

PIT STOP



January 2026

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

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

Volume 63-1



Toys for Kids

Banquet article on [page 3](#)



Holiday Lights Tour Recap

By Stephanie Brazell

Our Holiday Lights Tour was a wonderful success! Thank you to everyone who braved the weather to join us.

The evening began near Santa Rosa Memorial and wound through some quiet neighborhoods before heading to

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Amped Up By Stephanie Brazell



Hello everyone,

I'm pleased to introduce myself as your 2026 chairman. For those who haven't yet connected the name with a face, I'm the loud, blondish driver of a Polestar 2.

I joined the club about 8-9 years ago with my husband, Chris (you may know him by his Red Miata RF). When we meet new people, we tend to remember their cars first and gradually learn the names that go with them—it's part of the fun of being in this community.

Growing up in a large family in a small house, my first car was my very first "own space." It was where I could be free, loud, and unapologetically myself. I never really grew out of that phase. I loved that Honda—it felt like it could run forever on twenty bucks of gas.

These days, I don't have quite as much to escape from, but I still take the scenic routes whenever I can. We're lucky to live near incredible roads that wind through the redwoods, along the coast, and up into the mountains.

My hope for this year is that we'll enjoy some fantastic tours together—opportunities to explore those roads, appreciate the landscapes we sometimes take for granted, and strengthen the connections that make this club so special. I look forward to meeting more of you and getting to know your cars.



Stephanie on course.

ESCA Meeting

January 6, 2026

7:00 p.m.

ESCA Meetings are In-Person/ZOOM

Round Table Pizza, 1791 Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa

Link for ZOOM meeting will be sent before the meeting.



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

msreg.com/ESCA2026Membership

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.

CURRENT ESCA MEMBERSHIP

121

ESCA Meeting and Banquet



Jacinda & Martin Franusich



Carol & Bob Blick



Stephanie & Chris Brazell



Grady Carter and Ken Silk



John Schliemann and Annetto Ibleto

ESCA End of Year Banquet Meeting December 7, 2025

By the Beard

It was a foggy, foggy morning as 30 ESCA members and guests began arriving in their sports type vehicles at the parking lot of Cattlemen's Restaurant in Rohnert Park. The restaurant was dressed up in holiday lights and a Christmas tree. Marci and helpers soon were busy putting out candy canes and raffle tickets at each place setting, while people were greeting old friends and making new ones and the TOYS FOR KIDS table began to fill up. After a table rearrangement we were ready for the meeting and the food.

Robert Hayes opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The Treasurer John Schlieman stated the treasury was better

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ESCA Meeting and Banquet

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Charley, Ben, & Monique Sawyer



Ken Silk and Robert Hayes



Martin Johns and Marisa Castellano



Kathleen Brady & Craig Hammond



John Castellano and Keith Miller

off than a year ago. Bob Jenkins stated we had 3 successful, fun tours, and the CHRISTMAS LIGHTS tour was still to come. Autocross Chairman Craig Hammond gave out the first place T-Shirts and the second and third place trophies and pictures were taken. It was noted that this year was the first time a husband and wife had won a championship T-Shirt in the same year. Blain Hendrix once again installed the new officers, Stephanie Brazell Chairperson, Charley Sawyer Vice Chairman, Secretary Marci Jenkins, Treasurer John Schliemann, Ex-Officio Bob Jenkins and he took pictures of the Board. It was also noted that Stephanie was the 4th lady to be Chairperson of ESCA, the first being Nancy (Voepel) Hastings, followed by Martha (Wendt) Cirati and then Marci Jenkins. Next out going

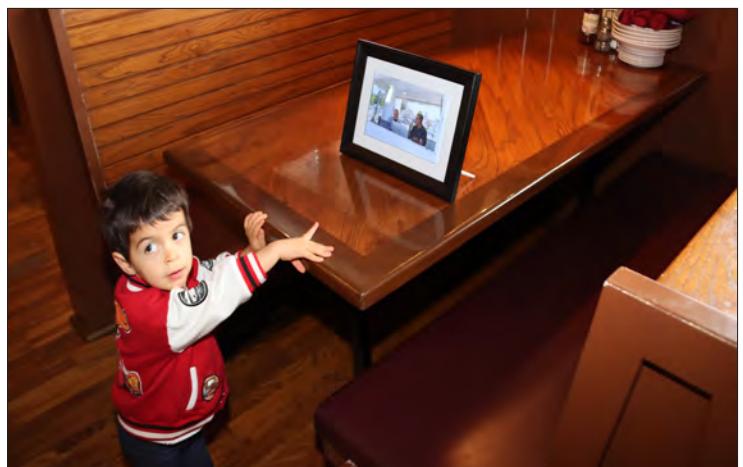
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ESCA Meeting and Banquet

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Michael Prescott and Tammara & Dan Woolever



Ben Sawyer finds the Video



Karen Larson, Lu Kistner, Marci Jenkins



Robert Hayes with Chairmans gift



Blain & Karen Hendrix



Charley Sawyer, Tammara Woolever, Dan Woolever
trophy winners

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Stephanie Brazell, Chris Brazell, John Castellano, John Schliemann, Grady Carter, Michael Prescott, Martin Franusich



Robert Hayes, Fireman, Stephanie Brazell, Chris Brazell, Lu Kistner, Marci Jenkins

Chairman Robert Hayes was presented with a gift of a large photo of him autocrossing. Then came more talking and the gathering of the toys to take to the fire department, and the paying of the bill of course.

A four-car tour from the restaurant carrying the toys with Chris and Stephanie Brazell leading the way in their Mazda Maita headed up to Santa Rosa to the main Santa Rosa Fire Department on Sonoma Avenue, where after a little effort we got a fireman to open one of the big doors so we could get

pictures in front of a fire truck.

Mission
accomplished.

And so ended
another fun
banquet.

And, the sun
was now out.





Marci Jenkins and Tom O'Dell



Championship T-Shirts and Trophies



2026 ESCA Board

Bob Jenkins EX-Officio, John Schliemann Treasurer,
Marci Jenkins Secretary, Charley Sawyer V-Chairman,
Stephanie Brazell Chairperson

THIS & THAT for the 2026 ESCA Board

Chairperson: This will be Stephanie Brazells' 1st time as **ESCA**'s Chairperson and her 1st time on the Board. Stephanie becomes only the 4th lady to be **ESCA** Chairman. She joins Nancy (Voepel) Haiston 1974, Martha (Wendt) Cirata 1978 and Marci (Tarleton) Jenkins 1984.



Vice Chairman: This will be Charlie Sawyers' first time as Vice-Chairman and first time as a Board member.



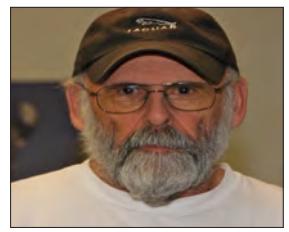
Secretary: This will be Marci Jenkins' 22th time as Secretary. She has also been Chairman once and Treasurer once, for a total of 24 times as a Board Member.



Treasurer: This will be John Schliemann's 2nd time as Treasurer. He has also been Chairman 4 times, Vice Chairman 4 times and Ex-Officio 3 times, for a total of 13 times as a Board Member.



Ex-Officio: This will be Bob Jenkins' 9th time as Ex-Officio. He has also been Chairman 23 times, Vice Chairman 5 times, Secretary twice, and Treasurer once, for a total of 40 times on the Board.





Left to Right: Karen Larson, Karen and Blain Hendrix, John and Marisa Castellano, Chris and Stephanie Brazell, Marci Jenkins, Kathleen Brady and Craig Hammond, Lorie Banks, Claudette Masters, Chuck Banks, Joe Masters

Holiday Lights Tour Recap

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Rohnert Park. While Circle Drive lived up to its reputation, we discovered plenty of other dazzling displays that made the detour worthwhile.

We wrapped up the tour at the sculpture garden between the Luther Burbank Center and Sutter's medical office building. This permanent installation was dressed up beautifully for the holidays, offering a colorful and festive experience. They call it "The Northern Lights" winter walk. Unfortunately, the rain picked up just as we arrived, but if you haven't visited this spot, it's worth the trip! The garden changes every year, and this season's vibrant colors were even better than my last visit.

Special thanks to Chuck and Lori Banks—this tour was a remix of one they organized a while back. Their previous legwork made planning this year's route so much more manageable, and we truly appreciate their help in making

this event a success.

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and plenty of twinkling lights!





Trip To Carr's

By Bob Jenkins

On a foggy Monday morning Johnny Schliemann arrived at my house to pick me up for a run to Carr's Drive In in Forestville for the weekly Monday morning meet of old Hot Rods.

Because it was only a few days before Thanksgiving the turning out was lighter than usual.

There were still over twenty cars to check out while we had a light lunch when Carr's opened at 11:00am. Johnny said usually the lot is full with about 50 cars and lasts from before 11 to 12:30 or so. Check it out if you have an empty Monday morning.



A Woody's Road to Pomona, Part 2

By Gary O'Connor

The initial excitement of getting in 'The Big Show' is over, now the work begins. When I look at that old heap I realize that the last time any chassis painting occurred was in the mid 80's! Any visible components will have to be repaired and then repainted. Stone chips and scratches are plentiful after 60K miles and even though it's parked in its own sealed garage surface rust is a constant irritant.

The next problem was how to get the car down to LA since I can't drive it. A 1700 pound car and 1500 pound rental trailer is right at my car's max towing limit. Throw in going over the Grapevine and that idea's out. Renting a truck AND trailer became prohibitively expensive quickly, however, renting a 12 foot box truck, while still pricey, is doable. Its the 'dollar nine a mile' that gets ya on a thousand mile trip! The box also protects the car from weather and prying eyes.

Now I have to get the car onto the truck's 33 inch high floor. I think two sets of reinforced Harbor Freight ramps will provide sufficient, if narrow, paths for the tires. I'll do a partial test with the '32 pickup before spending too much time fabbing. Wish me luck!

I'm still waiting on two new cylinders before I can assemble the engine and put on the newly painted cooling tins and chrome. (fingers tapping impatiently). My buddy John Andres is doing the painting and another talented friend, Paul Marquez, will be lettering the plaque for the show setup.

None of these projects is insurmountable but time ticks away. I just need to stay vigilant and plug away.



ESCA & Other 2026 Calendar

TBD = To Be Determined

January 2026

06 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

February

03 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

March

03 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

22-29 GT World Challenge America at Sonoma Raceway

April

07 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

May

29-31 Velocity Invitational at Sonoma Raceway

June

02 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

27-28 NASCAR at Sonoma Raceway

July

07 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

August

04 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

September

01 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

October

06 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

November

03 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

December

01 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

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.therallyeclub.org>
REDWOOD REGION PCA
<https://redwoodpca.org>

Happy January Birthdays

Silas Boden
Tanner Cook
Ben Davoren
Andy Ferrara
Nancy Gershman
Dmitry Gurtovoy
Robert Isaacs
Patricia Jeffries
Martin Johns
Linda Jurin
Bohdan Lechnowsky
Rosemary Lechnowsky
Carter Luis
Lynn Miller
Matthew Moseley
Gerry Mugele
Terry O'Connor
Emily Seager
Debbie Siedentopf
Clint Vanadrichem

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!



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.rscct.net/>

more information is on their FACEBOOK PAGE.

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

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

4th Sunday of the Month: 9am

- Pennngrove 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

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



2026 Autocross Helmet Requirement

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