



Golden Gate

HEALEY HAPPENINGS

John and Bev Soderling in their BN4

Golden Gate Austin Healey Club, Inc. Chico, CA Vol 13, No. 2 March 2011

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Sacramento Autorama by Loren Parks

Sacramento Autorama is one of the longest running indoor car shows in the world; this was the 61st edition. Over 450 custom cars, hot rods, classics, motorcycles and specialty vehicles were displayed at Cal Expo, plus numerous vendors were on hand to show their wares ranging from car accessories to cooking utensils. For the most part the vehicles were grouped by type in eight exhibition halls, including motorcycles, power boats, Chevys, restorations (not customized), and even *rat rods*. I had to look up the definition of *rat rod* on the internet: *A hot rod with its body left rusty, and sometimes built with a very rough chassis or mismatched parts. Some owners like the term, while others consider it derogatory.* But some halls exhibited a potpourri of stuff akin to assembling dinner from a bunch of leftovers. The focus of the show, however, is customized American cars. Some of them are so radically customized that the original identities are essentially lost. There were no foreign cars in the show. The rarest marques I found were a customized Stutz and a customized Auburn.

Continued on page 2

Tech Session
 Saturday March 5, 10am
 British Car Specialists
 in Stockton
 See page 9

GGAHC Season Opener at AutoVino in Menlo Park
 Saturday, April 2
 See page 10

Sacramento Autorama (continued)

Custom cars are works of art and therefore not subject to the rigorous constraints inherent with restorations. Some are monuments to chromium, some have paint jobs that cost more than a new Prius, and some are museum pieces so gorgeous that you would no more consider driving them on the street than you would consider cooking a Faberge egg. For a true motorhead, the creativity and beauty are simply stunning. Enjoy the show!



▲ Restored 1941 Ford



▲ Sometimes one engine just isn't enough. "Double Trouble" has side-by-side blown V8 Ford engines with a total of about 1,000 HP.



▲ The power boat exhibit

▼ 1923 Ford Roadster hot rod



Continued on page 3

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www.BritishCarSpecialists.com



Sacramento Autorama (continued)



▲ This funny-car does not belong to Jimmy Buffet ▼ Right-hand-drive behemoth Caddy with suicide doors is from Australia



▼ A new application of "chopped top"



Parking lot special: 1951 Hudson Rambler ►

▼ I could learn to like this!



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Special Healeys

“Goldie”

This is a unique works-built 1958 Austin-Healey 100-Six Roadster, produced as a one-off promotional exhibit for the 1958 London Motor Show. Described by Donald Healey as "the most sumptuously luxurious sports car ever made."

- ◆ Entire bright work crafted in 24 carat gold plate.
- ◆ Chinese kid suede-covered dash and door panels.
- ◆ Champagne diadem mink trimmed seats.
- ◆ Ivory steering wheel and dash controls.
- ◆ Factory-fitted four-wheel disc brakes.
- ◆ Fully documented ownership history.

A British national newspaper—The Daily Express—liked it so much they bought it. "The world's most flirtatious car" was promoted extensively as an exclusive Motor Show reader competition prize throughout October 1958. Today it is offered for sale fully restored to its full former glory. Price upon request. Contact Neil Wood for the full fascinating history at 1.260.925.6789 or e-mail neil@wwgauctions.com.



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The Weingart Healey

by Dan Kahn, Hot Rod Magazine

An attorney and real estate investor, Ron Weingart has owned several sports cars, including a couple of Ferraris, a Cobra Daytona coupe, and two Austin Healeys, the second one being this '63 3000 Mk II. Years ago, he stuck a 283 Chevy in the Healey and worked on its handling, but after a buddy nearly totaled the car at the racetrack in a grisly rollover, Ron decided to make the car serious and transformed the tepid English buggy into an apex-carving animal.

Healey Masters in San Fernando, California, got the job of building the wrecked car. Ron always loved the longer lines of the 3000 model but lusted after the jaunty style and slicked-back look of a 100-4 roadster, so Healey Masters integrated the best-looking elements of both models into one Healey. The company grafted on a 100-4 rear deck, front cowl, and lay-down windshield. The old 3000 convertible doors wouldn't work, and 100-4 roadster doors were too small, so Healey Masters cut down a pair of rare, 3000 roadster doors and reworked them to fit. Once the major surgery was complete, Tri-C Engineering crafted a custom tube grille designed to emulate a 100S; built custom, extra-large fender louvers to improve engine-compartment airflow; and enlarged the hood scoop and made it functional with a NASCAR-style air box. Finally, a full belly pan was formed to the underside of the car, complete with air foils that improve aerodynamics and decrease lift at speed.



The mechanical modifications read like a crew chief's wish list. Power comes from a 406-inch, all-aluminum Chevy Donovan V-8 that made a dyno-certified 600-plus horsepower at 9,000 rpm. A six-speed transmission channels power to a narrowed Ford 9-inch rear end. The front suspension has been completely reworked with center-mount coilover shocks (like an Indy-Car) and a custom rack-and-pinion. Ron designed the four-bar rear suspension himself, and the entire setup is attached to a full-length, chrome-moly tube subframe that ties front to rear through the rocker panels.

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What truly makes this custom Healey shine, however, isn't the massive shrieking engine or the hybrid bodywork, but the finely tuned details. Beautiful, one-off Colorado Custom billet wheels cover giant Wilwood disc brakes. The dash was carved out of a single chunk of aluminum by a five-axis CNC machine. The leather Healey seats have been subtly modified for improved comfort and support. The trunk houses a custom gas tank and fully polished fire-suppression system. Every detail has been carefully tended to.

After spending two days with Ron and his hybrid Healey, we learned that to him, this is not a race car or a street car. It's not about crossing the finish line first or winning trophies at shows. The 40-year obsession that spawned this creation is all about passion and the desire to push a mechanical object to the absolute limits of logic and reason.



The redesigned Austin Healey by Jeremy Burgess
www.jeremy-burgess.com



Austin Healey

www.austinhealey.co.za



[Editor's note: This Austin Healey replica is made in South Africa, currently available in kit form only]

About AustinHealey.co.za

We specialize in building Austin Healey cars that will make you want to get up before dawn and head off into the distant sunrise. You will own the moment where beauty inspires and leaves a lasting impression.

Combining our passion for cars, vision to be different, and much time and effort we gave birth to the next generation Austin Healey MKII 3000. The success of this second generation Austin Healey lies in the fusion of the timeless beauty of a classical sports car of old and new era motor engineering technology. Combining a BMW 318i or 325i engine, drive train and suspension with Austin Healey sports car body produces a vehicle that gives high performance, incredible road holding and a comfortable ride. Maintenance and support is low cost and without the tedious problems of an old original Austin Healey sports car.



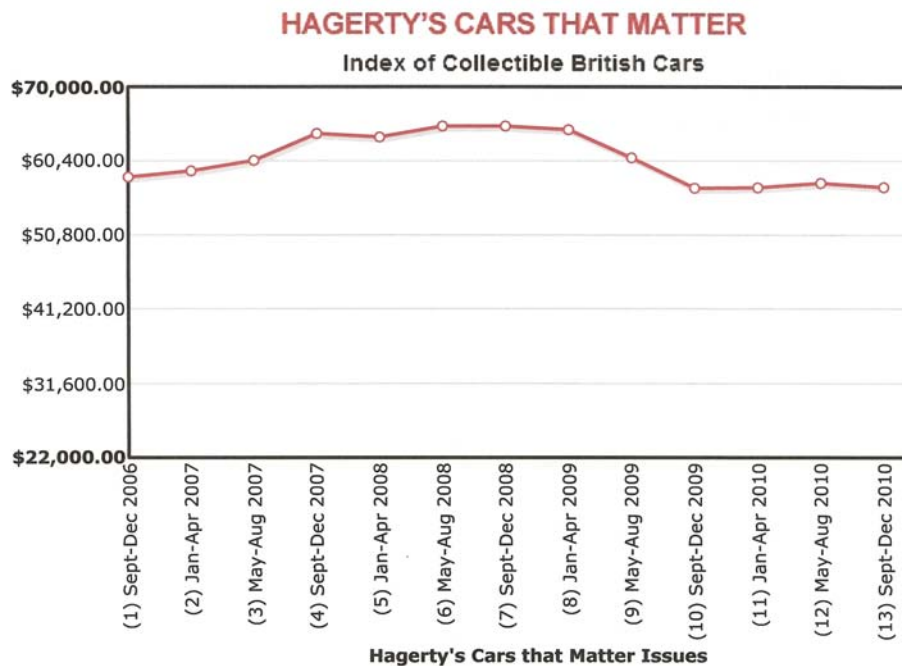
Marketwatch: British Car Price Index

Dave Kinney, Hagerty's Cars That Matter, September 2010

Year over year, our all-British index has remained virtually unchanged. On the one hand, this stagnation could be interpreted skeptically as an uncertain market pausing before a drop. On the other hand, an optimist can read the firming in E-type and early XK prices as evidence that the market has turned.

The graph below tracks the average price of all the cars in the index since Volume 1 of Hagerty's Cars That Matter, which was published in late 2006. To find prices for individual models over the past four years, check the table underneath the graph.

All the prices cited below are for cars in #2 condition. According to Hagerty's Cars That Matter, #2 cars could win a local or regional show. Seasoned observers will have to look closely for flaws, but will be able to find some not seen by the general public. For more information, visit www.carthatmatter.com.



Cars in the Index

- 1964-67 Austin-Healey 3000 Mk III BJ8 ph2
- 1956 Austin-Healey 100/M BN2 Le Mans rdstr.
- 1965-67 Jaguar E-type SI 4.2L conv
- 1954 Jaguar XK120 roadster
- 1960-62 MGA 1600 roadster
- 1963-64 MGB Mk I
- 1955 MG TF-1500 roadster
- 1967 Sunbeam Tiger Mk II convertible
- 1960-62 Triumph TR3A roadster
- 1969-73 Triumph TR6 convertible

Editor's note

The price of a Healey 3000 Mk III BJ8 ranged from \$90,000 to \$95,000, and finished up at \$94,000 in 2010.

The price of a Healey 100/M BN2 ranged from \$63,900 to \$67,900, and finished up in 2010 at \$67,700.



Editor's Column

Loren Parks
Chico, CA



The Board of Directors plus several more Club members met January 22 to review Club business and plan events for 2011. The highlights of the business meeting are that the Club remains financially solvent, membership renewals are still occurring, and changes are planned for the web site. We have finalized our commitment to host Rendezvous 2013 at South Lake Tahoe. Organizational meetings will commence this summer, and volunteers are needed.

A tentative event schedule has been drafted for 2011. The complete list is posted on the web site, and the newsletter includes a few months at a time. We could still use some day trips, and we encourage members to submit suggestions to Jim Morton. If you are planning to go for a drive, by all means let Jim know if you would like to invite some Healey friends along.

The newsletter resumes monthly distribution instead of bi-monthly with this issue.

The Russian Caper

The following photo appeared on page 1 of the January/February issue of Healey Happenings in the form of a promotion for the upcoming Tech Session on March 5. I found the photo on the internet, but there was no supporting information.

Shortly afterward I received an e-mail from GGAHC member **Michael O'Connell** who wrote "That's my car! Where did you

find the photograph?" Here is the story in Mike's own words.



"At the 2008 Palo Alto Concours d'Elegance a photographer for a Russian automotive magazine asked me if he could photograph my 1965 Healey 3000. I consented, and a couple of weeks later we met at Cameron's British Pub in Half Moon Bay. I had no idea what was going to happen when I drove into the Cameron parking lot; my wife and I had been joking that he was a Russian car thief and this was how he "pulled his capers." When I arrived a model by the name of Lindsey Levin was there wearing a pink polka dot dress. The photographer took a few pictures of her and the car around the pub, then we drove up to an historical house on a hill where he took more photos. I was thinking this would be a great place to tie some fool up (me) and steal his car. He then asked me to open the hood and had her poise bending over looking in the engine compartment (my favorite shot). Then he took the photo, shown here, of her perplexed about her ostensibly broken down Healey. If there's a story here, maybe its about Lucas the Prince of Darkness and the princess of polka dots."



Calendar of Events

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

Saturday, March 5. Annual tech session at British Car Specialists. See adjacent ad → →

Sunday, March 13, 10am. "Second Sunday" brunch & social at the Los Gatos Brewing Co. for Alfa, Healey & British car owners. See page 11.

Saturday, April 2. **GGAHC** Season Opener at AutoVino. See page 10.

April 1 - 3. Classic Sports Racing Group's season opener at Infineon Raceway celebrating the MG West Coast Reunion. www.csrgracing.org

May 14 & 15. **GGAHC** Marin-Sonoma Concours featuring British cars. See page 11.

May 15. Friendship Day in Redwood City featuring a car show sponsored by the Mid Peninsula Old Time Auto Club.

<http://clubs.hemmings.com/clubsites/mpotac/friendship.html>

May 18—22. California Healey Week in Ventura. See page 12.

May 22. Woodland British show sponsored by United British Sports Car Club www.ubscc.org.

May 20-22. Classic Sports Racing Group's "Rolling Thunder" at Thunderhill Raceway www.csrgracing.org/

June 4-5. Sonoma Historic Car Races at Infineon. www.winecountryclassic.com.

June 5. **GGAHC** (co-sponsor) Lucas-Marelli tour featuring British and Italian cars, starting in Los Gatos and ending in Watsonville.

June 27—July 1. Healey Rendezvous, Vancouver, WA. See page 12.

June 26. Palo Alto Concours www.paconcours.com

GGAHC EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bring your ride to the
Annual Tech Session
 at British Car Specialists

Saturday, March 5, 10:00am
 2060 N Wilson Way, Stockton CA 95205

Let David Nock know that you will attend. (209) 824-1562, or

Healeydoc@sbcglobal.net

*New Club Members**

Mike & Linda Allen	Larkspur
Raymond & Dawn Banda	San Leandro
Brian & Naomi Bliven	San Jose
David & Bonnie Jean Bruce	Oroville
Stephen & Patty Darfler	Castro Valley
Michael Dufort	Modesto
Joe & Clydene Hohenrieder	Larkspur
Walter & Gwen Kircherr	Santa Rosa
Fred & Amy Loebel	Berkeley
William Marsh	San Bruno
Larry Panozzo	San Carlos
Suzanne Patrick	Santa Cruz
Bradley & Martha Rock	Menlo Park
Michael Sonneman	Sacramento
John & Cathy Stannard	Los Gatos
Tim & Jacqueline Starkweather	San Ramon
Forrest Winslow	Fremont

*Includes returning members

GGAHC EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS



GGAHC Season Opener

Saturday, April 2, at AutoVino (www.auto-vino.org)

205 Constitution Dr, Menlo Park, CA 94025

AutoVino is a storage facility for collector cars and wine. This place is not your standard warehouse but, by its DNA, it is indeed a warehouse. It has precision temperature and humidity control, and state-of-the-art security. Concierge service and other car services are offered.

Currently there are about 40 cars on display. Although they are all drivers, they are in mint condition. The cars are displayed like in a museum even though they are all drivers. The floor is waxed weekly and the cars are wiped down every few days. In the center of the warehouse is a wine bar and a lounge, along with a cigar room. They also have a race car simulator. If you are going to store a car, or want a place to hang out and be surrounded by cool cars and wine, then this is a fun place to check out. Our Healey club is going to do just that.

Built right into the warehouse is a small winery. Yes, they crush the grapes and make the wine right on the premises and store it in oak barrels which are stacked and racked to the ceiling. And, for those with wine collections too big or too expensive to store at home, they have custom lockers to store your wine collection.

Following lunch there will be a presentation on car detailing by **Diamond Car Care Systems**. These guys are the *real deal*—they even prep cars for the Pebble Beach Concours.

We will be allowed to drive our collector cars inside, so they too can enjoy the fun and be involved in all the festivities. This will be a great time to catch up with your Healey friends, learn what's planned for the season, and wander among some cool cars, drink wine, and have a great lunch. Please arrive by **11:30am**; we expect to finish up at around 2:00pm.

A buffet lunch will be catered. The price is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. Wine tasting is \$10 each, with the tasting fee applied toward the cost of any wine purchased. Pay with cash or check at the door. **YOU MUST RSVP TO ASSURE LUNCH AVAILABILITY.**

Contact Marty Allen: martyallen@aol.com

Telephone: (510) 845-7585

GGAHC EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

GGAHC will participate in the Marin-Sonoma Concours

May 14–15

The Marin-Sonoma Concours has such a fine program this year that the Board of Directors of GGAHC decided to designate participation as a Club event. This year's program features British Cars, and what is more British than Austin Healey? There are actually two events—The Drive on Saturday along Marin and Sonoma County back roads, and the Concours on Sunday at the Marin County Fairgrounds. Participation by Club members is encouraged in both events. Admission is not automatic—there is a process that must be followed. Consequently, we need to get an early start. All of this information can be obtained on the web site:

www.marinsonomaconcours.org

THE DRIVE, SATURDAY MAY 14. The drive starts in Tiburon on Saturday morning, and winds along 86 miles of beautiful back roads through Marin and Sonoma Counties, stopping at Cline Cellars on Arnold Drive in the town of Sonoma for a catered lunch. After lunch at Cline, the tour will proceed to San Rafael to celebrate with a wine and cheese reception in front of Il Davide Restaurant on "A" Street, where the street will be blocked off for participants' cars. The cost is \$40 per person with all of the proceeds going to Hospice by the Bay. This year, there are spots for 125 cars on the Drive, composed of 50 Classics and 75 British cars. Classics are defined as pre-1978 vehicles.

You must apply! Download the application form from the web site above, complete it, and mail it to the designated address along with a photo of your car, evidence of insurance, and a check (\$40 per person). The application form link is:

<http://www.marinsonomaconcours.org/home/documents/DriveVehicleEntryApplication.pdf>

THE CONCOURS, SUNDAY MAY 15. If you want to enter your car in the Concours as part of our Club, go to the web site (above), click on Vehicle Registration, then click on **Car Club Entry Application** (cheaper than registration for an individual). You will see a check box for Austin Healey on the application form. Or, here is a direct link to the application form:

<http://www.marinsonomaconcours.org/home/documents/CARCLUBENTRYAPPLICATION.pdf>

The entry price of \$50 includes admission for two people, and all entries must be paid and postmarked by **April 30**. **Early registration is important. Our Club has been allocated 20 spaces on the field.** If you enter as part of the Club, your car will not be judged. If you want your car judged you must enter as an individual, pay \$60, and select your car class from the list. If you choose to attend the Concours as a spectator only, the admission fee is \$20 each at the gate.

Please let Jim Morton know if you will attend: Themortons@starstream.net
or (916) 207-1336



Event Announcements

California Healey Week, 2011

May 18—22,
Ventura, CA

Planned CHW events include a tour of Moss Motors, drives in the local area, tech session, kart racing, gymkhana, car show, women's crafts & luncheon, silent auction and banquet dinner. See our web site for latest updates. www.austin-healey.org

Registration and regalia sales will occur each day. Join us for an extended weekend of fun, good friends and appreciation of fine motor cars.

The event will be headquartered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Each day there will be a complimentary breakfast and happy hour provided by the hotel. <http://www.cpventura.com>

"Second Sunday" Brunch

On the second Sunday of each month there is a brunch and social mixer for Alfa Romeo, Austin Healey, and other British car owners beginning at 10:00am. On Sunday, March 13 the brunch will be held at the Los Gatos Brewery Co., 130 N. Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos, CA 95030.

Contact: Don Reichel: (408) 395-9926



Hosted by the Cascade Austin
Healey Club of Washington

June 27 - July 1, 2011

This annual event will be held in Vancouver, WA, with lodging hosted by the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver. At the opening reception Steve Pike will talk about the Streamliner replica, brought from Australia with the intention of breaking the old speed record at Bonneville.



Activities include

- ◆ Escorted tours to the Columbia River and Mt. St. Helens;
- ◆ Very special closing banquet event planned called "Rear View Memories" which will be a walk down memory lane highlighting every year in 1950 & 1960 along with a DJ playing 50's & 60's music to sing & dance to. Will also highlight the birth and progress of the Austin Healey.
- ◆ Road Rally.
- ◆ Ladies tea with gifts;
- ◆ Poker and Bunko;
- ◆ On-your-own tours to Ft. Vancouver, Pearson Air Museum, Maryhill Museum, Pendleton Woolen Mills, wineries, Portland Rose Garden, and more;

[cascadeahc.homestead.com/
Rendezvous.html](http://cascadeahc.homestead.com/Rendezvous.html)



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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.



For Sale

1960 Austin Healey 3000 MKI BT7. Original California car with black and yellow license plates. Restored in 2000-2005. Less than 1,000 miles on fully restored engine. Less than 10,000 miles since 2000. Selling price \$40,000. Call Nigel Rhodes (925) 625-5424 or e-mail: nigellinda@att.net.

Alexia Vanides Gentry

1951—2011

Club member Alexia Gentry, wife of Luther Gentry, passed away on January 13. Alexis brought her vibrant spirit, creativity, and love to a full lifetime of experiences and generous services as a loving daughter, wonderful wife, loyal friend, teacher, mentor, and marketing consultant. Luther's contact information is:

luthergentry@gmail.com

Address: 1506 Winding Way
Belmont, CA 94002

