



Golden Gate

# HEALEY HAPPENINGS



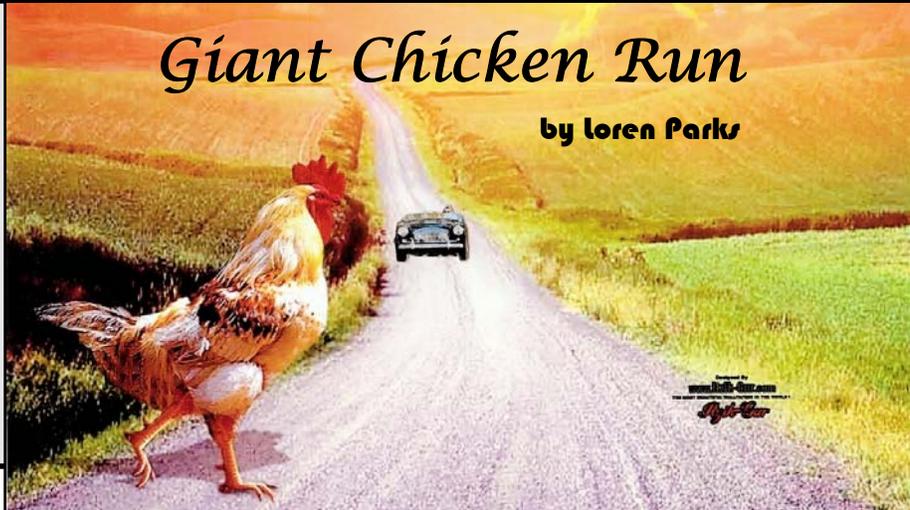
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### In this issue

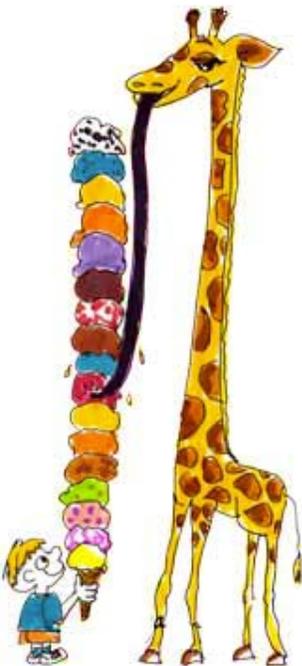
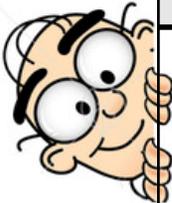
- Giant Chicken Run .... 1
- Editor's Column ..... 4
- Calendar ..... 5
- Hayward Field Meet... 6
- Bar badges ..... 7
- Hillsborough Cd'E..... 8
- Whatizzit? ..... 11
- Newsletter/Club Info.. 11

## Giant Chicken Run

by Loren Parks



*Ice Cream Social  
Sunday, August 23  
(see page 5)*



The Jefferson Austin Healey Club assembled at the Governor's Mansion in Eureka on Sunday morning, July 25, for a tour of Jefferson Giant Chicken country. For those of you who are unaware, the State of Jefferson is composed of Northern California and Southern Oregon Counties. Hopes were high that we would see a Giant Chicken in the wild, although it is uncommon to see them except in captivity. Our first stop was the Jefferson Museum of Natural History, where an actual skeleton dating from about 1100AD is displayed. Numerous artifacts and photographs document the history and aura of the Jefferson Giant Chicken (*pullus gigantis jeffersonicus*), including the Cult of the Giant Chicken.



*Continued on page 2*

  
 Day tour of the Santa Cruz mountains   
 Saturday August 29. See page 5.   




**Giant Chicken Run (continued)**



**Healeys assembled at the Jefferson Governor's mansion at the start of the tour**

The Cult is believed to have originated around 1850, and remains a small and secretive organization even now. A public ceremony is held annually, however, which inspired our visit on this date. We arrived in Crescent City just in time for the annual Blessing of the Egg,

named as it is because it eats only the feathers. The shark was captured by one of the locals who netted it while it loitered in shallow water. Meanwhile, the distressed mate of the deceased Giant Chicken paced in the shallow surf nearby.



**Blessing of the Egg ceremony performed by the Cult of the Giant Chicken**



**An actual skeleton of the Jefferson Giant Chicken at the Museum of Natural History**

the exact significance of which was obscured by our inability to understand the chants by participants. As the ceremony was concluding we heard reports of a Giant Chicken carcass on the beach, so we hurried to see it. Sure enough it was there—feathers, head and feet stripped off by the Feather Shark. The Feather Shark does not eat the body—it is



▲ Jefferson Giant Chicken carcass  
▼ Captured Feather Shark



From Crescent City we caravanned to Grants Pass to visit Harley's Giant Chicken Ranch.

**Continued on p. 3**



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**Giant Chicken Run (continued)**



The distressed mate of the deceased Giant Chicken waded in the surf

Harley himself provided a tour of the facility with a young rooster in tow. The history is that he found a sick young Giant Chicken in the forest on his ranch in 1982, and nursed it back to health. That experience gradually turned into a full-time avocation, and today he has over



**Harley's Giant Chicken Ranch**  
100 Giant Chickens on the premises that he raises for various purposes—scientific research, propagation of the species, and occasionally release into the wild. Harley told us about another facility near Medford operated by a



**Chu Mai Beek and Jefferson Giant Chickens**

Taiwanese entrepreneur by the name of Chu Mai Beek. Harley called on our behalf to request a visit, and Mr. Beek graciously welcomed us. Unlike Harley, Mr. Beek breeds the Giant Chicken for purely commercial purposes.



**Healeys in front of the Beek mansion**

Following the tour Mr. Beek invited us for wine and *hot wings* at his mansion but few of us were inclined to eat our chicken friends by then. Besides, we couldn't lift the *hot wings*. Mr. Beek then surprised us with a tour of an

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area where he keeps the Jefferson Giant Grasshopper. But that's another story.



## Editor's Column

Loren Parks  
Chico, CA



Following Rendezvous 2009 those of us who worked on it had such a *brainfull* of information and experience that we decided to have a post-event meeting to download. Marty & Charmaine Allen hosted the group at their home in Oakland on July 12, where we had a fine lunch and extended discussion. The "lessons learned" will be forwarded to the Austin Healey Club of Oregon, who will hold Rendezvous 2010. In addition, we discussed other club issues.

Some important results of the meeting are that (1) a search committee has been formed to find a replacement for Club

President David Nock who is retiring from that position after many years of service, and (2) Jim Morton volunteered to serve as Event Coordinator at least until election of officers in December. In essence, we redefined the VP of Events position. Jim will coordinate events, but not necessarily create them; we depend upon members to create events. In the future, "event alerts" will be communicated by Jim instead of me, and the Club President will not be expected to carry as much of the responsibility for event creation as David Nock has done.

Our webmaster David Cross reminded us that we can view and upload Rendezvous photos on the Club web site. Take a look!



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## Calendar of Events

Contact Loren Parks to list an event  
[LorParks@gmail.com](mailto:LorParks@gmail.com). For a more complete list see: [www.GoldenGateHealeys.com](http://www.GoldenGateHealeys.com)

### MONTEREY

**Thursday, August 13.** Pebble Beach Tour d'Elegance featuring Concours cars, ending in Carmel where cars can be viewed on Ocean Blvd. 12:00-2:00pm. [www.pebblebeachconcours.net](http://www.pebblebeachconcours.net)

**Friday, August 14.** Pacific Grove Auto Rally. [www.pgautorally.org](http://www.pgautorally.org)

**Friday, August 14.** Concorso Italiano, held at the Laguna Seca Golf Ranch (new location). [www.concorso.com](http://www.concorso.com).

**Friday, August 14.** La Dolce Vita-Automobili at Black Horse Golf Course. This is the first year, and it is in direct competition with Concorso Italiano. [www.ladolcevitamontereybay.com](http://www.ladolcevitamontereybay.com).

**August 14-16.** Laguna Seca Historic Automotive Races [www.mazdaraceway.com](http://www.mazdaraceway.com).

**Sunday, August 16.** Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. [www.pebblebeachconcours.net](http://www.pebblebeachconcours.net)

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**Sunday, August 23:** **GGAHC** National Healey Ice Cream Social, held locally at Foster's Freeze, 653 Merchant St., Vacaville, CA, 95688. Club members who RSVP and arrive in a Healey get free ice cream up to \$5 value courtesy of the GGAHC. RSVP Len Hartnett (707) 448-3027 or [thehartnetts@earthlink.net](mailto:thehartnetts@earthlink.net).

**Sunday, August 23.** Redwood Empire Mini Enthusiasts' British and European Car Show at the Fred Stoke Ranch in Sonoma County near Windsor. Live jazz music, vendors, BBQ food and wine tasting. Tel: (415) 897-9651  
Web site: <http://redwoodempiremini.com>.



Len Hartnett & friends at last year's ice cream social

**Saturday, August 29.** **GGAHC** day tour of the Santa Cruz mountains. Expect to start in the San Jose area, lunch near Santa Cruz, and wine tasting in the afternoon. Finish around 3:30pm. RSVP David Cross (408) 893-4912 or [dcross95020@yahoo.com](mailto:dcross95020@yahoo.com). Details forthcoming; see Club web site and the next newsletter.

**September 4-7.** All British Field Meet, Portland, OR. "Celebrating the Accomplishments of Donald Healey." Concours, swap meet, vintage racing. See [www.abfm-pdx.com](http://www.abfm-pdx.com).

**Sunday, September 13.** Chico Concours d'Elegance [www.chicoconcours.com](http://www.chicoconcours.com).

**Sat/Sun, September 12/13.** British Car Meet, Sierra Point Marina, Brisbane, CA. Saturday tour and Sunday show. Call (310) 392-6605, or Website: [www.allcarcentral.com/thebritishcarnetwork.html](http://www.allcarcentral.com/thebritishcarnetwork.html)

**September 25 - 27.** CSRG Historic Car Races (Charity Challenge), Infineon Raceway. [www.csrgracing.org/](http://www.csrgracing.org/)

**Saturday, September 26.** Ironstone Concours d'Elegance, Murphy's, CA.

# Hayward Field Meet, June 6, 2009

by Bill Putnam

The Meet was hosted by the Mini Owners of America, San Francisco chapter, and celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mini-Cooper. It was held at a great venue—high in the East Bay hills on the grass of the Cal State University Polo Field. With a 180 degree view of the San Francisco Bay and bridges, you couldn't ask for a more beautiful location. And the host club provided a piece of cake for everyone. How good is that?

The weather was a little cool for the early part of June with rain in the forecast, but six GGAHC members with four cars braved the elements. Nancy McCroskey and her beautiful blue Bugeye Sprite was there, as was Rod Hill and his white Bugeye with blue racing stripes. Nancy McCroskey took first place in the Sprite class.

Linda and Nigel Rhodes left their blue-over-white 1960 AH3000 at home and showed their Mini instead—a marvelous blue and white color with a British Union Jack painted on the top. They took second place in the Mini class.

Last but not least, I showed my red-over-black Healey 100-4 Le Mans, which I happen to think is also very attractive. Apparently a lot of other people thought so too because I was awarded a first place in the Big Healey class.

As always, the camaraderie was great, the cars were superb, the hosts were gracious and the sun finally came out around noon. I definitely will put this show on my calendar for next year and hope some of you will also.

*Photos from top down: 1. Nancy McCroskey, 2. Rod Hill, 3. Nigel & Linda Rhodes' blue Mini, and 4. Bill Putnam's 100-4.*



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# The 2009 Hillsborough Concours

Impressions of a neophyte journalist and concours entrant

by Rob Fisher

For those who don't know, the Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance is the oldest continuously running Concours in the WORLD. It is run by the Hillsborough Schools Foundation as a fundraiser for its programs. In its heyday, the HCd'E was the "warm up act" for the prestigious Pebble Beach Cd'E. If your car received "Best in Show" or "Best in Class" at Hillsborough, you were given an invitation to Pebble on the spot. It was THAT good.

## Time for a change

This year's show was a transition year. This is the first time in over 40 years that the event was held without the accompanying children's carnival. The Committee decided that they needed to get back to their roots and rebuild the former glory of the Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance. It was clear that if they were going to get the quality of cars they wanted they need to ensure the owners that their beauties are not going to be accosted by 6 year-olds with ice cream in their hands. Plans were made, the invitations sent, the excitement built...but there was one thing that

no one, no matter how well connected, well intentioned or well organized could control... Mother Nature. Unfortunately, she either didn't get the memo or just plain didn't care, and provided some very difficult weather challenges over the weekend.



## Preparation

As we all know, in preparation for a Concours the car owners also have their own version of volunteers (usually family members), meetings, calls, opinions, decisions and in my case red wine that must be processed prior to the "big day." What started out to be "fixing a few things" turned into a minor restoration project. My wife recovered the dash. My daughter helped me install new door and kick panels. My son helped me put in lap belts and restore the boot. I detailed the engine



GGAHC members left to right: Rob Fisher, Sue Fisher, Nancy McCroskey, & Rod Hill at the Concours dinner

*Continued on page 9*

## Hillsborough (continued)

and undercarriage. It was truly a family effort! “Cheeky” (British phrase for impishly cute and devilish) was looking grand for her debut!

## The Tour

Starting on Saturday morning at 9am, about 15 hearty souls lined up outside of Crocker School for the Hillsborough Tour d’Elegance. As a result of the downpour at 8:30 that morning, I decided to take my recently acquired 1970 Mini Cooper S instead of my Healey BT7. I know this is an article for the GGAHC, but frankly, I had put too much time and energy into making my car show ready and throw it all away on sloppy wet and muddy roads for the thrill of driving my Healey in that kind of slop. I can hear the barking coming from all corners! “British car!” “It’s made for that kind of weather!” “Donald Healey is rolling in his grave!” “Your Mother would be ashamed of you!” etc... All very good points, but “Cheeky” stayed warm and dry in my garage while my faithful co-pilot/wife Sue and I drove off to face Mother Nature’s onslaught. Shoot me. At least my Mini is a British car...sort of...Australian actually.



**Rob & Sue Fisher and friend Lisa Kalaita alongside the Mini**

In spite of the weather the Tour/Rally went off without a hitch. After a few participants made the pre-launch decision to take their convertibles home and exchange them for coupes (XK120, Alfa Spider) we charged off for the *twistys* with a police escort—flashing lights and all.

The “course” was fantastic. We were taken on several roads and into several areas that we had never seen before. There were great views and some real opportunities to throw the car through some tight turns. We were sandwiched between a stunning Ferrari 275 GTB 4-cam and a heavily modified MGA. Nice company! I must say, that the Mini held it’s own and lived up to the expectation of being an absolute kick in the pants to drive.



At about the halfway point we all pulled over for a group picture and an opportunity to stretch our legs. The rain had graciously let up a bit and there were smiles all around from our adventure. So, a few quick pics and we were on our way again. With the exception of a short run north on HWY 1 and our return leg from Half Moon Bay on HWY 92, we used mostly surface roads for the journey. We

***Continued on page 10***

## **Hillsborough (continued)**

covered 68 miles driving from Hillsborough through Woodside, Portola Valley, Los Altos, San Gregorio and Half Moon Bay returning again to Hillsborough where we had a sumptuous catered lunch at a local Hillsborough home. Great fun had by all. Oh, and I learned that the Mini's windscreen wipers had only one speed—blur.

## **The Concours**

Sunday dawned and the weather was only marginally better. The forecast was for afternoon clearing, but there was certainly no sign of the hot yellow orb. After much to and fro, I put my freshly minted and unused top on the Healey. Now THAT was an event on it's own. Twenty (or was it 30) minutes later, we backed "Cheeky" out of the garage and headed off to the show a half-mile away.



The event had 194 cars registered. Instead of focusing on a specific marque the show honored all cars of German origin. The MC for the day was the well-known automotive writer John Joss. He, being British, was able to add some levity to the extremely dreary day.

Over 5,000 people were expected; less than a thousand attended. There were some 50 no-shows among registered participants. However, the spirit that lives in every "car person" persevered. Lot's of great discussions and yarn spinning occurred amongst the dedicated.

There were some outstanding cars at the show. Some cars I had never seen before. Cars



that were one-of-a-kind. Cars that were pristine. Cars that were race worn. Have you ever seen a Scaglietti bodied Corvette? Ever seen a Kissel 655? A Morgan +4+ (that's not a typo)? How about a Siata 208S? They were all there. The Siata won Best in Class and Best in Show. But as a member of the GGAHC, I also throw out that I was the only Healey in the show. Where were my fellow members? We are British car owners that are lucky enough to have one of the most beautiful cars ever made. Let's show them with pride!



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## Healey Classifieds

(no submittals)



### Whatizzit?

I photographed this car in Cairo, Egypt in 1986. There were no identifying marks on the car. Send your guess to [LorParks@gmail.com](mailto:LorParks@gmail.com)

### Golden Gate Austin Healey Club Officers

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