



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

# Side Curtain News



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MAR 2017

## Gateway Healey Association St. Louis, MO

### Rumblings

Holy Cow!

Car cruising season is here already! A couple of years ago when I was a boy, we were ice skating on Willmore Park Lake at this time of year! The Westport car cruise has been moved forward two months. As a result the first one of the season took place on February 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a party like atmosphere with a huge crowd. Note the flat-bed truck filled with young people in one picture! Many of the cars were late models that weren't as appealing to me, but it is great to see such interest in the hobby from younger generations. The usually robust British car contingent was much smaller than usual, but it was an opportunity to branch out and meet enthusiasts of other marques. Since the Triumph is still laid up, the 1968 Corvette was pressed into service. This gave me the chance to meet some Corvette fans with surprising knowledge regarding vintage Corvettes. The 1968 was a transitional model that has many unique features and characteristics. These fellows told me about things that I never knew. For example, who knew that the 1968 hood latches were screwed into fiberglass, while the 1969 latches were affixed to a metal plate? Or that original hubcaps are die cast metal while replacements are plastic and half an inch shorter. And on and on. They confirmed my suspicions that my Vette is a largely original unrestored car. Some British highlights included David C.'s beautiful TR4 and a 2004 Noble that is owned by a fellow named Mike. The Noble is a low production mid-engined sports car that claims British origin. It uses a Ford V6 that is turbocharged. It was shipped in two crates: one with the complete body; another with the drivetrain. This makes it a kit car that is exempt from crash standards. I also ran across one of our MIA members, Shane, who drove his excellent white over blue Healey.



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The Triumph Polar Bear Run was held on February 19. It is named for the adverse conditions generally encountered at this time of year. As we enjoyed seventy-degree weather, John L. and I reminisced about sliding on icy hills on past Polar runs. Thirty-four cars arrived at our lunch spot. After sitting for a few months, cars can get cantankerous. The first couple of miles were littered with breakdowns, so the actual number of cars that started the cruise is unknown.

In GHA news, we had a great time at the February 12 Valentine's Party held at Trailhead Brewery in St. Charles. Good food, good service, and great camaraderie. Thanks to Marilyn for the set-up and Robin who made the excellent cupcakes. I am excited to see RUMP starting on February 22.

Just for fun I suggest that you look at the Internet Movie Car Database ([www.imcdb.org](http://www.imcdb.org)). There is quite an extensive listing of cars in television and movies. For example, The Healey 3000 appears in 194 films, the 100/6 in 53 and the 100/4 in 79.

Hang in there and enjoy. Wash-Up, Tune Up and the Easter Show will be here before you know it!

Richard

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Don't forget to go to the club website!

<http://clubs.hemmings.com/gatewayhealey/>

## Members and Guests at meeting

Keith Bester	Bandit	Jim Reiter	Tom Hartman	Dan Forguson	Jeff Homsher
Richard Etz	Ron Varley	Dave Massey			

## Meeting Minutes

(Courtesy of Jim Reiter)

**Treasury Report** We still have some money. Dan reported we spent \$25.00 more last year than we took in.

**Old Business** Valentine Dinner, Polar Bear Run, Cars and Coffee and RUMP Lunch were all very much fun. Special thanks to all who made these events possible.

**New Business** Gateway Healey will not have a club display at the Easter Car show in Forest Park this year. If you want to enter your car in the car show please call 314 991 HONK.

**Special Congratulations** to Dave Plotke and Keith Bester for being a member of the AHCA for 35 years and to Bob McElwee and Conrad Brown for 40 years.

## Richard's Feb Cars and Coffee, Polar Bear Run and Valentine Dinner pictures



Party Atmosphere at Cars &amp; Coffee



Richard's 1968 Corvette



Corvette Enthusiast Chris



David L's TR4



Mike's 2004 Noble



Wide view of Polar Bear



Polar Bear Run Folks



GHA Valentine Dinner



### Thank You, Roland

One of the most rewarding and most frustrating aspects of the car hobby concerns the search for that one essential part. Another special experience concerns the people you meet (or, in this case, don't meet) through that search. As many of you know, I acquired my 1968 Corvette through happenstance back in 2004. It has proven to be quite an original car. This contrasts to the Vettes that have been assembled from a menagerie of parts after a rough life that consisted of being stolen, stripped, raced, customized, and wrecked. Once I got the car, it had a few niggling repairs before state inspection. The most challenging was the broken directional signal switch. Generally speaking, parts are reproduced for almost every aspect of the vintage Corvette. However, the 1968 directional switch was unique and never reproduced. That switch every between me and state safety inspection and the titling of my car. I searched the internet and called scores of Corvette specialists all over the country. The response became tiresome: "We would only sell it with the whole steering column if we had it, which we don't." Discouraged, I remembered a parts department fellow at Boemler Chevrolet in Arnold. He had found an obscure Malibu part for me about ten years before. It seemed like a long shot that he'd even still work there. I called and asked for Roland. Roland answered and listened to my tale of woe. "Call me back in an hour and a half," he said. It seemed like a waste of time. I called back several times and finally Roland answered. "Hundred dollars" he said. "You mean you have it?" "Hundred dollars, it'll be here tomorrow, bring cash." The next day, Roland had already finished his shift but there was a box at the counter with my name on it. It was an ancient GM box that was crumbling with age. It was apparently factory sealed. I opened the box to find a new old stock directional signal switch. The plastic on the switch had faded to pink. Jubilant, I installed the switch the following weekend. The state inspector said it was an honor to have the car in his shop. That following week I went by Boemler to show Roland my car. I wanted to meet him and thank him. Did I mention that I had never laid eyes on Roland? I parked outside the service department and went to the parts counter. I asked for Roland. "Oh, he retired." I told the parts man about Roland finding the elusive switch. "That's Roland for you" he stated. "Where do you think he got it?" "Heaven knows."

Thanks Roland, wherever you are.

Richard

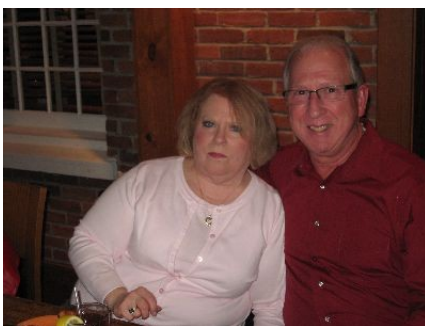
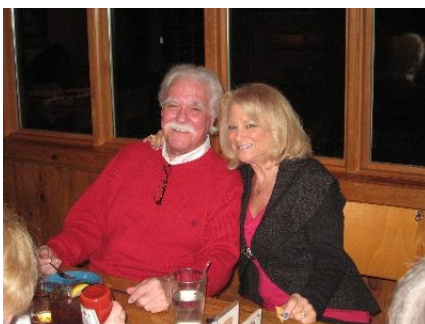
Twenty folks showed up for the annual **GHA Valentine's Day** party which was arranged by our ever so gracious Social Chairperson, Marilyn Salini who not only made all the arrangements, but also did a lovely job of decorating our room and sprinkling the table with Valentine chocolate candies.

The food provided by the Trailhead Brewery was excellent as always. But the really special dining treat was the desert - valentine red chocolate cup cakes lathered with rich butter cream icing compliments of Robin Hurst..

This has become one of our finest GHA traditions and this year we were honored and pleased to have some guests from the Triumph Club.

Thanks to all who participated. If you didn't make it to this one, hopefully we'll see you at the next one.

Ron Varley



## Feb 2017 Cars and Coffee

The first 2017 Cars and Coffee was held on Feb 18 at Westport. Feb is a first also as it usually starts in April. The day was cloudy but very mild. There was a little shower during the night and I did not expect to see a lot of cars. Let me tell you, the lot was full! Following are a few pictures with many more on the GHA Website.

<http://clubs.hemmings.com/gatewayhealey/>



## Feb 2017 RUMP

Eight hearty folks gathered at Cousin Hugo's Restaruant for a great lunch. Present were Keith Bester, Tom Evans, Steve Hurst, Jerold Anna, Bob McElwee, Richard Etz, Jim Reiter and Steve Nelson. The weather was beautiful, 70, food tasty and brew cold. Planning another RUMP lunch for March. Stay tuned.



Keith Bester and Tom Evans



Steve Hurst and Jerold Anna



Bob McElwee and Richard Etz



Jim Reiter and Steve Nelson

## Events

### 2017

### March

Mar 18 8:00-10:30am Cars and Coffee Westport Plaza. I270 and Page

Mar 23 RUMP Lunch Details to follow.

Mar 28 7 PM GHA Monthly Meeting at Keith Bester's Garage, 115 N Sappington Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122. (314) 821-2372

### April

Apr 15 10 am till ? GHA Spring Tune Up Wash Up. Keith's Garage. Bring a dish to share.

Apr 15 8:00-10:30am Cars and Coffee Westport Plaza. I270 and Page

Apr 16 Easter Car Show. Upper Muny Parking Lot, Forest Park. St Louis, MO

**Please note, Gateway Healey will not have a club display at the**

**Easter car show. If you want to enter your car individually, please call**

**314 991 HONK.**

Apr 25 7 PM GHA Monthly Meeting at Keith Bester's Garage, 115 N Sappington Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122. (314) 821-2372

#### **2017 Cars and Coffee**

West Port Plaza I270 and Page

8:00 – 10:00 am

Feb 18  
Mar 18  
Apr 15  
May 20  
June 17

July 15  
Aug 19  
Sept 16  
Oct 21

## From the Boot



As with any LBC project,  
first you need supervisors...MK

Photo by Mark Morgan of Shane Thompson's  
Healey with flat tire

For the weary old winter month of February, Gateway Healey has started 2017 with four outstanding events. First was the Valentine Dinner attended by 20 persons. Second, was the Feb Cars and Coffee, first in February. The entire parking was full of cars. Third, was the RUMP lunch at Cousin Hugo's Restaurant.

Fourth, Mark Morgan reports that 38 cars participated in the 2017 Polar Bear run, one being this red Austin Healey. Does anyone recognize the couple or car? I'm guessing Tom Sontag.



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### Join the Gateway Healey Association

For information contact Dan Forgyson 618.558.3060 or at [aforgus@aol.com](mailto:aforgus@aol.com)