



PIT STOP



JULY 2023

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

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

Volume 60-7



Dream Boat Races

By John Castellano

The Boat Races at Ukiah Speedway ended in a cloud of smoke and steam with the victorious Shark Car and Boat having lapped the entire field. Everything before that is a bit hazy, like a weird dream. I remember cars and boats smashing and crashing on the moistened track. The racers were having

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AutoX 2023 Update

Hello [ESCA](#)n's,

Autocross for 2023 is still on hold due to insurance and venue complications. Our next tentative event is scheduled for August, but we are waiting on the venue to confirm a date for us.

I understand it has been frustrating not having any events this year so far, but it was a perfect storm of circumstances that have caused this situation. As we find out more, I'll be sure to provide an update as we get closer.

In the meantime, be sure to come out to the monthly go-karting sessions to keep your driving skills sharp!

Cheers, Charley Sawyer

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BEARD SPEAK AGAIN

By Bob Jenkins



There will **not** be a first meeting of the month in July as that is the Fourth of July Holiday, so have a Happy Holiday, and we will see you on **July 18th**.

Congratulations to Charley & Monique Sawyer on the birth of their son, Benjamin Charles Sawyer on **May 20th**.

Charley Sawyer is still working to get us some dates at the new site in Santa Rosa, but the site is very busy, so the first date, will not be until late August or September or later. Also, sound could be a problem, so we will be using the DB meter and if your car does not have a factory exhaust system it may not pass.

Please welcome Alex Ivakhnenko back to **ESCA** and ask him about his trips to Japan.

Once again Michael Bundy has been able to secure **ESCA** a tour of the **Bodega Marine Lab** at Bodega Bay, this time in September, on a Friday, we hope on the **22nd** but it is not set in stone yet.

Marci Jenkins is working hard on **ESCA's 60th Birthday Party** at Oakmont and it should be a really fun affair with great food from the PASTA KING, a couple of games, (Corn Hole & Horse Shoes) a Car Show and great people, so don't wait to the last minute to send in your money.

If you missed John Castellano's Geysers Tour, you missed a fun adventure event as you can see from the pictures in PIR STOP and the link with the article has many more pictures.

The Sunbeam Tiger Club was in Sonoma County for their convention in June and had their car show on the Sonoma Plaza. Gerry Mugele was in Glen Ellen on a weekend and kept seeing Tigers running around and had one park along side him and found out they were lost on a rallye and looking for a road, so as he knows every road in Sonoma County he was glad to help out.

We are still looking for another Facebook Page Adm. Person, it is a pretty easy position, so if you are interested, please see or call a Board Member.

Until next month, be careful out there.

NO Meeting on the 4th

ESCA Meetings are In-Person/ZOOM

July 18

7:00 p.m.

Round Table Pizza, 1791 Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa

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

**PLEASE WELCOME
BACK..**

Alex Ivakhnenko Toyota Corolla FX16

ESCA Position 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.

These **ESCA** volunteers have worked tirelessly on your behalf and these volunteers would like have another **FB Administrator** for the **FB Group**.

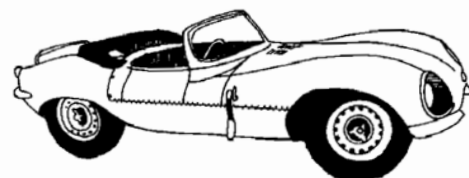
If you are interested, please contact **ESCA** Chairman, Bob Jenkins.

Insurance Chairman

By Marci Jenkins

Nikki Southern is interested in and is exploring the possibility of assuming the Insurance Chairman.

Thanks Nikki for your interest! The **ESCA** Board is appreciative!





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 - By **August 15th**

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



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

Dream Boat Races

continued from [front page](#)

Photos below and on front page by John Castellano
a hard time just keeping it pointed in the right direction while dragging a boat. Several ended up in the Mud Bogg track dug into the infield, where local boys (and maybe some gals) had just launched and bucked and jumped their way to victory



(and defeat).

I remember a Ferris Wheel and rides and colorful Monster Trucks were flying through the air and doing donuts and wheelies. The line to get in was really long and the staff panicked and declared "Standing room only". Who knew the biggest draw was the Boat Races? Lorie and Chuck Banks and their nephew, Kenny Hood, had been with us, but bailed out right before they opened the overflow grandstand. We were in! In the paddock to be exact, where a strange tranquility existed among the racers, considering what was about to happen on the track.

Before that, we had all been at the Hopland Tap Room, and Marci and Bob Jenkins were there too with the 350Z. And we had just waved goodbye to Charlie Smith and his friend, Ron



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Dream Boat Races

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Charlton, who had the top down on Charlie's beautiful red Jaguar all the way down Big Sulphur Canyon. They had been following me and Marisa for miles, even scraping the ground a time or two. I can still see the XKE driving across the 100-year-old bridge in my mirror.

We all had guacamole together overlooking the pipes and



More photos at:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jLQcmqY5PJe44LGs8>

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Dream Boat Races

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buildings of what had to be the world's largest geothermal plant. We were sitting on top of an underground magma dome. Kenny really liked that part, and also wading in the same creek where Lorie had waded in an earlier life. We had just come from the ghost town of Mercuryville which made Marci feel like she'd been there before. It is at the top of the Mercuryville Fault, right near Geyser Peak, and we could see the road we had just come up snaking over the nearby Mayacama Fault. Out of nowhere, back at Chalk Hill, at the top of the Healdsburg Fault, we were looking at our future selves at Mercuryville.

We were definitely in a flow state, with continuous land



movement and beautiful scenery. At one point we suddenly found ourselves in a casino, which was strange. And it all started with meeting up at a bad ass coffee shop, with the Banks in their Chevy Silverado, the Jenkins' Z, our Subie Wagon and the XKE Jag to go on an [ESCA](#) tour. Weird dream, huh? The thing is, there are pictures.



History of Words and Events used in Pit Stop and at ESCA Meetings

By Bob Jenkins

NCSCC

The NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SPORTS CAR COUNCIL started in 1953, scheduled all member club's Rallye and Autocross events. At its peak NCSCC had 52 member clubs in 1961. The NCSCC went out of business in July 2006.

Sport Car Olympics

The first year the SPORTS CAR OLYMPICS was held was in 1961 at Squaw Valley, and was held there for several year before moving to Boreal Ridge. It moved to Laguna Seca for one year and then moved back to Boreal Ridge until it ended in 1996.

The SPORTS CAR OLYMPICS was an event held for three days on Labor Day Weekend. There were 7 events and sometimes more. The usual events were a Variety Rallye, a TSD Rallye, 2 Autocrosses, a Concours, a Funkhana, and a Quiz. Each event had classes and awarded medals and points. Then they took the points from your top five point events of the seven and gave trophies to the top 10 overall.

Some years they also had a Hillclimb, an extra Quiz, or a Creeper Cross, just for fun.

ESCA members chaired the event several years and attended the event many years, sometimes in great numbers. Terry Larson took first overall one year and Ted Dunlap did several years.

Cotati Raceway

An abandoned WWII NAVAL AIRFIELD was used in the late 50's and much of the 60's as a race track, but saw little use after SEARS POINT opened in early 1969. **ESCA** held their first open Autocross there in 1966 called the HALF FAST 500 and had 134 drivers, and continued to hold club events there through 1971.

<http://www.tamsoldracecarsite.net/Cotati1.html>

Naval Air Station-Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Santa Rosa

This site was commissioned in 1943 and stayed in Navy hands until 1967, when it became a civilian airport, called the SANTA ROSA AIR CENTER and permanently closed in 1991.

ESCA Autocrossed there in 1965, 1967 and 1968.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Auxiliary_Landing_Field_Santa_Rosa

Codddingtown

Yes, we really did Autocross at the Coddington Shopping

continued in [next column](#)

Center. The first time was in 1966 in the side and front East parking lots by the big CODDINGTON turning sign for one time. Then in 1971 we came back and ran in the back parking lot. Most of the buildings next to Edwards Ave. were not built when we ran. We ran there 17 times, until the end came in 1976. We also held 5 Funkhanas in Coddington. All of our Rallye starts from 1963 through 2006 were held in a Coddington parking lot.

Airport

CHARLES M. SCHULZ-SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT where we starting running autocrosses on the far west side in 1977 and did so through 1996 and then started again 2002 and ran through 2018.

Funkhana

Funkhanas are low-speed, light-hearted competitions that are a test of dexterity and patience. Each team, composed of a driver and passenger, must complete tasks — often centered around a theme — that involve car handling, teamwork and especially a sense of humor. There are no official rules, the only requirements being that the event is good-natured, low-speed, safe and not hard on the cars.

ESCA has only held 13 Funkhanas, with 41 cars as the highest number of entrants at an event in Coddington, and none since 1992 (at the Vets parking lot).

FROM THE STANDS

By Bob Jenkins

The Corvette Club had used half of the old COTATI RACE TRACK for their autocross. It was a typical Corvette course with a few pylons in the corners and very, very long straights.

The Cobra owner had graciously offered his machine to his friend and fellow club member to run and then headed up into the stands to watch the run. The black Cobra roared out onto the course and across the start/finish line and then into the loop that lead to the back part of the course and out of sight. After a time the Cobra popped into view from around the corner that lead from the back straight onto the very long main straight. The black speck that was the Cobra quickly grew larger and as it got closer you could hear the very high pitch of its engine. The owner to no one in particular said “shift”, “shift”, “Why doesn’t he shift”? Finally the Cobra slowed as it entered the loop for the second lap of the course, which turned out to be a duplicate of the first run, to the owner’s dismay.

The owner quickly left the stands and headed for the pits, where he confronted the driver with “Why didn’t you shift on the main straight?” Back came the replay “Shift, but I was in top gear?”



Long Ago in Pit Stop July 1964

By Bob Jenkins

This issue was only a two page affair, with one page of articles and the other a calendar. One article stated Marin GT was holding an autocross at Hamilton AFB, with an entry fee of \$3.50 per driver. It also stated NAPA VALLEY CHECKPOINTERS would hold a rally starting from the Napa Bowl called the LI'L OLE WINEMAKERS VINTAGE '64, with an entry fee of \$2.50 and a fifth of wine was to go with the usual trophies.

Another article stated a new SANTA ROSA RALLY CLUB called C&D (CLOCK & DIAL) TOURING SOCIETY had an event with 18 cars of which 9 were filled with **ESCA** members, so we got the participation trophy, which was our second award of the year.

The results of **ESCA** Club HARE & HOUND TIME-DISTANCE RALLY was given by Larry Mac. 1st Frank Demostene - VW, 2nd Bob Jenkins - Volvo, 3rd Ron Nord - TR3, 4th Dan Peterson - Porsche, 5th Ian Cook - MG Midget, 6th Bob Guyton - Yamaha, 7th Frank Granada - Porsche, and 8th Don Eaton - TR4.

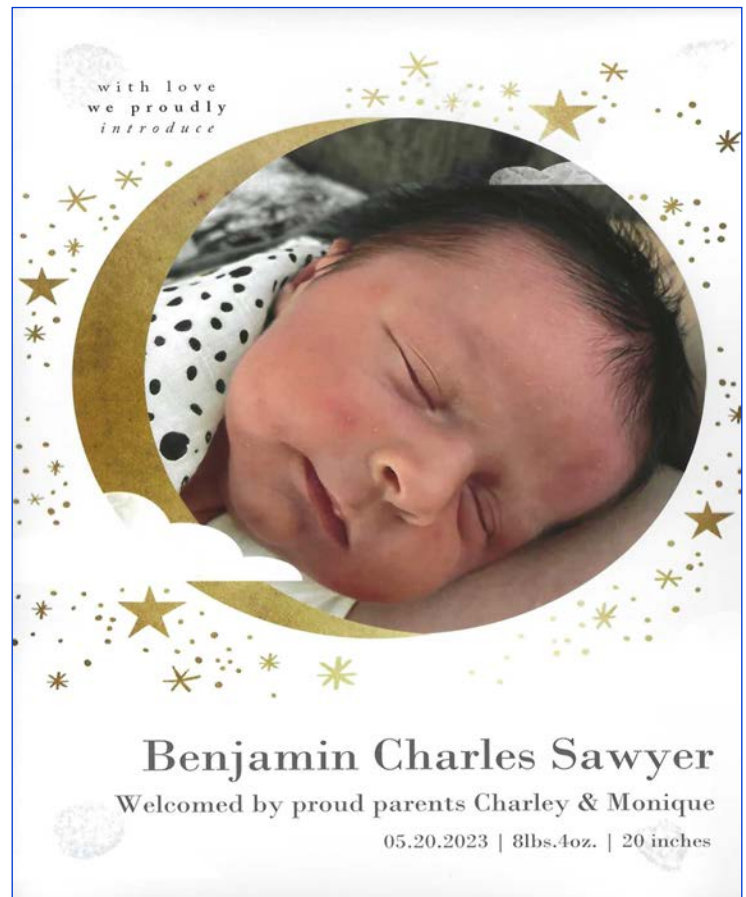
An article about an **ESCA** up-coming open rally called RALLY OF THE AUGUST MOON, rallymastered by Bob Jenkins, started from the Big "G" Supermarket in Sausalito and finished at Pinky's Pizza Parlor in San Rafael.

Jim Delapp had his Lancia sedan, 1100 Twin cam V-4 for sale for only \$752, He took a third place in Sedan Class at the COBB MT. HILLCLIMB. Also, the MacDonald's household had an abundance of kittens, free to good homes.

The calendar page had SCCA RACES at Cotati, a T&D Rally by the MODESTO 99ERS, a Variety Rally by SORRY SAFARI, an Autocross by COMPETITION SCC, a SFSCC T&D Rallye from the S.F. YACHT CLUB, A Variety Rally by ALPINE TOURING CLUB, an Autocross by NCCA at Cotati, a Variety Rally by REDLINERS, and a Variety Rallye by EL DORADO TOURING CLUB. At the bottom of the calendar it was stated that more information about the events could be obtained from the S.F. Chronicle, the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, and the S.F. Examiner.

ESCA was still meeting at the El Rancho in Santa Rosa and Board meetings and Committee meetings were at member's homes.

Congratulations



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





Shortest Path Possible

By Alex Ivakhnenko

I was back at the [ESCA](#) karting event for my second chance to go for the victory after John Castellano had snatched it away through skillful traffic avoidance. This event was a little lighter than last but this time around we had a pair of Johns and a pair of Steves. Our practice run was a bit of an eye opener as we were let loose on level 4 right out of the gate. Tires were squealing, karts were sliding and I had my hands full! I tried to keep my eye on the leaderboard screen as I zoomed passed while experiencing the raw speed of level 4! My name flashed at the top of the board for the first few laps and then slipped so far down that I couldn't decipher what position I was in anymore.



Steve Rossiter and John Schliemann took the top 2 spots and I had managed to claw my way into 3rd. This was a fast group with the lap times only a half a second from slowest to fastest. It was anybody's race. Next up was qualifying and I decided to take a crack at some different techniques. I tried keeping my foot at 100% throttle and the kart just pushed wildly. I had a near hit with Steve Habbkirk when we both came in too hot into the back hairpin and spun out. Level 4 really did change things up quite a bit. The karts were way faster and finding a good line proved to be that much trickier. The next technique I tried was to follow the shortest path possible. Keep it tight and avoid pushing. It felt slow as there was no drama but then I saw my name shoot up to the top of the list and stay there. Qualifying was done and five of us had dipped our toes into the 21 second range. High fives were shared as we were all significantly quicker than our last outing. The final race was up with all the karts lined up on the grid. I was in the pole position politely asking Gary Shannon, who was just behind, to cut everyone off and let me pull away. The green flag went down and I only had one thought on my mind, shortest path possible. Any mistake and there would be 6 hungry sharks that would be ready to sink their teeth into the first position at any given opportunity. A gentle tap on the brakes, just enough to slow down but not lock up and slide. I kept it clean and short all the way to the victory lap. John Castellano ended up 3rd but the real star was Craig Hammond who managed to go from the back of the pack to 2nd. Unfortunately, Steve Rossiter suffered kart troubles. The next [ESCA](#) kart event is in June. How short of a path can you take to victory?



ESCA 2023 Calendar

JULY

- 01-02 Bracket Drags
04 *Holiday - No ESCA Meeting*
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 Tentative
 12-13 RSCC Autocross in Eureka (www.rsc.net)
 15 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
 16 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
19 ESCA's 60th 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)
 14-16 Grand Prix of Indycar Series (SR)
 19 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
 20 Sonoma Raceway Drags & Drift
 22 ESCA Bodega Marine Lab Tour

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)
 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.

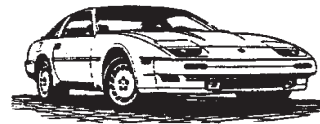
For Bay Area Rallyes check out the

RALLYE CLUB WEBSITE INFORMATION

<http://www.therallyclub.org>

or Redwood Region PCA

<https://redwoodpca.org>



HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS...

Tom Buggia

Suzy Fitzgerald

Jacinda Franusich

Mel Konrad

Claudia Quinlivan

Gary Shannon

Robert Wichtowski

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

Northwest Hill Climb Association

(541) 772-7314

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



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707.538.4325
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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"