

Springthing report

On Palindrome Week, a beautiful morning for a Healey back roads ride aall the waay, y'all, to Goodlettsville, TN to....
.....SpringThing 2015!

Thursday, May 14

After Starbucks, bourbon balls and jellied toast, graciously provided by Dale and Sandy Ballinger, the five-vehicle caravan departed from their home at 9:40 am. Under a misty blue sky etched with wispy clouds and a crisp 56 degrees, we're headed to the annual "rites of Spring" event; this year hosted by the Bluegrass AH Club partnered with Middle Tennessee AH Club Volunteer members. The 4 Healey/I BJ9 group, led by Dale and Sandy in a rolling queue, were Scott and Eileen Brown, Bernie and Mary Ann Grabow, Gayle and Cindy Loos, and Skip and Joan Jackson closing the rear.

We enjoyed scenic rural views of Spring-fresh vegetation in hues of greens brightening the countryside along with sunny yellow fields of yarrow. We passed through many small and always interesting quaint towns along US-127 South, Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort, to the Bluegrass Parkway West. We exited to 555 South under a now cloudless, partly sunny sky. Near Springfield, we lunched on Mexican fare at Los Mariachis—good break, good food. Due to construction on I-65, our route changed to all back roads, beginning on US-68 West. Lebanon, KY was particularly appealing, with many stately 19th century Victorian and Italianate-style homes lining our route through the town. By mid-afternoon, with a warming 75 degrees, all tops were now down. Good road and a landscape dotted with continuous lush green trees covering rolling hillsides. Bright-to-anemic sunshine kept our cruising climate comfortable. Next Campbellsville and a time change to CDT near a very attractive Greensburg, headed to the Louie B. Nunn/Cumberland Parkway. At Glasgow, KY we take US 31E South. Along the way, wafts of pine and freshly-mowed grass scent the air under a cloudless sky that gives way to dappled white puffs. We passed a shimmering Barren River Lake, continuing on the Lincoln Heritage Highway's smooth, scenic road with miles of tree-lined corridors. On the outskirts of Goodlettsville on 386 South/Johnny Cash Parkway, nature's sensory delights gave way to more urban scents of exhaust fumes, strip malls, box stores and multi-lanes of traffic. It was a welcome arrival at 4:30 pm (CDT) at the LaQuinta host hotel where we met with our northern OVAHC members, Bob and Pat Duffey, Tom and Nancy Hall and Jake and Joyce Jacobs. For us, an 8-hour trip-with-stops, an enjoyable motor touring day, and always thankful-- incident-free for all.

Friday, May 15

After breakfast at La Quinta, we departed for the Lane Motor Museum in Nashville. This museum has the largest European collection in the U.S.. There definitely was a seemingly endless number of unique cars (many micro-sized), motorcycles, bikes, several airplanes, and a gigantic (9-ft. high tires) 1959 amphibious military vehicle. We also had a "behind-the scenes" guided tour of the basement shop that included even more rare cars. Next we visited Antique Archaeology Nashville, a store that showcases "finds" and souvenirs of Frank and Mike from the History Channel show "American Pickers". Too bad for us, they were out "picking". This, along with other unique shops, is housed in a turn-of-the-century automobile factory. Dale and Bernie discovered the Grinder Switch Winery Shop, spending much time in serious sampling prior to making their purchase decisions. A short, busy downtown Nashville drive away was Centennial Park and The Parthenon.

This structure is the world's only full-scale reproduction of the famous Greek temple. It's amazing to know that the actual structure, with its incredible magnitude and architectural detail, was completed in 438 B.C..



Springthing report cont.

Ready for a relaxed evening of conversation and dining, our party of 16 departed for Woody's Steak House. Woody's delivered tasty cuisine and great service for our large group. We enjoyed the company of Mid-Ohio AHC members, Jerry and Peggy Spurlock. Our next evening activity was the Funkhana, creatively designed, directed and supervised by OVAHC's Scott Brown, with assistance from Eileen Brown and Bob Thurman. The "Grandparents" theme provided a fun, extremely humorous time for both participants and spectators (ask Scott about SpongeBob). We closed the evening with lots of hospitality overflowing in the Hospitality Room.



Saturday, May 16

Unfortunately, the morning of the Car Show ranged from sprinkles to downpours, requiring a change in venue from Moss Wright Park to the La Quinta parking lot. Since voting was based on car color only, the vote was undeterred by no open bonnets or trunks (some cars even Healey garage-covered), but it sure made it a lot less interesting. As it often seems to happen, by late morning the wet grey skies cleared to cloudy dry ones.



Our group motored to Springfield, TN for an exceptionally delicious lunch at The Depot Bar and Grill. As this was an actual train depot next to train tracks, we were in close view of many speedy trains pulling lots of interesting cars. With a 6" x 4" decadent Snicker pie on his plate, Bernie received a rousing "Happy Birthday" chorus. What a great way to spend a birthday! After lunch, a visit to the Fabric Shop for two, a walk around the town for another twosome, and a return to The Depot B & G for another two (guess who). Some of our group headed for Willie Nelson & Friends Museum and General Store. Others visited the Brights Metal company for a tour. All reported "interesting and enjoyed".

That evening we all gathered for the Banquet. Jim French auctioned off several signed posters and a signed, numbered print of the Healey Streamliner on the Bonneville Salt Flats of Utah that received lots of lively bidding. Many silent auction items, a healthy-size split-the pot winner, and a Healey sign winner were announced. The OVAHC swept the Blue Car awards with 1st place to Bernie Grabow, 2nd place to Gayle Loos and 3rd place to Bob Duffey. Bob and Pat Duffey won 2nd place for their Funkhans spry "Grandparents" speediness. Jake Jacobs was happy to reconfigure his Healey packing to include the large Healey lighted sign he won. Tom Hall was surprised with a "Happy Birthday" chorus sung by all Banquet attendees. The 2015 Southeastern Classic September 24-27, in Sevierville, TN was presented along with our very own Business Manager, Jake Jacobs "working the crowd" to anticipate and participate in our 2016 Conclave. Thanks to Jake, many Conclave-preview handouts were everywhere!



Sunday, May 17

After our La Quinta breakfast, we said final goodbyes and thanks to our Healey hosts and friends. Dale and Sandy departed earlier for a faster return via interstate. Our northern OVAHC group, Tom and Nancy Hall, Bob and Pat Duffey and Jake and Joyce Jacobs left later. A four-car caravan led by Gayle and Cindy Loos with Bernie and Mary Ann Grabow, Scott and Eileen Brown and Bluegrass AHC member Jim Werner, headed for US-31E North for a back roads return. At Bardstown, KY, Jim Werner waved goodbye while the rest of the group enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Talbott Tavern (est. 1792). All agreed this town, with its many attractions, would be a fun destination for a Healey road trip weekend. Nearing our home routes, we waved goodbyes, taking with us memories of good times, places and attractions especially enjoyed with so many other fellow Healeyites.

THANKS TO ALL OUR SPRINGTHING HOSTS!

Springthing Funkhana



The weather was clear and cool Thursday morning when we left the hospitality of the Ballinger's and headed for Goodlettsville, TN. Our small group of fun seekers were Dale and Sandy Ballinger, Gayle and Cindy Loos, Bernie and MaryAnn Grabow, Skip and Joan Jackson, and Scott and Eileen Brown. The 300 mile trip, filled with great scenery, was uneventful except for Dale changing out the coil in his Jensen at the Mexican restaurant lunch stop and the sun/windburn that was felt that evening. The second group of OVAHC members (Jacobs, Duffy's', and Halls) arrived at the hotel about the same time as we did. The hospitality suite at the hotel was filled with food and drink when we arrived and stayed that way for the rest of the event.

Friday morning was the trip to the Lane Motor Museum which was unlike any other car museum you have been to. It was filled with an eclectic mix of unlikely cars that both left you in awe and also shaking your head - what were they thinking? The afternoon allowed a choice of many different driving tours or shopping in town. That evening was the Funkhana which featured equal portions of precision driving, athletic ability, and humiliation to the theme of a day in the life of grandparents. Participants had lot of fun as well as the loud cheering section on the sidelines.

Saturday's car show at the park got changed to the hotel parking lot as some unwelcome rain persisted. The show still went on and voting was done by car color which proved to be a welcome change. That afternoon we had an opportunity to tour the Brite Metals chrome restoration shop in Franklin, KY -the process in very labor intensive and now I have a new appreciation for why it costs so much - I still don't like how much it costs, but I can appreciate it now.

Saturday night was the banquet with the awards and the results of the silent auction. After more good food and drink, OVAHC cleaned up on the awards:

Bernie and MaryAnn Grabow - 1st place in blue car class

Gayle and Cindy Loos - 2nd place in blue car class

Bob and Pat Duffey - 3rd place in blue car class

Dale and Sandy Ballinger - 3rd place in red car class

Bob and Pat Duffey - 2nd place in Funkhana

As usual, Springthing was a great event with lots of Healey friends from all over and left us wondering what great location would be chosen for next year. The trip home was again uneventful except for more sunburn.