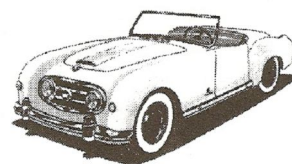


# Nash Healey



September 2012

Newsletter



## Nash Healey at Mille Miglia

2012

By R.W. Hug

So your car has been accepted into the field of 375 cars for the 2012 Mille Miglia out of 1400 applications! After administrative and technical checks you enter the historic downtown center of Brescia where the final seal is put on your steering column making you an accredited participant of the race! You park your car and after much stop and go you open the hood of your car to let fresh air in. Immediately there is a throng of expert spectators approvingly checking on the originality of your engine. You meet fellow petrol heads, you talk cars, you drink an espresso, you enjoy the sun, everybody is happy – Italy!

Around four o'clock in the afternoon we all assemble at the Mille Miglia Museum, which is housed in a former Benedictine monastery founded in 1008. More car watching, more car talking, a small bite from the buffet and then back into town to take up your spot on the starting grid before you are flagged off and head for the first of 59 regularity tests, surrounded by a huge crowd. You are racing the Mille Miglia!

For many years Healey has been an important part of Italy's Mille Miglia shaping some of the 24 historic Mille Miglia races up until 1957 and taking part in just about all of the 27 historic Mille Miglia revivals since 1977. Donald Healey raced brilliantly in 1948 together with his son Geoffrey, finished 9<sup>th</sup> overall and second in the unlimited sports car category in their Healey Westland. GWD 43 was entered again the following year with Tommy Wisdom as driver and Geoff Healey as navigator and again did very well with a record average in the touring class of 68.73 mph (110.618 km) finishing 10<sup>th</sup> overall. Donald and Geoff were back in 1951 in a Nash Healey 3850 Spyder to achieve a creditable 4<sup>th</sup> in class and 30<sup>th</sup> overall, took another crack at it in 1952 but crashed out in what was to be Donald's last race. Another Nash Healey picked up the slack though as Johnson/McKenzie ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in class and 7<sup>th</sup> overall.

In May 2012 a whole armada of Healeys assembled in Piazza della Loggia in Brescia to compete in what the Italians call "la più bella corsa del mondo", the world's most beautiful race. There was the original Healey Elliot which participated back in 1947, 3 Westlands, 4 Silverstones and 11 of the "successor" Austin Healeys and - most relevant for the readers of this sheet - our 1950 Nash Healey S1 Le Mans Roadster! UK registered OFO 333 carries FIVA ID 46128 and is one of the 104 Panelcraft aluminum bodied N series cars produced 1950-1951. Its chassis number is 2015 and the engine number is NHA 1194 which replaced the original 1015 burned out way back. While my wife Heidi and I had great fun navigating and driving our 1950 Healey Westland I had asked our friends Daniel and Beatrice to take our Nash Healey to Rome and safely back to Brescia which they did in style.

The Mille is full of history and emotions and gives you goose bumps all along the track through some of the great Italian cities (Verona, Ferrara, San Marino, Rome, Siena, Florence) and country sides (Futa and Raticosa passes, Toscana). Imagine 4 million spectators cheering and pushing you – the faster and louder you are the more the Italians love you! Forget traffic lights, you just speed through because the police is forgetting about them too! Quite often though, a police motorbike pulls out of a side street, puts on the blue warning light and the two tone horn signaling you to follow them at a decent clip and all of a sudden traffic feels like the red sea parting in front of Moses! One of the many high points must surely be the end of day two when you drive police escorted from the Angel Castel in Rome through St. Peter's Square, along the Roman Forum around the Colosseum and up the Via Veneto. The other one comes when you negotiate your way through thousands of spectators across the Piazza del Campo in Siena where the traditional medieval races powered by real horses take place every summer. Having left Rome at 0720 and after a 500 miles stretch you get to the finishing line in Brescia around midnight and feel like Nuvolari, Fangio and Stirling Moss in one happy person!

April 1952, Mille Miglia, L. Johnson and W. McKenzie Nash Healey



Congratulations on completing this Historic Event .



# 2012 Grand Nashional Post Falls , Idaho



The 2012 Grand Nashional in Post Falls, Idaho in July was a wonderful event, bringing together NCCA members from across the USA and Canada. The Inland Empire Region did a spectacular job of hosting the 4 day event. There were 62 registered attendees and amazingly 5 of them were Nash Healeys. It is not often that the Nash Healey group would have the largest number of entrants in a category. There was a wide variety in the other categories, including 2 amazing Nash Quads. After two days of touring the beautiful Coeur d'Alene area, Geo-nashing and socializing the car show was held Saturday. Best of Show was presented to a beautiful, newly restored 1956 Ambassador owned by Peter and Mary Steinert. 1st in Class M Nash Healey was won by Jim and Maurita Walton with their 1953 Roadster and 2<sup>nd</sup> in class went to Lynn and Joy Nash with their 1954 coupe. Also in attendance were Gordon and Carolyn MCGregor with the famous "Sabrina" car, Dennis and Christine McAllister, 1954 Coupe and Ron and Judy Brookes, 1954 Coupe. Nash Healey owners present without their Nash Healeys included Wayne, Dana and Samuel Redding and Jim Dworschack.

Following the show and the awards banquet, 3 Nash Healeys joined the group to set out on the Ramble. We toured through Idaho to the Spragpole Museum in Murray, Idaho before heading to Montana to spend a lovely evening at Quinn's Hot Springs. The next morning we were off for a fantastic drive through the National Bison Range where we saw big horn sheep, deer, elk, antelope, bear and of course buffalo. Following a late lunch, we headed back to Sandpoint for our final evening. A great Ramble with lots of interesting sites, great company and many stories to match.





No Movies this month as I thought we should revisit  
**Sabrina** as she appeared at the Grand Nashional



This 1953 Nash Healey Roadster was purchased in 1977 by Gordon McGregor for his wife Carolyn, a fan of the 1950's movies. The car was used in the 1954 movie "Sabrina" starring Audrey Hepburn, Humphrey Bogart and William Holden. Gordon purchased the car from Jacques Harguindeguy, renowned restorer of rare automobiles, who had purchased it from a retired movie producer living in Hillsborough, California.

The car was originally painted gray which appeared washed out in the early promotional posters and the black and white movie. Experts in the field have speculated that at some time during the filming, the car was painted white with a poster type paint so that it would have more "pop". Paint scrapings have determined that the car was later painted red, then white. The red interior is original and Carolyn has insisted that it remain unchanged from the way it was when sat in by the actors.

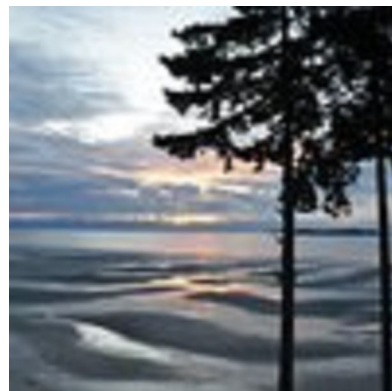


## AHCA Rendezvous 2012



### Parksville, British Columbia June 2012

The Austin Healey Club of BC put on a spectacular event at the lovely seaside resort of Tigh Na Mara on beautiful Vancouver Island, B.C. There were about 70 Austin Healeys and one Nash Healey on hand for four days of excellent touring, informative tech sessions, wonderful food, and great company in this spectacular setting. Best of Show at this event was presented to the lone Nash Healey, owned by Ron and Judy Brookes of Hinton, Alberta.



## Nash Healey Among the Stars Kansas City 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Art of the Car



The most prestigious car show in **Kansas City** is the **Art of the Car Concours**, which was held on the campus of the Kansas City Art Institute and is a benefit for the KCAI scholarship fund. This show was created by Kansas City attorney and avid car collector Marshall Miller, to provide the Midwest with a show as good as those on the coasts. This year's show featured nearly 200 vintage, classic and special-interest vehicles, including cars, trucks, racing cars and vintage motorcycles belonging to collectors from 12 states and 65 cities.

Amongst the Dusenbergs, Rolls Royce's and other exotics, Nash Healey's were represented by registered owner Verlin Boes with his 1953 Nash Healey Coupe.

Verlin tells us it was probably the nicest event he has ever attended. He participated in both the Concours and the invitation only show held the previous day.

## Hat Trick

By Bob Segui

**Webster's defines the term Hat Trick as; "a series of three victories, successes, or related accomplishments".**

I recently was able to accomplish this at the Concours level, with my 1953 Nash Healey Le Mans Coupe. This may not sound like much of an accomplishment, because we all know owners that have won multiple times in their class at a Concours.

However, I feel that I have accomplished something a little different. Since purchasing my car in 2006, at a Concours d'Elegance it has won 1<sup>st</sup> in class, as an American Car\*, as a British Car\*\*, and on August 17<sup>th</sup> of this year, it won 1<sup>st</sup> in class in the "Special Coachworks" class, for the Pininfarina body at the 2012 Concorso Italiano in Monterey, CA.

Not sure many cars made over the years have accomplished this.



2010 Avila Beach Concours d'Elegance  
Avila Beach, CA  
Class - A1 American 1928/1955  
1st Place in Class

\*\*

2007 Carmel-by-the-Sea Concours on the Avenue  
Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA  
Class - BRITISH SPORT - 40S & 50S  
1st Place in Class



## Registry Update

The Nash Healey Registry now stands at 140 registered vehicles. We have also added 3 to the list of vehicles believed to exist, which puts us at 374. One of these not before known to exist is in Austria and we are working on getting it registered. We have had a very busy summer and it has been wonderful to be out and about in the Nash Healey and with Nash Healey people. The camaraderie and helpfulness shown among this group is amazing. From Jim Walton having a spare water pump and a group installing it in Lynn Nash's 1954 at the Grand Nashional to all of the helpful responses to online questions, it is amazing. It is also great to have people participating in the newsletter by sending me your photos and stories. Thanks you and please, keep them coming. It makes the Newsletter so much more interesting when we have current items to include. We look forward to more of the same next summer.

Mark your calendars:

2013 AHCA Rendezvous Lake Tahoe June 16-21

2013 Grand Nashional Botavia, NY Date TBA

## Items for sale

I just checked out the above deck lid script purchased from **Collins Brothers in Wylie, Texas**. Phone number **972.442.6189**. This script looks like the original with only an almost imperceptible difference in the top and bottom edge of the lettering. The attaching studs are in the same original location. The thickness of the lettering is as original as is the size and font of the lettering. Their price is \$150.00 for the two pieces plus shipping.

I would definitely recommend it.

I know that a lot of owners of these cars have been looking for them and I think they should jump on them right away.

Jim Walton

## Items for sale

**Billet steel machined lower front spring seats molded in urethane and many times stronger than the original. A serious safety item. \$695.00 per set**

1952-54 Nash Healey Roadster Windshields \$695.00

1953 Nash Healey Coupe back Windshields \$695.00

1953 & 1954 Nash Healey Coupe Windshields \$695.00

1954 Nash Healey Coupe back windshield weatherstrip. \$450.00

All Nash Healeys extended front suspension caster adjuster \$350.00

All Nash Healeys front stabilizer bar (3 times stiffer) \$ 395.00

Nash Healey rear motor mounts recast in urethane for \$95.00 each on an exchange basis only

Contact **Jim Walton** [nshjw@aol.com](mailto:nshjw@aol.com) or

**Dennis McAllister** [denmca@comcast.net](mailto:denmca@comcast.net)

## Special Interest



By now, many of you have heard the story and checked out the website, but for those of you who have not, please take the time to check this website out.

<http://www.acmefluid.com.au/nash/nash3.html>

Larry Varley from Australia has recently purchased this 1954 Nash Healey.. In the car, when it was shipped to him was a large amount of documentation. Larry has very generously scanned and posted all of this information on this website. The website also includes step by step documentation of the restoration process he has begun so that we can all watch the progress. We welcome him to the Registry and thank him for making this available to us all.



This photo shows the car being loaded for transport to Australia.

## The Nash Healey Newsletter

is produced quarterly and distributed free of charge to Registered owners. If you are not registered please contact me in order continue receiving your copy. There are no fees associated with The Registry and strict privacy levels are maintained. I have not included a registration form, but please contact me to receive one or if you know of someone who is not registered that I should contact. Please contribute to the Newsletter by sending me your photos and stories. We appreciate all contributions and suggestions.

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