



Golden Gate



Golden Gate Austin Healey Club, Inc. Sunnyvale, CA Vol 12, No. 1 Jan/Feb 2010

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It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas

by Charmaine Allen

Thirty-five GGAHC members braved cool temperatures and rain to attend our final 2009 event—the annual Christmas party and meeting—hosted this year at Vic Stewart's historic Steak House in Walnut Creek.

It was an exceptionally cold evening but thanks to Dan and Linda Sekella's excellent planning, we warmed up quickly in the Tahoe Room with its fire-place and lodge-like setting. There was an open bar followed by delicious hors d'oeuvres including Vic's famous onion rings. Excitement was in the air with the anticipation of the changing of the guard of the Austin Healey Club for the first time in 12 years!

The Changing of the Guard

Following dinner and elections, Dave Nock and John Trifari were acknowledged for their many years of leadership. Dave passed the Presidency to Marty Allen, and John passed his duties to others as editor of the newsletter and head of membership. "Dave and



I are going to take a vacation and be members." And they deserve it after 12 years of Conclaves, Rendezvous, Rallies and one of the greatest

Continued on page 2

Annual tech session

British Car Specialists in Stockton

**Saturday March 13
See page 5**



Dave Nock will show us how to increase ground clearance.

GGAHC Business & Planning Meeting

The Board will hold a business meeting from 10am—11am on Saturday, January 16 and an *all-members invited* General Planning Meeting at 11am. The meetings will be held at the office of Lee Bardellini, 2000 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon CA, 94583. Contact Marty Allen with suggestions or questions: (510) 845-7585 or Martyallen@aol.com. **Pizza will be served.**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas (continued)

Healey events in British Sports Car history—the 2002 Tahoe International Meet celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Austin Healey. It was acknowledged as one of the outstanding car events of our time.

Outgoing President Dave Nock acknowledged all of the great people who made the last 12 years such a success, and asked John Trifari, Loren Cross, Marty Allen, Len Hartnett and Lee Bardellini to come to the front and accept a token of his appreciation, especially for their help with mounting the most successful Healey event in the world in 2002, with 725 registered guests and 650 cars from nearly every state and from international locations as well. Dave noted that, "Nothing like it had ever been done and has not been done since." He presented those up front with an engraved photo album and said that if not for these individuals, the entire thing would not have happened.

Annual Meeting

Dan Sekella gave the treasurer's report that the club is financially sound and made a profit from Jackson Rancheria. Jim Morton, newly elected VP of Events, reported that participation in events has increased. Our events average 10 cars and our Fall Colors Tour just a few weeks ago had 19 cars. There will be a Jan 16th planning meeting (see page 1) which everyone is invited to attend to help plan next year's events. Anyone interested in sponsoring an event, please feel free to join us at the meeting, and enjoy pizza as well. Dan Sekella asked who drove the furthest for this dinner event, and the acknowledgement went to David and Cindy Cross who drove from Disneyland in Southern California.

Some members drive several hours to attend events and it's easy to understand why. The GGAHC has a friendly and supportive group of members who enjoy being together. Tonight, we closed out an era. However, we are all looking forward to the New Year with our new leaders taking us down new backroads and having new adventures.

Attendees

- Charmaine & Marty Allen
- Cully & Julie Anderson
- Lee & Susie Bardellini
- Loren Cross
- David & Cindy Cross
- Luther & Alexia Gentry
- Len Hartnett
- Roger & Donna Hawk
- George Henke
- Nick & Sandra Klein
- Steve & Kim Korbay
- Jim & Ida Morton
- David & Jerri Nock
- Terry & Linda Parson
- Kirk & Roberta Polson
- Robert & Marie-Louise Sardemon
- Dan & Linda Sekella
- John & Beverly Soderling

Start your engines!



Event report

The California Autumn Classic has its best event in a seventeen-year history

by Bill Meade

Everyone agreed that this years California Autumn Classic in Morgan Hill had just the right mix of great weather, a beautiful scenic Saturday driving tour, a post-tour reception featuring delicious iced shrimp and champagne, a fun group dinner with door prizes, and a Sunday show packed with the very best restored British sports cars from the Northern California area.

Upon completion of the tour everyone was welcomed to a reception hosted by the California Autumn Classic and the *On The Road Again* restoration shop in Morgan Hill. Bill Hiland, the shop owner, provided 30 pounds of the largest shrimp we have seen in a long time. Combined with



champagne, sparkling apple juice and fresh fruit provided by the California Autumn Classic, this was a most enjoyable social time. On display were many of the shop's project cars in its 10,000 square foot showroom and garage.

The Sunday show was staged on the full three blocks of downtown Morgan Hill. The downtown consists of double streets with shade trees down the length of the median islands. Even though the weekend weather was just in the mid seventies, the shaded streets helped make the day that much more enjoyable.

The Golden Gate Austin-Healey Club was one of the major area clubs to sponsor the event, and also turned out the largest number of cars of any single marque. The show had about 4,000 spectators visit throughout the day, 390 registered participants, nearly 200 cars on display, around 100 folks for the Saturday banquet dinner and over 70 cars for the Saturday scenic back roads tour.

The back roads tour took advantage of a state-designated "auto tour route" known as Roop Loop Road. This is a slow-paced road that weaves through beautiful country hills amid overhanging trees, often cresting to meet a burst of fall colors.



Continued on page 4

California Autumn Classic (continued)

Winning Healeys of the day belonged to Jim Passafaro from Los Gatos with his 1960 BN7, Roger Conte from San Leandro with his 1964 MKIII, Lou Boido from Grass Valley with his



1954 BN1, Al Alciati from Morgan Hill with his 1960 Sprite and Jim Walton from Alamo with his 1954 Nash Healey.

Other Golden Gate club members attending and showing their cars were GGAHC President David Nock, David Cross, Jorge



Bill Meade presents award to Jim Passafaro

Quintero, Rich Kahn, Robert Blair, Marty Allen, Dan Sekella, Len Hartnett, Bill Marsh, Ted Shelton, Bill Meade, George Henke, Richard Magno, Roger Hawk, Bill Putnam, John Trifari, Phil Foster, Rod Hill and Nancy McCroskey.



Award presentation to Jim Walton

Judging for the event is done by 25 volunteer car owners from the different British car clubs. The show is a judges popular choice based generally on car condition, presentation and originality. Twenty-six class and first-place silver trophies were awarded at the afternoon drive-up presentation.



Award presentation to Roger Conte

As in past years, all profits from this event are donated to children and animal charities. Over \$20,000 has been donated during the event's history. As each year passes and this event grows in popularity, many consider it one of the premier British car shows in the state.



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Editor's Column

Loren Parks
Chico, CA



We begin 2010 with some new Club officers. Marty Allen replaced David Nock after a 12-year tenure as President. Dave will remain on the Board of Directors as Delegate at Large—a new position created to support Marty in maintaining relationships with other organizations. Jim Morton is officially our VP of Events after serving on an interim basis for most of 2009. Nick Klein replaced John Trifari as VP of Membership. Continuing Board members include Lee Bardellini (VP Legal Counsel & Secretary), Dan Sekella (VP Treasurer), David Cross (Webmaster) and me. (See "Meet the GGAHC Board of Directors" on page 9.)

Beginning with this issue I am resurrecting what used to be called Healey Classifieds, but has been renamed **HealeyMarket**. Since I wasn't getting any submittals I dropped the feature from the newsletter. However, the newsletter is an ideal place for members to sell and search for Healey-related items including services so I'm trying again. There is no charge to members for submittals. Please send me your request via email.

Please renew your Club membership immediately if you have not already done so. You can respond by US mail to John Trifari's mailed renewal notice, or go directly to the Membership section of the Club web site.

I'm off to Belarus on assignment. My wife thinks I had a brain fart when I agreed to go there. The average daily high temp in January is 24°F.



Calendar of Events

Contact Loren Parks to list an event:
LorParks@gmail.com. For a more complete list www.GoldenGateHealeys.com.

Saturday, January 16. GGAHC Management Meeting. See page 1.

Saturday, March 13, 10:00am. Tech Session at British Car Specialists, 2060 N Wilson Way, Stockton CA, 95205. Let Dave Nock know if you will attend so he can get enough pastries. (209) 824-1562
Healeydoc@sbcglobal.net

Additional GGAHC events for the year will be determined at the January 16 management meeting. See page 1.

April 9-11. CSG Historic Car Races at Infineon Raceway, Sears Point.
www.csgracing.org/

Sunday April 25. Chico British Car Show.
See www.chicobritishcarshow.com.

June 28—July 2. Healey Rendezvous 2010 in Eugene, OR. See page 6.



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Healey Rendezvous 2010

Eugene, Oregon

June 28—July 2



The registration form and the tentative schedule can be downloaded from the Austin Healey Club of Oregon's web site.

<http://healey-oregon.org/rendezvous-2010>

The hotel is the Valley River Inn www.valleyriverinn.com. When making reservations, be sure to ask for the \$95/night Healey Rendezvous rate, available only with an event registration number. Call the hotel toll-free at 1-800-543-8266. **Early registration is encouraged.**

The event schedule will be included in a subsequent issue of Healey Happenings.



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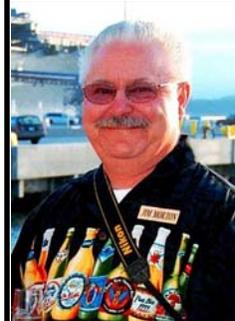
Meet the GGATC Board of Directors



Marty Allen
President

Marty wanted an Austin Healey from the time he saw one as a teenager. Twenty-four years ago he found his Healey in a barn near Minneapolis. He moved to CA in 1991 and joined the Club in 1999. He became active by helping with the 2002 Tahoe event. By career, Marty was a turn-around guy and successfully built four companies. He was most recently CEO of Party America, a retail chain that he grew from 24 to 300 million in sales and sold in 2007. Since then he has been trying to retire, but finds himself engaged in many different consulting and speaking engagements and currently sits on several boards of directors. Besides spending money on his Healey, he enjoys sailing, woodworking, and photography. Marty and his wife Charmaine live in the Oakland Hills.

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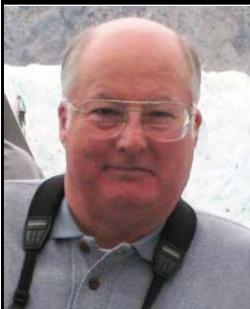


Jim Morton
VP Events

After graduating from bible college, Jim spent time as a Youth Pastor and Senior Pastor. Subsequently (1962-2000) he worked at Lockheed Missiles & Space on various military programs, where he met Ida.

Jim and Ida reside in Lincoln, CA. They enjoy their 16—yes, 16—grandchildren, and are busy spectators at the grandkids' high school and college football games. They also spend time camping, spectating at auto races, and visiting family around the country.

Jim's love for sport cars began with a 1972 Datsun 240Z. He later acquired a BJ-7 MK2 from his mother-in-law, which was purchased new by his father-in-law in 1963. He has been a member of the GGATC since 1996.



Lee Bardellini
VP Legal Counsel
& Secretary

It's all Loren Cross' fault, says Lee Bardellini. Loren was displaying his car with the then "Pacific Centre" and convinced Lee the only way to get his scrap metal running was to join up. There followed a long association with the Club and a Healey that actually runs. Lee is an attorney, and his other interests include photography, flying and radio (SWL). He and his wife Susie have enjoyed many outings with the Club and developed many new friends. "The annual meets are great, but it is the camaraderie and friendships that are shared on the club outings that really make the Club experience worthwhile" says Lee. He and Susie reside in Castro Valley and have an adult son who enjoyed the Healey experience while growing up. He had the back seat all to himself.

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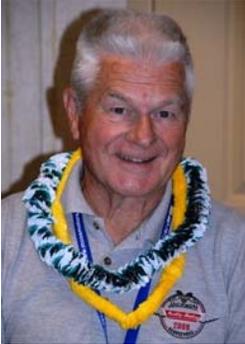


Dan Sekella
VP Treasurer

Dan married Linda in 1971 and a year later they moved to Concord. The Healey wasn't driven much while he lived in San Francisco, but in the mid 1990's he started a "rolling restoration." He has been involved with the Club since 1998, including organizing the holiday dinners since 2001 and serving as Treasurer since 2008.

Dan bought his BT7 in 1967 and drove it from Seattle to San Francisco after graduating from the University of Washington with a degree in mathematics. Information technology (long before that term was known) has paid the bills since 1967—first at the Southern Pacific Railroad and for the last 11 years in the maritime Industry. He retired December 1, 2009.

Meet the GGAHC Board of Directors

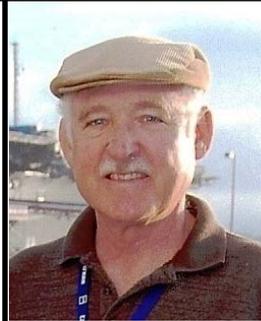


Nick Klein
VP Membership

Nick is the proud owner of a 1966 BJ8. Fascinated with British car styling since he was 12 years old in Germany, he bought his car in 1982 and for 10 years has been doing most of the restoration work himself.

Nick retired from Hewlett Packard in 2002, and before HP worked for GE Nuclear as a product designer and mechanical engineer.

He and Sandy have been married 45 years; she calls Nick her “original.” They joined the Club in 1992. Nick and Sandy live in San Jose, and have two married children and five grandchildren. Thinking that they should start giving back to the Club, they started by handling registration at the Jackson Rancheria Rendezvous. Their success at that venture inspired Nick to volunteer for maintaining Club membership records.



Loren Parks
Newsletter Editor

Loren’s affinity for sports cars began with a Bugeye Sprite at the age of 17, which he sold at 21 to buy a wedding ring for Diana. It took 40 years for him to figure out that he could simultaneously have his wife and a Healey.

Loren joined the GGAHC in 2004 upon acquiring a 1961 BT7. By profession he is an economist, and is transitioning into retirement. Loren spent about half his career as a university professor and half as a consulting economist. He resides in Chico where he retired from his last academic post at CSU Chico. His interests include RV travel, international travel as a volunteer in agricultural development, playing saxophone in three bands, and spending time with his two grandsons who also live in Chico.



David Cross
Webmaster

David has long been associated with Austin Healeys through his Dad, Loren Cross, but didn’t join the GGAHC until the “family Healey” came to live with him. However, he has spent much time in and around Healeys, helping Dad with the car and participating in numerous

meets and tours. Dave previously owned a Bugeye which never made it out of the garage, and now he has the BJ8. His wife, Cindy, has been along for the ride for 29 years. Dave retired from the Navy in 1996 and has been teaching ever since. He currently teaches Junior High and has been creating and maintaining web pages for the past 10 years. David and Cindy live in Gilroy with two of their children who are currently attending college. Their eldest son recently married and is a fireman in Santa Monica.



David Nock
Delegate-at-Large

David has been around British cars ever since he could walk. He would ride into the shop in San Francisco sitting under the tonneau cover of his father Norman’s first Healey—a 1957 BN4. In 1971 the shop was moved to its current location in Stockton. Dave started helping the mechanics and cleaning the shop. After high school and college he worked full-

time as a mechanic, attending the numerous factory training classes. Since that time he has been repairing and restoring British Cars. David and his sister Sheila are now running the family business—British Car Specialists—after Norman’s retirement in 1995. Dave married Jerri in 1979 and they have two children—Jennifer, who had their first grandson, and Andrew who is now working in the shop after a stint in the Marine Corps.

Greetings from our new President—Marty Allen

During my ten years as a member of the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club, it never occurred to me that one day I might actually be the President of the club. I am still trying to figure out why some of the cars don't have windows.

Back in May of 1998 my Healey became ill and that is when I learned about David Nock and his shop. He fixed my Healey and then put the car on a rehabilitation program, that still continues to this day. Seems my car enjoys the drive to Stockton. So, it was through David that I first became involved with the club, and my first project was coordinating the sale of regalia for the Tahoe event in 2002. We changed how it was sold from previous meets by pre-selling it with a nice four-page flyer, and the results certainly exceeded all expectations. From that point on I stayed active in the club. What that event did for me was something very special; I made lots of new friends.

Over the years I have attended and been involved in many of the planning meetings for the clubs' other events. At many of these meetings we talk about the club membership, generally about how to expand the club, but more importantly, how do we get more members involved. I have always left those meetings perplexed as to why we have such a big club, over 150 members, yet the same 15- 25 members seem to show up at meetings and events.

I have also observed a few other things. The average age of our members is similar to our cars, they are older and aging. As a kid, I can remember seeing older guys driving cool sports cars and thought at the time, what a waste. Now I resemble that image, although, no longer viewed as a waste. This is important, as it does change the dynamics of an organization. Today, I look at our club along with our recent activities, and the ones that have been the most successful have all centered around the social aspect, with our cars as the common denominator.

My other observation is that everyone seems to get along very well together and share very similar values, which I guess I should expect. After all, that is why we own Healeys, instead of Corvettes. If someone out there owns both, well then you are the unusual one.

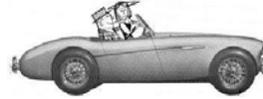
So, my point is simple, we are a large group of friends that bring our cars together every so often to have fun. So, this takes me back to why many members do not come to an event. We all like having friends, and the Healey club is a great foundation for doing just that. One of our goals will be to continue to get more of our members to come out and have fun.

Now, it was a hard-fought campaign to win this Presidency. David said he needed a break, and I fought hard to not take the position. On the other hand, I like the people in the club and if I want to be part of an organization and extract some of the fun, then I also need to give back as well. In fact, we all do. Giving back can be as simple as coming to an event, or hosting or helping to host an event. And, as I have learned, putting on an event is pretty easy and a lot of fun. Charmaine and I hosted the Napa event a couple of times. We had lots of help, lots of cars and most importantly, everyone had fun. And that is why we have an Austin Healey club.

David and John did an excellent job in guiding our club over the years and we all owe them a very big thank you. They certainly have provided me with many fun events. It will seem strange not having you two at the helm. Don't go too far guys, the club still needs you as friends and as great leaders. For ten years I watched what they did and also knew that one day others would have to step up if we wanted the club to go on. And so, with Loren, Jim, Nick, Dan, David Cross, Lee and myself we will work hard to keep the club going in the right direction, so we all can continue to enjoy the fun that our Healeys bring us. And most of all, I hope to make many more new friends and want each of you to do the same.



They're movin' on.....



David Nock



It is time to take a break from being President of the club and turn it over to new leadership. We have been looking for someone to put some new spark into the Club and Marty Allen has

volunteered to take the reins as long as I am not far away.

It has been a lot of fun over the last 12 years and we have had some great events. I would like to thank all of you who have helped with the many events we have had. If it weren't for you the Golden Gate Austin Healey club would not have been as successful as it is. I would especially like to thank those who put in the many hours of work that it took to host the largest Healey event ever—Healey International 2002.

Now it is time to just be a member and go on some tours. I know that you will give your full support to Marty as you have to me over these past years.

My wife Jerri and I are looking forward to seeing you on the next tour or club event. We will be at the January 16th planning meeting and hope to see you there with your ideas so we can fill the calendar for 2010 with some new events.

Dave

John Trifari



After many years I'm going to take a break. Loren Parks has brought new thoughts, new energy and a new level of dedication to the club newsletter. Dave Cross has done a super job with the club web site, turning it into one of the most informative Healey sources available on-line. Now Nick and Sandy Klein will be taking over Club membership.

As many of you have noticed, I haven't been around much this year—I've found myself working full time as a teacher for Sequoia Adult School in Menlo Park teaching GED—high school math, social studies etc., teaching English as a second language and teaching Spanish twice a week at San Jose State. I've done some translation work for the Ministry of Planning of the Bolivian government (my sister-in-law's sister was the Minister—nothing like good family ties). At the same time I'm finishing off a master's degree. Anyway all this has cut into my Healey time and as a result, the BNI spent most of 2009 under its cover in the garage, awakened every so often to make sure the battery was still kicking (Dave Nock called me a while ago and asked "do you still have a Healey?")

Being an active part of Golden Gate has always been a source of pride to me, and I give up my responsibilities with definite mixed feelings. On one hand I will miss not being actively involved with the club—but I simply don't have the time to do the things I've been able to do in the past and that's not fair to the members. On the other hand I'm proud to see that the club is entering a new phase—new faces are taking over, new energies and new dedications are coming into play. The club can only grow and become stronger as a result.

I've truly enjoyed the years that I've served the Club and I will always treasure the friends I've met and the Healey experiences we've shared. I know that you will welcome Nick and Sandy as the new membership directors with the same open enthusiasm with which you've always greeted me in the past. Thanks to all, and see you on the road.

John

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Healeymarket



GGAHC members may submit Healey-related items either wanted or for sale without paying a fee.

FOR SALE: 4-speed gearbox with bell housing for 1966 BJ8. components are in good working order. The 1st/reverse lay gear has chipped teeth but works. Asking \$1,100. Contact Nick Klein (408) 264-2411, or Klein.ns@att.net.

WANTED: BJ8, preferably one that needs some work. Contact Steve Shackelford: (925) 381-7745. steve@leftcoastclassics.com,



Which one of these guys has not renewed his GGAHC membership?

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