



# Overdrive

SEPTEMBER 2013

Official Newsletter of the Central Indiana Austin-Healey Club

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you haven't yet registered for September Roundup, please do so soon. Also, the Mid-Ohio club is asking for contributions for their auction, and it looks like we will be able to offload some of our surplus inventory of regalia from the Roundup event our club hosted last year.

As I was recently flipping through a copy of the August 9<sup>th</sup> issue of Golf Week Magazine, I noticed an article "Hills and Thrills" featuring the Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa, the location of Conclave 2010. Accompanying the article detailing the resort's golf courses was a photo of downtown Galena jammed with Austin Healeys - yet no mention in the article of what was going on in Galena back in July 2010 with those "exotic cars" filling up their streets. It is kind of fun to think that even now when the Galena Chamber of Commerce submits a photo to pro

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## Ice Cream Social & Rally

August 10<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful day for a rally and subsequent Ice Cream Social. Bruce & Barbara Watson put together a fun rally that ended at Tim & Sue O'Neill's beautiful home in Hillsboro. The rally began in the parking lot behind Starbucks at Traders Point on 86<sup>th</sup> St. Ten cars competed in the rally including the teams of Randy & Janet Belden, Dick and Sherri Storrs, Paul Imel & Kay Goldsberry, Jim Frakes & Bob Haskell, Don & Paul Yost, Jim & Jo Switzer, Dick & Ruth Buis, Steve & Steve Berenyi IV, first time rallyers Tom & Wendy Neal, and solo Craig Rice.

The first car was sent off by Rally Master Bruce Watson at 10:30, with the last car departing at 11:00. The Watsons followed, at least for the first few miles. The feeling of the car dragging and the smell of

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## NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

MEET AT :

SQUEALERS BBQ

5515 W. 86th STREET

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

(317) 871-7427

## LINKS



**Central Indiana AHC**

<http://www.ciahc.org>

**Bluegrass AHC**

<http://www.bluegrassclub.com>

**Northern Indiana AHC**

<http://members.aol.com/midwestah/club/>

**Ohio Valley AHC**

<http://ohiovalleyahc.com>

**Indiana British Car Union**

<http://www.ibcu.org>

**Marque Matters Blog**

<http://www.marquematters.blogs.com/>

**AH Club of America**

<http://www.healeyclub.org/>

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mote their town, they favor the memory of our Healeys.

I hope you enjoy reading about Doug Bruce's racing exploits though the streets of Pittsburgh as much as I did. The You Tube video clips he included put you right in the race with him as he negotiates hairpin turns and chicanes and other cars – made my hands sweaty. Congratulations, Doug, on your third-place finish and a place on the podium.

Please be sure to check the Calendar on our club's website for upcoming scheduled events. In addition, included with this month's Overdrive is a bulletin and reservation form for the Louisville Concours D'Elegance held this year, not in Louisville, but in French Lick. Dates are October 4 through 6. For complete details, information, featured automobile classes, etc., please visit the web site: <http://www.louisvilleconcours.com/>. Not only will this be a outstanding car show, but their site on the rolling and wooded grounds of the French Lick and West Baden Springs Hotels will be spectacular. Hope to see you there, but not before September Roundup.

All the best,

Bruce G.

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smoke, foretold a hung-up emergency brake. After pulling off on a side road and discovering smoke pouring up from the rear right wheel, it was time to call AAA. Needless to say, after a two hour wait for the tow truck, the Rally Master and his assistant never made it to the O'Neills.

Jim Frakes took over the rally scoring amidst good natured and fun rally discussions. Everyone enjoyed the scenic route and fun questions prepared by Bruce & Barbara. Upon arriving home with the crippled car, Bruce e-mailed the rally answers. Later, after reviewing the Rally sheets some scoring inconsistencies were discovered creating the need for a run-off at the September business meeting. The run-off for First & Second place will be between the Beldens and the Storrs, and for Third place between the teams of Imel/Goldsberry and Frakes/Haskell. Award plaques will be presented to the winners at that time. The questions will test the attention and memory of the finalists.

All participants enjoyed one another's company and a nice picnic on O'Neill's deck, followed by an Ice Cream Smorgasbord prepared by Sue O'Neill. We are grateful to the O'Neills for hosting this year's Ice Cream Social and for sharing their lovely home and Tim's shop with the rally participants.

Thanks to Jim Frakes for taking over the Rally Master duties, and to Bob Haskell, and Tim O'Neill for their photo contributions.

# 2013

Columbus, Ohio



## ROUNDUP REGISTRATION

Join the Mid-Ohio Austin-Healey Club in Columbus, Ohio, this September 20th through the 22nd, for another enjoyable Roundup weekend. The accommodations and all events will be held at the Holiday Inn located at 7007 North High St. (Rte 23) in Worthington, Ohio, 43085, just off Interstate 270, Exit 23.

Reservations: 614-436-0700. The hotel rate for Roundup participants is \$94.00 per night plus tax; breakfast included. This rate will be in effect until August 30, 2013. Call hotel directly for room reservation; mention you are with the Austin-Healey Roundup.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Car(s) (Model and Year) \_\_\_\_\_

Early Registration: \$55.00 (2 persons, one car) Deadline August 15, 2013 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late Registration: \$65.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet: \$30.00 per person Number of dinners \_\_\_ X \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Mid-Ohio Austin-Healey Club

Mail Registration form with payment to: Nancy Overturf, 6123 Rackley Way, Westerville, OH 43081

If you have any questions, call Jerry Spurlock at 985-774-6807 or visit [www.moahc.com](http://www.moahc.com)

**Any donated item(s) you can bring for the auction will be appreciated**



# LOUISVILLE

## Concours d'Elegance

### AT FRENCH LICK RESORT

October 4-6, 2013

#### Louisville Concours d'Elegance

In its new home at French Lick Resort, the Louisville Concours d'Elegance will bring together top exhibitors, seasoned judges and enthusiastic sponsors to celebrate the "competition of elegance" — and to raise money for Kosair Children's Hospital October 5-6.

#### Upgrade Your Experience

**Concours VIP Experience: \$60 per person**  
 Ticket price includes show admission, lunch in the VIP tent, snacks, two drink tickets and event program.

**Club Concours: \$200 per person**  
 Get the full experience of the 2013 Louisville Concours d'Elegance by joining judges, exhibitors, artists and more for both Saturday, October 5 and Sunday, October 6. Ticket price includes:

- Driving Tour
- Great Gatsby Gala
- Breakfast at Dawn
- Concours d'Elegance VIP Experience

#### Not-to-Miss Saturday Events

**Driving Tour**  
 Sponsored by 502 Auto Club



Driving is half the fun as participants embark on a back road tour of Southern Indiana including a stop at JASPER Engine's 367,000 square foot facility with lunch to follow at local favorite Schnitzelbank restaurant.

**Great Gatsby Gala**  
 Sponsored by Bluegrass Motorsport



The world-famous atrium at the West Baden Springs Hotel will be transformed into a Prohibition-era soiree that will feel like a page straight out of the American classic— complete with big band music, art deco-inspired decor and a lavish three-course meal. Costumes encouraged.

Special room rates and Louisville Concours d'Elegance packages are available at West Baden Springs and French Lick Springs Hotel. Mention Code: 1013CHN

Visit [www.LouisvilleConcours.com](http://www.LouisvilleConcours.com) where you can find details on how to nominate a vehicle, read judges' bios and make room reservations.

#### Concours Sunday

General Admission-\$15 in advance/\$20 at door

- 6:30 am • Breakfast at Dawn-\$2.5 per person  
 Sponsored by 
- 10:00 am • Gates Open  
 • Kids & Cars Tent  
 • Concours Café  
 • VIP Tent Opens
- 11:00 am-2:00 pm • VIP Lunch  
 Sponsored by 
- 11:30 am • Judging Concludes
- 12:00 pm • Opening Ceremony  
 • National Anthem
- 3:00 pm • Awards Ceremony Begins  
 • Special Introduction of Kosair Children's Hospital Patients  
 • Class Awards  
 • Honorary Awards  
 • 2013 Best in Show Award  
 • People's Choice Award
- 4:00 pm • Winner's Circle Celebration
- 5:00 pm • 2013 Louisville Concours Concludes

[www.LouisvilleConcours.com](http://www.LouisvilleConcours.com)

# PITTSBURG VINTAGE GRAND PRIX

by Doug Bruce:

Here is a report for my first Pittsburg Vintage Grand Prix 2013 (PVGP) race weekend! First, if you have never raced at Pittsburg, do it! It is a course that we really have no business racing on and that makes it even more attractive! The course is laid out on city streets, through a park with curbs, old WPA stone walls, driving across large city bridges - and with skyscrapers in the background. In addition, with 100,000 people cheering you on! Very scary for a first timer - 20 turns and a bunch of grade changes. When you see my video, you will understand what I mean - It is so overwhelming! The best advice to me was to ignore the surrounding hardscape and focus on the road and, because it has a crown, watch where you place your car as the outside of the road will suck you towards a wall quickly!

We were paddocked in a neat section of the park on an access road with every kind of race car you can imagine. I had to report for the first timers meeting and walk the track Friday afternoon, which was the organizers chance to scare you to death! Manley Ford was my group instructor and really helped with plenty of tips because he has driven it many times. The course has roads with a crown, slick paint stripes, manhole covers, drains and curbing. The real attraction to me was the track felt like what I imagined my idols raced on in the 1950's and 1960's, which was much more difficult than the sanitized tracks that we race today.

Saturday morning my crew member and I walked from our hotel downtown to the track and it began to rain! Gary Kroph, with his Bugeye, and others were also coming to terms with the rain. We had a morning practice session on a very damp track.

Gary told me to follow him but when the green flag dropped at 9:00 am, he was gone and I was really slow! I slid everywhere and every how - not confident at all and actually considered that perhaps I should just park it and watch this weekend first before racing on it. I think I ran a 3:12 and the leaders were running 2:50's. Later Saturday, after a great lunch, the sun came out and with it my confidence. I asked a bunch of questions of other experienced drivers and I studied what I thought were the five most important turns of the 20 turns and got ready to qualify. I went out and the PVGP staff decided to start our qualifying session with us driving side by side. So, it felt like a race. Now with my tire pressure better adjusted at 17.1 lbs I went out and drove in a zone and qualified 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 2:34. A real surprise to me!

The pole position had run a 2:33 and third, behind me was 2:35 in an Abarth that was well driven by a Canadian driver. The Abarth has won it the last 2 years so I followed him a few laps and gained confidence as well as had a great dice back and forth with him.

The event is huge with part of the spectator seating all along a golf course with sponsors and people lined 10 deep behind snow fences. Loads of very informed people have seen this race since its start in 1983. Everything is walkable around the course: car shows, the paddock, (which is under a shady tree lined street) and the park is situated in the hills of downtown Pittsburg near some old ethnic neighborhoods and state-ly homes. Tent camping is rare because of the lack of facilities, but some braved the elements of heat and some rain to do just that.

Saturday evening, we visited a neat restaurant called Davido's across the river for amazing Italian food and then walked back to our hotel to review the in-car video and learn another 5 turns for the race. Sunday morning, I skipped the warm up session, as it was damp. I also wanted to enjoy the venue, and I figured I was not going to run it at speed so how would I learn anything now? Better to save her for the main race! (Bugeye's are prone to breaking!)

Gary Kroph worked all day and finally was able to replace a broken axle, meaning the feature race for him suddenly was going happen. A few wrecks occurred to others resulting in broken wheel hubs broke and lost brakes. In addition oil was laid down on the circuit, but the sun was shining and the crowd was huge! I had a bad start – just did not pay enough attention to where the starters stand was and where they might throw the green flag. I was also worried about jumping the start as they will black flag you and actually pulled someone off from the podium one year. So, I gave away the start but knew I could make a move later in the race. That “later” came ½ way on the first lap as the pole car went wide under my pressure and he locked her up and I dove in and proceeded to run away from him and the field. I led 2 or 3 laps but soon realized that I was over-driving, not only my skill level but the car and my experience at this track. I had to back it down or I was going to wreck. Kent Prather built me a monster of a motor and it definitely had more power than I had guts! I overcooked my entry in turns two or three times and about went straight through the straw bale chicane. I knew if I did not get back to my rhythm and drive, I would soon find myself with a torn up car and no podium at all.

It was a tough choice but one I had to recognize to be safe for me and the other cars around me as I was passing lapped cars quickly. They say this is a 7/10<sup>th</sup> course and I was driving at 10/10's! I waved the pole car around and was also passed by a new car that came from nowhere, so I went from first to third in a blink of an eye! I drove well from that point out and while I tried to catch the Square Body Sprites in front, I just could not do it. I finished in third which was about 3 seconds from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7 seconds from 1<sup>st</sup>. The top three cars drive to a winner's circle and podium after the cool down lap where you are just amazed at the number of spectators. They are all waving and clapping like crazy - simply breathtaking. I was interviewed and handed a case of Spaten Brau Munchen beer and a neat 1 liter glass Spaten boot. Oh, they had two very lovely ladies doing the trophy duties and with the local media made me feel like a real winner in something that mattered!

I have never been so exhausted after a race nor have I sweated so much as I have in that race suit, but the satisfaction of knowing that I started it and learned and proved I could do it was worth every tiresome moment! I made it home after a seven hour tow and now will clean up the car, change fluids and in a month head to Grattan Raceway Belding, Michigan.

Front view

[http://youtu.be/\\_ErHERTnYx4](http://youtu.be/_ErHERTnYx4)

Rear view

<http://youtu.be/rtPJICw5TII>



**DOUG BRUCE AT PITTSBURG VINTAGE GRAND PRIX**



**RALLY MASTERS BRUCE & BARBARA WATSON 'S MISFORTUNE**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## AUGUST

3rd Indy British Motor Days

10th- Business Meeting and Ice Cream Social

Hosted by Tim & Sue O'Neill

## SEPTEMBER

12th Business Meeting

20-22nd September Round-UP

Columbus, Ohio

Hosted by Mid-Ohio AHC

## OCTOBER

4th—6th Louisville Concours D'Elegance

West Baden Hotel

French Lick, Indiana

5th British Fall Out

Winona Lake, IN

Hosted by Northern Indiana Lakes British Motor Club

26th Halloween Party

Hosted by Jim & Bev Bush

## NOVEMBER

14th Business Meeting

## DECEMBER

7th Christmas Party