



PIT STOP



August 2025

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

Volume 62-8

Coastal Tour to Fort Ross

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Wednesday, September 17th will be the date of a fabulous drive on the coast and through the redwoods to historic Fort Ross on the Sonoma Coast.

We will depart from the Bodega Bay Community Center (2255 Highway 1) at 10:00. You can follow the signs for the Farmers Market to help locate it. You can bring a picnic lunch since there is no food availability at the Fort or you can purchase lunch before we leave at Sea Flower Café next door to the Community Center. Sea Flower has delicious coffee and pastries and they do have a limited sandwich menu. They will be open for our event. We will also stop at the Cazadero Market and Deli if you prefer a traditional deli menu.

Departing the Community Center we will head up Highway 1 and cross the Russian River before turning East towards Guerneville on Highway 116. Four miles later we will stop at the Cazadero Market and Deli. This leg takes approximately 35 minutes.

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ESCA Meeting August 05, 2025

7:00 p.m.

ESCA Meetings are In-Person/ZOOM

This is the only meeting in August!

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

ESCA Autocross

August 16, 2025

Sonoma County Fairgrounds

Registration opens by August 06

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Robert's Roundtable 2025



As I've mentioned once or thrice, ESCA held a survey this year to try to understand what our members want from the Association. After about six months and 60 responses, I think we can finally start to get into the data! Over the next few Pit Stops, I'm going to be reporting the trends that I find noteworthy in the responses, and proposing a few ideas on what it means for our club. Some of these will be positive trends that we can encourage to develop, and others will be opportunities to improve the association.

One data point I found noteworthy: according to the survey, the average ESCA member lives 36 miles from the Round Table Pizza where our monthly meetings are held! This average is somewhat inflated by a few outliers who live *way* out there, but the median respondent still lives about 15 miles from our meetings.

Because of this, I was not surprised to learn that 25% of ESCAns said that when they attended meetings in 2024, they did so only via Zoom. What *did* surprise me was that even when I excluded respondents who joined less than a year ago, 77.5% of ESCAns said they attended fewer than **five** meetings all of last year!

I have a few ideas about why that might be, but they're based a bit more on anecdote than data. Currently, attending via Zoom is not an ideal experience. Hearing the discussion in the room is difficult, and being heard is often even harder. The camera is forced into an awkward position due to the constraints of the room. The bandwidth causes audio to distort and video to move at a Microsoft PowerPoint pace.

In order to facilitate virtual attendance, I propose that the association invest some money in its video conferencing hardware. I'll research some options and bring them to the August meeting for us to discuss.

Lastly, 32 respondents said they would be interested in an ESCA t-shirt, and 12 said they would be interested in a baseball cap. If you're interested and haven't already done so, please fill out the order form attached to the Pit Stop ([pg.15](#)) and provide it to the Association via email or at the next meeting. Thank you,
~ Robert

Coastal Tour to Fort Ross

continued from [front page](#)

Once everyone has their necessary supplies we will continue another mile to Fort Ross Road. At this point the road becomes a typical Sonoma County patched over patch road. No need to worry though, my car is very low and managed it all well. It is however, a very twisty winding road. This is not a fast-driving tour but extremely beautiful as we climb up and out of old growth redwoods into second growth and mixed conifers. For some strange reason the county has paved approximately 4 miles and for a time the road is great.

Fort Ross Road then turns toward the coast and becomes a narrow, almost one lane, very well-maintained road. Both times I have pre-driven this route and encountered no traffic on this narrow section. The road winds down through a fabulously beautiful old growth forest twisting around existing trees just feet from your car. Did I mention this is not a fast-driving tour? Those with convertibles will really appreciate this leg.

We end up at Highway 1 and cross directly into Fort Ross State Park. Total drive time is approximately 1 ½ hours depending on the duration of our Cazadero stop. Park fees are \$10 per car and \$9 for over 62. There is a huge parking lot next to the visitor center and it's a short walk to the fort.

Everyone will be on their own finding their way home after this. It is a short and incredibly scenic ride back to Jenner and Hwy 116 or back to Bodega Bay if you choose.

RSVP by 9-15-25 to tour@empiresportscar.org

Michael Bundy Tour Leader

Please Welcome New Members

Andy Ferrara
Jared McGee
Mathew Mosely
Jaiden Parman
Frank Phommasouk
Nikkie Phommasouk
Finn Rinne
Sage Sokollanting

BMW 335i
Subaru BRZ
Chevy Camaro
Mazda Miata
Mitsubishi Evo 9
Toyota GR Corolla
Mazda Audi 3
Mazda Miata

ESCA's 62nd Birthday Party Car Show September 6, 2025

Oakmont West
Activity Center
~ 11 am - 3pm

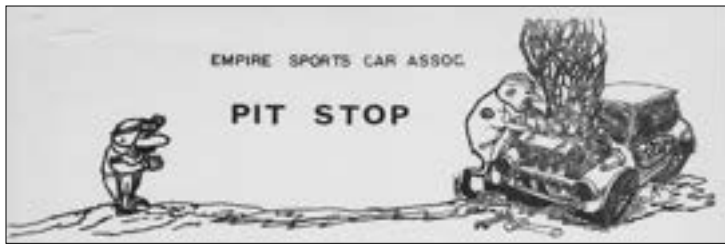
RSVP by 9-3-25

secretary@empiresportscar.org

Bring a side dish to share
ESCA will provide drinks, food
and dessert

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





A Very Long Time Ago in Pit Stop August 1971

By Bob Jenkins

The cover had three articles, a “Words from the Head Beagle” column by ESCA Chairman Paul Reichardt where he invited members to come up to the Sports Car Olympics (SCO) at (then) Squaw Valley to run or just to help ESCA put on the autocross, the first event at SCO.

The second article stated there would be an election for Treasurer.

The third article was about an ESCA First Annual Summer Party held at the Los Robles Lodge in Santa Rosa, which had 37 people attend. There was swimming and games, and then dinner and dancing and the party went on until 2am, stated Entertainment Chairman Sue Reichardt.

Inside was a profile of John Reichardt who joined in 1967 as a 15 year old and became a very active member. An “ESCAPE I” notice by Autocross Chairman John Reichardt invited members to a members only autocross at Cotati and the event was free. (No site fee and no insurance).

An “ESCA’s First Baseball Game” article talked about a game between members with Bob Jenkins as captain of one team and Leigh Miller as captain of the other. Bob’s team won 26 to 25 after which there was a picnic.

A “Tranquil One’s” article by the Beard talked about a free A-B Rallye for ESCA and Silverado members in Napa with a party at finish at the Apperson’s home in Napa.

A “TWO-IN-ONE-Rally Review” article talked about a rally from Doyle Park which started with crossword puzzles and then a drive to find pie plates and a finish with a picnic back at start. Results showed Larry & Martha Wendt taking first and Frank & Linda Jurin in 5th.

A poem: One looked..One didn’t..One is..One isn’t..

One and a half pages of “Sound Off” talked about what was going on at meetings.

An “ESCA Has Suffered A Loss” notice stated that Prent Monsun had died after a short illness. The writer remembered him as a fantastic driver and as a noted artist.



Photo from February 2024 event

The School of Kart Knocks - June 2025

By Jason Pike

Once again we met at Nitro City Racing in Rohnert Park for ESCA’s infamous Tuesday night go kart showdown. In the distance an ominous fog loomed on the horizon. This foretold an evening that would be cool, yet the track was hot. For this event we choose to run the normal clockwise direction.

Sadly, due to a scheduling issue, I arrived a bit tardy, just missing the start of the practice session. Undeterred and not skipping a beat during qualifying I pulled out a second place position.

The running order sized up with Gary Shannon taking the pole, myself in 2nd and Craig Hammond in his own coveted 3rd starting spot i.e., directly behind Gary. In all, a total of 10 race ready participants formed the competition line up.

Now comes the evening main event. All the participants are staged in the starting grid, eagerly anticipating the drop of the green flag. In the next moment it is pedal to the metal as everyone is in a scramble for the front. I can’t say much about what happened back in the pack, My view was mostly of the lead. On the start Craig was riding Gary’s bumper and quickly established himself in second place. Not daring to risk disaster with Craig’s bumper of doom, I rode in third waiting to strike on any errors the two ahead of me might make. At some point, probably due to Craig’s skilled driving, Gary got turned sideways and both Craig and I made it past. I stayed on the heels of Craig, but never had a chance of passing until fate dealt a cruel hand going into the very last corner. Craig took it hot and tangled with Stephanie Brazell. My positioning was excellent and I was able to thread through the mess he created, stealing into first place to take the checkered flag only moments later.

This was a great evening of friendly competition and club member comradery. I am looking forward to the next event in July, hope to see you there.



It's a sad sign of the times. Budget cuts, declining belief in science, too many unexpected Netflix cancellations for no reason - trying to find [extraterrestrial intelligence](#) has gotten to where it's alien to all of us. Instead, we've set our sights closer to home, although the challenge may be even more difficult trying to find any intelligence here on Earth (given the examples of the freeway system, politics, phones, and social media).

The planets are aligned, and it is your job to deliver the telescope for viewing them to the first mountain top observatory! Can you navigate your way to the summit without damaging the sensitive equipment? **The Search for Terrestrial Intelligence** will have you seeking astronomical objects here on Earth while trying to avoid being caught by gimmicks/tricks. The only time constraint is a deadline to be at the finish location. (We promise, you won't actually be driving any mountain roads, just local streets).

For this rallye you will find GPS located course markers on your smart phone, **so be sure to bring your smartphone and a phone charger!** Check out our [demonstration of the GPS CM Locator](#). Although solo rallyeists can run this rallye using a hands-free phone mount, this rallye is best run with a navigator.

Join us Saturday, August 2, 2025, for The Search for Terrestrial Intelligence, a course marker/gimmick rallye. Start between 11am and 1pm (Pacific Time) at [Cuesta Park](#) (685 Cuesta Dr, opposite Montalito Dr. in Mountain View). There will be a rallye school at noon for anyone new to GPS coursemarker rallyes (which this time will likely be everyone). The finish is by 4:30pm at a local restaurant.

Details are available now at the [TRC website](#). Other questions? Contact rallyemasters Kit, Emil, and Mary Jo Rodolfa at aug2025@TheRallyeClub.org. Invite friends to join you in your car or to enter as another team. There is no limit on the number of teams that may enter.



Pillow Fights Remembered

By Bob Jenkins

I noticed in the Press Democrat that they had Pillow Fights at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds this year for July 4th.

Well, for 4 years, 1975 thru 1978, ESCA members, men and women volunteered to ride the pipe over the mud pit, cheered on by a large group of their fellow ESCA members. While no one got past the second round, some did say it was kind of fun. If you think it might be fun, you could always ask the only member of that group still in ESCA, Linda Jurin for tips. And by the way there are pictures and movies for most of those years.



By Gary O'Connor

The first of my year was out at Oakmont, a show I haven't attended before. I brought my '51 Ford woodie wagon and Terry brought her '55 TBird. We hadn't been there before so we were a little late getting in line and were a long way back. When the gate was opened we moved very slowly and the TBird is susceptible to getting hot so I suggested Terry wait by the gate and I would have her slip in before me. The wagon stays cool so the veeeeerrrrrryyyyy slow drive wasn't a problem and I waved her in as I approached the gate. One of the guys manning the gate came over and asked if 'that lady cut in front of me.' I assured him that 'she's been doing that for 40 plus years now' and he knowingly nodded as he headed back.

The second I attended was the Father's Day show at Julliard Park in my '32 Ford pick up with a cyclekart in the bed. A surveyor friend (Art), my brother (Wayne) and I have been attending this show for several years and getting in has always been frustrating. Although we lined up on A Street early (6:30 AM!!) there are a few side streets that load up with late comers who push their way in. This year the organizers had staff on the side streets keeping them clear so there was only one line going in rather than four or five streets feeding into one line. When the line started moving we were inside the park quickly!!!! Since this show lands on Father's Day our families come and it turns into a big family reunion. We park in the same place in the shade of the trees and relax the day away. With 400 cars and thousands of spectators, lots of food vendors and music, it's a very interesting and full day.

A vintage dark blue car with a red interior and a yellow license plate '7T 65 40' is parked in a yard. A red and white funnel is in the foreground. A person is sitting in a chair in the background.

**CURRENT ESCA
MEMBERSHIP**
156

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Greeting ESCAN's!

As I drove down from Ukiah Saturday morning, I thought to myself, "I sure hope it's cooler down in Santa Rosa today, after a 105-degree day in Ukiah on Friday". I was pleasantly surprised to see fog rolling in over the fairgrounds during setup, which ended up making for a beautiful day for auto crossing!

I was happy to be back autocrossing with my fellow ESCA members and friends from a three-month hiatus. I was really happy with how the course turned out, and I was pleased to hear others had the same sentiment.

Thank you to everyone as usual who came out early to set up, we were able to start promptly and get 8 runs in with 36 cars! I feel like we had minimal DNFs and everyone really was able to give the course their all with times making great improvements throughout the day.

I also want to give a big thanks to the folks who came out to move the fence Friday night before the event. With us sharing the space with the car mart, we have to be conscious of the placement of the fence beforehand.

Hope to see everyone out at the next autocross!

Charley Sawyer



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July 2025 ESCA Autocross Photos



07-12-2025 ESCA Autocross Link:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/YyzUfMYpsHmc4meB9>



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July 12, 2025 Autocross Results

	Class	#	Driver	Car Model	Raw Time	Diff.	From 1st
1	gtb-s	135	Charley Sawyer	2022 Exomotive Exocet R	50.128	0.000	0.000
2	gtb-r	90	Michael Cardozo	2023 Porsche GT4 RS	50.448	0.320	0.320
3	gtb-r	0	Thomas Buggia	1991 Toyota Mr2 turbo	50.837	0.389	0.709
4	gta-s	153	Michael Prescott	2013 Ford Mustang 5.0	50.975	0.138	0.847
5	gta-s	108	Greg Matsumoto	2007 Porsche 911S	51.100	0.125	0.972
6	gtb-s	19	Benjamin Bettega	2017 Volkswagen Golf R	51.649	0.549	1.521
7	gta-r	505	Martin Franusich	1990 Chevrolet Corvette	51.895	0.246	1.767
8	gtb-r	27	Craig Hammond	1983 Mazda rx7	52.006	0.111	1.878
9	gtc-s	1701	Christopher Brazell	2019 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF	52.246	0.240	2.118
10	gtc-s	3	John Castellano	1960 Volkswagen Bug	52.386	0.140	2.258
11	gtb-r	45	Steve Rossiter	1983 Mazda RX7	52.639	0.253	2.511
12	gtb-s	923	Jared McGee	Subaru BRZ	52.694	0.055	2.566
13	gtc-s	18	Ben Mo	2009 Honda Civic Si	52.749	0.055	2.621
14	gta-s	240	Rich Bishop	2017 BMW M240ix	53.016	0.267	2.888
15	gtc-r	9	John Schliemann	1995 Mazda Miata	53.123	0.107	2.995
16	gtb-s	11	Guy Southern	1973 Datsun 240Z	53.203	0.080	3.075
17	gtc-s	17	Sage Sokollanting	2016 Mazda Miata	53.300	0.097	3.172
18	gtc-s	117	Timothy Tilghman	2020 Mazda Miata	54.025	0.725	3.897
19	gtb-s	33	Vincent Cortez	Porsche Cayman	54.117	0.092	3.989
20	gtc-s	12	Darrin Holm	1997 Honda Del Sol Si	54.363	0.246	4.235
21	gta-s	99	Ben Davoren	2017 Porsche Carrera S Cabriolet	54.465	0.102	4.337
22	gtc-s	623	Nate Rosen	2001 Toyota mr2 spyder	54.470	0.005	4.342
23	gtb-s	14	Martin Johns	2011 BMW 128i convertibl	55.256	0.786	5.128
24	gtc-s	131	Ed Biglin	2002 Honda S2000	55.612	0.356	5.484
25	gte-s	59	Stephanie Brazell	2021 Polestar Polestar 2	55.977	0.365	5.849
26	gta-s	109	Tamara Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	56.155	0.178	6.027
27	gtc-s	82	Alan Veach	Mazda 2008 MX5	56.338	0.183	6.210
28	gta-r	335	Andrew Ferrara	2008 BMW 335i	56.810	0.472	6.682
29	gta-s	189	Dan Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	56.869	0.059	6.741
30	gtc-s	37	Gavin Morton	1986 Honda Crx si	57.206	0.337	7.078
31	gtb-s	71	Tyler Daniels	2016 Ford Fiesta ST	57.246	0.040	7.118
32	gtb-s	87	Frank Phommasouk	2006 Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution	57.682	0.436	7.554
33	gta-s	171	Jason Pike	1967 Ford Mustang	60.770	3.088	10.642
34	gtc-r	96	Christina Swift	1995 Mazda Mita	61.246	0.476	11.118
35	gte-s	122	Joy Prescott	2024 Ford F150 Lightning	62.228	0.982	12.100
36	gta-r	76	Nikki Southern	2002 Chevrolet Corvette	66.794	4.566	16.666



Tour to the Tall Trees

By Bob Frith, Tour Leader

It was a cool, foggy mid-July morning when 15 ESCA members and guests pulled out of the Kaffe Mocha parking lot led by Martin Johns and headed north toward Cloverdale. Near the Highway 128 exit they were joined by new members Linda and Bob Frith. By now, all the cabriolet tops were down as the fog was gone and the weather was nearing the low 70's.



After 30 minutes of Highway 128 curves the group arrived in Boonville where lunch was purchased at the Mosswood Market Cafe.



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Tour to the Tall Trees

continued from [page 10](#)



Heading farther west on Highway 128 the group turned onto Flynn Creek Road and had a 15-mile spirited drive to Comptche and back to Highway 128. Great little road for a sports car winding thru the redwoods and pastures!

From there the group cruised to the Navarro Winery for a picnic lunch and nice wine.



The drive ended after lunch and the members headed home.

Attending were Martin & Brenda Johns, Gerry & Lilly Mugele, Bob & Marci Jenkins, Charlie Smith, Jan & Bill Perry, Bob Wichtowski & Liz Fisher, Mike Bundy, Kirt & Cecilia Landres, Mike Penfold and Linda & Bob Frith.



ESCA & Other 2025 Calendar

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
06 ESCA Birthday Picnic
 06 Cloverdale Car Show
 13-14 RSCC Autocross (weather dependent) at Samoa
 23 7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City
27 ESCA Autocross

October

- 07** ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
 03-05 CSRG Charity Challenge
25 ESCA Autocross
 28 7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City

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** ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
07 ESCA Annual Meeting & Banquet
 TBA ESCA Annual Christmas Lights Tour

Autocross Helmet Requirement

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

For Bay Area Rallyes check out the :

RALLYE CLUB WEBSITE INFORMATION

<http://www.therallyclub.org>

REDWOOD REGION PCA

<https://redwoodpca.org>

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

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.rsccl.net/>

more information is on their FACEBOOK PAGE

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

ESCA Autocross Information

Registration link will be in your email by August 6, 2025

The cost for this 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 setting 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 (available at time of
 registration on MSR and sent the night before the AutoX).

Bring all release forms signed, they are emailed to you
 on the night 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

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 August Birthdays

ESCA's 62nd

Ed Biglin

Doug Brekke

Debi Cardozo

Grady Carter

Liz Fisher

Robert Hayes

Bob Jenkins

Steve Rossiter

Sage Sokol

*If 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!*



THE 2004 Bodega Avenue, Petaluma CA 94952

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

BMW
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VOLKSWAGEN
VOLVO

Cars & Coffee - All FREE events

1st Sunday of the Month: 8am - 10am

- Montecito Shopping Center, Santa Rosa
- Marin County at 132 Vintage way, Novato
6:30am - 10:00am

2nd Sunday of the Month: 8am - 10am

- Coddington Parking Lot, Santa Rosa
- Petaluma at 389 S McDowell Blvd.

4th Sunday of the Month: 9am

- Penngrove at 10070 Main St.

Last Sunday of the Month 8 am – 10 am

- Rohnert Park at 459 Rohnert Park Expressway

Car Shows every Fridays 4 to 7 pm AND

Car Shows Every Sunday 11am - 2pm

- Machado Burgers
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- 707.538.4325
- M-F 8am-5pm
- facebook.com/hammondautowerks

ESCA and F1 Movie Night

By Robert Hayes

On Friday, July 18th, ESCA met at the Rialto Theater in Sebastopol for a Movie Night. We had a good turnout, with Lu Kistner, Ken Silk, Karen Larson, Bob Jenkins, Marci Jenkins, Bruce Bentz, Jason Pike, Terrie Schweitzer, and your author, Robert Hayes, all attending to watch F1, from director Joseph Kosinski (Top Gun: Maverick) and starring Brad Pitt.

The movie follows Sonny Hayes (no relation), a racer-for-hire who bums around North America driving in any series that catches his interest. After a heroic stint at the 24 Hours of Daytona clinches the win for him and his team, Hayes is approached by Rubén Cervantes (Javier Bardem), his former teammate at Lotus Formula One in the early 1990s. Cervantes convinces Hayes to test for a recently-vacated seat at APXGP, Cervantes' Formula One team. At Silverstone, Hayes meets hot-headed rookie Joshue Pearce (Damson Idris) and technical director Kate McKenna (Kerry Condon). You can probably guess where we go from here: Hayes and Pearce butt heads immediately, but grow to respect one another as they learn from one another; McKenna initially tries to maintain a strictly professional relationship with the veteran driver, but eventually falls for his roguish charms. Hayes helps APXGP climb the standings using "outside-the-box thinking" (which would have resulted in suspension of his FIA Super License by the 60-minute mark of the film.) Of course, I was under no illusions that this film would be perfectly-accurate to Formula One racing. If I wanted that, I'd use my f1.tv subscription.

The racing scenes are where this movie shines. The opening scene, in which Hayes jumps into a midnight stint at the 24 Hours of Daytona, is a breathtaking spectacle that sets the tone for the film's aggressive, dynamic racing sequences. The action continues in the pitlane as well. Every tire change in the movie had me holding my breath. I'm willing to overlook a paint-by-numbers plot and some cardboard characters for some motorsports eye-candy.

While the events of the film are exaggerated, and the sporting regulations are ignored to keep the story accessible for non-fans, many elements of the story are based on true events. Hayes' story was inspired by that of Martin Donnelly, who drove for Lotus in 1990. Some of APXGP's early antics

appear to be inspired by "Crashgate," wherein Renault's Nelson Piquet Jr deliberately crashed to force a safety car, which allowed teammate Fernando Alonso to undercut the competition and win the 2008 Singapore Grand Prix. One heart-stopping moment midway through the film combines F3 driver Alex Peroni's 2019 crash at Monza with Romain Grosjean's infamous wreck at the 2020 Bahrain Grand Prix.

I think there's plenty in this film for newcomers to Formula One, and fans will enjoy it as well if they're able to silence their inner FIA steward and go along for the ride. Thank you to everyone who turned out!



continued in [next column](#)

Turn in at the August 5th Meeting or
email information to secretary@empiresportscar.org

ESCA Shirt and Hat Order for 2025

Name: _____

Email address _____ Telephone number: _____



Cost for each shirt depends upon how many we order.

We hope to keep the cost of the shirts and the caps under \$20 each.

Blue Crew Neck Short-Sleeve 100% cotton with White ESCA logo Size How many?

How many blue baseball caps with ESCA logo in white? How many?