

BONNEVILLE REENACTMENT MOVES FORWARD

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Donald Healey with the original Streamliner in England prior to shipment to the USA.

The newly reconstructed Bonneville “Endurance Car” and the Bonneville “Streamliner” have taken a step closer to their planned appearance on the Bonneville Salt Flats later this year. Tentatively scheduled dates for the “World of Speed” event are September 16-19.

Recently at Phillip Island off the coast of Melbourne, Australia, the just-completed Endurance Car made its first test appearance at this well-known racing venue next to the ocean. The enthusiasts who saw the

car on a track for the first time were even more passionate about the project than before.



The weather for the event included some rain, so the Dunlop tires were a challenge because of their tricky behavior in wet conditions. Nevertheless, the car was behaving very well and it pulled off in the straight without any problems. The rebuilt, historic racing engine was not tested to its limit, but

speeds of more than 100 MPH were quickly reached at around



3000 RPM with the engine emitting a deep, powerful beat.

This first test of the Endurance Car was completed without any major issues. The only minor concern was the little bit of oil leaking from the David Brown gearbox. These boxes were widely known to be difficult to keep oil in, so there was nothing new and shocking on this one.

Currently, further details are being adjusted on the car, such as a double exhaust being fitted, a special oil filler cap being made, the tonneau construction being optimized and other performance checks to prepare the car for the challenges ahead at Bonneville.

The work on the amazing Bonneville Streamliner is also progressing right on schedule. The Streamliner was displayed as a work-in-progress at the Formula 1 Grand Prix at Albert Park, Melbourne in recent weeks. The crowds and Healey enthusiasts gathered around the beautiful car in reverence at this historic sight.



The Streamliner, designed by Gerry Coker and built by Donald Healey in 1953, was probably the most spectacular

moment in Austin-Healey history up to that time. It was Donald Healey's first attempt to break the 200 MPH barrier that he set as his goal. The planned appearance of this replica Streamliner, thundering across the Salt Flats this summer, will surely quicken the heartbeat of anyone lucky enough to be there.

The Bonneville Team is communicating intensely with Bonneville scrutineering officials to make this widely anticipated historic reenactment possible.

The speed event dates they are aiming for are September 16-19, 2009, but this is not confirmed yet. There are also plans to display the Streamliner and Endurance Car at the Monterey Historic Races in August before going on to the Salt Flats.

For those planning to be present at the Bonneville speed runs to witness these two historic cars perform, you might want to consider making some tentative hotel reservations. All of the hotels and motels in Wendover book up very early because it's a small town that gets overrun during Speed Week. However, there are several large casinos within five miles that still have vacancies as of this writing. I have personally booked four nights at the Wendover Nugget (775-664-2221), as they will accept early reservations while some of the casinos will not.

To get the latest info on the project go to www.healeysreturntobonneville.com 

