

MoHud closes 2014 season amid many successes & great fun!



Chip Van Slyke



The Burckhard Girls

Karl Danneil and Eleanor Morris



These MoHud members were at the John Stim Memorial Race at Thompson and a solo event at the McCarty Avenue lot.

Banquet details on page 11-12

MOHAWK - HUDSON REGION SCCA OFFICERS & ADMINISTRATORS

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

Russ Burckhard
24 Nicholas Drive
Albany, NY 12205
russtduck@gmail.com

ASST. REGIONAL EXEC.

Eric "EJ" Smith
7 Oneida Ct
Slingerlands, NY 12159
518-858-4082
ejvo8@gmail.com

TREASURER

Todd Boice
86 Arrowwood Place
Malta, NY 12020-2912
(518) 289-5720
tboice1@nycap.rr.com
Mohudregs@nycap.rr.com

SECRETARY

Ron Bass
308 W Highland Drive
Schenectady, NY 12303-5753
(518)355-1068
m3apx@aol.com

COMPETITION CHAIR

Jack Hanifan
39 Ramsey Place
Albany, NY 12208-3016
518-438-3754 home
jackhanifan@hotmail.com

RALLY CHAIR

Trish Bucci
6 Hunter Ave
Latham, NY 12110
trimar71@gmail.com

NeDiv LICENSE CHAIR

Peter W. Smith
18 Prospect Point Lane
Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-587-9755
tbspete@gmail.com

SOLO CHAIR

Russ Burckhard
19 Carpenter Drive
Schenectady, NY 12309
russtduck@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Will Schambach
76 Esopus Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065-40505
518-495-1796
weschambach1@yahoo.com

KNOCKOFF EDITOR

Lisa Hanifan
39 Ramsey Place
Albany, NY 12208
518-438-3754 home
lhani1@nycap.rr.com

CHIEF OF PITS

Clark Nicholls
65 Hartwood Road
Lee, MA 01238
(413) 243-3433 home
cwnicholls@aol.com

SCRUTINEERING (TECH)

Richard Welty
269 Rabie Road
Averill Park, NY 12018
(518) 674-0436
rwelty@krusty-motorsports.com

CHIEF, Flagging & Commun.

Richard Alexander
7 Heritage Hills Drive
Wyanskill, NY 12198-8617
(518) 283-7376
DWEEBDAD@MSN.COM

SCCA PRO Racing President & CEO

Tom Campbell
500 Grand Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-6100
(518)587-2522
scca10director@juno.com

MERCHANDISE

Peter W. Smith
18 Prospect Point Lane
Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-587-9755
tbspete@gmail.com

DIRECTOR

Bruce Kosakoski
59 Hoffay Road
Averill Park, NY 12018
(518) 674-8816 home

DIRECTOR

Dick Stewart
13 Fletcher Place
West Sand Lake, NY 12196
(518) 674-5683 home
(518) 674-1010 voice & fax
stewartco@aol.com

WEBMASTER

Zeke Wright
RR3 Box 149
Greenwich, NY 12834
518-538-1694
zekew1@gmail.com

Please send all website requests/information to MoHud webmaster, Zeke Wright

The KnockOff is the official publication of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, Sports Car Club of America. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Mohawk-Hudson Region or of the Sports Car Club of America.

The general membership meeting is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm at The Orchard Tavern , 68 No. Manning Blvd., Albany, NY.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MO-HUD MAILING LIST: Go to the MoHud web site (see below), click INFO, click ELECTRONIC MAILING LIST, click LWGATE, click Subscribe to Mo-Hud DIGEST, fill out form, click SUBSCRIBE.

<http://www.mohud-scca.org/>

ADVERTISING RATES

Type	Size	1 Issue	6 Issues
Full Pg	10x7	\$20.00	\$100.00
Half Pg	5x7	\$15.00	\$75.00
Half Pg	10x3	\$15.00	\$75.00
Qtr Pg	5x3	\$10.00	\$50.00
Bus Crd	3x2	\$5.00	\$25.00

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REGIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORT

Russ Burckhard

November 2014 RE Report

The John Stim Memorial was held at Thompson Speedway on October 3-5. I was only able to be there on Sunday and I wanted to make the best of it. It turned out to be a nice day compared to the rain the previous day. While it was sunny, it was cool with a good breeze all day. Eric Smith and I arrived at the track a little early and we were able to walk around to get the basic layout of the track. We checked in on Rich Welty in tech. Then we went through paddock. We talked to some drivers and saw a bunch of the race cars up close. That is something that we didn't want to do during the event. Luckily that is what happened. I had a great view from where I was at a flagging station. I made my debut as a flagger. One race I was in charge of the passing flag, the rest of them I controlled the yellow flag. It takes a little bit to get the hang of it. The closer the drivers get to the edge of grip, the more jumpy you get anticipating that there will be a problem. Fortunately our corner did not have any problems and the only time I needed to wave the yellow was for full course yellows. Let me tell you, if you have not tried this, I strongly recommend it. It was a lot of fun, we had a great view of the track, a close view of the cars at speed, and great conversations between the races. Another great thing that happens is on the cool down laps, all of the driver's wave to you in appreciation for you being there. I wish I had done this earlier. If you want to try it, I may be at your corner.

The Saturday of the race, I had a previous commitment with the Patroon BMW club. I was entered in the High Performance Driving Event or HPDE for short. This is the same thing as the Performance Driving eXperience that we have held in the past. This was the second one that I have participated in and it was totally different. While both were at Lime Rock, my first one was with a low powered car with track tires on a dry track. This time I had a turbo charged car with semi worn out street tires in the rain. The only down side to the day was my car kept going into "limp" mode. It seemed if I ran too hard the oil temp would heat up. I was able to run more conservatively at times so that I could drop the oil temperature. That way I could run easy in traffic in the no passing zones to drop the temp enough so I had enough time with power so that I could pass when given a point by. The lower grip level from the rain rewarded those with better car control. Because of all of my Solo experience I was able to put that to good use. As a shameless plug for Solo, I want to call out anyone that drives on a track to try a Solo event to increase their car control abilities. I had the pleasure of having our secretary, Ron Bass, as my instructor. He had me run both the wet and dry lines to see where both the car and I were more comfortable. We settled on a modified dry line as the preferred dry line had standing water and streams on it. The extra power this time was only good for easier passing. It was almost useless coming off of the corners and I also would get wheel spin halfway down no-name and the top of the uphill. Throttle control was definitely a necessity. Braking was done early and smoothly

so not to upset the car. Downshifting was done like a true amateur. The one thing Solo does not prepare you for is shifting. Previous drag racing has me covered for upshifts, I am in need of work for downshifting. My corners were pretty good. I think I could have carried more speed in and through the center. Off the corners I was feathering the throttle to keep control. Overall I think I did okay considering it was my second time on the track. I still have a lot to learn and can't wait to get out and try it again. Doing this on Saturday gave me a greater appreciation for the drivers that I flagged for on Sunday and flagging on Sunday gave me a greater appreciation of the flaggers that worked so that I could drive.

Reminder. The annual Awards Banquet will be at the Troy Elks Club on the first Saturday of December.

Keep an eye out for information on the upcoming Mini-Con hosted by the NER region on November 14-16. <http://www.nediv.com/nediv-info/list-of-nediv-events/event/278-2014-nediv-mini-con>

SOLO REPORT Russ Burckhard

November 2014 Solo Report

Where did the year go? It seems like yesterday that we were planning for the season and now it is over. We have our Champions and specialty trophy winners (come to the banquet next month to see who won) and now we have the long off season to prepare for the next season. So this winter you have your homework assignments. Whether it is upgrading your car or just normal maintenance, take care of it so you can make it to all of the events next year. You also need to work on your driving skills, all of the car control you learned and/or worked on this season can continue to be worked on in the off season. You should never stop trying to learn.

We had our seventh and final event of the season on October 12th. The weather was sunny but cool. Bert did a great job on the course design as usual making the best of the small lot. We had 6 runs to cap off the year. Jon Staude set the fastest Pax in his Honda yet again while Andy Furlong had the fastest raw time in his "atomic" Rabbit. I was second on the Pax list in the Focus followed by Carmine Russo in third, Eric Smith was in fourth in his Evo and Andy Furlong and his Rabbit was fifth.

Top Times in each of the categories are; Andrew Bernstein in Street, Greg Cuda in Street Prepared, Andy Furlong in Prepared, Ryan Gallagher in Modified, Jon Staude in Touring, Eric Smith in Street Modified, Johnathon Burckhard in Junior Kart, Sean Thompson in Novice, and Dave Triffaro in the Street Tire Class.

COMPETITION REPORT

Jack Hanifan



2014 November

John Stim Memorial - We had a good showing of workers at the John Stim Memorial but the number of drivers attending was disappointing. Many thanks to those that attended.

2014 Runoffs - The big news coming out of the runoffs was the disqualification of the first 6 SM finishers, leaving the 7th place on track finisher as the National Champion. All of the disqualifications were because of non compliant cylinder heads. Check the SCCA website for the details.

Sebring - Pete and I travelled to Sebring for the October Regional on the Club Circuit. Pete had to leave before the race and Dave Dartt had mechanical issues but the NER contingent did well with Ken Payson winning STL and Jerry Rigoli finishing 2nd in FP. Every time I enter one of our iconic tracks, I think of the great races that have been held there, Sebring is really special when you realize you are racing on the same tarmac that was laid during WWII and the same pavement used in the original 12 hour in 1952.



The tower at Sebring



NER's Jerry Rigoli with his 2nd place FP trophy.



The Smith compound at Sebring - Dave Dartt's rig is in the background.



Racing kittens

*NER's Ken Payson
and Jerry Rigoli*



Tire Rack Street Survival Program proves to be a Great Success

by Trish & Jim Bucci

We should all be feeling a little safer on the roads these days. Why? Because MoHud and Patroon BMWCCA have trained 43 teen drivers in our Tire Rack Street Survival teen driving programs this year! At each event we are amazed to see the change from the rather sullen, grumpy-looking adolescents who have arrived at 8:00 in the morning – on a Saturday! – to the smiling drivers having fun putting their new skills to use in the afternoon. It is a gratifying transformation to witness. It is even more rewarding to know that we have provided some knowledge and proficiency that may save the life of one or more of those young drivers. And hopefully we really have made them better drivers to share the same roads that we are driving on.



A big thank you to Miguel Texiera and Dunkin' Donuts for supplying our morning goodies, and to Michelin, one of our national sponsors

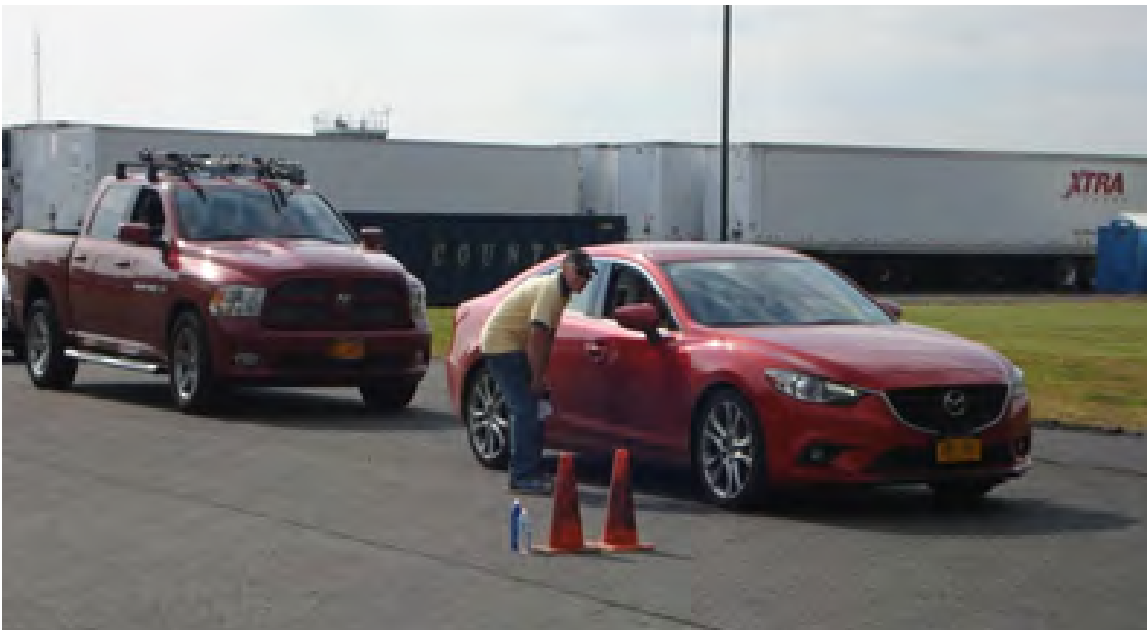


May 2014 students and instructors

As the local coordinators for Street Survival, Jim and I have many responsibilities in preparing for each event, beginning months prior to the actual event. Because we're so busy, we sometimes forget just how many people it takes to put on a Street Survival school and we probably forget to express our thanks to everyone who takes the time to help out. We want to do that now: thank you to the in-car instructors who take the time to learn the material as well as giving up a Saturday (or two) to sit in a car and teach those young drivers. Thank you to our classroom instructor for his willingness and dedication. Thank you to our registrar, who has a lot of behind the scenes work prior to each event, plenty of work the day of, and then gets into a car to instruct also. Thank you to our chief of instructors who works hard to recruit instructors, keep them informed, and then puts in many hours and much effort the day of the event to keep things organized and timely. Thank you to our Safety Steward for being there all day with, hopefully, nothing to do but stand around and watch. And thank you to the volunteers who show up the day of and do whatever we ask of them. We couldn't do this without you, and truly appreciate all of you! And we hope that you will come back and help next year.

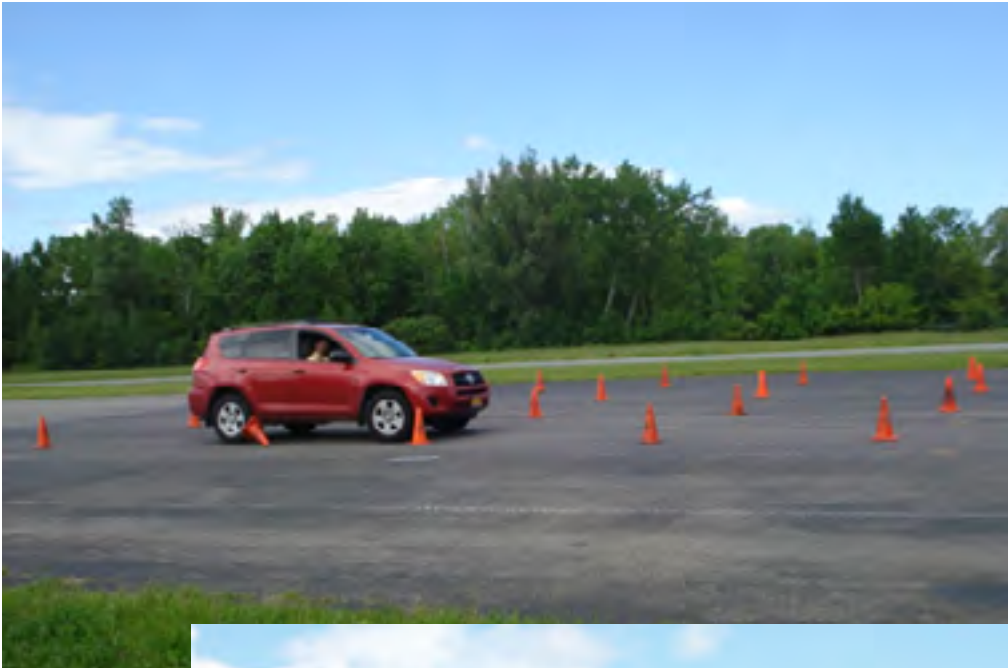


Instructors greeting their students during morning tech inspection



Drivers await their turn on the slalom

Looking ahead to next year, we intend to hold two events again and therefore we will be asking for much help. Please consider becoming an in-car instructor and take an hour over the upcoming colder, and potentially less busy, months to take the online instructor course (you can find it here: <http://lms2.learnshare.com/authenticate/login.brand.aspx?Z=33MuZ46%2f1EUssmEkDTOMJ3%2fsyaucxv21zdY5FEedIXw%3d&c id=122>) Or if you aren't interested in in-car coaching, please consider helping out the day of an event. This is a very rewarding and worthwhile program and we have grown it immensely over the last few years, please help us continue to make it happen.



Lane-change exercise



Getting loose on the skid pad



One of the many BMWs making its way through the course



Our awesome classroom instructor, Brian Bailey



**ANNUAL YEAR-END
MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET**
Saturday, December 6th 2014

Troy Elks Club

134 North Greenbush Rd. (Rt. 4), Troy, NY
(Just south of HVCC)

6:00pm Cocktails, cheese & crackers – Cash Bar
7:00pm Dinner

Choice of:

Chicken Cordon Bleu or Prime Rib - \$25
Vegetarian meal: Vegetable Lasagna - \$21

Dessert and coffee

\$5 Children's meal (age 8 & under)
Chicken tenders & fries

Kindly RSVP by Friday, November 21st

Mail your check payable to: MoHud SCCA
and include a note indicating number of attendees
and meal choice(s) to:

Eric Smith
7 Oneida Ct
Slingerlands, NY 12159

Questions?

Eric Smith ... EJEvo8@gmail.com ... 518-858-4082

Please Remember...

**If you are planning to attend the
MO-HUD YEAR-END MEETING
& AWARDS BANQUET**

We will again be supporting
**Bob Karl's Toy Drive
for Unity House**

Help support this worthy cause
by bringing a
new, unwrapped toy
to the banquet.

Thank you!

See you at

Troy Elks Club

134 North Greenbush Rd. (Rt. 4), Troy, NY
(Just south of HVCC)

October Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 7:40 pm.

Last month's meeting minutes accepted unanimously.

Membership - Will provided a summary of the current membership. The Region now has 455 members. Will indicated that he would like to pass the membership chair to another member. He no longer has the time necessary to commit to the function. Anyone interested in taking over the function should contact Will or Russ.

Knock Off - the monthly publication is emailed to all members. Lisa has indicated that there continue to be a fair number of invalid emails that are bounced back. Members should make certain that their email addresses are up to date.

Treasurer - the previous month's income and expenses were summarized.

Solo - 6th event of the season (at Fortitech) had 64 entrants. Last event of the season will be October 12th at the McCarty lot.

Street Survival - the school had 19 students and 20 instructors. One of student's parents contacted Mo Hud after the event and expressed their appreciation.

Rally - a "snowflake" rally sometime in February is being worked on.

PDX - no report.

Activities - January/February/March - working on a Kart event at Checkers Out in Johnstown.

Competition - Jack provided a summary of the recent Watkins Glen race. Oct 4 weekend is the New England/Mo Hud race at Thompson. The race will include a Club Racing Experience.

Old Business - Holiday Banquet - main dish choices that will be offered attendees is prime rib, chicken cordon bleu, and a vegetarian dish. Cost/member will be \$25. Mini Con is November 14 - 16 in Marlboro, MA.

New Business - Motion made and unanimously approved to reimburse 2014 National competitors who submit a Knock Off article \$200 to offset fuel costs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 8:50 pm.

Street Survival - Brian Bailey's tv monitor was damaged. The wind blew it over. This might be covered by the event insurance. The Region will research. Patroon Chapter has offered to help cover the cost of the monitor. If not covered by insurance, Mo Hud will split the cost with Patroon Chapter. Total cost is approximately \$415.

Officer Nomination - the following slate was offered - Russ Burkhardt, Regional Executive; Eric Smith, Asst. Regional Executive; Todd Boice, Treasurer; Ron Bass, Secretary; Bruce Kosakowski and Dick Stewart, Board of Directors.

Street Survival - money will be put into the budget in the event we need to purchase a tv monitor for next year's Street Survival. It will not be purchased until a there is a confirmed site for next year's school.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm.