



PIT STOP



DECEMBER 2022

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

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

Volume 59-11

Christmas Lights Tour 12-17-22

Start location will be emailed to you.

Please RSVP to

thebeard@sonic.net

ESCA Meetings are In-Person / ZOOM December 6

7:00 p.m.

Round Table Pizza, 1791 Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa

Sorry but the December 10th Banquet meeting will not be on ZOOM.

Pit Stop Cover

This Pit Stop cover was drawn by club member,
Sharon Lewis in the 1990s/

ESCA ANNUAL MEETING AND PARTY

Saturday, December 10, 2022

11:00 am to 2:30 pm

RSVP by 12-2-2022

\$20 per person

Cattlemen's in Montgomery Village

2400 Midway Dr. in Santa Rosa

* Toy Drive

* Installation of 2023 Officers

* Review of 2022 * AutoX

See flyer on [page 3](#) for details

Current ESCA
Membership Total:161

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From the Cockpit

By Bruce Bentz



From the Cockpit... a note of gratitude.

I have decided to stand down from my role as Chairman and step away from the board at least for a while. I've served two years in service to the club and I want to thank everyone who has helped keep it alive. Without a doubt, it has been a challenging time for all of us in many ways. Social activities, social interaction, group participation has all changed for the worse in the time that I've been on the board. Not just for the club but for society as a whole. We are living in different times than 2019, and it feels like a different era, most probably because it was. Remember when it was OK to blow out candles on a birthday cake? I want to send a big thank you to all the folks that make this club run, most notably Marci with her tireless work as secretary. Without you nothing in the club would run as smoothly as it does. Thanks too, to Charley; without his hard work all year our autocross would be a smidgen of what it is. I'd also like to thank Craig, John and Steve: it's been great working with you and thanks for all you do for **ESCA**. Last but not least, Bob and Claudia, your work keeps us going and I don't want it to be a thankless task; thank you. It has been my honor to serve the club and work with such great people and I'll see you out on the oval next season.

Warm regards,
Bruce

Autocross Report

The leaves are changing colors, the temperatures are dropping, and another Autocross season is in the books. We had a few changes to deal with over the year, with shifting site locations, and learning how to utilize the circle track at the fairgrounds to maximize the unique layout. Over the year we had our regular autocross attendees and some new/returning faces to fill out the events.

I want to give a huge thanks to the members who come out to help and make our events fun and consistent. Craig

(continued on [page 7](#))

From the Autocross Chairman

Hello ESCA'n's!

Just a note that we plan on putting together a little winter go-kart "series" to help bridge the gap between our regular autocross events. More information will be coming soon!

Also, check out the Press Democrat's article about **ESCA** member Craig Merrilees' win in the first ever **NHRA EV class**! Next time you bump into him, be sure to congratulate him!

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/cutting-edge-of-drag-racing-windsor-man-wins-first-ever-electric-vehicle-n/>

Thanks! ~ Charley Sawyer

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS...

Doug Batt
Bruce Bentz
Sam Brabo
Isaac Brabo
Kathleen Brady
Michael Bryant
Ian Cook
Nick Doyle
Kelly Fortman
Jake Hammond
Kenneth Huang
Jonathan Jung
Karen Larson
Dan Lassen
John Magnoli
Joe Masters
Abel Perez
Forrest Salmans
Brianna Wick

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

Autocross Helmet Requirement

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



Saturday Brunch, at 11:00AM December 10, 2022



✳️ Annual Meeting ✳️ Toy Drive
✳️ Installation of Officers

Cost: \$20.00 per ESCA Member (Value of \$32)
Guests will be \$20.00 per person.



*Please bring
a new
unwrapped
toy*



Reservations **MUST be received by, December 2, 2022.**

- Please **1.** Pay at a November Meeting, **or,**
2. pay on MSR at msreg.com/Brunch2022 (small service fee inc.) **or,**
3. make checks* payable to [ESCA](#) and mail to
P.O. Box 2242, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
* if mailing check please send [ESCA Secretary](#) an email letting her know.

Member Name: _____ \$ 20.00

Member/Guest Name: _____ \$ 20.00

Total \$ _____



Long, Long Ago in Pit Stop December 1964

By Bob Jenkins

The cover listed Ron Nord as the Pit Stop editor of Volume II, Issue IX.

In an editorial Ron stated he had laid aside his poison pen in respect for all this aforementioned "good cheer and best wishes." He wished all members BEST Holiday Greetings.

Under Coming Events was a December 1; **ESCA** meeting which was the last chance to put members up for an **ESCA** officer position. Also listed was an **ESCA** Xmas Party and officer Installation on December 12, at the Coddington Saddle and Sirloin.

Under Past Events was an article about a 12-car November tour lead by Bill Bushnell, where there was some suspicion that the tour leader did not know where he was going. The route went over to Calistoga and up to the geysers and down some horse trail that led to Cloverdale. Then out to Stewarts Point before coming back to Santa Rosa.

A To: the Editor. From Bludgeoned Contestant. Subject: 2nd Annual Trick or Treat Rallye. Dear Sir: Per your request, submitted below is outline our (wife, dog, and myself experience on subject. An A through J were the list of things that writer stated had happened on the rallye. ending with thanks for an excellent job by rallymasters Bill Bushnell and Larry MacDonald.

A page of Nominations showed Chairman: Prentiss Monson, Vice Chairman: Bob Jenkins and Larry Wilkerson, Secretary: Judy Standard, Treasurer: Bev Stoddard and Retta Wilkerson, Special Events: Bill Bushnell and Jon McNulty, Entertainment Carol McNulty, Publicity: No nominations. A Chairman's Note was that there was some attempt to divorce the job of editing Pit Stop from the publicity committee.

A Trick or Treat Rallye Results sheet showed 57 cars ran the event of which 17 did not finish.

ESCA 2022 Calendar DECEMBER

- 02 **ESCA's BANQUET COUNT FINALIZED**
- 03-04 24 Hours of Lemons at (SR)
- 06 **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 10 **ESCA Annual Banquet & Mtg, Installation, Awards**
- 10 TRC Charity Rallye - therallyclub.org
- 17 **ESCA Annual Christmas Lights Tour**
JANUARY
- 03 **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 17 **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**

(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.

ESCA & Lemons Racing

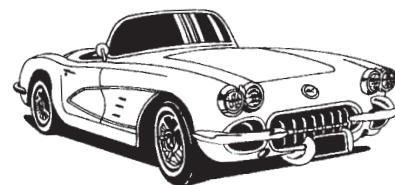
By Charley Sawyer

Since I know quite a few of our members have participated in "24 Hours of Lemons" races (or similar endurance events) in the past, I wanted to extend an invitation that was presented to me by the local Community College here in Ukiah.

The Mendocino College Auto Tech club has a late 80's Mercedes Benz Turbo Diesel that they are looking to make into a **Lemon's Spec race car in 2023**. The club approached me and asked if any of our members would want to drive with the team once the car is built. Including myself, we already have a few interested **ESCA** members.

If you would also like to join in, please email me at charleyj.sawyer@gmail.com and I'll fill you in! All you would need is your individual entry fee and safety gear. Just be aware you will need to have a full fire safety suit and equipment (shoes, socks, suit, gloves, head sock and helmet) all up to the Lemons safety requirements found on their website:

<https://24hoursoflemons.com/prices-rules/#safety>



ESCA Members in the Field



Tamara & Dan Woolever



Eric Siedentopf



Chuck Banks



Ed Biglin



Dan Lassen and Mike McCrory



Andrew Ling



Sebastian Herbst



Martin Franusich



SEMA

Article By Gary O'Connor-Photos by Terry O'Connor

SEMA! That acronym gets a car guy's heart beating like a 1960's Sears toy catalog. For those who aren't familiar with it, the SEMA convention (Specialty Equipment Marketing Association) is a yearly exhibit of all the latest high performance, custom, electronic, audio, wheels, tires and anything else you can think of related to cars. The four halls at the Las Vegas Convention Center (the largest in the U.S.) have over one million square feet of floor space and it was full. There were more trailers and displays outside in the parking lots along with two drifting areas.

Most attendees take the monorail from one of a dozen hotels along the line. They're not as convenient as it sounds since the rail line is a long way from the hotel and when everyone wants to be at the show at 9AM the lines waiting to ride it are oppressive. My first day (Tues) was spent walking around trying to figure out where I was and what displays were where.



I finally got a map and started to put a plan together for the remaining days for us and another Santa Rosa couple.

Terry went with me on Wednesday and I was much better organized. We went through a couple halls before watching the Bonneville High School Auto Shop class (near Salt Lake City) compete in the engine rebuild competition. Six students tear down a complete small block Chevy engine, which would run with gas and oil, to the bare block leaving only the cam and crank in place. Then they have to reassemble it with the correct valve lash and torque on the bolts, correct timing and firing order. Their first run (of four) was 45 minutes and their last was only 30 minutes!!!! I don't know what the winning high school's time was but our guys were tearing down and rebuilding an engine in less time than I have spent changing a tire!!!

On Thursday we got up early and headed for the Bitchin' Rides trailer for a meet and greet with Dave Kindig, the head designer and star of the show. He was very gracious and spent a few minutes chatting with us while souvenir photos were taken. Later that night Terry got to check off another item on her bucket list when we went to Donny Osmon's show.... Quite the performer!!!



(continued on [page 7](#))

SEMA

(continued from [page 6](#))

Friday was my solo day (Terry saw everything she wanted to see) focusing on the hot rod section and I bought a new grille shell for my '32 Ford pick up (love the stainless insert!) I met a couple racers from Street Outlaws and spotted other TV celebrities just walking around (Chip Foose, Chris Jacobs, Cruz Pedregon and others). I called it a day a bit early because I was beat having walked probably 25 miles over the four days.

I have forever wanted to go to SEMA (bucket list item) but could never get tickets since I wasn't in the industry and then my friend from Bonneville HS provided us tickets. I loved all of the cars and products, cutting edge tools and components... like Thor speakers to make your Tesla sound like a muscle car.... hated the crowds when everyone wanted to do the same things at the same time (meals and the monorail). Not sure I'd do it again but happy that we did it this time.

Bucket list item checked!!!



Autocross Report

(continued from [page 2](#))

Hammond, Steve Rossiter, John Castellano and Ben Bettega (to name a few) exponentially helped me out when I was not able to attend some of the events myself. They filled in for course design and chaired multiple times; setup and tear down was especially easy with these members always helping out. I also want to thank Chuck Banks and Nick Doyle for chairing some events as well. As always, Marci Jenkins was a huge help in coordinating emails, and communication before and after each event.

The fairgrounds circle track has proven to be a fun and configurable site, with some interesting designs that make use of the paddock and circle track areas. Understandably, we can only use the oval portion a few ways in order to keep things safe for everyone, but I think we'll keep on finding out ways to make new and unique courses. The great thing about the site is that the folks who run the fairgrounds want to improve the facility, so with our input some positive improvements are in the pipeline. Stay tuned!

We had five members who attended every single event this season: Craig Hammond, John Schliemann, Brent Werder, Martin Johns, and Mike McCrory. That's what I call dedication!

We had two class tie breakers this year between Blain Hendrix and Daniel Lassen for 3rd in GTB-S and Guy Southern and myself for 1st in X. Thankfully, Marci was able to help me find our tie-breaker rule set.

With the tie breakers applied, the 2022 **ESCA** Autocross results are as follows:

GTA-R 1st Martin Franusich

GTB-R 1st Craig Hammond

GTC-R 1st Steve Rossiter, 2nd John Schliemann

GTA-S 1st Chuck Banks, 2nd Michael Prescott

GTB-S 1st Brent Werder, 2nd Martin Johns, 3rd Daniel Lassen

GTC-S 1st Mike McCrory, 2nd John Castellano, 3rd Nick Doyle

X Class 1st Charley Sawyer, 2nd Guy Southern

I want to thank everyone again who came out to make another great **ESCA** Autocross season. Be sure to get out into the garage this winter and get those rides tuned up for another season in 2023! I look forward to spending more time with everyone!

Cheers,

Charley Sawyer, **ESCA** AutoX Chair

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

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

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

For Bay Area Rallyes check out the

RALLYE CLUB WEBSITE INFORMATION

<http://www.therallyclub.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"