



# PIT STOP



## JUNE 2023

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

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

Volume 60-6

### Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> Tours Geysers Rd & Boat Races

#### Part 1: Tour Geysers Road

Meet at High Noon at  
Bad Ass Coffee - 90 Mark West Springs Rd

#### Part 2: Tour Boat Races

Meet at 5:00 P.M. at  
Hopland Taproom -13351 U.S. - 101 Hopland

Please RSVP to [MrPivotless@CastellanoDesigns.com](mailto:MrPivotless@CastellanoDesigns.com)

If you decide to come or cancel at the last minute,  
text me at 707-529-7783. ~ John Castellano

#### Part 1, Geysers Road:

Join [ESCA](#) for a tour of one of the most unique roads in Sonoma County. An epic road, for epic seat time. Thirty miles of stunning views, crossing several earthquake faults, with views of historic sites and the Geysers Geothermal plant. Massive sweepers and endless twisties. Photo ops.

VERY IMPORTANT INFO on [page 2](#)



### Father's Day Car Show

Sunday, June 18, 2023

Julliard Park, Santa Rosa

<https://nceca.org/event/fathers-day-show-shine-car-show-2/>

### ESCA Meetings are In-Person/ZOOM

June 6 & 20

7:00 p.m.

Round Table Pizza, 1791 Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa

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

### What's Inside . . .

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## BEARD SPEAK AGAIN

By Bob Jenkins



The weather has finally turned nice and has been nice for the few events we have had. Hard to believe we are only a month away from the year being half over already.

We still are having Go-Karting outings at **K1 SPEED** in Rohnert Park and the turn-outs have been good. So, until we can get the insurance worked out or a new site we will continue to have one event a month at **K1 SPEED**.

We had our first tour in May (see [page 6](#)) and John Castellano has cooked up a **2-Part Tour** for June. Michael Bundy has a run for later in the year to the **Marine Lab** In Bodega Bay, but they are not doing tours on weekends any longer so it will be a weekday tour. (You should have received a short survey in your email requesting your choice of day and month.)

Marci Jenkins is working hard to get everything ready for **ESCA's 60<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY**, which will be **August 19<sup>th</sup>** at an **Oakmont West Picnic Area**, and the food will be by the PASTA KING, so it will be great.. (See details in this PIT STOP)

The autocross news is not good as we have had to cancel each month's event. Charley is working on a new autocross location in Santa Rosa and we hope it works out, so stay tuned. Work is also in progress on a location for our annual meeting and banquet in December and a couple of the locations are the River Rock Casino in Geyserville and the Casa Del Mar Restaurant in Santa Rosa.

Our regular meetings continue to be small and there was talk about one meeting being in person and ZOOM and the second meeting being ZOOM only.

Charley Sawyer announced at the last meeting that he and his wife, Monique, are expecting their baby any day now. We send our Congratulations to them!

The **ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW** is on Sunday, **June 18<sup>th</sup>** and, I will be there taking pictures as usual looking for **ESCA** members showing off their rides, hope to see you there.

Stay safe out there and I will see you at a meeting or event.

## Part 1, Geysers Road:

continued from [front page](#)

Note that this is a tour of Geysers Road, not the geothermal plant itself. **Bring water, FRS radios, sufficient air, oil and fuel for 60+ miles total.** Some short gravel sections. Bumpy sections—sports bra recommended. **No bathrooms for the last 40 miles/2.5 hours. No bailout 'till mile 50.**

Meet at High Noon at Bad Ass Coffee on Mark West Springs Rd. Finish at the Hopland Taproom about 4:00 P.M. for bathroom, food and libations.

## Part 2, Boat Races:

If you want to see boats racing around our favorite little PAVED oval, here's your chance. Yes, BOATS. See the link in last month's **PIT STOP**. Also Monster Trucks and Mud Bogs in the infield. The Boat Races Tour starts after the end of the Geysers Rd Tour above.

Meet at the Hopland Taproom at 5:00 P.M. We will head up 101 to Ukiah Speedway from there. Racing starts at 6:00 P.M., with the Boat Races probably starting after dark. Cost is around \$25. Also food, beverages, rides, music, etc. Bring the whole family! The Fair ends at midnight.

You're welcome to come for Part 1, Part 2, or both. Just let me know which.

Please RSVP to [MrPivotless@CastellanoDesigns.com](mailto:MrPivotless@CastellanoDesigns.com)

If you decide to come or cancel at the last minute, text me at **707-529-7783**. John Castellano

## ESCA Positions Open

Are you on Facebook? If so, are you interested in being an **ESCA Facebook Page Admin**? Our current FB Admin team would like to add a new Admin. The group is for **ESCA** members and former **ESCA** members.

**ESCA's Insurance Chairman** is looking to retire. **ESCA** has an Insurance Broker, but, **ESCA** needs to request the Certificates of Insurance for **ESCA** events and to coordinate with the two other clubs in our Insurance Consortium.

These **ESCA** volunteers have worked tirelessly on your behalf and these volunteers would like to pass on these duties to new people.

If you are interested, please contact **ESCA** Chairman, Bob Jenkins.





## Maria Carrillo Car Show

By Gary O'Connor

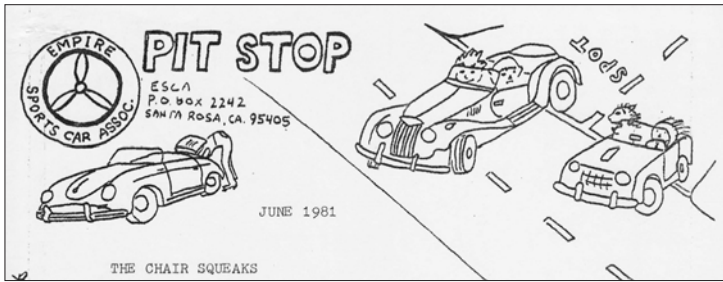
In April of the last several years the auto shop class (is there still such a thing?) at Maria Carrillo puts on a car show to raise funds for the class supplies. There were probably 50 cars there for a low key event. There is music and goodies, a raffle and an exquisite breakfast burrito and lunch served by the Carrillo culinary department. First class sandwiches, sauces and burritos satisfy even the pickiest eaters.

I put my cyclekart in the back of my '32 Ford pick up, trying to drum up some local interest. That drew more lookie loos than my truck!!

All in all, a nice relaxing day of cars, music and delicious food.







### Long Ago in Pit Stop June 1981

By Bob Jenkins

The picture on the cover was a poor copy of one we used many years ago.

In a column the Chairman Terry Larson talked about the clubs up and down year, but said things were going to get better. Stating there would be another open autocross and a Tour/Rallye for club members. He also welcomed two new members, Marci Tarleton and Gary O'Connor into [ESCA](#).

An Airport 81 article talked about the open event that had 43 drivers and just made the break even point. TTOD went to Scott Cattell in his modified Corvair, with Craig LaMothe, in his 240Z, second.

In a Surprise Open Autocross (Airport 81-A) article we learned there would be another open autocross at the Sonoma County Airport with a cost of (\$6) per driver plus one hour of work.

In a Marque of the Month article Bob the Beard talked about the Datsun 240Z. He talked about his Z, and the first Z sold in Santa Rosa to [ESCA](#) member B. Scott Foster, and some Z racing history.

An article called Second 50-mile Sonoma Valley Mystery History Scenery Appreciation and Wine Tasting Tour and Rally, by Terry Larson stated the event would start at 9:30am and have an enthusiast's section, some scenic sections and some historic sections and then some wine tasting sections, before breaking for a picnic lunch. Lunch was to be followed by a Beard type rally, which was to end at Mary's Pizza in Boyes Springs, which was to be followed by a sundown swim in the lake at the Larson's.

Because racing was not covered like it is today there was a listing of the top 8 finishers from the US Grand Prix West at Long Beach, with Alan Jones finishing first.

A Laguna Seca Campout article talked about the three [ESCA](#) car tour to the Big Sur Campground to watch the races at Laguna Seca Raceway. They were Ted & Kay Dunlap in a

Bavaria, Debbie & Royal Reed in a Dodge Colt, and Frank & Brenda Ormonde in a Capri.

A calendar showed a ZONC Championship autocross at Pleasanton, [ESCA](#) Board meeting, [ESCA](#) autocross meeting, [ESCA](#) meetings at Hansel Ford on Corby Avenue.

Current ESCA  
Membership Total: 120



## Tribute to Julie

Julie Etchell joined ESCA in May 2010. Julie brought laughter and enthusiasm to our meetings and events.

She and her former husband, Art Battles, were very active in the club. Julie joined tours & Aprils Fools Rallies. But, autocrossing was her favorite ESCA event.

She hosted successful ESCA summer parties with Art and planned several fun games for everyone.

We were delighted when she brought her children, Ali and, later, Magnus, on the tours.

Julie was a successful real estate agent with Better Homes and Garden.

Julie battled breast cancer for many years. She is an inspiration to us, with her indomitable positive attitude and spirit. She will be greatly missed!





## Worms

By John Castellano

It's best to go to K1 Speed with a group of friends, because you're not going to make any friends on the track. It turns out that Group Qualifying is a test of one's character. I failed the test...and so won the race. I'm going to go and eat some worms.

Starting from the Pole last month was a definite advantage. So when I lucked into one of the front spots for Qualifying, I was psyched—clear track. The Kart felt good, but by the last few laps, Craig Merrilees was beating on my bumper. I knew that if he got by, he would get the Pole. I did not let him by. In fact, I made my Kart about as wide as I could. So much for my "We're time trialing, not racing" theory. Merrilees qualified third, behind Gary Shannon.



In the Race, I got away from the pack and kept the lead. Shannon held onto second. Merrilees got caught up in a "racing incident" and got passed by Craig Hammond for the third podium spot. Yet another Karting event will replace yet another shut-out autocross by the time you read this. Hopefully a true Sportsman will be writing the associated article next time. More worms anyone?







## Short and Sweet Cruise

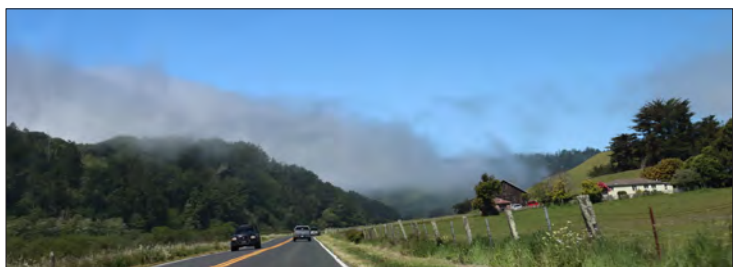
By Bob Jenkins

On Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> 8 people in 4 cars met at the Kaffe Mocha Parking lot and after the usual photos we headed out toward the coast in great sunny weather.

Those present were Gerry & Lilly Mugele in their TR-4A, Blain & Karen Hendrix in their Porsche Cayman, lead car Bob & Marci Jenkins in their Nissan 350Z and **ESCA's** newest member Derek Dillenberg and wife, Emily, in their Audi TT Convertible.

Heading out around the airport and onto River Road the traffic was light and on through Monte Rio, then just after Duncans Mills we ran into a heavy fog bank, which stayed with us all the way down the coast, so no great ocean car pictures. When we once again turned in land toward Bodega the fog went away and it was once again a nice sunny day. As we reached Occidental and turned into the Howard Station parking lot, a minor miracle happened and low and behold we found 4 empty parking spaces all in a row. I have been going to Howard's Station since the 90's, and never have I seen 4 empty parking all in a row. We walked right in, told the waitress we

were a party of 8 and she said fine she would put two tables together and we could go to the counter and order and she would bring our orders when they were ready, and they now even take credit cards. Shortly after were seated our food arrived and the talking stopped for a while. I do have to say that there were not a lot of people eating, which probably had something to do with our great service. After we finished the great food and more talking everyone headed out to enjoy the rest of the day. So ending another fun run.







Gary O'Connor's cyclekart

## Cyclekarts

By Gary O'Connor

In 1984 I was building a '71 Torino to run at the Petaluma dirt track. I had the roll cage welded in, doors welded shut, suspension upgraded, glass and interior removed, race seat and belts installed when Terry announced "We're pregnant!" Needless to say the Torino went down the road to some lucky racer and my dreams of dirt oval greatness were dashed.

Many years later I told Terry that when the kids were grown and gone there would be a race car of some sort in the garage. I didn't know what it would be, just some sorta race car. I never dreamed it would be a 7 hp 'grandpa go-kart'!

About a year and a half ago I came across cyclekarts... home fabbed, Harbor Freight engined, 3/4 scale 1920's and 30's race cars on Honda wire wheels and very skinny tires. I saw that there was a meet at Laguna Seca in a few weeks so I got to work. I had my car ready to race in 17 days and I had it at the event and I was seriously hooked. They don't look that fast but when you're a few inches off the ground on those moped tires it'll get your attention.

They're pretty cheap to build and fun to drive but there is a down side. (of course!) Since it's a fairly new phenomenon the big events are all far away. As I type this I'm on my way home from a dirt oval event (38 years late!) north of Seattle and next weekend (5/19-20) I'm driving to Huntsville Utah for the biggest event in the country. There are supposed to be 60 karts in attendance!!

We had an event at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in March and it rained most of the day but that only added to the fun, slip slidin' away. Next year we're running April 6th....

watch this space!!

For more info, pics and vids visit [CycleKarts North America](#) and for a local view go to [Northern California Cyclekarts Club](#), both on FaceBook.







ESCA's 60th Birthday Party

August 19, 2023

11am - 3pm

Car Show

Pasta Picnic at Noon

\$10.00 per person

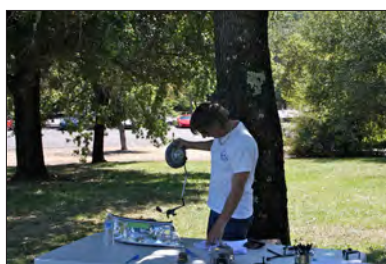


West Picnic Area in Oakmont

Please send reaseveration to [entertainment@empiresportscar.org](mailto:entertainment@empiresportscar.org) - By **August 15<sup>th</sup>**

Payment is check to ESCA at 2173 Dolen Ct., Santa Rosa, CA 95401 or

MSR (there will be a \$2.00 service fee) [msreg.com/Aug19ESCA60](https://msreg.com/Aug19ESCA60)



**Directions:** from Hwy 12 to Oakmont Dr,  
2nd Right (Stonebridge Rd.),  
6th Right (Meadowridge Ln.),  
1st Right to West Activity Center



## Profile for Marci Jenkins

First, my name is Marcia Ann (not pronounced Marsha), because few people pronounce it correctly, I go by Marci. As a 5th generation Californian, I grew up in Sonoma County, when it was still small. I spent my teenage years swimming, reading, practicing the fire baton, working in the summer and cleaning out piston cylinders of the engines that my brother and his friends were rebuilding. My hand fit into the cylinders. I learned to drive on a 1965 El Camino truck with a slipping clutch. I got to drive a dump truck one week, lots of fun for a teenager, but my daily driver was a 1965 Mustang automatic. I hated that car - it could not get out of it's own way, although, I never was one to cruise 4th Street in my car.

After a year at SRJC I headed for the open seas. It was the Spring Semester of 1969 and 114 days of traveling and 16 units of classes. We left Long Beach, Ca headed to Japan via Hawaii, down the coast of Vietnam, Thailand, Ceylon, Bombay (visited the Taj Majal), from Kenya to Cape Town, to Morcco (missed the train to Marrakesh - I really did), to Spain, Portugal, and New York. I saw a lot and really learned to value different cultures and met many wonderful people.

Home again and car-less, I spent \$50 for a 1955 Pontiac - great trunk space to take to UC Davis. Soon upgraded to a 1966 Olds 442, when I transferred to Dominican College. I hated the two tone look so, I hand-sanded it on my summer break and a friend painted it a lovely dark metallic green. That was the only car I have actually spun out - rainy day on the exit ramp into San Rafael. Why I sold the 442 in 1972, I'll never know, especially, since I ended up with another \$100 car (\$50 car & \$50 engine) a Chevy Nova. A few months later I spent a little more and got the 1968 Cougar. By 1973 I was teaching elementary grades. I went on to earn a Masters and an Ed.D. in Education. I not only taught, but was also an Administrator in the County Special Education program. I retired in 2009.

In 1979 I moved into a duplex across the street from Gary O'Connor. This is important because meeting Gary lead me to join [ESCA](#) and meet my husband, Bob. (We were married in 1984 with the [ESCA](#) banner hanging in the church, seemed appropriate as I was Chairman of [ESCA](#) that year and we met through the club.) Gary helped me build my Kit Car, a 1952 MGTD on a VW frame. Another neighbor showed me how to wire the car, named the Glass Slipper. Unfortunately, the kit car was a mix of Lucas gages, mechanical gas tank and voltage. The 1<sup>st</sup> battery for it in 1983 was not the correct voltage and it took Bob and I about 12 hours to return home from Sports Car

Olympics (SCO) at Boreal Ridge. We had to stop about every hour to let the car recharge. However the Glass Slipper was set with negative camber and it was so much fun to autoX. Bob convinced me that the Glass Slipper was just too impractical to keep - every bolt was always coming loose.

The Cougar found a new home after we were married. It wasn't that much fun to autoX and a neighbor really wanted it.

Bob's 1983 Honda Accord was fun to autox in the rain at a SCO weekend, and it was fun to take camping on the [ESCA](#) California Tours. But, the most fun to autoX at SCO was the 1993 Accura Integra. However, I did not master trail -braking that weekend. I never did autox Bob's 1970 240Z, but we took it camping on several of the [ESCA](#) California Tours, the Z held alot. Now might be the perfect time to autoX the 2014 Lexus 350IS Sport; it just got new tires.

## Car Photos Missing:

the 1955 Buick, the 1966 Olds 442 and the Chevy Nova .



1968 Cougar

## The Glass Slipper

1952 MGTD

kit car on a VW frame.



1993 Acura Integra



Sports Car Olympics 1988: Front Row: Far Right, Me, with Trophy, and next to Tammi Hull. Other ESCA members are behind me, Andrea and behind her, dad, Ted Dunlap.



# ESCA 2023 Calendar

## JUNE

- 01-03 Sonoma Historic Motorsports Festival (SR)  
**03** **ESCA The Geysers Tour**  
**06** **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**  
**10** **ESCA AutoX Tentative**  
 10 RSCC Two Seat Car Show ([www.rsc.net](http://www.rsc.net))  
 11 NASCAR  
 14 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift  
 17-18 RSCC Autocross in Eureka ([www.rsc.net](http://www.rsc.net))  
**18** Father's Day Car Show Julliard Park  
**20** **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**  
 27 TSD Rallye in Roseville  
 28 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift

## JULY

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

## AUGUST

- 01** **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**  
 02 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift  
**12** **ESCA AutoX Tentative**  
 12-13 RSCC Autocross in Eureka ([www.rsc.net](http://www.rsc.net))  
**15** **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**  
 16 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift  
**19** **ESCA's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**

## SEPTEMBER

- 04 Bracket Drags  
**05** **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**  
 06 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift  
**09** **ESCA AutoX Tentative**  
 16-17 RSCC Autocross in Eureka ([www.rsc.net](http://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 Tentative**  
 14-15 RSCC Autocross in Eureka ([www.rsc.net](http://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.*

# HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS...

Chuck Banks  
 Steve Chiesa  
 Adam Hammond  
 Craig Hammond  
 Frank Jurin  
 Kahtarina Kljavin  
 Frederick Nelson  
 Ken Silk  
 Grant Weaver III  
 Tamara Woolever

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



American Autocross Series

<https://americanautox.com/>

SFR SCCA

[https://www.sfrautox.com/?page\\_id=2360](https://www.sfrautox.com/?page_id=2360)

Northwest Hill Climb Association

(541) 772-7314

[www.nhahillclimb.org](http://www.nhahillclimb.org)

## 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
- 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

## 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)



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**Get in touch with us:**

707.538.4325  
M-F 8am-5pm  
[facebook.com/hammondautowerks](https://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"