

PIT STOP



APRIL 2026

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

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

Volume 63-4

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.

ESCA Meeting

April 7, 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.

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS . . .

Nigel Wildt Mazda Miata MX-5
Steve Koll Kia Seltos

May 2, 2026
ESCA Autocross

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Amped Up

By *Stephanie Brazell*



Autocross Season Opener

The 2026 season kicked off on March 21st, and what a strong start it was. Warm weather pushed into the 80s—unusual for this time of year—but it made for a comfortable, energetic day on course.

As many heard at last month’s ESCA meeting, we’ve faced new challenges with event insurance. At the Autocross meeting, we discussed that our courses will now undergo a higher level of scrutiny, requiring approval in advance. With that in mind, I want to extend a sincere thankyou to the people who made this event possible.

Marci, your behind-the-scenes work keeps our club running smoothly, and we appreciate everything you do. John Castellano put in hours designing a course that satisfied insurance requirements while still providing a technically engaging drive. Craig, Johnny, Charley, and Blaine handled checkin, laid out cones—a huge task on its own—and tackled every issue that came up throughout the day without missing a beat. The time and effort you all contribute so the rest of us can enjoy autocross does not go unnoticed.

The event itself was a success: no breakdowns, no safety issues, and only one flat tire—and even he didn’t miss a run. Working out on course was a blast. Chris and I staffed station 2, giving us a great vantage point to watch the orange run group. New member Freya, impressed everyone with her enthusiasm and commitment on course. We saw only a handful of DNFs and very few cones overall—though I definitely took out more than my share! All in all, it was a very good day.

We’re fortunate to have a space where we can let loose and refine our skills, and with that comes a shared responsibility. Running an event takes a tremendous amount of work—course workers, timekeepers, start and finish volunteers, and so many others keep things flowing. I want to encourage everyone to explore and learn the various roles. Our longstanding members bring decades of experience, and they’re always willing to step

in and teach. At this event, someone tried a new position for the first time, and several members immediately jumped in to guide him. That’s the spirit that keeps our club thriving.

Here’s to a strong start to the season—and many great runs ahead.

Registration	
Entrant Name:	_____
Phone or Email:	_____
Vehicle Year:	_____
Vehicle Make:	_____
Vehicle Model/Trim:	_____
Engine(optional):	_____
Additional Vehicle Details(optional):	_____

continued in the [next column](#)

2026 MCHS CARFEST

**MARIA CARILLO HIGH SCHOOL
APRIL 11th, 2026**

- Food, Drinks, Raffle and a Silent Auction!
- Support your local school
- Sign up with the QR code to the right



\$30 entry fee



- APRIL 11th, 2026
- 6975 MONTECITO BLVD, SANTA ROSA CA
- 7AM - 4PM

Questions? Contact:
 EMAIL: MCHSpumagamage@gmail.com
 INSTAGRAM: [pumagamage2](https://www.instagram.com/pumagamage2)

ESCA Autocross Information

- Registration link will be in your email 10 days before the Autocross
- The cost for this May event will be decided at the April Meeting and an email blast will be sent out
- Invited guests plus \$10 for One-Day Membership and you must email full name and email address of your guest to [ESCA Secretary secretary@empiresportscar.org](mailto:secretary@empiresportscar.org)
- 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

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.**

CURRENT ESCA MEMBERSHIP

175





Ready, Set, Go . . .

The Empire Sports Car Association wrapped up another exciting autocross event with a fantastic turnout and a uniquely challenging course that kept drivers on their toes all day. By incorporating more cones than usual, the course layout created a flowing, road-race-style track that rewarded precision, rhythm, and commitment through every section.

Congratulations go to Grady Carter, who set the Top Time of Day with an impressive run. Tom Buggia secured a strong second-place finish, followed closely by Brent Werner in third,

rounding out a competitive podium.

A special thank-you goes to John Castellano for designing and setting up such a creative and engaging course that added a fresh twist to the day's competition. Events like this are only possible because of the dedication of our volunteers and members, and we also want to thank everyone who showed up early to help with setup and stayed afterward to assist with cleanup. Your participation and teamwork continue to make these events successful and enjoyable for all.

We're already looking forward to the next one!

Craig Hammond

craig@hammondautowerks.com



continued on [page 5](#)

March 21, 2026 Autocross Photos

continued from [page 4](#)

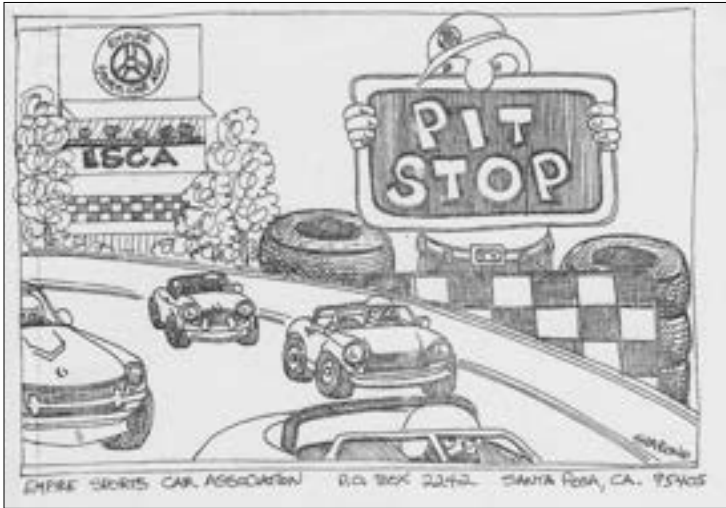


3-21 ESCA Autocross link to more photos ~
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/pc8pJbBqHpg5Lvz7>

continued on [page 6](#)

March 21, 2026 Autocross Results

	Pos.	Class	#	Driver	Car Model	Time	Diff.	From 1st
1	1	gtb-s	919	Grady Carter	2016 Porsche Cayman 981	40.383	0.000	0.000
2	1	gtb-r	0	Thomas Buggia	1991 Toyota Mr2 turbo	40.554	0.171	0.171
3	2	gtb-s	95	Brent Werder	2003 Nissan 350z	40.786	0.232	0.403
4	2	gtb-r	90	Michael Cardozo	2023 Porsche GT4 RS	41.593	0.807	1.210
5	3	gtb-s	421	Nicholas Doyle	1990 Nissan 240sx	41.680	0.087	1.297
6	1	gtc-r	27	Craig Hammond	1983 Mazda rx7	41.870	0.190	1.487
7	4	gtb-s	108	Greg Matsumoto	2007 Porsche 911S	41.940	0.070	1.557
8	5	gtb-s	2	Blain Hendrix	2007 Porsche Cayman	42.426	0.486	2.043
9	1	gta-s	351	Charley Sawyer	1966 Ford Mustang	42.445	0.019	2.062
10	1	gtc-s	711	Keith Kruezfeldt	2007 Mazda Miata	42.481	0.036	2.098
11	1	gta-r	505	Martin Fransulich	1990 Chevrolet Corvette	42.605	0.124	2.222
12	2	gtc-s	34	Alex Ivakhnenko	2007 Mazda Mx5	42.644	0.039	2.261
13	2	gtc-r	9	John Schliemann	1995 Mazda Miata	42.958	0.314	2.575
14	3	gtc-s	3	John Castellano	1960 Volkswagen Bug	43.142	0.184	2.759
15	6	gtb-s	33	Vincent Cortese	2007 Porsche Cayman S	43.237	0.095	2.854
16	2	gta-s	153	Michael Prescott	2013 Ford Mustang 5.0	43.511	0.274	3.128
17	7	gtb-s	26	Roy Peterka	2023 Honda Civic Type R	43.816	0.305	3.433
18	8	gtb-s	11	Guy Southern	1973 Datsun 240Z	44.022	0.206	3.639
19	4	gtc-s	1701	Christopher Brazell	2019 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF	44.155	0.133	3.772
20	9	gtb-s	14	Martin Johns	2011 BMW 128i convertibl	44.245	0.090	3.862
21	5	gtc-s	18	Ben Mo	2009 Honda Civic Si	44.296	0.051	3.913
22	6	gtc-s	131	Ed Biglin	2002 Honda S2000	44.443	0.147	4.060
23	3	gta-s	189	Dan Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	44.734	0.291	4.351
24	1	gte-s	59	Stephanie Brazell	2021 Polestar Polestar 2	45.107	0.373	4.724
25	4	gta-s	23	Blaine Pope	1995 Chevrolet Camaro Z28	45.187	0.080	4.804
26	5	gta-s	109	Tamara Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	45.216	0.029	4.833
27	10	gtb-s	901	Saia Buggia	1991 Toyota Mr2	45.329	0.113	4.946
28	7	gtc-s	37	Gavin Morton	1986 Honda Crx si	45.523	0.194	5.140
29	6	gta-s	69	David Beck	1965 Chevrolet Chevelle	46.460	0.937	6.077
30	8	gtc-s	101	Harrison Smith	2022 Toyota Corolla se apex	47.202	0.742	6.819
31	2	gte-s	335	Ferrara Andy	Fiat 500E	47.314	0.112	6.931
32	11	gtb-s	38	Michael Huynh	2005 Lexus IS300	47.491	0.177	7.108
33	12	gtb-s	42	Duke Ferris	2001 Porsche Boxster S	47.833	0.342	7.450
34	9	gtc-s	8	Dmitry Gurtovoy	2003 Mazda Miata	48.091	0.258	7.708
35	7	gta-s	171	Jason Pike	1967 Ford Mustang	48.264	0.173	7.881
36	13	gtb-s	201	Freya Williams	1990 Mercedes-Benz 190E	48.534	0.270	8.151
37	10	gtc-s	16	Robert Cassidy	Porsche 914	50.241	1.707	9.858
38	2	gta-r	76	Nikki Southern	2002 Chevrolet Corvette	51.301	1.060	10.918
39	11	gtc-s	116	George Nostrant	1973 Porsche 914 1.7L	58.625	7.324	18.242
40	14	gtb-s	580	John Dolan	2001 Porsche Boxster S	66.787	8.162	26.404



APRIL FOOLS RALLYE checkpoint on Townview outside finish.



Below are photos of autocrossing at the SANTA ROSA VETS BUILDING parking lot.

Long Ago in Pit Stop April 1982

By Bob Jenkins

On the front page of a 2 page newsletter was a drawing by member Sharon Lewis and a column entitled “b b shots” by the ESCA Chairman Bob Jenkins, (aka Bob the Beard) which stated that the wet weather was now over and in April we would have the April Fools Rallye and a club autocross. He also stated the 24 people who attended the second meeting in March were treated to movies by Bill Diekmann of '60s races and autocrosses at Sears Point and old Cotati Raceway.

An autocross article by Smokey B (Steve Thomasson) said the club autocross would be at the Santa Rosa Vets Buildings parking, our new event site. Noise was the only concern for the site and we would be using a db meter. The cost was to be in the 8 to 10 dollar range.

A rallye article said the April Fools Rallye would start from the Coddington front parking lot by the Exxon Station, with a cost of \$5 per car.

There was a profile of new member Darin Schettler who was born and raised in Santa Rosa. He was 18 year old and had just bought a 1968 Cougar from his neighbor, Marci Jenkins.



APRIL FOOLS RALLYE checkpoint on Oakwild Road.



ESCA & Other 2026 Calendar

April

- 07 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 11-12 Redwood Sports Car Club AutoX at Samoa
- 11 Gas & Grab Car in Santa Rosa
- 11 Maria Carrillo High School Car Show
- 28 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park

May

- 02 ESCA Autocross**
- 05 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 09-10 Redwood Sports Car Club AutoX at Samoa
- 26 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park
- 29-31 Velocity Invitational at Sonoma Raceway

June

- 02 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 06 ESCA Autocross**
- 13-14 Redwood Sports Car Club AutoX at Samoa
- 20 Peggy Sue Car Show Sonoma County Fairgrounds
- 23 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park
- 27-28 NASCAR at Sonoma Raceway

July

- 07 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 18-19 Redwood Sports Car Club Korbil Hillclimb
- 18 Annual VFW Post 3919 Car Show Sebastopol
- 28 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park

August

- 01 ESCA Autocross**
- 04 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 08-09 Redwood Sports Car Club AutoX at Samoa
- 25 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park

September

- 01 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 05 ESCA Autocross**
- 12-13 Redwood Sports Car Club AutoX at Samoa
- 22 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park



continued in [next column](#)

October

- 06 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 10-11 Redwood Sports Car Club AutoX at Samoa
- 27 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park

November

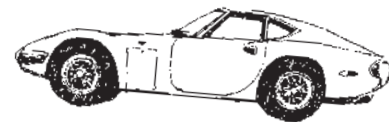
- 01 ESCA Autocross Double Points (Sunday)**
- 03 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 25 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park

December

- 01 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM**
- 05-06 24 Hours of Lemons at Sonoma Raceway
- 22 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park
- TBD ESCA Annual Meeting**

TBD = To Be Determined

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



Happy April Birthdays

- Lorie Banks
- Art Battles
- Thia Buggia
- John Castellano
- Levi Early
- Tamara Hull
- Canaan McKoy
- Stacy O'Connell
- John Polos
- Alex Southern
- Brent Werder

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!

Rollin' Rosies Poker Run & Classic Car Show

Classic Car Show
Saturday, May 9th

Cotati

Mezzelun

Redwood Cafe cot

Share Website Calendar Directions

Sat, May 9, 2026, 10:30 AM · in 51 days

La Plaza de Cotati, 8167 La Plaza, Cotati, CA 94931

TIBURON CLASSIC & EXOTIC CAR SHOW 26TH ANNIVERSARY
Saturday, June 20, 2026

Home About Registration Featured Cars Annual Instructions Thursday Night Library Sunday Fun Drive

Show Drive Car Technical Training Wheel Reading Contact Us

Dark blue sedan with American flags

Devils Darlin's
Presents the **37th Annual**
Car Show

JULY 18TH 2026

8 AM TO 2 PM

At the SONOMA VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

125 1ST ST. WEST IN SONOMA, CA - PRE-REGISTRATION \$40.00 UNTIL JUNE 18TH, DAY OF REGISTRATION \$45.00

Cloverdale
Car & Motorcycle SHOW

32nd ANNUAL CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW
SATURDAY September 12, 2026

SATURDAY September 6

PANCAKE BREAKFAST—Cloverdale Senior Center	8-10:30 am
CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW	10am-3pm
AWARDS CEREMONY—Downtown Cloverdale	2pm

Check out **THE PIT STOP** for beer, souvenirs, raffle gift baskets & music!

TRUE ISEM FILM CENTER CLOVERDALE CITY OF CLOVERDALE

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"

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

- ▶ Coddington, Santa Rosa - **Cancelled**
- ▶ 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

For Bay Area Rallyes check out the :

RALLYE CLUB WEBSITE INFORMATION

<http://www.therallyclub.org>

REDWOOD REGION PCA

<https://redwoodpca.org>

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 Korbekel.

Their web site is <http://www.rsc.net/>

more information is on their FACEBOOK PAGE.



Ian Cook in his Supra at the Vets Building parking lot.

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Marty Nygaard
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Get in touch with us:

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- facebook.com/hammondautowerks