



Side Curtain News

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 2

MAR 2020

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

Gateway Healey Association St. Louis, MO



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Rumblings

What is this? A newsletter 2 months in a row? Well we will see if this stays a trend but maybe it will. Anyway there is stuff to get out there. The Valentine's day party was a hit. There were a lot of couples there and it was a great time. Hat's off to Marilyn setting this up. Cars and Coffee will be starting soon and Dennis Dowell was rattling off a bunch of car events coming up that Sean had written down. Sean was not able to come so his dad was filling in. The big show coming up is the Easter Car Show and of course the GHA Wash Up—Tune Up the day before. See the newsletter for information on that and the St. Louis Sports Car Council Gateway Relay for great information.



Me and my better half at
the Valentines day dinner

Car project Status:

Well, I am pretty much ready for an engine. There are a few things I am working on like painting the drive shaft and the seat frames. The wiring harness all checked out and everything seems to be ready. I did notice that my fuel sender seems to need a little calibration. I may work on that over the next week or so while I am waiting.

My engine has been a real bear. It has been about 6 months since I started the engine rebuild phase. I hear this is not unusual since there are fewer machine shops now and the demand seems to still be high. Phase 2 Machine Shop in Crestwood is nearing completion of the block after it needed to be resleaved. This engine must have really gone through a lot. More than I ever knew. Surprising since it did not run that bad. So now the crank has been conditioned, the cam profiled, and the pistons and rods balanced. While the block is nearly done—hopefully, the head is DOA. After Phase 2 did a cleaning and magnaflux a fatal crack was found. I was able to locate another AEC-721 head for my engine and it will come ready to bolt on. Not cheap but at least done. Hopefully I will have good news on this front in the next edition. All I need to do is add some gold plating to the engine and it will be about right. I hope to have more pictures next time on this project.

Phil Ellerbrock, GHA SCN Editor



GHA Meeting: 4th Tuesday of the Month, 7 PM at Keith Bester's
115 N Sappington Road, Kirkwood MO 314-821-2372



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

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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.

Members and Guests at the February meeting

Dennis Dowell Richard Etz Phil Ellerbrock Jim Reiter Keith Bester
Bob McElwee

February Meeting Minutes

No meeting minutes. But great discussions about car shows, the new Corvette, and vintage watches.

Events calendar in the St. Louis Sports Car Council Gateway Relay at-
www.stlsc.org



Hosted by the Tampa Bay
Austin-Healey Club
May 17-21, 2020



On-line credit card or Pay Pal registrations are required. No mail-in registrations or checks accepted. Registration required to obtain password for special hotel group rates and reservation phone number.

Register today at <http://tbahc.com>

**CARS
COFFEE**



St. Louis, Mo.

2020 SEASON

Saturdays 8:30 am - 10:30 am

April 18, May 16th, June 20th, July 18, August 15, September 19th, October 17th



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.

2020 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 11th**, starting at 10:30 AM, for some socializing with other British car enthusiast among other classic beauties.

If your car is not to be "displayed" please park across the street at the school. *Please bring a covered dish/desert. Suggested donation \$5.00 per person.*



THE HORSELESS CARRIAGE CLUB OF MISSOURI, Inc.

EASTER SUNDAY – April 12, 2020

59th Annual "Concours d'Elegance"
FOREST PARK – ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

All Cars Must be 25 years old or older (1993 or Earlier)

For more information visit <http://hccmo.com/>



Gateway Healey Valentines Day Dinner *Sunday February 9th*

CJ Muggs—Webster Groves, 101 W Lockwood



Miscellaneous Ramblings By Richard Etz



“Adjust that right-hand mirror for me, Sue.” “How do I do it, there should be a lever somewhere”: my sister was confused. “Crank down the window and grab the mirror and turn.” Travel back in time to those simpler days when you moved a mirror with your bare hands by attending some vintage car events this April. I have included some pictures from last year’s events to stimulate interest. First up, will be the Memories Car Club Cruise on April 3. This is held in Fenton at Faith Church. Show cars prior to 1979 go around to the back lot and pull right in. Spectators may park on the front lot. Nicknamed “the zoo,” it really isn’t that hard to manage. Last year I arrived at 5 PM and drove right in and parked. The fellow parked beside me had lined up at 2 PM to get in at 4 PM when the cruise opened. Suffice to say, arrive at five or six or six thirty and it will be OK. Next is our club wash-up, tune up, on the eleventh. At one time this involved adjustment of carburetors and so on. Lately, it is more social, with lots of eating and club members tuning themselves up on some beers. Be there! The Easter Car Show follows the next day and is arguably the highlight of the St. Louis car season. Held on the Muny upper lot in Forest Park, it is a tradition that goes back to the early 1960s. How about a Healey display this year? On the lower Muny lot is a hot rod show which is termed “The Real Easter Show.” This consists of a varied collection of rat rods, customs, and drag racers, accompanied by the soothing sounds of huge stereo woofers and muffler free lake pipes. The following Saturday is the Westport Cars and Coffee Cruise, which traditionally has drawn Healey Club members and their cars. Vehicles on display can include historic cars, modern cars, fire trucks, and exotics, often representing car clubs that you may have never imagined. Step back to a time when the stylist was king and cars were more exciting than your average vacuum cleaner!

The Corvette Loses Its Stick Shift

Our esteemed newsletter editor spotted a new mid-engined Corvette on the road recently. He was positively impressed. Club members have expressed disappointment that a manual transmission was no longer offered.

Some of us just liked the feel and control offered by this obsolete set up. My wife felt as if she were part of an exclusive club when driving a stick shift car. Back in the prehistoric days of 2018, there were reports of a GM patent application for an electronic clutch system. It was speculated that such a system would be perfect for a mid-engined set-up. (see [Jalopnik](#), *GM new patent could be used to do a manual mid-engined Corvette*, Sept. 21, 2018; [Road & Track](#), *GM clutch by wire patent could mean a manual transmission for the mid-engined Corvette*, Sept. 21, 2018) As it turns out, Chevrolet has sold out all the first year’s production anyway, so why bother with a stick option? [Torque News](#), quoted engineer Tadge Juechter in saying that C7 (the previous generation) stick shift sales accounted for only 15% of the total (July 28, 2019). Sounds like the manual is, indeed, dead.

