



REGIONAL RUMBLIN'S



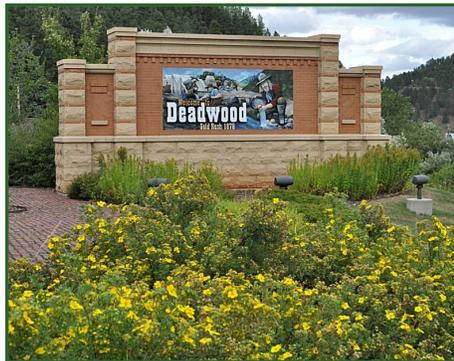
***** SPECIAL EDITION- CONCLAVE 2019! *****

EXTRA!! - EXTRA!! - EXTRA!!

READ ALL ABOUT IT . . .



Bob & Pam Chamberlain enjoying the Farewell Banquet



Welcome to Deadwood, South Dakota, & CONCLAVE 2019!



Julie Miller, David & Bonnie Ayer, Brett Miller, Jim Richmond, & Lera Borden dining @ Mt. Rushmore



(Continued on Page 2)



CONCLAVE 2019! (continued)



This year's Conclave kicked off the evening of September 6 and ran through the morning of September 11. STAHC members attending this years were:

- Bonnie & David Ayer
- Pam & Bob Chamberlain
- Julie & Brett Miller
- Lera & Ron Borden
- Michael Manser
- Jim Richmond

The following is a compilation of pictures, observations and memories of Conclave that were submitted by the attending members.

The Black Hills of South Dakota. Mount Rushmore. And Conclave 2019! Some of us have never been to South Dakota. The Bordens haven't and were expecting terrain similar to the beautiful Texas Hill Country, only with Pine, Spruce, and Fir trees in place of our Live Oaks, Persimmon, and Mountain Cedar. (Got the urge to sneeze?) The Black Hills didn't rival the Rockies or Tetons, but some of the area did qualify as mountainous with the maximum elevation in the area being Black Elk Peak which rises to 7244' above sea level. In fact the official elevation of Deadwood, SD, where Conclave was held, is 4531'.

DAY ONE, September 6, consisted mainly of hotel check-in, registration, regalia sales, opening bids on silent auction items, and a welcome reception in the Mountain Grand Hotel's huge Event Center. The center is the former Homestake Mining Company's Slime Plant! (Google it for some interesting history.) It has been beautifully restored and was the sight for several Conclave events.

DAY 2 OF CONCLAVE IN THE HILLS

By Jim Richmond

Gymkhana and Funkhana were held on Conclave's second day. Both were held at the same venue about twenty miles from Deadwood. The Crazy Horse & Custer guided tour was also held the same day.

Since I had not signed up for the tour, I decided to go to the 'khanas even though I did not drive the Healey to Conclave. I took off through Sturgis of motorcycle fame and headed to the Full Throttle Saloon not realizing the venue had been changed to the Buffalo Chip facility. That will teach me to listen to the opening talk!



(Continued on Page 3)



CONCLAVE 2019! - DAY 2 continued



Thanks to two other folks that did not listen either, I quickly found the substitute venue complete with Healeys roaring around the course with some missing the designated gates.

Ron and Lera Borden joined me just before the lunch break. Instead of going to the Full Throttle Saloon (the designated lunch place), we had lunch in Sturgis. After lunch the Bordens continued with their self guided tour and I, not having taken photos of the Funkhana, returned to the scene of action. Only there was no action, the participants not having returned from lunch.



Steve Day (dark blue shirt) of the British Car Ranch was conducting the tech session “Eight Minutes with a Healey Expert” at the same location. Healey owners with a problem with their cars could have Steve try to diagnose what was wrong and how to fix it in eight minutes. I watched Steve in action and he had several Healeys to work on. Imagine that! He sometimes spent more than eight minutes.



After watching Steve for a while, participants returned and the two ‘Khanas were back in action. The objective of the Gold Strike Funkhana was to pan for gold (left) and try to keep the desperados (that’s bad guys to you city slickers) from stealing the gold (right).



TECH SESSION “THE RACERS EDGE”

Our host for the Black Hills Conclave was the Minnesota AHC with about 50 members. The Minnesota club has more racecar drivers that any other AHCA regional club.



Mike Manser (left), a member of STAHC, moved from Minnesota to Austin several years ago, but has retained his membership in the host club. He is a former racer and was the emcee for “The Racers Edge” tech session sponsored by Fourintune. Mike asked questions of the six-racer panel, and the racer’s responded by describing their relationship with each other and with the Minnesota club. In brief they are

(Continued on Page 4)



CONCLAVE 2019! - DAY 2 Continued & DAY 3



very competitive while on the track and the best of friends, ready to help each other between races. Some humorous vignettes were told during the session as well.



SELF-GUIDED TOUR

By Ron & Lera Borden

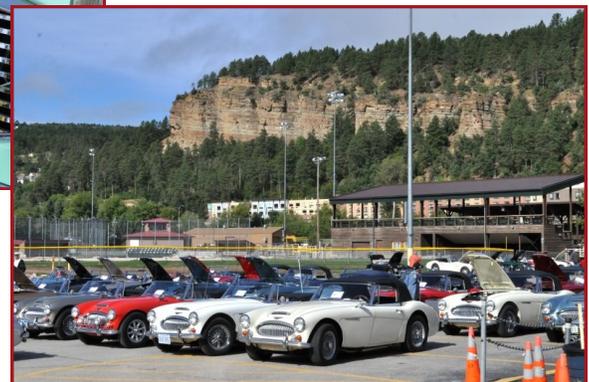
We departed Deadwood in the morning to the south on the Northern Hills tour. The scenery was beautiful, transitioning from alpine, to pastureland, to small towns. Yes, on this leg of the tour we found "Nemo." Nemo, South Dakota, that is. Roughly the halfway point was Sturgis and the Gymkhana and Funkhana sight where we met Jim.

After lunch with him we resumed the tour route which wound into the Black Hills and through Spearfish Canyon. At one of the scenic turn-outs we came across this beautiful British Racing Green Healey 3000.



DAY 3: POPULARITY, PARADE, & MT. RUSHMORE TOUR

Popularity at Conclave 2019 was a two faceted event. It started with the traditional gathering of cars held at the parking area for the football field rodeo grounds. All registered attendees were able to vote on their favorite cars in each class plus submit a "Best of Show" vote. Each class had its own parking area. The BJ8's had by far the biggest turnout.



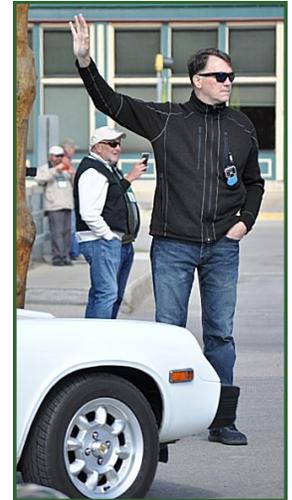
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CONCLAVE 2019! - DAY 3 Continued



After completion of this phase the cars lined up for the police escorted parade through Deadwood to Lead, SD (rhymes with “need” not pronounced “led”), and back to Main Street, Deadwood.



STAHC members Michael Manser, (above) assisting with traffic control, and Brett Miller (left) departing at the beginning of the parade.



Above and lower left: Numerous Healeys lined Deadwood’s historic Main Street. Here the general public could purchase tickets to benefit the Black Hills Boys & Girls Club. Purchasers could then drop tickets in buckets (seen above) by each car to vote for their favorite. Almost \$3000 was raised!

(Continued on Page 6)



CONCLAVE 2019! - DAY 3 Continued & DAY 4



MT. RUSHMORE TOUR

The tour departed the host hotel, Deadwood Mountain Grand, on charter buses at 5 P.M. The trip of approximately 50 miles through the hills and forests took a little less than an hour and a half. Along the way a number of dead pine trees was noted. The bus driver explained that the Pine Bark Beetle had been the reason for the destruction. In some areas it appeared that almost half of the Pine trees had been killed. The same problem has occurred in many areas in the western US. According to Google information this occurs in cycles spanning several decades. The latest epidemic has run for 20 years but has been officially declared ended according to the U.S. Forest Service. This is the reason the town is named Deadwood.



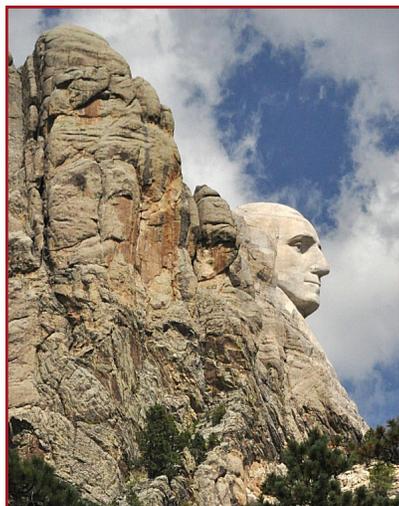
After exiting the bus in the parking area walking to the gift shop/café this was our first glimpse of the Memorial. We proceeded to the café for our evening meal then to the patio while we awaited the long anticipated lighting of the Memorial at night. As luck would have it, fog had settled in the area during dinner, so after a stirring program in the dark, the lights were turned on for Oh well, maybe next time.



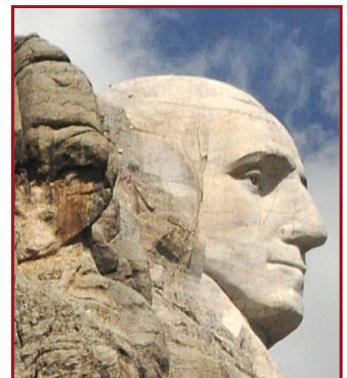
DAY 4: RALLYS, DELEGATES MEETING, BBQ, & AWARDS

Two Rallies were available to choose from. One was a TSD (Time-Speed-Distance) rally, and the other was a leisurely drive called “Tunnels & Pigtales Rally” which the Bordens chose. None of the club members reported having run the TSD so only information about the latter rally will be included.

The “Tunnels & Pigtales Rally” was also a photo rally, and there was ample jaw-dropping scenery to photograph. It started in Deadwood, and was divided into 2 segments. The first “half” was almost 120 miles long and the second just over 80 miles. The Bordens launched off in their rented BJ9 Chevy Something-Or-Other mini SUV. The initial portion duplicated the previous trip to Nemo, then on to Mt. Rushmore. Fortunately the skies were a beautiful blue with puffy white clouds out and about. After passing the monument the road continued around to its left side where a profile view of George Washington was easily seen. Information at the viewing area stated that George’s nose was 20 feet from top to bottom!



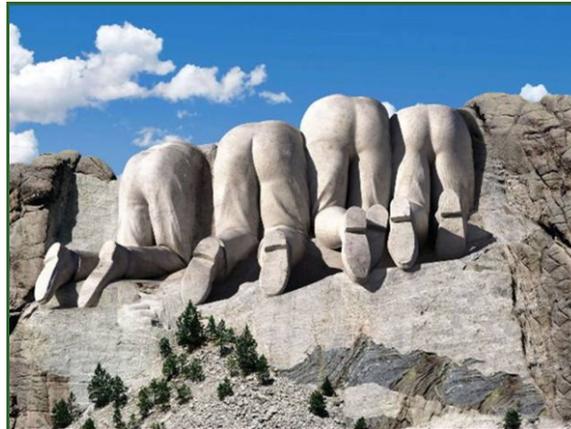
Branching off of the rally route, a little-known side road was discovered which afforded a unique view of the back side of Mount Rushmore. (A rare look at the back side of the monument appears on the following page.)



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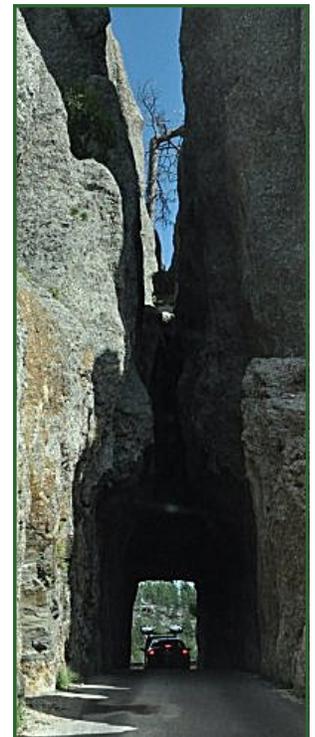


CONCLAVE 2019! - DAY 4 Continued



Back on the published route the road proceeded toward Custer State Park. En-route the first tunnel was encountered - the Needle's Eye Tunnel. The image at the right eliminates any need for verbal description.

The scenery in Custer State Park was stunning with many limestone needles, more tunnels, and other miscellaneous formations. Equally interesting was the area of the park containing free-roaming Bison (incorrectly referred to as Buffalo, but, hey, do we *really* care?), and Burros.

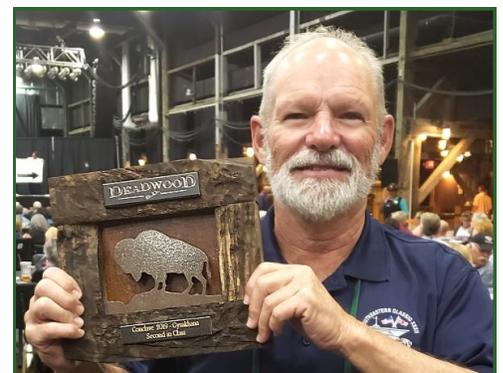


Enjoyable as the first portion of the Rally was, the last part was omitted due to time running out to make it back to Deadwood in time for the BBQ dinner.

Jim Richmond attended the Delegates meeting, and his report may be found on pages 9 & 10.

Bar-B-Que was served in the main event center at the host hotel, the Deadwood Mountain Grand Hotel. Numerous tables were set up to accommodate almost 300 Conclave attendees. The BBQ meat was scrumptious and would be right home if served in Texas!

The awards ceremony followed dinner. Mike McPhail, a Gulf Coast Healey Club member, won 2nd place in his category at the Gymkhana. Congrats, Mike! What a beautiful plaque!



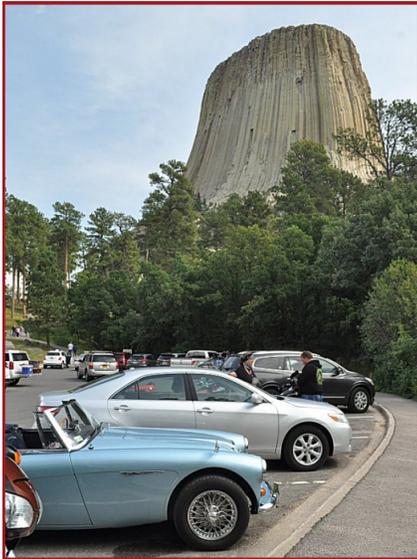
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CONCLAVE 2019! (continued)



DAY 5 - WINDING DOWN, FREE TIME, BUFFET, BRULE, & BEST OF SHOW AWARD!



Several of the STAHC members travelled to Northeast Wyoming to visit the Devils Tower National Monument (America's first National Monument). The Tower rises 1267' above the prairie. A 1.3 mile trail encircles the base affording numerous view points. The boulder field at the base is evidence of chunks of the tower calving periodically, similar to Alaska's glaciers.

And of course the tower is a magnet for rock climbers!



That evening, September 10, Social Hour commenced at 5 P.M., followed by the buffet. A spectacular show was put on by Brule, natives of South Dakota's Lakota tribe. They performed a number of their ethnic dances and songs. The entertainment ended with a Circle of Friends dance. More than 100 Healey enthusiasts joined hands and danced around the event center to the sound of Brule's inspirational music.



BEST OF SHOW

1969 SQUARE-BODY SPRITE!

This ***incredibly beautiful*** Sprite took this newsletter editor's breath away when I first saw it the morning after registration. At the Popularity Car Show the next day the car identification card had a box labelled "Special Features." The owner's entry was "Everything!" Totally accurate! See for yourself!



(Continued on Page 9)



CONCLAVE 2019! (continued)



CONCLAVE DELEGATES MEETING

By Jim Richmond

As representative of the South Texas AHC, I attended the Conclave delegates meeting on September 8, 2019. The Conclave meeting is typically an information meeting and no action is called for or taken.

One item of information at this meeting that requires your action is how to handle the AHCA Membership Directory in the future. This will be discussed at the Delegates meeting in November. We need to know your thoughts regarding the Directory. As you know, the Directory was not published this year due to too few renewals by the deadline (January 15) and computer problems.

Some of the facts that you should consider include that \$13,500 was budgeted for the directory for 2019, including printing and mailing costs and that 85% of new members join on the Internet. Options include hard copies every year, hard copies every other year with updates on the AHCA website, and publishing list of members only on the internet. You may have other ideas.

Please consider how you use the Directory and email your thoughts to: jkrich@gvtc.com.

OTHER INFORMATION DISCLOSED AT THE CONCLAVE DELEGATES MEETING.

Eileen Wetzel, co-chair of Conclave 2019 and Delegate for the host Minnesota AHC, reported that Conclave Black Hills Conclave was a great success with more that 250 registrations and an estimated 150 Healeys. Over \$2,900 was donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Deadwood from the proceeds from the car show on Main Street.

Austin-Healeys have been featured in the Pilots (drivers) Parade at the Canadian F1 race for many years thanks to Roger Hamel and the Quebec AHC. The Quebec AHC has donated one place in the parade for next years race that will be auctioned off at the Fall Delegates Meeting with the proceeds going to the DMH Fund. If you and your Austin-Healey would like to be in the parade I will be your proxy at the bidding. You will be responsible for your and your Healey's transportation to Montreal next spring. Your winning bid will include seats for the F1 race and dinner with the Quebec Club. Past winning bids have been over one thousand dollars. Please send me an email if you would like to bid on this unique opportunity.

Would you like for a photo of your Austin-Healey to be featured for one month on the AHCA calendar for 2021? Reid Trummel announced that AHCA has been selling months on the calendar, which is published in lieu of the Healey Marque in December each year, for \$250. The 2020 calendar is sold out, but 2021 is open.

The Constant Contact program for communicating with members has been a great success. The recent Constant Contact survey indicates that over 50% of our members are 66 to 76 years old. Other survey results will be revealed later.

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CONCLAVE DELEGATES MEETING (continued)



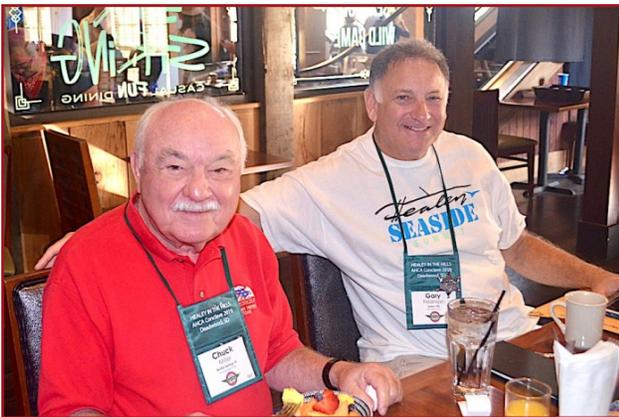
The next Conclave will be in Crystal River Florida on May 17-21, 2020. The Tampa Bay AHC will host it and registration is now open – go to: <https://event-wizard.com/Conclave2020/0/welcome/>.

Future Conclaves being considered include 2021 at Yosemite and a joint venture with the Austin-Healey Sports and Touring Club (Enclave) in 2022.

Our insurance company has been purchased by the Hartford Group. Insurance coverage will continue as is and certificates required for some events will be handled by contacting Fred Dabney at fdabney2@att.net as before.

Both the AHCA and the Austin-Healey Sports and Touring Club support the DMH Memorial Fund. The board of directors of the Fund has awarded an annual scholarship of \$2,500 to a student of McPherson College. McPherson has a bachelor's degree program in automotive restoration. The student has a Bugeye Sprite that he is restoring! STAHC supports the DMH Memorial Fund and its scholarship program.

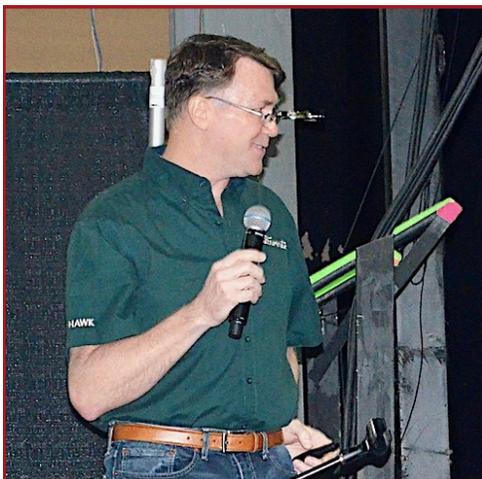
MISC. CONCLAVE PHOTOS (By Jim Richmond)



Chuck Miller & Gary Feldman, members of the Northeast Ohio AHC . Gary is AHCA President.



Roger & Edie Lowery, Vince Barnell (Gulf Coast Healey Club), & Brett Miller, standing (STAHC)



STAHC's Michael Manser, moderating a Tech Session



Chuck and Edie Anderson, two of the original founders of AHCA



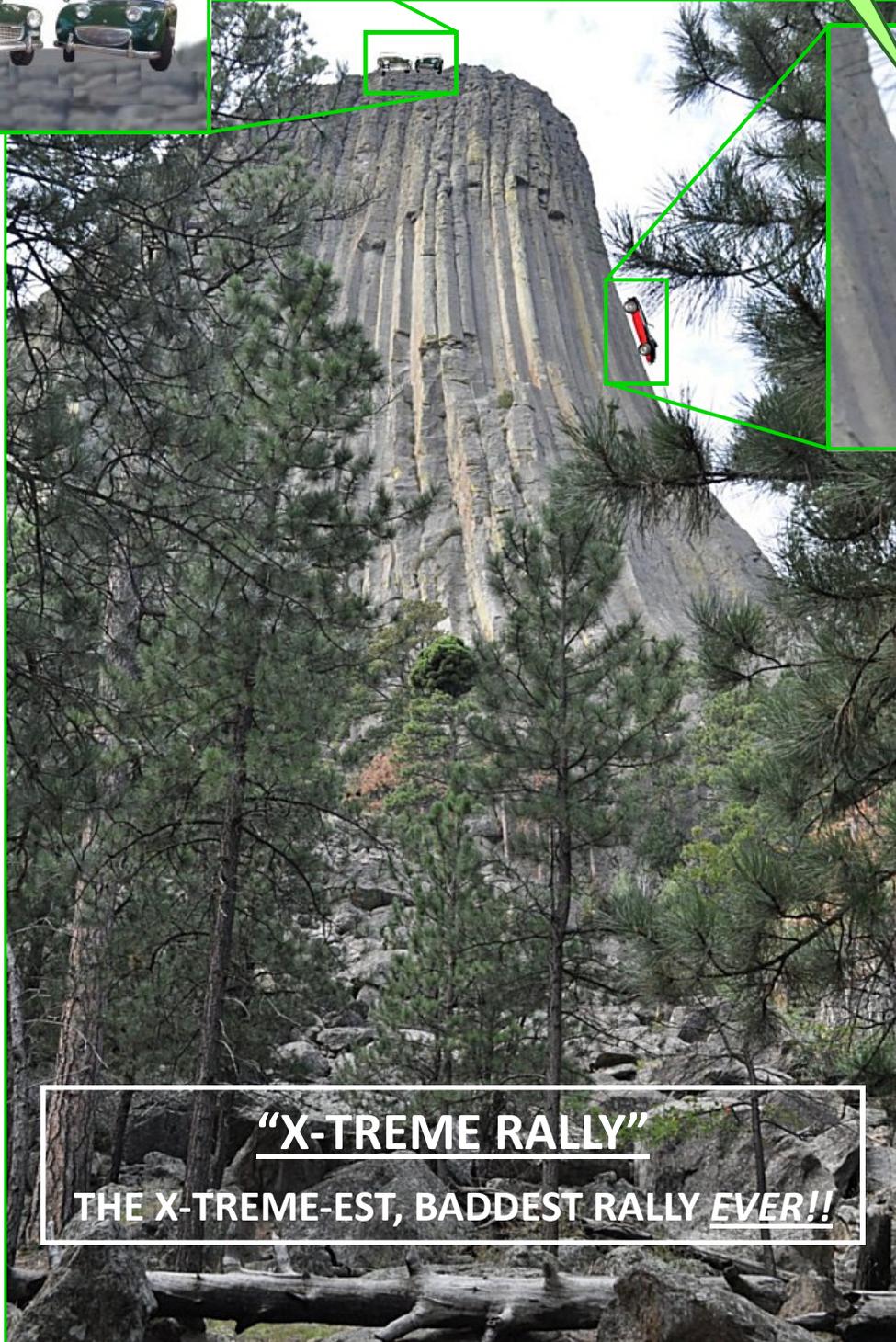
X-TREME RALLY!!



Do you think he'll make it??

Hurry up, B. J. The view up here is great!

"BUG"-OFF!!
(@#&!%)



"X-TREME RALLY"
THE X-TREME-EST, BADDEST RALLY EVER!!

Devils Tower, Crook County, Wyoming