



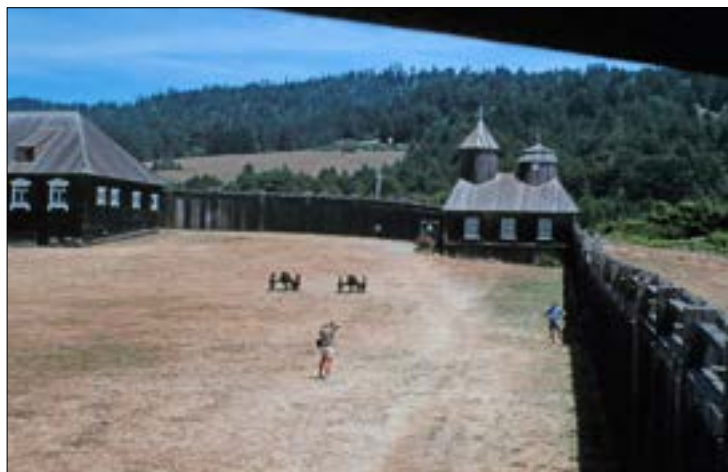
PIT STOP



September 2025

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

Volume 62-9



Coastal Tour to Fort Ross

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

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

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 10:00am. You can follow the signs for

continued on [page 4](#)

ESCA Meeting September 2, 2025

7:00 p.m.

ESCA Meetings are In-Person/ZOOM

This is the only meeting in September!

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

**Autocross
PCA invites ESCA
Sunday**

******September 21******

Sonoma County Fairgrounds

What's Inside ...

Page [2](#) ~ Robert's Roundtable, Welcome

Page [3](#) -ESCA Picnic Flyer

Page [4](#) ~ Coastal Tour, Membership, Long Time Members

Page [5](#) ~ Aug AX Article

Page [6](#) ~ Aug AX Photos

Page [7](#) ~ Aug AX Results

Page [8](#) ~ Nitro City, Car Shows

Page [9](#) ~ Long Ago in Pit Stop

Page [10](#) ~ Calendar, Rallies, Autocross Info.

Page [11](#) ~ Birthdays, Ads & Ad Rates, Cars & Coffee, Chili

Page [12](#) ~ 2025 Board, 2025 Committee, Views, Mission

Robert's Roundtable 2025



Sim Racing: Motorsport for the Masses?

Motorsport is a notorious money pit. Gasoline prices steadily creep upward, with only occasional periods of respite. Tires are chewed up and spat out like steel-belted chewing gum. A season of racing can put you in the hole for thousands, before even considering the start-up costs of safety equipment, training, or the initial cost of the car itself. What is an enthusiast of modest means to do?

Enter simulator racing, or sim-racing for short. Allegedly, with just a few pieces of hardware plugged into a medium-grade computer, one can experience the thrill of competition from the comfort of one's own man-cave/she-shed/enby-enclosure. My foray into simulator racing began earlier this year, as I struggled to post competitive lap times in Gran Turismo 7 and chose to blame my controller instead of my own skill. After some research, I purchased an entry-level force-feedback wheel and corresponding pedals.

While this did allow for more realistic inputs, two problems became immediately apparent. The first was that without the additional joystick of the controller, I no longer had a way to look left or right in-game to check my mirrors or blindspots. Imagine trying to drive a rally stage while your head is fixed in place a la A Clockwork Orange. The first is that the torque that the wheel applied to my desk caused the entire structure to wobble. If I continued racing like this, my IKEA desk was not long for this world.

The solution to the former problem was simple: a wider screen. Throwing money at the problem helps make it feel more like a real motorsport. A few hundred dollars on an ultra-wide screen from Costco.com, and I had a wide enough field-of-view to stop accidentally verstappening my competition off the road through corners.

This did exacerbate my second problem however. I now had a big, heavy screen in front me that would sway precariously as I turned, as if it were a Queen Palm struggling to endure yet

another hurricane. A few more weeks of research and few hundred more dollars, and I had a solution: a wheel stand, which would allow me to mount my racing hardware independent of my desk.

So to answer the question at the heart of this endeavour: is sim racing a budget-friendly substitute for motorsport? No. Of course not. As much as I've enjoyed learning how to hit every apex at Silverstone or take home rally stage wins from the comfort of my own home, it's still not as exciting as shaving a second off of my time at an ESCA Autocross.

Despite this, I don't regret spending my time or money on sim racing. It'll help fend off some of the withdrawals during the off-season.

10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

CAR SHOW

510 Z

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SEPT. 7, 2025

Pre-Registration:
 ZONC Members \$10
 Non-Members \$30

Registration after Sept. 1:
 All Vehicles \$35

On-Site Registration begins 10 AM

REGISTER TODAY WWW.ZONC.ORG

Brisbane Marina
 400 Sierra Point Parkway
 Brisbane, CA

On 101 South - Take Exit 416 (Sierra Point Parkway)
 On 101 North - Take Exit 436B (Sierra Point Parkway)

**Please Welcome
New Member**

Stephen Wong

Porsche Boxster S

continued on the [next column](#)

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



Coastal Tour to Fort Ross

continued from [front page](#)

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.

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.

~ Michael Bundy Tour Leader



Long Time ESCA Members By Years As of 9-1-2025

Name	Years	Year Joined
Ian Cook	62	1963 (Charter)
Bob Jenkins	61	1964
Frank Jurin	60	1965
Lu Kistner	59	1966
Linda Jurin	58	1967
Mark Burchill	51	1974
Mary Lou Konrad	51	1974
Karen Larson	50	1975
Gary O'Connor	44	1981
Marci Jenkins	44	1981
Blain Hendrix	43	1982
Robert Isaacs	39	1986
Terry O'Connor	39	1986
Joe Masters	36	1989
Marty Nygaard	35	1990
Claudia Quinlivan	30	1995
Tammi Hull	30	1995
Rob Luis	30	1995
Darrin Holm	27	1998
Kathleen Brady	20	2005
Guy Southern	18	2006
John Castellano	18	2006
Marisa Castellano	18	2006
Craig Hammond	18	2006
Steve Schliemann	16	2008
Blaine Pope	16	2008
Siedentopf Eric	16	2008
Siedentopf Debbie	15	2008

**CURRENT ESCA
MEMBERSHIP**
158

August Autocross Recap



When I raised my hand to serve as autocross chair for some of our events this year, I thought I was signing up to help run the day, not to design the course. As my husband put it: “Sounds like someone didn’t ask the right questions when volunteering.” Guilty. But I was game. A quick text to my friend and former Redwood PCA chair, Grady Carter, and he came through with a course that was not only fun but also rumored to have had the fewest DNFs of the year. Beginner’s luck? I’ll take it.

We had 40 drivers, with times ranging from 43.474 to 61.238 seconds. Grady snagged Top Time of Day (coincidence?), and the variety of cars and drivers kept things lively—Mazdas, BMWs, Porsches, and even a Ford F150 that Joy Prescott

maneuvered around the cones with the confidence of a sports car.

The weather was perfect, and the venue delivered once again. As a newer member (I joined last year), I’m always impressed by how smoothly these events run and how welcoming the club is.

Huge thanks to Craig Hammond for co-chairing with me and to all the volunteers who helped the day go off without a hitch. Charley will chair in September, and I’ll be back for the October event (Hello, Grady?).

Just a few events left for the season. If you’ve been curious to see how your car really wants to be driven, come on out and join the fun!

Thanks!

~ Stacy



continued on [page 6](#)

Photos from 8-16-2025 ESCA Autocross

continued from [page 5](#)



continued on [page 7](#)

August 16, 2025 Autocross Results

	Class	#	Driver	Car Model	Raw Time	Diff.	From 1st
1	gtb-s	919	Grady Carter	2016 Porsche Cayman 981	43.474	0.000	0.000
2	gtb-s	26	Roy Peterka	2018 Porsche GT3	43.742	0.268	0.268
3	gtb-s	135	Charley Sawyer	2022 Exomotive Exocet R	44.065	0.323	0.591
4	gtb-s	69	Ernesto Dal Bo	2019 Porsche 718 Cayman S	44.298	0.233	0.824
5	gtb-r	0	Tom Buggia	1991 Toyota Mr2 turbo	44.312	0.014	0.838
6	gtc-s	1701	Christopher Brazell	2019 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF	44.558	0.246	1.084
7	gtc-s	34	Alex Ivakhnenko	2007 Mazda Mx5	44.824	0.266	1.350
8	gta-s	153	Michael Prescott	2013 Ford Mustang 5.0	44.987	0.163	1.513
9	gtb-s	63	Stacy OConnell	2009 Porsche Boxster	45.101	0.114	1.627
10	gtb-s	108	Greg Matsumoto	2007 Porsche 911S	45.369	0.268	1.895
11	gtb-r	45	Steve Rossiter	1983 Mazda RX7	45.422	0.053	1.948
12	gtb-r	27	Craig Hammond	1983 Mazda rx7	45.712	0.290	2.238
13	gtb-s	2	Blain Hendrix	2007 Porsche Cayman	46.203	0.491	2.729
14	gtc-s	18	Ben Mo	2009 Honda Civic Si	46.337	0.134	2.863
15	gtb-s	98	Stephen Wong	2013 Porsche Boxster S	46.379	0.042	2.905
16	gtb-r	134	Jaanisar Khan	2012 Nissan 370Z	46.526	0.147	3.052
17	gtc-s	623	Nate Rosen	2001 Toyota mr2 spyder	46.535	0.009	3.061
18	gta-s	350	Scott Luke	2016 Ford Mustang GT350	46.695	0.160	3.221
19	gtc-r	9	John Schliemann	1995 Mazda Miata	46.715	0.020	3.241
20	gta-s	107	Roman Farren	2019 Chevrolet Camero ss	46.718	0.003	3.244
21	gtc-s	117	Timothy Tilghman	2020 Mazda Miata	47.061	0.343	3.587
22	gtb-s	14	Martin Johns	2011 BMW 128i convertibl	47.182	0.121	3.708
23	gtb-s	711	Riley McElroy	2000 Porsche Boxster S	47.278	0.096	3.804
24	gtb-s	71	Tyler Daniels	2016 Ford Fiesta ST	47.380	0.102	3.906
25	gtc-s	60	Alan R Jung	1990 Mazda Miata	47.664	0.284	4.190
26	gte-s	59	Stephanie Brazell	2021 Polestar Polestar 2	48.022	0.358	4.548
27	gta-s	109	Tamara Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	48.084	0.062	4.610
28	gtc-s	82	Alan Veach	Mazda 2008 MX5	48.558	0.474	5.084
29	gtc-s	131	Ed Biglin	2002 Honda S2000	48.839	0.281	5.365
30	gta-s	23	Blaine Pope	1995 camaro	49.017	0.178	5.543
31	gte-s	335	Andrew Ferrara	2016 Fiat 500e	49.860	0.843	6.386
32	gta-s	189	Dan Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	49.974	0.114	6.500
33	gtc-s	37	Gavin Morton	1986 Honda Crx si	49.989	0.015	6.515
34	gtb-s	15	Antun Karlovac	2017 Ford Focus ST	50.578	0.589	7.104
35	gtb-s	42	Duke Ferris	2001 Porsche Boxster S	51.589	1.011	8.115
36	gtc-s	8	Dmitry Gurtovoy	2001 Mazda Miata	52.839	1.250	9.365
37	gtb-s	105	Robert Hayes	2017 Fiat 124 Spider Abarth	53.979	1.140	10.505
38	gte-s	122	Joy Prescott	2024 Ford F150 Lightning	55.411	1.432	11.937
39	gtc-s	101	Robert Cassidy	Porsche 914	56.959	1.548	13.485
40	gtc-s	16	George Nostrant	1973 Porsche 914 1.7L	61.238	4.279	17.764



Steve Rossiter leading the pack Oct 2023

ESCA Nitro City Showdown Rohnert Park, July 22, 2025

Racing at Nitro City is always a lively affair, and the latest ESCA karting round was no exception. On a warm July evening in Rohnert Park, six determined racers lined up for what promised to be a bruising yet tactical contest over 17 laps.

Qualifying set the tone. Steve Rossiter was in no mood to waste time, putting in a blistering 21.630 to secure pole, the only driver to dip comfortably into the low 21s. Behind him, Craig Hammond and Gary Shannon traded tenths in an enthralling duel, while Dan Clary and Jason Pike were separated by just sixteen thousandths of a second. Terrie Schweitzer, still dialing herself into the kart, rounded out the grid.

When the lights went out, Rossiter was gone. Smooth, precise, and unflappable—he delivered a drive that looked more like a demonstration run than a dogfight. His fastest lap, a 21.468, was the quickest we'd see all evening, underlining his control from start to finish.

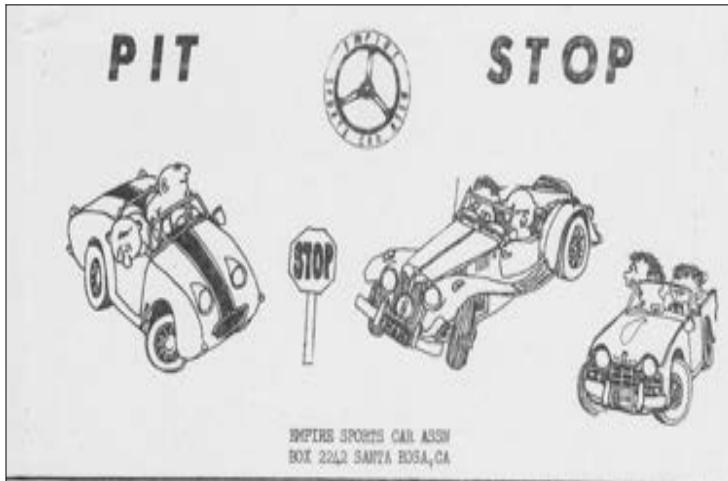
But the real theatre was behind. Shannon, Hammond, Clary, and Pike treated us to a midfield scrap that ran the full distance. Every lap, you could sense the ebb and flow—Shannon pushing Hammond, Hammond covering Clary, Pike probing for a way through. At one point it looked as though Jason Pike might nick a podium, carrying excellent pace with a 21.963 best lap. Yet fate intervened with a mid-race spin, not of his own making, cruelly dropping him back. It was the racing equivalent of being knocked off the pavement while minding your own business.

That left Shannon free to consolidate second with a fine performance, his 21.660 showing real intent. Hammond, ever the opportunist, brought it home in third with steady hands, while Clary quietly executed a measured drive to fourth. Pike

recovered for fifth, and Schweitzer kept it clean to take the flag in sixth, setting her personal best at 23.547.

So, it was Rossiter's evening—pole, fastest lap, and victory. But the true spirit of ESCA karting was alive in that midfield melee: elbows out, noses tucked in, and the faintest whiff of rubber in the air. Nitro City once again reminded us that racing, whether at 200mph or 40, is all about pressure, precision, and persistence.





Long Ago in Pit Stop September 1984

By Bob Jenkins

A "From the Chair." column by ESCA Chairperson Marci Jenkins talked about all the August events, a new member, loss of members, and a meeting to talk about the open autocrosses and how to make them run smoothly.

A "Rerun X Autocross" article by chairs Marci Jenkins and Bill Diekmann talked about the open event at the Sonoma County Airport which had a 65 driver turn out, with 24 being ESCA members, and Louie Lire taking TTOD in his Corvair Monza. The day ended with the usual pizza hang out and replay via video. Club results showed Frank Jurin being first in his Lotus, followed by Ted Dunlap-240Z, Scott Cattell-CorV8, Bob McCarter-Mustang, and Bill Diekmann-240Z. We thanked five members for working even though they did not run.

An article titled "Visual Delight Rallye" by the Beard informed the club of an open rallye by ESCA with a 50 mile route and a cost of only \$5 dollars starting from Coddingtontown.

A Entertainment article by Cathy Suacci said there would be a slide show of the Sports Car Olympics at the second meeting and also thanked the man from Prima Flow Exhaust for coming to the ESCA meeting to talk.

An article entitled "The Adventures of Smoky B", writer not named but I think it was California Tour leader, Steve Thomasson, talking about the 12-car tour as seen by his MGB. He stated the tour had gone less than 200 miles and he had a blown head gasket, Tony had vapor locked several times, his alternator gave out and Hawkeye was having trouble with dead batteries, and the Healys were over-heating, but all were still running. One stop was a two-day stay in the town of Downieville, where our arrival was heralded by a front-page

Continued on the [next column](#)

headline in the local paper. The article was not finished, but said look to future Pit Stops for a conclusion, but it never came.

On the last page was a This-N-That article which we often did after multiple day events, but if you were not there, it made no sense.

A short "Member Profile" by Craig Hammond stated he was born in Illinois and his family moved to California when he was 6 weeks old. He was now 17 years old and a student at Santa Rosa High School. He said he had been interested in working on cars as long as he could remember. He had heard about the club from Terry Larson and he and his dad had joined together. He said he was restoring a 1963 Corvair Turbo which he wanted to autocross, but was now driving and autocrossing a 240Z.

A September calendar showed Vintage Races at Sears Point, an ESCA Board meeting in Blucher Valley, an autocross meeting on Post Ranch Road in Santa Rosa, ESCA regular meetings at West America Bank, at the corner of Fulton & Guerneville Roads, a tour to Reno, a ZONC Championship autocross in Pleasanton, and SCCA Can AM Race at Sears Point.



Yes, that is a Lola and I do not know the driver.



Frank Jurin in his Lotus Europa

ESCA & Other 2025 Calendar

TBD = To Be Determined

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
- 21 ESCA invited to PCA Autocross

October

- 07 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM
- 03-05 CSRG Charity Challenge
- 11 Chili Taster at Bodega Bay Community Center
- 25 ESCA Autocross
- 28 7 pm Go-Kart at Nito City

November

- TBD 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
- TBD 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 10 days before
the Autocross.

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 September Birthdays

Benjamin Bettega
Marisa Castellano
Rion Gronberg
Jerilyn Holm
Alex Ivakhnenko
Angelo Kljavin
Jared McGee
John Schliemann
Julie Silk
Trevor Swallow
Travis Whitted

*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!*

*** SAVE the Date ***

The Bodega Bay Community Center's Annual Chili Cookoff Fund Raiser is **October 11, 2025**

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
406 Larkfield Center Santa Rosa