



North Texas Austin Healey Club

January 2014

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NTAHC Website

www.ntahc.org



On Sunday, April 6, 2014 5:17 PM,
Mike <mjsbn2@att.net> wrote:

Dear Guys and Gals,

I regret to have to share the news with you that Bic Healey passed away earlier today. His family and dog were with him. Bic had fallen a number of months ago and had to spend about three months in the hospital trying to recover from a broken hip. As I understand the situation it sounds like pneumonia is what Bic could not overcome.

Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers. At this point I do not have information regarding the funeral service or burial.

Bic was a wonderful person and did an excellent job of enjoying life. He will be missed.

Please pass on the information to others that you know would want to be aware of this sad moment in the lives of all of us in the Healey world.

Sincerely,
Mike Schneider



Brian "Bic" Healey 1926-2014

From the WEST BRITON NEWS website:

By WBEsme | Posted: April 11, 2014

Austin Healey legend, Brian “Bic” Healey of Perranporth, has died

Tributes have been pouring in for Perranporth’s Brian “Bic” Healey, the heir of motoring dynasty Austin Healey cars.

Mr. Healey died on Sunday in St Austell hospital with his family and dog by his side.

The life-long petrol-head, who was one of the founding members and president of the Healey’s drivers club, was 88 years old.

Marion Brantley, Jr, posted on the Austin Healey club website: “Bic was a wonderful person and did an excellent job of enjoying life. He will be missed.”

Mr Healey was the son of Donald Healey, the creator of the Austin Healey cars.

Among Donald most famous creations were the 1952 Healey 100 sports car and the 1959 Austin Healey 3000.

Mr Healey spent time in the Royal Navy and he was granted an Arctic Star medal last year in recognition of his bravery during the Second World War.

Mr Healey will be buried on Wednesday at the Parish Church of St Piran, Perranzabuloe, Penhallow.



Team Healey Texas

Musings from the Paddock....by Chris Kellner

"The 2014 racing season is in full swing. Our first race at Texas World Speedway (TWS) in February was a huge success for CVAR and my Group 4 gang. We had 167 entries, including 27 students. It's always fun to watch the newbie's. I well remember my student weekend. Fred Crowley drove me hard, in a good way, and when all was said and done I was exhausted and had qualified for my provisional license. Many of these new students will do just fine too. We had 27 entries in Group 4, biggest grid I'd ever started on for our group. Formula Juniors like Cooper and Lotus, sports racers like Empi-Crusader, a really cool One Off called "Arnold" built by a Canadian fellow back in 57' using a BMC engine and a American Merlyn using the Iron Duke 4 cylinder engine...man that thing was fast. The little Red Racer did very well, turning some of her best lap times at TWS, it was all very exciting.

Our ever intrepid Porsche driver Tom Taff made a good showing of himself chasing down some of the slower 911's. We welcomed back a favorite Porsche driver of mine Jim Collier, after a five year hiatus, who is a very hot shoe and a heck of a nice guy. Tom tried valiantly to keep up with Jim but the little 914 just didn't have the legs of Jim's 911. It was all very good fun to watch.

Our Group 4 had a special race on the Saturday called the Pablo Gonzales Challenge for Formula Juniors-Lotus, Cooper, etc in remembrance of Pablo who was a very accomplished driver in Lotus. We lost Pablo in an airplane crash in Mexico 2 years ago when he was surveying property he'd purchased for a new factory for his company. The race was very fast and after we'd all pitted the party got into full swing. Pablo's son came up from Mexico City to present the trophies, and provide everyone with a shot of the best tequila I'd ever tasted and something I'd never seen before. Apparently it's only available in Mexico. That alone might be a good reason for a road trip south of the border.....

We're getting ready to go up to Hallett Motor Racing Circuit April 10-13 for the 7th Annual Mike Stephens Classic. Hallett is approximately 35 miles west of Tulsa on the rolling hills of the Cimarron. It's a classic sports car track with lots of elevation change and great corners. It too short to use the overdrive in the little Red Racer so you get a lot of shifting and braking. This year Judy and our dog-Ozar will get to come with me in the motorhome and I'm excited for her to join us. I've always talked about the beauty of the country side up there and driving the track. Should be a very good outing. Hopefully we'll have some good weather which up in Oklahoma this time of the year can be dicey.....

Anyway, I've got to get back to race prep for the Little Red racer, if I can just find that darned sparkplug wrench....."

Chris Kellner



TEAM HEALEY TEXAS

Chris Kellner



Photo: Ernie Tacsik-Haute Photure

For more information :

<http://www.teamhealeytxas.com/>



HEALEY SURGEONS, INC.
7211 CARROLL AVE. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912
301 270 8811
WWW.HEALEYSURGEONS.COM

www.healeysurgeons.com

Join us for Thirsty Thursday!

April 24th at Farina's Winery and Café



420 S Main St, Grapevine, TX 76051 (817) 442-9095

<http://www.farinaswinery.com/>

We moved the monthly dinner from the last Wednesday of the month to the last Thursday of the month to maybe attract some new attendees. This has been a moderate success. We would love to see more of you stuffing your faces and laughing at the good times.

Last month Karen Gilliland and Barbie Bucy planned an Uptown Dallas Tour. Wow, that part of Dallas has changed. More clubs and small eateries and galleries than ever. We met on the street side patio of the Idle Rich Pub on McKinney to people watch and have a snack. Then on to the antique street cars for a tour of the area. We stopped at Klyde Warren park to look it over. Very nice with a restaurant and a band shell. We just missed a concert, but were treated to a natural light show from the far-off thunderheads. Then back on the trolley for the ride to the Blackfriars Pub for a sandwich and a pint.

Fun all around - Hope to see you at Farina's ! - Hilary



THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Patrick Yoas

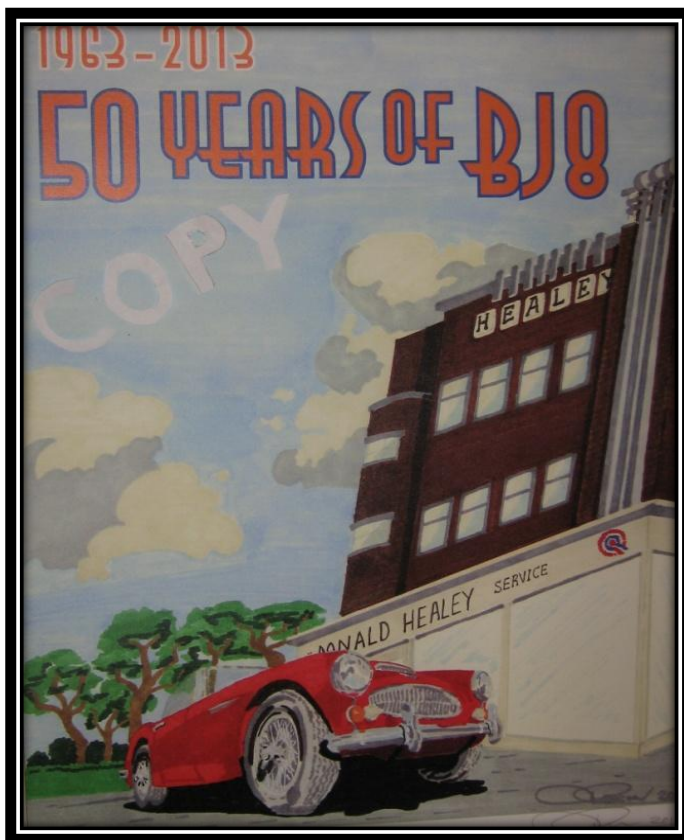
I must apologize for this late Newsletter as myself and other members have been extremely busy putting the final touches on Roundup 34 and it has taken more time to complete than we anticipated.



Driving a Healey in Pakistan

Last month I was going to run an article I found about Driving a Healey in Pakistan but we simply ran out of room in the Newsletter so we're including it in this Newsletter. Our NTAHC club members who also belong to the AHCA have already seen it in the AHCA's monthly Magazine last month so it will be a repeat for them but we thought it a good article to run for those who do not belong to the AHCA.

Continued on Page 8



Posters commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the BJ8 model.

The poster depicts a late model BJ8 in the foreground with the Warwick Theatre used by Donald Healey as a showroom in the background. The poster measures 11" by 14" with a 1/4" border all around and is suitable for framing. We have received a limited number of the posters, 10 in total, all numbered and signed For Sale to club members at \$20.00 plus shipping. **Contact Pat Yoas for info.**

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Your Project, Your Story: Bob Lindsey's 1958 Austin Healey

By Bob Lindsey

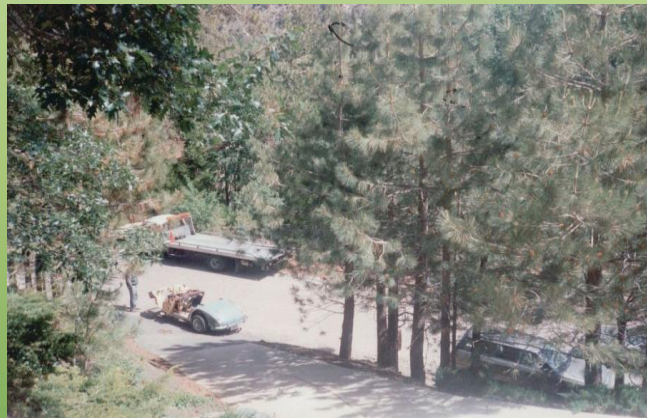
From the AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMEN

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014

Special to Statesman Content Marketing

Our Austin Healey is my third dating back to 1958. We have had this car since 1991, and it has an interesting history.

We were living in a mountain community in southern California and decided we needed a sports car to complete our family. We located a car about 400 miles away in Morgan Hill, Ca., and began the trek to check it out. The car was a perfect match for a restoration project and yet was "potentially" drivable enough to make the trip back to Wrightwood. With my wife following, we were about 300 miles into our trip, and the Healey stopped in rush-hour traffic. A search found that the coil wire had come loose. Not having any tape, my wife rummaged through her purse and found three bandages. They worked, and we drove the Healey the last 100 miles without incident. A two-year total restoration took place in our garage (we had quite a time lowering the car down the hill/driveway to get it to the paint shop), with the final paint being done at the epicenter and during the big Los Angeles earthquake.



We moved to Plano, and one day, a new employee came into my wife's office and mentioned that he was from a small town in California named Morgan Hill. My wife mentioned that we had bought our Healey in Morgan Hill, and she had a series of pictures of the car on her wall. The new hire looked at the pictures and wondered if we had always had that license plate (GGRRRR)? He then went on to say that he had known the car, had dated the daughter of the car's owners and had driven the car. He knew the names of the people and even mentioned that the car had been blue (which it was before we painted it British Racing Green).



Your Project, Your Story: Bob Lindsey's 1958 Austin Healey

Continued....



Austin Healey automobiles were produced from 1953 through 1967 and still have an active following with clubs in every state as well as on the national level. We are members of two Texas Healey clubs, the National Healey Club and the Elgin Car Club. British Car Days in Round Rock each September offers a chance to experience all years and models of these and other English sports cars. Texas Healey Roundup is held each April and is hosted by one of the three Texas Healey clubs on a rotating basis. The three-day event draws about 100 Healey cars and their owners. This year, the meet will take place April 4-6 in Stephenville, about 70 miles southwest of Fort Worth.



The Healey underwent final paint at the epicenter and during a major Los Angeles earthquake. It can be seen at numerous car shows throughout the year



***The Carolina Austin-Healey Club announces that the 2014 Conclave will be held at THE HOMESTEAD in Hot Springs, Virginia
June 15th - 19th, 2014***

Registrations now being taken:

<http://www.homesteadconclave2014.com/index.html>



The Great Hall



The New Water Park

**Ingles Airfield
where the
gymkhana and
acceleration run
will be held.**





Homestead Conclave 2014

June 15-20 – Hot Springs, Virginia

Registration Form

Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____
 Address _____ City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip _____
 Country _____ E-mail _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____ Club Affiliation _____
 Additional adult guest(s) _____
 Children attending (names / ages) _____

Once your registration is received, you will be sent an e-mail or letter confirmation with information to book your room at The Homestead. Your registration must be received by April 15 in order to secure a room with The Homestead at the Conclave rate of \$129. Rate deadline is May 7; after this date, room rates depend on availability.

Registration Fees	Qty	Cost	Total	Vehicle Class	#1	#2
<i>(classes will be determined by pre-registration)</i>						
Registration before April 1, 2014 (2 adults / 1 car)	___	\$130	_____	I00	___	___
Registration fee after April 1, 2014 (2 adults / 1 car)	___	\$160	_____	I00M	___	___
Additional Adults	___	\$30	_____	I00-6	___	___
Additional Cars	___	\$30	_____	MKI	___	___
Concours Judging (per vehicle)	___	\$35	_____	MKII (tricarb)	___	___
Tuesday Kitchen Safari	___	\$70	_____	BJ7	___	___
Meals / Events (per person)				BJ8 Phase I	___	___
Sunday Ice Cream Social	___	\$15	_____	BJ8 Phase 2	___	___
Child (0-5) (FREE) Child (6-12)	___	\$8	_____	Jensen Healey	___	___
Monday Italian Buffet				Bugeye Sprite	___	___
Adult	___	\$30	_____	Sprite MK II, III & IV	___	___
Child (0-5) (FREE) Child (6-12)	___	\$15	_____	Modified	___	___
Wednesday Barbecue & Music/Bluegrass (limited to first 200)				Diamond in Rough	___	___
Adult	___	\$42	_____	Other Healey	___	___
Child (0-5) (FREE) Child (6-12)	___	\$28	_____	Other British Marques	___	___
Thursday Awards Banquet Buffet						
Adult	___	\$50	_____			
Child (0-5) (FREE) Child (6-12)	___	\$25	_____			
Kids Party	___	\$10	_____			
Regalia (to see items, go to http://www.homesteadconclave2014.com/)				Participation		
Camp Shirt – Ladies ___S ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL		\$40	_____	(number of people participating)		
Camp Shirt – Men ___S ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL		\$40	_____	___ Popular Car Show		
Golf Shirt – Ladies ___S ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL		\$30	_____	___ Gymkhana		
Golf Shirt – Men ___S ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL		\$30	_____	___ Funkhana		
Jacket ___S ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL		\$50	_____	___ Acceleration Run		
Hat ___		\$15	_____	___ Pinewood Derby Senior ___ Junior		
				___ Pinewood Derby Tech Session		
				(Kits available on site for \$7)		
				___ RC Cars Senior ___ Junior		
				___ Arts & Craft Senior ___ Junior		
				___ Photo Contest		
				___ Fun Rally		
TOTAL PAYMENT (U.S. Funds)			_____			

Mail completed form with check to (checks in U.S. funds, payable to "Homestead Conclave 2014"):
HOMESTEAD CONCLAVE 2014, 9913 Heritage Oaks, Waxhaw, NC 28173

To pay by credit card, mail or e-mail this form with credit card information:

Credit Card _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

<http://www.homesteadconclave2014.com/index.html>



www.mossmotors.com



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2014

April

Thirsty Thursdays	April 24
Granbury Wine Walk	April 25-26

May

Tech Session	May 10
Spring Thing 2014	May 15-18
Thirsty Thursdays	May 22
Whiterock British Car Day	Date to follow

June

Cooper "Car Show in the Park"	early June
Tech Session	June 14
Thirsty Thursdays	June 26
Conclave - AHCA	
Hot Springs, VA	June 15 - 20

Healey Rendezvous- AHC-USA	June 23 - 27
Bend, OR	

July

Tech Session	July 12
Pool Party	July 19
Thirsty Thursdays	July 31

August

Tech Session	August 9
Driving Tour	August 16 or 23
Thirsty Thursdays	August 28

September

Train Ride	September 6
Tech Session (Gilleland's)	September 13
Thirsty Thursdays	September 25

October

Tech Session	October 11
Drive	October 18 - 19
Thirsty Thursdays	October 23

November

AHCA Fall Delegates Meeting (Plainfield, IN)	November 7-9
Tech Session	November 8
Drive - Horse Country Revisited	November 15
Thirsty Thursdays	November 20

December

Christmas Party	December 7
Tech Session	December 13

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER By: Patrick Yoas
(continued from page 4)

Tech Session at Charlie Esterlines.

Charlie had a good turnout at his garage and those who never seen the inside of a Healey transmission before got a real eye opener as "fearless Charlie" reassembled his transmission. The last time I tried transmission reassemble 101 was in 1971 on an MGB that I owned and the outcome was less than desirable. I opted for the easy way out and went to a salvage yard and got a guaranteed one instead of trying to fix mine. I took the easy way out but those days of getting good transmissions for our now classic cars are pretty much over so we have to repair them ourselves or have someone do them for us. We've included 4 photos of Charlie and Bret Blades working on his transmission in the Newsletter. Thank you Charlie for hosting the Tech Session!

Classifieds Changes

We have decided to include photos of your Healey(s) for sale in the Newsletter. It will be limited to one photo so be sure to take your best shot and send it to us in a jpeg format. If you don't know what jpeg is just send it to us and we'll see if it works and if not we'll get back to you. This service is for current NTAHC members Healeys only right now but we may change later to include other club members Healeys and maybe even parts. A short write-up should also be included or in the case of our first Healey listing a link to a website is also very good.

If you are selling parts please give it your best description and if you are looking for parts you can place an ad for those parts too. Our E-Newsletter goes to several other Healey clubs as well as overseas so you just never know who may want what you need or may want what you have. Our website www.NTAHC.org also lists member's cars for sale too!

Upcoming Events

We have some good events coming up soon so please check the Activities Calendar to see what they are. The All British and European Car Day, May 4th at White Rock Lake is right around the corner plus a new event for us as a Club is the Autos in the Park Car Show (Cooper Clinic), June 1st, and this will be the first year we will participate as a club. We plan on setting up our Canopy shelters and having food, etc. Hilary Cooper will be sending out information about attending both of these events within the next week or so. Both of these events are for charity and there is an entry fee per car.

Conclave 2014, June 15-20, Hot Springs, VA, is also coming up in mid June and we have people from our club going to that event. Some are driving their Healey's and a few are trailering them so you may want to consider "hooking up" and caravanning to it. We have included updated information on Conclave so please check it out. I have not heard from anyone going to Rendezvous, June 23-27 at Bend, Oregon, so when I do I'll be sure to post in the Newsletter.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, Roundup 34 will be history so we'll have all the high-lights in our next Newsletter for you to see.

Until next time...see you on the trail.

Pat



Austin Healey 2014 Rendezvous

June 23 thru 27, 2014 – The Austin-Healey Club of Oregon is putting on a big party! The 2014 Rendezvous will be held at the Riverhouse Hotel in Bend, Oregon from Monday, June 23 to Friday, June 27. Please call for room reservations now! Call 855-387-3443 and reference the Austin-Healey Rendezvous. Room rates are \$129 plus tax for a River View and \$119 plus tax for a Non-River View.

The theme is Mardi Gras for the Monday night buffet (mask night) and the Thursday night Awards Banquet (hat night). Tuesday is the car show and lunch at Fort Rock Park in Sunriver. Wednesday is filled with Tech Sessions and Tours and an auction in the evening. Thursday has Fun Day Activities followed by the Awards Banquet. We depart for home on Friday.

Rendezvous 2014 Registration and Regalia forms are also available at the Austin Healey Club of Oregon's web site, www.healey-oregon.org

Put your top down and head for Oregon! Bend promises sunshine!.

If there are any Question please contact Gary Jackson at 541-923-9766 evenings, or email to grjackson2@bendbroadband.com.

REMEMBER! Always check the website: <http://www.ntahc.org/> for the latest updates & corrections, omissions or mistakes I made 'cause I wasn't paying 'nough attention!

MONTHLY TECH SESSIONS

Our Monthly Tech Sessions are not always attended by the "well heeled" but unless YOU attend you will never know what you're missing!

Show up about 9:30 am on the Second Saturday of each month for a morning of good company, coffee and donuts and lots of Healey tech stuff.

If you have tech stuff to share or to be worked on, bring it! For current location please check website!





British Car Specialists
Since 1957

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- Used Parts
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2060 N. Wilson Way • Stockton, CA 95205
www.BritishCarSpecialists.com



www.britishcarspecialists.com

Tech Session at Charlie Esterlein's March 2014



SPRING THING MAY 15-18, 2014 GEORGETOWN, KY

"Back to Basics"

It's time once again for the fun-filled, laugh-tastic SpringThing. The Bluegrass Club is pleased once again to welcome you to the Commonwealth.

With a return to our classic structure and under the guidance of Linda Moore and Bev Frazier, this SpringThing will be a memorable and entertaining weekend for all.

We have registrations from Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, North Carolina, Oregon, Michigan and Ontario!

This year we will spend our time in the beautiful rolling horse country hills of Georgetown. Nestled perfectly between classic back roads, horse farms and bourbon distilleries, this area of Kentucky is often referred to as the golden triangle. Come discover all the beauty and amazing sites while enjoying the overflowing Bluegrass hospitality. Georgetown is located in Central Kentucky with easy access to I-75 and I-64.

We hope you'll join us for all the fun and excitement of SpringThing 2014. The Bluegrass Club invites you to share laughs, friendship and hospitality during this weekend celebrating our extended Healey family.

Visit bluegrassclub.com for a Registration Form and more information

Jim Werner
Bluegrass Austin Healey Club
Louisville, KY

*For more information visit,
www.BluegrassClub.com or
email lindamoore@me.com
or call (502) 451-9450*

BLAST FROM THE PAST.....

Actor Jackie Cooper owned one of the first four Austin-Healey 100S race cars brought into the United States. Just 50 examples of the 100S were built in total; the below photo shows four leaving the factory, with Donald Healey second from right. Cooper pushed his for a mile following an electrical failure at Sebring in 1955 and still finished the race. - See more at: <http://blog.hemmings.com/index.php/tag/austin-healey-100s/#sthash.m1nNu8NH.dpuf>





www.healeyclub.org

The North Texas Austin Healey Club is affiliated with the :



Healey Trails is the publication of the North Texas Austin Healey Club , and is published for the benefit of it's members. Material which appears in Healey Trails represents the opinions of the authors and does not express the opinions of the North Texas Austin Healey Club unless specifically noted. We do our best to insure accuracy , but cannot be held responsible for omissions or errors.

2014 SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

5/23/14 8/1/14 10/10/14 1/16/15



www.victoriabritish.com

The Granbury Wine Walk is Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, 2014. We will meet in south Fort Worth and take an enjoyable backroads drive to the public parking near the square. An email will be forthcoming with more precise details. If you have a preference of day, please email Hilary Cooper at hilary.cooper01@gmail.com. This is a self-guided walking tour to enjoy at your leisure.



Included with your ticket you will receive a wine glass, an event wristband, 15 Tasting Passes, a map of the Wine Walk and a schedule of events. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased on the day of the event. There are restaurants and shopping on the square with music and good times.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG !

I hope you have been playing.. If so then you have found the answer to the age old question.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE ?

There are many theories.. BUT only one answer..

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE
IS
TO ENJOY LIFE !

That is it.. NO MORE - NO LESS . Simple, isn't it ?

Now to make your life more enjoyable I'm going to give you the answer to yet another age old question.

WHY DOES MY GAS GAUGE WIGGLE ?

TECH TIP

Does your gas gauge needle jump all around even when you are sitting still? It acts like Audrey Hepburn in her later years. **DRIVES YOU NUTS!** There is a cure . It is not a new solution.. but a old forgotten solution. There is a reprint on a tech article sent out in the mid 1950's to the dealerships on the next page. It will explain why this happens and what to do to fix it. Here is what we do.....

REMOVE SENDING UNIT.
SOLDER A GROUND WIRE BETWEEN ARM AND BODY.



IT IS ALSO A GOOD IDEA TO ADD A EXTRA GROUND
BETWEEN SENDING UNIT AND CAR.



This ends the problem of loose ground connections.
Now your gas gauge and you have nothing to be nervous about.

So go and fulfill your life's purpose
and

ENJOY YOUR LIFE!

Allen Hendrix

call for mail in service 1-336-852-8909

<http://www.hendrixwirewheel.com/>

FUEL GAUGE NEEDLE JITTERS

The jittery needle with the jim-jams that flicks from side to side will eventually wear out the needle as it bangs against the stops on either side. This at least indicates that the gauge is working.

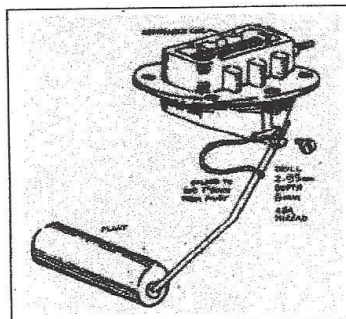
The fuel gauge is a "current meter" and is connected on the "hot side" B (Battery) with a green wire from A4 on the 35amp fuse, is switched on from A3, from the ignition switch and is therefore protected by the fuse. A second green wire attached to the B terminal of the gauge Provides power to the heater motor switch if fitted, or electric tacho on later models. The other terminal on the back of the fuel gauge, T (tank) green with black wire, is connected to the sender unit on top of the tank. This is the earth wire and its resistance is varied by action of the sender unit float movement from full to empty.

This earth wire is connected to one end of a finely wound copper resistance coil that's inside the top of the sender unit. Sliding along this coil is one or two metal wipers attached to the float at the pivot point at the base of the sender unit housing. As the tank empties the float drops down and the wipers move further along the resistance coil decreasing the amount of resistance thereby raising the current to gauge so that no resistance equals empty or "O" on the gauge.

The integrity of this variable earth relies upon the contact between the float pivot and the housing. As this pivot wears a poor contact occurs and as the float bounces around on top of the fuel this bad earth is turning the gauge on and off and the fuel gauge needle is frantically waving good-bye to you.

Earthing of the sender unit housing relies upon contact with the fuel tank, which is earthed via the copper delivery pipe that goes to the fuel pump that is bolted to the chassis. On some cars this copper pipe is cut to take an in-line fuel filter and earth contact is lost. The tank is not a reliable earth as it is mounted in place on rubber and secured with rubber lined metal straps. If this is the case it will be necessary to add an earth wire from one of the sender unit securing screws to the chassis.

To provide a good earth between the float and the sender unit housing, solder a flexible braided wire from the float arm and attach the other end securely to the housing with a 4 BA bolt. Drill into the thickest part of the housing next to the pivot point.



Flatten the ends of some cotton buds and carefully clean the sides of the coil with some lighter fluid. Be careful of the metal wipers. Don't bend them.

Connect an ohmmeter to the terminal and the housing. Raising and lowering the float should show a resistance range from 0-2 ohms (empty) to 75-85 ohms (Full).

It is best to do this job with the tank almost empty. When the tank is full the level is higher than the sender unit and the unit itself fills with fuel.

February Shake Out Drive



Time to try out the Healey for another driving season, so Don and Joyce Bundrant, Clarke and Barbara Hubbard and Ed and Hilary Reiss met in Rendon and ventured southwest for a backroads tour. The weather was iffy at first, but quickly improved to just about perfect. We ate in Granbury and started for a winery. All went well until Google maps said the road was paved, but a 3 mile stretch was gravel. Turn around and try another road. And zigzag around the countryside until we arrived at Bluff Dale Winery. Located on top of the bluff with an excellent patio and very drinkable wine. We relaxed and enjoyed the breeze and conversation.

There was another drive planned for March, but the weather cancelled that one. The route looks so good that we will





Driving Pakistan's Badlands In A Vintage British Convertible by Phil Reeves

From : NPR - National Public Radio - December 06, 2013 4:25 PM ET

Every now and then you meet a character who stands out against the landscape. The landscape, in this case, is the sweep of terrain between the Arabian Sea and the Khyber Pass.

The character is a stocky man, wearing a baseball hat, dark glasses, a quirky grin, and an air of stubborn optimism. His name is Mohsin

The reason Mohsin stands out against this landscape is because he's motoring across it in a sports car that was made in Britain when Winston Churchill was still alive.

Traveling across Pakistan in a museum piece, with no roof, is not for the fainthearted.

But Mohsin is a man in love. He is, he explains, in the grips of what he calls "this car thing" — a burning, lifelong passion for vintage cars.

Pakistan was founded in 1947. There are still a few cars around that were shipped in here before that, under British rule.

Mohsin, who is 50, started collecting them when he was 16. His fleet currently includes a 1947 Lincoln Continental convertible that once belonged to the king of Afghanistan.

"I would go out of my way to have fun in classic cars, go anywhere in the world, take any challenges," Mohsin says. "I love being around cars."

Restoring classic cars is clearly Mohsin's life, but he does have a proper job — as a travel agent and events manager.

"I hate doing all that," he says. "I wish I didn't have to work for money and spent all my time on cars."

A Cross-Country Journey

Mohsin is the founder of Pakistan's Vintage and Classic Car Club. A few weeks ago, with a group of fellow enthusiasts, Mohsin set off from his home in the southern port city of Karachi and headed for Peshawar, close to Afghanistan. That's a journey of about 1,000 miles; Mohsin's wife, Saira, travels in the car with him. Pakistan has some fine freeways, and many new cars. But driving here is often also a battle with dust and potholes, rickshaws, horse-drawn carts, cycles of all sorts, gaudily decorated trucks — and herds of goats.

Continued on next page.....

Driving Pakistan's Badlands In A Vintage British Convertible - continued.....

Mohsin and Saira are traveling in a dark green 1954 Austin-Healey. When visibility is bad — at night, for example — Mohsin switches his dark glasses for a pair of glass and leather World War II flying goggles. Mohsin and his friends started these road trips a few years back. They're partly just about enjoying their cars. They stop along the way to hold car shows and gatherings of fellow enthusiasts.

But for Mohsin, this journey is also a statement of defiance against those creating havoc in his country.

"I am from that school of thought that this is our country, and we have to show them that we are living a normal life," he says. "We want to have fun. We will have fun, come what may."

He continues: "I want to be free. I want to be free enough to go anywhere in Pakistan, wherever I want to go to. Why should a terrorist keep us off the streets?"

Pakistan isn't the kind of place that generally comes to mind if you're contemplating a leisurely cross-country drive. It's rare for a day to pass without a suicide bombing, a gunbattle or an assassination somewhere on the map.

But the violence is patchy. In most trouble spots, there are very large areas where life carries on as normal. This is true here, too.

Avoiding A Trouble Spot

During the journey, Mohsin's convoy has to make a big detour because of a rumored riot. He loses a fog lamp and breaks a spring after going off-road for hours to avoid a 60-mile traffic jam.

But they eventually reach Islamabad, the capital, unscathed. Saira climbs out and allows this correspondent to squeeze into their car for a while.

"We are only 5 inches from the ground. It is a funny feeling. It's like a go-kart," says Mohsin, as the Austin-Healey growls its way through the city's wide avenues.

"We get all kinds of reactions, but mostly people like what they see. They have smiles. They give me a thumbs-up; they appreciate the car," he says. "Some people laugh — I don't know why."

At this point in his journey, all that remains is the final leg, a three-hour drive to Peshawar.

More than 1,000 people have been killed or injured by bombings and shootings in that city this year. Mohsin is accustomed to this. In Karachi, there is bloodshed every day. But some of his group have told him they won't be going any farther because of security fears.

"Some people have dropped out because there's a warning that there might be some terrorist attack in Peshawar," Mohsin says. "I told them if you're not going, I am going alone. And my wife said, if you're going, I am also going with you."

I watch as Mohsin and Saira, and a handful of others, set off down the road to Peshawar on a dazzling blue autumn morning. Later I phone them; they'd made it, unharmed. Everything was — says Mohsin — "fantastic." For the stubbornly optimistic Mohsin, these trips are making a fundamental point, about the impact that people can make by standing up to the men with guns.

"People don't realize the people power," he says. "If we unite, if we get together, we can do anything."



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