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# Calendar

...updated by Pat Clair (and maybe EJ)

- Sept 1-5** Solo National Championship – Lincoln Airpark, NE.
- Sept 3** MoHud Membership meeting - Hedge Bistro @ Western Turnpike Golf Course.  
2350 Western Avenue, Guilderland. Eating at 6pm; meeting at 7pm.
- Sept 5-7** NER Annual Pig Roast club racing – Palmer Motorosports Park, Palmer MA.
- Sept 13-14** SCCA Time Trials. Watkins Glen.  
Accompanying the “Fun One” Regional Races. See MSR.
- Sept 29-Oct 5** The Runoffs National Championship – Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI.
- Oct 1** MoHud Membership meeting - Metro 7 Diner.  
1090 Troy-Schenectady Rd, Latham, NY 12110.  
Eating at 6pm; meeting at 7pm.
- Oct 5** A 5<sup>th</sup> MoHud '25 Season Autocross at Tech City.  
*For those who can't get enough, another date was secured.*
- Oct 19** MoHud/Patroon/SAM Tire Rack Street Survival. *Great experience for teens.*
- Oct 26** MoHud GTA Rally. Meet at Tamarac Middle & High School, Brunswick.  
Route 2 between the junction of County 78 and Cropseyville.  
*Where to this time? Join us to find out!*
- Jan 17** MoHud Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet.  
The Factory Eatery & Spirits, Ballston Spa.

“You can tell that you’re in trouble when you feel the air on the back of your neck instead of in your face.” – *Buddy Baker*

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# Membership

*~ Jim Garry*

**Mohawk-Hudson Region has reached a membership number we haven't been at since May 2020** when we were in a downward slide due to the pandemic. As of August 21st we have 350 members. We haven't experienced a backslide in numbers for seven consecutive months, a modern record for us.

New members in July & August (includes returning members after a time away):

Andrew Bent, East Nassau  
Tanner Schrader, Feura Bush  
Michael Acebo, East Marion  
Martyn Moore-Bridger, Copake Falls  
Richard Lord, Queensbury  
Michelle Hanifan, Albany  
Arlen Schambach, Clifton Park  
Aurelia Schambach, Clifton Park  
Erin Schambach, Clifton Park  
Liam Schambach, Clifton Park  
Will Schambach, Clifton Park  
Robert Maynard, Amsterdam  
Richard Rogers, Scotia  
Bethany Zamek, Schenectady

**“Welcome, and welcome back!”**

## **Significant Anniversary in September**

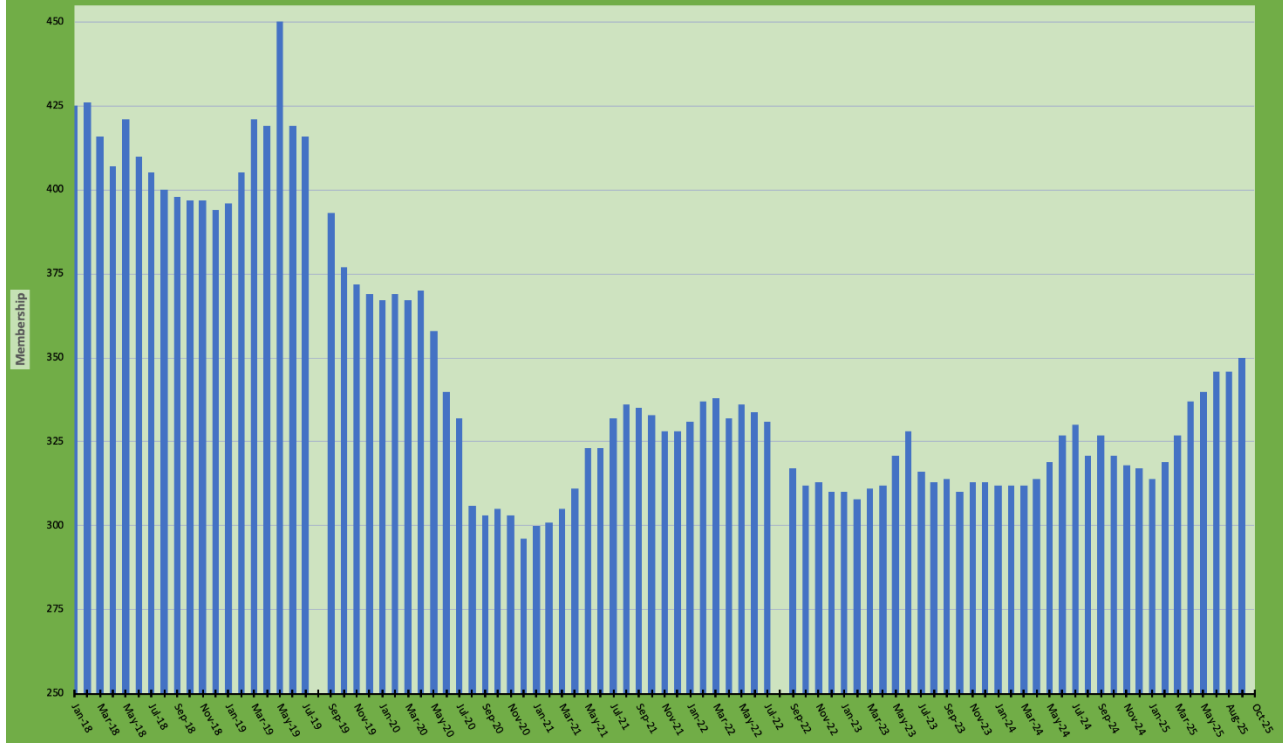
### **Les Apple - 30 years**

Les had a long career as an SCCA competition driver including both regional and national racing. I called him up to see what he was up to and we chatted as he was installing a flower garden at his new house in New Hampshire, which he started working on decades ago. He lives in the White Mountains “in the shadow of Mount Washington.” Although he no longer races with SCCA, he continues driving in vintage, which he began a few years prior to joining SCCA. He races a 1965 Genetta, a British sports racer. He's had it for almost 2 years and is still excited to race his first purpose-built race car, as opposed to a converted street car. He also continues his long association and work with animal welfare philanthropies. He is a lover of animals and works to improve their lot. As our conversation neared its end, he reminded us all to not feed the bears, for good reason!



## Mohawk Hudson Region Membership

January 2018 through August 21, 2025





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## Your Wrap was Inspired by Art Cars



Alexander Calder's 1975 3.0 CSL started BMW's run of artist-decorated cars, 20 of them continuing through Julie Mehretu's 2024 M-hybrid.



Editor's favorite is Frank Stella's 1976 3.0 CSL.



Eye candy at [www.bmw.com/en/design/history-of-the-bmw-art-cars](https://www.bmw.com/en/design/history-of-the-bmw-art-cars).

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## Treasurer's Report

~ Pat Clair

On **July 31, 2025**, the accounts totaled **\$28,755.89** –

- Checking        \$18,654.05
- 6 Month CD     \$10,100.84
- Savings         \$        1.00

August banking activities:

- Solo events - income and expenses
- SCCA Membership Dues (July 2025) income
- Administrative expense (Domain Names - 2 year renewal)
- SCCA Foundation Grant for April 2025 TRSS was received; Saratoga Auto Museum and Patroon partnership checks written.
- Gas generator taken for maintenance (Carb adjustment, oil, etc.).

As of **August 31, 2025**, the accounts totaled **\$28,310.90** –

- Checking        \$18,173.29
- 6 Month CD     \$10,136.61
- Savings         \$        1.00

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## Solo Bits



Jim Garry has provided this aerial of August's Finger Lakes National (autocross/solo) Tour paddock at Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, overlooking Seneca Lake. Full report later in this KO.

Created as Sampson Naval Training Station in WW II, it was the site of the first VW, a German Army *Schwimmwagen* produced by Dr. Porsche's design team, to be imported into the USA.

Usus fortuiti...

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# MoHud at the Thompson Majors

Thompson, August 16-16, 2025

## Part 1 - Reported by Chip VanSlyke

The weather was great, if a little hot, but mind you I'm not complaining. MoHud had a strong presence in Tech with Vince Gentile, Sal Baisley, and Rich Welty helping the host, New England Region. Apologies if I have missed any other volunteers. Just over 100 cars turned out for a somewhat thin entry. But another 20 or so showed for the CRE enduro to help fill things out with Mohud's own Sal Baisley driving Jim Cutler's C-Spec Mazda 3. Noteworthy finishes in the Major include Max LuxRamos finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a competitive B-Spec field and yours truly finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in FF showing the power of attrition. Other competitors included Doug Garrison, Pat Stringer, and Jeff Lehner in SRF3, Chris Zarzicki in Formula Vee.

For my part, Formula F began as 4 cars. With Tom Venturino, my main competition for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, crashing in session 1 with event-ending suspension and frame damage we were down to 3. Saturday's last session was a spring 20-minute race where I finished 2<sup>nd</sup> to the favorite, a young fellow from Ontario Canada racing with Brian Graham Racing presumably to help qualify for the Runoffs. Sunday was just one race: a more traditional longer race of 25 laps or 35 minutes. As the five then the one minute was called on grid, I realized I would be starting on pole! Apparently, the fellow from Ontario decided to get a head start home giving me the pole and a fairly easy cruise to a first place finish.



Max LuxRamos (White Mini-Copper) takes a cool down lap after a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in a competitive B-Spec Field. Also pictured, Steve Introne (12) and Zach Introne (11)



Never underestimate the power of attrition.  
Chip VanSlyke inherits 1<sup>st</sup> place in FF

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## MoHud at the Thompson Majors

### ...cont'd #1



Jim Cutler helps Sal Baisley get ready for the CRE Enduro



Rich Welty helps get some double-dippers squared away with tech inspections before the CRE Enduro

#### Part 2 - Reported by Theresa LuxRamos

While the enrollment of cars was lower overall for the event with only 5 race groups, the B-Spec group started with 9 cars on the Grid. Representing MoHud in B-Spec for his third Majors was Max LuxRamos in the #9 white pepper mini-cooper having received his competition license mid-season in 2024. B-Spec was joined by another 13 cars from the FP/HP/EP/STL and T4 categories in Group 3. For both race one and two, B-Spec was in the second group of the split start along with the Prod cars.

Race One was filled with plenty of opportunities to show off pack racing skills which Max did as he went from fourth to second, finishing the race on the podium in second place.

Race Two was a completely different race with Max drafting behind lead B-Spec #11 with plenty of space behind them leaving the rest of the B-Spec group far behind. Lead cars passed the two B-Spec leaders in lap 7 at turn one. The distance between Max and the B-Spec group behind him continued to grow. The pace car came out at lap 18, with Max and the #11 in front of the pace car resulting in them at the back of the pack for the restart at lap 22 in turn 9 and a lap ahead of the rest of the B-Spec group. Two more laps and Max finished his second Majors earning second place surpassing last year's finish of 7th place with his best time of 1:27.427. Max continued his lead in the NER/NERCC Championship points.

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# MoHud at the Thompson Majors

## ...cont'd #2

### Theresa LuxRamos continues:

Jim Cutler arrived on Friday forgoing the Majors to participate in the NER Little Le Mans Race Experience Enduro with co-driver Sal Baisley. Racing in the C-Spec #192 they placed first for the E4 group which had six cars enrolled completing 80 laps in the two-hour race.

Earlier on Saturday, Sal completed volunteering all weekend in Tech along with Vince Gentile. Given the importance placed on a Majors, extra scrutiny was needed to ensure cars were compliant with the GCR.

There were no issues for MoHud drivers.



Max at speed  
Doug at speed

Sal shares a Checker with Jim Cutler  
Chip out front

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## Jim Garry and Friends Take on the Cones

**Two-hundred-thirty-four drivers** attended the August 1-3, 2025 Finger Lakes National Tour at the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, NY. As my co-driver Ken Hurd & I often do, we rented a 5th wheel camper that was delivered to the site for us. The cost is about the same as a quality hotel and eliminates the need for four 25-to-30-minute commutes between site and hotel over the course of the three days. Also, it is a place a couple of old guys can rest any time. And it lets us walk the course into the evening and early in the morning without worrying about getting back to the hotel late or leaving early.



Competing at the event in 2025 were eight, count 'em, eight Mohawk Hudson Region autocrossers.

Paul Beechner was in the thick of competition in his Mustang, set up for the CAM Traditional class. It looked like a lot of fun as I was working course while his class ran.

New MoHud member Tim Burke competed in his A Street Lotus Elise. Tim just joined in May and now has already been to a National level event. Driving his car in A Street Ladies was two-time DSPL National Champ Olga Bogdanova making her first National level appearance in several years. Welcome back Olga!

C Modified was populated only by Jim Garry and co-driver Ken Hurd. One of them won the class. They are finally starting to experience some improved handling after years of struggling with a recalcitrant chassis. The hard work is starting to pay off as the car claimed the 2nd fastest time of the event including beating all the 6-driver B Mod field. We won't focus too hard on the fact that the usual NEDiv hot shoes in the class weren't competing in B Mod this weekend. But Jim managed to find 56th on the pax of the 234 entries despite some inconsistent driving. Things are looking up a little.

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## Finger Lakes Nats II...

The E Street Touring class was won by one of MoHud's nicest folks, Matt Huchro. Matt's winning time was just over 1/4 second in the 10-car class and he placed a spectacular 20th on overall PAX. Huge congratulations to Matt!



Finally, over in H Street we saw a combo team of young and old competing in the family Prius. Will Schambach (my co-driver from the B Mod Cheetah days) and son Liam were beating the heck out of the little hybrid and having a lot of fun. They tented on site and also visited nearby Sampson State Park to take in the lake and have ice cream. Will asked if he could crew for Ken & me during our runs, an offer we readily accepted. That was a big help because it took most of the between-run chores out of our hands. And when Ken came in after his 3rd run with a car in need of some repair, I was confident that after requesting a 10-minute mechanical delay from Grid control, I could just strap into the car for my run and between the two of them it would get fixed. On Saturday night Liam & Will visited us in our camper for a meal and shared a good time and laughs.

Later that evening I had the pleasure of spending time with my onsite next-door neighbors and had a fun chat for an hour as the evening turned to night. They're also next-door neighbors to MoHud ... Poughkeepsie Sports Car Club members Dean and Mark VanDeCarr and Steve Eckelman who as usual were sharing an RV. And many thanks to Matt who stopped by with incredibly delicious chocolate chip cookies. They probably added 0.2 second to all our times but were worth it.

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## Finger Lakes Nats III...

*The competition at a National Tour is fierce but the get together with friends is sweet.*

*~ Jim*



*He who returns from a journey  
is not the same as he who left*

An unidentified entrant spotted going home from the Nats...

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## Heard Around the Cracker Barrel:

... *"Ain't buy'n a CT5 'til they bring back the ducks!"*



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Jimmy Wales, Larry Sanger, Pat Clair, EJ Smith, Jim Garry, Chip VanSlyke, Theresa LuxRamos, Sam Altman and the editor's memory contributed in one way or another to this issue of the KO. James Ray from NER was dragged in as well. Count (Elliot) Zborowski drove the whole thing. If nobody steps up to relieve me, you, dear reader, will be subjected to more of the same...



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