



# Healey Happenings

Golden Gate Austin Healey Club Volume 25, No. 7 Nov-Dec 2022

*From the (New) President: Marc Lewis*

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New transitions usually draw comments like, “I’m honored and humbled to accept this” fill-in-the-blank position. Well, I’m just scared!

First, because I’m taking over the GGAHC presidency from someone that’s been around Healeys or the club *his whole life!* AND he’s done a terrific job due to the hundreds of hours he spent each year planning events, sweating out details, and just plain ‘getting things done’ – basically making the club what it is. I really want to thank David Nock, seek his advice, and keep him nearby so I don’t screw things up!

And second, because hard work and attention-to-detail aren’t part of my core personality. Having fun, speechifying and blowing hard, and having MORE fun – that’s my sweet spot!

So, let me introduce myself.

I’m 60 years old, grew up in the Bay Area during the car-crazy 60s and 70s, dreaming cars and motorcycles (currently own 8), sneaking into the Fremont drag strip (I was a “local” and knew all the holes in the fencing), taking apart ten times more things than I ever put together (Heck, in High School I surreptitiously tore apart a motorcycle engine *in my bedroom*. Never ran again.), riding bikes (rode my first Century in Junior High), getting suspended (twice at two separate schools) for disrupting the Library (seriously!) and just having fun. Never really grew up (just ask Patti).

I married the girl from High School 39 years ago, stayed together through some rough patches, raised four kids (three to adulthood), love nerf warfare with the grandkids, hike around quite a bit, still ride bikes (Death Valley 50-miler with my son last November after breaking a collar bone on a training ride 6 weeks before), pissing off the neighbor (shooting nuisance turkeys) then fixing her fence AND driving my Austin Healey all over the place (after rebuilding it mostly by myself). Told you so – never really grew up.

If you want to get to know me more, just ask. I’m an open book.




So, here's the deal – the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club is what you make of it. Love something about the club? Want to see some things change? Have some ideas about events or drives? **PLEASE** contact me (I need your help):

**Marc Lewis**

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(925) 395-1626 

**IN MEMORIUM: Glen Stephenson**

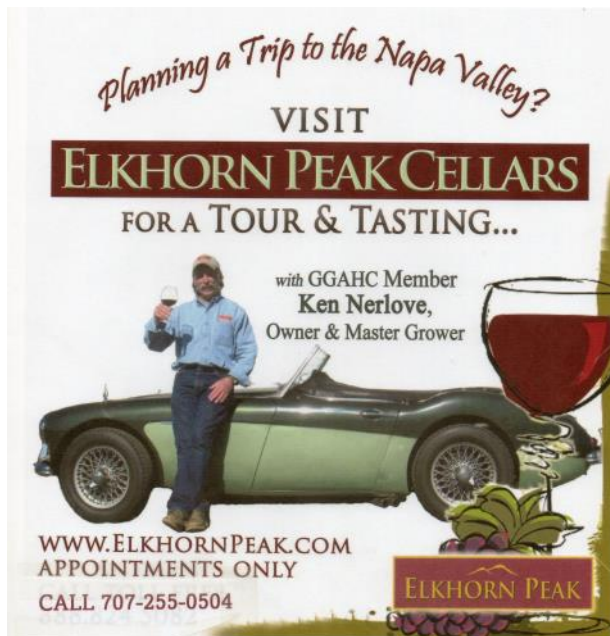
*Hopefully most of you will remember the recent profile about Glenn that appeared in the August 2022 edition of Healey Happenings. Glenn was sure animated during the interview! In late August he called me to thank the Club for the chance to tell his story. I tried to call him back but received a message from Helen that he was in the hospital, but expected to recover. When I returned from Europe I received the tragic news of his death. His wife, Karen, asked that the message below be shared with all Club members.*

**Glenn had a love affair with the Austin Healey since 1959 and he put in his order for one the following year. Since then, he has always had a 'Big' Healey; something about the sound, the sleek body style, the feeling the driver receives joining in the power as you motor down the coast highway. He would have a smile as he recalled various stories about his escapades while drag racing and setting world class records in his first Healey. I will fondly recall the stories.**

**Glenn died suddenly on 10/23/22 while getting ready to be discharged from the hospital. I will miss riding as his navigator; Glenn's love for the AH made each adventure memorable.**

**Glenn enjoyed participating in the club's activities. Thanks to all the club members who joined us on the two runs that we organized over the years; one we ended at Nile's Canyon Railway and the other at the SS Red Oak Victory ship at the Richmond harbor.**

**Karen** 



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## ***The GGAHC Annual Event Planning Meeting***

Come one, come all...

As Marc reminded us all (above) the GGAHC is a member based and focused organization dedicated to the benefit of, and at the behest of, the members. As such, it relies on contributions from members for events that they believe would be enjoyed by, and participated in, other members. January 21<sup>st</sup> is ***YOUR*** opportunity to influence and contribute to the 2023 calendar in a meaningful way. Bring your ideas, your best individual or group driving experience, thoughts for overnight treks, daytime destination social gatherings, automotive club events, etc. that get people and their favorite set of wheels off the couch and out of the garage.

Some ideas are already listed in the event calendar on the last page of this edition of HH. However, we need more! In the following page is a repeat of the list of prior events from recent years. This is the same list distributed by Marc prior to the Xmas lunch via email. The few of you who do not use email will see this for the first time. We have also repeated the list as an attachment in this newsletter for reference. If you have interest in any of these please check the box (X) next to the event and return to me, Marc, or Dave in a reply (save the file with your name so we know who it is from). If you are not prone to email please call one of us.

Unfortunately inflation has taken its toll on hedonistic pursuits as well as basic necessities. We have all noticed restaurant, hotel, and air fares have taken a bigger bite of the recreational expenditures side of the ledger. In our planning it would be helpful to have some idea of what folk are willing to pay for lodging on the overnight trips, so be prepared for some discussion of potential costs at the meeting. Be there or be square...

**Elks Lodge  
1475 Creekside Drive  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

**OR** join remote via Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85230894731?pwd=WEZpQjBXQUtQd1lwSDViS1VtWHhmZz09>).

For those of you willing to lead a tour there are a couple of handy apps for helping to run events and documenting the event for inclusion in HH. One that Dave Nock introduced was **Life 360** (<https://www.life360.com/>), while designed for families and similar groups, it allows real time tracking of phone locations so a group can all enter individual phone numbers and anyone can see where others are at any time. Very helpful for a leader to track participants, allows reporting accidents, breakdowns, etc. A 'free' membership is required (i.e. entering your phone ##).

**Polarsteps** (<https://www.polarsteps.com/>) is designed to track your movements via your phone and allows you to insert photos that correspond to your geolocation. It is simple to use, and is designed to record vacations, etc. Haden and I used it in Europe this past summer. It is perfect for longer trips and recording blogs. Your posts are accessible via a link that you distribute as desired, and if you want a glossy coffee table top book the quality is excellent. We intend to use it for the forthcoming EHM 2023 tour. Examples of the output are shown on the web page.

**What3Words** (<https://what3words.com/>) is another fun and useful one using geo location to define a 10 square foot precise location. Saving a table at Goodwood for your crew? Send them a link and they can find you by the time the appetizers arrive.



## GGAHC Prior Event Survey: 2023

Yes	No	Tour	Location	Overnighter
<b>Overnight Tours</b>				
		Sierra Passes Tours		2 or 3 nights
		North Coast Tour	Mendocino	1 or 2 nights
		Clear Lake Caboose Tour	Clear Lake	2 nights
		Virginia City Tour	Virginia City NV	1 or 2 nights
		Harrahs Auto Museum	Reno NV	1 or 2 nights
		San Simeon Hearst Castle Tour	San Simeon	1 or 2 nights
<b>Day Tours</b>				
		Hwy 49 Gold Country	Jackson North & South	
		Castle Air Base Museum	Atwater	
		Delta Area Tours	San Joaquin Delta	
		Northern Coast Tours	Marin and North	
		Central Coast Tours	SF area to Monterey	
		Southern Coast Tours	Monterey and South	
		Monterey Bay Tours	Monterey	
		Santa Cruz Mountains Tours	Skyline Blvd	
		Mt Hamilton and/or Diablo Tours	Livermore	
		Mt Tamalpais Tours	Marin	
		Napa/Sonoma Areas Wine tours	Napa/Sonoma	
		Placerville/Lodi Area Wine Tours	Placerville/Lodi	
		Shenandoha Area Wine Tours	Placerville south	
		Napa Wine train Tours	Napa	
		Skyline Blvd Tour	San Jose North	
		Jelly Belly Tour	Fairfield	
		American Graffiti Museum	Modesto	
		Sacramento Railroad/ Ford Museums	Old Town Sacramento	
		Blackhawk Auto Museum	Blackhawk	
		California Farm Eqp Museum	Woodland	
		Bay Area Coastal Mountains	La Honda/ San Gregorio	
		Niles Canyon Train tours	Niles Canyon	
		Boesch Winery Porsche Collection	St Helena	
		Far Niente / Nickle Car Collection	Oakville Napa	
		Light House/Headlands/Nike Batteries Tours	Marin Coastal / North	



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## The GGAHC Annual Holiday Lunch



Planning for December's annual Xmas lunch started in the first trimester of the year with numerous good ideas as venues and locations. The normal considerations and circumstances became part of the discussion: location, access, the loci of member residences, drive time, appeal, etc., not the least of which was the ability to handle our typical crowd and costs. Many were chosen for consideration. Few survived the gauntlet. In the end the Eagle Vines Golf Club won the contest, with both an accommodating attitude, a 'right sized' venue, great setting in the Napa wine country, and reasonable access to a large portion of the Bay Area member basis. Those on the southern perimeter may have been challenged by driving distance/time, but for those to the East and North access was reasonable: neither Garmin nor Google Maps were necessary. One turn off of Highway 12 put one directly into the ample parking lot and a short walk to the clubhouse portico. The room hosting the crowd had uninterrupted views to the southeast across the course and vineyards.

For the golfers among us (Mr. Sonneman?) the course was designed by Johnny Miller, a top rated pro in the 1970's now retired and living in Monterey, and is among the better rated courses in the Bay Area. It is located directly adjacent to the private member Chardonnay club.



The service was great, and the Tri-Tip main course received accolades. The general consensus was the Club should become the 'go to' venue for next year, which makes the job of the planning committee easier. In total 54 dedicated Healey acolytes braved the uncertain weather to make the trek, the vast majority opting for the comfort of enclosed vehicles with good windshield wipers, defrosters, and weather protection. Len Harnett braved the deluges on I-5 and brought his Healey, but few others were so persuaded.

Long time local member Bea Kempe came as our guest, as well as our son Haden, a recent inductee into the long haul Healey event mystic (Goodwood to Tuscany), who has been selected to lead a portion of the Scandinavian tour in 2023, and exemplar of Marc's efforts to pass the Healey mystic to the Next Generation.





There was a somber passing of the leadership torch. As most of you now know Dave decided to retire as club President after numerous years in that role, capping a long term dedication to the club which started in 1987 as Historian. Obviously, Dave's dedication was preceded by his father Norm who established British Car Repair in the 1950's, a shop that has helped keep all of our aging rides on the road for most of their (and our) lives. While one may assume Dave has decided to concentrate on the core mission of wrenching on British Steel in reality he and Marc merely switched roles. So who has the most responsibility and dedicated time to the club? We will let them, and their ever-patient wives Jerri and Patti settle that debate. Whomever is declared the winner the club is the beneficiary of the selfless hours and efforts required to keep the wheels rolling. Make sure you thank them, as well as all board members, with an "ata boy" at your next encounter.



Below is a list of attendees. Next year's lunch will be here before you know it...

Cully & Julie	Anderson
Alex & Barb	Cannara
Steve & Cloyse	
Greg & Sanlin	Cory
Steve & Patti	Darfler
Phil & Sue	Foster
Ken & Marsha	Freese
Len	Hartnett
Roger & Donna	Hawk
Sam & Ida	Holmes
Dexter	Kaytis
John & Terry	Kent
Sandi & Kimberly	Klein
Steve & Kim	Korbay
Irv & Zenta	Kovalik
Marc & Patti	Lewis
Mike & Katie	McDonnell
Irene & Harry	Medzyk
Ken & Faith	Nerlove
David & Jerri	Nock
	Nunes
Rich & Tweedy	Olson
Rob & Marielouis	Sardeman
Mike	Sonneman
Steve & Karen	Thomas
Pete & Colleene	Tortorice
John & Cathy	Turney
John	Vranicar



## **Fosters Bighorn & Railroad Museum Tour**

**Contributed by: Mike Sonneman**

It was Saturday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. The group of Healey's and their drivers were ready to roll. As we set off on our journey, we were going to uncharted places. There is an old levee road that leads through an area which includes many old marina's that are in a state of disrepair. The road was in fairly good condition, which is more than I can say about the many vessels in the delta water. I thought it would be fun to do a little exploring on our way to the Western Railway Museum, so we ventured down W. Brannan Island Road. The road weaves around the Delta, and under Hwy 12, and after a brief drive on Hwy 12 we ended up in Isleton on Hwy 160 and then returned to Hwy 12. We continued down Hwy 12 on our way to Suisun City, home of the Western Railway Museum.



Upon arriving at the Western Railway Museum, we all purchased our ticket to ride on the '4001' Electric Train Car. The trip was not real long, but it was interesting. We learned about a small church along the tracks that had burned down. In order to pay for the rebuilding of the church, cemetery plots were sold to cover the costs of the rebuild.



Our 50-minute Interurban train ride took us down the Old Sacramento Northern Railroad, an electric line that once ran between San Francisco, Sacramento & Chico. The 11-mile round trip rolls through the Solano County countryside, with its pristine, unchanged farmland and its views of Mount Diablo and the surrounding Marshlands. Their operating fleet consists of trains dating anywhere from 80 to 110 years old.

After the trip was completed, we were taken into the Rail Car Display House and the Exhibit Hall Building, which contained some old Pullman Train Cars. They were in great condition and you could see why they were so nice to travel in, back in the day.





When our visit at the museum was finished, we got into our cars, and drove back down Hwy 12 to Rio Vista for some chow. We had some tables reserved for lunch at Foster's Big Horn.

If you haven't been there before you are in for a treat. The restaurant and bar are filled with over 300 specimens of animal heads which were hunted by Bill Foster, back in the 1930's and 1940's. It is definitely a one of a kind place.



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## From the Archives: Regional Healey Scene

1977

- Early rumblings locally about possible consolidation with AHCA
- Rumblings from the Editor about running out of material
- Newsletter dedicated to the BN1
- Announcement that DMH would be coming to the West Coast Eugene meeting
- Description of the Hunter Healey modifications: complete performance package for \$1,100 or full engine rebuild for \$1,600. Promised 215 to 240 HP!
- Writeups about DMH attending both East and West coast meets. Great pictures of very young owners in typical 70's hippy attire and lots of long hair.

**NOTE:** not a recommended way to transport a Christmas tree. It took forever to get rid of the pine needles....



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## The Golden Gate Austin Healey Club

is affiliated nationally with the



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## Calendar of Events

Contact David Nock to list an event:  
[events.ggahc@gmail.com](mailto:events.ggahc@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

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZER
	<b>CLUB EVENTS</b>	
1-21-203	<b>GGAHC Planning Ses- sion</b>	Dave Nock
5-12 to 14	<b>Featherbed Railway and two lakes tour</b>	Marc Lewis
9-18 to 22	<b>California Healey Week</b>	Dave Nock
	<b>NON-CLUB EVENTS</b>	
Check Web	<b>Breakfast Club Raly</b>	<a href="https://www.breakfastclubrally.com/">https:// www.breakfast clubrally.com/</a>
4-23-27	<b>Annual California Mille</b>	<a href="https://californiamille.com/">https:// califor- niamille.com/</a>
Check Web	<b>Cars &amp; Coffee</b>	<a href="https://americanwheels.com/">https:// america- onwheels.</a>
4-15 to 20	<b>Andiamo Rallies Gold Country Tour</b>	<a href="https://andiamoralies.com/">https:// andiamoral- lies.com/</a>

### EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

There are yet roads to be discovered and new experiences to share. There are no bad ideas, and even excursions that folk have enjoyed previously may be worthy of a repeat so that others may share. We ask only that if you plan and lead an event that you take responsibility for a short written summary of the experience and pictures. Your humble editor is merely the messenger and scribe, not the original author of all content.



You may have noticed a few minor tweaks in layout in the newsletter layout and format. If you have any ideas for improvement please let me know!.

Please keep the sunny side up!