

Conclave continued: Gymkhana on Monday

Monday at Conclave 2012: Submitted by Tim Ross

The gymkhana for the 2012 Louisville conclave was conducted by our OVAHC members. Just about all our members who attended the conclave helped with the setup, running and cleanup at the nice site at the E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park. Don started the night before by closing off the area with cones, posters, and caution tape. When we started Monday morning at 7 am, we had a clear lot. With the arrival of the trailer, all hands set efficiently to unpacking and setting up the timing and scoring shelters and setting the course with cones and chalk. A few test runs with Don behind the wheel, the Duffeys and Jacobs staffing the control tent, and with Dale getting the first few groups set up to run, we were ready at our designated starting time of 9 am.



The course started with a tight right 120 degree turn, but since it was first gear, not too bad. There was a nice flow in and out of the center of the parking lot, but a deceptive right in the middle of the course and another deceptive left just before the finish light made for some over steering excitement for most. We saw plenty of effects from a half tank of gas, low tire pressure, and slow hands on the wheel. Nobody damaged a wheel on the curbs, but many seemed to be misfiring after their third run. We kept the cars ready to run in 4-car groups, with each car completing their three runs in one session. Then they could reload the boot, and park in an adjacent area to spectate or depart. The continuous flow of cars up from the conclave seemed to fit well with the available paddock space and the need for fresh Healeys to be flogged.

The nimble Sprites enjoyed the course the most. The 28.81 second FTD was a flat black painted, forced-induction Sprite. As the morning warmed-up, the big Healey times seemed to get longer. It may have been an advantage to have arrived and ran early. After all the cars ran, around noon, Bluegrass had bags of box lunches delivered. After the last remaining stragglers ran we repacked the trailer (maybe not as neatly as it was packed by Bob Duffey, but it looked great in the fresh white paint). The best times and awards of our OVAHC members follow. (I did not have my BJ7, so I was classified as a BJ9 / Miata but did manage a decent 29.40 exhibition time).

Women's Modified Sprite class – First Place award – Pat Duffey, with a time of 32.23 seconds

Men's Modified Sprite – Award of Merit – Jake Jacobs, 30.00

Men's Modified Sprite – Second Place – Jeff Porada 29.09

Tricarb Prepared – First Place – Don Klein, 30.02

Jensen Healey Stock - First Place - Dale Ballinger, 30.05.

One amazing part of the day was when "GRACE" with John behind the wheel ran the track with riders for a number of thrill runs. The Andorn children, Bob Duffey, and Ben Moore took advantage of this once in a lifetime experience. Job well done OVAHC!

