



GOLDEN GATE  
HEALEY  
HAPPENINGS

TICO & ARI CORTES' BJ8

Golden Gate Austin Healey Club

Volume 16, No. 10

November-December 2014

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Marty's Party  
by Loren Parks



The fog comes on little cat feet. It sits looking over harbor and city on silent haunches and then moves on. (Fog, by Carl Sandburg). The US Navy's Blue Angels fly in formation over San Francisco (look carefully) as the incoming fog partially obscures a ship entering the Bay. Tide changes the water color.

**Christmas Party**  
 December 6  
 12 Noon—3pm  
 The Barrel House  
 Tavern,  
 Sausalito

It was Fleet Week in San Francisco and the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club had the good fortune to view one of the highlights—a performance by the US Navy's Blue Angels—on Saturday afternoon, October 11. This precision flying team put on an unforgettable 40-minute show, and was viewable from Marty Allen's new home in Sausalito. Marty recently completed a six-month rebuild of a property he bought, which included demolition of the old house and building a new three-story house. The result is spectacular. The view of San Francisco and the Bay is superb.

The next issue of HH will be around January 1

Parking on the narrow streets of hillside Sausalito was a challenge, as was finding the house, but 42 people managed to park and find it somehow. The house is not visible from the street, but the garage is. And what a garage it is—lined with windows with a view of San Francisco!



► Socializing, exploring the three-level house, and watching the air show were the principal activities of the afternoon, not to mention partaking of white wine and a buffet lunch. At 3pm everyone found vantage points to watch the Blue Angels do their stuff, and by 4pm most had departed. The event was superb, the weather was perfect, and Marty was a great host. Thank you Marty!



Marty greets new arrivals at the top floor entrance



Marty demonstrates kitchen talent



Ruth Gilroy, Julie Anderson, and Patty Darfler on the hot tub deck



The Blue Angels



Watching the Blue Angels



Top level and middle level

**Attendees**

Marty Allen  
 Cully & Julie Anderson  
 Rich & Sharon Clarke  
 Steve & Patty Darfler  
 Carla denDulk & guest  
 Ken & Marsha Freese  
 Dennis & Ruth Gilroy  
 Roger & Donna Hawk  
 Rich & Lynn Kahn  
 Steve & Kim Korbay  
 Tim & Kathy Marshall

Michael & Marianne Naughton  
 Dave & Jerri Nock  
 August & Terry Ochabauer  
 Rich & Tweedy Olson  
 Loren Parks  
 Terry & Linda Parsons  
 Marie Louise & Rob Sardeman  
 Mike Sonneman  
 Glenn & Karen Stephenson  
 John & Cathy Turney  
 Jim & Maurita Walton



The Fall Colors Tour was cancelled due to inclement weather, hence there is no article about it. This travelogue about Norway is provided instead.

# NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL

Loren Parks



I normally don't fraternize with trolls, but there I am holding hands with one. There is nothing personal about it because this one is made of plaster. You might wonder, as we did, why trolls are reputed to inhabit the forests in Norway and why troll figurines are stacked by the thousands on gift shop shelves for tourists to buy. The answers can be found in Norse mythology which is too long and complicated to elaborate herein. Suffice it to say that trolls come in different sizes, the principal categories of which are big and small. Some of them are claimed to have supernatural powers. I had better quit this topic before they discover that I'm writing about them.

Diana and I spent a week in Norway in late July as a prelude to a Baltic Sea Capitals Cruise which began and ended in Copenhagen. Prior to departure to Norway I used the internet to book hotels in Bergen and Oslo, plus train trips from Bergen to Oslo and from Oslo to Copenhagen; we purchased local tours after we arrived. Touring on our own was easy—in part because every Norwegian we encountered spoke English, and many signs are in English. English language is a compulsory part of the curriculum beginning with elementary school. I even overheard two middle-aged guys end their conversation with "see you later, alligator." ▶▶

Overlooking the old harbor of Bergen



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▲ This is Bryggen—a World Heritage Site. These dockside buildings are part of the 61 remaining structures occupied by the German Hanseatic League’s trading empire from the 14th to mid-17th century.



Downtown Bergen

► The adjectives most descriptive of Norway are beautiful, friendly, organized, and EXPENSIVE; it is the most expensive country in Europe. The typical reaction of an American confronting Norwegian prices for the first time is to cross eyes and pass gas. In anticipation of the expense I got a room with a kitchenette in Bergen—our arrival city—in a small, funky old hotel by the name of Skuteviken Guest House. But upon arrival the first evening we were tired and had no inclination to go shopping, so we walked to old town for dinner. A medium pizza was \$40. Forget that. We settled on fish and chips for \$25 each—one piece of fish and some fries. The price of dinner in an ordinary restaurant is shocking—main dishes (just the meat or fish) start at about \$50 and the accompanying dishes like potatoes and veggies are extra. Price shock isn’t limited to food—everything is like that. There are reasons for these high prices, the principal one being high taxes. Some say that Norway even taxes the hoot out of owls.

We started our tour in Bergen (west coast) because it is at the heart of fjord country, contains a World Heritage Site (Bryggen), and has direct flights from London and Frankfurt. With a population of about 270,000 within city limits it is the second largest city in Norway after Oslo (600,000). All of Norway has a population of only about 5 million. Bergen is a shipping center and oil services center due to the North Sea oil extraction that is Norway’s cash cow. Bergen (and the entire west coast) is also known for rain—lots of it (average 89 inches per year). On average it rains at least 20 days a month in Bergen and, sure enough, it rained every day we were there. But we were prepared with appropriate clothing, and the daily rain was intermittent and usually light in nature. An exception was the evening that singer Neil Young performed at an outdoor concert; it rained hard on an audience with no cover. Fortunately we had walked through the concert grounds during set-up that day, discovered that the cheapest tickets were \$125 each, and decided to forego the concert due to cost and the weather forecast. ►►

*Planning a Trip to the Napa Valley?*

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Bergen

► What does one do in Bergen other than rambling around the small but beautiful city? One visits fjords. The west coast of Norway has been tortured over millennia by extreme weather and, for awhile, glaciers. Glaciers carved the deep canyons which became fjords—the scenic icon of the country. One day we took a four-hour cruise from Bergen to Mostraumen along the Sognefjord, and another day we took an all-day tour named *Norway in a Nutshell*. The latter begins with a train from Bergen to Myrdal (the highest point on the Bergen-Oslo route at 2,844 ft), a changeover to the historic Flam Railway for a one-hour descent to Flam (sea level, or fjord level), a cruise to Gudvangen along the Sognefjord (Norway’s deepest and longest fjord), a bus to Voss, and finally a train back to Bergen. Flam is a tourist center, and no wonder—it is stunningly beautiful. Group bicycle tours in the area are very popular, as are fjord cruises.

At the tiny Myrdal Station where we changed trains we witnessed something bizarre. A woman was dancing wildly by herself on a hillside over 100 yards away—leaping, twirling, posing. I quickly zoomed my camera to the max and got one photo. We will never know what inspired her. Maybe she’s a troll.

After three full days touring in the Bergen area we took a six-hour train ride to Oslo—a trip known for beautiful scenery. Our hotel in Oslo—the Park Inn by ►►



The dancer



Flam Valley



Tour buses at Flam



Flam

*GGAHC member Jorge Quintero invites you to visit his pet shop in Lafayette: 3517 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, CA 94549*

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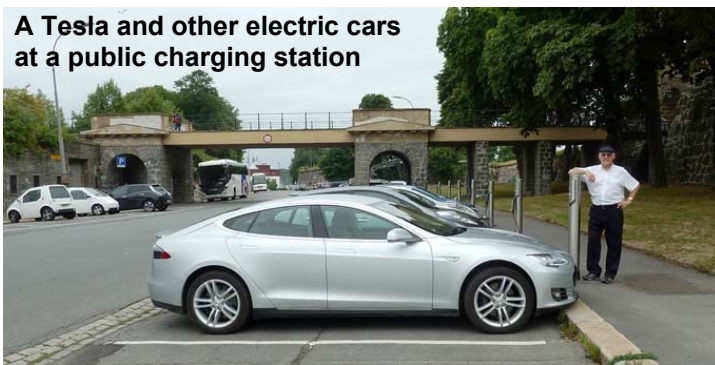
**Cruising the Sognefjord from Flam**



**Carl Johan's Gate—a pedestrian mall at the center of Oslo**



**A Tesla and other electric cars at a public charging station**



**Old Oslo**



**New Oslo**



▶ Radisson—was modern, reasonably priced by Oslo standards, centrally located, and served a superb all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet. Oslo is a beautiful city—highly organized and very clean. It is situated like an amphitheater with forest on the surrounding hills and city at the bottom. After cozy little Bergen it seemed enormous. Upon arrival we walked nearly a mile from the train station to the hotel, pulling our luggage along Carl Johan's Gate—a pedestrian mall of sorts at the center of the city. It was a warm Saturday afternoon and shoppers, tourists, street vendors and performers populated the main pedestrian thoroughfare.

We spent an afternoon and two full days touring Oslo. One day was spent with Nina—a Norwegian woman who Diana hosted at CSU Chico a few years ago on an educational program sponsored by the US State Department. Nina took us on a walking tour of some sights in the old town, a visit to historic Hovedøya Island in the Oslofjord near downtown Oslo, lunch at a hillside restaurant overlooking the city, then to her house for dessert. It was an excellent opportunity to get some insights about Norwegian life.

As always, I was on the lookout for interesting cars. Norwegians are prosperous so most cars are “newish” and boring. What got my attention was the extraordinary number of Teslas; they are ubiquitous. The Tesla Model S set a Norwegian record for the most cars of any make sold in one month—1,493 in March! Why? The ecofriendly government decided that EVs (electric vehicles) are socially desirable and created incentives to buying them. All vehicles in Norway are imported, and taxes are about 50% of the import price. EVs are exempt not only from taxes, but also the high road tolls and tunnel-use fees. The government has set up or licensed charging stations to encourage purchase of EVs, and even allows them to be driven in bus lanes. Teslas make good economic sense in Norway.



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► The price of real estate in Norway is consistent with the prices of everything else—extraordinarily high by US standards. Nina owns the center unit of a triplex in the suburbs of Oslo which she says has a market value of over a million US dollars. It is nothing special—two levels and a little over 2,000 square feet. One reason for high prices is that there is little supply of homes to sell and plenty of demand to buy. Once Norwegians get a house they tend to keep it through subsequent generations; they don't have the ownership turnover rate that we have.

Some of the housing demand comes from immigrants—many Europeans but also from other continents. We noticed quite a few Spaniards working there due to the economic crisis in Spain, but there are also immigrants from Africa and the Middle East as a consequence of a liberal immigration policy that Norway followed for awhile. Norway is a very attractive place to go because the government takes good care of everybody—a cradle-to-grave social system. But recently there has been resistance to the liberal policy because some ethnic groups are not integrating into society as hoped.

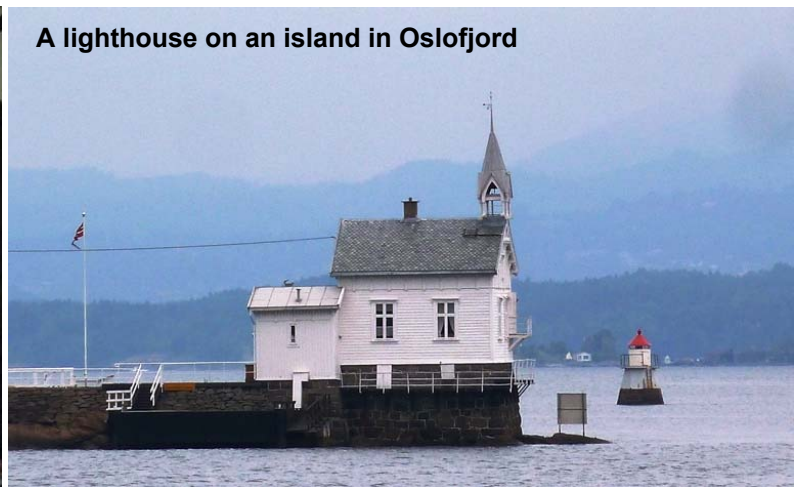
A week in Norway was terrific, but we didn't have the time or budget to stay longer. From Oslo we took a train to Copenhagen where we boarded a Norwegian Line ship for a 10-day Baltic tour that included Rostock (Germany), Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, and Stockholm. But that's another story.



Nina owns the center unit of this triplex



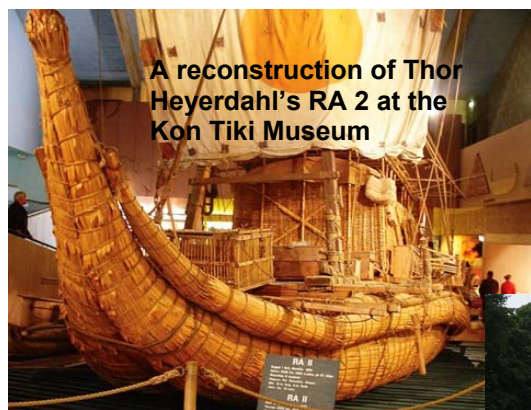
The Viking Ship Museum



A lighthouse on an island in Oslofjord



Sculpture of Marilyn Monroe



A reconstruction of Thor Heyerdahl's RA 2 at the Kon Tiki Museum



Norwegian Army cannon batteries dating from 1808 on Hovedoya Island



Cruise ship docked at the old fort



Vigeland Sculpture Park

# Editor's Column

## Loren Parks



I would like to express my appreciation to all of the contributors who have helped keep the newsletter going this year.

### Bill Meade

Roaring Camp British Car Meet, January-February

### Glenn Stephenson

The Eliminator, March

### Len Hartnett

Annual Healey Tech Session, April  
Ice Cream Social, September

### Greg Cory

Laguna Seca Historic Races, April

### Cathy Turney

Cathy's Corner, April, May, August  
Mountains to Sea Tour, September

### Marty Allen

Marty's Minute, April, September, Nov-December

### Nick Klein

Mt. Hamilton Tour, May

### Steve & Patty Darfler

Lodi Winery Tour, June

### Dennis Gilroy

Pescadero Tour, July

### Rich & Lynn Kahn

California Healey Week, July

### Bill Putnam

Tiburon Classic Car Show, August  
Hayward Field Meet, September

### Robert Devlin

The Wannabee Learning Curve, September

### Dan Sekella

Sacramento Potpourri Tour, October

### Lynn Kahn

British Fall Classic, October

### Cully Anderson

Danville Concours, October

### Michael Morse

24 Hours of LeMons, October



# 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.

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**October 25. GGAHC** The Fall Colors Tour was cancelled due to inclement weather. We'll try again next year (earlier).

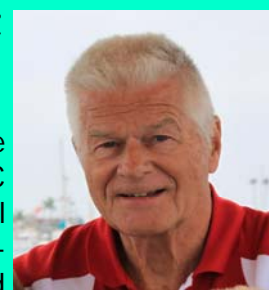
**October 31– Nov 2.** CSRG Season Finale, Thunderhill Raceway. [www.csrgracing.org](http://www.csrgracing.org).

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

**December 6. GGAHC** Christmas party. See page 9.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### Nick Klein, VP Membership



With 2015 fast approaching, the time for renewing your GGAHC membership is here. I will mail notices to remind you in November. Dues will remain \$25 and you may pay by check via US Mail, or by PayPal on the web site.

The Board requests that you submit your dues before the end of the year so that we do not have to interrupt your receipt of Healey Happenings. Please **do not** combine GGAHC dues with those for the Austin Healey Club of America because they are separate organizations.

## Call for nomination of Club officers

An election will be held for officers of the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club for 2015 during the annual Christmas party on December 6. If you would like to run for office, or to nominate someone for office, please contact:



**VP / Secretary:** Lee Bardellini. (510) 582-6246  
[HeLeeEsq@aol.com](mailto:HeLeeEsq@aol.com)

Elected officers include President, VP Events, VP Membership, VP Secretary, and VP Treasurer. The newsletter Editor, Web Master, and Delegate at Large are appointed by the elected Board of Directors.



# A CHRISTMAS PARTY

has been planned just for you!

Saturday, December 6, 12:00pm to 3:00pm

The Barrel House Tavern, Sausalito, CA

660 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965

After three years of cruising the SF Bay for our annual Christmas party, last year we went to a restaurant in Sausalito. Not only was our turnout one of the biggest ever, but Sausalito seemed to be a pretty good location for everyone. With that in mind we will do it one more time, only this time we have added a new place. In the heart of Sausalito sits The Barrel House Tavern, which resides on the second floor of an historic building, (the old Ferry Building) providing the best views of San Francisco Bay and the City. We have rented the entire tavern for three hours on a Saturday afternoon. What a great way to spend an afternoon kicking off the Christmas season!

Our annual Christmas Party is the last event that we do each season and no Healeys are required. This year will be a particularly important party as we always recap the year's events, talk about next year, update everyone on other important information, and hold our election. This year we will elect a new President to guide the Club over the coming years, reelect some current Club officers, and maybe elect some new ones. It is possible that something very special might happen—just a rumor as of now.

The Club will underwrite a portion of this event; that is how we are able to keep the cost to \$50 per person. If you decide to bring a non-member guest the cost will be \$60 per person. Let me define *guest* so that there is no confusion. One person is registered as a Club member and that membership includes two people. It does not matter who is the second person. If you bring a third person, then the \$60 price applies.

Upon arrival you will be greeted with a glass of champagne, grilled flatbread and an assortment of cheese plates. Once we have finished off the champagne you will have a choice of wines in red or white. This is all included in the cost. Then we will be greeted with a three-course lunch. And wait until you see the view from your table! That special feature alone is worth the cost of lunch. Lunch will begin with a warm spinach salad topped with many extras and served with a tasty dressing. For the main course you will have your choice of (a) grilled Salmon—I have been told that it is freshly caught and not from Costco, or (b) a land fish by the name of grilled chicken. Both dishes will be served with several side dishes. Finally, when your tummy is full, you will receive a superb bread pudding dessert—their signature dessert.

So come and enjoy a wonderful lunch, lots of wine, magnificent views and, best of all, a great group of people as we kick off another holiday season. Although we have reserved the entire Tavern, it can hold only about 80 people. History suggests that we will not exceed that number, but to insure that we will have a space for you please register early. Do it now and be done with it. See the Reservation Form on the next page.

If you have never attended one of our Christmas parties, please consider coming this year. It is a fun event and you really will enjoy yourself. And, if you have not been active in the Club, this is a good event to attend and get to know some other Healey owners. Let's have a big turnout this year. Also, It is an election time for our Club. I'll see you there on Saturday, December 6!

*Marty Allen*





## Reservation form

# **GOLDEN GATE AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB** **ANNUAL *C*ARISTMAS PARTY**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014. 12:00PM TO 3:00PM

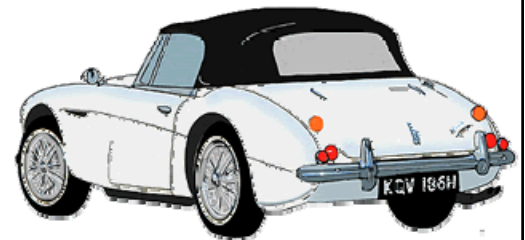
## **THE BARREL HOUSE TAVERN**

660 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965

COUNT ME IN! NO WAY I WOULD MISS A FUN TIME TO MINGLE WITH SOME GREAT HEALEY FOLKS AND ENJOY A WONDERFUL LUNCH!

I am sending this form to Dan Sekella now before I misplace it and forget!

Dan Sekella  
1410 Mohr Court  
Concord, CA 94518



Driver's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter the numbers of lunches:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like the Salmon Lunch

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like the Chicken Lunch

The price is \$50 per person for the Driver and Passenger, and \$60 per person for each Guest. Make checks payable to Golden Gate AH Club.



# Marty's Last Minute

**Marty Allen, GGAHC President**

This is my last Marty's Minute communication. They say all good things must come to an end; I just hope we never run out of chocolate. Last year at our annual Christmas Party I announced that 2014 would be my last year as Club President. I learned early in life that there is always a time to move on, no matter what game you are in or what you may be doing or even how successful you are. As Kenny Rogers so famously sang, "you need to know when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em." I could have continued, but I do not believe that would have been in the best interest of our Club.

Changing leadership can be a good thing because the new person comes into the position with new energy and new ideas. At present we have one member who is willing to step up and assume leadership of our Club. If anyone else is interested please contact me as soon as possible. We will formalize the changes in leadership by means of an election at our annual Christmas party.

Being President of our Club has been fun because we have such a wonderful group of involved people who not only enjoy their cars, but enjoy the company of each other. Car clubs don't get much better than this. Over the past five years the toughest decision I ever had to make was deciding which wineries to visit.

Today our Club has the largest membership in recent history. It is also gratifying to see the number of new people who have become more active in the Club over the past few years. Our turnout at Morro Bay and Bend, Oregon this past summer proves that point all so well. And, for the last four years our annual Christmas Party turned out 80 people each time. When we hosted Rendezvous 2013 at Lake Tahoe over 30 people worked very hard to stage the best Austin Healey meet ever.

Like many things in life, at some point money becomes an issue. Our Club has not raised its dues in at least 15 years, and membership remains a bargain at \$25. The Club has been able to help underwrite many of the tours so that we could keep the cost of a day trip to around \$20-\$25 per person. The best part is that we are still cash flush, so dues will not need to be raised next year and we will continue to underwrite events.

I had the pleasure of working alongside a wonderful group of Club officers which made my job a piece of cake. **Loren Parks** continues to do a wonderful job every month as newsletter editor. The next time you read the newsletter, ask yourself if you would you could or would do this ten times a year. **Dan Sekella** has managed our Club finances, which not only includes our dues collection, but also collecting money for different events and keeping track of all our expenses and income when we do a Rendezvous event--no small task. **David Cross** has maintained the website and helped get the new one built so it would be more user-friendly. You should visit it now and then. **Lee Bardellini**, our Club VP and legal beagle, managed to keep us in good graces and out of trouble with the bad guys. **Nick Klein** has been not only doing our annual membership registration, but he and Sandy handled all the registration for last year's Rendezvous--another huge task that was executed perfectly. **David Nock**, our Past President, moved into the delegates position for the AHCA when I succeeded him. This is a position appointed by the officers of our Club. Dave attends an annual meeting once a year where most of the local clubs--around 45--send a representative to the two-day event.

I personally and publicly want to thank each of the people mentioned who is willing to take personal time to help keep our Club moving forward. Without these people who guide our Club, most of us would never know each other. And, our cars would never have had the opportunity to come together and park next to each other, drawing small crowds and putting smiles on others wherever we go. This is one of the nice side benefits of a group of Healeys.

To all the other members, thank you for allowing me to guide the Club over the past five years. I enjoyed it, and hopefully I am leaving it a little better than when I arrived. I have no doubt that our new President will take it up another level in the coming years. I plan on continuing in the Club and keeping my Healey for quite some time. In the last two years I painted my car and rebuilt the engine, so I plan on getting my money's worth and, hopefully, get the cost of driving this car to under \$125 per hour.

*Marty*



### Storage under the spare tire

The Mainstays Multi-Purpose Food Storage Container is a perfect fit in the spare tire cavity (15" wire wheel, tire width 185). It can be used to

store small items. It has a snap-lock top and fold-down handles. The price is about \$7.00. Check your local Walmart, or order it:

[www.walmart.com/ip/16224498](http://www.walmart.com/ip/16224498).

Loren

## Tire Diameter Dynamics

Loren Parks



The modern tire diameter that most closely matches the original Big Healey tire is associated with tire size 185/70/15, where 185 pertains to the width, 70 pertains to the aspect ratio (sidewall height), and 15 pertains to wheel diameter in inches. This size is available from a few manufacturers like the Vredestein Sprint Classic (\$160 each), the Michelin XWX (\$390) and the Pirelli P6000 High Performance (\$203). Many of us have compromised with the 185/65/15 which is made by numerous companies and is less expensive. But these tires are not as tall as the 185/70. The 185/65 is 2.9% less in both diameter and circumference, and makes 3% more revolutions per mile than the 185/70. As a consequence the speedometer and odometer readings are inaccurate using the 185/65; both read about 3% high.

The difference in tire diameter is 0.73 inches. The 185/65 puts our exhaust systems one-half of 0.73 inches closer to the road than the 185/70, or 0.365 of an inch on new tires.

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Here is a table showing how much speedometer readings differ from actual speed using the 185/65 compared to 185/70.

Speedo Reading	Actual
20 mph	19.42
25	24.28
30	29.13
35	33.99
40	38.84
45	43.70
50	48.55
55	53.41
60	58.27
65	63.12

Source:  
[www.tacomaworld.com/forum/tirecalc.php](http://www.tacomaworld.com/forum/tirecalc.php)

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

**VP Membership:** Nick Klein. (408) 264-2411  
[Klein.ahc@att.net](mailto:Klein.ahc@att.net).

**VP Secretary:** Lee Bardellini. (510) 582-6246  
[HeLeeEsq@aol.com](mailto:HeLeeEsq@aol.com)

**VP Treasurer:** Dan Sekella. (925) 825-8966  
[Sekella@pacbell.net](mailto:Sekella@pacbell.net)

**VP Events:** Dennis Gilroy. (650) 298-8036  
[Gilroy.crew@gmail.com](mailto:Gilroy.crew@gmail.com)

**Delegate at-Large.** David Nock. (209) 824-1562  
[Healeydoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Healeydoc@sbcglobal.net)

Plus David Cross and Loren Parks, listed below.

### Newsletter & Web Site Management

**Editor:** Loren Parks (530) 893-8643  
[LorParks@gmail.com](mailto:LorParks@gmail.com)

**Web site:** [www.GoldenGateHealeys.com](http://www.GoldenGateHealeys.com)

**Webmaster:** David Cross (408) 893-4912  
[dcross95020@yahoo.com](mailto:dcross95020@yahoo.com)

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



**Healey Happenings** is the official publication of the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club, and is published for the benefit of its members. Material which appears in Golden Gate Healey Happenings represents the opinions of the authors and does not express the positions of the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club unless specifically noted. We do our best to assure accuracy, but cannot be held responsible for omissions or errors.

## Healeymarket

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



**For sale:** 1961 BT7. \$43,000. Comes with **factory hard-top** (white). Nearly every mechanical and electrical part has been replaced or rebuilt during the past 8 years including rebuilt engine, transmission and overdrive. There are many improvements including Pertronix distributor, Bosch alternator, 72-spoke Dayton stainless steel wire wheels, LED dash lights, and extensive passenger compartment insulation. This is a superb "driver." Contact Loren Parks for a complete description and more photos. **(530) 893-8643.** (I acquired another Healey, hence I am selling this one.) [Lorparcs@gmail.com](mailto:Lorparcs@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

### For Sale

4 painted 60-spoke wire wheels with Vredestein tires, dated 48th week of 2010.  
2 other good wheels plus 2 original wheels with old tires.  
5 new spokes with nipples  
1 new can of Moss wheel paint  
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