



Proud chapter of the  
Austin-Healey Club of  
America since 1979.



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# Side Curtain News

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NOVEMBER 2018

## Gateway Healey Association St. Louis, MO

### Rumblings

Happy Fall everyone!

I am sure most of you have winterized your classic for the season or are very close to doing so. From what I received over the past few weeks it is obvious that the car show season is over. Wow, there were a lot of pictures this year and in them were some really neat cars.

Richard Etz has done a fantastic job as president of the club. He provided a long list of good car shows to attend every meeting and also attended many of the car shows this year. He also provided this newsletter hundreds of his fantastic photos. Between him and Jim Reiter's great photos they have both kept me busy putting together a newsletter chocked full of very cool photos of very cool cars. Ron Varley, Mark Morgan, Ed Knoll, and Simon Griffin provided interesting articles that were also fun to publish.

This year has been a hard year too. Dan Ferguson suffered a stroke last Christmas and is still recovering. Please keep him in your prayers. Long-time member Mel Parentin Passed away in April. Also long time charter member Dave Plotky passed away in August. And Keith Bester injured himself badly but is recovering. Keep him in your prayers as well. I am certain that Keith was very disappointed that he could not host the Christmas party this year but thanks to the Kressers for inviting everyone to the SLTOA holiday party!

So continuing the good side segue, the RUMP has been going strong with the drive of Jim Reiter. The group has visited a lot of cool places both car-wise and food-wise. During the summer some of us were able to try Dave Massey's Trump Russian Imperial Stout. Sean Dowell and his white 3000 is a nice addition to the club. And, of course, the annual Valentines day dinner and the wash up tune up was, as always, a club hit.

One final note. My 1959 BN6, which I have had for 9 years, is finally moving forward with the frame being painted in the next few weeks. My hope is that I will finally get it to a rolling chassis next summer and hopefully body painted next fall. It will be its 60th anniversary so I hope that I can get it back on the road in time. For me, that is very exciting. I have been busy getting various parts ready for the reassembly, such as rebuilding the rear axle, cleaning up, painting and putting new bushes and seals on the front suspension, and rebuilding the brakes. I have a new wire harness and will have new SS brake lines soon so I am stoked about getting started with the reassembly. Wish me luck with this. It is my first car project in 35 years. Photos will follow in future additions.

Phil Ellerbrock—GHA Newsletter Editor



### Note!

**Keith Bester was seriously injured a few weeks ago in his garage but is now home recovering. He seriously lacerated his leg on an engine block where it later became infected and spent 4 nights in the hospital at Missouri Baptist. However the recovery may be slow.**

**Note that the SLTOA has invited all GHA members to their party. Please see the information on Page 4 of the newsletter for more information.**

## Gateway's Officers

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***Don't forget to go to the club website!***

**<http://clubs.hemmings.com/gatewayhealey/>**

The website includes additional articles, links to videos, maintenance tips, and copies of GHA SCN.

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## Members and Guests at the October meeting

**Bob McElwee, Keith Bester, Sean Dowell, Dennis Dowell, Bandit, Dave Guebert, Dave Massey**

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## Meeting Minutes

**It was a very low key meeting. The president and Vice-president were not present.**

**Keith mentioned that he is meeting with Anita Forguson's, Dan's wife, to pickup all of clubs financial and membership information. Anyone who is interested in assuming the duty of Financial and Membership should contact Keith.**

**NOTE: AHCA Dues notices are out. Everyone should have received a bill from the AHCA. Please mail the renewals soon. AHCA dues are \$50 and local GHA dues are \$15. Please mail them to Dan Forguson ASAP. Keith Bester is going to get financial and membership info from Dan and take care of it until we elect a new chairman.**



Eight hardy folks met for a visit to Classic Car Studio: Dave Massey, Sean Dowell, Dennis Dowell, Lou Salini, Tom Evans, Steve Hurst, Bob McElwee, Jim Reiter



We were allowed to visit CCS's inventory of cars but not permitted to go into the shop. Too busy. Lou and Tom went into the shop accidentally and were permitted to look around for a few minutes. Lucky ones.

The popular Velocity Channel show, 'Black is the new Speed'. they were not filming when we were there, but had just finished a couple shows a week ago. It appears to me that they specialize in street rods and American Iron. But it what the customer wants.

We then ventured to Cousin Hugo's for another great lunch.

**NOTE:** There will be no RUMP Lunches in Nov or Dec because of the holidays.

*Planning to attend a RUMP? please email Jim Reiter at [j-reiter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j-reiter@sbcglobal.net)*





*Notice: The party of the year is hereby announced.*

## **SLTOA Holiday Party**

**Friday, December 7, 2018**

**6:30 p.m. Cocktails**

**7:30 p.m. Dinner**

### *Missouri Athletic Club*

*1777 Des Peres Road*

*Town & Country, Missouri 63131*



### Menu:

*Mixed Greens Salad*

*Rolls and Butter*

*Short Rib Osso Bucco*

*Chicken Parmesan*

*Carrots*

*Penne Pasta with a Cream Sauce and Peas*

*Dessert*

*Cost: \$25.00 per person up to 70 people, then cost is \$40.00 per person.*

*SLTOA subsidizes this event.*

*Make your reservation by sending payment (checks only, payable to SLTOA) to:*

*Kathy Kresser*

*114 Maple Lane*

*Ballwin, MO 63011*

*Questions, call Kathy Kresser 314-494-9970 or Bonnie David 314-412-0589.*

*Please advise Kathy if your diet is gluten-free or vegetarian.*

*Deadline for reservations is December 3, 2018.*

*Please bring one car-related gift per couple (or individual if attending solo) for the gift exchange in the \$15-\$20 cost range.*

*A second gift (unwrapped) for Toys for Tots would be most welcomed.*

*See you there!*

## ALT-POWER VEHICLES

# MGB/E! British firm to sell all-new, battery-powered MGB, Jaguar XKSS and C-type

Mark J. McCourt

*Images are by RBW Classic Electric Cars, except where noted*

While the sounds, smells, and feeling of an internal-combustion engine and three-pedal manual transmission have always been an integral part of the sports car-driving experience, some inventive owners have chosen to re-power their vintage sports cars with electric motors, citing instant thrust, zero emissions, and future readiness among the reasons. Indeed, some automakers are now getting into that game!



A West Midlands English firm, RBW Classic Electric Cars, recently debuted its unique take on the plug-in classic sports car, debuting the RBW Roadster EV this past September 12-13 at the UK's technology showcasing and industry networking trade show, the Cenex Low Carbon Vehicle Event 2018.

*RBW Classic Electric Cars' RBW Roadster EV on the Continental Engineering Services stand at Cenex-LCV2018. Photo via [www.cenex-lcv.co.uk](http://www.cenex-lcv.co.uk)*

In an interesting twist, RBW is not using restored original MGBs as bases for its Roadster EV; rather, it's using brand-new, all-steel bodyshells made from original MGB tooling by British Motor Heritage, the organization that has been building those MGB body shells since 1988. This car is immediately identifiable as a B, even lacking octagonal badging, the original chrome body-side trim and bumper overriders, and sporting a suggestively bulging bonnet that may be another BMH piece, originating on the 1993-'95 MG RV8.



Under that bonnet is an electric motor sourced from Zytek Automotive, a division of Continental AG, supplier of Formula E racers. This motor is rumored to make 70 kW (equivalent to 94 hp, almost exactly what the original car's twin-carbureted 1.8-liter four-cylinder made), along with 226 NM (roughly 167 lb-ft) of torque, those outputs giving the Roadster EV surprisingly original performance, too- 0-60 mph in 8 seconds, and a 105 mph top speed. Range, while not Tesla-like at 155 miles, is fairly



reasonable by modern EV standards. The plug-in charging port cleverly shares the position of the original fuel filler, above the rear bumper.

Some electric-conversion sports cars retain a manual transmission while dispensing with a clutch, as that's a fairly efficient method of transmitting power without the loss given to an automatic's torque converter, and you might expect to see a stick in this RBW Roadster EV, but that's not the case. It uses a modern Chrysler or Jaguar-

style rotary dial to select drive. The MGB's traditional Smiths instrumentation has also been replaced with digital readouts. The cabin appears lavishly upholstered by local specialists at GB Classic Trim.

While this may horrify purists, remember that the RBW Roadster EV is being created out of whole cloth, and no original MGBs (or irreplaceable parts) are being sacrificed to create the 30 examples this firm has promised to build.

In a distributed statement, RBW's managing director Peter Swain said: "Our aim is make these great classic cars better for the modern age, and to do that, we have been fortunate to be supported by great companies who share the same ethos.

"In our research and development, we put the cars through vigorous testing, which showed just how much pressure is on the body as well as the components. Such is the power of the engine, we used new components wherever possible to ensure the best for owners to enjoy from their classic electric sports car."

Both right- and left-hand drive examples are being built –18 Roadster EVs are scheduled for completion in 2019– with color and trim specs available at the buyer's choosing. RBW Classic Electric Cars is pricing the Roadster EV at £99,600 (about \$108,000), with a refundable £8,300 (\$10,825) deposit.

The RBW Roadster EV is set to make its public debut at stand 2-248 during the annual Classic Motor Show at NEC Birmingham on November 9-11.

The Roadster EV won't be RBW's only electrified British classic- the firm is also promising a plug-in EV riff on Jaguar's coveted XKSS and C-type, using Zytec motors and handcrafted aluminum bodies built by the Mielec, Poland-based coachwork specialists Gregson Polska. While no technical specs have yet been revealed about their "XKSS Jaguar EV" or "C Type Jaguar EV," the pricing has: £180,000 (\$234,775), with a £15,000 (\$19,565) deposit on the XKSS; and £150,000 (\$195,500), with a £12,500 (\$16,300) deposit on the special-order C Type.

Do you think an internal-combustion engine is inseparable from a classic British sports car, or would you be willing to forgo the traditional driving experience to enjoy vintage looks with modern green motoring?



**18 Nov 18—6th Annual SLTOA Veterans Run.** Open to all cars/drivers; meet at 9:30 AM at the State Farm parking lot in Columbia Center, immediately south of the McDonalds on IL 3 in Columbia. Cars roll at 10 AM for a flats and hills run to Chester, IL, for the traditional group photo at the Popeye statue overlooking the Mississippi and lunch at Reid's Harvest House. From there, the Illinois contingent can return home by their preferred route while Missouri drivers can cross the river to Perryville and head back to St Louis via US 61 or I-55. All proceeds from donations will go to the Semper Fi Fund, a nonprofit which provides a variety of programs to assist veterans, wounded veterans and their families from all branches of the US armed forces. For info contact Mark Morgan at [rangermk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rangermk@sbcglobal.net).

**Nov 18—Gateway VCOA drive to LaChance Vineyards,** De Soto, MO. Details TBA.

**Nov 27 GHA monthly meeting** at Keith Bester's garage. 7 PM, 115 N Sappington Rd, Kirkwood, MO 314-821-2372

**Dec 7 Annual SLTOA Christmas Party,** Missouri Athletic Club—West. Monitor [www.sltoa.org](http://www.sltoa.org) for additional information.

**Jan 19 Gateway VCOA Annual Holiday Party.** Date time and location TBA.

**Feb 10 Annual SLTOA Polar Bear Run.** Traditional kick-off event for the driving season, open to all cars/clubs, more information to follow.

**NOTES:No GHA meeting in December.**

**No RUMP lunch in November or December.**

**For more information see the St. Louis Sports Car Council Gateway Relay at [www.stlsc.org](http://www.stlsc.org)**