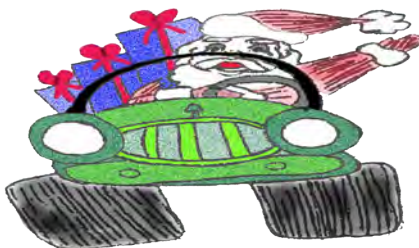




PIT STOP



DECEMBER 2023

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

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

Volume 60-12



November ESCA Autocross

By Craig Hammond

Inaugural: noun

Webster's Defined as: marking a beginning: First in a projected series

ESCA held its Inaugural Autocross at Sonoma County Fairgrounds, let's hope ol'e Mr Webster's is right about "The first in a projected series." Because we had a great time and can't wait to return.

continued on [page 6](#)

ESCA Christmas Light Tour Saturday Night, December 16, 2023

This year Lorie and I will be presenting the annual **ESCA** Christmas Light Tour. We really enjoy "light hopping" and look forward to sharing this experience with the **ESCA** family. The tour is different each year. We never know where we're going until we start looking around. We seek out the best displays and try to find creative ways to link them all together. The tours are typically about a two-hour drive.

We will be gathering on December 16th at 6pm by the Rancho Montecito Center True Value hardware store on Middle Rincon Rd. in Santa Rosa. Please dress for the weather and have a full tank of fuel.

Additional route details will be shared as when they become available.

Please RSVP to: Chuck "and" Lorie at –
cebusa@sbcglobal.net loriekay@sbcglobal.net

What's Inside . . .

Page [2](#) ~ Beard Speak, Meeting Dates, Club Store, Helmet

Page [3](#) ~ ESCA Banquet Flyer

Page [4](#) ~ October Go-Kart

Page [5](#) ~ October Go-Kart

Page [6](#) ~ ESCA November Autocross article

Page [7](#) ~ ESCA November Autocross Results

Page [8](#) ~ All British Show

Page [9](#) ~ All British Show, 30 Years Ago in Pit Stop

Page [10](#) ~ ESCA Calendar, Birthdays, 30 Years Ago

Page [11](#) ~ Velocity Invitational in Photos

Page [12](#) ~ Velocity Invitational in Photos

Page [13](#) ~ Websites, Cars & Coffee, Ads and Ad Rates

Page [14](#) ~ 2023 Board, 2023 Committee, Views, Mission

BEARD SPEAK AGAIN

By Bob Jenkins

Happy Holidays to All!

Well, on November 4th we had our first autocross of the year and it was a very nice day, with no rain, and not a day to soon as it rained the next day. This marked only the fifth time in **ESCA** history that we have run an autocross in November. If there were no complaints from the neighbors and we do not think there were, we have asked for autocross dates for 2024, so look for results in up-coming **PIT STOPS**. The first date we asked for was March 24th, 2024.

Next up will be the election of **ESCA** Board members and we will again vote using an electronic ballot and if you are eligible to vote, you will receive a ballot by email.

As the **ESCA** year is ending we still have a couple of fun events on the calendar starting:

Sunday morning, **DECEMBER 10TH**, with the **ANNUAL MEETING, TOY COLLECTION, BANQUET**, at the Cattlemens in Rohnert Park, followed by the tour to a Santa Rosa Fire Station to drop off all the toys we collect at the banquet.

Then on Saturday night, **DECEMBER 16TH** we have another great **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TOUR** lead by Lori & Chuck Banks, so be sure and check out the article on the front page of this **PIT STOP**, with the start location and time.

The "Santa in Car" drawing on the cover of this **PIT STOP** was first drawn by Gary O'Connor back in the 1980's.

I would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to all the members who put on events and attended events and came to meetings on **ZOOM** and in person, because it is very hard to put on events with getting limited feed back from the membership.

Hope to see you at one or both of the up coming events.



ESCA Meetings are In-Person/ZOOM
December 5

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.

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

Current **ESCA**
Membership Total
124



Bring a new unwrapped toy
for our toy drive to the **ESCA**
Banquet on December 10th.





4619 Redwood Dr., Rohnert Park



Sunday Brunch, at 11:00AM December 10, 2023

*** Annual Meeting * Toy Drive**
*** Installation of Officers * Review of Year Events**

Cost: \$20.00 per ESCA Member
Guests will be \$20.00 per person.



*Please bring
a new
unwrapped toy*



Reservations **MUST be received by, December 3, 2023.**

Please **1.** Contact **ESCA Secretary** and Pay at a the Dec. 5th Mtg, **or,**

2. pay on MSR at **msreg.com/ESCAbanquet2023** (service fee) **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 \$ _____

Unearned Pole Position

By John Castellano

You know how sometimes you're coming up to a red light and there are cars in one lane but the other is wide open? I call that "unearned pole position". This was kind-of like that. As readers of this column know, the best way to win the Main is to qualify on the pole, and that's what I set out to do.

During practice we were on Max Power, having a great time, and I managed to post one of my fastest laps ever. So far so good. But during qualifying, I was just getting my tires warmed up when my kart died on lap 4, causing a caution flag.

When we got going again, Steve Rossiter quickly moved to the top of the time chart, and I set out to catch him, but then my kart glitched again bringing out another caution. Apparently a few of the karts don't like Power Level 4. At some point they may have dropped us to Power Level 3, but for whatever reason I never got going again. I figured "oh well, that's racing".

But the race officials knew it was their computer that caused



the mayhem in qualifying. They knew some of us got screwed. So they decided to combine the qual and practice sessions to determine the qualifying order. That put me in the first kart! Unearned Pole Position. If I won, that would be the headline.

I started from the lead and never looked back. If I had, I would have seen "Rat Fink" Johnny Schlieman diving inside of outside polesitter Steve Rossiter into Turn 1. They battled hard for three laps, then Johnny got clear in second.

I saw on the time board that Johnny was turning the fastest lap times. He was watching my every move, tracking my line. He started reeling me in and pretty soon he was knocking on my back door. You can't really pass at K1 without using the bumper, but he didn't dump me and I managed to hold on for the win.



continued on [page 5](#)

Unearned Pole

continued from [page 4](#)

After getting dive-bombed at the start, Rossiter then came under attack by his off-track buddy Steve Habkirk. They battled hard for many laps but Rossiter held him off for third place. Behind them, Ron Cox was happy to finish on the lead lap in fifth. It was one of the first times when everyone finished on the lead lap.

F1 fan Andy Ferrara qualified at the back, normal for a rookie kart driver. He expressed the difficulty in passing. I told him "Eight tires turn better than four...eight tires and a wall turn best of all". He took it to heart and passed Gary Shannon



for sixth. Hopefully he didn't rough him up too bad. Gary was fast in practice and qual, as usual, but in the Main he got a kart with no speed in it and couldn't go anywhere.

Karting has been a good consolation for our lost autocross season. It scratches the competitive itch. It focusses the mind and the world disappears as you enter a pure flow state. Come on out next time!



November ESCA Autocross

continued from [front page](#)

Track lay out was a challenge due the unfamiliarity of the space, but with **ESCA's** in-house Mad Scientist John Castellano at the ready, we were in good hands.

John painstakingly plotted out every light pole, fence and fire hydrant. He used his mad skills to design a course that zig-zagged, and weaved here and there to keep us safely having a blast, all the while satisfying our insurance regulations.

There was just one thing.....that damn Dip!!!!

Although John and I had made multiple visits to the site, we failed to give the "Damn DIP" its proper respect.

But with more of the Mad Scientist trickery, he was able to minimize its influence on our day.

Over all we had 25 drivers who had a BLAST!!

Alex Ivaknenko Bested the field with a 41.581 TTOD run with Mike McCrory hot on his tail with a tail-pipe-nipping 41.859. Dan Lassen was nipping at Mike's bumper to finish out Third with a 42.144.

In all, most drivers got nine runs and had a great time in our own back yard.

HUGE thanks to Charley Sawyer for the countless hours he spent on the phone with the SCFG reps to make this all happen.

Thank you all for coming out and helping set up, run and tear down.

P.S. I hear the "Damn DIP" will not be an issue next year.

..... I smell a series next year

11-04-23 Autocross Photo link

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/XyBgVCwqZQAcz9ZE8>



Continued on [page 7](#)

November ESCA Autocross

Continued from [page 6](#)

	Class	#	Driver	Car Model	Raw Time	Diff.	From 1st
1	GTC-S	34	Alex Ivakhnenko	2007 Mazda Mx5	41.581	0.000	0.000
2	GTC-S	162	Mike McCrory	1995 Honda Civic	41.859	0.278	0.278
3	GTB-S	30	Daniel Lassen	2015 Ford Focus ST	42.144	0.285	0.563
4	X	135	Charley Sawyer	2022 Exomotive Exocet R	42.588	0.444	1.007
5	GTB-S	1	Isaac Hastings	2005 Mazda speed Miata	42.612	0.024	1.031
6	GTA-S	153	Michael Prescott	2013 Ford Mustang 5.0	42.949	0.337	1.368
7	GTC-S	421	Nicholas Doyle	1996 Nissan 240sx	43.213	0.264	1.632
8	GTB-R	45	Steve Rossiter	1983 Mazda RX7	43.555	0.342	1.974
9	GTC-S	12	Darrin Holm	1995 Honda Civic	43.949	0.394	2.368
10	GTC-S	3	John Castellano	1960 Volkswagen Bug	44.054	0.105	2.473
11	GTB-R	27	Craig Hammond	1983 Mazda rx7	44.119	0.065	2.538
12	GTA-S	240	Rich Bishop	2017 BMW M240ix	44.248	0.129	2.667
13	GTC-S	18	Ben Mo	2009 Honda Civic Si	44.618	0.370	3.037
14	GTB-S	14	Martin Johns	2011 BMW 128i convertibl	44.666	0.048	3.085
15	GTA-S	23	Blaine Pope	1995 Chevrolet Camaro Z28	44.937	0.271	3.356
16	GTC-R	9	John Schliemann	1995 Mazda Miata	45.105	0.168	3.524
17	GTA-R	505	Martin Franusich	1990 Chevrolet Corvette	45.184	0.079	3.603
18	GTA-S	109	Tamara Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	45.542	0.358	3.961
19	GTC-S	1701	Christopher Brazell	2019 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF	45.697	0.155	4.116
20	GTC-S	131	Ed Biglin	2002 Honda S2000	45.972	0.275	4.391
21	X	70	Gary Shannon	2007 BMW M Coupe	47.886	1.914	6.305
22	GTA-S	189	Dan Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	47.915	0.029	6.334
23	GTC-S	53	Ken Silk	73 VW Bug	49.223	1.308	7.642
24	GTB-S	191	Julie Silk	2006 Mini Cooper S	51.310	2.087	9.729
25	GTB-S	59	Stephanie Brazell	2000 Mercedes-Benz SLK230	52.777	1.467	11.196





2023 All British Motor Show

By Gerry Mugele

The morning of October 15th did not start well. Preparing to leave Glen Ellen at 6:15 am it was dark and foggy. For once I'd prepared for less than ideal weather by putting up the top of the Triumph the night before. The thing is a 56 year old English car doesn't necessarily have the best weather protection or functioning wipers. Before I'd gone a couple miles the problems with a wet windscreen were obvious. The oncoming headlights made it much worse. Highway 37 from Sears Point to Vallejo was almost daunting enough to make me want to give up trying to get to Blackhawk Automotive Museum.

The Mini Owners of America were hosting their 33rd annual ALL BRITISH CAR SHOW AT BLACKHAWK and I'd signed up to bring my '67 TR4A. In past years it has been grand fun and always interesting. This year the featured marque was Triumph. However that was for motorcycles. The feature car marque was the Austin Healey Sprite.

There was a smaller turnout than in past years but still pretty remarkable. Of course there were plenty of Sprites and Triumph bikes. Also ten E-Type Jags, a plethora of various versions of Minis and only two of the current version. Morgans and MGs were there in abundance, two Land Rovers, one Rolls Royce, some Cortinas, Escorts, an array of Lotus, three Jensen Interceptors all owned by the same guy, and three Astons... but all recent ones. Among my favorites was a 1959 1.5 liter Riley saloon.

This is not a concours event so judging is handled by all



Continued on [page 9](#)

2023 All British Motor Show

Continued from [page 8](#)

the entrants. It's sort of a peer-review assessment which, to my mind, is slightly more gratifying since the competitors know what it takes to present what they see on the field. Getting a win means having your entry appreciated by your equals and is somehow more satisfying than a nod from a cadre of judges.

The overall winner (Best of Show) was a 1934 Morris Cowley Bullnose. It's not a particularly attractive car in the best of circumstances but it has an Ugly Duckling kind of effect on people.

If you've seen any of the recent PBS series ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL, the Tristan character is mocked for coming home with a Morris Cowley Bullnose. In peak condition, the maximum velocity they're capable of is something like 25 MPH. Not much of a threat in hillclimbs or at the Goodwood Revival.

I suppose it shouldn't be a surprise that there were no Lagondas there. Ditto Damliers, Vanden Plas, HRGs, and other oddities. There was, however, one TVR. Apparently it garnered only a single vote; from its owner I presume.



By Bob Jenkins

The drawing on the cover of Santa in a sports car was by Gary O'Connor. Also on the cover was a column by the [ESCA](#) Chairman, Carl Balsillie, entitled C C RIDER, which talked about his year as Chairman and the hardest part of the job being writing the Chairman's column and thinking maybe he should wait for the next generation of word processors that incorporates Artificial Intelligence. The other article on the cover was about the [ESCA](#) Christmas Party to be held at Oreste's Golden Bear Lodge in Kenwood, with a cost of \$20, and Terry Larson and HOME MADE JAMM would be playing music for dancing.

Inside was an article headed IMPORTANT, stating Committee Head & Date Selection would be at the first meeting of the year and [ESCA](#) was buying the pizza.

A Christmas Party Slideshow article stated at least 45 members made an appearance in the show.

A notice for the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SPORTS CAR COUNCIL ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, stated it would be at the Beverly Heritage Hotel in Milpitas, with Autocross and Rallye awards, dinner and a slide show.

A Charity Rallye article talked about [ESCA's](#) Annual Charity Rallye, which started from the SRJC parking lot and traveled through the newly opened SKYFARM area of FOUNTAIN GROVE, and HIDDEN VALLEY, PROCTOR TERRACE and McDONALD areas. The Rallye was a Question and Answer type and 30 cans of food were collected for charity. Mike & Nancy Bryant took first in TOP CLASS just in front of Gary & Terry O'Connor, and in the other class Nancy & Marty Nygaard took first over John & Kiyo Newbern.

A come out and vote ballot listed Chairman Bob Jenkins, Vice Chairman Karen Larson, Secretary Linda Jurin, Treasurer Nick Brown or Jim Odom, and Ex-Officio Curt Askim.

A WESTERN CARIBBEAN DISCOVERY CRUISE article by Marci Jenkins invited members on a 7-day Holland America

Continued on [page 10](#)

ESCA 2023-24 Calendar

December

- 2-3 24 Hours of Lemons Sonoma Raceway
 02 TRC Virtual Rallye
05 **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
ELECTION NIGHT RESULTS
10 **ESCA Annual Meeting & Banquet**
16 **ESCA Lights Tour**

January 2024

- 01 Happy New Year
 02 **ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**

June

- 08-09 Toyota/Save Mart 350 NASCAR
 21-23 Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey

August

- 14-17 Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion
 24 Ferrari Challenge North America

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>

REDWOOD REGION PCA

<https://redwoodpca.org>

American Autocross Series

<https://americanautocross.com/>

SFR SCCA

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

Northwest Hill Climb Association

(541) 772-7314

www.nhahillclimb.org

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS...

Doug Batt
 Bruce Bentz
 Sam Brabo
 Isaac Brabo
 Kathleen Brady
 Michael Bryant
 Ian Cook
 Derek Dillenberg
 Nick Doyle
 Jake Hammond
 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!

Thirty Years Ago in Pit Stop

Continued from [page 9](#)

Line cruise to the Caribbean.

An order your **ESCA** shirt today article invited members to order **ESCA** logo shirts and hats.

The TODDLER '93 article by Bob Jenkins invited members to head down to Fremont for Fremont Touring Clubs ANNUAL TODDLER CHARITY RALLYE.

A "Never Look Back" article by Mike Bryant talked about his experience running **ESCA**'s CHARITY QUESTION & ANSWER RALLYE, which also had 4 pictures to be found along the route. One of the pictures was of the McDonald Mansion and you had to look back to see and instructions told you not to look back.

There was an **ESCA** Chairmans 1963 to 1993 list, starting with Richard Butler up to Carl Balsillie.

ESCA's 1993 Board was listed as Chairman Carl Balsillie, Vice-Chairman Curt Askim, Secretary Mike Bryant, Treasurer Neal Campbell, Ex-Officio Bob Jenkins. All 10 **ESCA** Committee Chair positions were filled.

The last page was a full membership page of the 78 members, of which only 17 are still members.

Velocity Invitational in Photos November 10-12 at Sonoma Raceway

All photos by Gerry Mugele



Continued on [page 12](#)

Velocity Invitational in Photos
November 10-12 at Sonoma Raceway

Continued from [page 11](#)



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
 - ▶ Machado Burgers
 - ▶ 406 Larkfield Center Santa Rosa
 - ▶ Car Shows on Fridays 4 to 7 pm



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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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"