



# WingNotes

Report on Ken & Barb's planned trip  
to the Southeast Classic at Lake Guntersville, Alabama



**Historic Mabry Mill on the Blue Ridge Parkway**, in all of it's fall color beauty.

Dwain and I stayed at Ken & Barb's home Friday night, so as to leave early the next morning.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October.**

We left Ken & Barb's about 6.45am and drove to the Hinsdale Oasis to meet up with Bob & Pat Brown, & Price & Carol Lindsay, driving with their tops down. We did not have ours down, too cold. Maybe we are getting smarter in our old age. After a quick breakfast, we were on our way driving through Indiana. The high point of this leg of the trip was a stop at the Indianapolis Speedway, and the first of many photo shoots. Our next stop was the motel at Chillicothe Ohio, driving that day 408 miles, stopping only for food, gas and bathroom breaks.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October.**

Up early as usual and after breakfast, we headed for more interesting roads for Healey driving on our way to Gassaway WV. We stopped at Hocking Hill State Park and visited The Old Man's Cave. This cave had been the home in the 1800's of a recluse named Richard Rowe. It was an interesting place made up of sandy pathways, steps and bridges, which wound their way to the bottom. There we found several waterfalls. We returned to the top through even thinner paths between the rocks, it was a good workout.

Our next stop was the Hune Covered Bridge, more photos'. We were planning on crossing the Ohio River by ferry, but when we got there the wind had picked up, so no ferry that day. We had to drive 12 miles to cross the conventional way by the

The Monthly meeting is held on the second Friday of the month at **NEW LOCATION** Ritzy's Cafe 2765 Algonquin Road (Rt. 62), Rolling Meadows, IL. (1 mile East of Rt. 53), Telephone 847-253-8027. Social meeting starts at 6:15 pm and the business meeting starts at 7:15 pm. Ample lighted parking at rear of building.

*WingNotes* is published one week before the monthly meeting date.





bridge. We drove about 297 miles. We decided to buy some pizzas and beer, and we had an impromptu party in the breakfast room of the motel watching the Bears' game.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October.**

We are off to Roanoke, VA today, driving on great Healey roads. We stopped along the way to take in the famous Greenbriar Resort, where we enjoyed lunch. After wandering through the hotel area, we headed out to find other places of interest, which was the James River Restored Lock & Canal, need I say we took more photos'. Now we are here, the beginning of the Blue Ridge Parkway where the speed limit is 45mph. We logged 296 miles.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

Back on the Blue Ridge Parkway, enjoying the roads and the wonderful scenery. Barb found another fun stop at the Mabry Mill. This used to be a grist and sawmill in its time. It was interesting walking around and looking into the small cabins filled with artifacts of old. There was a man making baskets, and we saw a still in the woods. It was time to leave, as we had many miles to go. We stopped at Little Switzerland for a break that was a good job as Bob found out he had a very hot battery. The guys tried several things to no avail, so off to the store (wherever that was.) to buy a new battery. When the tech session was finished, we were back on the road again, only to stop down the road to put our tops up, everyone helping each other so as not to get too wet. Bob could not get his car started so down a hilly gravel road he went we weren't sure we would see them again, but back up he came. It rained all the way to Asheville North Carolina and as you know it makes it hard to see driving with the top up and raining. It was raining so hard in Asheville that the sides of the streets were flooding. Finally our fearless leaders got us safely to the hotel.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

After breakfast the guys went shopping for oil and an alternator, then helped Bob fix his car. I might add that it was still raining, but we braved it and went to down town Asheville, the boys to the nearest bar and the girls shopping, we returned back to the hotel early to rest up for our dinner at the Grove Park Inn.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

We got up before the sun and headed for the Blue Ridge Parkway, as the sun rose in the sky it hit the trees making them look like they were on fire; it was an amazing sight. As we started to climb into a higher elevation so did the weather change for the worse. The wind was blowing the snow around making it hard to see. The roads were getting icy. One minute you are enjoying the sun the next you are plunged into wintry weather. I was never so glad to get out of that mess. The highlight of this day was driving The Tail of The Dragon with its 318 curves in 11 miles. That was a blast but we must continue on, as we have to be in Alabama by 6.00pm. No problem, we made it earlier than thought to Lake Guntersville Lodge. After checking in and seeing old friends, we met up with the rest of the Midwest group who drove down later than us for dinner.

**Friday and Saturday.**

We had fun doing all the events that they had put on for us. Sunday we left for home most of the group took the interstate, Dwain and I decided to take the back roads stopping in Terra Haute Indiana for the night and arriving home on Monday safe and sound. I know that we all appreciate what Ken and Barb did to put this trip together and getting us safely to our destinations. Thank you Ken and Barb.

**Dwain and Jenny.**

**.BY POPULAR DEMAND WINTER HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2012**



As I sit and write this the sun is shining the sky is blue and the temperature is climbing close to 50 degrees. The TV weathermen are predicting the warmest winter in recorded history, blah, blah, blah! I don't think we should be too complacent just yet. Remember, we still have February and

March, and they can be real nasty here in Chicagoland. It seems a shame to waste a day like this. Should I get the battery out of the basement and fire up the bug-eye for a romp before the inevitable real-winter weather arrives?

**BOOK REVIEW****Formula 1, in camera 1950-'59**

This is a beautiful book with great photographs documenting the "golden age" of motor racing. The photos are first rate and the

author's text and photo captions brilliantly capture the era.

There have been some complaints about printing quality of the photographs so examine your copy carefully and return it for a perfect copy if you find a fault. Books are too expensive not to expect a perfect product.

I have the first volume, 1950-'59 and now there are two other volumes following, 1960-'69 and 1970-'79. The book is "Formula 1, in camera", by Paul Parker, published by Haynes Publishing Co. It is a handsome volume available in either soft or hard cover for about \$35 online.

**Road Trips**

Neil Anderson

Midwest - Regional Director

I hope everyone had a safe and warm holiday season spent with dear family and friends. The season is full of the hustle and bustle of planning and preparation of all things that need to be done. The excitement of travel to gatherings of special people makes the holidays highly anticipated no matter how the year has gone. It is a time, at the end of the year, to think of all the joyous things that have come into our lives and to reflect on the sadness that has affected our worlds, but we must look to the New Year as a challenge to face and try to deal with whatever comes our way. The road ahead may be smooth and straight, or filled with curves and hills, twists and turns, and maybe with some bumps and rough stretches along the way. Whatever our journey is to be this coming year, we can only express good wishes to each of you and all the best on the road trip of 2012.

As with any New Year, there are new beginnings. The most important one to affect the club at this time was to find a new location for our monthly meetings after the closing of Russell's late this past fall. With some great research, some visits to restaurants that looked to have good possibilities, the officers met immediately before

the December Holiday party to look at, discuss, and vote to approve our new Midwest Austin-Healey Club "clubhouse". Our new monthly meeting location will be Ritzzy's Café, 2765 Algonquin Rd., Rolling Meadows. Anyone who has attended our meetings at Russell's will have no trouble finding our new location. It is less than two blocks east of the closed Russell's, on the south side of Algonquin.

I think you will find Ritzzy's very much to your liking. The private room is larger, brighter, and more updated. The restaurant has a full menu if you wish to have something to eat before the meeting. You can have anything from breakfast entree' items, to burgers, all kinds of sandwiches and wraps, pasta, salads, to full dinners, all ordered from and served in our meeting room. There is alcohol service if you wish to have a beer or glass of wine with your meal. We may have to add a new item towards the end of the agenda (maybe just before our program for the evening), dessert ordering time, sampling some of their wide variety of freshly made sweet items.

Other car and motorcycle clubs, some with about fifty members attending, also meet at Ritzzy's, so there should be no problem with them hosting our group. I would love to see us fill the room during meetings this year. As with any car club meeting location, parking is of prime concern. While it would be nice to park our Healeys in front of the restaurant, showing them off to the northwest suburban traffic, there is ample room behind Ritzzy's in a nice paved lot that can hold about 200 cars. Plans are not yet formulated, but don't be surprised if we try to get together an impromptu "funkhana" sometime before or during a meeting during the summer driving months. We will certainly have the room in a "car park" that is underutilized.

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While no meeting location in our wide geographical club area can be convenient for everyone, we felt it was important to continue to make it somewhat accessible for everyone, including our Rockford members who travel the farthest to join us when they can. We thank each and every one of you who choose to attend our



meetings. We will be planning and doing many fun events this coming year. Newcomers become old timers after their first event, so everyone is welcome. Even though we will now be meeting at Ritzy's, there is no truth to the rumor that we will be changing the name of the club to the "Austin Tatiou Club". We don't have to be pretentious; Healeys gather plenty of attention wherever they go.

We pride ourselves on being a great car club, but we are a great people club as well. We do many driving events every year, and 2012 will be no exception, but some of our best attended events are our social gatherings of club member friends. We always host our annual Winter Dinner, which is usually held sometime in February. This is usually our first big event of the year. We already have a couple of great restaurant locations we are considering for this year, so we will be making our decision soon and keeping you apprised as plans develop. We will no doubt have an appropriately named "baggie raffle", which has evolved into more of entertainment for the event, but some charitable areas near to the club's heart may again benefit from our members generosity.

Our most recent event, our Holiday Party held on the afternoon of December 18th, was so well attended it was almost standing room only at Barb and Ken Olendzki's home in Arlington Heights. I think there were about 43 happy holiday attendees. Without kind and generous club members who host events for us in their homes, we would not be the club of good friends that we are



and have become. We treat each other with genuine warmth and respect, but with some good natured ribbing and teasing thrown in the mix, all taken in good form. It was a great party with lots of laughter, great food, ample beverages, warm hospitality, and another super fun Australian Pursuit gift exchange. The weather was almost the complete opposite from last year's blizzard like conditions. I "almost" drove the BT7, the

weather was so nice. It was good to see a strong Rockford contingent of Bowersocks, Juuls, and Plymales. And, it was also great, that our long-time friends and club founders, Walt and Jeanette Blanck could join us again. Thanks to all who attended. It was a great kick-off to the holiday season.

We found out that the dress rehearsal for our party was held the previous night, when Ken and Barb hosted the Lotus Club Holiday Party for over 50 people. What troopers,... but as Ken said, "we only had to clean the house once in prep, go to the liquor store once, order food once for the two parties, etc." I hope they didn't get too tired of eating the same food two nights in a row. What an undertaking! We thank Ken and Barb from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you! What great hosts.



## SE Classic

The only road trip during 2011 on which my BT7 was driven, was to my first ever SE Classic, hosted this year by the Atlanta Healey Club at Lake Guntersville State Park in NE Alabama. I finally got the new right side rocker panel/outer sill replaced on the car, the sill painted, car put back together, and cleaned up just in time to go on the trip. Denny Juul had booked a chalet that overlooked the lake for the event. He said he had extra room and kindly offered a bed in the second bedroom. It didn't take much persuasion to also get Bill Cantrall to join us and take the other open bed in the spare bedroom. We left from my shop late in the morning on Oct. 19th. I was going to give my car a last minute wash, but the skies were dark and before we got to LaSalle, Mother Nature provided the car wash I decided to skip. With Denny leading in his BJ8 and Bill and I following in my BT7, and obviously with tops (hoods) up on both cars, we traversed a wet Illinois landscape in a south and south-easterly direction, staying overnight in Evansville, Indiana.



The next morning was cold and grey, with my cold-blooded Healey finally starting after numerous attempts and Herculean pulls on the choke. As we crossed into western Kentucky, the skies started to lighten up and blue patches became intermingled with large puffy white clouds. We drove the Penneyrile Parkway south on our way towards Tennessee with Bill in the passenger seat trying to conduct some business via his cell phone. Ah,.....the miracles of technology. As we got closer to the Tennessee state border, I knew we were in "The South" as we started seeing big green signs for the "Jefferson Davis State Historic Site". I guess I don't ever recall seeing too many historic sites honoring the President of the Confederacy north of the Mason-Dixon Line

As we crossed into Tennessee, the skies were mostly bright and blue, but it was still cool with temps only in the middle fifties. We Healeyed on through Nashville without stopping and left I-24 about forty miles out of the city, and followed a more scenic two lane route south towards Alabama. The landscape had been quite lovely ever since we got into Kentucky, so more of the same was just great driving. We had picked up some sandwiches at one of our petrol stops and ate our lunch standing next to the Healeys by the courthouse on the town square in Shelbyville, Tennessee. It was a town square in a town, like many others all over the country, but probably with a lot of southern charm if you knew where to find it. After eating our sandwiches, we went across the street for dessert,...PIE. The long lunch counter had already served local patrons, so we doubled the number of people in the restaurant when the three of us walked in. I think either Denny or Bill had coconut cream with, no kidding, about 2 and ½ inches of meringue on top. After our fill of PIE, I rode with Denny to let Bill have some time behind the wheel of my BT7. The road south of Shelbyville was another, like many in the area, "made for Healeys" with a lot of twisty bits and up and down sections. I know he was having fun, but I wonder how many times Bill thought, this would really be fun in the Sprite.

We were on our way towards Huntsville, the home of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, a visit that would have to wait for another trip as we were almost to the SE Classic. The Atlanta Club picked a super location for their event. I think all of us were really impressed with the lodge and general facilities of the state park. They were quite classy. If it location had about a third more rooms and a little larger banquet facilities, it would be a very good location for a Conclave. The winding roads make you pull your seat belt a little tighter as you try to drive the twisty bits cleanly, trying to hit the corner apexes and then powering out of the corners. The sur-

rounding scenery with all the water, trees, and rock formations in the area were great. This was an area of Alabama where damaging tornados went through last April. You could see where whole swaths of trees that were laid down flat. The main lodge didn't sustain any damage in the storms, but a few of the cabins and chalets did. After talking to some of the staff about the storm, they said it was a very scary day.

After arriving at the state park lodge, we checked in, had our photos taken with a beer bong, and then headed off to check out the hospitality and regalia/silent auction rooms. I think the photos were taken to identify any attendees not having the proper quotient of fun, as that was the main theme for the weekend. We had been in contact with the Midwest group that had journeyed east a week earlier to drive the Blue Ridge Parkway and Tail of the Dragon roads on the way to the SE Classic. So, after getting settled in our respective lodging, everyone hooked up to go to dinner in the lodge together. The Olendzkis, Plymales, Lindsays, and Browns had some great stories to tell, of which I will not relate here. It made the three from our group wish we could have taken the time to participate too. I believe there will be an article written to be published in "Healey Marque" to tell all their adventures and show photos of the endless scenic vistas. Although the skies were clear and bright, temperatures were only in the fifties for the weekend, quite uncharacteristically cool for this area of Alabama even for late October. It had been in the mid eighties the week before. With our soft tops down on the Healeys, most of us had jackets on instead of just shirt sleeves as we lined up for the start of the rally. With the fun factor already in high gear and the Atlanta club rally starters being dressed as giant playing cards, you knew this may not be your "average" fun rally. Atlanta Club President and event co-chair Charlie Moshell was dressed as a joker, complete with a colorful jester's hat. The Atlanta club definitely knows how to have a good time.

The rally took us over many of the scenic roads in the area near Guntersville and along the Tennessee River valley/Lake Guntersville waterways. Later, as we headed in a northeasterly direction, we were treated to an area where a tight, twisty, and fun to drive hill climb was the route to be followed. It ended up on top of a huge geological rock ridge with a lovely scenic view that overlooked the tree blanketed valleys far below. The trees were just beginning their color change, so it looked like a soft undulating carpet of intermingled warm hues. Leaving the overlook with a few other cars, Bill and I got off track, probably due to enjoying the scenery more than not following the rally instructions. We got to see a little more of the countryside off the rally route, but with intermittent GPS signals from Bill's smart phone,



we got back on course to find the rally finish in Scottsboro. After a nice lunch in a converted Victorian house, we drove back to the lodge to enjoy the late afternoon view of the lake from our chalet deck. It would have been a little nicer if the temp was about twenty degrees higher, but paradise can be found in many places, if you can get there. Dinner was a large banquet with the whole group of over eighty event registrations, a great turnout for a regional event. But, the SE Classic has a reputation for being a super event no matter which club hosts. The 25<sup>th</sup> was one not to miss.

The state park lodge sits on high ground far above the lake it overlooks, so it was a winding route through the park down to the lakefront parking lot where the car show was held. A quick bucket wash and chamois dry is all my car needs for a car show. I know it is not going to garner any awards for that event. The temperature was quite nice while walking around for show voting, stopping occasionally by Dwain Plymale's BJ8 to check on the progress of his tech session to replace the overdrive lock-out switch. With Healeys gleaming in the sun, small groups of people intermingled throughout the morning. Soon, it was time to fire up the cars and head into town for lunch and the afternoon gymkhana.

The gymkhana was held in a school parking lot and was a good course, and fairly straight forward except for a "round-a-bout" around a pylon. I can usually improve my times over the course of three runs, but the round-a-bout had me stymied. I tried to go drive around it two different directions on different runs without improving my times. I was scrubbing off too much speed and losing too much time getting through that section. Bill mastered it much better than I and bettered my best time by a good amount. It was a sweet victory for him, beating my time while driving my car. I had done slightly better than Bill in his Sprite at the Spridget event autocross in July, so vindication evened the score. All in good fun!

The evening banquet was comprised of very good food, awards, some short speeches and reflections by special guests on twenty-five years of SE Classics, concerted efforts to embarrass some attendees, general silliness courtesy of the Atlanta club, and some great Healey fellowship. The always competitive Midwest Region attendees managed to take home some awards too. Bill C. placed 2d in the gymkhana roadster class. Barb O. placed 2d in the gymkhana, also driving my BT7, for the first time (Well Done!). It's too bad the owner of the car wasn't quick enough to place. Price and Carol L. did very well and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the rally. Dwain P. received a 1<sup>st</sup> place for Best Car Show Tech Session for replacing an overdrive lock-out switch. And, "Ta Daaa", Ken and Barb O. received 1<sup>st</sup> places for Organizing the Best Road Trip and Best Tour Guides. These last three award cate-

gories were not sanctioned by the SE Classic event, but well deserved by our club members. After dinner and all ceremonies, most of us went back to Ken and Barb's suite for more hospitality and road trip stories.

Everyone was leaving in different groups quite early on Sunday morning to travel back to Illinois. Bill and I were the last to get on the road. Although it was a little cool, we dressed appropriately and drove all the way home with the top down. The twelve and one half hour trip was mostly uneventful, with stops only for food and petrol. Throughout the trip my BT7 ran pretty much flawlessly, except for some kind of a small engine miss in the gymkhana, which was annoying. It was a good trip and super event to attend, and good to finally get my Healey on the road for one event of the year. Bill remarked as we neared home Sunday night, the Healey was the most distinctive car on the road all day. Indeed! That's the way it frequently is when traveling the roads. That's why we love our Healeys.

Happy Healeying for 2012. Please join us for all the fun we have in store.

*Neil*

## Gathering at the Rock – Chicago - November 25, 2011

When Ken Olendzki announced the annual "Gathering at the Rock" during a regular club meeting, I decided this is the year to make the pilgrimage unless the weather is terrible, which it almost always is. "The rock" is across the street from the Museum of Science and Industry, in the Jackson Park Neighborhood of Chicago and the gathering is to honor the first automobile race in the United States on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1895.

Six cars entered the race, sponsored by the Chicago Times Herald Newspaper. The race started at the rock in Jackson Park to Evanston and back to the finish line at the rock, for a total distance of 54 miles. Frank and brother Charles Duryea created their first car, a one cylinder car in 1893 and their race car was Frank's second car, with a two cylinder gasoline engine. Three other gasoline cars and two electric cars were entered in the race. Frank Duryea finished first and all the other cars were impacted by many breakdowns. Frank later became a top automotive engineer with GM. If an electric car had won the race would electric cars have taken the lead in automotive history?

As the Gathering date approached, the weather looked good for late November, dry and in the low 40's. Perfect



for a top-down drive. My passenger was Vernon Chapman, a former MG TD owner. As we drove down the Kennedy Expressway from Park Ridge, with no front license plate, we spotted a yellow Corvette heading the same direction, likely going to the Gathering. As we arrived at the Museum, we spotted the Rock immediately west of the Museum and the gathering starting to arrive. Parking on the sidewalks and bicycle path are acceptable for this event.

It was a random mix of cars ranging from early 1950's MG T series to brand new Ford Mustangs and Chevy Corvettes. The only foreign cars were British, comprised of twelve MGs, including T Series, MGBs, MG midgets, and one 1995 MGF. My 1967 Austin Healey was the only AH. Two newer Lotuses were participating. American cars included old and new models of Mustangs, Corvettes (including the yellow one), and other muscle cars.

At 10 AM, Motorsports Unlimited TV Host, Bill Wildt and camera crew began filming and interviewing the drivers. We had short interviews in front of the camera and Bill Wildt is a very friendly and knowledgeable car enthusiast. We departed shortly after and drive home via beautiful Lake Shore Drive. *Gale Fabisch*



*Gale Fabisch and Bill Wildt,  
interview for Motorsports Unlimited*

AHCA, Midwest Region  
c/o J. Gruber  
220 Columbia  
Park Ridge, IL 60068