



Golden Gate

HEALEY HAPPENINGS



Golden Gate Austin Healey Club, Inc. Chico, CA Vol 12, No. 3 April 2010

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Event Report:

LUNCH AT MAX'S AND TOUR OF THE BLACKHAWK MUSEUM

by Loren Parks

Saturday, March 27 was a busy day for the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club starting with a Board Meeting, followed by lunch at Max's for all Club members, and then a tour of the Blackhawk Automotive Museum. Total attendance at lunch was 39 Club members including a few invited family, plus our Blackhawk Museum docent Jim Hale, his wife Joy, and daughter Caleen.

Following lunch we drove about 15 minutes to the Blackhawk Automotive Museum where our 18 Healeys were provided special parking in the plaza in front of the main entrance. Jim Hale and two additional docents provided a superb tour of the vehicles that occupy the two-floor museum, lasting nearly three hours. Their knowledge of the history and specifications of the cars is extraordinary.

Continued on pages 2 and 3





Attendees in alphabetical order

Marty & Charmaine Allen
 Bob Altieri
 Cully & Julie Anderson
 Gary & Harriet Anderson
 Lee & Susie Bardellini
 Rich Buckley
 John Carey
 Steve & Ruth Darling
 Mark Green
 Pete Hartson
 Len Hartnett
 Rod Hill
 Roger & Donna Hawk
 Nick & Sandy Klein
 Steve & Kim Korbay
 Bill Leach
 Nancy McCroskey
 Jim & Ida Morton
 David & Jerri Nock
 Drew Nock & Ayla
 Loren Parks
 Terry & Linda Parsons
 Paul Pugh
 Kirk Polson & son Kevin
 John & Bev Soderling





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Event Report

Tech Session at British Car Specialists

by Marty Allen

The annual GGAHC Technical Session was held at British Car Motors in Stockton on March 20, hosted by David Nock and family. Hospitality was excellent as usual; not only was breakfast provided, but Jerri Nock also provided hamburgers and fries for lunch.



A bit of breakfast helps start the day

Upon our arrival Dave had Kirk Polson's car on the lift to use as the model for his talk. Dave discussed tire age because so many of us have tires that look new, but could be too old to be safe. The rubber breaks down over time, which can become dangerous. Replacement should be considered if they are over eight years old.



Prof. Dave Nock explains tire date

Dave then discussed brakes, shocks, fuel pumps (always good to have a spare), tuning the car, some basic electrical issues, and many more points too numerous to mention here.

It was a great three-hour refresher course for many, and everyone appeared to like it. In this new world of computer-driven cars, it is nice to see a car that we can still tinker with and have fun. It was also enjoyable just to walk around the shop and see the parts inventory for Austin Healeys that BCS has collected over the years. For those of us who live in the bay area, it is nice to have such mechanical expertise and parts so readily available.



Healey owners prepare for the exam

The following members attended:

Phil Foster	Dennis Thorne	Jim Morton
Jim Cahill	Pete Hartson	Kirk Polson
Marty Allen	Don Newman	Bill Leach
Len Hartnett	Jorge Quintero	Raymond Lee



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Editor's Column

Loren Parks
Chico, CA



In response to my request for masthead photos on page one of the newsletter, I received three responses. The photo this month is Robert Blair's yellow 1965 BJ8. I will need more photos in the future, so I encourage your submittals.

George Henke is working on a Napa Valley winery tour in July, which begins at GGAAH member Ken Nerlove's winery—Elkhorn Peak Cellars (see page 8). Ken welcomes GGAAH members to call any time about visits.

Caravans to Healey Rendezvous in Eugene, Oregon, are forming. A caravan organized by Nick & Sandy Klein (via Ashland) has already been advertised (see p. 9). Anyone who has an alternative plan can send me the information for inclusion in the newsletter.

Since the inception of this newsletter its length has been defined by the cost and logistics of printing and mailing. But thanks to the internet and Nick Klein's effort to convert people to e-mail receipt, only a few members now need a printed copy. I will now handle the mailers, relieving George Henke of duty after years of processing them. The newsletter can now vary in length; it will not always be the standard 11 pages you have been accustomed to receiving; it will likely be shorter in the winter and longer in the summer commensurate with the number of automotive events.



Marty's Minute



Marty Allen
GGAAH President

Despite all the rain this year, "Healey Season 2010" is now officially underway. And with all the rain we should have no water restrictions on washing cars this summer.

I hadn't started my Healey since before Christmas, so you can imagine what was in the back of my mind for the past month; I knew that the current battery was weak and over 10 years old. So, two weeks ago I drove to Stockton to David Nock's tech session—generally the first small event of the year (didn't drive the Healey). While at the tech session I learned about these fancy new gel cell batteries—no more water, no more corrosion. Lucky me; David had one in stock. I installed it a few days ago. The car fired right up and feels strong enough to start a bulldozer. And the Healey seems to run better each year. I guess it's aging more like wine and less like its owner.

I attended our opening lunch event at Max's Café which included a tour of the Blackhawk Automotive Museum. It was a wonderful day—even better for me as I won two raffle prizes at the luncheon (almost embarrassing). But I am enjoying one of my winnings as I write this—a nice bottle of wine.

As of this writing we have had two events, both of which I attended. What was great about both is that we had lots of new faces. So, hats off to those who are coming out to join us in some fun. We still have lots of members that we would love to see at more events over the season, and don't forget that it's good for your car to mingle with some of its siblings.



Miscellaneous Ramblings

Why We Drive on the Right

by Loren Parks

While on assignment in Malawi in February I met a Brit named Keith at the B&B where I stayed. The subject of cars and driving came up, and of course we had the usual discussion of driving on the left vs. the right side of the road. Keith is a fervent believer in driving on the left—he maintains that it is not only safer, but it is more convenient for shooting a pistol out the window with his right hand. After all, driving on the left originated with dueling horsemen who wielded a sword or lance with the right hand. Consequently, until the late 1700's everybody traveled on the left side of the road because it's the sensible option for feudal societies of mostly right-handed people.



At Liwonde National Park in Malawi, the big Land Rovers used for game viewing have no rules of the road

The switch to the right is usually traced to Napoleon, who composed the song *I did it my way*. He decreed that everyone would keep to the right side of the road to demonstrate that his power trumped French tradition. Even after his empire vanished the right-hand rule prevailed. From then on, any part of the

world which was at some time part of the British Empire was left-hand and any part colonized by the French was right-hand.



This Hippocar was obviously not intended for Malawi because the steering wheel is on the left.

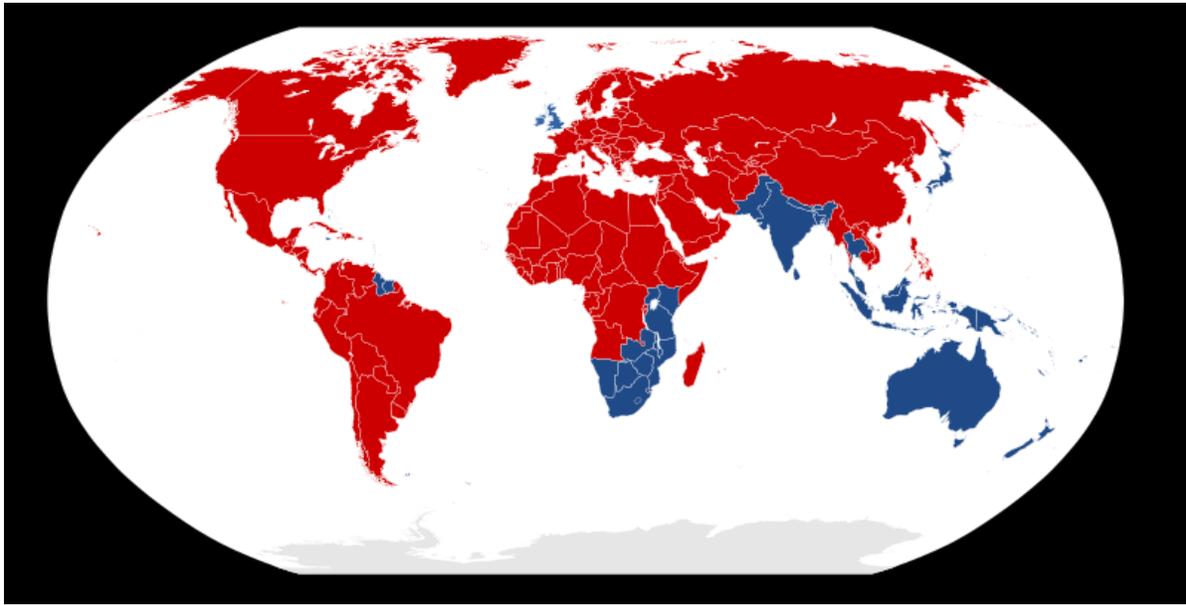
In America, the French colonized the southern states (Louisiana, for example) and the Canadian east coast (Quebec). The Dutch colonized New York. The Spanish and Portuguese colonized the southern Americas. So The British were a minority in shaping the traffic. The drive-on-the-right policy was adopted by the USA, anxious to cast off all remaining links with its British colonial past. Once America drove on the right, left-side driving was ultimately doomed. Of course Henry Ford guaranteed right-side traffic when he constructed his cars with a steering wheel on the left. If you wanted a good reliable vehicle, you bought American. From then on many countries changed out of necessity. Today, the EU would like Britain to fall into line with the rest of Europe, but this is no longer possible. It would cost billions of pounds to change everything. The last European country to convert to driving on the right was Sweden in 1967.

Surprisingly, around a quarter of the world's population (76 countries, territories and dependencies) drives on the left, and those that do are mostly old British colonies. There are exceptions and curious cases, however. The

Continued on page 7

Why we drive on the right (continued)

wily British did not colonize Japan, but they built the railways and their construction service roads required driving on the left. Countries that drive on the left are colored blue on the map below. Many are so small they are indistinguishable at this scale. 



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Calendar of Events

Contact Jim Morton to list an event:
Themortons@starstream.net. For a more complete list www.GoldenGateHealeys.com

April 9-11. CSRG Historic Car Races, Infineon Raceway, Sears Point. www.csrgracing.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/

Saturday, May 8. ROTC car show, Manteca. Contact David Nock for info. . (209) 824-1562. Healeydoc@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, May 8. Bruts & Beuts Vintage Auto-cross and Car Gathering at Great America. See www.baautox.com/forum/index.php?t=msg&th=6480&start=0&rid=1289

May 14-16. CSRG Historic Car Races, Thunderhill Raceway. www.csrgracing.org/

May 19-23. California Healey Week sponsored by the Austin Healey Association of Southern California. See page 10.

Sunday, May 23. United British Sports Car Club's All British Motorcar Show & Swap Meet in Woodland. See page 10.

May 29-June 6. British Car Week. *Drive that Healey!* www.BritishCarWeek.org.

Saturday, June 5. Hayward Field Meet hosted by Mini Owners of America. www.moasf.com.

June 5-6. Sonoma Historic Motorsports Festival at Infineon Raceway. <http://generalracing.com/>

Saturday June 12. **GGAHC** Board Meeting begins at 10:00am at the office of Lee Bardellini.

Friday, June 25. **GGAHC** pre-Rendezvous caravan begins (via Ashland). See page 9.

Sunday, June 27. Palo Alto Concours. www.paconcours.com.

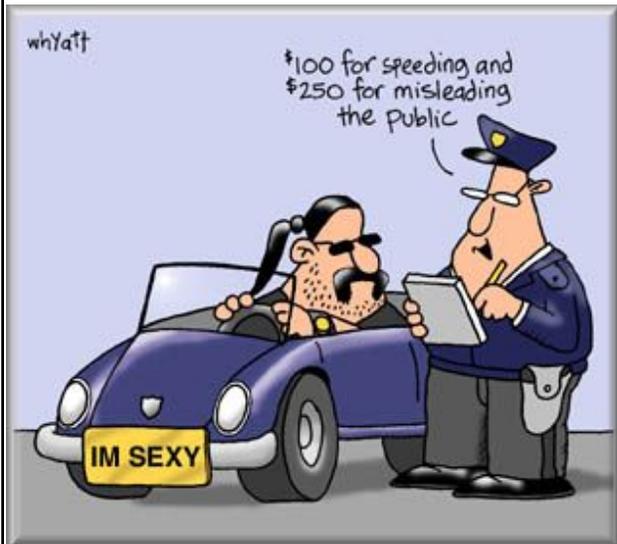
June 28-July 2. Healey Rendezvous 2010 in Eugene, OR. See page 10.

July 9-11. Hot San Jose Nights. A three-day celebration of the automobile including car shows, live bands, swap meet, and more. www.hotsanjosenights.com.

Saturday, July 17. **GGAHC** Napa Valley winery tour. See page 9.

July 30-Aug 1. Hot August Nights South Tahoe (new event). www.hotaugustnights.net/southlaketahoeexperience.html

Sunday, August 8. **GGAHC** vintage train ride from Sunol. We will combine beautiful cars, spectacular scenery and a trip on the 7th largest passenger carrying railroad in California pulled by a restored steam powered locomotive. Meet in Pleasanton, drive to Sunol. **RSVP** Glenn & Karen Stephenson, (510) 237-4238 or karenstephenson3@yahoo.com.



GGAHC Event Announcements

LODI WINERY TOUR

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

Meet in Rio Vista @ 9:30am



- Meet at McDonald's parking lot in **Rio Vista** on Hwy 12 (300 State Highway 12, Rio Vista, CA 94571-1437)
- There is a gas station adjacent to McDonalds to top off your tank.
- Wineries charge \$5 – \$10 per person for wine tasting
- Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy under the Valley Oak trees.

RSVP to David & Jerri Nock
healeydoc@verizon.net,
 Telephone: 209-824-1562

NAPA VALLEY WINERY TOUR

10:00am Saturday, July 17

Meet at Elkhorn Peak Cellars where GGAHC member Ken Nerlove will provide a tour and wine tasting. The winery is located in Jamieson Canyon, South Napa. Detailed driving directions will be provided in subsequent newsletters. The tour will proceed to other wineries from there. **RSVP** George Henke: (707) 226-5445.



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 must make your own reservations for hotels and plays in Ashland. See the March issue of Healey Happenings for details, or go to the Club web site, or contact Nick and Sandy Klein. **RSVP:** Nick & Sandy Klein (408) 264-2411, or email klein.ns@att.net.

Other Event Announcements



All British Motorcar Show And Swap Meet

Presented by the United British Sports Car Club
May 23, 2010, Woodland California

Share The Passion

The Yolo County Fairgrounds in Woodland, California is the place to be on **May 23rd** for *the Annual All British Motorcar Show and Swap Meet!* Polish your wing, dust off your bonnet, check out your boot, clean your windscreen, fill up with petrol and come eat a pastie because more than 300 daily drivers and trailer queens are expected to show on our huge grassy field. Not only do we offer the largest all British car show, but in our swap meet you'll find all sorts of new and used parts to help you get your British car fix. Don't be left out - come see and show your favorite roadster, estate, saloon or lorry!

For more information or to download forms or register on-line, go to:

WWW.UBSCC.ORG

or call: (916) 761-2626 or (925) 935-5477



California Healey Week 2010, will be held between **May 19-23** in Temecula, CA (75 miles south of Los Angeles and 55 north of San Diego, off I-15), hub of the Southern California wine district. The event will be headquartered at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Rancho California Road, off I-15 and near the historic Old Town. Nearby are several wineries and restaurants and shopping opportunities.

Planned CHW events include wine tours, drives in the local mountains, Gymkhana, Tech Session, Car Show, Ladies crafts & luncheon, and Banquet dinner. Each day, there will be a complimentary breakfast and happy hour provided by the Embassy Suites. Registration and Regalia sales will occur each day. Go to www.austin-healey.org for latest updates.

Healey Rendezvous 2010



Eugene, Oregon,
June 28—July 2

All information, including the **registration form**, can be viewed and 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 (800) 543-8266.

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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
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