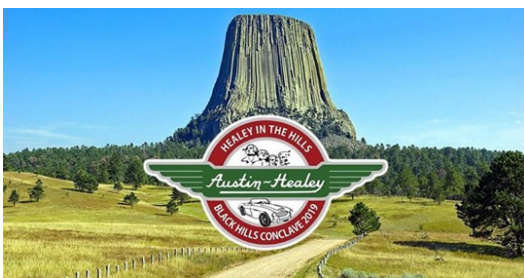
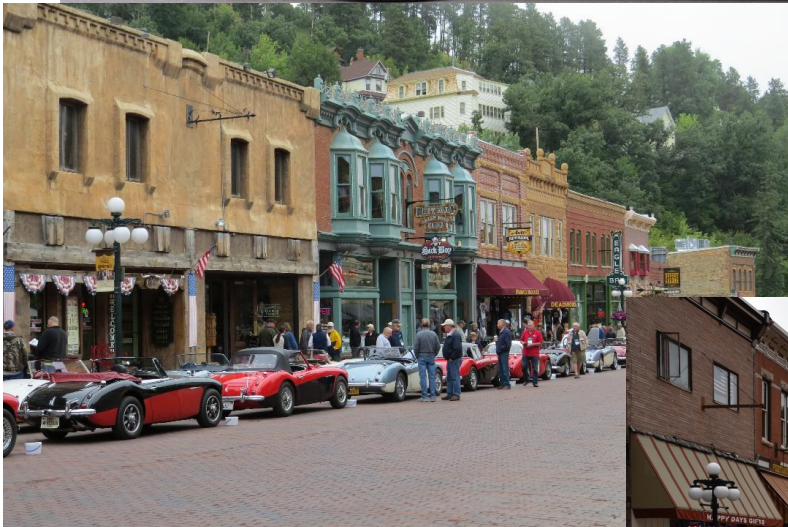


CONCLAVE 2019



Seven vehicles met in the parking lot of the Home Depot in Harrison, OH on Thursday, September 3. The caravan: Joe and Judy Yannone in a "BJ9" (BMW 330ci); Bob and Pat Duffey in their truck with Pat's bugeye on their new trailer; John and Lauren Wallace in their 100-6; Scott Brown (without Eileen) in their BT7; Jeff Porada and Nancy Bacon in Jeff's bugeye; Skip Jackson, route designer, in his bugeye; Tim and Bobbi Ross in their van with Tim's BJ7 on their trailer.



The caravan departed at 10:00 EDT- once Skip's car was push-started! There were stops for gas and potty and for lunch in Brownsburg, IN. We arrived at 4:00 CDT at the Comfort Suites in Peoria, IL, where our eighth vehicle was waiting for us. Nelson Wittstock of Medina, OH with his square-body Sprite on his trailer behind his minivan drove with us the rest of the way.

On Wednesday, September 4, we got up to a beautiful morning for driving. We headed west on I-74 toward Webster City, IA into a strong headwind. We stopped at the World's Largest Truck Stop – Iowa 80. We counted wind turbine blades on really I-o-n-g trucks passing us on the Interstate. The Wallace Healey was misbehaving, requiring a "tech team" intervention at Rock Stop in Steamboat Rock, IA (named for a rock in the nearby Iowa River that looked like a steamboat). The caravan finally got to our hotel shortly before 6:30. Supper was at the Grid Iron, where our walk-in group of 13 was accommodated with good service and good food.



Thursday, September 5, was another pretty day for driving. U.S. 20 across Iowa is definitely farm country! The Wallace 100-6 was still misbehaving, requiring three stops and changing the condenser and coil. We found a very nice rest stop at Holstein, IA. Lunch was at Los Amigos in Elk Point, SD, where not everyone got Mexican food. Dinner was a short walk

away from our Mitchell, SD hotel at the Cattleman's Club Steakhouse.



September 6, Friday, was our last day on the outbound drive and it was another beautiful morning for a drive. Our first stop was The Corn Palace, a basketball and concert venue with serious kitsch! At a gas stop in Chamberlain, we met a group of five Austin Healeys from Wisconsin. The game for the day counting bill boards for Wall Drug (61 today after 12 yesterday). We drove the Badlands National Park loop and those of us in trucks with trailers were wishing we had our Healeys on the ground! Our drive through the Badlands ended at Wall Drug, where we found another Healey – the Nasty Boy of John Jacobs with his Dad's truck and trailer. We crossed paths with them, then headed west. We heard a rumor that someone bought a jackalope.

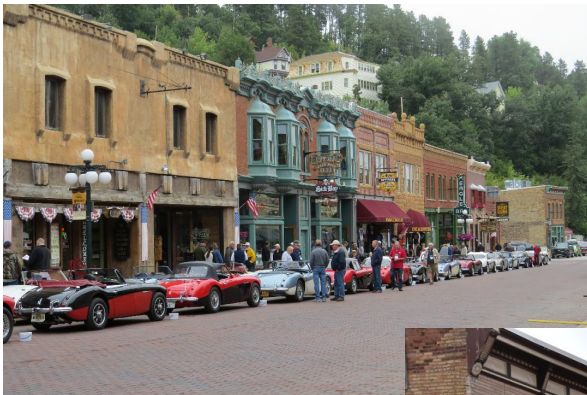
We finally made it to Deadwood about 5:45 – but registration at the Welcome Center closed at 5:30. First hurdle, find the trailer parking lots; second hurdle, find spaces for the three rigs. We collected our luggage, headed for our hotel (Deadwood Mountain Grand), checked in to Conclave (Thanks to our hosts who moved registration to the host hotel!), then checked in to the hotel. We offloaded the Healey, then searched for parking in the DMG garage. We got lucky – someone pulled out of a prime space! We finally got to the welcome meeting just before the food was cleared! Not everyone was so lucky. Wallaces were at The Lodge at the other end of Deadwood, so didn't register until Saturday. Skip was at the other Holiday Inn. And although the Duffeys got checked in for the Conclave, they missed the food. Tomorrow...



Saturday, September 7, was a beautiful, cool morning. After breakfast, we headed north to Sturgis. After a car wash, we went to the Full Throttle Saloon for the funkhana, only to find that it had been moved to Buffalo Chip (the largest biker campground). We entered the funkhana and watched OVAHC members compete in the gymkhana. We spent the rest of the day exploring the Historic Main Street in Deadwood, with both lunch and dinner at the Stockade at the Buffalo Bodega.

A chilly, gloomy Sunday morning was car show day. The first show was at the rodeo grounds – it was The Conclave show where participants voted for class winners. After a police-escorted parade south on US 14A through Historic Main Street to Lead and then north on US 85 back to Historic Main Street, we had a public show for charity. That's where we crossed paths with the rest of the OVAHC contingent – Don, Hazel and Oliver Klein and John Andorn. After the show, we drove to Lead to the old Homestake

gold mine, now the Sanford Underground Research Facility, home to the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment. Then we drove the western half of the Northern Hills Self-Guided Tour through Spearfish Canyon provided by our hosts. The route was beautiful, including three mountain goats posing for the tourists. Meanwhile, some of the OVAHC group (Jeff and Nancy, Joe and Judy, Don and Hazel, Scott, Skip, and Bob and Pat) boarded buses for a sunset visit to Mt. Rushmore. Bus ride there was very scenic going down roads that they wouldn't travel after dark due to curves and animals. Mt. Rushmore history was really interesting - after growing up seeing the pictures of the finished sculpture, Scott appreciated learning about the behind the scenes creation. Even though the restaurant there was quite large, the order line stretched from the back to the front and out the door. About that time, many decisions were made to visit the ice cream store next door and call that dinner. Fog crept in just before the lighting ceremony and produced a similar effect to turning your high beams on in fog. Bus ride home was much quieter and travel was by



interstate Skip went to the Ranger to ask the altitude of the Park. He asked Skip if he was a veteran and did he know how to fold a flag. They discussed the procedure and who would do what. He went to find Scott and Joe to take pictures. What an honor for a veteran!

Monday, September 9, was another cool day, but at least it was sunny. We started the rally route at 9:00, but by 9:15 were parked at the top of Strawberry Hill without the tech team. Tim changed the condenser, the coil, the distributor cap, rotor and plug wires, then cleaned the points with Bobbi's emery board. Finally it restarted and we were on our way again. It ran well for the next 180 miles as we followed the rally route until we were put back onto US 385 near the end, which we knew would get us back to the hotel. We had passed Skip and Jake in Custer State Park. We enjoyed both Needles Highway and Iron Mountain Road and the glimpses of Mount Rushmore through the tunnels. The evening ended with a BBQ banquet with funkhana, gymkhana and TSD rally awards. We were all seated at two tables and OVAHC did well:



Funkhana: Skip Jackson and John Jacobs second
Jeff Porada and Nancy Bacon third

Gymkhana: Nasty Boy: Jake Jacobs first and John Jacobs second
Stock Sprite: Skip Jackson second
Modified Sprite: Jeff Porada first
Lady Modified Sprite: Nancy Bacon first
Pat Duffey second

Rally: Jeff Porada and Nancy Bacon first

Tuesday, the last day of Conclave, was a lazy one. Joe and Judy Yannone headed home as Judy wasn't feeling well. They got home safely on Wednesday evening. We took our Healey to the trailer by way of Mt. Moriah Cemetery and the graves of Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane. Pat, Hazel and Bobbi attended the Ladies' Tea on Tuesday afternoon with "Calamity Jane" as the special guest. The Conclave ended with a delicious banquet, some special awards, and a performance by Brule, a Sioux rock band with Indian dancers. One of the special awards was the Pat Moss/Ann Wisdom award to the highest-placing female competitor. It was given to our own Nancy Bacon, especially for helping the organizers sort out the gymkhana timing system. Congratulations!

Wednesday was our day to start driving east, a four-day trek with two time-zone changes and no sightseeing. We were down to six vehicles, having lost the Yannones and the Porada/Bacon bugeye to a musical gig in Oregon. Lauren Wallace opted to fly home to get ready for a big event on Monday. We loaded our luggage on a cart, checked out of the hotel, and maneuvered the cart to the ground floor of the parking garage. Tim picked up the van from the trailer parking lot and it was running horribly! We loaded our stuff and drove it a bit, hoping it would sort itself – which it didn't – and the convoy set off in the rain. Scott Brown was now driving the Hillary Cooper/Ed Reiss truck and trailer with his Healey in the trailer. We made it to our first overnight in Mitchell, SD. Overnight the area had 5-6" of rain, but none of the forecast hail. Whew!

We soldiered on on Thursday, passing lots of standing water and white-water streams of stormwater. Making our usual potty/gas/food stops, we eventually got to our second night's lodging in Webster City, IA. Dinner was at the Grid Iron again, service not quite as good as on our way out but the food was tasty.



On The Road



Wonder why
Skip got such
good gas mile-
age?



Beautiful side trips



Gymkhana



John Jacobs, Jeff Porada, Jake Jacobs, Skip Jackson, Scott Brown, Bob Duffey, Nancy Bacon and Pat Duffey all did the gymkhana. Skip and John took 2nd and Jeff and Nancy took 3rd at Funkhana



AWARDS



Banquet and awards

