



MEET THE TEAM

Meet Blizzard Baja: Michigan Tech's student-led off-road racing team. We design, build, and test single-seat vehicles for national SAE Baja competitions, engineering every detail for speed, strength, and control. Every two years, we launch a brand-new build, and each winter, we host the Winter Baja Endurance Race, welcoming nearly 20 universities and 50 vehicles to the snowy trails of the Upper Peninsula. With a legacy of innovation and grit, our team blends hands-on manufacturing with high-performance design to push the limits of what student engineering can do.

BLIZZARD BAJA RACING

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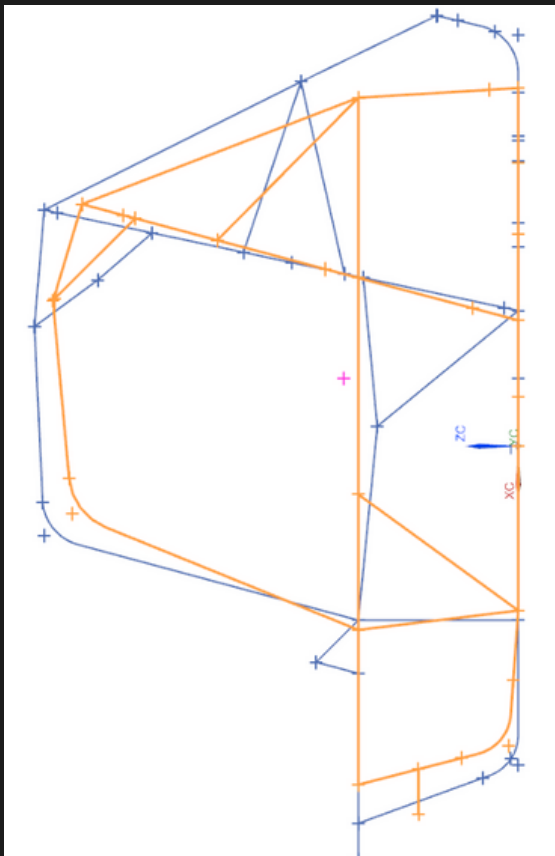
COMPETITION RECAP

This Fall our team traveled to Backwoods Baja, where we placed 5th overall with Matador and took 2nd in the car carry event. Despite rolling the car twice and breaking a few components, the experience was invaluable. The biggest win? Every new member got hands-on time driving and working in the pits—without the pressure of a national competition. It was a gritty, high-energy weekend that tested our resilience and teamwork, and gave our rookies a chance to shine. We're proud of the effort, the learning, and the laughs that came with it. Onward to the next challenge!



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Isabelle Cloose and Katie Cusumano are leading the charge on Blizzard Baja's next-generation 4WD chassis. Their work blends simulation, fabrication, and data-driven design to finalize **Nemesis**, our newest frame iteration. Using strain gage data from Matador and Motion View simulations, they're optimizing shock angles, reducing weight by 8.3%, and improving ergonomics and safety—all while meeting SAE standards. From CAD modeling and FEA to jig design and documentation, they're building not just a frame, but a foundation for future teams. Up next: final assembly, welder coordination, and training resources to keep the momentum rolling.



LEGACY LINEUP

Right now, we're tearing up the track with three builds: Gremlin (2025), Matador (2021), and Hornet (2019)—all named after classic AMC cars. Our team sticks to naming cars in themed trios, and this AMC set has definitely earned its stripes. But the next era's already rolling in: Nemesis just joined the fleet as the first of our Greek Gods lineup. Design's underway, and Nemesis is living up to her name.



HORNET



WINTER BAJA 2026

This January, we're gearing up to host the 45th Annual Winter Baja—our biggest event of the year, and one we've been building toward since the snow melted last spring. Planned and run entirely by students, Winter Baja is a full-day endurance race through ice, powder, and chaos, where Baja SAE cars battle high-speed drifts, brutal jumps, and tight technical sections. It's cold, it's loud, and it's a rite of passage. Since 1981, teams from across the country (and beyond) have made the trek to Michigan Tech to take part. Huge shoutout to the returning teams who keep the tradition alive and to the rookies ready to make their mark. We're proud to carry the legacy forward. See you on the course January 31st.



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