

PIT STOP



JUNE 2026

The Official Newsletter of *Empire Sports Car Association*

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

Volume 63-6



ESCA AUTOCROSS

June 6, 2026

**Sonoma County Fairgrounds
1350 Bennett Valley Road**

Registration closes 6-4-26

ESCA Meeting

June 2, 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.

2026 Autocross Helmet Requirement

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

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*Amped Up**By Stephanie Brazell*

June 2026

Stephanie's Dream Car

Garage: the right car for the job.



Back in 2020, I returned my leased car in August, right as we were preparing to move. This left us as a singlecar household while I waited for delivery of my Polestar 2—whose arrival date was, at the time, anyone's guess. Our only vehicle was the Miata. Now, I love the Miata, but trying to evacuate from a wildfire with two dogs meant cramming ten legs into one very small footwell. It was... an experience. Even under less dramatic circumstances, trips to the garden center could be stressful.

During that stretch, when I wasn't sure when (or if) I'd have my own car again, I started mentally building a very specific corner of my dream garage—the “oddly useful” corner. It became a lineup of practical, quirky, unpretentious vehicles that had a kind of earnest charm and capability I found comforting during those uncertain months. This wish list began during the dark times, but has continued, I know people that have a car just for the dog. Goals.

1980s Toyota Tercel 4WD Wagon. This little beast rivaled the Subarus of its era, and its unapologetically boxy silhouette looks like something straight out of an early Star Trek shuttle bay. That alone sparks the good nerdy feelings, but the aftermarket possibilities are what push it into dreamcar territory. Lift it. Add a snorkel. Install a ladder leading up to a roof basket—or even a roof tent. Suddenly you've got a tiny, cheerful offgrid adventure rig. During the pandemic, when everyone's desire for selfsufficient escapism was dialed up to eleven, the Tercel embodied the fantasy of fording a stream without worrying about gas prices... or hauling home a questionable Facebook Marketplace project. This one especially, still has my interest.

2003 Honda Element. The Honda Element is one of the most underappreciated compact SUVs ever built. Its clever asymmetrical doors—one full door plus a halfdoor on each side—offered easy access without turning the car into a bulky beast. The interior was even smarter: backseats that didn't just fold down but swung up and latched against the sides of the cargo area, creating a cavernous, toolandsoilfriendly space. And then there was the rubber floor. Not a rubber mat. The floor. If

your bag of compost exploded in the back, you could literally hose it out. For dog owners, gardeners, hobbyists, it was perfection. It's the kind of vehicle that would've let me take my pups anywhere and actually clean up afterward.

Volvo XC70 or Audi all road. These two sit together in the luxurywagon category: allwheel drive, beautifully engineered, rugged without being brutish, and spacious enough for dogs, furniture projects, gardening supplies, you name it. The Volvo offers that classic, angular Swedish design—practical, durable, and a little severe in a satisfying way. The Audi, in contrast, has smoother lines and its iconic all-lowercase badging that always felt effortlessly stylish. They were, and still are, deeply sensible dream cars.

Rivian R3X (the future dream). The last dream car from those lockdown-era visions hasn't even hit production yet. Back then, Rivian was delivering trucks in 2021, and while their original R1T was fun to admire, it was far more vehicle than I needed. I wanted something light, rally-inspired, and playful—a modern electric hot hatch with attitude. The Rivian R3X promises exactly that. It looks like an '80s Renault that found a gym, or the wilder cousin of a classic '80s Golf. I can't wait for it to move beyond prototype and into reality.

I feel that my dream garage could fill a warehouse, this is just a sample. Maybe it's the warm weather, the idea of camping and gardening that has these dream cars at the forefront of my thoughts.



PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Donnie Bamberg
Matthew Farnham
Ryan Haugh
Kyle Welsh

BMW 325I
Subaru BRZ
Ford Fiest ST
Subaru BRZ

CURRENT ESCA MEMBERSHIP 158

What is a FUNKHANA?

By Bob Jenkins

A Funkhana is a light-hearted, low-speed automotive skill event designed for fun, teamwork, and precision driving rather than speed, often involving gimmicks like blindfolded navigation, ring tosses, or carrying water. It is a safe, non-abusive version of autocross or gymkhana, typically featuring tasks like reversing, navigating tight slalom cones, and precision parking.

ESCA has held 13 Funkhana's locally and a couple of more at the Sports Car Olympics (SCO). The first ESCA Funkhana was on February 28, 1965 and the last one was on August 15, 1992. *All photos are taken at Sports Car Olympics events.*





XOX XOX XOX from John Castellano

We had great weather and great turnout for our second [ESCA](#) Autocross of 2026. 51 drivers took to the track for seven glorious laps of 100% + driving. TTOD Justin Bowen electrified the crowd with a 2.3 second win over the entire field. 18 wannabees crossed the line within another 2.3 seconds.

The theme for our May Autocross track, XOX, was inspired by a tricky 270 element from an old Airport course. I was looking for a new route around the South Pole and recalled a double apex 270 loop at one of the taxiway intersections. The key was to kiss the apex cone, then drift wide around, then kiss the apex again on the exit. If you tried to hug the turn too tight, it killed your exit speed. Unfortunately, I didn't figure that out until the day after that Airport Autocross. Aha! Let's try that again.

In a never-ending quest for track time, the course started with a first-ever loop around the East Pole. It featured a big sweeping entry on a nice patch of smooth grippy pavement that I've been eyeing for a while. Then it snaked tightly back out avoiding dips, markers, etc. The extra loop produced a TTOD of nearly 50 seconds, instead of our usual low 40s.

Between the loops I used my acceleration spirals so that fast cars could point and shoot, but underpowered cars could find a fast "momentum line" to the next braking zone. The five-cone side-entry slalom looked big at 117 feet, but if you didn't lift early and set up for the hard 90 degree exit you would be glad there was lots of room for error! A third XOX loop took us into the finish.



Thanks everyone for weed whacking, shoveling, blowing, chalking, fence moving, and safely defusing the cluster bomb inadvertently caused by squeezing down our pit and grid areas. Thanks to event chairman Craig Hammond for the thankless job of work assignments etc. The course had good overlap, allowing us to accommodate the large turnout. DNFs were few, thanks to pointers on all gates, and double pointers on the slalom plus chalking the course. Wide gates kept cone hits to a minimum and allowed room to search for more speed. 51 gates, about one per second, plus some pointer walls took about 200 cones.

Class honors go to Justin in GTE-S (Tesla), followed in order by Dan Lassen (Ford) in GTB-S, Martin Franusich (Chevy) in GTA-R, Jonathan Teeter (Mazda) in GTC-S, Michael Cordoza (Porsche) in GTB-R, Blain Pope (Chevy) in GTA-S, and Craig Hammond (Mazda) in GTC-R. Nice job all. Let's do it again soon. Hugs and kisses everyone!





ESCA 5-2-2026 Autocross photo link..
[HTTPS://PHOTOS.APP.GOO.GL/RSFW7AzH2WDNQQC1A](https://PHOTOS.APP.GOO.GL/RSFW7AzH2WDNQQC1A)

May 2, 2026 Autocross Results

	Class	#	Driver	Car Model	Time	Diff.	From 1st
1	gte-s	48	Justin Bowen	2024 Tesla Model 3 Performance	49.513	0.000	0.000
2	gtb-s	30	Daniel Lassen	2015 Ford Focus ST	51.858	2.345	2.345
3	gtb-s	69	Ernesto Dal Bo	2019 Porsche 718 Cayman S	51.889	0.031	2.376
4	gta-r	505	Martin Franusich	1990 Chevrolet Corvette	51.914	0.025	2.401
5	gtb-s	95	Brent Werder	2003 Nissan 350z	52.289	0.375	2.776
6	gtc-s	7	Jonathan Teeter	1995 Mazda Miata	52.290	0.001	2.777
7	gtb-s	421	Nicholas Doyle	1990 Nissan 240sx	52.592	0.302	3.079
8	gtb-s	26	Roy Peterka	2023 Honda Civic Type R	52.671	0.079	3.158
9	gtc-s	1701	Christopher Brazell	2019 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF	52.745	0.074	3.232
10	gtb-r	90	Michael Cardozo	2023 Porsche GT4 RS	53.002	0.257	3.489
11	gtb-s	46	Ben Mo	2005 Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution	53.102	0.100	3.589
12	gtb-r	45	Steve Rossiter	1983 Mazda RX7	53.180	0.078	3.667
13	gta-s	23	Blaine Pope	1995 Chevrolet Camaro Z28	53.213	0.033	3.700
14	gta-s	153	Michael Prescott	2013 Ford Mustang 5.0	53.512	0.299	3.999
15	gta-s	351	Charley Sawyer	1966 Ford Mustang	53.716	0.204	4.203
16	gtc-s	156	Matt Farnham	2013 Subaru BRZ	53.734	0.018	4.221
17	gtc-r	27	Craig Hammond	1983 Mazda rx7	53.919	0.185	4.406
18	gtc-s	4	Alvin Nguyen	2002 Honda S2000	53.930	0.011	4.417
19	gtc-r	9	John Schliemann	1995 Mazda Miata	54.163	0.233	4.650
20	gtb-s	250	Essy Fariab	1973 Porsche 911	54.241	0.078	4.728
21	gtc-s	3	John Castellano	1960 Volkswagen Bug	54.266	0.025	4.753
22	gtc-s	93	Eric Wildt	2003 Mazda MX-5 Miata	54.413	0.147	4.900
23	gtc-s	117	Timothy Tilghman	2020 Mazda Miata	54.714	0.301	5.201
24	gtb-s	11	Guy Southern	1973 Datsun 240Z	54.916	0.202	5.403
25	gtb-s	126	Denisa Domen	2023 Honda Civic Type R	55.099	0.183	5.586
26	gtc-s	37	Gavin Morton	1986 Honda Crx si	55.142	0.043	5.629
27	gte-s	59	Stephanie Brazell	2021 Polestar Polestar 2	55.734	0.592	6.221
28	gtb-s	14	Martin Johns	2011 BMW 128i convertibl	55.890	0.156	6.377
29	gtb-s	39	Sinclair Santiago	2025 Toyota Corolla	56.236	0.346	6.723
30	gtb-s	20	Ryan Haugh	2015 Ford Fiesta ST	56.301	0.065	6.788
31	gtc-s	131	Ed Biglin	2002 Honda S2000	56.569	0.268	7.056
32	gtb-s	33	Vincent Cortese	2007 Porsche Cayman S	56.882	0.313	7.369
33	gta-s	189	Dan Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	57.232	0.350	7.719
34	gtb-s	89	Sean Simons	1989 Ford Taurus SHO	57.387	0.155	7.874
35	gtb-s	271	Don Mar	2006 Mitsubishi Evo IX	57.389	0.002	7.876
36	gtc-s	151	Kyle Welsh	2014 Subaru BRZ	57.481	0.092	7.968
37	gtb-s	21	Kaiden Lassen	2018 BMW 430i	57.547	0.066	8.034
38	gtb-s	42	Duke Ferris	2001 Porsche Boxster S	58.195	0.648	8.682
39	gtb-s	47	Nathan Engdahl	2006 Mini	58.305	0.110	8.792
40	gta-s	16	Travis Whitted	2019 Volvo XC40	58.312	0.007	8.799
41	gta-s	74	David Beck	1965 Chevrolet Chevelle	58.376	0.064	8.863
42	gtc-s	82	Alan Veach	Mazda 2008 MX5	58.717	0.341	9.204
43	gta-s	109	Tamara Woolever	2019 Chevrolet Camaro	59.318	0.601	9.805
44	gtb-s	201	Freya Williams	1990 Mercedes-Benz 190E	59.425	0.107	9.912
45	gta-s	171	Jason Pike	1967 Ford Mustang	59.808	0.383	10.295
46	gtb-s	15	Michael Cope	2014 Infiniti Q60 Coupe	59.957	0.149	10.444
47	gta-s	58	Eric Miner	2023 Chevrolet Camaro	60.966	1.009	11.453
48	gta-s	133	Kevin Cross	2022 Toyota Supra	61.622	0.656	12.109
49	gta-s	116	Tyler Whitted	2019 Volvo XC40	66.057	4.435	16.544
50	gta-r	76	Nikki Southern	2002 Chevrolet Corvette	67.235	1.178	17.722
51	gtc-s	61	Robert Cassidy	Porsche 914	77.434	10.199	27.921



ESCA & Other 2026 Calendar

June

02 ESCA Regular Meeting In Person & ZOOM

06 ESCA Autocross

- 13-14 Redwood Sports Car Club AutoX at Samoa
- 20 Tiburon Car Show
- 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

- 11 Devils Darlin's Car Show
- 18-19 Redwood Sports Car Club Korbel 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 Cloverdale Car Show
- 12-13 Redwood Sports Car Club AutoX at Samoa
- 22 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park

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

06 ESCA Annual Meeting & Banquet

- 05-06 24 Hours of Lemons at Sonoma Raceway
- 22 Go-Kart at Nitro City in Rohnert Park

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



Happy June 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!



Santa Rosa Cars & Coffee

By Bob Jenkins

The Coddington site was lost a while back and the new site in Santa Rosa is at the Farmers Lane Plaza in the 1500 block of Farmers Lane, still the second Sunday of the month 8am to 10am.

So, I headed out on May 10th to check it out. The site is smaller than Coddington but still a good size. Below are some photos from the event.



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club
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And ZodiAC

THE AFTERLIFE & TIMES OF SARAH WINCHESTER



Will you get lost in the labyrinth of the house or will spirits guide your way?

Find out by joining us for this [GPS coursemarker](#) gimmick car rallye built around the story of the [Winchester Mystery House](#) on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Start between 11am and 1pm (Pacific Time) at [Cuesta Park](#) (685 Cuesta Park, opposite Montalvo Dr in Mountain View), with a rallye school for newcomers, beginners, and novices at noon. The finish is by 4:30pm at a local restaurant. See more info on the [TRC website](#), or email [the Rallyemasters](#). Invite friends to join you or enter as another team. We would love to see more people.

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

Cars & Coffee - All FREE events

1st Sunday of the Month

- ◆ 8am-10am **Santa Rosa** at Montecito Shopping Center
- ◆ 6:30am-10:00am **Novato** at 132 Vintage Way

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

- ◆ **Santa Rosa** at Farmers Ln Plaza, 1500 Block of Farmers Lane
- ◆ **Petaluma** at 389 S McDowell Boulevard

4th Sunday of the Month: 9 am

- ◆ **Penngrrove** at 10070 Main Street

Last Sunday of the Month: 8 am - 10 am

- ◆ **Rohnert Park** at 459 Rohnert Park Expressway

Every Sunday of the Month: 11 am - 2 pm

- ◆ **Santa Rosa** at Machado Burgers, 406 Larkfield Center
- ◆ **Car Show every Friday 4 - 7 pm at Machado Burgers**

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 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