



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



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# Side Curtain News

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 3

APRIL 2019

## Gateway Healey Association St. Louis, MO

### *Rumblings*

Car season has started and it is time to get them out and cleaned up. So why not bring it to the Wash Up Tune Up party at Keith Bester's house on Saturday April 20th! For those of you lucky to have something fun to drive what an opportunity!

Status report.... My car continues to move forward now with a complete suspension but incomplete steering. My punch list of things I can do on the chassis is less than a few dozen before moving to the engine and transmission. Some are significant tasks like covering the dash and installing the gauges. But others are small like finish up the hood release install and install the



negative ground battery wire to the cutoff switch.

My biggest helps have been several reference photo examples I have found on the web, several good physically accessible examples at It's Alive Car Restoration, the good ol Healey Workshop manual, the Healey parts list, and strangely enough the Moss Motors catalog. I have to say that this catalog has been great. Notably, most of the images are strangely similar to the Healey parts list book.

I hope to have some other writers here soon as I now really miss the great articles that Richard Etz wrote for the newsletter. While I enjoy my little car project, Richard really enjoys cars.

Hopefully 2019 proves to be a great year for car shows and classic cars.

Phil Ellerbrock, GHA SCN Editor



Front suspension is in!



Rear axle is installed!

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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 February meeting

**Lou Salini   Keith Bester   Richard Etz   Dennis Dowell   Sean Dowell  
Phil Ellerbrock   Dave Guebert   Dave Massey   Bob McElwee   Bandit**

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## Meeting Minutes

Fun dialog by all. Lots of car shows coming up. Biggest news was the Wash Up Tune Up at Keith's house the Saturday before Easter.

### ***2019 GHA Annual Wash-Up, Tune-Up***

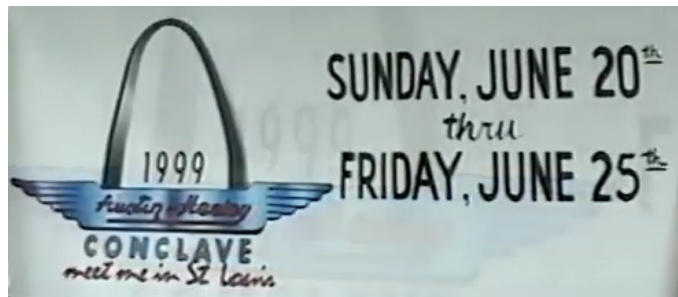
**Sponsored by the GHA and hosted by Keith Bester**

Bring your Healey or other classic vehicle to Keith's house on April 20th, starting at noon, for some socializing with other British car enthusiasts among other classic beauties.

If your car is not to be "displayed" please park across the street at the school. Please BYOB and bring a covered dish/desert . 115 N Sappington Rd, Kirkwood, MO 314-821-2372.



## *1999 Austin Healey Club of America—Conclave St. Louis*



2019 is the 20th anniversary of the 1999 AHCA Conclave held in St. Louis

Jim Reiter has uploaded to YouTube a video compiled by Mark Silverman of the event

The video is accessible via the GHA Website through <http://clubs.hemmings.com/gatewayhealey/>



## *57th Annual Forest Park Concours d'Elegance 2019*

### *A.K.A. The Easter Car Show*

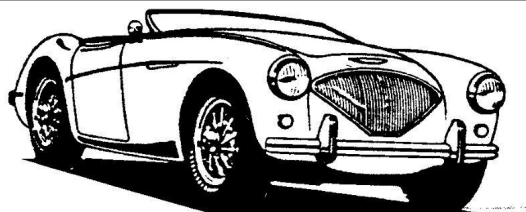
Sponsored by the Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri.

Show includes cars over 25 years old (1994 or earlier)

Cars are to arrive before 11 AM with judging to start at noon.

The show will be held in the Upper Muny Opera parking lot.

See [hccmo.com](http://hccmo.com) for details



**18th ANNUAL**

## **BRITS in the OZARKS**

**ALL BRITISH CAR & CYCLE SHOW**

**September 5 - 7**

**Thursday, Sept 5**  
Driving Tour

**Friday, Sept 6**  
Driving Tour  
Parking Lot Party

**Saturday, Sept 7**  
Car Show  
Banquet

**SPECIAL GUEST**

**David Hobbs**

*Champion Racer, TV Personality, and Author*

**Car Display • People's Choice Judging • Concessions Available**

**Host Hotel**

**Holiday Inn Convention Center of Northwest Arkansas**  
**I-49 and Highway 412, Springdale, AR**

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTACT

**BILL WATKINS**

479-636-2168

[www.Britishironnwa.org](http://www.Britishironnwa.org)

**OR**

**DOUG SCHRANTZ**

479-531-2783

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## Conclave 2019 HEALEY IN THE HILLS!

The Minnesota AHC has big plans in store for 2019 Conclave location. The hills of South Dakota await you and your Healey. Take a look at the important updates

### Join us September 6-11, 2019 for HEALEY IN THE HILLS!

We have exciting updates to the Conclave 2019 Schedule and Lodging Options. The three original hotels are sold out, but two new hotels have rooms available at Conclave discounted rates. Be sure to identify yourself as part of Austin-Healey Conclave 2019 to verify you are eligible for contracted room rate discounts.

### CONCLAVE REGALIA SALES OPEN!

If you have registered for Conclave, you will be receiving an e-mail from Conclave Registrars Greg and Suzanne Willodson that will give you access to your original registration summary, which now contains the Regalia Order form and payment instructions for purchasing online.

Or, you can print the order form by clicking the "Regalia" tab on our website and mail it the completed form with your check for the total amount of purchases as directed at the bottom of that Regalia order form.

For more information go to <http://www.healeyclub.org/conclave>

**CARS  
COFFEE**



**2019 SEASON**



St. Louis, Mo.

Every 3rd Saturday of the Month April through October from 8 am - 11 am

April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th, August 17th, September 21st, and October 19th

WESTPORT PLAZA, I-270 & Page Blvd, South lot, between STARBUCKS and McDonalds.

Cars Coffee is a free gathering in the St. Louis metro area open to all vehicle makes / marques and enthusiasts. This is not a car show and there is no entrance fee. Bring your car out and enjoy a drive in light morning traffic. Get together with other like-minded people to talk about cars and enjoy a morning brew. Conveniently located next to Starbucks, or bring your choice of morning beverage.

Location: Westport Plaza South lot, between STARBUCKS and McDonalds. I-270 & Page Blvd.



Don't forget to visit the Gateway Healey Association Web-Site at  
<http://clubs.hemmings.com/gatewayhealey/index.htm>

## ***UK government to start backing auto restoration apprenticeships***

**Daniel Strohl**

Less than a year after its debut, the U.K. Heritage Skills Academy — the country's only accredited institution teaching auto restoration skills — has secured government funding allowing it to revamp its course offerings and extend those courses to adults as well as youth.

As announced earlier this week, representatives from the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs were able to secure the funding from the U.K.'s Education and Skills Funding Agency. Specifically, the funding will enable the Heritage Skills Academy to meet updated criteria for the government's Trailblazers program, which encourages groups of employers to collectively set standards for apprenticeship programs relevant to their industries.

"The original course has been re-launched with a greater emphasis on preserving basic engineering skills and practices," the FBHVC noted in [its announcement of the funding](#). "The improved course has been created by a panel of restoration businesses and training providers to ensure the skills taught are those needed for the historic sector."

Based at developer Dan Geoghegan's [Bicester Heritage](#) complex on the grounds of a former RAF air base, the Heritage Skills Academy launched in September 2017 offering apprenticeships in prewar, postwar, and modern auto restoration as well as apprenticeships in aviation, marine, and steam heritage engineering.

"Our mission is to ensure that the traditional skills required to maintain and restore our Engineering heritage thrive and that the U.K. maintains its position as the centre for engineering excellence," a statement on the Heritage Skills Academy's website reads.

Apprentices build their skills on a number of vehicles in the Academy's shops, among them four donated by Jaguar Land Rover. Apprenticeships last three to four years and include placement services with the academy's partners at the culmination of the program.

Though the apprentice program was initially designed for 16- to 18-year-olds, the updated Trailblazers criteria eliminate age limits, allowing older students and adults to participate in the program, according to the FBHVC.

The funding will also make it possible for the Academy to offer concentrations in mechanical engineering, precision engineering, trim, and coachbuilding for apprentices.

According to the Academy, the U.K. restoration industry currently employs 35,000 people and generates £5.5 billion (about \$7.3 billion) in economic activity.

According to the Academy, the next apprenticeship program will start in September. For more information, visit [HeritageSkillsAcademy.co.uk](https://HeritageSkillsAcademy.co.uk).

## A Father and Son's Car—Rebuilding a 1959 BN6 Healey—Part 3

Story by Phil Ellerbrock

Where we left off I had enjoyed the car as a teenager but did not have time as a college student or even as a young adult. I finished college and had met my life-mate in my last year of college. We got married and moved to Texas. My dad got transferred to Hartsville South Carolina and bought a home in the nearby town of Florence. There the Healey went and became a conversation piece for those that saw it sitting in his garage as they walked by the house. He drove it perhaps 2 times each year for the next 25 years putting no more than about 3,000 miles total on the car. The car was such a good looker that my mom took numerous photos of the car as source material for putting it on canvas. She created a large painting that has not been finished. She has promised me that she would complete the painting.



My dad with the car in 2000

In 2009 my dad called me up and told me that he could no longer maintain the car and wanted to either sell it or give it to me. Without hesitation I told him that I wanted it and agreed to buy it from him. The car still looked pretty good but it really needed a lot of work. During a visit with my parents my dad and mom drove it around Florence one last time before I loaded it on a car carrier and transported it back through the Smokey Mountains to St. Louis. Now in my garage I assessed the condition and knew that I would have to rebuild the car. Research and advice from the GHA members indicated that it would be good for me to drive it around a while before starting restoration. However, my first outing with the car resulted in the loss of all hydraulics (clutch and brakes). Fortunately I was pretty close to home and called my wife on the cell phone and told her to open the garage door. I was stuck in second gear and knew that once the car died I would have to have it towed. Fortunately there were no busy roads between where I was at and home. I rolled through a few stop signs and slowly ran one red traffic signal and was able to get nearly up the driveway when I shut the engine down with the car part way into the garage. Secured in the garage the car sat for 2 years under a cover.

In 2011, I started the teardown with every intention of starting the rebuild process to complete in a few years. As I took things apart I found more issues that really needed attention. It was obvious that the hydraulic failure probably kept me from having a significant failure with the car. Starting in late 2011 I had eye problems, a detached retina, which put me down for a half year as I healed. In 2012 I was able to get the car disassembled and cleaned up for “dipping” the frame. Then I was set back again as I had the same problem occur with the other eye in mid-2013.

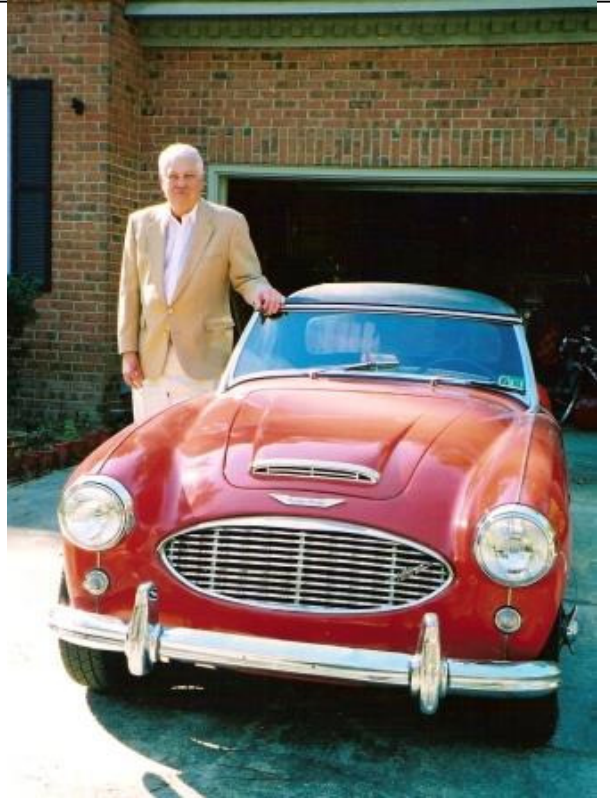


Around Christmas 2013 the car was dipped. While at Keith Bester's garage major frame repair was done, the frame was detailed and a good coat of etching primer was put on. In mid-2014 the car returned back to my garage. There, for the next year, I continued repair of the frame. In May of 2015 my father came to visit the family and was able to attend one GHA meeting. This was the only meeting he would attend. He had always advised me to get involved in a car club to help with advice and get encouragement as I worked to restore the car.

In late July of 2015 my dad was diagnosed with stage-4 can-



cer and came to live with us. The diagnosis was as much of a shock to me as it was him. With his level of activity up until his diagnosis, I did not expect this. Nobody did. With the amount it had spread he was told that he had 5 months at most to live. While living with us he admired the work that I had done so far and was very happy to see the detail done. He indicated that he knew that when I redid the car it would be done well. In the past he had talked about being able to drive the car and having the opportunity to “share” the car. Unfortunately events and time since 2009 did not permit me to work as much on the car as I had planned. Now it was obvious that he would not get to see it completed. In the months he stayed with us he would sit in the garage with welding goggles on and watch me work on the car talking to me as I welded and worked. This was very cathartic as it gave me some time to re-bond with my father one last time working on the same car we spent so much time together nearly 40 years prior. While I liked working on the car with him, I did not spend a whole lot of time working on it in these months. In November of 2015, 4 months after being diagnosed, he passed away. This was a huge let down. I had really hoped that we would have some real quality time with the car together. I do hear his voice (only in imagination) encouraging me to move forward, focus, and finish. His words of encouragement while he was alive were always inspirational. Now the memory of those words would drive me to complete this restoration.



2005

For about 6 months, nothing happened. Then in late summer 2016 I began working on the car again. I finished a few minor things to the frame and then started on the body. The body work lasted until mid-2018. Some of the time was the detail work of welding in panel patches and doing the glaze work and some was just time and travel for work. Intermixed was rebuilding the rear axle, front steering parts and suspension parts. In October 2018 the body came back off the car and the

frame was prepared for paint. After several false starts with a few body shops, I finally got the frame painted. The frame was returned back to my garage just after Christmas 2018. This really got me motivated to start putting it back together. Now in April 2019 the suspension is back under the car and I hope to have it back on its tires by May. With any luck I hope to start on the engine and transmission at the beginning of summer and perhaps have a rolling chassis by late fall.

In the next installment, I will start a photo expose of the rebuilding process exposing the various steps along the way in the restoration. From the over 500 photos I have taken during this process I will condense it down to something that I hope to cover from now to the end of the year. Hopefully at that time the story will end with a complete or nearly complete restoration. We will see.



The last time my dad drove the car in 2009. Riding shotgun is my mom



# CLAUDIA SANDERS DINNER HOUSE



Each year, SpringThing organizers seek out the best VIP experiences in the Commonwealth to entertain our guests. This year is no exception! The Claudia Sanders Dinner House has been pleasing the palettes of visitors since 1959 when Colonel Harland Sanders and his wife, Claudia, moved from southeastern Kentucky to Shelbyville the famed location. The one hundred twenty-five-year-old dwelling, Blackwood Hall, which is adjacent to the Dinner House, served as the Sanders' residence and the base of operation for Kentucky Fried Chicken after their move here. Later, a larger building was added and became what we know today as the Dinner House.

This Kentucky classic will serve as our banquet location on Saturday night. SpringThing guests will be treated to a full country-style buffet of the greatest creation from Colonel Sanders' secret recipes. The buffet includes fried chicken, roast beef, country vegetables and homemade cobblers. This feast will surely satisfy the hungry Healey traveler after a relaxing day touring nearby wineries, distilleries and historic sites.

Join us for SpringThing 2019 and see what all the fuss is about!



May 16-19, 2019  
[BluegrassClub.com](http://BluegrassClub.com)



- 18 Mar 20 April Cars and Coffee\*, Westport Plaza I-270 & Page Blvd.**
- 21 Apr 58th Annual Forest Park Easter Concours d'Elegance**, hosted by the Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri. On the Munny upper lot, monitor <http://hccmo.com/easter-concours-delegance-2019/>. The even includes MG-Triumph Challenge X.
- 23 Apr GHA monthly meeting** at Keith Bester's garage. 7 PM, 115 N Sappington Rd, Kirkwood, MO 314-821-2372
- 26-29 Apr The Classic Motorsports Mitty Presented by Hagerty**, Road Atlanta, Braselton, Georgia. This year's featured marque is Alfa Romeo, info at [www.themitty.com/](http://www.themitty.com/).
- 27 Apr Cars & Coffee/St Louis Motor Cars**, 9 Arnage Blvd, Chesterfield, 10 AM-noon. Info at <https://calendar.time.ly/xzi1q8ed/posterboard>.
- 27 Apr Caffeine & Chrome, at Gateway Classic Cars**, 1237 Central Park Dr, O'Fallon, IL, 8:30 AM-Noon. Complementary coffee, donuts and self tours of the showroom. For info, call (618)271-3000.
- 28 Apr BSCC Autocross No. 2, Family Arena**, St Charles, show about 9:30 AM.
- 3 May 8th Annual Union Methodist Church Car Cruise**, 5:30 PM-8:30 M, UUMC rear upper parking lot at 721 E Main St, Belleville. 50/50 drawing, food available, no alcohol or burnouts. For info call (618)235-3959.
- 3 May Memories Car Club Cruise at Faith Church**, aka "The Zoo," first Friday of each month. Rahning Rd off MO 30/Gravois, 4 PM-9 PM, all vehicles '79 or older are welcome.
- 3 May Kirkwood Sonic Car Cruise, at Big Bend and S Kirkwood**, every Friday night through the end of September. Tends toward muscle cars but foreign vehicles are welcome!
- 4 May St Louis Triumph Owners Association Tech Session**, at It's Alive Automotive, 11714 St Charles Rock Rd, 10 AM. Lunch follows at Bus Loop Burgers, "The Best Damn Burgers in Town," 10462 St Charles Rock Rd. For more info contact Steve Moore at (314)249-4701 or [myredtr6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:myredtr6@sbcglobal.net).
- 4 May Rockwood Summit High School Car Show**, hosted by the RSHS Biodiesel Club. Registration at 7:30 AM at 1780 Hawkins Rd, Fenton. Registration forms at <http://rshsbiodiesel.weebly.com>, or call (314)3060-0289 for info.
- 4 May Cars & Coffee West/Sunrise Church**, 7116 Twin Chimneys Blvd, O'Fallon, MO, 8 AM-10 AM. Info at <https://calendar.time.ly/xzi1q8ed/posterboard>.
- 4 May 19th Annual Elsberry Classics on Wheels Car Show**, 9 AM-3 PM, Elsberry City Park (4th & Broadway). Registration: \$20, 9 AM-Noon, judging Noon- 2 PM, awards at 3 PM. Dash plaques to the first 75 cars registered, or more info contact Michael Short at [mshort17@hotmail.com](mailto:mshort17@hotmail.com) or (636)577-2514.
- 11 May Cars & Coffee/Fast Lane Classic Cars**, 427 Little Hills Industrial Blvd, St Charles. Hosted by Fast Lane, C&C St Louis, the Bridge Coffee House and the Dokaj Foundation, 8 AM-10 AM. Info at <https://calendar.time.ly/xzi1q8ed/posterboard>.
- 18 May Cars and Coffee\*, Westport Plaza I-270 & Page Blvd.**

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