

# OVAHC

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<http://OhioValleyAHC.com>

# NEWSLEAK

## MARCH minutes

April 2013

The OVAHC March meeting was held at Ron's Machine Shop / Salty Dog Racing Museum in Shandon, Ohio on Saturday, March 9, 2013. We had 16 members, one Jensen-Healey, one BJ-8 and one Bugeye Sprite attending. We also had a Mini, a BMW, a Cadillac powered Pontiac Fiero, a Chevy Corvette, a Lexus, and normal cars and SUVs. Ron Miller provided coffee and mini powdered donuts, yum! We took a tour at 11:30 AM of the machine shop where they rebuilt old engines and forge their own bearings. They had a straight 8 engine, many model T & A & B engines, and others like an Earl, which we never heard of.

A little after noon, the meeting was opened by President Jon Andorn. He thanked Ron Miller, BJ, and Mark Radtke for hosting the meeting, followed by a cloud of white dust from our powdered sugary hands. Jon had no additional remarks.

V P: Dale Ballinger passed a hat around for donations to the wonderful museum.

Treasurer/Membership: Pat Duffey is basking in the Florida sunshine.

Secretary: Reportedly, Nancy Hall is enjoying bicycle touring in Fort Myers, Florida.

Club Historian: Likely kayaking in temperate Floridian waters.

Editor: Mary Ann Grabow is absent, busy with her grandkids or shopping no doubt.

Delegate: Don Klein is attending a AHCA leadership meeting.

Activities Coordinator: Dale Ballinger announced future events: The next activity (not a Club event), is the Leprechaun Run on Saturday, April 6 at 1:00 PM. Skip Jackson and the Ross duo are our two representatives as far as we know. Springthing is upcoming May 16-18 and Dale said it is time to register. Concours D'Elegance in Ault Park contacted Skip and we are expected to get special parking near the front admission gate on Sunday, June 9. They also have a countryside tour event Saturday the day before. More info about this premier car show at: <http://www.ohioconcours.com>. Ken Kreuter announced the date for the annual Rising Sun Car Show is to be Sunday, July 7, 2013. This will be an officially encouraged OVAHC event. We will caravan in so we can park together and end up in the shade. The proceeds go to the high school band. Many cars, food, and music. Wednesday, July 31 is a free event in the streets of Columbus, Ohio. "Rally for the Ranch" will display 30 million dollars worth of Indy race cars and other show cars. They raise funds for underprivileged children. If there is interest we will make this a casual drive up and back. Skip stated that John and Grace are interested in what we are doing in regard to August the 11 for Cancer Awareness. If we inform him of our intentions, he may drop by to visit.

Technical Support: Bernie Grabow informed, Skip Jackson's Bugeye was running as evidenced by looking outside in the parking lot. Tim Ross's transmission is on Richard Pratt's workbench awaiting synchronizers. Former Club member Tom Osborne, with renewed Healey interest, has a request for assistance to get his Healey back on the road. He dropped in Skip's shop Friday and made a list of parts which Richard declared as necessary. Tom is on Spring break next week and would like to schedule some work. He is also interested in rejoining the club. (Tom did 3 180+ MPH laps at Indy last summer.) Dale added that Tom announced his son, Patrick Osborne was a 2013 Oscar winner for best short film "The Paperman" in which he did the animation. Contact Bernie if you want to schedule any work. His son Ben Grabow has purchased a 1967 AH square body Sprite and has written a check to rejoin the OVAHC.

Old Business: The OVAHC is still exploring the possibility of hosting the 2016 Conclave. John Jacobs IV attended and reported on the newest developments. He found three area hotels which fit the requirements. He asked for a small group of volunteers to join his feasibility com-

# MARCH MINUTES CONTINUED

mittee. Two have volunteered and more are needed. Contact him at [johnjacobs1982@yahoo.com](mailto:johnjacobs1982@yahoo.com) or 513-310-9426 and he will pick the committee. Bernie asked and received assurances that this is an exploratory committee and not a final group,. This means our club is not committed at this time. John added that they have us penciled in for 2016. This would be our 30th anniversary of Cincinnati Conclave 1986. Ken Kreuter shed some light on the procedures, and indicated that we are looking at a long approval process. He warned time will fly by for John and everyone involved if we indeed vote to host and are accepted by the AHCA.

New Business: Club Autocross dates are May 26, June 23, July 14, Sept 1, and Sept 29 all Sunday dates. We need to designate one a women's day. It probably should be one of the early ones so they come back for the later ones. Bobbi Ross will take our dates today to the Mini Club meeting. After the meeting, we will caravan to lunch at Eli's Sports Bar & Grill nearby. Bob Merten announced that he has taken over mailing of the hard copy Newsleaks. He had some extra copies on hand.

President Jon Andorn adjourned the meeting and again thanked Ron's Machine shop and Mark Radtke for hosting the meeting, followed by rousing applause. Skip and Joan Jackson will host the April meeting. After the meeting, we drove to Eli's Sports Bar & Grill nearby and Joan Jackson joined us for lunch.

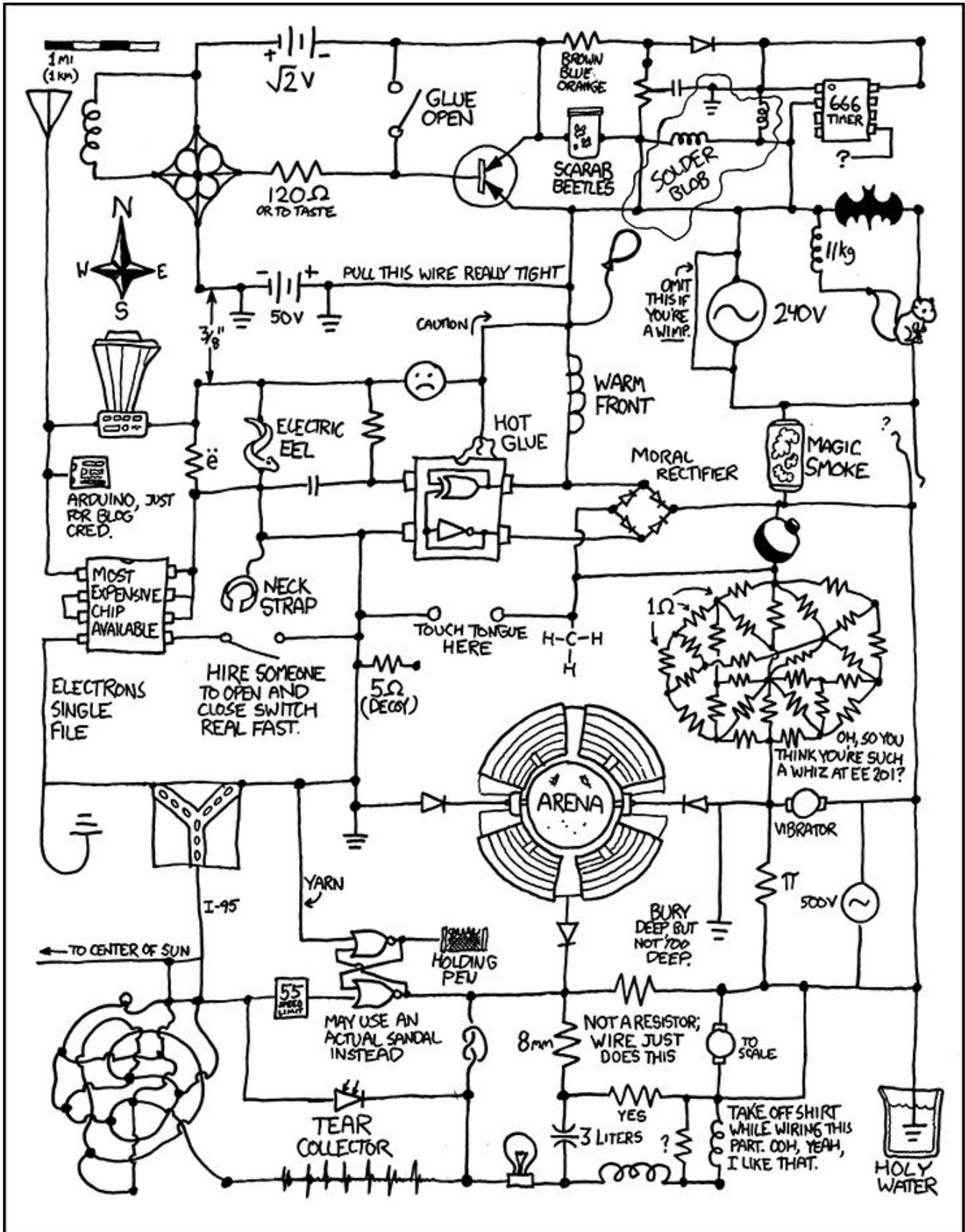


Submitted by acting secretary Dale, for Stand-in Secretary Cindy Loos, for the **real deal** Nancy Hall.

## CALENDAR

- April 6.....Annual Leprechaun run [www.cincysportscar.com](http://www.cincysportscar.com)
- April 8.....Meeting at Skip Jackson's (Monday evening)
- May 16-19..... Springthing
- May 26.....Gymkhana
- June 23.....Gymkhana
- June 28.....Mid Ohio Vintage Races weekend
- July 14.....Gymkhana
- August 3..... British Car Show, Dayton, Ohio
- September 1.....Gymkhana
- September 20-22.....September Round Up Holiday Inn 707 N. High St., Worthington, OH
- September 29.....Gymkhana
- October 13.....Spring Grove car show
- October 20..... Herbst tour and OVAHC drive, Camp Springs, KY

Have you ever struggled with trying to understand the wiring diagram in your Austin Healey shop manual? Here is a very easy to understand key to the symbols included in your wiring diagram.





# SpringThing

*Join us May 16-19, 2013!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Car 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Car 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first SpringThing? YES NO

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration - \$60 (includes two adults)

\_\_\_\_\_ Claudia Sanders Dinner House - \$25 (per person)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Bluegrass Austin-Healey Club

Mail registration and payment to:

Mike Schneider  
3416 Barbour Lane  
Louisville, KY 40241

For more information visit,  
[www.BluegrassClub.com](http://www.BluegrassClub.com) or  
email [Ben.Moore@mac.com](mailto:Ben.Moore@mac.com) or call  
(502) 797-5652.

Thursday & Friday - \$80  
Holiday Inn Express - Shelbyville  
110 Club House Drive, Shelbyville, KY  
(502) 647-0109

Saturday - \$80  
Best Western Parkside Inn - Frankfort  
80 Chenault Road Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 695-6111

# APRIL MEETING — SKIP JACKSON'S [3240 Koenig](#)



Directions to the Jackson meeting:

Take I-75 to just north of Cincinnati  
Take exit 4 to merge onto I-74 West  
After only 1.9 miles take exit 17 for Montana Avenue  
Turn left onto Montana Avenue and go 2 miles  
Turn left onto Epworth Avenue and go 0.1 miles  
Epworth Avenue is just past Harrison Avenue  
Public Library of Cincinnati is on the corner  
Turn left onto Daytona Avenue and go 0.1 mile  
Daytona Avenue is just past Hope Lane  
Turn right onto Koenig Avenue and go under one tenth mile  
3240 Koenig Avenue is on the left  
Your destination is at the end of Koenig Avenue

Using I-275 take exit # 28 for I-74 East towards Cincinnati.  
Go 5.1 miles more and take exit # 14 for North Bend Road.  
(Don't try to use Montana Avenue now because there is no exit from this direction.)  
Turn right to go south/west on North Bend Road for 1.6 miles.  
Turn left onto Westwood Northern Blvd and go 0.3 miles.  
UNITED DAIRY FARMERS #86 is on the corner  
Turn slight right onto Boudinot Avenue and go 1.0 mile.  
Turn left onto Montana Avenue and go 0.2 mile.  
Turn right onto Epworth Avenue and go 0.1 mile.  
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County is on the right.  
Turn left onto Daytona Avenue and go 0.1 mile.  
Daytona Avenue is just past Hope Lane.  
Turn right onto Koenig Avenue and go under one tenth mile

# ACTIVITIES:

The Annual Leprechaun Run 7 will be Saturday, April 6, 2013. (This was originally scheduled Sat, March 23rd at our planning meeting) It will start at Fuel Coffee 2726 Riverside Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. This is an annual club event with other car enthusiasts from the Cincinnati area. There is a registration fee of \$25.00 which will benefit the League for Animal Welfare. Details to pay for your registration can be found on line .....

For more information and discussion, you can find us here on:  
[cincysportscar.com](http://cincysportscar.com)

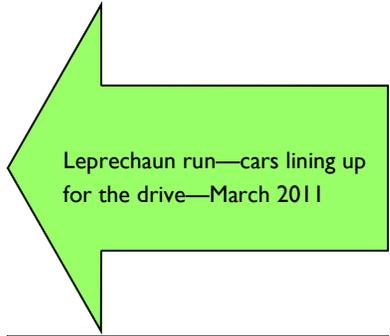
**NOTE:** Only accepting registration for 50 cars so send in your reservation ASAP



Please consider this your formal invitation to join us on the back roads for the seventh running of our annual Saint Patrick's Day celebration known as the Leprechaun Run Road Rally. This rally is a charity fundraiser for a fabulous animal shelter in Clermont County known as the League for Animal Welfare and ALL makes & models of automobiles are invited to participate.

Saturday  
 April 6, 2013  
 1 PM  
**Fuel Coffee Cincinnati**  
 2726 Riverside Dr  
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Wondering what this rally is all about? First, take a nice, long back roads drive with your fellow motoring buddies. Second, catch the Leprechaun. Bring a co-pilot and have them take the quiz as you motor along. The one with the most questions correct at the end gets to take home our Leprechaun "idol" for an entire year.



Ladies, if a man says he will fix it, he will. There is no need to remind him every 6 months about it.  
Visit A Man's Point Of View at [www.facebook.com/WomenAndDating](http://www.facebook.com/WomenAndDating)



Advertisement

# CAUGHT IN THE ACT



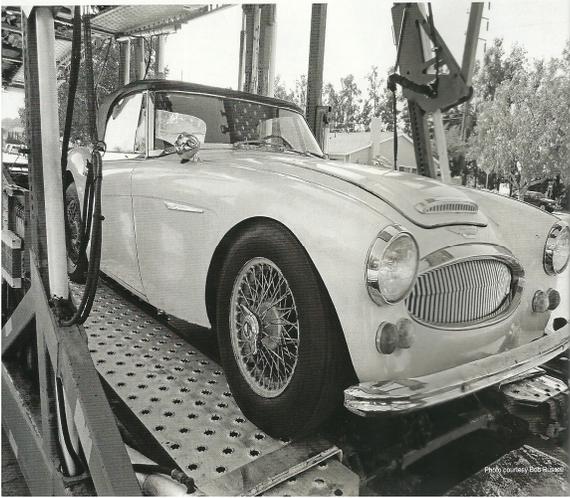
Dale Ballinger arranged for the March meeting to be held at Ron's Machine Shop in Shandon, Ohio. The members enjoyed a tour of a Model A (and others) museum at the shop...held the meeting there, and then enjoyed lunch.



## MEETINGS 2013

April—Jackson  
May—Chamberlain  
June 9 Saturday — (progressive dinner)

July—Cox  
August—Hall  
September—Loos  
October—Parrott  
November—Andorn  
December 14—Christmas Party @ Grabow



After 42 Years, a Stolen Austin-Healey  
Is Back Where It Belongs  
By John Webber  
From Issue January 2013 of *Classic Motorsports*

### Part 3

Working several fronts at once, Bob had contacted Steve Byers of the BJ8 Registry. "Steve interpreted all sorts of data and answered all kinds of questions for me," he says. Byers also explained how Bob's numbered ignition key matched the British Motor Heritage Trust Report for his VI N. "From the start," Bob says, "Steve's encouragement gave me the motivation to continue."

Bob's negotiations with the dealership reached a stalemate. Since his copy of the 42-year-old theft report was missing, he assumed he would be unable to prove his car stolen. Seeking advice, he called a friend—a retired New York state policeman. Thinking like a cop, his friend suggested that Bob attempt to get the Philadelphia Police Department to issue a new stolen car report. That way, the claim could proceed as a criminal case. But after 42 years and many record purges, this seemed highly unlikely. That's when luck again stepped in, or as Bob calls it, "ridiculously good fortune." He managed to get in touch with a civilian in the Philadelphia Police Department who was willing to search the National Crime Information Center for an archived report. This was no easy task, as fruitless searches finally revealed that the theft record was listed not under the car's VIN, not under Bob's name, but under "AUHE," an obscure abbreviation for Austin-Healey, Bingo.

Armed with a copy of this archived report, Bob again called the Philadelphia police. Again, he lucked out, working with a couple of veteran officers, Detective Walt Bielski and Lieutenant Fred McQuiggan. According to Bob, these cops went above and beyond the call of duty to dig further, this time into the FBI's computerized files, where Fred found the stolen Healey's VIN had been entered in 1970 with a number transposed. When this was corrected; they were finally able to re-list the car as stolen. They immediately contacted the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office with the now-active stolen car report.

Bob puts it this way: "After weeks of ups and downs, the case turned in 10 minutes."

Bob's good fortune with police had continued on the West Coast. From early in the game, he had been in contact with yet another responsive and helpful police officer, Detective Carlos Ortega of the auto theft division of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department. Armed with the active theft report, Carlos quickly set the wheels of justice in motion—and this time the wheels were driving a rollback. The sheriff's department impounded the Healey. Carlos called Bob: "We've got the car," he said. "When can you be here?"

Soon Bob and Cindy were headed to L.A. They walked into the impound lot with mixed emotions—the car was looking pretty sad. Bob approached his Healey for the first time in four decades, clutching the keys he had kept all those years. "I got in, stuck my key in the ignition, turned it and it started right up." Without a doubt, this was his car. Cue the blinding light and heavenly music. What did Bob feel? "Overwhelming relief," he recalls. Cindy agrees. "It was an emotional roller coaster," she says. "There were times when I thought, 'He's not going to survive this.' Some days we felt we were just going around and around. But he would just not give up."

The car was basically intact—one tire was flat—but the Healey had been badly neglected. No doubt it had spent years in storage, as the odometer showed it had been driven only 10,000 miles since it was stolen. A closer inspection revealed that the car's VIN plate was missing, the corresponding number stamped on the frame had been ground off, the trunk lock had been changed and the glove box lock was gone. Bob gladly paid \$600 in impoundment fees, plus \$800 to ship his car to Texas. In all, he figures he spent about \$2500 to get the Healey back, close to what he paid for it in 1969. Of course, this is a fraction of the "discounted" price the dealership wanted him to pay for his car.

To be continued.....