



PIT STOP



March 2023

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

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

Volume 60-3

Autocross March 18

Club dues must be paid before your registration is approved.

Hello **ESCA**n's,

I hope everyone has seen our tentative schedule for our 2023 AutoX season. We will be running at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah again, with other NorCal guest clubs' members joining us along the way! It should make for some fun interactions with new faces, and bolster our clubs' relationship with others in the area.

That being said, I will really need some volunteer event chairs to help assist with the various events this year, because around June, I will be a father! During these first few months I will be with my family, so I will not be able to attend those autocrosses. As much as I enjoy running them, it's good to make sure we have a pool of members who are familiar with chairing an event.

Please email me or Marci if you would like to chair any event during the year. If you have never chaired before, there are always seasoned members who will be able to co-chair with your event, so don't be shy!

Thank you all and see you at the first **AutoX event on March 18th!**

Charley Sawyer,

ESCA AutoX Chair



ESCA Charity Rallye 2023

By Bob Jenkins, Rallyemaster

Things that are helpful to bring on the rallye are one or two clip boards, a couple of pens or pencils, different colored highlighters, and a pad of post its. You of course also need a navigator, a full tank of fuel (so you do not have to make a stop for gas) and money for the entry fee and for pizza and drinks at the Mountain Mike's Pizza at finish. Also getting to the start before 11am so you can go to the rallye school given by Master Expert Blain Hendrix.

At the finish checkpoint you will receive a critique, explaining all the gimmicks used on the rallye.

If you have been saying, I really want to run this rallye, this one would be a good one to do just that.

We have a full worker crew, so if you are not working come out and run the fun rallye and support the charity. ~ the Beard

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BEARD SPEAK AGAIN

By Bob Jenkins



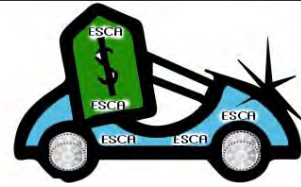
Welcome to Spring and nicer days, with Daylight Saving Time Starting on March 12th, and hopefully our first autocross of the season on **March 18th**, and our Charity Rallye for CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE a couple of weeks later on **April 2nd**. And for those who like to watch old sports cars race and get up close to them and their drivers there is the CSRG SPORTS CAR RACES at Sonoma Raceway on Saturday and Sunday, **March 24-26** and entry is free.

Winter has been kind of hard for **ESCA** with all the rain and then the cold and the small turn-outs for meetings, both in person and ZOOM and we are still looking for an Entertainment Head and a Tour Head. And because of all the fires and other disasters the Insurance Industry has really gone crazy. Our insurance agent is working at getting us a new carrier and by the time you read this we should have one, but of course we can expect to pay more.

We had another Go-Kart event at K1 Speed in Rohnert Park on Tuesday, February 28 and there maybe another event the end of March, so watch your email for the date.

You should have received a survey from **ESCA** a few days ago about what we should do for our 60th Birthday and if you have not completed it, please do, as your feed-back is important. At present Marci Jenkins and Craig Hammond are looking into possible venues and we would like to have something ready in the coming months.

Have you noticed the new game that drivers are playing in Santa Rosa traffic, well not really new, but more driver are playing. It used to be at each traffic light one car would run the red light, but now its two, three, and even four cars. The worst two that I see are the intersections of Cleveland Ave. and Steele Ln. and College Ave and Mendocino Ave. And a dangerous place for walkers is the crosswalk in front of the Montgomery Village Post Office. Drivers are in such a hurry to go shopping and get somewhere, or get home from Montgomery High School, that they just don't want to stop for the people in the crosswalk. I pick up the **ESCA** P.O. Box there, so I have seen many close calls. Santa Rosa has become a dangerous place to walk or drive, so be careful out there.



ESCA DUES ARE DUE

Dues are \$18.00 per year for a single **ESCA** member, plus \$2.00 per year for **ESCA** members residing at the same address.

You can pay 1) the Treasurer, Claudia Quinlivan, at a meeting, or 2) use your credit card on MSR (there is a small service fee and your card will be immediately charged) at msreg.com/ESCA2023Membership or 3) send a check made out to **ESCA**, to:

ESCA
P.O. BOX 2242,
SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

For questions about paying dues on MSR contact Marci Jenkins secretary@empiresportscar.org

Please note for all dues paid by check or credit card, your **ESCA** membership card will be mailed within two weeks.

Remember your dues must be paid before you can sign up to run an **ESCA** autocross.

ESCA Meetings are In-Person/ZOOM

March 7 & 21

7:00 p.m.

Round Table Pizza, 1791 Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa

Link for ZOOM meeting will be sent the weekend before the meeting.

Autocross Helmet Requirement

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

EMPIRE SPORTS CAR ASSOCIATION

*presents the***56th****APRIL****FOOLS****RALLYE****AN A-B RALLYE OPEN TO ALL TYPES OF CARS****DATE:** SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

START: SNOOPY'S HOME ICE, 1667 W. STEELE LANE, SANTA ROSA - TAKE THE STEELE LANE EXIT OFF U.S. 101, ONE MILE NORTH OF DOWNTOWN SANTA ROSA. GO WEST ON STEELE. CONTINUE ONTO GUERNEVILLE. TURN RIGHT AT RANGE. TURN LEFT ON W. STEELE. TURN RIGHT INTO THE SECOND DRIVEWAY AND GO TO THE BACK OF THE PARKING LOT.

TIME: REGISTRATION 10:30AM to 12:30PM,
FIRST CAR OUT AT 11:45AM, LAST CAR OUT AT 1:00 PM

FEE: ENTRY \$20.00 PER CAR**CLASSES:** MASTER EXPERT, EXPERT, SENIOR, NOVICE, BEGINNER, FIRST TIMER

AWARDS: MASTER EXPERT CLASS, ~ AWARD ~ FIRST AND SECOND PLACE
EXPERT CLASS, ~ AWARD ~ FIRST AND SECOND PLACE
SENIOR CLASS, ~ AWARD ~ FIRST AND SECOND PLACE
NOVICE CLASS, ~ AWARD ~ FIRST AND SECOND PLACE
BEGINNER CLASS, ~ AWARD ~ FIRST AND SECOND PLACE
FIRST TIMER CLASS, ~ AWARD ~ FIRST AND SECOND PLACE
A PARTICIPATION PLAQUE TO FIRST 40 CARS
THE OVERALL WINNERS WILL HAVE THEIR NAMES ENGRAVED ON A LARGE PERPETUAL TROPHY
THE PROFITS FROM THIS RALLYE WILL GO TO CHARITY:
Canine Companions for Independence®

FINISH: Mountain Mike's Pizza in Santa Rosa

RALLYMASTER, BOB THE BEARD - FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL (707) 546-6867 OR E-MAIL thebeard@sonic.net

THE APRIL FOOLS RALLYE WEBSITE IS: <http://rallyeplace.net/>
or <https://www.empiresportscar.org/rallye>

You can run a practice A/B Map Rallye at both websites.
Please E-MAIL the RALLYMASTER if you plan on attending.

THERE WILL BE A SHORT RALLYE SCHOOL AT 11:00 AM FOR ALL THOSE NEW TO RALLYING

A RALLYE IS NOT A SPEED EVENT. A RALLYE IS A TEST OF A TEAM'S ABILITY TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ALONG THE ROUTE, WHILE LOOKING FOR SIGNS AND SITUATIONS THAT FIT THE DEFINITIONS OF THE RALLYE.



CSRG David Love Vintage Races

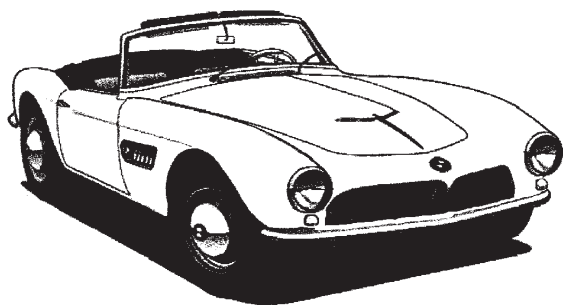
SONOMA RACEWAY
MARCH 24-26, 2023



CSRG (Classic Sports Racing Group)



Entry is FREE and so is parking.



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

Tentative **ESCA** Autocross Dates For 2023

All dates are Saturdays

March 18

April 15

May 20

June 10

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 7



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS...

Homer Balsley

Steve Bellen

Mark Burchill

Jay D. Faulkner

Mark Lindley

Joe Machado

Theresa Mahoney

Steve McCrory

Gary McKinney

Marty Nygaard

Michael Prescott

Bruce Sexauer

David Shilling

Jiro Tulley

Jacquelynn Weltken

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 Goes Karting

By Steve Rossiter

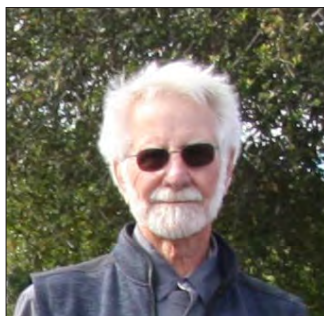
On Tuesday Jan 24th we had our first **ESCA** Kart Race of the '23 season. It was a good turn out with 10 drivers attending. The format was a 12 lap practice session, 12 lap qualifying and a 14 lap standing start final. The competition was tight with about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a second separating 1st thru 10th in each session.

Eric Lundy set the top time in practice with a 23.804, Steve Rossiter set a time of 22.625 in qualifying for pole, beating Wolfgang Obergin by just 0.047 seconds for 2nd and Gary Shannon took 3rd with a 22.857. Starting on pole was a big advantage and I was able to create a gap on lap one and hold on to it for the win. There was an intense battle in the rest of the pack with Wolfgang Obergin taking 2nd, John Schliemann finishing 3rd, 4th thru 10th were Craig Hammond, Eric Lundy, Marc Brady, Brent Werder, Gary Shannon, Bryan Burnett and Charley Sawyer. Gary Shannon set the fastest lap of the race at 22.668. The next event is **Feb 28th**, hope to see you there



My Profile by Ed Biglin

I grew up in a suburb of Washington D.C., commuting downtown to high school in my first car, a green 1956 Ford. Bought it used in 1961 for a few hundred bucks – great car with a V8, power steering (unusual in those days) and 3 on the column. It was also the first car marketed for “safety” (by Robert McNamara of Vietnam fame) – it had a padded dashboard which leaked dried foam rubber out of cracks in the plastic and seatbelts snaking in impossible tangles across the seats (retractors hadn’t been invented yet, I guess). Took that car to college in New England, where I had to hide it off campus because the rules didn’t allow underclassmen to have cars (ask me some time about the other rules of that benighted, all-male institution).



Came to California in 1967 to go to graduate school in Berkeley – stayed in Berkeley for 47 years because I was lucky enough to get a tenure-track faculty job at Saint Mary’s College – which allowed me to indulge my love of the Sierras for backpacking, rock climbing and hiking. But no hope of supporting a car in the early years on my salary as a teaching assistant – so rode Suzuki motorcycles until one too many close call – where I had to lay it down to slide under a left-turning truck – got me off the bike and into a 1965 Dodge Dart (remember the “typewriter drive” automatic transmission?). Great car, a real quality control error by Chrysler because it just ran and ran and didn’t break. But boring – so I celebrated my first real paid teaching job by buying a used 1969 Alfa Romeo 1750 GTV.

That car was not boring – I thought it was the prettiest car I’d ever seen and it handled like a dream. I drove it on track days with the Alfa Club, and Autocrosses with SCCA. And also, it did break, regularly. I became a frequent visitor to the Parts Department at the Alfa dealer in Berkeley. My favorite was doing a tune-up. It had mechanical fuel injection (a system that did not last long in the automotive world) which had a “temperature compensation actuator” rather than a choke – a

tube filled with some goo that expanded and contracted and regularly leaked. To do a tune-up, you had to take that actuator out and replace it with a “dummy actuator” which had a hole in the center that allowed a long, thin screwdriver to be inserted and turn a tiny screw at the bottom. You closed the screw, then opened it a half turn, and then started the engine (if it wasn’t cold). Then, you drove it to see if it would shift into second while idling, without bucking. If it bucked, you opened the screw another quarter turn and tried again until it worked. I spent a lot of weekends with my feet sticking out from under the bumper, or my hindquarters out from under the hood.

The arrival of a son and the adding of a second job writing sections of the Michelin Guide to California on the Sierras meant that my new 1984 Toyota Land Cruiser had to replace the Alfa (no real room for a kid seat in the GTV). I was sorry to see it go, but the need to remodel two junker houses in Berkeley, tend to my career and raise my son meant that my driving was completely functional for many years. Didn’t get back into it until the aforementioned son took up street racing at 17, which seemed to me a very bad idea, so I worked with him to put together a purpose-built autocross car (old Honda CRX with replacement Vtech B16 engine) to get him off the streets and driving again with me in SCCA.



Retired from academic administration (Dean, Chief Technology Officer) at St. Marys in 2012, and taught part-time until 2018. Bought my current car, a 2002 Honda S2000, when it was 5 years old, and started Autocrossing with my son in SCCA, and then after moving up to Oakmont, with [ESCA](#), which I liked much better than SCCA (stand around for 4 hrs, work for an hour and drive for 3 minutes). [ESCA](#) has been a delight – open, friendly and helpful folks, lots of driving and lots of pizza at meetings. I’m also a Park Steward in Sugarloaf Ridge and manage the Progressives Club in Oakmont.



New Sports Car Club Opens Field

By DAN HERMAN

The newest sports car club in this area is the direct result of a communicable, chronic ailment known as sports-caritis.

Its symptoms are many, and easily recognized.

The afflicted will spend a day off with his head under the hood of his sports car, tuning the engine (whether it needs it or not); sacrifice a date with a beautiful girl for the chance to see a race car lying in pieces on a garage floor; can be seen driving with the top down on a morning so cold as to make the bravest hesitate to even go out and start a car; will stand with ears turning like radar antenna at the sound of a sports car down-shifting three blocks away.

An example of this is Dick

Butler, whom I hired as a sports car salesman last January. He first contracted sports caritis in 1955 when he went over to Germany with the Air Force. In 1957 he saw the Grand Prix of Germany and became an incurable case. He's progressed through Karmann Ghia, MG, Corvette, MG and Austin Healey. He got involved in sports car racing while in Europe, completely wearing out a car in his spare time at the Nurburgring, a track that is open to the public between the big races. He's held membership in sports car clubs from Germany to Long Beach, and even worked as a sports car mechanic for a couple of years.

In June of this year, he got together a group who were suffering from the same ailment, and with the fine help

of their wives, they formed a new sports car club here in Santa Rosa. They named it the Empire Sports Car Association. It looks as though the club has a fine future, with a steadily growing membership and some very good rallies already to their credit.

Club Welcomed

I welcome the Empire Sports Car Association as a basic school for all sports car bugs because I believe that the quickest way to become a good racing driver and to test yourself to see if you have the basic qualifications for racing is to enter as many high speed autocrosses as possible for a period of at least two years.

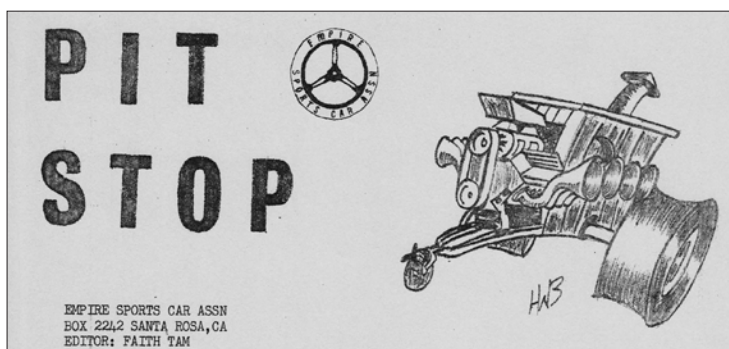
High speed autocross events has a most successful year. The club events are a tremendous proving ground for

future bay area racing stars.

There are no short cuts to fame and fortune as a racing driver, just hard work and practice.

Back in 1955, '56, '57, and '58, when Dan Gurney, Skip Hudson and I traveled to all sports car events with my Porsche Carrera GT, I remember we would rent one motel room, take the mattress from the bed and throw it on the floor. Then we'd flip a coin to see who would sleep on the box springs and who on the floor. This doesn't sound romantic, and many thousand budding drivers failed where only one Dan Gurney succeeded.

FAST ACTION was witnessed by spectators at 3 Star Raceway when the final Sportsman Lightweight Motorcycle Race was held. Local



Long Ago in Pit Stop March 1973

By Bob Jenkins

Faith Tam was listed as the Editor and the cover drawing was done by Charter Member Homer Balsley.

There was a Map Clue Rallye article for May 6th by Rallymasters Gene Tam and Ken Dias.

A "Rallye News" article stated that last year's April Fools Rallye had won the RALLYE OF THE YEAR AWARD and they thought this year's rallye would be even better. The rallye was to be an A/B type and was starting from Coddington. A second rallye for the year was set for May and was to be called Simon Says.

An article entitled "TA_DA" by Vice Chairman Larry Wendt announced the top ten members in the race to be **ESCA** MEMBER OF THE YEAR.

An article entitled To ALL by Faith Tam stated that at the second **ESCA** meeting of April at the El Rancho there were to be guest speakers - the Sherburne's from Santa Clara, who were to bring pictures of past SPORTS CAR OLYMPICS and would answer questions about this year's OLYMPICS at Squaw Valley.

An article entitled "Scavenger Hunt" by Faith Tam, talked about a March 17th event called "Pack Rat Scavenger" the hunt would start from Bailey Field Stadium at the SRJC and end 3 hours later at JOHNNY AND REDS PIZZA PARLOR.

A March calendar listed the Scavenger Hunt, two Regular Meetings, a Big Board Meeting, a small board meeting, a checkpointers meeting, and the April Fools Rallye on April 1st.



ESCA Member of the Year Award 1978-1984

ESCA 2023 Calendar

MARCH

- 01 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 07 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 11-12 RSCC Autocross in Eureka (www.rsc.net)
- 15 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 18 ESCA AutoX**
- 21 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 24-26** CSRG David Love Historic Car Races (SR)

APRIL

- 02 ESCA's 56th Charity April Fools Rallye**
- 04 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 05 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 15 ESCA AutoX**
- 15-16 RSCC Autocross in Eureka (www.rsc.net)
- 19 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift

MAY

- 02 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 03 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 13-14 RSCC Autocross in Eureka (www.rsc.net)
- 16 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 17 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 20 ESCA AutoX**

JUNE

- 01-03 Sonoma Historic Motorsports Festival (SR)
- 06 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 10 ESCA AutoX**
- 10 RSCC Two Seat Car Show (www.rsc.net)
- 11 NASCAR
- 14 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 17-18 RSCC Autocross in Eureka (www.rsc.net)
- 20 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 28 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift

JULY

- 01-02 Bracket Drags
- 04 Holiday - No ESCA Meeting**
- 08 ESCA AutoX**
- 18 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 22-23 RSCC Korbel Hillclimb (www.rsc.net)

AUGUST

- 01 **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 02 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 12 ESCA AutoX**
- 12-13 RSCC Autocross in Eureka (www.rsc.net)
- 15 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 16 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 19 Tentative Date for ESCA's 60th Birthday Party**

SEPTEMBER

- 04 Bracket Drags
- 05 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 06 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 09 ESCA AutoX**
- 16-17 RSCC Autocross in Eureka (www.rsc.net)
- 14-16 Grand Prix of Indycar Series (SR)
- 19 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 20 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift

OCTOBER

- 03 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 04 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 07 ESCA AutoX**
- 14-15 RSCC Autocross in Eureka (www.rsc.net)
- 17 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 18 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift

November

- 01 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 07 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 15 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
- 21 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**

December

- 2-3 24 Hours of Lemons
- 05 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- TBA **ESCA Annual Meeting & Banquet**

(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>

American Autocross Series

<https://americanautox.com/>

SFR SCCA

https://www.sfrautox.com/?page_id=2360

Northwest Hill Climb Association

(541) 772-7314

www.nhahillclimb.org

Current ESCA
Membership Total: 161

Cars & Coffee - All FREE events

- 1st Sunday of the Month 8 am - 10 am
- Montecito Shopping Center Santa Rosa

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
- 4th Sunday of the Month 8 am - 10 am
- Penngrove 10070 Main St

THE GARAGE 2004 Bodega Avenue, Petaluma CA 94952



Kurt Klein
Marty Nygaard
Tel: (707) 762-0272
E-mail: the.garage.petaluma@gmail.com

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707-542-6013 (FAX)
chucksbrake@sbcglobal.net

540 Barham Ave
P.O. Box 1771
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

ESCA's Club Store

ESCA's club store can be accessed by going to the ESCA website at 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

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[facebook.com/hammondautowerks](https://www.facebook.com/hammondautowerks)

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"