



GOLDEN GATE

HEALEY HAPPENINGS

RUTH & DENNIS GILROY IN THEIR BJ8

Golden Gate Austin Healey Club

Volume 16, No. 9

October 2014

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THE JELLY BELLY-REIFF'S-  
 TURKOVICH TOUR



Dan Sekella

On Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup> 38 folks met at the Jelly Belly Factory in Fairfield for a tour of the manufacturing facility followed by a drive to Woodland for lunch and then a drive to the Turkovich winery in Winters for an afternoon wine tasting. The tour was organized by Rich and Lynn Kahn.

Nineteen Austin Healeys and one Nash Healey met at the Jelly Belly Factory between 9:30AM and 10:30AM. We assembled for the tour at 11AM. One of the restrictions was no photos inside the factory. The group photo was taken by Jelly Belly staff before we went through the gate into the factory. If you have seen commercials for UPS or Amazon you have some idea ▶▶



Marty's In-House Wine Tasting & Fleet Week Celebration October 11

FALL COLORS  
 TOUR  
 OCTOBER 25-26





Lined up to leave Jelly Belly

▶ about what we saw—lots of boxes moving along conveyor belts, and robotic devices moving flats of jelly beans onto stacks with few people in attendance (it was Saturday). We walked along a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor passage and stopped at several stations to watch televised explanations of what we were watching on the factory floor.

The history of the company was also covered. The original company was founded by Gustav Goelitz in 1869 in Belleville Illinois. The current factory was built in Fairfield in 1975. Governor Ronald Reagan probably had a lot to do with making Jelly Belly famous; he always had a jar of the beans on his desk in Sacramento. This tradition went east to Washington D.C. when he became president in 1980. Jelly Belly is famous for its multitude of flavors. They keep inventing new ones; one of the latest is “Draft Beer.” They also make many other candies: candy corn, Chocolate Dips, Sunkist candies and many more.

After the tour we assembled our LBC’s (Little British Cars) for a 75-minute drive to the Reiff ‘gas station’ museum in Woodland. The drive to Woodland was all on back roads. Suisun Valley Road is a great road for LBC’s—lots of curves through oak and buckeye ▶▶▶ forests. Eventually we connected with CA HWY



▲ Reiff’s Gas Station, Woodland ▼

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128—the highway that meets the Pacific Coast south of Mendocino.

The Reiff gas station and museum is on the corner of a residential street. There is an unbelievable collection of “stuff.” The place is also Mr. Reiff’s home. I’m sure if he wanted to add another sign or whatever he would have to throw something out to make room.



Reiff's

After lunch we assembled for another group photo and the ten cars drove to the Turkovich winery in Winters. The tasting room manager asked us if we'd rather wait for them to clear a table outside for our group or they could pull together several tables inside. After laughing and explaining that we had just arrived in 45-50 year old convertible cars we would be delighted to stay inside (in the air conditioned room). Tori was assigned to pour for us. She offered a nice assortment of three white wines, a blush and a couple of reds, explaining a little about each one as she

poured. She accommodated everything our group asked for or needed. I noticed several bags with bottles of wine leaving with our group! Everyone headed for home traveling in different directions! Thanks to Rich and Lynn Kahn for organizing this fine tour! And thanks to Lynn for contributing some text and photos for this article.

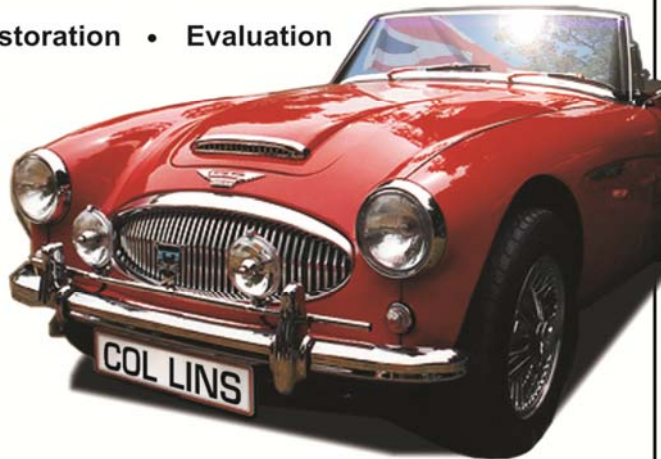


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## GGAHC Attendees

- Cully & Julie Anderson
- Gary & Harriet Anderson
- Tico & Ari Cortes
- Steve & Patty Darfler
- Phil & Sue Foster
- Ken & Marsha Freese
- Dennis & Ruth Gilroy
- Len Hartnett
- Roger & Donna Hawk
- Rich & Lynn Kahn
- Nick & Sandy Klein
- Steve & Kim Korbay
- Don & Cathy Newman
- David & Jerri Nock
- Terry & Linda Parsons
- Marie Louise & Robert Sardeman
- Dan & Linda Sekella
- Ted Shelton
- John Soderling
- Mike Sonneman
- John & Cathy Turney
- Jim & Maurita Walton

# THE BRITISH FALL CLASSIC

## Lynn Kahn



We always look forward to the British Fall Classic car show in Morgan Hill each year but it is also bittersweet as it means that we are fast approaching the end of our Healey driving for the year. We didn't participate in the Saturday afternoon drive this year, but a few of our members did. Apparently they decided this year to split the cars into two groups. They drove the same roads but in opposite directions. This way they

were constantly seeing other British cars. Somewhere along the way they saw a small group of Sprites zipping around and discovered later it was Brian Bliven and some friends from his daughter's wedding. We did make it in time for the wine reception (of course)! On The Road Again has hosted the British Fall Classic for three years now and does a fantastic job.



Robert Blair

There were 155 British Cars represented. About 20 were Healeys and half of those were GGAHC members. Typically the judges for the car show are winners from the prior year. However, they made some changes in the judging this year and needed more people to assist so my husband Rich was asked to judge again this year. They originally wanted him to judge his own class and he declined, saying they were all his friends and it would be unfair. He teamed up with a Triumph owner to judge the various Triumph classes. Unfortunately, this took most of the day, but he was able to finish up in time to join us for lunch. Sandy and Nick Klein showed up mid morning to lend moral support and of course for lunch. Even though they didn't show their car they did drive it there. Gary Anderson didn't bring his car either, but arrived with Tracy Drummond.



Brian Bliven

There were several GGAHC members in attendance that we had never met. We were able to talk with a couple of them, but the others were never near their cars when we went by. Also, spoke with the first place winner in the Sprites. He's lived



Bill Meade



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► in Morgan Hill for only a year and a half. He's young, a new owner and was looking for a club with which to get involved. Apparently Nick and Sandy spoke with him as well, and we all encouraged him to join GGAHC!

We all roamed up and down the street viewing the beautiful British Cars. Roger Hawk even talked one of the Lotus owners into letting him sit in his car. That was a feat in itself--watching Roger fold himself into the driver's seat!

The event was not without a crisis. The overdrive went out on Len Hartnett's car on the drive down to Morgan Hill on Saturday. So, during the car show on Sunday Len tore apart his car to try to fix it for the drive home. After pulling the tunnel to access the gear box he determined the solenoid had to be replaced. And, of course, he had a spare. He managed to do all this and still make it to lunch. Len reported later that the new solenoid worked like a champ on the way home!

As 2:00 pm approached everyone started hanging around their cars waiting to see who might win. The judges were tasked with placing the second and third place ribbons first. Finally a judge came by with a letter for the first place winners with instructions on where to queue up to receive their awards. GGAHC members took first, second and third places in the BJ8 category, and first and third places in the 100 group.

Rich was amazed and honored to receive first place this year! We said our goodbyes early, as we had to move the car into the staging line. The dates for the show have vacillated over the years between mid-September and mid-October with the last couple of years being held in September. The weather couldn't have been better! All-in-all it was another fun event.



L to R: Len Hartnett, Rich Kahn, Donna Hawk, Roger Hawk, Gary Anderson, Tracy Drummond



L to R: Nick Klein, Sandy Klein, Len Hartnett, Rich Kahn, Lynn Klein, Donna Hawk, Roger Hawk



Pat & Harry Nystrom



Tracy "socks" Drummond

### GGAHC Attendees

- Gary Anderson
- Robert Blair
- Brian Bliven
- Tracy Drummond
- Len Hartnett
- Roger & Donna Hawk
- Rich & Lynn Kahn
- Nick & Sandy Klein
- Donald Livingood
- Bill Meade
- Roger Quiring

### AH 100 Winners

- 1st Bill Meade
- 3rd Roger Quiring

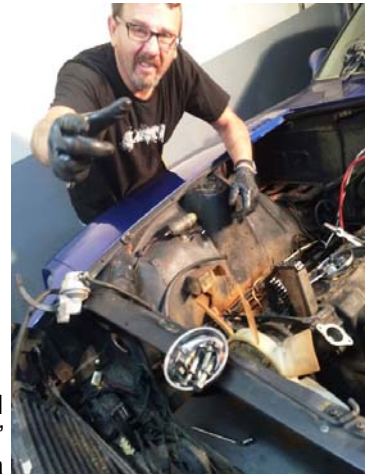
### AH BJ8 Winners

- 1st Rich & Lynn Kahn
- 2nd Robert Blair
- 3rd Roger & Donna Hawk



# 24 HOURS OF LEMONS

Michael Morse



Why would anybody want to race a \$500 car? When I saw the last article covering the “24 hours of LeMons” race series I contacted the Healey Happenings Editor and let him know that I was both a Healey enthusiast and a LeMons Team captain and driver. Tasked with covering the World Record attempt for the number of cars to start a road race at Thunderhill on September 13-14, I thought it appropriate to explain what the series is and how we do it. In addition, I shall divulge the secret of the \$500 car.

Many of you might ask who is this guy (me)? That is a fair question as I have been to only one Club event in the past, largely because I have three busy kids and have spent six years restoring a BT7. I am glad to say it is now on the road. Hopefully I will get to more events now that I have a functioning Healey!



Notice the black spokes from Dayton Wire Wheel

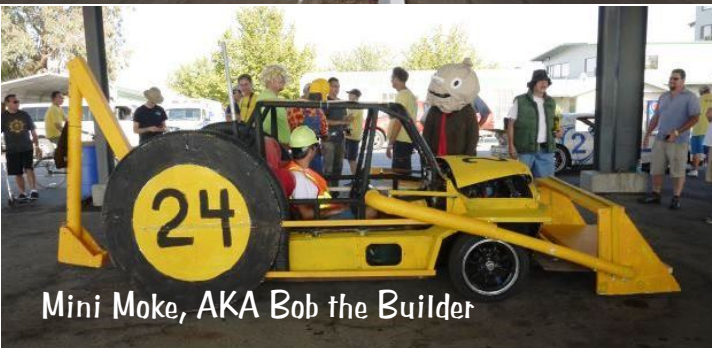
September 13-14 at Thunderhill will go down in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most cars to start a road race. Total entries totaled 242, and 216 made it through tech and Friday practice runs. By Sunday there were more like 160 cars on the track. This was the first time we ran the new five-mile track. Amazingly, the cars stayed spread out and there were some sub four-minute times with yours truly posting a 4:06.

Among the standout cars was a Mini Moke in Bob the Builder Livery, a Mini Cooper, a 1963 Peugeot 404, a Jensen Healey, a Porsche 911 with a VW diesel motor and our 1971 Datsun 240Z. There were a lot of Hondas, Ford Mustangs, BMWs and other generic cars, but LeMons looks for and rewards the strange, unique and well-engineered--like the NASCAR “Mello Hell-No” Volvo 244 complete with a small-block Chevy (photo on next page).



216 Cars on the starting grid

So really what is the 24 Hours of LeMons? Officially it's an endurance road race series for \$500 cars. Unofficially it has been described as the “burning man of road racing” and “where gasoline meets Halloween.” The LeMons event started out as a rough and tumble road race based on the premise of bringing road racing back to the regular guy or girl. The guidelines are minimalist in nature (have you ever read the SCCA rule book?), emphasizing low cost and engineering creativity. Drivers are rewarded for having fun and not taking themselves too seriously. Each team is composed of a minimum of four drivers and a maximum of six. Our Team, **Team 5151—a danger to ourselves and others**, runs a 1972 240Z currently themed as Iron Butterfly's *Ina Godda Da Speeda*.



Mini Moke, AKA Bob the Builder

The entry selection process is based on the car and the theme. If you have a Ford Mustang or E30 BMW you had better have a great theme! If you bring a Humber Super Snipe, count yourself in. Even with a 22 year-old car we change themes often to make sure we stay on the invitation



# Danville D'Elegance

## Cully Anderson



On September 21, Hartz Avenue in Danville was again transformed into an impressive show of about 200 classic, vintage and exotic pleasure and racing vehicles. This 10th Annual Concours d'Elegance has now become the premier fund raiser for the Michael J. Fox Foundation to benefit Parkinson's disease research. In its first year about \$45,000 was raised and last year reached \$400,000 with now a total of over \$2 million. They were expecting up to another \$600,000 for this year's event.



Cars began to arrive by 7:30 a.m. with cool temperatures and low hanging clouds. When the skies had cleared by 11:45 the festivities began. First the singing of the National Anthem, then the "Fly Over" with Steven Couches swooping low overhead in his WWII P-51 Mustang. Soon after, 15 or so race cars led by a local police car roared and vroomed their way down Hartz Ave. The day had truly begun and a Wine and Beer Garden area was in place so that a walk around the tent area took you from Lodi, to Livermore, Santa Rosa, Napa and Sonoma for tastings and information regarding the wineries and breweries.



Our Healey Club has been represented here through the years, and this year was no exception--although with a different twist. While we had three Club members who entered a car, none entered a Healey. Dan Sekella brought his eye-catching 1952 MG-TD, I brought my 91 year-old friend's 1953 Jaguar XK 120 Roadster (Ken Purchase has had it since 1958 and recently had it fully restored), and Steve Cloyes brought his 1939 Ford Coupe race car.

Three Austin Healeys were entered by non-GGAHC people. The three Healeys that were entered belonged to Hudson Vitaich of Sacramento with his 1956 100M that was beautifully restored in 2011-2012, Jim MacDonald of Woodside with his 1964 3000 MKIII, and Tony and Pat Theophilos of Piedmont with their gorgeous 1965 3000 MKIII which went on to win an award for Best of Class in the British Cars division. In chatting with them, they did express an interest in joining our Club.

Other British cars included a lone Rover (if it were a Range Rover we could call it the Lone Ranger), two other MGs (1967 & 1978), a 1957 Morris Minor Traveler, two Morgans, nine beautiful Jaguar XK120s, an XK140, an XK150 and three newer models. Classic American cars graced the show and brought waves of nostalgia. My favorites were the magnificent Packards of the 1930's, ▶▶





► but the 1927 yellow and orange Roadster was my favorite. Also featured were 31 Ferraris, various racing cars, two magnificent new McLarens, an amazing lineup of six Cords (three 1936-810's and three 1937-812's) and a host of other models from Cobras to Alfa Romeos, Bentleys, Porsches, Maseratis, Lamborghinis, Mercedes, and even six classic boats. The Best of Show award went to the 1948 fantastic, sleek, elegant and curvy blue Bentley.

I must comment that of all the entries, it was the four classic Land Rovers that really caught my eye and grabbed my heart and sent me back 45 years to our time in Afghanistan in 1966-1968 and 1971-1974. Of the four, it was the 1953 Green Land Rover that was the exact model that we bounced around in over so many miles throughout that beautiful and rugged terrain. It was great to see that this model went on to win best of class.

What a fabulous day, what great memories, numerous conversations, new friends and a day well spent. It was truly special to be part of a significant fund-raising event for an important cause.



Steve Cloyes' Ford Racer



Dan Sekella's MG



Best of Show

## Bob Cooper: Austin Healey Aficionado

Loren Parks

While browsing the internet for information about one of my favorite singers of all time, I ran across excerpts from the family photo album of Bob Cooper which included a photo of him with his Healey in the 1950s. You probably won't recognize the name Bob



Cooper until I link it with his wife Shirley Luster. Are you still drawing a blank? Shirley Luster changed her name to June Christy when she became the singer for the Stan Kenton Orchestra in 1945. In 1947 she married Cooper, who played tenor sax in the band. "Coop" was a prominent musician who played with the great jazz men of the era including Chet Baker, Maynard Ferguson, Shorty Rogers, Bob Florence, Art Pepper and Bud Shank. For almost 45 years Cooper looked after June Christy through her severe medical problems. June passed away in 1990, and Bob passed in 1993 at the age of 67. This is yet another example of the attraction of the Austin Healey to famous and talented people during its heyday.



Stan Kenton escorts June Christy onto the stage.  
Bob Cooper is the saxophonist in the forefront.

## Calendar of Events

Contact Dennis Gilroy to list an event:  
[Gilroy.crew@gmail.com](mailto:Gilroy.crew@gmail.com). For a more complete list see  
[www.GoldenGateHealeys.com](http://www.GoldenGateHealeys.com). You are advised to  
verify the dates of events that are not ours.

\*\*\*\*\*

**October 4-6.** Classic Sports Racing Group's 11th annual Charity Challenge at Sonoma Raceway  
[www.csrg racing.org](http://www.csrg racing.org).

**October 5.** Niello Concours at Serrano.  
[www.nielloconcoursatserrano.com](http://www.nielloconcoursatserrano.com)

**October 11.** **GGAHC** Marty's Party. Marty Allen's In-House Wine Tasting. See page 11.

**October 25-26.** **GGAHC** Fall Colors Tour in the Nevada City area. Page 11.

**October 31– Nov 2.** CSRG Season Finale, Thunderhill Raceway. [www.csrg racing.org](http://www.csrg racing.org).

**December 6-7.** 24 Hours of LeMons at Sonoma Raceway. [www.24hoursoflemons.com](http://www.24hoursoflemons.com)

**December 13.** **GGAHC** Christmas party. Information forthcoming.

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## *A Twist To an Annual Tour*

Marty Allen

The annual Napa/Sonoma wine tour hosted by Marty Allen intermittently over the last ten years is having a new twist this year. First, Healeys are not needed for the event. Imagine that, a British Sports Car event, but no cars are required or needed. And, for the simple reason—this is not a driving event.

This event is being held on Fleet Weekend, which is a weekend full of activities that take place on and over San Francisco Bay. There will be US Navy ships, lots of sailboats, and air shows that build with the finale being the Blue Angles flying over San Francisco Bay at 3:00pm on Saturday.

This event is being held at Marty's house in Sausalito, where you will have excellent viewing of the entire bay from anywhere on his property. Bring binoculars. And, while viewing the activities you will be tasting some excellent wines, and cheeses from all over the world, from exotic places like Trader Joe's, Costco and Mollie Stones.

Since you will be attending this event over the lunch hour, food will be served. Brisket sandwiches, chips, mac and cheese and other assorted goodies will be provided. And, no worries if you are a vegetarian; we will serve you the roll with sauce, but without the brisket. If you are vegan you may go hungry or graze in the gardens.

You will have unlimited wine and other assorted beverages and all the food you can stuff in your tummy for a mere cost of \$20 per head (cash, please). However, there is limited space, so only 50 people can attend this event. Sadly, we will have to turn 51 and above away, should that happen.

Directions are also attached. Parking should be ok, but because it is Fleet Weekend it may be different. There generally is always plenty of parking on the streets around my house, but add 25 more cars and Fleet Weekend and it could be difficult.

If you want to attend please email and let me know. I will respond with directions and parking instructions. It will be on a first-come basis, and I will confirm your reservation via email.

[martyallen@aol.com](mailto:martyallen@aol.com)

## FALL COLOURS TOUR Bob Altieri

October 25-26

Meet at 9:00am at the Holiday Inn Express in Auburn just behind In-n-Out Burger, located at 120 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn, CA 95603 (the intersection of I-80 and Hwy 49—go north on 49). We will tour a local winery (one that we haven't visited before). Following that we will have a picnic lunch at a very special place (TBD). Please bring a picnic lunch.

After lunch, we will drive some beautiful back roads populated with fall colours (pardon my British) and arrive at the well-known **Rainbow Tavern & Lodge**, adjacent to the South Fork of the Yuba River, in Soda Springs, CA. We should arrive there at around 4:00 PM. Cocktails at the no-host bar will start at 5:00 PM followed by dinner at around 6:30 PM. Our dinner/party event will be in a private room and we have a band for dancing. Breakfast will be served the next morning at around 10:00am. Check out time will be 11:30am – 12 Noon.

After breakfast Sunday morning guests can depart for home or join us for the optional segment of the Tour to the little town of Washington (off Hwy 20; adjacent to the same river) as we have done on all tours but our first.

Should it snow while we are there we would have to wait out the storm until Cal Trans clears Highway 80, which is traditionally very quick. You are advised to carry a set of chains in the trunk—not for actually putting them on, but for the sole purpose of “carrying them,” which is the law. We would be given priority to stay extra nights at the Lodge if Mother Nature snows on us. As for rooms, in the UNLIKELY EVENT that we cancel the Tour you will be granted credit for a future one-night stay at the Lodge—no refunds.

Notify Bob Altieri [boba9366@live.com](mailto:boba9366@live.com) OR Richard Buckley [writerbuckley@yahoo.com](mailto:writerbuckley@yahoo.com) to register for the event (Not later than October 1.) Also, book your room no later than October 1. Room rates vary depending on amenities chosen (we get a special discounted rate from normal rates). Room types are limited, so make your reservation promptly to get what you want. Contact the **Rainbow Lodge** at (530) 562-5061 to reserve your room, or go to <http://www.therainbowlodge.com/> to register online. Tell them you're with GGAHC.

Dinner (including limited quantities of beer and wine) and breakfast are included at \$50 per person. The balance is subsidized by the GGAHC. Please pay in cash upon arrival.

Best regards to all, and fire-em up boys (and girls); we promise that you will really enjoy the heat your Healey puts out (unlike summer) for this very special event.



## Golden Gate Austin Healey Club Board of Directors

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Contact Loren Parks for advertising rates.

Healey Happenings is published on the web site with a three-month lag.

### 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.**



**WANTED:** Both seats for a 1953 AH 100BN1.  
Justin Lane (916) 833-1677  
[Justin\\_Lane@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Justin_Lane@sbcglobal.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

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Even a pretty model cannot fit in  
the back seat of a Healey