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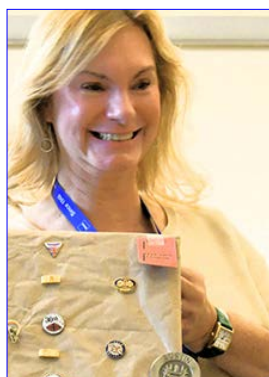
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Atop Mt. Pocono State Park  
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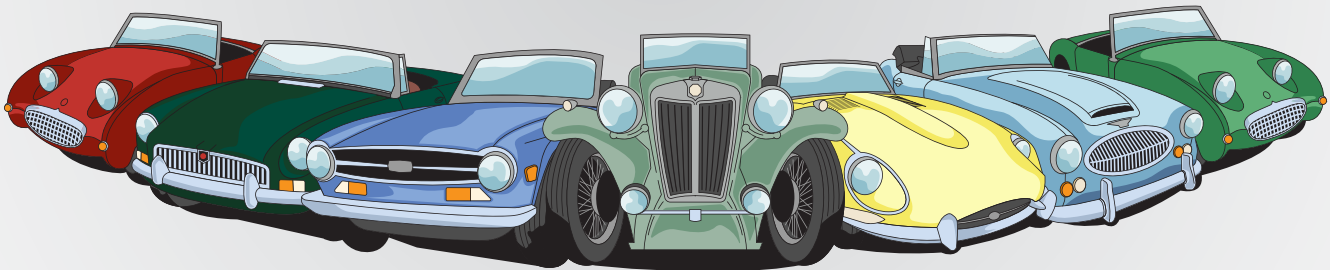
**B**ritish Encounter 2025 was a rousing success. Bob Snyder, Joe McGavin, their team in the Lehigh Valley Region and all the members from other regions who helped simply did an excellent job. Their planning, organizing and execution were exemplary. Thank you!

A first-time Encounter attendee who owns a non-Healey British car told us “Your event was the most fun I had at a car event in a long time.” For those of you who didn’t attend, you missed a great time but hopefully, you’ll be able to join us next year. Our club camaraderie is hard to beat!

Rather than take your time away from reading about the details of British Encounter activities that are contained in this edition of The Flash, I’ll conclude these Ruminations with a plug for Encounter 2026 in St. Michaels, MD. The Brandywine Region is already hard at work and want to show that they also know how to make their Encounter a “Must Attend” event. Mark your calendars for September 27-29, 2026! 



## Classic British & Jaguar Parts



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British Encounter 2025 appears to have been a tremendous success. Congratulations to the Lehigh Valley Region for creating a spectacular three-day event at Camelback Resort. To begin our trip, ten Healeys formed a caravan, leaving from Doylestown on back roads led by Dave Siwa and Ray Donovan through much of northern Bucks County into the upper reaches of the Delaware Water Gap.

The first night, Thursday, was topped with a dinner at Alta Vida restaurant in the Camelback complex. Everyone enjoyed both the food and the company. Friday included a rally through the forests of Delaware State Park. The Gymkahana was held on the parking lot of Camelback. Dinner that night was held at the Camelback Resort followed by a charity auction. The valve cover races occurred after dinner.

Saturday morning began with a car show in the parking lot. The cars were divided into years and style, and included a plethora of other British Marques, including Sunbeam, Jaguar and MGs and Triumphs. Lehigh Valley was able to reach out to other British car owners to attend which made the show more diverse.

Saturday night the awards dinner was held for various events. I will leave the list of winners to Lehigh Valley. Sunday was check out day, and Marlyn and I opted for the easy way home as we were towing our Healey south on route 611 to home.

Coming events include Brits at the Tile Works in Doylestown on Saturday, October 11, beginning at 9 a.m. The location has changed from Peddler's Village to the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works Museum, 130 East Swamp Road, Doylestown.



So here we are, at it yet again, with another deadline hovering over the back of my head like the Grim Reaper's scythe... Well, I guess it's not really all that bad, especially if you keep the lights off.

As this article is destined for the October issue of The Flash, I reckon it could be considered "The Encounter Edition", with all things Encounter (and maybe even an item or two non-Encounter as filler). I didn't make it to the monthly club meeting on September 9th, as Denise and I headed off to Camelback (in the Poconos, don't you know?) around noon that day to get an early start at, uh; oh yeah, Encounter. If you made it to the meeting, you know a whole lot more than I do about who was (were, what, huh?) there and what went on. A couple of short days later, the hills and roads surrounding the town of Tannersville and points north and south were echoing with the sounds of quaint, vintage British motorcar exhausts (not to mention the fumes).

Encounter 2025 officially kicked off early in the afternoon of Thursday, September 11th with Registration and an invite to the Hospitality Room just down the hall. This was followed by an interesting "Tech" talk about the logic of the wiring on British cars by Matt Bakes, proprietor of both British Wiring and Triumph Rescue. Interesting stuff; I even had a little 4-watt bulb go off (or maybe I should say "illuminate") in the far recesses of my brain as a thought came to mind. I'll have to check this out before I reveal what it was.

Other events and stuff (and in no particular order; and by no means considered to be complete – you really had to be there to get the full scoop, scope and effects) that helped keep the masses amused and out of trouble on Friday included the annual Rallye (diabolically designed and executed by Rallye Master Larry Gersten); the Gymkhana, handled by the team of Tim and Tom Walker; Friday night's "Pub Night" themed dinner; the annual "Charity Auction", this year to benefit the United Way; and the VCR (Valve Cover Races). Truly a packed schedule for the day!

Saturday started off with the British Encounter 2025 Car Show, lasting from around 9:30 am until noon. This year, the car show, as well as Encounter, were open to all makes of British cars and motorcycles, although I don't think any bikes were on hand. There were, however, several British cars on hand, including a red Jag XK 140; a white Alpine; a couple of MGs; a Jensen Interceptor; and a couple Minis. The Funkhana was held indoors again this year, sans cars, but great fun nonetheless. This part of the program was followed by the Awards Dinner, and closed out by the Awards Program. That takes me to the part we all have been waiting for: the announcement of awards (at least for the North Jersey Region – I'm sure the other regions' scribes will cheer on their members).

The North Jersey Region's award winners for this year's (2025) British Encounter includes: Sarah Crombie: 1st in Arts & Crafts; and Theo Padavano: 2nd in VCR (adult 4-cyl). In the car show, Allen & Ginny Rosenberg: 1st in Diamond in the Rough with their soon-to-be-retired BN2; Theo Padavano: 2nd in square-body Sprites; Bob Jankowitz: 2nd with his 100-6; and George Crombie: 2nd with my BN2 (hey, there were no rules regarding bribes being offered nor accepted)! In the Rallye, Rallye Master Larry Gersten relayed the results to me as: 5th: Steve & Ann Feld; 4th: George & Lise Baxter; 3rd: Steve & Lynn Jekogian; 2nd: Lucas & Maureen Bowie; and the overall winners (IN FIRST PLACE): Ray & Charlene Donovan!! I'm sure I missed some; if so, I do apologize, it was not intentional, and I'm also sure this will be rectified elsewhere in this edition. Congratulations to all!

On to a few other items, mainly to clear up a note or two off my desk. I neglected to mention that I ran into Theo Padavano and Bob Jankowitz, along with Ralph Scarfogliero, at the Cars & Crumpets – South on August 10th (I just found my note two weeks ago). Steve Feld mentioned that the turnout at Brits on the Beach (Ocean Grove) on Saturday, September 20th was a little lighter than usual regarding the showing of big Healeys; although of those in attendance, Steve Jekogian took 3rd; Steve Feld took 2nd; and Alice & Nick Ferrant claimed 1st. Checking out the pictures posted on Ralph's Cars & Crumpets from September 21st, it appears that, along with several other attendees, Richard Ippoliti was there with his 100-6.



Other events that may be of interest to some (or many) of you – the first few will probably be over and done with by the time you read this. All the more reason to keep up to date with the e-Flashes sent by Steve Feld. October starts off with both Fall Fest in Randolph, NJ and the Woodstock British car show in Woodstock, NY on Saturday the 4th. Ralph Scarfogliero's next Cars & Crumpets – South will be held on Sunday, October 5th at the Wegman's off Route 202 South in Bridgewater, going from 9:00 am until Noon, weather permitting. On Saturday, October 11th, the TVR club is hosting "Out of the Woodwork Show and Rally" for all sports cars at Round Valley State Park in Lebanon, NJ (just east of Clinton); and the Philly MG Club is hosting "Brits at The Tile Works" starting at 9 am. The location is The Moravian Pottery and Tile Works Museum in Doylestown, PA. This event was formerly "Brits at the Village." Brit Fest in Succasunna, NJ is scheduled for Sunday, October 12th. Our monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, October 14th at The Vintage Tavern in Gillette beginning at 6:30 pm. North Jersey Region's annual Fall Tour, set up by Tom and Pam Mulligan, is scheduled for Sunday, October 19th starting at the Mulligan's in Ringwood, NJ; Tom & Pam would like a headcount. There is a "Rain Date" of the following Sunday (October 26th) this year, if needed.

Highlights for November include the monthly meeting at the Vintage Tavern in Gillette on Tuesday the 11th (Veterans' Day) starting at 6:30 pm, and this year's annual Polar Run, which is scheduled for Sunday, November 16th, with a "Rain Date" of the following Saturday, November 22nd. Again, a head-count is greatly appreciated for planning and lunch purposes. Our Region's annual Holiday Party hit the calendar, and is set for Saturday, December 6th at Capisce Trattoria in Morris Plains, NJ (same location as last year's event) starting at 5:00 pm. Yep; you got it: you will need to R.S.V.P. for this event, as well. There are other activities on the schedule to close out the year, but time, bleary eyes, and laziness are forcing me to call it a night. As always, stay tuned to your e-Flash notices sent out by Steve Feld for all the latest!



I thoroughly enjoyed attending the British Encounter 2025 at Camelback Resort in the Poconos. Members registered from the Harrisburg Region were: Del Border, Kirstin Snow, Jim & Linda Cox, Pam Frazier, Skip & Linda Hardy, Dave & Priscilla Hooper, Larry & Bonnie Mellott, Bob & Pam Preston, Don & Flora Schneider, Fred & Donna Sherk, Kimberly Swartley, and Taylor Stein.

It was good to get together with the members/attendees from the Harrisburg Region for Happy Hour for two nights in Bob and Pam Preston's Room 344. I missed the first Happy Hour, as I arrived late in the evening on Thursday, but made it in time to catch the last hour of the Welcome Reception at Alta Vista Restaurant from 6-8 p.m.

My drive to Camelback was interesting. What should have taken two hours turned into a 2-½ to 3-hour drive, as there was a crash on 81 N. My Maps App took me on an alternate back roads route for part of the journey. My exhaust system on my 1962 AH Mk II is very loud, and I was getting loud backfiring when letting off the gas or downshifting going down mountains. I brought along my ear protection headphones that I use when mowing the lawn on my JD tractor. I kept having to take them off and on so that I could hear my Maps App. My mechanic said that the noise problem could be corrected with a new muffler, so I see a new muffler is in the future, and perhaps a new exhaust system.

I invited my son, daughter-in-law, and my two grandchildren along to take advantage of Aquatopia, the indoor waterpark at the Resort. My grandson, age 5, loved the water park and cried when it was time to go home on Sunday.

I missed the Gymkhana on Friday afternoon, as I was at the waterpark with my grands. The Pub Night Dinner on



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Friday evening was enjoyable, followed by the Charity Auction, which was a lot of laughs, and then the Valve Cover Races.

I got to meet new people at the Car Show on Saturday morning, and I picked up extremely helpful knowledge of where to take my car for service and repairs. I enjoyed meeting Dave & Barb Siwa and talking to Barb about their Scandinavian Tour that Dave presented at the Hershey Encounter 2023. Barb did a fantastic job in videoing their drives on the tour, and Dave did a fantastic job in his presentation of the tour.

The Funkhana was held indoors in the Conference Center Lobby on Saturday afternoon. There were no cars involved. It was very well run and fun to watch.

There were five lots of Matchbox cars in the raffle prize drawing. I put two tickets in each lot for my grandson. I won the one lot that had five cars, three which were TR-6s. My grandson was very excited, as he loves cars.

The Awards Dinner was held on Saturday evening. Since I signed up late for the table seating, I didn't get to sit with members from the Harrisburg Region. The bright side of that was that I got to meet and make new friends with members from other regions. I was pleasantly surprised when my name was called for Third Place for my AH in that category. That was the first award I have ever received. Of course, I think there were only four cars in my category.

I want to commend Bob Snyder and Joe McGavin, the event co-chairs from Lehigh Valley on the wonderful job they did of planning and organizing British Encounter 2025, and special thanks to all who volunteered to make this year's Encounter a success. 





As you may have noticed, this issue is focused on Encounter which was held at the Camelback Resort in Tannersville, PA this year, from September 11th to 14th. Representing Long Island were Mike Haran, and Maureen and Lucas Bowie. George Robinson was very excited to attend and had his registration and room reservation all set but then had to drop out a little beforehand. Mike Haran has probably attended more Encounters than just about anyone from any region. I have many fond memories of the Encounters I attended. First, I went with one or more of my young children and again as they got older, and finally with my wife once she retired. We had a good-sized group that would go every year from Long Island but with some of those people having sold their Healeys or moved away or having health or mobility issues, the number of our attendees has gone way down. I know I miss seeing that crowd and all the friends I met from other regions.

Mike and the Bowies sent photos to share with the rest of us. They had a good time and will likely be going to the 2026 Encounter in St. Michael's, Maryland, September 27-29.

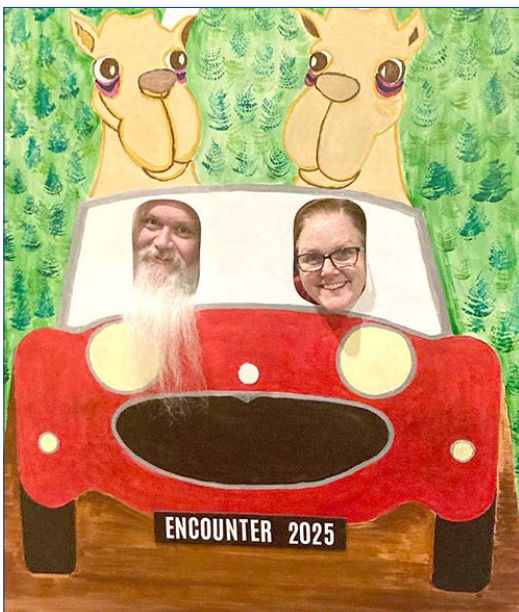
Events for October include the Vanderbilt Concours d'Elegance at the Vanderbilt Museum, Centerport on October 12, and the AACA Greater New York Region Car Show at Williston Park on October 26. I have sent out fliers for them already and will send any further updates.



Creative valve covers, lining up for racing.



Trunk Art .



LI members Lucas and Maureen Bowie  
"driving" at Encounter



Our Mike Haran, front row, second from right  
with George Null Award winner for 2025  
with some of the previous winners.



The Encounter this year was a superb event in Poconos. Congratulations to the Lehigh team and helpers for making it memorable. The accommodation was among some of the best I feel we have ever had for this signature event, and the food was similarly delicious.

It was so good seeing so many friends with their rides that universally looked amazing. See some of the selected pictures taken by Edy below!

This year we had an expanded welcome for other British car groups, and they came out and did the event proud. There were a number of stand-out cars but personally I think the XK140 was brilliant alongside my own Jensen interceptor III.

The weather was some of the best I can remember for an Encounter event over the last 30 years and that made for some incredible scenic driving. Edy and I drove to the Hill top in the Interceptor and visited the lovely golf resort close by where the staff allowed us to take a self-guided tour of the property.

The indoor Funkhana was organized by Heather McMahon and was highly contested by all the loud enthusiastic spectators. Similarly, there was an exciting evening for the adults to test their prowess at the valve cover races in the Grand Prix. Some of the races were hotly contested just like at a Nascar weekend event. LOL...some boys never grow up.

Surprise of the weekend was that Del Border DNF' d three times in the Gymkhana and did not register a time. Who knew? LOL

At the banquet on Saturday night, Chuck Ott introduced the 2026 event to be hosted by our Brandywine team in St Micheals Maryland. I think the location should generate a nice event that should be quite different from this years event in the mountains.

On behalf of Brandywine we invite you now to come on down and enjoy what we have planned down in this picturesque location.

See you there. 







Heather Alexander–McMahon, Sue Snyder and Nancy McGavin goofing it up with the wonderful Photo Stand designed and built by Peter McMahon and Heather Alexander–McMahon specifically for this British Encounter 2025.)




Joe McGavin



Bob Snyder

**B**ritish Encounter 2025 was organized by, and under the watchful eyes of co-chairs Joe McGavin and Bob Snyder, both of whom hail from AHSTC Lehigh Valley Region. Under their guidance, the Lehigh Valley Region's Encounter committee worked diligently to ensure this year's Encounter was another memorable experience.

We want to thank Region members Ken & Cindy Beck for arranging AHSTC regalia; to Peter McMahon for special event regalia and awards; to Heather Alexander – McMahon for coordinating the Funkhana and to Chaz de Bourbon for his photography of the event. A special thank you to Kim de Bourbon for her tireless work in the run-up to Encounter and for doing so much at the registration table and throughout. We also want to thank Don & Karen Struckle, Win Hoglen, Nancy McGavin, Sue Snyder, Ken Weidner and Linda & Pete Sauvignon, all from the Lehigh Valley Region, for their tireless behind the scenes efforts.

It was a fantastic job by everyone from our AHSTC Lehigh Vally Region involved. Clearly, the Region stepped up to the challenge of putting on an Encounter with such a modest number of members. Nevertheless, Region members can be proud that it has 'Won' British Encounter 2025, and is now 'Done.' 



George Null Award, with some of the previous winners.



Peter & Heather McMahon



Ken & Cindy Beck



Encounter Show Field



Kim & Charles de Bourbon



## Welcome to British Encounter 2025!



This year's Austin Healey Sports & Touring Club (AHSTC) British Encounter 2025 was held at Camelback Resort, Tannersville, PA, nestled in the picturesque Pocono Mountains, truly a fantastic venue with much to offer as a first-class year-round resort and waterpark. Traditionally, September is one of the most beautiful months to visit the Poconos. This year's spectacular weather during Encounter week did not disappoint. Running from September 11 – 14, with plenty of fun stuff to do, this annual Austin Healey owners get-together promised to be memorable, and it was!

Sixty-eight cars and owners pre-registered for British Encounter 2025. Additional participants registered at the welcome table when they arrived. Registration lasted from 1 to 5pm on Thursday in conference rooms located on the 4th floor of Camelback Lodge. A schedule of events for the week, together with a map of the event floor was provided to attendees for their convenience. The hospitality room was opened, where beer, wine, liquor and snacks were available. Experienced Healey enthusiasts reacquainted and reminisced old times. Clearly, most had been to previous Encounters, knew the program and knew what to expect from the weekend, some having participated annually for more than twenty years.

Encounters traditionally are self-supporting; relying on registration fees of attendees to defer costs, as well as donations from generous sponsors. They also consume hundreds of volunteer hours. This year was no different. British Encounter 2025 was organized by, and under the watchful eyes of co-chairs **Joe McGavin and Bob Snyder**, both of whom hail from AHSTC Lehigh Valley Region. Under their guidance, the Lehigh Valley Region's Encounter committee worked diligently to ensure this year's Encounter was another memorable experience.

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A traditional celebration of our club members' love for Austin Healeys, we especially like how this year, the car show was opened to wider participation by inviting other British car marques to join in the fun, regardless of a classic car's age or condition. The result - Jaguars, Sunbeams, Minis, Triumphs all came; even an MG or two. Of course, this was in addition to our usual stable of beautiful Austin Healey models.

### **Tech Session!**

**Matt Bakes**, owner of Triumph Rescue and British Wiring presented an informative technical talk from 2:30 to 3:30 Thursday on wiring issues of Austin Healey and other British cars, followed by a useful question-and-answer session. Matt did an excellent job and kept the discussion lively. He focused on wiring problems endemic to British cars; the importance of good electrical grounding connections, and how to replace a wiring harness. Matt also displayed a number of broken British car parts he has collected over the years, and relayed past horror stories about the broken parts, taken from his years of repairing British cars and working in the profession. Thank you Matt, and many thanks to Proper Noise for sponsoring this Tech Talk. We also want to thank all participants in this interesting and well-attended event.

### **AHSTC Board Meeting!**

Next up after the Tech Talk, the AHSTC Board of Directors met from 4 - 5:30 pm on Thursday afternoon. Attendees were invited to meet the AHSTC executive team and learn more about the organization. As expected Steve Feld, President of AHSTC presided over the meeting.





**Matt Bakes showing off a disturbingly worn-out clutch pressure plate.**



### **Welcome Reception!**

This was British Encounter 2025's kickoff event. Just a short walk down from the Lodge, the formal Welcome Reception was held at Alta Vida Restaurant from 6 to 8pm on Thursday evening. Shuttle busses ferried many of the diners back and forth from the restaurant to the Lodge.

Alta Vida is one of Camelback's in-house restaurants specializing in traditional Mexican dishes but with a modern twist. Light hors d'oeuvres of artisan cheese, seasonal fresh fruit, dried fruits and nuts, crostini and sliced baguettes were served. Attendees paid for their meals and drinks, but no one seemed to mind as it was such a good time.

The program got underway with a formal welcome address by Bob Snyder, Co-chairman for British Encounter 2025, and member of AHSTC Lehigh Valley Region. Bob urged everyone to meet up with old Encounter friends, make new ones, and described all the Encounter events to be coming up in the next two days.

The keynote address was given by Mr. Chris Barrett, President & CEO of Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. Chris spoke proudly about this part of Pennsylvania, and of the many opportunities for Encounter attendees to enjoy the Pocono Mountains, be it by going on a scenic countryside drive, or to frequent the region's many restaurants, shops, casino, skiing or other sports venues. Also, Chris spoke about his work with the Pocono Mountains United Way and how grateful he was that proceeds from this year's Encounter charity auction would benefit the United Way's many charitable services in the region.

Thank you Bob and Chris, and many thanks to the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau for sponsoring our Welcome Reception. We also want to thank all participants who enjoyed this delicious and warm, friendly event.

### **Scenic Tours Rallye!**

Again this year, the Scenic Tours Rallye event in the British Encounter 2025 schedule proved popular with attendees. One of the great benefits of this year's venue was the vast number of beautiful country roads available to explore the Pocono Mountains.

Designed as a series of self-guided driving tours, participants driving their own Austin Healey or other British classic car, headed out Friday morning onto the road, driving at a leisurely pace, and following a



**Chris Barrett of the Pocono Mountains Visitors bureau addressing attendees at the Alta Vida Welcome Reception.**





scenic drive guidebook prepared by Encounter organizers, following different routes to some of the most beautiful locations in the Pocono Mountains. Approximately 25 cars competed; each vehicle, with its driver and navigator would take between two and two and half hours to complete the approximate 45-mile routes. Additionally, participants were asked to answer pre-written questions while navigating along the way. The routes didn't include planned rests, although participants were encouraged to stop at especially scenic points, and all routes ended back at Camelback Lodge. Naturally a few twists and turns not shown in the guidebook were thrown at the cars just to make trips more interesting.

The guidebooks were prepared in a spiral-bound format making it easy for Rallye teams to follow as they traversed the countryside. Each book included detailed turn-by-turn directions to a destination and return. Route designers intended each route would avoid major highways and poor-quality roads. Selected destinations, together with distance from Camelback Lodge and expected travel time to get there, were as follows:



Lary Gersten and Peter McMahon at the Scenic Tours Rallye Starting Line.



Top of Big Pocono (Camelback Mountain) – 4 miles, 7 minutes

Skytop Lodge – 22 miles, 37 minutes

Bushkill Falls – 37 miles, 59 minutes

Jim Thorpe, PA – 35 miles, 50 minutes

Lake Wallenpaupack – 40 miles, 62 minutes

Delaware Water Gap, PA – 22 miles, 42 minutes

Prior to departure, drivers and their navigators were encouraged to attend the so called “Rallye School” to learn Rallye rules, and have their questions answered. This session was presented in a Conference Center Friday morning before the Rallye start, and was led by Joe McGavin who designed the routes. Thereafter, Larry Gersten lined up each car under the covered portal at the front of Camelback Lodge for timed, staged send-offs, with approximately five minutes between each car’s departure.

A series of oil patches and messy drippings remained as a curious legacy from this vehicular line up in front of the Lodge. After all, these were classic British cars, and such oil patches should have been expected!

Scoring for each Rallye participating car was based on the degree to which, at the end of the scenic tour route, a car’s odometer reading matched the route designer’s planned mileage; the ability of each driver and navigator to correctly answer written questions, and the number of guidebook chevron boxes correctly checked by a team.



**No surprise! Remains of Oil Leaking from Rallye Cars.**





Results from British Encounter 2025 Scenic Tours Rallye are as follows:

FIRST PLACE – Raymond & Charlene Donovan – Nothing wrong!

Mileage: correct

Answers: correct

SECOND PLACE – Lucas & Maureen Bowie

Mileage: correct

Answers: 2 wrong

THIRD PLACE – Steve & Lynn Jekogian

Answers: 1 wrong

Chevrons: highest number noted (266)

FOURTH PLACE – George & Lise Baxter

Mileage: close to correct

Answers: 2 wrong

Chevrons: 2nd highest number noted

FIFTH PLACE – Steve & Ann Feld

Mileage: 2nd closest to correct

Answers: 2 wrong

Congratulations to all Scenic Tours Rallye winners. We wish to thank **Joe McGavin** of the AHSTC Lehigh Valley



Region who investigated, designed and routed all of the scenic drives. Special thanks go to **Larry Gersten** of the AHSTC New Jersey Region, who started each participating car on its journey. We also want to thank all attendees and participants for a fun and successful event.

The British Encounter 2025 Scenic Tours Rallye was sponsored by Grundy Insurance Co. Thank you!

### **Pub Night Dinner!**

The Pub Night Dinner was held in the Conference Center Ballroom from 5-6 Friday evening. With food and drinks included as part of the registration fee, this was a casual gathering in the lively spirit of a British pub, with a buffet featuring UK familiar foods: fish and chips, chicken Stitzel, bangers, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, with iced tea, followed by thick British Toffee pudding. A vegetarian entrée of pasta was also available. No long speeches, just a good time.

The Pub Night Dinner was sponsored by Keystone Productions. Thank you!

### **Charity Auction!**

There was an interesting collection of Austin Healey and other automotive articles offered at this year's charity auction. When all was done and counted for, the event raised more than \$5,500, all to benefit the Pocono Mountains United Way. Thank you.

Auction items were placed on display for pre-viewing in the Conference Center Ballroom from Thursday through the start of the auction Friday night. Those more desirable or high-value items were hammered off in a live auction. This year's auctioneer, Paul Woglom, kept the bids coming fast and furious, with good-natured humor and skill. Of particular interest were five original oil paintings by artist Charlie Mill, father of Shawn Miller, a member of AHSTC Harrisburg Region. The Mill paintings alone ensured auction success with their wonderfully high bids. Another high value item was a complete hard top for an Austin Healey Sprite. Thank you all for your generous donations.



**Allen and Ginny Rosenberg at the Charity Auction.**



Other items were placed in the 'silent auction' where potential buyers placed their bids and names on a sheet of paper next to the item. A fun and sometimes exasperating aspect of the silent auction was that motivated bidders must keep an eye on the price sheet up until close-out of the item at auction time, so as to increase their bids, if necessary, in the event someone had outbid them.

We want to thank all attendees for this fun, fund-raising charity auction event. Once again this year, Encounter participants proved extraordinary civic mindedness, in their gift-giving generosity and spirit. Bravo too, for Pocono Mountains United Way in all the good things that they do! Also, a special thank you goes to **Paul Woglom and Allen and Ginny Rosenberg** for coordinating and orchestrating the Charity Auction.

**Valve Cover Races!****Ray Slavinski and his “Eagle Express”**

Proving to be another crowd-pleasing event, Valve Cover Racing is high-energy, low-cost racing at its best. Held Friday evening after the Charity Auction, the Valve Cover Races took over the large reception area just off the Ballroom in the conference center at the Camelback Lodge. These creatively decorated pint-size custom-built downhill racers must be constructed from an Austin Healey valve cover, and must have 4 wheels. Contestants bring their racers and compete by running them down to a finish line at the end of an inclined wooden track.

It was fun to watch the action and cheer on our favorite car and drivers. The AHSTC has been showcasing Valve Cover Racing at its annual Encounter meet ever since 2005. This well-loved perennial event has gained a great following and continues to draw more enthusiasts every succeeding year. By itself, Valve Cover Racing almost guaranteed that British Encounter 2025 would be an unqualified success.

This year was limited to only 4-cylinder valve cover racers, (as there were no 6-cylinder entries) including separate stock and modified divisions. We had a total of 10 drivers (and nearly as many race cars) a good combination of veterans and newcomer racers. Men and women always race together in this event, and there is no age limit for contestants. After the races were completed, a vote for People’s Choice award was taken based on each valve cover car’s appearance and design creativity. Winners were announced immediately thereafter, but final winners were crowned at the awards dinner Saturday night.

Results from 2025 Valve Cover Races are as follows:

**4-CYLINDER STOCK DIVISION**

First Place – TIE –Steve & Lynn Jekogian tied with the “Jersey Devil” driven by Windmill Sandy

Second Place – Theo Padavano

Third Place – Fred Sherk piloting the “Hamster Power 42”

**4-CYLINDER MODIFIED DIVISION**

First Place – Jackson Hauseman piloting the “Shark Encounter”

Second Place – Tim Walker assisted by his Tiny Mechanic

Third Place – Jaedis Wade



## SPIRIT OF COMPETITION AWARD

Ray Slavinski driving the well-lit “Eagle Express”

## PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD

In a close vote, the winner was Jackson Hauseman driving “Shark Encounter.”

Congratulations to all Valve Cover Race winners. We want to thank **Jim Cox** who once again, coordinated and announced the 2025 Valve Cover Races. Many thanks also to Bob Snyder and Steve Feld for technically qualifying the valve cover car entries and preparing the results grids. Thanks to Tim Plesz who assisted at the finish line with video validation of winners. We also want to thank all attendees and participants for a fun and successful event.

The British Encounter 2025 Valve Cover Racing was sponsored by Cargo Trailer Sales. Thank you!

## Gymkhana!

Gymkhana has always been a crowd pleaser at AHSTC annual Encounters. This year was no exception when the noisy competition got started Friday afternoon. Gymkhana is a type of motorsport that involves precise driving through a predetermined course laid down with orange traffic cones and other markers. The goal is to navigate the course as quickly and accurately as possible, requiring a combination of agility and car control. The focus is precision driving, close-in handling, and timely acceleration rather than outright speed.



This year we had 13 drivers participate in the Gymkhana. Drivers were required to wear helmets. All cars are required to have seat belts. Prior to making each run, the cars were inspected by George Baxter, the event’s Technical Director. (George is member from AHSTC Philadelphia Region and a veteran of many Gymkhanas.) Other than these safety measures, no other modifications to the cars were needed. Drivers were invited to walk the course prior to the start to familiarize themselves with track layout. The course proved challenging; its tight curves and closely spaced traffic cones demanded attention. Fortunately, all drivers survived unscathed and cars left undamaged.

The track this year was laid down on Camelback’s lower snowtubing parking lot, empty this time of year, which proved to be a great playground for drivers, and afforded clear views for onlookers; even better for those spectators who climbed the nearby bluff looking down on the course, providing a bird’s eye view of competition. Shuttle busses ferried spectators back and forth from the track to the Lodge.

One shuttle driver even spotted a black bear lurking about, seemingly interested in the goings on. However, the persistent low growl of car engines and screeching tires forced retreat of our furry car enthusiast back into the woods.



Results from 2025 Gymkhana are as follows:

STOCK SPRITE (There was no modified Sprite class this year.)

First Place - Clark Shelton - time 44.501

OPEN BRITISH CLASS

First Place - Allen Hess - time 52.431

STOCK BIG HEALEY

First Place - George Baxter - time 46.712

Second Place - Clark Shelton - time 46.995

Third Place - Raymond Donovan - time 49.506

MODIFIED BIG HEALEY

First Place - Kirsten Snow - time 45.291

NASTY BOY CLASS

First Place - Tim Walker - time 41.897

Second Place - Tom Walker - time 47.578

TEAM KHANA

George Baxter and Ray Donovan – AHSTC Philadelphia Region



Congratulations to all Gymkhana winners. We wish to thank **Tim Walker and Tom Walker** from AHSTC Philadelphia Region who organized this year's Gymkhana. Thank you everyone who came and participated in this wonderful car enthusiast event!



**Car Show!**

As always, the car show is the premier event at all Encounters; love of classic British cars is the common denominator for all those who attend our favorite annual event. This year was no exception!

At Camelback, the car show took over a gently sloping paved area in front of the Lodge normally reserved for valet parking. Readily accessible to the attendees, other interested hotel guests, and the general public, this premiere car show location afforded entrants with safe and secure parking, as well as spacious, unobstructed viewing of gorgeous Healeys and other British cars.

Show cars were parked by class upon their arrival, and remained on view for the entire event, except of course, when their owners participated in the Car Tour Rallye or Gymkhana, or simply went tootling around in the scenic countryside.

The car show lasted from 9 until noon on Saturday. Ahead of the show, a wash station was provided; owners prepped their vehicles, many were waxed, their chrome sparkled. Spectators and owners alike mingled, discussed, photographed and compared this year's crop of four-wheel offerings; with bonnets raised, clean engines exposed and rear boots opened, all cars were inspected in critical detail by trained experience eyes, or by gentle enthusiasts, each seizing upon and calling out the slightest imperfections found. Is that an original tool kit in the boot, they asked? Concourse quality or diamonds in the rough, club members would decide the outcome by voting for their favorites. Highly competitive to be sure, yet all in good fun!

Thirteen classes and vehicle categories were voted on, with votes continuing until noon Saturday. Ballots were marked and placed in one of two ballot boxes each located near the end of the car show line-up. Votes were later tallied and winners were announced during the awards dinner.



Results from British Encounter 2025 Car Show are as follows:

Class A - Austin Healey 100 (BN1 & BN2)

First Place – Mike Shelton

Second Place – George & Denise Crombie

Third Place – Raymond Slavinski & Bonnie Gebhardt

Class B - Austin Healey 100-6

First Place – Nicholas & Alice Ferrant

Second Place – Robert Jankowitz & Sarah Strong

Class C - Austin Healey 3000 (MK1 BT7)

First Place – George & Lise Baxter

Second Place – Timothy & Debbie Plesz

Third Place – Paul & Trish Woglom

Class D -Austin Healey 3000 (MKII BT7 BN7)

First Place – Nicholas & Diane Ludovic

Second Place – Linda & Pete Sauvigne

Third Place – Pamela Frazier

Class E - Austin Healey 3000 (MKII BJ7)

First Place – David & Barbara Siwa

Second Place – Donald & Karen Struckle

Third Place – John & Helen Moore

Class F - Austin Healey 3000 (MKIII BJ8, Single Light)

First Place – Steve & Lynn Jekogian

Second Place – Don and Flora Schneider

Class G -Austin Healey 3000 (MKIII BJ8, Double Lights)

First Place – Jim & Linda Cox

Second Place – Raymond & Charlene Donovan

Third Place – Jarod & Benita Goldstein

Class H -Austin Healey Sprite (MKI Bugeye)

First Place – Jerry & Diane Yarbrough

Second Place – Clark Shelton

Third Place – Leo & Marty Kob

Class I -Austin Healey Sprite (MKII, III, IV Square Body)

First Place – Pam & Bob Preston

Second Place – Theo & Lina Padavano

Third Place – Mike Haran & Maureen Bowie

Class J -Austin Healey - Modified

First Place – Del Border & Kirstin Snow

Second Place – Tom & Rosie Walker

Class K - BRITISH OPEN (All Other Cars)

First Place – Joe & Kerch McConlogue



## ARTICLE | ENCOUNTER 2025

Second Place – Jed Rapoport & Becky Mader

Third Place – Nigel & Edy Smart

### SPECIAL AWARDS

Diamond in the Rough Award

First Place – Allen & Ginny Rosenberg

Dave Venezia Best in Show Award

Jerry & Diane Yarbrough

Congratulations to all Car Show winners. Thank you, **Bob Preston**, of the AHSTC Harrisburg Region and **Bruce Lawrence** of the AHSTC Lehigh Valley Region for coordinating the event. A special thank you to **Fred Sherk** of the AHSTC Harrisburg Region for assisting with the Car Show logistics and joining Bob and Bruce in the vote counting. We also want to thank all attendees and participants in what has proven to be the best car show we've seen in years.

The British Encounter 2025 Car Show was sponsored by Treasured Motorcar Services. Thank you!

### **Funkhana!**



**Heather Alexander-McMahon, CFO  
(Chief Fun Officer) of the Funkhana**

Funkhana unfolded in the 4th floor lobby of the Conference Center from 2 – 4 on Saturday. Funkhana is a staple at all recent AHSTC Encounters and other British car conventions. All are light-hearted, relationship-testing completion contests. For British Encounter 2025, the decision with to leave cars in the parking lot, and move the fun indoors as teams compete to finish fun and challenging tasks.

Some of the tasks this year included navigating a chair around a course, with the passenger guiding the blindfolded driver. Participants' skills were also tested by attempting to fling a Pocono postcard into a mailbox on a Frisbee. Another was to blow up a "spare tire" while still another test was to lob lug nuts into a hub cap, or toss tools into a toolbox. All good fun!

Thank you goes out to **Cindy Beck and Heather Alexander-McMahon** who together, designed and coordinated the event. A special thanks to **Peter McMahon** who hand-build many of the Funkhana props and specialty equipment.

Funkhana at this year's British Encounter 2025 once again, was sponsored by Moss Motors. Thank you!

### **British Car Arts Contest!**

British Encounter 2025 continued the past practice of honoring talented and artistic members in AHSTC. Once again, the event provided the opportunity to display photographs, crafts and models as part of our British Car Arts Contest. Attendees voted for their favorite artistic expression using the ballot card in their registration packet, and placing them in a ballot box next to the artwork.

**Awards Banquet!**

This was British Encounter 2025's final and premier formal closing event. The Awards Banquet was held in the Conference Center Ballroom from 6 – 7:30 Saturday evening, with its delicious meal and drinks included as part of attendees' registration fee. The buffet dinner featured three entrees: Chicken Francese, flounder, and New York strip loin carving station accompanied by salade with ranch or Italina dressing, seasonal vegetable, rolls and butter. The vegetarian option was a delicious penne pasta with vodka sauce. Cookies and brownies for dessert followed by lemonade and coffee.

The awards program followed the dinner service. First off, a short presentation by co-chairs Bob Snyder and Joe McGavin, who oversaw the final auction offerings of several beautiful wool blankets which allowed the charity auction total to surpass the \$5,000 goal. Bravo!

The principal speaker was **Steve Feld** AHSTC President. Steve thanked everyone for attending British Encounter 2025, and applauded overall success of the event. A highlight of the evening was Steve's presentation of the AHSTC club's annual George Null Award, which recognizes an outstanding member who is outgoing, caring, helpful and active in club activities. This year's George Null Club Person of the Year Award went to Bob Snyder, member of AHSTC Lehigh Valley Region, for his tireless work as AHSTC Treasurer and AHSTC Board member and for reinvigorating the Lehigh Valley Region along with co-leading this year's Encounter. Bob was later photographed with the many previous George Null Award winners in attendance.



**Steve Feld presenting the George Null Award to Bob Snyder**



**Bob Snyder and previous George Null Award recipients**



A highlight attraction of the Awards Banquet was presentation of Car Show award ribbons. After each award, the winners had their pictures taken, many of which are featured in this issue of Flash.

The last speaker at the Awards Banquet was **Chuck Ott**, member of the AHSTC Brandywine Region, who provided a preview of next year's Encounter 2026, which is to be organized and coordinated by the Brandywine Region. Encounter 2026 is to be held September 27 – 29, 2026 at St. Michael's Inn & Conference Center, Saint Michael's, Maryland. Chuck encourages everyone to save the date and attend. With that goal in mind, attendees were encouraged to complete the post-Encounter survey available later this Fall, in order to provide Chuck and other organizers of next year's Encounter with valuable feedback regarding what activities attendees found most interesting.



And thank you to all of our sponsors who helped make this a wonderful event.

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The Lehigh Region and British Encounter 2025 organizing team wish to thank, and are very grateful to the following sponsors:

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