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WINTER BAJA 2026

Winter Baja 2026 marked a milestone year as we celebrated the 45th anniversary of our team hosting the event – and it certainly didn't disappoint!

We welcomed 22 teams and 39 cars to the snow and ice, and for the first time, Winter Baja officially went international with a team joining us from Toronto.

Keeping tradition strong, we hosted the Pickled Egg Slalom, Hill Climb, and the four-hour Endurance Race. Being back at the SDC this year made the day feel especially rooted in the history and spirit of Winter Baja, bringing teams and spectators together on Michigan Tech's campus.

Thank you to every team, volunteer, and supporter who helped make this year's competition one to remember.



Photo Credits: Olivia Perry

**A YOOPER
DELICACY!**



Photo Credits: AJ Chelko

PICKLED EGG SLALOM

We kicked off the day with the always-chaotic Pickled Egg Slalom – a two-member, one-car challenge where teams weave through cones for the fastest time and down a pickled egg before turning back and re-running the course.

It's equal parts skill, speed, and sheer determination. And honestly, anyone willing to eat a pickled egg (jalapeños & frost included) competitively deserves some serious respect.

Results:

1st Place: Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

2nd Place: Michigan Tech University

3rd Place: University of Wisconsin-Stout

HILL CLIMB

Our second event of the day was the Hill Climb, where teams put their cars to the test by charging up a giant snow mound – a challenge that demands traction, power, and precise driver control on an unforgiving surface.

This year's top run came from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor with Ed #69, climbing higher than the rest of the field.

A huge thank-you to Nexteer Automotive for sponsoring the Hill Climb and helping keep this Winter Baja tradition going strong.



Photo Credits: John Vanbennekom



Photo Credits: Olivia Perry

ENDURANCE RACE

This year's four-hour Endurance Race delivered everything Winter Baja is known for – a track carved from ice and snow, plenty of sliding, and more than a few cars that needed a pull back onto course.

Conditions were so slick we even had to throw down some sand on some tricky corners, but that only added to the fun.

Drivers tackled the joker jump, slalom, and a series of hills with some truly impressive drifting, making for a fast, gritty, and unforgettable run.

1ST PLACE

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY-
EDWARDSVILLE



PHOTO CREDITS: AJ CHELKO

2ND PLACE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE



3RD PLACE

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



JOKER JUMP HIGHLIGHTS



PHOTO CREDITS: JOHN VANBENNEKOM



PHOTO CREDITS: AJ CHELKO

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

A huge thank-you to all of our incredible sponsors for powering the 45th Annual Competition and helping us bring this event to life. Your support strengthens our team, Michigan Tech, and the greater Baja community. We're especially grateful to the sponsors who decided to join us on site this year – CTech Manufacturing, Nexteer Automotive, McLaren Engineering, Oshkosh, and U.S. Steel – for braving the snow with us and being a part of the action. We're proud to have each of you as part of our Winter Baja tradition.



FARTHEST TEAM TRAVELED

Old Dominion University Traveled 26 Hours!



Photo Credits: Old Dominion University



A VISIT FROM BLIZZARD T. HUSKY



Photo Credits: Olivia Perry

OFFICIALLY INTERNATIONAL

Thank you to the Toronto Metropolitan University Baja team for making the trip across the border!



Photo Credits: AJ Chelko



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