

# The Mo-Hud

# Knockoff



NEWSLETTER OF THE MOHAWK-HUDSON REGION SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA (MoHud)  
**April 1, 2019**

## The REport

### I've decided to go B-Spec in 2019!

F-Production and Touring 4 was fun in the Honda, but I've got the ultimate barn-find race car that is a natural in B-Spec: a 1957 CyclopsII in original condition!

Aside from a blown engine or two, I've been happy with the old Honda, having once passed a competitor on the downhill at Lime Rock. So, the idea of a different car was nowhere in mind when Trish and I recently went to an old barn in Cropseyville owned by the Collyer brothers -- grandsons of some guys from Manhattan who used to collect magazines and newspapers. Anyway, a few weeks ago we saw Homer Collyer at Tommy's Pizza in downtown Brunswick, and he mentioned that he had a stash of old car magazines we might be interested in. Even with our own roots and relatives in Cropseyville, this was news to us.

Imagine our surprise when he led us to a lean-to (it originally had four walls, but the Collyers are not fixer-uppers) that was floor-to-tilted ceiling in old Road & Track magazines. Working our way around the piles, I spotted a Cyclops. When I evidenced surprise, Homer said that it came as a bonus with a 1957 R&T subscription, but he'd never figured out what to do with the car; it just served to keep the lean-to roof from completely falling down. I offered him \$100, but he refused. "As Cropseyittes you can just take it; but make sure you don't let the magazines fall on you." We came back the next week, and after four hours of moving piles of moldy R&Ts, we were finally able to push the car out into the open. Because a Cyclops weighs next to nothing, we were able to put it in the back of the pickup by just lifting it over the tailgate.

We've gotten the original V-1 scooter engine running, and now I'm looking for help with a roll cage. The first outing is planned for June 14<sup>th</sup> at, (where else?) the NER Regionals at Lime Rock.



<< From an owner's manual we found on E-Bay!

*For the good of the sport...*

*Jim Bucic*

*Regional Executive*

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## **Coming Events:** *Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote* *The droghte of March hath perced to the roote...*

- **April 1:** Monday. "Count" Eliot Zborowski died this day in 1903 when his Mercedes crashed at the La Turbie hill climb above present day Monaco (whose rock-face two MoHuders climbed on their 1999 honeymoon). His son Louis was later known for his home-built Chitty-Bang-Bangs powered by WWI aero engines.
- **April 1:** Monday. Hugh Troy Day in Ithaca, New York. Near the spot where Cam Argetsinger drove an MG for the first time, old-timers will gather to celebrate Hugh Troy's exploits, such as the-day-Hugh-used-an-elephant-foot-wastebasket-to-make footprints-on-snow-covered-Beebe-Lake-and-most-residents-stopped-drinking-Ithaca's-Beebe-Lake-water-until-the-word-got-out-as-to-who-was-behind-the-caper.
- **April 1:** Monday. Stan Mott's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, 33 days earlier.
- **April 3:** Wednesday, 7pm. MoHud grand membership meeting at the newly renovated Clubhouse. Directions and particulars in the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 KO.

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## **The Barn Find Dilemma- Restore or Ignore?**

The Mercedes Benz 230 CLK 1998 pictured here is headed for a local auction later this Spring. It's clearly a "barn find."

But what should the lucky high bidder do? Ignore its condition and let the patina define it? Or restore it to appropriate color and finish? Research suggests that the most accurate color match for this model would be Tractor Supply's "Majic Town & Country Latex Flat Paint," 5 gal., Classic Red SKU # 345008499.

Address your comments to the *letters to the editor* section of our FaceBook page.



### Solo Program Gets New Timing Gear

With recently awarded grant money in hand, the Solo Advisory Committee has ordered a high-tech replacement for MoHud's old timing gear.

The Committee has ordered a one-off Marc Newson borosilicate hourglass with a 2-minute capacity, marked with tenth-of-a-second lines for ease of scoring. As with any Marc Newson hourglass, traditional sand will be replaced by 249,999 "nanoballs." Each ball is .6mm in diameter, made with stainless steel coated in a copper skin (treated to be anti-corrosive).

Among the Committee's reasons for purchasing this particular gear is "the ability to chill out while watching the balls reset after each run" and, "it just looks so cool." Look for the new hourglass at Solo event number 3 this Summer.



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### Solving the Site Problem

Looking ahead to continuing problems in finding a good site for Solo Autocross, the Advisory Committee has done some creative thinking and come up with a solution that allows MoHud to run events in limited spaces, without noise objections from neighbors, and will be "green" as well - requiring no fossil fuels.

Beginning with Event 3 this season, MoHud Solo events will be run exclusively for walking bikes. The standard chassis is shown at right.

Classes will be organized according to inseam measurements, with seat and handlebar posts adjusted to match. For instance, inseams 27" to 30" will run with seats set at 24 ½ inches and handlebars set at 23 inches for good racing posture.

Full class tables and new event sites will be published in the next KO. In the meantime, the Committee is looking for several male and female professional tailors to serve as tech inspectors.



TireRack Solo Green-Spec Chassis  
-  
Shown without extension posts

### Drastic Changes in Store for Lime Rock

The "local control of racing" bill introduced by greenhorn Connecticut State Representative Maria Horn has been withdrawn after an early February public meeting was filled with Lime Rock supporters who testified as to the significant effect the racetrack has on the local economy. However, Lime Rock officials, wary of the constant attacks by the "no racing in my backyard" neighbors, have taken drastic action to quell the criticism once and for all.

Effective this June, the circuit will be reconfigured as a 20-lane slot-car track. Wiring has already begun.

To be renamed the "Scalextric Lime Park" for marketing purposes, the reconfigured track will be significantly quieter than the old automobile facility. Sound target with all 20 lanes running will be 45db, lower than a typical golf cart at 59db.

The cars will be based on 1/4 scale RC racers, adapted for electric motors. Scalextric is reportedly working hand in hand with SCCA's Road Racing Department to add an Appendix Q (for "Quiet") to the GCR in time for competitors to participate in test days during the Memorial Day weekend.

National Runoffs for the new "1/4 Class" will be run at Lime Rock for 2019 and 2020. Thereafter the Runoffs will move to other venues that are contemplating a similar change. Those courses include Palmer in the Northeast.

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### Groundhog Racing Photography

Groundhog Racing Photography has announced that in addition to its normal "speculative" coverage of racing events, it will now accept commissions for targeted coverage of teams and drivers.

Known for its presence at a number of national and international events, the Groundhog team is the original developer of the "head on, just about to hit the camera man" shot so popular with motoring magazines.

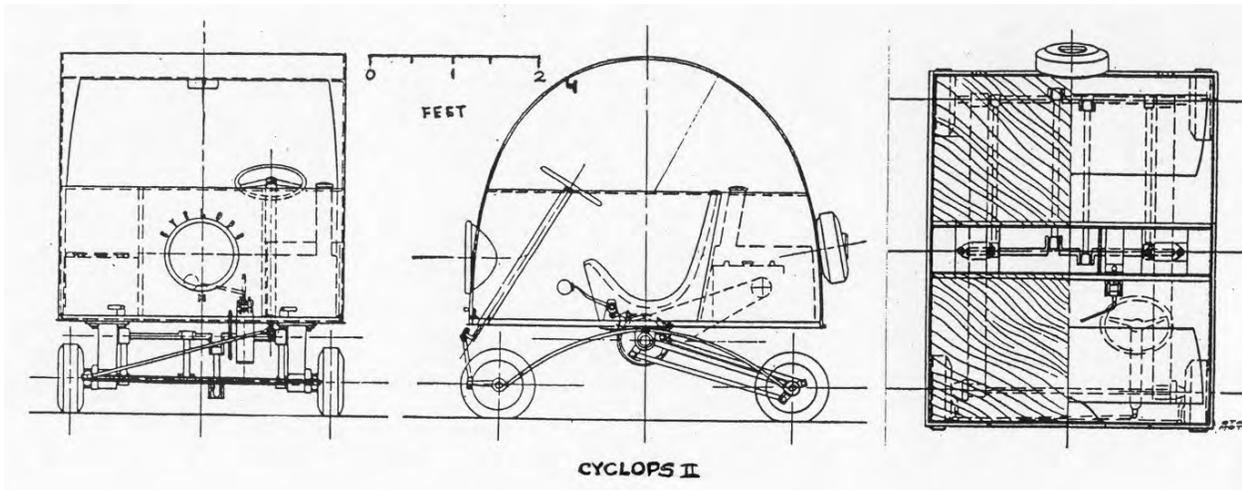
Among the technical advances being introduced in 2019, Groundhog will now offer live event streaming to smartphones. "Streaming by our fearless photogs is going to leave our competition and our fans speechless," according to Groundhog president, Phil Puxatawn. (Below, left: "Groundhog on Station." Right: "From the hole next to the Left-Hander, Lime Rock.")



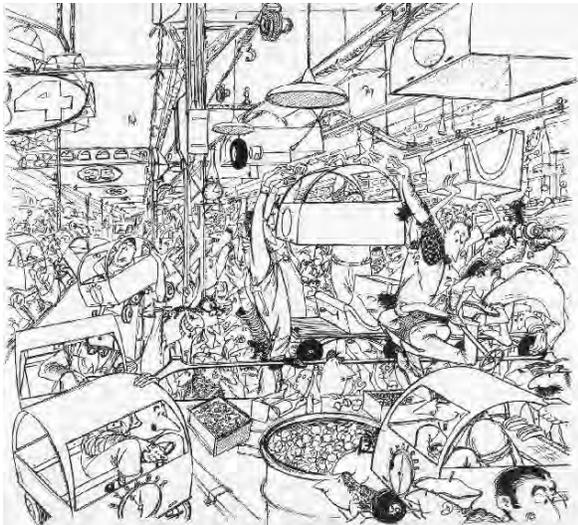
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# The Annual Hugh Troy April 1<sup>st</sup> Memorial Lecture

**Writer, cartoonist, Stan Mott** instantly became the *grand seignor* of automotive humor in March of 1957 when the otherwise staid and serious Road&Track published his rollicking story of the Cyclops II. A spoof of automotive trends and Italian high design of the period, the Cyclops was Neapolitan pizza washed down with Chianti from a straw-wrapped bottle, compared to an Alfa or Lancia, both conjuring up Milanese black squid risotto paired with a five-year-old Barbera d'Alba.



If you don't know the original story, the cart-size Cyclops was built in Italy from pilfered CinZano signs and powered by a 1.9 HP "single V" engine. Designed by Piero Martini, and imported into the US by T. Tom Meshingear and Trebor Crunchcog, a Cyclops II sold for just \$14.92 (that would be a less romantic \$13,364.89 in today's dollars).



**SECRET**

Cyclops XBS-V-1. The...  
**WORLD'S FIRST V-1 ENGINE!**

Some said "It couldn't be done."  
Some said "It was too stupid to do."  
Some said "We'll do it anyway."  
That's us!

Piero Martini  
Founder  
Automobili Cyclops SpA

This engine has a cylinder head so advanced that it is still classified—39 years after it's creation! And why is that? Hmm? See next genuine drawing.

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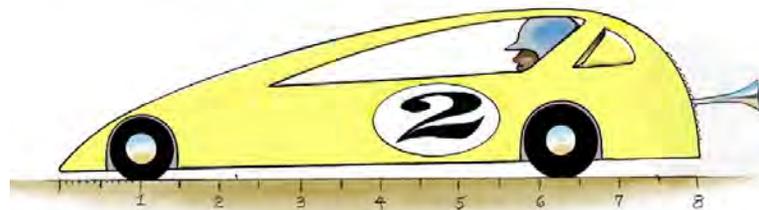
## Mott, cont'd...

**Up to that time**, automotive humor was low-key, exemplified by the gentle caricatures drawn by Gordon Crosby for Autocar and other Brit magazines. On this side of the pond, Stoker McGurk caricatures appeared in various hot-rodding mags, but again, the humor was low-key and visual. Mott added a narrative.

The enthusiasm for all things Cyclops resulted in a number of people building replicas, while Road&Track ran more than 20 followup tales over the years, including Cyclops' participation and wins in races such as LeMans, the Mille Miglia, and the Grand Prix of China. The LeMans winner, for example, used doors and the then-required "luggage" for aerobreaking, in the style of Mercedes' 300SLRs in 1955.



The fun continues, as the latest Cyclops is being prepped for record runs at Bonneville



To show there is lasting interest in Cyclops machines, the 2017 Pebble Beach concours featured seven Cyclops II replicas. None of the original 1957 models were present, although a rumor went through the champagne-sipping crowd that an original was said to be stored away in a barn somewhere in rural upstate New York.

And two years later, that brings us full circle to the interesting story you saw on page 1 of this issue...

# The Annual KO Coloring Page: do-it-yourself Cyclops

## CYCLOPS II

### CONSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print out on thick writing paper, 100g or more.
2. Cut around outline.
3. Cut slots on black lines at base of construction tabs with sharp pointed knife.
4. Bend floor and aft tabs on main body 90 degrees.
5. Bend main body in "U" shape and insert tabs in aft slots.
6. Fold tabs 90 degrees, fold sides down to main body, insert tabs. Bingo! You own a Cyclops.

