

The Mo-Hud

Knockoff

Newsletter of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, Sports Car Club of America

January 2020

The REport

Reminder

The Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet is Saturday, January 4, 2020 at the German-American Club. You have made your reservations, haven't you? If you haven't, check with Eric Smith to see if he is accepting late reservations.

General membership meeting

Please join us on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 for the first Mohud general membership meeting of the new year. Bench racing and dinner (on your own) at 6:30PM. Meeting begins promptly at 7:30PM. Gateway Diner, 899 Central Ave, Albany.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays and Happy Motoring in 2020.

For the good of the sport

- Jim Bucci

Regional Executive



Coming Events: January and...

- **January 4:** Saturday. 6pm. MoHud annual banquet and meeting. German-American Club, Albany. If you have not yet made your reservations, you might just squeeze in. Contact EJ at < EJEvo8@gmail.com > or voicemail at 518-417-2182 by Monday, December 30th.
- **January 12:** Sunday. Adirondack Motor Enthusiast Club may be holding ice racing on Lake Algonquin, Wells, New York. Check their website < icerace.com > to see if conditions are right (good ice, crisp air)...
- **January 16-19:** Thursday-Saturday. SCCA National Convention, Las Vegas. MoHud is sending the Buccis and Jim Garry. Bend their ear beforehand if there is something that you feel ought to be brought to the attention of the membership or the Wizards of Topeka.
- **January 25-26:** Saturday-Sunday. Wake up, they're racing again! Rolex 24 at Daytona! World Endurance Cup! Toyato-Gazoo versus Rebellion-Gibson! Stream the whole race! Starting at 1pm on Saturday via NBCSN on cable; check out their website for streaming details.
- **February 5:** Wednesday. 7:30pm. MoHud membership meeting at the Gateway Diner, 899 Central Avenue, Albany.

2nd Annual MoHud Runoffs

Once again the Annual Business meeting will be preceded by the MoHud Runoffs. All attendees are eligible.

New this year are the cars: well-known, highly desirable, Porsches, Mustangs, BMWs... all prepped for racing. And the course has been radically redesigned for closer competition.

Entrants will be assigned a car at random as they arrive. Cars may be swapped, as some people will want a certain model that someone else has. As the cars are prepped to be equal in performance, there is no special advantage to be gained.

The Runoffs are meant to be a family competition. Accordingly, prizes will be handed out for winners in 6-and-under, 7-12, 13-18, and adult brackets.

Get those competitive juices flowing!



Road Racing Report- January 2020



Jack Hanifan/Jim Bucci

2019 NEDiv E-Production Winner

George Kline is the 2019 NEDiv E-Production champion. Congratulations George.

2019 New York State Road Racing Championship (NYSRRC) class winners

Spec Miata	Evan Karl	1 st
Touring 4	Maclin Norray	2 nd

New classes added

SCCA's Summit Racing Equipment Road Racing program will see two new classes in 2020, one that combines existing cars into a new class, and the other created to invite a different "type" of racecar out to Sports Car Club of America events. Full details are at: <https://www.scca.com/articles/2013275-new-car-classing-and-eligibility-for-2020-scca-road-racing>

Northeast Conference 2020 U.S. Majors Tour Schedule

The Northeast Conference 2020 SCCA U.S. Majors Tour competition calendar has been released. A total of seven weekends, 14 races in all, make up the schedule that runs from April through July and visits seven different circuits, which is one more than the previous year's schedule. Full schedule at: <https://www.scca.com/articles/2013253-northeast-conference-2020-u-s-majors-tour-schedule>

Delayed Runoffs Report

From time to time the mothership's PR department overlooks some of the goings-on at their events. Fortunately, Greg Rickes has provided the KO with a picture of Tom Campbell in his GT-1 Corvette at a recent national Runoffs...
...Road Atlanta, 1990.

Sorry about the delay, Tom. Take an extra victory lap.



MoHud's 2019 Top-scoring Road Racers

George Kline: 2019 NEDiv E-Production champion.



Evan Karl: 1st - Spec Miata; 2019 New York State Road Racing Championship (NYSRRC)



Maclin Norray 2nd - Touring 4; New York State Road Racing Championship (NYSRRC)



George and Maclin's photos courtesy of James Ray, NER

Membership Report- December 2019

-Jim Garry Mohud Membership Chairman

< mhr.membership@gmail.com >

Mohawk Hudson Region has 371 members as of November 19th. In past membership reports I've noted that this range is a significant drop from previous months. I have now discovered that SCCA no longer offers automatic memberships to students taking part in the Tire Rack Teen Street Survival School, although they can receive a free membership if they request it. This explains the sudden loss of about 20 members last spring. And because we hold two TRSS events per year we can expect another similar loss when last Spring's batch of students drop off our roles.

Learning the cause of this membership loss is good news, but still doesn't account for the drop off from our high of 580 members in the spring of 2017. The region's Board of Directors and the membership chairman will continue to find ways to increase our membership. It's also something that all of us can help with by talking to friends and acquaintances about our club and the activities we enjoy. I found out about SCCA from a friend many years ago and was thrilled that such an organization existed. Had this friend not told me about the club, it might have been years before I stumbled over the existence of the Club.

We have no new members this month and one significant anniversary. Congratulations to **David Cromie** for his 35 years of membership in SCCA!



What's Behind You is not as Important as What's Beside You

-Guest Article by Ross Bentley, thanks to Jim Garry

< info@speedsecrets.com >

After all the years of coaching thousands of race drivers, including some elite-level pros, I get positive feedback about one thing more than anything else; and it's not what you might think. It's not the importance of the brake release. Not how to maintain mental focus. Not how to use one's vision. Not the super-trick cornering line. Not how to use data and video. Not what to do with the throttle. Not how to dial in the car's handling.

So, what is it? What has generated more comments than anything else? How to adjust and use one's mirrors. And this applies to driving on the street as much as on the track. In fact, it starts there, to build the mental programming.

If you can see the side of your own car in your side mirrors, they are not adjusted properly. Got it? After all, when was the last time your car ran into itself? Seriously, why do you need to see the side of your own car? You don't. And when you do, you're setting yourself up for missing someone else's car. In most vehicles, seeing its sides causes blind spots, and those blind spots don't need to be there.

Let's start with your street car. Sitting behind the wheel, look to your left-side mirror. Now, tilt your head until your left ear is over your left shoulder, and look into the mirror. Adjust it out until you can just barely see a sliver of the side of your car. Sit with your head up straight, look into the mirror, and you should now not be able to see the side of your car. Now do the same with the right-side mirror: tilt your head to the right, until your right ear is over your right shoulder, and look into the right-side mirror. Adjust it out until you can just barely see the side of your car, and it'll be set.

Doing this, you'll find that your rearview mirror is used just for that – looking directly to the rear – and the side mirrors are used for looking to the sides. Too many drivers use the side mirrors to look to the rear. And don't give me the excuse that you need them when backing up. That's what the rearview camera is for, that's what turning your body and looking over your right shoulder is for, or worst case, what tilting your head to check your side mirrors is for (which is easy at the low speed you're traveling when reversing).

There's an advantage to adjusting your side mirrors in this new way. You don't have to turn your head to do a big shoulder check when changing lanes – a shoulder check that takes away your view of what's in front of you. Sure, this is going to take a little time to get used to, but it's a habit you need to build (read what Bryan had to say about habits, above).

With blindspot detection systems on modern cars, this seems to be less of an issue, but it's still worth having your side mirrors adjusted properly. If nothing else, it's building the right habits.

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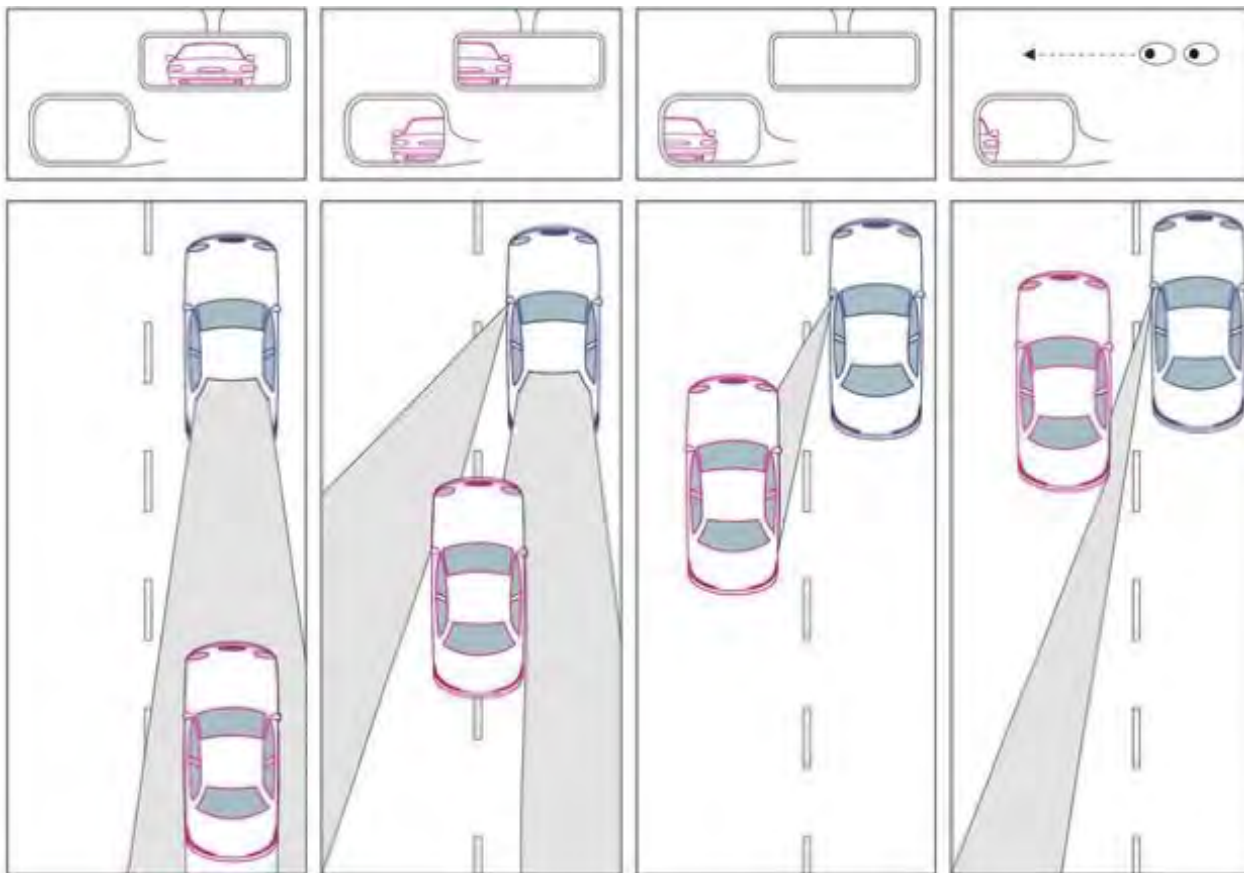
Mirrors, cont'd...

What about on the race track? Same thing. But with a helmet, head and neck restraint (you use one, right?!), and perhaps a window net and wrap-around seat, your ability to shoulder check before moving to the inside in a braking zone or turning into a corner is restricted even more. That's why it's critical that you adjust your side mirrors to look to the sides. Remember, it's more important to know what's beside you than it is to know what's behind you. Most crashes on the track between two cars happen side-to-side, and not like a rear-ender on the street.

So, what about keeping track of what's behind you? Yes, that's important, but not as important as what's beside you. So, use your rearview mirror for that. If you don't have one, or the view is severely restricted, then and only then do you use your side mirrors. Still, your side vision is most important. And here's the thing: when looking to the rear, you usually have a bit more time to tilt your head to look behind you. When turning into a corner, you don't have time to tilt your head to see if someone has tried to dive down the inside to out-brake you. You need to be able to see that with a glance.

Adjusting and using your mirrors is a compromise. But in the trade-off, always give the advantage to what's beside you over what's behind you.

Ross



Membership Meeting Minutes...

December 4, 2019; Gateway Diner, Albany. Call to order - 7:30 pm

Meeting minutes that were published in the November Knock Off were approved unanimously.

Knock Off - reminder that deadline for article submission is December 15th.

Treasurer - previous month's income and expenses summarized.

Solo - Advisory Committee met recently. Tom Moeller has resigned from the committee due to other outside interests. The committee is continuing to look for an alternative site to the Berkshire Mall venue.

Rally - no report.

Activities - we are still in need of an Activities Chair. Eric happened to see a Saratoga Brew Tour bus. He suggested this may be a possibility for a future activity.

Membership - there are presently 366 members with three new members since September. Jim Garry summarized recent member anniversaries.

Competition - no report.

Old Business - Greg Rickes has drafted a proposed model for a Mo Hud business card and shared it with Eric. More work needs to be done on the graphics. Awards Banquet will be on Saturday, January 4th, at the German American Club. Reservations are currently being accepted.

New Business - none.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Note: A number of gift toys were brought to the meeting for delivery to Bob Karl's shop in Troy the next day in keeping with the tradition of helping Unity House distribute "wants" and "needs" to several hundred youngsters and teens each Christmas.



Mo-Hud Officers and Contacts

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Richard Welty: See his Facebook page

Chief, Flagging & Comm.

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Open. Contact Jim Bucci if interested ...

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For more information about the Mohawk-Hudson Region SCCA, and membership in the Sports Car Club of America, go to < <http://www.mohud-scca.org> >

Membership meetings of the Mohawk-Hudson Region SCCA are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, excepting July and August. See the "Coming Events" page of the KnockOff, or MoHud's Facebook page for meeting place and time.



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