



Golden Gate

# HEALEY HAPPENINGS



Golden Gate Austin Healey Club, Inc. Chico, CA Vol 12, No. 2 March 2010

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### Event Announcement

## Annual Kick-off Event

Our annual kick-off event for this year's Healey season will be on **Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**. So, mark your calendars and plan on attending. It's time to dust off the Healey and get that engine started. Of course, your other car is always welcome too. After all, our meetings are about friendship and having fun. We will begin by having lunch at the Bay Area's famous **Max's Café**, at their San Ramon location, which is right off the 680 freeway. Following lunch we will caravan to the **Blackhawk Auto Museum** (which is only a few minutes away) for a private tour of those other wonderful driving machines.

Plan to arrive at Max's around 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. To help make the lunch affordable for everyone, the club is subsidizing the lunch and your cost will be a nominal \$10 per head. Pay Lee with cash or check at the event.

**Directions to Max's in San Ramon.** The address is 2015 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon, CA 94583. Exit 680 at Crow Canyon Rd and head east. (That's a left turn off the exit if going southbound and a right turn off the exit if going northbound.) Go to Crow Canyon Road (first intersection), turn left and Max's will be on your right. There is a Starbucks in the center for those who arrive early or need that extra hit in the morning.

**Directions from Max's to the Blackhawk Auto Museum.** The Museum address is 3750 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, CA 94506. Driving directions will be provided at the luncheon. The tour fee is \$8 each. We will arrive by 1:00pm for the start of our personal tour.

Lee Bardellini is coordinating this event for the club. He needs to know about your attendance so he can reserve seats. Contact him at: [HeLeeEsg@aol.com](mailto:HeLeeEsg@aol.com). If you have questions that cannot be answered by email, call him at (510) 582-6246.



**Annual Tech Session**  
Saturday, March 20,  
10:00am

British Car Specialists in  
Stockton (See page 7)



## Shelby is all smiles just hours before his biggest shunt ever on the Carrera

The spectacular Carrera PanAmericana—the epic 2,135-mile road race launched to mark the completion of the PanAmerican Highway—celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. More than 20 people perished before it was canned in '55, and Cobra creator Carroll Shelby was lucky to survive this Mexican madness. After co-driving a Healey at Bonneville, the Texan was invited to share a 100S on the Carrera.



“We took two cars to Tuxtla Gutierrez,” says Shelby, “one for Roy Jackson-Moore and I to drive. We got to the start too late for practice, but did run the route backwards from Mexico City to Tuxtla. I remember lots of strange signs that crews had painted in yellow on the road to warn drivers what was coming next, but we figured the signs were misleading and best ignored.

“When the race started, with me driving the first half between Tuxtla and Oaxaca and Roy the second half, things didn’t work out well at all. Neither of us felt happy—in truth, we were both as nervous as cats. In the end we made it a solo effort, with the other flying to the next stop. Jackson-Moore never got his solo stint due to Shelby’s scary off: “I started racing with those big Lincolns when I came around a corner too fast and there was a huge rock in the way. I went end over end four or five times like a daring young man on the flying trapeze, only a lot more painful. The marker stone went through the metal tonneau and a couple of wheels were torn off.”

Shelby was lucky, but badly hurt: “I had contusions, a shattered elbow and cuts you couldn’t even count. I lay there for six or seven hours before the road was reopened, but the Indians were kind and kept offering me strong beer.”

Shelby shared the ambulance with Borgward driver Franz Hammenich, who had severe burns, and they finally made it to Puebla: “The doctor told me to get back to Texas and find a specialist because my arm was badly broken, but the authorities had other ideas.” Shelby had signed for the car, so he was responsible for its return to the US: “The officials wouldn’t release the car, so I was stuck in Mexico City. Eventually a Mexican friend appeared with two wheels that he claimed were found way down the mountain!”

Back in Dallas, Shelby’s arm wasn’t healed until August ’55, but that didn’t stop him racing with a GRP cast. The 100S, rebuilt and repainted green, survives in Australia.



[This article is from *Classic & Sports Car*, January 2010. Published in the United Kingdom]

# Miscellaneous Ramblings

## Surviving Belarus

by Loren Parks

I knew I was in for a cold assignment, but I accepted it anyway. The US Agency for International Development wants to spend some money in the agricultural sector here, and it was my job to figure out what to do and how to do it so they can start by this summer. But I digress to some interesting and bizarre stuff about Minsk—the capital—and Belarus. The population of Minsk is about 2 million.

Since this newsletter is automotive in theme, I intended to write about cars. That didn't work out because the automotive scene can be described in one word—boring. All I saw was nondescript sedans and vans—universally filthy from the snow slush. You might be interested to know that Belarus is so cold that people start their cars by yelling MUSH!

Belarus is about the size of Kansas, is situated between Poland and Russia, and has a population of 10 million. The government is an “elected dictatorship;” it remains closer to the old Soviet model than any of the other former Soviet-sphere nations. There is no private land ownership, the media is controlled by government, and the government controls about 70% of the economy. Government even owns the jewelry business; there are almost no private jewelry stores in Belarus. And sometimes it is so cold that the politicians have to put their hands in their own pockets.



Typical apartment housing in Minsk



The Snow Army at work

Belarus was severely affected by the Chernobyl disaster because the wind carried radiation northwest from Ukraine. About 16% of agricultural land had to be taken out of production because of contamination. Sometimes it's so cold that people stop complaining about the radioactive steam emanating from manholes.



I'm standing next to what used to be a live horse, but it froze in its tracks

Belarus has two armies—a conventional army and another to move snow. The Snow Army must be one of the greatest job creation programs ever invented. In Minsk, small tractors are seemingly everywhere with plows, buckets, and roller brushes. Once the critical areas have been cleaned they move to uncritical areas, and when those are done they shovel the fog. When it's cold and sunny the snow workers' shadows sometimes freeze to the pavement and they can't move.

Continued on page 4

**Surviving Belarus (continued)**

Cold weather requires warm clothes. Every public place from offices to restaurants devotes a significant amount of space to coat racks, boot scrapers, and throw rugs. I have never seen such beautiful fur coats as the women wear; they are absolutely stunning. Nobody throws eggs at a fur coat here. Fur coats are not made in Belarus—they come from Turkey or someplace with lower wages. Minsk even has the equivalent of Furs R Us—a three-story outlet on the outskirts of the city featuring all things furry.

Almost every morning I walked 15 minutes from the hotel to the office; the temperature never exceeded 12°F. When leaving the hotel one morning it was so cold that I had to kick a hole in the air just to get outside. I walked through a park and observed non-migrating water fowl squabbling over a bit of liquid water in the creek (no joke).



**A market built of shipping containers**

I love to visit outdoor markets—but not when the temperature is 12°F. The experience was almost surreal. Just imagine people spending the day tending their market stalls and customers shopping in that temperature! A fruit vendor told me that citrus could withstand temperature down to 10°F, but below that it would freeze. One market consisted of more than a hundred shipping containers used as market stalls, lined up in rows. It was so cold they sold milk by the slice.


Minsk has modern indoor shopping malls and supermarkets, a superb public transportation system, and some wonderful people. I hear that they even have a summer. I will always



**"Listen up, girls. You've just got to do more in life than fill pants!"**



**Selling home-processed foods**

remember it as the only place I have ever been where restaurants charge extra for sugar for your coffee. The morning I left the temperature was -6°F, and two days later reached a brain-numbing -22°F. It's good to be home. 



**A scientific miracle—flowers that don't freeze. This babushka is unimpressed.**

## Editor's Column

Loren Parks  
Chico, CA



A Board meeting was held January 16, followed by a general planning meeting open to all members to plan Club events for 2010. The Board meeting was attended by 10 people and the planning meeting was attended by about 10 more. Marty Allen reports that the meetings were productive (I wasn't there). Events for the first few months are listed in the adjacent calendar; see our web site for the entire year.

Bill Meade provided an excellent suggestion for the newsletter, which is to feature Club members' cars on the front-page masthead photo. So we start this issue with Bill's beautiful 100M. If you would like to participate, please send me a digital photo of your car in JPEG format. Be sure to mention the year and model. I need plenty of space around the car so I can crop to fit the elongated rectangular format. Your presence in the photo is optional.

The first caravan to Rendezvous 2010 has been organized (p. 6). Additional caravans might be forthcoming.



## Calendar of Events

Contact Jim Morton to list an event:  
[Themortons@starstream.net](mailto:Themortons@starstream.net). For a more complete list [www.GoldenGateHealeys.com](http://www.GoldenGateHealeys.com)

**Saturday, March 20, 10:00am.** **GGAHC** Tech Session at British Car Specialists in Stockton. See page 7.

**Saturday, March 27.** **GGAHC** Board Meeting (9:00am) at the office of Lee Bardellini, followed by Season Kickoff event. See p. 1.

**April 3—5.** CSRG Historic Car Races, Infineon Raceway, Sears Point. [www.csrg racing.org/](http://www.csrg racing.org/)

**Saturday April 24.** **GGAHC** Lodi winery tour. See page 9.

**Sunday April 25.** View cars that will participate in the California Mille Miglia 2010 at the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco from 11am—5pm. [www.californiamille.com/](http://www.californiamille.com/)

**Sunday April 25.** Chico British Car Show cancelled this year.

**Saturday, May 1.** **GGAHC** Big Basin and Skyline Drive tour with picnic lunch at Donald Healey Memorial. Details to follow. Contact Jim Morton, [Themortons@starstream.net](mailto:Themortons@starstream.net).

**Saturday, May 8.** ROTC car show, Manteca. Details to follow. Contact Dave Nock.

**May 19—23.** California Healey Week sponsored by the Austin Healey Association of Southern California. Event will be held in Temecula. See [www.austin-healey.org](http://www.austin-healey.org)

**June 25.** **GGAHC** pre-Rendezvous caravan begins. See page 6.

**June 28—July 2.** Healey Rendezvous 2010 in Eugene, OR. See page 10.

## Event Announcement

### **Rendezvous 2010 Caravan and Pre-tour to Eugene, OR**

Join us for a Bay Area caravan to the 2010 Rendezvous in Eugene, and a pre-tour to Ashland for the Shakespeare Festival. We will drive north on Hwy 101 to Fortuna, Eureka and Grants Pass, then south through Medford to Ashland where we will stay two nights. Following that we head north to Eugene.

**Meeting time and place:** June 25, 10:30am, Healdsburg on Hwy 101 in the town square.

You will must make your own reservations for hotels and theater tickets as follows:

**June 25<sup>th</sup> One-night stay in Fortuna, CA**

Holiday Express: \$118 + tax (707) 725-5500; or Comfort Inn: \$69 to \$73 + tax (707) 725-7025

**June 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> two-night stay in Ashland, OR**

We have blocked out 5 rooms at the Bards Inn in Ashland \$180 Sat, \$170 Sun. These are weekend rates with no discount available. Mention "Austin Healey Club". Reservations (541) 482-0049.

Another option is 3 miles out of town at the EconoLodge (541) 482-4700.

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** attend Shakespeare Festival; "She Loves Me" at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$69 to \$20 depending on seat selection. You must pre-purchase your tickets.

Web site: [www.osfashland.org](http://www.osfashland.org) or call (800)219-8161. Tickets are limited and they sell far in advance.



**June 28<sup>th</sup>** Drive to Eugene (~250 miles) Rendezvous begins. Please confirm your participation by contacting Nick & Sandy Klein (408) 264-2411, or email us [klein.ns@att.net](mailto:klein.ns@att.net).

# Collins

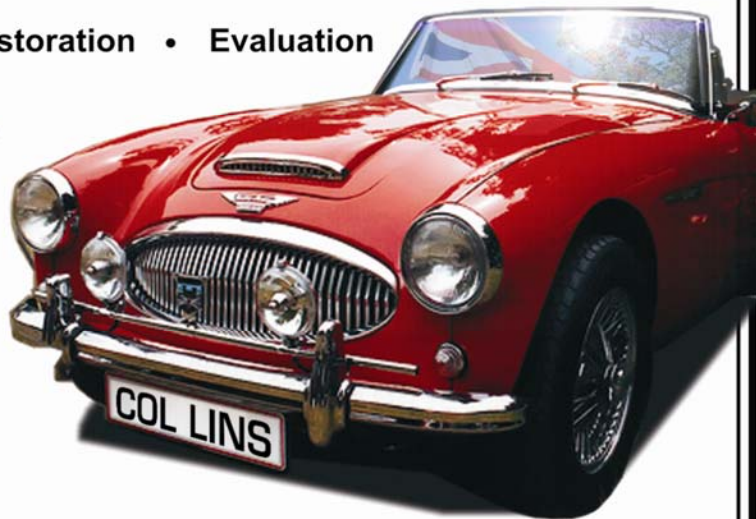
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Event Announcement

## Healey Tech Session

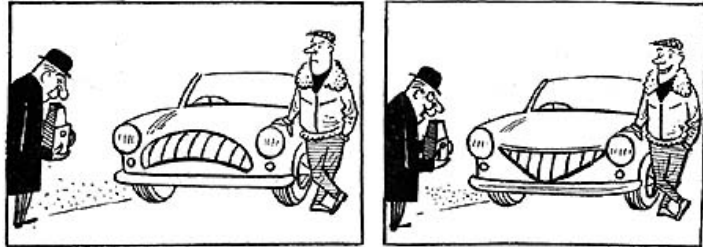
### Making sure your Healey is dependable

March 20, 2010 starting at 10:00am

**British Car Specialists, 2060 N Wilson Way, Stockton, CA 95205**

At this year's tech session we will go over the common issues that can arise while you are out on the road and may ruin your day. We will also cover those things that may stop you from trusting your car to get you home from one of our club tours. This way there are no excuses "I can't go because my car won't get me home."

We will go over one volunteer's car front to back, looking for what might happen to cause a breakdown while on tours. We will also look for some of those Lucas Gremlins that may be lurking in your electrical system.



If you would like to volunteer your car please let me know and we can make the arrangements to get the car ready prior to this session.

We will also do some hands-on troubleshooting, and you can take a look at your own Healey, time allowing. We will bring it into the shop and you can take a look at some of the items that we went over during the session on the demonstration car.

**RSVP** David Nock , 209-948-8767, or e-mail [healeydoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:healeydoc@sbcglobal.net)

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## Advertisement

# AUTOVINO

Drive a fancy car, sip some vintage wine and smoke an expensive cigar. For many, that's not a bad way to spend a day. And in Menlo Park, a new business on Constitution Drive off the Bayfront Expressway called AutoVino caters to people with a taste for all three. It's a storage facility for luxury automobiles, cigars and wine. But to co-founder Buff Giurlani, Autovino is much more than that—a club, of sorts, where local car aficionados can come to take their luxury or high-performance vehicles for a spin, then sit back with their buddies, cigar and wine in hand.

The “anchor” of this business is vehicle storage. The building has precision climate control. Special double-insulation and four HVAC systems maintain consistent atmospheric conditions to preserve fine finishes and prevent damage due to sudden temperature changes. A special dust control system continually filters air, while advanced humidity control helps protect the natural oils in leather and help maintain the integrity of seals and other fittings. Air supply is controlled air by means of a trap door system for car entry and exit that prevents outside air from entering the building.

AutoVino will design a program for you to ensure that your car always receives optimum care. In addition to 24/7 access to your vehicle, membership services include concierge airport service, vehicle transport, monthly engine start up, battery trickle charge, tire pressure monitoring, and tire rotation to avoid flat spots. Backup power generation, hand towing of vehicles within the facility, and a 24-hour video surveillance provide an extra measure of protection. AutoVino also has climate-controlled wine storage with a capacity of 6,000 cases in wood-paneled lockers. Next to the car showroom is a large glassed-in area where Woodside Vineyards will produce its award winning wine as of February 2010.

The showroom currently has a lounge area with leather couches and a coffee table full of car books and magazines. The VCSims racing simulator allows guests to hit speeds that are illegal on the streets. Another room, with leather chairs, a TV and a sophisticated ventilation system, is the cigar lounge.

AutoVino offers a range of services, starting with basic car storage for about \$250 a month. A full description of the facility and services can be viewed on the web site: [www.auto-vino.org](http://www.auto-vino.org). Phil Giurlani can be reached at (650) 533-3809.





# LODI WINE TOUR

**SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010**

**Meet in Rio Vista @ 9:30am**

Want to watch some grapes grow and taste some delicious wine along the way? Come join us for this incredible journey through delta roads for a tour through California's oldest and most prolific grape growing region. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy under the Valley Oak trees.

- Meet at McDonald's parking lot in **Rio Vista** on Hwy 12 (300 State Highway 12, Rio Vista, CA 94571-1437)
- There is also a gas station there to top off your tank.
- Wineries charge \$5 – \$10 per person for wine tasting

We will tour three to four local wineries with a lunch stop at a local park filled with beautiful shade trees, Japanese garden and zoo. There is an entry fee of \$5.00 per car. We will finish with some host-provided refreshments before sending you back home by mid-afternoon.



Lodi produces more wine than Napa and Sonoma combined. Some of America's most popular wines are made there. Mondavi, Gallo, Sebastiani, Glenn Ellen, Sutter Home and many other well known wines are grown and produced in Lodi.

The first commercial vineyard was established by George West in 1853 and he built the El Pinal Winery in 1858. By the late 1880 farmers embraced the Tokay grape as a versatile table grape with eye catching flame color. It is very distinctive to the Lodi region. The Tokay is a wonderful table grape, but can also be fermented into wine, distilled into brandy or fortified into ports and sherries.

Prohibition actually helped the Lodi growers. Under the Volstead Act, home winemaking was allowed and the demand for wine grapes actually increased. Thousands of railcars left Lodi each harvest full of Zinfandels, Tokays and Alicantes. In 1933 when Prohibition was repealed, the Lodi vintners didn't miss a step and began producing dessert wines.

The Lodi region transitioned in the 1960's to producing quality varietal wines preferred today. They produce premium, award winning wines that are enjoyed around the world today. Many of the wineries are 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> generation owned and operated. Come enjoy the personal touch and friendly atmosphere of Lodi winemakers.

RSVP to David & Jerri Nock, [healeydoc@verizon.net](mailto:healeydoc@verizon.net), 209-824-1562



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Contact Loren Parks for advertising rates.

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The Golden Gate Austin Healey Club is affiliated nationally with the



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## Healeymarket



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

FREE MAGAZINES: About 40 years of Healey Highlights, Healey Marque, Chatter. Take some or all, but they must be picked up in Stockton. Norman Nock, (209) 931-4710 or (209) 948-8767.

FOR SALE: BJ8 parts—All used but original  
Grille \$75.00  
Hood surround \$20.00  
Hood grille \$20.00  
Right front fender steel (needs work) \$250  
Left rear fender steel \$500  
Click adjust tappet tool (new in package) \$60  
Contact Don Newman (530) 542-3641, or  
[dnewman2@pacbell.net](mailto:dnewman2@pacbell.net)

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](mailto:Klein.ns@att.net).

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



Close-up Detail