



PIT STOP



FEBRUARY 2024

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association* Volume 61-2



Autocross News

Hello **ESCA**ns and Happy 2024!

I hope everyone's holidays were nice and relaxing! If you have not already heard, we have been able to get some dates on the calendar for a full points AutoX season! We will be running at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds after a successful test event last November. Thank you all again for coming out to help and run! I hope more members can come out and have some fun this year with the AutoX back in the Santa Rosa area. Please keep in mind we have a strict 95 decibel sound limit to keep our neighbors at the site happy.

Continued in [next column](#)

Here is the 2024 Event Schedule:

Sunday	March 24
Saturday	May 4
Saturday	May 18
Saturday	June 1
Sunday	June 30
Saturday	September 21
Saturday	October 5
Saturday	November 2

I'm looking for some event chairs and/or co-chairs, so please, if you'd like to volunteer, it's a great chance to try your hand at a new site. Look for the first event details to arrive in March!

Get your cars ready and prepped and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Cheers!

Charley Sawyer
ESCA AutoX Chair

Remember your 2024 **ESCA** dues must be paid before you can registration for an autocross.

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BEARD SPEAK AGAIN

By Bob Jenkins

February 2024



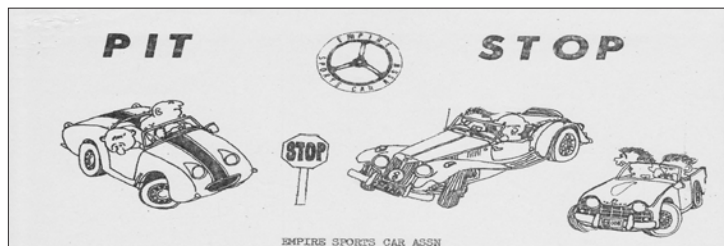
The year is off to a very good start, with two new members, and attendance at meetings growing. The January Go-Kart event had 21 people attend, with 17 drivers. We now have 8 autocross dates on the calendar, two will be on Sundays, with the first on **Sunday, March 24th**.

Work on our **Annual Charity Rallye** is well under way, and of course we are again looking for checkpoint workers. Our next in door event will be another Go-Kart event on **Tuesday night February 27th**, and then we will start our out-door season in March.

As you may have guessed all the events do not happen by themselves, Craig Hammond has been setting up the Go-Kart events, and Charley Sawyer has gotten us the autocross dates and now Charley will need help, as we need an event chair and co-chair for each autocross. The event chair needs to be experienced, but the co-chair position is a learning job, so they can some-day be a chair.

So, if you would like to learn more about the positions, contract Charley Sawyer at autocross@empiresportscar.org

Hope to see you see you in person at a meeting or on ZOOM.



40 Years Ago in Pit Stop February 1984

By Bob Jenkins

On the cover was an article entitled From the Chair by 1984 Chairperson Marci Tarleton (soon to be Jenkins) in which she thanked everyone for stepping up and taking Committee Head positions. She also talked about a beer tasting party, a 2nd annual car show at the Plaza, and that from April thru October there would be rallies, autocrosses and tours.

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ESCA Meetings are In-Person/ZOOM FEBRUARY 6 & 20

7:00 p.m.

Round Table Pizza, 1791 Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa

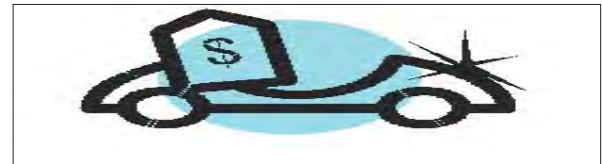
Link for ZOOM meeting will be sent the weekend before the meeting.

Go Kart

February 27th

at Nitro City Racing

(formerly K-1 Speed) in Rohnert Park



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/2024ESCAMembership

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.

PLEASE WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

STEVE RING

ROBERT HAYES

Mazda Maita

Fiat 124 Abarth



Winter Driving

Article and Photos by Gerry Mugele

My ancient brother came off the production line the year before the Mercedes W163 Formula 1 car. So, due to age, he recently decided to give up riding his BMW K bike. Then he got himself a used 2005 Mercedes SLK 350 that's more or less the twin to mine. Due some poor life choices he's now sentenced to life in Texas. He just sent me an email bragging:

Went for 150 mile cruise in east Texas behind the Pine Curtain. SLK was perfect as usual. 40 degrees-top down-heated seats, neck warmer, heater all on. A magical experience. and I responded:

Did that in Austria in January of 2005. Hard to believe that it was 19 years ago this month that we picked up the SLK at Sindelfingen.

At 28°f driving to Schwangau, Germany from the Inter-Alpen Hotel in Telfs-Buchen, Austria we were pretty comfy, top down. When we got to Schwangau we had yet another encounter with our Germanic heritage. Most everywhere we went in the SLK (with German plates) people spoke to us in German until they heard our accents. When we pulled up to the Parkplatz at Neuschwanstein the attendant came out of his booth and said: "Just park over there." As I was parking I asked Lilly if he'd said that in English. She thought maybe he had. I wondered why and she suggested I go ask him. So I wandered over and asked him.

He said: "Ja Natürlich."

I asked: "Warum?"

"Because you're American.... aren't you?"

"Yes, but how could you know that?"

"Who else would be so silly to drive with the top down in this weather?"

I had to give him points for the logic and accuracy but deducted points for "German diplomacy."

Driving on the ice and snow was not too terrible but traction was often difficult to maintain. It was only later, after we got home, that I learned that if the polizei had accosted me, I could/would have been fined 2000 Euros for having the wrong tires. In Deutschland the fine was 'only' 400 Euros and I don't know what it was in Switzerland. But in order to bring the car into the US it had to have DOT approved tires and none of those would have been good enough for Austria in Winter.



We found that the bun warming seats and the 'air scarf' blowing warm air on our necks was probably more effective than the heater itself when the top was down.

BTW, when we drove up to the Inter-Alpen Hotel, it me flummoxed for a while when we approached, as there was no obvious place to park. Nothing around it but snow.

Huh what? Then when a few hundred meters away Lilly spotted the sign on a wall above something that looked like it might have been a loading dock.



Continued on [page 4](#)

ESCA AUTOCROSS Information

Registration link will be in your email 10 days before the Autocross

Dues **must be paid before** you can register!

Site opens at 8:00 A.M.

Gate closes at 9:15 A. M.

All drivers must be 16 or older.

New Drivers Course walk at 9:15 A.M.

Registration closes at 9:30 A.M.

Mandatory Drivers Meeting at 9:40 A. M.

Self Tech Card must be completed, it is available at time of registration

Bring all release forms signed, they are emailed on Thursday before the autocross

At the Autocross – Remember:

Have Driver License & **ESCA** Card out before the gate.

No Drugs or Alcohol allowed on site.

Bring contrasting colored tape for car number

Decibel limit is 95 – No car warm-ups before 10 A.M.

Helmets **MUST** be Snell Approved 2010 or newer

Must sign-up for Worker Position at Check-In

No food or water on site – please bring your own

If leaving early see Charley Sawyer or event chair

Drive slowly and quietly to and from site

Winter Driving

Continued from [page 3](#)

“Fahren ein” it said in big block letters. That means “drive in.” Hmmm? Really? As we got closer we could see lights inside and some movement.

We entered and immediately I was sure that it was a mistake... there was wood and carpet everywhere so I stopped.

Up stepped a bell boy who waved us forward. Yup! You literally drive into the lobby of the very fancy hotel. We couldn't believe it. Then those parking varlets thought I was going to allow them to park my new pride and joy. There are about a dozen levels of parking beneath the hotel. I parked where no one was around to ding my doors.



~ Blast from the Past ~



Registration table for an **ESCA** autocross in the rear parking lot of the Coddington Shopping Center. Notice that the registration people were doing double duty as baby sitters

ESCA held autocross and Funkhanas at Coddington from 1966 until 1976. In 1977 we moved to the Sonoma County airport.

Redwood Sports Car Club 2024 Autocross Schedule

February	10-11	(weather permitting)
March	09-10	(weather permitting)
April	13-14	
May	11-12	
June	15-16	
July	20-21	Korbel Hillclimb
August	10-11	
September	14-15	
October	12-13	

Schedule on Facebook: Redwood Sports Car Club

40 Years Ago in Pit Stop

Continued from [page 2](#)

An AUTO CROSS 84 article by Ted Dunlap stated that from discussions at meetings it was decided that **ESCA** would hold 6 autocrosses, with 2 open to the public and 4 for members only.

A Smog Alert article stated that on March 20th the state of California will begin mandatory smog control inspections in the bay area.

A 1984 **ESCA** Chairperson's list showed Ted Dunlap as Autocross, Terry O'Connor Entertainment, John Gardner Historian, Theresa Thomason PIT STOP, Cindy Johannes Publicity, Steve Thomasson Tour, with Rallye and Funkhana both open.

A GRACE THE MALL article by Ted Dunlap talked about the need for about 10 more cars. The cars were to be parked throughout the mall and cordoned off with stanchions. Members were to work in 2 hour shifts to staff booths to answer questions and pass out flyers and to handle an autocross video.



ESCA car display at the Santa Rosa Plaza in 1984.

AN **ESCA** GOES TO THE BANQUET by the Beard talked about the 6 members who went to the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SPORTS CAR COUNCIL's banquet in the bay area. John & Ruthie Gardner and Marci and the Beard collected awards from the NCSCC Rallye Series, and for the 8th year in a row **ESCA** won the award for BEST RALLYE OF THE YEAR for our SUN FUN I RALLYE. There was a slide show of the 1983 SPORTS CAR OLYMPICS, followed by dancing to a live band. Other **ESCA** members present were Frank & Linda Jurin, Honorary member Gregg Wallace and ex-**ESCA** members Diane & Ed Lacina

A HOPS HAPPENING article by Ted Dunlap stated all were welcome and asked questions, where can you get a good 12oz beer for 30cents, can a low calorie beer deliver the taste of

continued on [bottom of next column](#)

ESCA's 57th Annual April Fools Rallye

Sunday, April 7, 2024



We have a start site (Snoopy's Ice Arena parking Lot), a finish site (Mountain Mike's Pizza on Russell) and the Insurance is ready to be ordered. The route of less then 40 miles is set and the gimmicks are being fine tuned.

By the time your read this the flyer will have been e-mailed out to the area car clubs. Then in February we will be going to area car club meetings to tell them about our rallye.

As always we are looking for checkpoint workers, so if you are not going to run, and will be in town, please let Bob or Marci Jenkins know you like to help.

The years rallye will run mostly in the Sebastopol, West county area.



traditional brews, does anybody in Santa Rosa delivery good pizza.? The event was at a member's home and the requirements were: 72 ounces of beer, one wine glass and \$ 5 cash, dinner is included.

A 20TH APRIL FOOLS RALLYE stated that for only the third time in its 20-year history **ESCA**'s APRIL FOOLS RALLYE will be run on April 1st.

An **ESCA** EVENT LIST showed 14 events: 4 Tours, 2 open A/B Rallyes, 1 TSD Rallye, 1 Car Show, and 2 open Autocross and 4 Club Autocrosses.

A February calendar showed **ESCA** meeting at the West America Bank at the corner of Fulton and Guerneville in Santa Rosa.

January 23 Go-Kart Photos

Article in the March PIT STOP



EMPIRE

SPORTS

CAR

ASSOCIATION

*presents the***57th ANNUAL****APRIL****FOOLS****RALLYE****AN A-B RALLYE OPEN TO ALL TYPES OF CARS****DATE:** SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

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 30 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 - To Sign-up

CALL (707) 546-6867 OR E-MAIL thebeard@sonic.net

FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE APRIL FOOLS RALLYE WEBSITE IS: rallyeplace.net

You can run a practice A/B Map Rallye there.

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.



ESCA 2024 Calendar

February

- 06 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
20 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
27 ESCA Go Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park

March

- 05 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
 19 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
24 ESCA Autocross - Sunday

April

- 02 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
07 ESCA 57th Annual April Fools Rallye - Sunday
 13 Maria Carrillo High School Car Show
 16 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

May

- 04 ESCA Autocross - Saturday
 07 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
18 ESCA Autocross - Saturday
 21 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

June

- 01 ESCA Autocross - Saturday
 04 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
 08-09 Toyota/Save Mart 350 NASCAR
 21-23 Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey
30 ESCA Autocross - Sunday

August

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

September

- 21 ESCA Autocross - Saturday

October

- 05 ESCA Autocross - Saturday

November

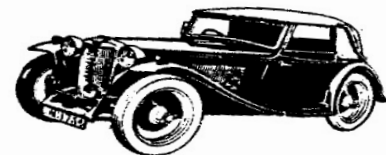
- 02 ESCA Autocross - Saturday

Check websites and Facebook for the latest information to learn if the events are going to happen as scheduled.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS...

Homer Balsley
 Mark Burchill
 Joe Machado
 Steve McCrory
 Gary McKinney
 Marty Nygaard
 Michael Prescott
 Bruce Sexauer
 David Shilling

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



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://americanautox.com/>

SFR SCCA

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

Northwest Hill Climb Association

(541) 772-7314

www.nhahillclimb.org

Autocross Helmet Requirement

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

Current **ESCA**
Membership Total
124

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

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

THE

2004 Bodega Avenue, Petaluma CA 94952

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

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707.538.4325
M-F 8am-5pm
[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"