



# UR BAJA SAE

12/1/2019 | [ROCHESTERBAJA.COM](http://ROCHESTERBAJA.COM)

## Baja SAE Competitions 2020

This season, we will be attending all three competitions:

Baja SAE Arizona:  
April 16-19, 2020  
Tuscon, Arizona

Baja SAE Louisville:  
May 14-17, 2020  
Louisville, Kentucky

Baja SAE Illinois:  
June 3-6, 2020  
Peoria, Illinois



If you're interested in attending with the team, let us know at [baja.rochester@gmail.com](mailto:baja.rochester@gmail.com)

## Plans for the 2019-2020 Season

With the 2019-2020 season trucking along, the Baja shop has been full of new members ready to learn and returning members getting ready to implement new changes. We will be doing a full car rebuild this year, with frame manufacturing currently in process.



In September, SAE added a major rule change: by 2021, it will be a requirement that all Baja SAE vehicles are capable of sending power to all four wheels. With that, if an all-wheel drive system is implemented for the 2020 season, there will be a 150 point bonus automatically added to that team's overall competition score. With the possibility of 1000 total points, this is an opportunity for a significant number of bonus points. If you would like to read more about the rule change, you can [click here to read the whole rules](#). Due to this announcement, the team is in the process of finishing up their current design for a two-wheel vehicle while also dedicating a lot of time into how a four-wheel drive system could be implemented.

Lastly, for this new season, the team has redesigned the Electronics Project Team Lead position to the Data Acquisition PTL. The responsibilities of the Data Acquisition PTL include collecting and interpreting data to improve and validate our designs, working with radios, and implementing sensors and lights on our vehicle.

We can't wait to show you all the things we can accomplish this year, so stay tuned to hear more about what we have coming up!

Madeline Bedrock  
UR Baja SAE President







## Update Your Contact Info!

If you would like to continue to hear the latest UR Baja news, please [fill out this form](#) so that we can keep your contact information as up to date as possible. Thank you and we look forward to keeping you involved in UR Baja's future!



## Midnight Mayhem Recap

This year's Midnight Mayhem was unlike any other, and boy was there a lot of mayhem. First, it was announced in late summer that the location of Midnight Mayhem was changing, so no longer were the nights of camping with a bunch of different teams and sharing the same row of porta potties. Rather than at Nickota Motocross Park like it has been in the past, it was moved to downtown Louisville at the Drop Forge Proving Grounds, the same location as Baja SAE Louisville will be in May. With this, the team ended up at a campsite twenty minutes away from the competition site that was completely different from the camping Baja is used to; this campsite had showers and real bathrooms! With this exciting news, Baja was ready to bring some new members to Midnight Mayhem and introduce them to what Baja is really like.

This year, we brought 12 new members, our 2017-2018 vehicle "Cali" and our new vehicle from this past season "Tennessee", and ran into some familiar faces at Midnight Mayhem. At our usual stop at the Great Lakes Mall in Mentor, Ohio, we met up with Joyce Gray and Laura Loomis on behalf of Debbie and Mike George, Kevin Bonko's family. They graciously bought food, drinks, and other snacks for the whole team, which was greatly appreciated. After leaving Mentor, we drove and made a stop at a Denny's (thanks to Charles Patterson) just over the border into Kentucky for dinner, where we ran into no other than Kaven Marte (Chief Engineer '19). Additionally, when we made it to our campsite just after midnight, we ran into another old friend, Gilead Biggie (Chief Engineer 18). With some friendly faces and

a bunch of new members, Midnight Mayhem was off to a great start.

It was sunny and a scorching 90 degrees on Saturday, which was quite different than the rainy, 40 degree weather we experienced the year before. Another big thank you to Debbie and Mike George for stopping by during the day to talk Baja and bring the team needed sustenance that helped get us through the day. However, soon after when the endurance race began, true mayhem commenced. Throughout the course of the endurance race, Tennessee broke 2 sets of prototype aluminum steering links and A-arms, rod ends, and punctured a tire. Cali on the other hand broke steering links, control links, and a steel A-arm (which we didn't have a spare of, so we ended up welding a cup from an old left A-arm onto an old right A-arm to attempt to perform better in the race). Because of all of the chaos that happened during the endurance race, we were not able to completely finish the race with both vehicles, but new members got to drive and have a fun experience.

“*Organized chaos*”

– Jack Mandell  
Class of 2023



## SAVE THE DATE UR Baja Celebrates 40 Years

UR Baja will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on April 3-4, 2020. We will be having our annual car unveiling, a 40th anniversary reception, shop tours, a ceremony to dedicate a plaque in the shop to Kevin Bonko, as well as a team dinner. Look out for more details to come!



## Thank You to Our Sponsors

All the work we do would not be possible without your support.

Especially as we transition to building a four wheel drive system while also attending three competitions, we appreciate any and all contributions as we strive to perform better.



If you're interested in supporting UR Baja, you can [click here](#) to donate securely through the University giving form or [visit our website](#) for information about donating by check.



## Shop 2019 Fall Update

By: *Harris Mandell, Chief Mechanic*

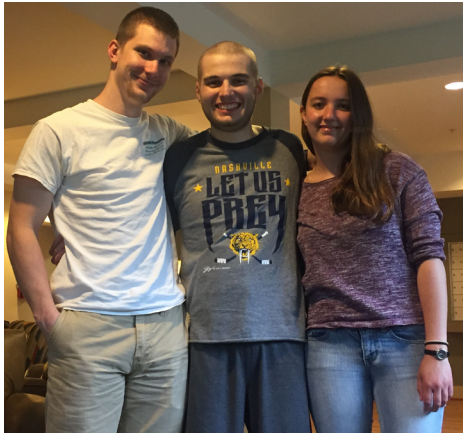
Some major changes to the Baja shop space have occurred over the past couple of months. This past August, a portion of the space in the Taylor Hall Instrument Machine Shop was restructured to accommodate more space for not only the Baja shop, but for a new welding cell, designed to benefit students and faculty all throughout the Hajim school. The welding cell contains an all new Siegmund welding table and fixturing kit. The team has been quick to take advantage of this new tool over the past couple of weeks during the frame fabrication process. The fixturing kit allows us to accurately align our frame tubes such that our finished frame will be dimensionally accurate to the model in CAD.

The additional floor space in the Baja shop has also helped immensely for shop organization and for adding new pieces of equipment. John Miller, director of the Instrument Machine Shop, has been an integral part of this endeavor. With his help, we were able to sell some of our older pieces of machinery, replace them with some newer pieces, such as a Series I Bridgeport Mill and a horizontal band saw, and have the electrical wiring completed all before the start of the manufacturing season. The addition of these new machines and extra space has greatly increased our manufacturing capabilities and workflow in the shop. We're very much looking forward to the rest of the season!





## Tribute to Kevin Bonko



Kevin Bonko dedicated five years to the Baja team, during which he was the Usability Project Team Lead (junior), President (senior), and a graduate advisor. After graduating from U of R in 2017, he continued to live in Rochester and work at Harris Corporation in addition to being an active team member.

His caring and loving spirit had been the glue to the whole team. Dependable and beloved by the team, Kevin was always a hardworking, determined person who always did what was best for the team and made sure everyone was heard.

Kevin passed away on August 1, 2019, after his two year battle with leukemia. He fought bravely and always set an example of strength and positivity. His presence on the team will be greatly missed and he will always be a cherished part of the team.

December 6, 1994 - August 1, 2019



## Executive Board and Design Board

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