

# PIT STOP





## April 2025

# The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*Volume 62-4

# Next ESCA Autocross May 11, 2025

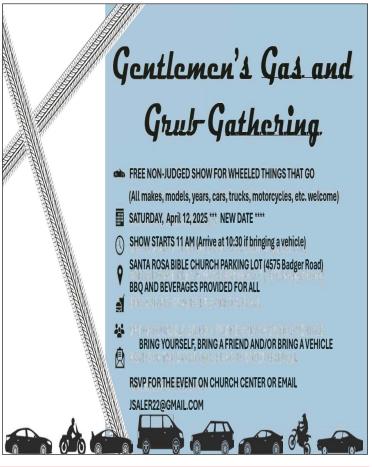
Sonoma County Fairgrounds
Registration opens May 1st

## ESCA Meeting April 1, 2025 7:00 p.m. (No Joke)

ESCA Meetings are In-Person/ZOOM

This is the only meeting in April!

**Round Table Pizza,** 1791 Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa Link for ZOOM meeting will be sent before the meeting..



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Mission Statement

## Robert's Roundtable 2025



Autocross season is officially underway! **ESCA** held its first Autocross event of the year yesterday, and despite some surprise precipitation midday, we had a very successful day at the Fairgrounds. (I must have jinxed it when I said it was finally starting to dry out in last month's column. I won't make that same mistake two months in a row.)

With over a month before the next event, we all have plenty of time to convince ourselves that the best way to shave off a second or two next time is a set of coilovers or a pair of new swaybars.

A cheaper way to lower those lap times is to attend **ESCA**'s go-karting nights at Nitro City, every fourth Tuesday at 7pm. Believe it or not, the skills you can develop in karting are transferable to other disciplines of motorsports, especially the tight tracks we use for Autocross. Having said that, I'm sure I'll have a set of shocks and dampeners bookmarked on my computer by the time you read this.

Also, I want to thank Martin for leading the Tour to the COBRA EXPERIENCE in Martinez on March 16th. There are a lot of exciting motorsports and car culture events throughout Northern California this Spring and Summer, including races at Sonoma and the upcoming car show in Oakmont. If something catches your eye, please feel free to bring it up at the next meeting during the "For the Good of the Association" portion, and we'll discuss getting a group together to attend.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who responded to my survey. I look forward to sharing the data with the Association and gaining insight into what our members want from **ESCA**.



## PLEASE WELCOME

#### **NEW MEMBERS....**

Doug Brekke BMW M3

Grady Carter Porsche Boxster S
John Dolan Porsche Boxster S
Nancy Gershman Mercedes CLK 500

Alan Jung Mazda Miata

Alex Southern 240Z



## **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, John Schliemann, at a meeting, or 2) use your credit card on MSR (there is a small service fee and your card will be charged immediately) at <a href="mailto:msreg.com/ESCA2025Membership">msreg.com/ESCA2025Membership</a> 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 for an autocross.

Current ESCA Membership Total 145





photo from 2023 event

### ESCA February Go-Kart

By Nathan Engdahl

The February Go-Karting session at Nitro City in Rohnert Park was an absolute blast! We had enough participants join the karting fun to run two groups, and we decided to run the track backwards to give the regulars a little extra challenge.

Practice was the first run where all the participants learned or relearned the course running in the "wrong" direction. Next came the qualifying round where all the drivers tried to beat their best time to earn a spot up front in the starting grid for the final race. Finally, the main event! We were split in two races with drivers being placed on a starting grid based on their qualifying times.

Once the green flag drops, all the karts launched toward the first corner. This was a wheel-to-wheel race where every input matters and passing required planning and perfect execution. There were close battles for position in both races which meant there was some great spectating while waiting for your turn to race. Once the checkered flag dropped, we had our winners who earned bragging rights until the next event.

These Go-Kart events are a great way to get your race on while you are waiting for the next autocross event. Future events are listed on the **ESCA** calendar so come hang out with some **ESCA** members and their guests while competing for a podium finish!





## **Autocross Information**

- ➤ Registration link will be in your email 10 days before the Autocross
- ➤ The cost for this May event will be \$70 for members and invited guests \$70, plus \$10 for One-Day Membership Dues must be paid before you can register!
- ➤ Site opens at 8:00 A.M., unless you're scheduled to help set up.
- ➤ Gate closes at 9:15 A. M.
- ➤ New Drivers Course walk at 9:15 A.M.
- ➤ Check-in 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 on MSR
- ➤ Bring all release forms signed, they are emailed to you on Thursday before the autocross

At the Autocross - REMEMBER:

- ➤ Have Driver License & **ESCA** Card out before the gate.
- ➤ No Drugs, dogs 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 Craig Hammond or event chair
- ➤ Drive slowly and quietly to and from site

#### MARCH AUTOCROSS PHOTOS

https://photos.app.goo.gl/WVJtoUwJ6dGDw3J48

## Track Night in America (TNiA) 2025

www.tracknightinamerica.com

Special ESCA Discount Below

I would like to invite all **ESCA** members to join me at Thunderhill Raceway Park for a super fun afternoon/evening with awesome cars and even better friends. We have designed a track event with the atmosphere of an Autox.

Track Night in America is a nationwide program that was designed to be more about discovery than competition. It was the first program in something called "The experiential program." So, you can see that it was designed from the ground up to be a positive experience that introduces its participants to what it's like to take your car on track.

We have one of the safest track day programs you will find anywhere. I know that because of my awesome staff that really cares about each of our participants. Hagerty Track Day insurance has not only provided great on track coverage but has provided statistics to prove that TNiA is very safety oriented by its nature. If you would like to insure your car from Hagerty, they will give you a rather large discount (30% off) because you're attending a Track Night in America event and not another organizations track day.

Some interesting things about TNiA:

- 1. No passengers aloud except during the mid-event Track Tour Laps (which are free to anyone that has signed up and/ or signed the waiver. These are lower speed (freeway speed maximum on the straights).
- 2. Some helmets (limited sizes, and numbers) are available for <u>FREE</u> and the others can be rented at ThunderHill Raceway for about \$35.
- 3. We almost always run on the more technical West track...But we have 2 events (June, and November) on the faster East track.
- 4. Most vehicles can participate (must be wider than it is tall...sorry if you own a fiat 500). Race cars are rarely aloud.
- 5. Convertibles can participate. Please read our Convertible policy (see website above) to see which ones can and cannot run.
- 6. Electric Vehicles are OK===
- 7. Most importantly: I have trouble getting participants to leave after the event due to them wanting to talk with their new friends. I love this, but when it's dark...we must go.

Prices are as follows: \$140 for member of SCCA. Weekend Memberships are just \$20. West course costs \$165

**ESCA** members can use (and stack) discounts. "**EMPIRE30**" (all caps) will get you \$30 off your entry. April has Hagerty as the monthly sponsor. Enter "**HAGERTYTNIA2025**" code worth \$25 off. THAT'S ONLY \$85 OMG. Codes activate between 3/1-4/30.

I will put the April discount code on my Facebook feed, and my Instagram (@ROBERTLUIS51) feed when it is announced officially, but you have it now. Please friend me for this info or text me for further.

I would love to see a big **ESCA** showing at the **April 10**<sup>th</sup> event, but this event may sell out. So as soon as you can, register for April. We will never over sale the event which would make your track experience more like Hwy 101 at 5:00 pm. We only allow 25 per group at the West Track. (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced)

Please YouTube Track Night in America events to get other reviews. Here is the latest TNiA video that will be super helpful if you have never been on track prior:

#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnc8r5gr7AM&t=61s

See you at an Autox and the Track soon.

Rob Luis

TNiA NorCal Mgr./Lead

tniasccarob@gmail.com



## Jay Leno Throws His Weight Behind Effort to Loosen California's Classic Car Smog Rules

Owning a vintage ride in the Golden State might get a little easier soon, if the bill becomes law.

Jay Leno and Shannon Grove are the face of California Sen Bill 712 which would eliminate the biennial smog requirements for cars 35 model years or older. But there is a caveat. The vehicles must be insured as a collector car to qualify for the smog exemption. The bill is backed by the Specialty Equipment Manufacturer's Association. Stay tuned.



## A Well-Oiled Machine...

By co-chair John Castellano

...that can get a little rusty over the winter. Plug wires can go bad, oil temp gauges can disassemble themselves, people can get rusty, fences can wind up in the wrong place. That's what we found when our illustrious autocross chairman Craig Hammond and I went over to the site on Friday. The Car Mart people suggested we move the fence right away, so no one would park in the middle of our course. Craig was recovering from a bad cough, but he set out to singlehandedly move the whole fence 140 feet southward while I started laying out the course.

An early morning text confirmed my worst fear...Craig couldn't move. He wouldn't be able to chair the Autocross. A few panicked texts later, with Charley Sawyer basically chairing and Johnny Schliemann towing the **ESCA** trailer then going back for his Miata, and Blain Hendrix helping with the course, and Ron Cox helping out even though he wasn't driving, we got the rusty **ESCA** machine cranking over once again for a new season.







The "Fairy Go Round" course was fast and flowy, but tricky and technical too. I tried to utilize more of the available pavement and find better ways to cross the dips. I expanded use of the eastern side and made more use of the large northwest area to get some flow safely. It was wet in the morning while drivers learned the course and the trouble spots, then dried out for the money runs.

I had planned to lay out the course "road race" style, with cones lining the course, but we didn't have a tow vehicle to distribute the cones—just my Bug. I switched to "gate style" which led to a lot of DNFs while drivers learned the course. Chalk would have helped. In the future, we can make better use of cone colors and learn what the norms are in the other clubs. We need to blend club cultures and add some pointers on pointers to the driver's meeting. I also learned that failing to mark ALL the pointers can lead to long delays resetting the course. Sorry about that, chief.

There were lots of Porsches: nine out of 37, beating out Mazda with seven entries. Thank You PCA. A Boxter S took both TTOD and BTOD. Thanks to everyone who helped out: fence movers, "landscapers", timing crew, everyone. Next event is May 11, Mother's Day, so come on out if you are a mother or if you have a mother.





## **March 2025 Autocross Results**

	Class	#	Driver	Car Model	Raw Time	Diff.	From 1st
1	gtb-s	919	Grady Carter	2002 Porsche Boxster S	45.503	0.000	0.000
2	gtb-s	30	Daniel Lassen	2015 Ford Focus ST	45.648	0.145	0.145
3	gta-s	153	Michael Prescott	2013 Ford Mustang 5.0	45.836	0.188	0.333
4	gtb-r	0	Thomas Buggia	1991 Toyota Mr2 turbo	45.939	0.103	0.436
5	gtb-s	95	Brent Werder	2003 Nissan 350z	46.095	0.156	0.592
6	gta-s	127	Nick Snapp	2018 Porsche Carrera T	46.222	0.127	0.719
7	gtb-s	26	Roy Peterka	2018 Porsche GT3	46.320	0.098	0.817
8	gtb-s	128	Rob Luis	2019 Chevrolet Camaro 2.0 1LE	46.500	0.180	0.997
9	gta-s	740	Doug Brekke	2013 BMW M3	46.727	0.227	1.224
10	gtb-s	240	Rich Bishop	2017 BMW M240ix	46.954	0.227	1.451
11	gtb-s	63	Stacy OConnell	2009 Porsche Boxster	47.194	0.240	1.691
12	gtb-s	135	Charley Sawyer	2022 Exomotive Exocet R	47.276	0.082	1.773
13	gtb-s	2	Blain Hendrix	2007 Porsche Cayman	47.409	0.133	1.906
14	gtb-s	14	Martin Johns	2011 BMW 128i convertibl	47.754	0.345	2.251
15	gta-s	53	Roman Farren	2013 Ford Mustang	47.759	0.005	2.256
16	gta-r	505	Martin Franusich	1990 Chevrolet Corvette	47.899	0.140	2.396
17	gta-s	109	Tamara Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	48.873	0.974	3.370
18	gtb-s	250	Essy Fariab	1973 Porsche 911	48.903	0.030	3.400
19	gtc-s	3	John Castellano	1960 Volkswagen Bug	49.077	0.174	3.574
20	gtc-r	9	John Schliemann	1995 Mazda Miata	49.148	0.071	3.645
21	gtb-s	85	Sam Brabo	2001 BMW Z3	49.740	0.592	4.237
22	gta-s	189	Dan Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	50.020	0.280	4.517
23	gtc-s	1701	Christopher Brazell	2019 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF	50.312	0.292	4.809
24	gtc-s	60	Alan R Jung	1990 Mazda Miata	50.370	0.058	4.867
25	gtc-s	82	Alan Veach	Mazda 2008 MX5	50.427	0.057	4.924
26	gtc-s	623	Nate Rosen	Toyota MR2 Spyder	50.872	0.445	5.369
27	gtc-s	117	Timothy Tilghman	2020 Mazda Miata	50.894	0.022	5.391
28	gtb-s	12	Darrin Holm	2010 Lexus IS350	50.950	0.056	5.447
29	gtb-s	11	Guy Southern	1973 Datsun 240Z	51.172	0.222	5.669
30	gtb-s	108	Greg Matsumoto	2007 Porsche 911S	51.901	0.729	6.398
31	gtb-s	986	Duke Ferris	2001 Porsche Boxster S	53.332	1.431	7.829
32	gtc-s	317	Bruce Sexauer	2019 Mazda MX-5	54.573	1.241	9.070
33	gtc-s	59	Stephanie Brazell	2019 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF	54.600	0.027	9.097
34	gtb-s	105	Robert Hayes	2017 Fiat 124 Spider Abarth	55.306	0.706	9.803
35	gtb-s	111	Alex Southern	1973 Datsun 240Z	55.732	0.426	10.229
36	gtc-s	131	Ed Biglin	2002 Honda S2000	56.264	0.532	10.761
37	gtb-s	580	John Dolan	2001 Porsche Boxster S	85.429	29.165	39.926

# ESCA Road Trip - The Cobra Experience, Martinez March 16 2025

By Martin Johns



ESCANs in the back row of the small theater.

The museum is at least half the collection of one man - Drew Serb - and cars from other owners that vary somewhat. It is well described at <a href="https://cobraexperience.org">https://cobraexperience.org</a>, but nothing can prepare you for the amazing collection of national and international accomplishments of, principally, Carol Shelby, often in collaboration with Ford, over a relatively few years. He first won Lemans in 1958 as a driver for Aston Martin. Nothing prepares you either for the special effects of the short movie - we recommend the back row. It is amazing that this is located near to us, and only open to the public once a month.

Eight **ESCA**Ns attended and three stopped by the Mare Island Brewing Company's Coal Shed Brewery to recover on the way home.

Photos in right column top to bottom:

That's a big block, so just imagine how big that transaxle is. 24 hours - no problem...

Continuation Daytona - from original extra body panels. FIA Manufacturer's Champion 1964.

King Cobra - basically a Cooper, USRRC champion 1965 427 Say no more...



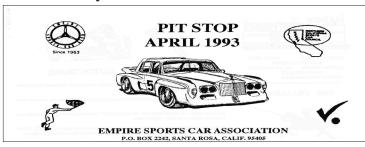
The only surviving Ford J car. Built by Ford from parts to investigate the crash.











#### By Bob Jenkins

On the front page were articles by the **ESCA** Chairman, Carl Balsillie, entitled C.C. Rider, he talked about the first **ESCA** autocross of the year chaired by Ted Dunlap and Gary Bayless which he missed. He also talked about the rallye, which he ran with his wife and daughter, and invited members to run and see how much fun they are and how much skill they take. The other article was entitled Summer of '93 10<sup>TH</sup> Annual Camping Tour "California X" by Jeff Engblom. The tour was to be a family camping boating tour at a lake with side driving tours.

Inside were a Challenge from Competition Sports Car Club to attend the 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SPORTS CAR OLYMPICS at Boreal on Labor Day week end. Competition SCC was **ESCA**'s sister club.

An April Club Autocross article by Alan Sensier and Joe Masters invited members to the event which cost \$20 for the normal two runs and as many reruns as time and tires allows with guests allowed.

An article entitled FIRST AUTOCROSS REVIEW by Justin Bowen talked about the battle with the Porsche Club, with bragging rights going to **ESCA**. Results showed there were 21 drivers with TTOD going to Dale Hartman in his Corvette, followed by Justin Bowen in his 240Z, followed by Bill Diekmann in his 240Z, followed by Steve McCrory in his Porsche 911, followed by Frank Jurin in his Rotus Super 7, followed by Blain Hendrix in his Corvette.

Member ads included A Study in Gold from Gary Bayless, Temptations by Terry from Terry O' Connor, The Gentleman Farmer by Ted Dunlap, Rosewood Travel by Ron Pipes, and The Tire Shop by Jim Odom.

The **ESCA** calendar showed **ESCA** putting on 4 club autocrosses and two open autocrosses.

The **ESCA** Board for 1993 was Chairman Carl Balsillie, Vice Chairman Curt Askim, Secretary Mike Bryant, Treasurer Neal Campbell, and Ex-Officio Bob Jenkins. The Committee Heads were Autocross Jim Odom, Concours Marty Nygaard, Entertainment Kris Campbell, Funkhana Kris Campbell,

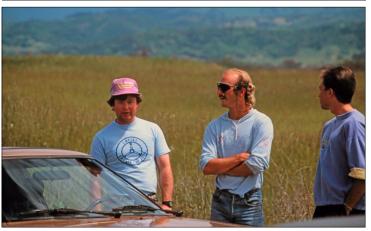
### Long Ago in Pit Stop April 1993

Historian Marci Jenkins, Insurance Dale Hartman, PIT STOP Marci Jenkins, Publicity Carl Byck, Rallye Bob Jenkins and Tour Ted Dunlap.Pictures from 1993









## ESCA & Other 2025 Calendar

	April								
<u>01</u>	ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM								
11-13	CSEG David Love Historic Races at Sonoma								
<u>12</u> (	Gentlemen's and Gas and Grub Gathering (See flyer)								
12-13	RSCC Autocross (weather dependent) at Samoa								
22	7pm Go-Kart at Nito City								
26-27	Sonoma Speedtour Sonoma Raceway								
May									
06	ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM								
<u>11</u>	ESCA Autocross								
24	Oakmont Car Show								
27	7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City								
	June								
03	ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM								
07	RSCC Two Seat Car Showw Samoa								
06-08	Velocity Invitational at Sonoma Raceway								
14	ESCA Autocross								
15	Father's Day Car Show								
24	7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City								
	July								
01	ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM								
12	ESCA Autocross								
13	Toyota Save Mart 350 NACAR Sonoma								
20-21	RSCC Korbel Hillclimb at Korbel								
22	7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City								
	August								
05	ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM								
09-10	RSCC Autocross (weather dependent) at Samoa								
16	ESCA Autocross								
26	7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City								
	September								
02	ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM								
13-14	RSCC Autocross (weather dependent) at Samoa								
23	7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City								
	October								
<b>07</b>	ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM								
03-05	CSRG Charity Challenge								
25	ESCA Autocross								
28	7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City								

Continued on next column

### November

01	ESCA Autocross		
04	ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM		
22-23	24 Hours of Lemons		
25	7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City		
	December		
02	<b>ESCA</b> Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM		
07	ESCA Annual Meeting & Banquet		

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

## Autocross Helmet Requirement

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

### **Redwood Sports Car Club**

Redwood runs their autocross' at Samoa Dragstrip on a
Saturday & Sunday of the same weekend.
They also run a HillClimb at Korbel.
Their web site is http://www.rscc.net/
more information is on their FACEBOOK PAGE

For Bay Area Rallyes check out the:

RALLYE CLUB WEBSITE INFORMATION

http://www.therallyeclub.org

REDWOOD REGION PCA

https://redwoodpca.org

### ESCA Member Profiles Wanted

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

#### 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"

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## Happy April Birthdays

**Lorie Banks** 

Art Battles Thia Buggia

John Castellano

Levi Early

Tamara Hull

Michelle McKiney

Canaan McKoy

Stacy O'Connell

Natalia Ramirez

Alex Southern

**Brent Werder** 

9f you're not listed — it's because the Data Base Manager does not have your month of birth. And you're wished a Happy Birthday!



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

### 4th Sunday of the Month

Penngrove 10070 Main St 9am