



# PIT STOP



## OCTOBER 2022

### The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

P.O. BOX 2242, SANTA ROSA, CALIF. 95405

Volume 59-10

#### Autocross at the Ukiah Fairgrounds Track

**Saturday, October 22, 2022**

Set up 8 am, Entry 9 am, Close 6 pm

**\$60 ESCA MEMBERS \$70 GUEST DRIVERS**

The Autocross link will be sent out by Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Please send all guest driver/staff names and emails to the [Secretary](#).



**ESCA Meetings are  
In-Person / ZOOM  
October 4 and 18**

7:00 p.m.

Round Table Pizza, 1791 Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa

If you can't make the meeting, you can attend by ZOOM. The link will be sent out the Sunday before the meeting.



#### Hill House Tour

**Saturday & Sunday**

**Oct. 15 & 16**

**Start at Kaffe Mocha 9:45 a.m.**

**Leave at about 10:00 a.m.**

Meet at Kaffe Mocha at **9:45 a.m.** Leave at **10 a.m.**

It will take us about 2 hours to Mendocino. We'll stop at the Navarro winery for bathroom break. We have a check-in-time at The Hill House at 4 p.m.

So for those who want to join ZONC at the BBQ, will go straight to Fort Bragg - email [Marci](#) for lunch details.

Let's meet back at the Hill House by 4 p.m. to discuss the evening's plans.

On Sunday we'll breakfast before heading home. However, if you want to stay there are lots of things to do (see [page 8](#)).

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## From the Cockpit

By Bruce Bentz



A slow summer for [ESCA](#), I don't have much to report. Looking forward to autocross up at the Ukiah Fairgrounds on [October 22](#). This will be our last autocross for the season; come out and show some support for the club.

This month we ran a tour out to the Coast Guard station in Bodega Bay and by all accounts everyone had a good time. A big thank you to Michael Bundy for running this tour. I overheard Bob Jenkins saying that the last time the club went to the Coast Guard station on a tour was back in 1965. Frank Jurin posed for Bob to take his picture in his GTO on the dirt road coming down a mountain. To make it an action shot, some folks crouched behind the car throwing up dust in the air to make it appear to be roaring down the road.

Update on our Sonoma County autocross site: We've submitted our proposal and are waiting for a response.

If only the construction workers knew what a temptation they are giving me, placing a cone right outside my driveway...

You can always reach me at [blbentz@yahoo.com](mailto:blbentz@yahoo.com)

Did you know that you can download the [ESCA](#) Constitutional By-Laws from the [ESCA website](#), under Membership?

### Come to a Meeting or Attend by ZOOM

We need members to run for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Ex-Officio\*. (\*Our Ex-Officio Officer must have held a Board position with-in the last four (4) years.)

We need members to be able to vote.

So, if you're one the 100 Regular members and are eligible (you're an active member and have been a club member for 6 months) to hold an office and to vote - come to a meeting to keep your membership active.

And, if you're one of the 60 Associate members, you may attend two meetings in a row, petition the Board and change your membership from Associate to Regular status (see paragraph above for benefits).

We will be voting electronically again this year in late November.

## HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS...

Donnie Bamberg

Chris Brazell

Stephanie Brazell

Michael Bundy

Julie Etchell

Jared Fortman

Blain Hendrix

Carson Kljavin

Craig LaMothe

Lilly Mugele

John Perlis

Joline Roell

Chris Soos

Nikki Southern

Stuart Sperring

*If you're not listed – it's because the Editor does not have your month of birth. And you're wished a Happy Birthday!*

## ESCA Election Process

October is the start of the [ESCA](#) election process, with the appointment of a three-person [nomination committee](#) at the [first meeting in October](#).

The nomination committee will call or email eligible members to obtain permission to put them on the slate for nomination to the Board.

The nomination committee will present their slate to the membership at the first meeting in November and then additional nominations can be presented at regular meetings.

To be eligible to run for an elective office, a person must be a Regular Active Member, and have been in the club for over 6 months. The minimum age for an elective officer is eighteen.

If you have never been an elected Officer and would like to find out what it is all about, please call or talk to any current Officer.

Serving on the Board is a great way to get more involved in [ESCA](#) and help out your club. (Contact the [ESCA Secretary](#) if you need to know your membership status.)



## To The Coast Guard Station September 17



By Michael Bundy with photos by Bob Jenkins

The tour ended up being small in terms of participation but that was a blessing when we all tried to cram onto the rescue boat. I recruited a couple of locals to fill out the ride, because it's always cool to have a group of nice cars together. We left the parking lot at Round Table Pizza on time and traffic was really easy for most of the tour. Surprisingly we encountered very few bicycles on our way. We are so fortunate that the county has been repaving and repairing our rural roads and they were all in excellent shape. The exception was Morelli Lane, which is typical of the old patched roadways, but is such a great drive that it is well worth trying it. We were allowed to enter Doran



Beach without paying the day use fee since we were parking at the Station. We were greeted by Boatswains Mate Harrison Rabelais and given a tour of the rescue boat, he is the one who



(continued on [page 4](#))



## To The Coast Guard Station September 17

(continued from [page 3](#))

actually pilots it on his shift, so he knew everything about it's operation. Afterwards we toured the galley and were treated to a power point presentation by Boatswains Mate Kolton Krag who was the officer of the day in charge of the shift. I must confess I was in the Air Force and don't understand any of the rank designations. Throughout the day we were met with nothing but smiles and welcoming gestures by all the personal at this station.



Afterwards the group reconvened at Ginocchio's Kitchen for lunch and a well needed refueling.

Hopefully, the Marine Lab will be coming next year.





## 1965 ESCA Tour to Bodega Bay Coast Guard Station

The Coast Guard Station at Bodega Bay opened in 1963 and ESCA went on a tour of the station sometime in 1965.



The station as it looked in 1965.



Members who were on the tour: Bob Jenkins in a 1962 Volvo 544, Frank Jurin in a 1965 GTO, John McNulty in a Triumph TR 4. Also attending were unknown members in a Datsun 1600 and a MGB.



ESCA and guest cars on the 2022 Tour to the Station.

## Action Photos 1965 Style By Bob Jenkins



This is what Bruce Bentz was talking about in his Chairman article on [page 2](#). You can not see the people behind the GTO throwing dirt in the air, but you can see Frank Jurin leaning to make it look like the car is really going fast. My camera at the time was a Kodak Brownie Bull-Eye, which is a long way from my current Cannon 90D, in quality of pictures and cost.

Notice the ESCA car badge in the GTO's grill.



The current station in 2022



## September 24, 2022 Autocross

WOW! What a fun day, [ESCA](#) held It's 6th autocross of the season.

After a 2 week delay due to heat and low turnout, we finally got it in the books.

We did have a lower then expected turn out but with a bit of a break in the heat and a simplified course provided by John Castellano we were able to run safely and had a ton of fun!!

With the lower turn out we decided to take a stab at gridding at the south end of the paddock. We had plenty of room and should be able to do this with twice the cars in the future.

The south gridding provides us with shade and easy access to the rest rooms, the low turnout provided us with 10 runs and done by 2:30 pm.

In attendance were the usual suspects as well as some faces from the past Keith Miller, Abel Perez and Michael Cardozo ( welcome back guys).

*Photos on this page by Abel Perez*



*Continued on [page 7](#)*



## September 24, 2022 Autocross

Continued from [page 6](#)

## at the Ukiah Fairgrounds Oval Track

	Class	#	Driver	Car Model	Raw Time	Diff.	From 1st
1	x	135	Charley Sawyer	2022 Exomotive Exocet R	51.436	0.000	0.000
2	GTB-S	19	Benjamin Bettega	2017 Ford Focus RS	51.459	0.023	0.023
3	GTC-S	162	Mike McCrory	1995 Honda Civic	52.095	0.636	0.659
4	GTB-S	30	Daniel Lassen	2015 Ford Focus ST	52.358	0.263	0.922
5	GTB-S	0	Thomas Buggia	1991 Toyota Mr2 turbo	52.875	0.517	1.439
6	GTB-S	95	Brent Werder	2003 Nissan 350z	53.107	0.232	1.671
7	GTC-R	45	Steve Rossiter	1983 Mazda RX7	53.197	0.090	1.761
8	GTB-S	2	Blain Hendrix	2007 Porsche Cayman	53.223	0.026	1.787
9	GTB-R	27	Craig Hammond	1983 Mazda rx7	53.432	0.209	1.996
10	GTA-S	127	Michael Cardozo	Audi R8	53.720	0.288	2.284
11	GTC-S	3	John Castellano	1960 Volkswagen Bug	54.249	0.529	2.813
12	GTC-R	9	John Schliemann	1995 Mazda Miata	55.382	1.133	3.946
13	GTB-S	14	Martin Johns	2011 BMW 128i convertible	55.517	0.135	4.081
14	GTC-R	22	Keith Miller	Mazda RX7	61.082	5.565	9.646

A bit of course description: we left the start box going north in the paddock, did a 3-cone, optional slalom to, an optional, pivot cone, and back through the 3-cone slalom, two hard rights, and onto the main track, there John set up a non-optional 7-cone banked slalom to the "front" stretch, then thorough 3-off-set gates on the south end banking and around again, for a second lap of the same, then slight left, through the lights, and a nice long slow down zone, to an awaiting flag man, who, after the track was clear, released you to the shaded grid.

Charlie Sawyer took his first top time of day with his newly built Exoskeleton car, followed VERY closely behind by Ben Bettega in his Focus RS, and Mike McCrory and his little Honda-that-could, rounding out the top three spots.

If you missed this one be sure NOT to miss the **October date as it will be a double points day!**

Thanks to all who helped and came out,  
Craig Hammond

*Photos on this page by Blain Hendrix*



# Discover Mendocino on Oct. 15 & 16

By Mary Ellen Rozmajzl, ZONC,  
Edited by Marci Jenkins for [ESCA](#)

Mendocino County - with its rugged coast line, redwoods, wineries, state parks and seriously good food – is the perfect destination for [ESCA's](#) Fall Run, October 15-16, 2022. Come join us. [RSVP](#) to Marci [secretary@empiresportscar.org](mailto:secretary@empiresportscar.org)

We'll meet at the Kaffee Mocha parking lot (397 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA) at 9:45 am, and head out at 10:00 am.

Our route is pretty straight-forward, traveling up Highway 101 to Cloverdale. Then it's a quick jog on N. Cloverdale Boulevard to Oat Valley Road (also known as Highway 128 and passed Boonville becomes Anderson Valley Highway ). We'll stop at the Navarro Vineyards and Winery for a break. The final leg begins at the Navarro River Bridge, where Highway 128 joins Highway 1, heading north to Mendocino County.

"The ZONC President Linda Williams will be hosting a pot luck BBQ at her Fort Bragg home. Linda has plenty of room for cars and even more room for lunch guests on her spacious deck and back yard that adjoin the tree-laden Mitchell Creek. Mountain lions, and coyotes and bears. Oh, my! (Seriously... Linda has spotted, and video captured some pretty remarkable, wild neighbors roaming her property.)

Getting back to lunch, Linda suggests guests can bring side dishes and desserts. She will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages and water." Linda and ZONC have graciously invited [ESCA](#) to join the BBQ. We will need to bring a side dish or dessert. Please let Marci know by [10-5-22](#) what you're bringing.

"Those planning on a one-day trip to Mendocino will still have time after lunch to visit the coast or head inland to one of the several state parks or other attractions before returning home.

Anyone planning to stay overnight and return home on the 16<sup>th</sup> should check out [ESCA's](#) recommendation of The Hill House Inn ([www.hillhouseinn.com](http://www.hillhouseinn.com)) in the village of Mendocino. It's offering a "one-night" special rate for [ESCA](#) and ZONC members who mention [ESCA](#). Marci suggests you book soon, as a limited number of rooms are being held for that weekend.

Now that you have a room and an extra day, how about some things to do?

Within walking distance of the Hill House Inn is "downtown" Mendocino where you can peruse the book shops,

galleries, cafes and boutiques selling local goods. Head west a few blocks and you're in the Mendocino Headlands State Park ([www.mendoparks.org/mendocino-headlands](http://www.mendoparks.org/mendocino-headlands)) with its bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Goat Island. (The goats are long gone.) Walk just south of town and dip your toes where the Big River meets the Pacific Ocean in Mendocino Bay. (Might be a bit chilly in October, but still...)

Nautical history buffs will enjoy the Point Cabrillo Light Station, [www.pointcabrillo.org](http://www.pointcabrillo.org) And horticulture enthusiasts will enjoy the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, [www.gardenbythesea.org](http://www.gardenbythesea.org)

For additional "nature experiences," head two miles north of Mendocino to Russian Gulch State Park ([www.meetmendocino.com/russian-gulch-state-park](http://www.meetmendocino.com/russian-gulch-state-park)) where you'll find everything from headlands views to a fern canyon to a beautiful 36 foot waterfall. Take note, there is an \$8 cash entry fee per car. And make sure you bring layers of clothing for your outdoor activities. Fog is a constant companion along the Mendocino Coast in the mornings though it typically burns off through the day.

Probably the most unusual beach along this part of California's coast is Glass Beach ([www.californiabeaches.com/beach/glass-beach](http://www.californiabeaches.com/beach/glass-beach)) in MacKerricher State Park. That's about a 15 minute drive north of Mendocino in Fort Bragg. Glass Beach doesn't look like much from above, but once you take the narrow path down to the sand you'll realize it's actually made up almost entirely of "seaglass" of all different shapes and colors. (Truth...It's the result of Mother Nature "cleaning up" after humans.)"

Come with [ESCA](#) and enjoy Fall in Northern California. Join us for our [October 15-16, 2022](#), Mendocino Run.





## Victor's Journey (A Mini's Story)

### Part 1 of 3

by Ron Cox

### The Journey Starts

There are times in my life when I am not aware that I have started a new journey and for sure I have no idea where it will take me. But it always starts with the first step. During these last three years I have been exposed to, for me, a new automobile experience-**Vintage Car Racing**. Since 2006 while dealing with maintenance and locating hard to find parts for my '67 Yellow Mini, I made the acquaintance of Mike Kearney of Seven Enterprises and Don Racine of Mini Mania. Each of them has over 40 plus years experience at all levels of racing Vintage Minis. Being around them was infectious!!! I already had the Mini addiction. Now It was only going to get a lot more intense.

### The Car

I needed to find an original Mini with documented vintage racing history. I asked Mike and Don because they know everyone in the Mini world. So in Oct 2019 my search focused in on a Mini in Pennsylvania. The Mini had been totally sorted out and was ready to race. A 1275 cc. '65 Mk1 Austin Mini Cooper S. Included in the sale price was a '20 ft enclosed trailer, a spare Cooper S motor, many misc parts, wheels/tires, a log book with race history going back to 1976, and a "Family Name"-Victor. YES, this Mini came with a name and I was required to carry on the tradition. (this will require too long a story that I will save for another day). Forget the fact that I had no experience or idea how to do side-by-side racing. All I knew was I had the complete package and I was "open for business". However, paying for Victor was easier than getting him shipped from the East Coast. Starting with the worst winter in history and add CoVID 2019 and you can understand why I did not take delivery until April 2021.

### Getting Experience

Obviously, when you start from the absolute bottom, it will take years to become a competent driver. But again, I needed to take the first step. Prior to ever driving on a track I knew I needed to study track maps and watch virtual track walks with Ross Bentley @ Speed Secrets. Mike and Don suggested the 3 of us schedule a test and tune day at Thunderhill Raceway Park, Willows, CA in May. Mike was my Crew Chief, and Don was my Co Driver. Once Don had a chance to take Victor out for a

shakedown run, and returned with a "Thumbs Up", I was given my "Marching Orders". Decked out in my brand new Sparco driver suit/gloves/shoes, full face Bell helmet, Hans Device, and ear plugs I looked like a "real race car driver" as I crawled in "V" and buckled up.

Continue next month



photo by Mike Kearney



photo by Carol Cox



photo by Monterey Historic's photographer



photo by Carol Cox



American Autocross Series  
<http://www.americanautocross.com/schedule/>  
 SFR SCCA  
[https://www.sfrautox.com/?page\\_id=128](https://www.sfrautox.com/?page_id=128)  
 Northwest Hill Climb Association  
 (541) 772-7314  
[www.nhahillclimb.org](http://www.nhahillclimb.org)

## ESCA's Club Store

ESCA's club store can be accessed by going to the ESCA website at [www.empiresportscar.org/club-store](http://www.empiresportscar.org/club-store)

The store is through CAFE PRESS. ESCA does not have a markup on the merchandise. If you have any questions please contact the ESCA Secretary, at  
[secretary@empiresportscar.org](mailto:secretary@empiresportscar.org)

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### PIT STOP ADVERTISING RATES:

ESCA members: 1/2 price on below, except, Classified text is FREE. \$1.50 PER MONTH FOR PHOTO; ROOM PERMITTING.

Classified	\$2.00	per month	5 lines max.
Business Card	\$3.00	per month	3 1/2" X 2"
1/4 Page	\$4.00	per month	3 1/2" X 5"
1/2 Page	\$8.00	per month	7 1/2" X 5"
Full Page	\$16.00	per month	7 1/2" X 10"



# ESCA 2022 Calendar

## OCTOBER

- 01 & 02 CSRG Charity Historic Car Races  
**04 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**  
**Nomination Committee Selected**  
 05, 19, 26 Wednesday night Drags & Drift (SR)  
 08-09 RSCC Autocrosses in Eureka [www.rsc.net](http://www.rsc.net)  
**15-16 ESCA Mendocino Hill House Inn Overnight Tour**  
**18 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**  
**22 Tentative ESCA Autocross at Ukiah**  
 29 United Cerebral Palsy Car Show Petaluma

## NOVEMBER

- 01 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**  
 02, 09 Wednesday night Drags & Drift (SR)  
**15 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**

## DECEMBER

- 03 ESCA's Banquet Count finalized**  
 03 TRC Charity Rallye [therallyclub.org](http://therallyclub.org)  
 03-04 24 Hours of Lemons at (SR)  
**06 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**  
**10 ESCA Annual Banquet & Meeting,**  
**Installation of Officers.**  
**TBA ESCA Annual Christmas Lights Tour**  
**(LS) Laguna Seca Raceway (SR) Sonoma Raceway**

*Check websites and Facebook for the latest information to learn if the events are going to happen as scheduled.*

For Bay Area Rallyes check out the  
**RALLYE CLUB WEBSITE INFORMATION**  
<http://www.therallyclub.org>



## Please Welcome New Member ...

**Michael Bryant - Volvo 544**

## \*\*\*\*\*Save the Date\*\*\*\*\*

**December 10, 2022**

**ESCA's Toy Drive ~ Installation of Officers ~**  
**Banquet ~ Annual Meeting ~**

## ESCA Member Profiles Wanted

Let your fellow **ESCA** members get to know you better!  
 We're asking all members who would like to write a short profile about themselves and their car(s) to send it in.

You can write about the things you have done to your car, the **ESCA** events you like to attend, when you joined **ESCA**, and/or your hobbies other than **ESCA**.

Please hold your article to no more than one page.

Also include a picture of yourself and your car and send to the Pit Stop editor at:

[thebeard@sonic.net](mailto:thebeard@sonic.net)

## Autocross Helmet Requirement

Autocross helmets **MUST** be  
 Snell Approved **2010** or Newer for all events.

## Cars & Coffee All FREE events

### 2nd Sunday of the Month

- Santa Rosa at Coddington Parking Lot
- Sonoma at 19632 8th St E

### 3rd Sunday of the Month 8 am – 10 am

- Petaluma at 389 S McDowell Blvd

### Last Sunday of the Month 8 am – 10 am

- Rohnert Park at 459 Rohnert Park Expressway