



Highlands Motoring Festival

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Photo by Bernie Coulson

Welcome to the 11th Annual Highlands Motoring Festival

We've attempted to create a family-friendly event that appeals to everyone.

The focus, of course, is the field of over 100 classic cars. Owners of these collector pieces have gone to considerable effort and expense to put these cars on the show field for all to enjoy. These owners have prepared their cars for judging in one of eight different classes. An eclectic field of entries will ensure that there is something for everyone.

On site are public rest rooms, water features, shelters, and benches. Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park is located one block from Main Street, with Bank of America and Entegra Bank providing further space adjoining the park. Volunteers will be cooking and selling hot food.

Highlands Motoring Festival is a local non-profit. Over the years, the net proceeds have gone to many different charities. This year, REACH of Macon County, Literacy Council of Highlands, and the Community Care Clinic have been selected as the charity partners. Spectator entry to the show field is free, but a contribution to our charities is appreciated.

Highlands Motoring Festival is powered by

an all-volunteer group. In addition to the dozen Organizing Committee members, there is another group of core workers, the "Friends of the Motoring Festival." In 2017 there were over 100 people who volunteered their time and talents to the festival.

Backing the festival are a garage-full of boosters. The Town of Highlands has always supported the Motoring Festival and found ways to accommodate a growing event. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce has provided promotional resources. Platinum-level sponsors are Harmony Motors (Porsche/Audi/VW), Skyland Mercedes, BMW of Atlanta and Ferrari Maserati of Atlanta. Gold level sponsor is BMW of Asheville. These four dealerships will have new cars on site for spectators to view.

Silver sponsors are currently being recruited for the 2018 event. In past years, these Silver sponsors have included WHLC FM 104.5, Old Edwards Inn, Park on Main, Wilson Gas, Highlands Automotive, Bryson's Food Store, Highlands Car Spa, Dauntless Printing, HDZ, The Ugly Dog Pub, The Laurel Magazine, Passion Performance, Elevation Motorcars, and many others.

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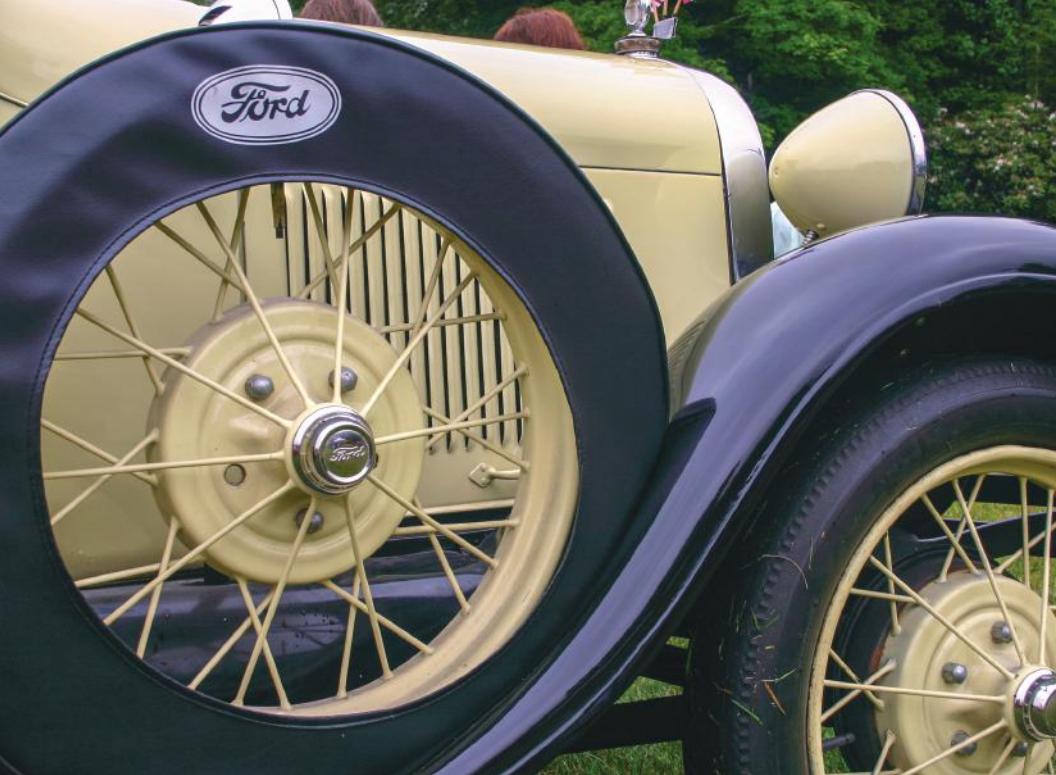
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Car Classes

2018 Judging Classes and Criteria

The Saturday judged car show, Cars in the Park, welcomes a broad assortment of vehicles in nine classes, ranging from vintage Ferraris to pre-war trucks.

Of utmost importance is to recognize this as a friendly, welcoming, and positive experience for participants from the local area, the Southeast, and beyond. We see some rather spectacular automobiles...some come by trailer, but most are driven by their proud owners. All are welcomed and appreciated. Despite the judging, remember that the fun of meeting other enthusiasts and displaying your pride and joy is what it's really all about.

The festival committee strives to assemble a field of judges (often two per entry class) who are not just knowledgeable, but typically are owners of similar cars. Note that they are prohibited from entering their per-

sonal cars for judging, although they often will exhibit their prized possessions for everyone's enjoyment.

The Honorary Head Judge, KB Pearce, is widely known in the Southeast for his vintage Mercedes Gullwing, and has long served as a senior judge at the Hilton Head Concours event. The other judges hail from Atlanta, Greenville, Jacksonville, Sarasota, and other important classic car areas. Several are from Highlands.

The judges are looking for insight into the car and its owners. Provenance, historical significance, and the owner's enthusiasm are important. Of course, condition, sanitary detailing, and mechanicals count for a great deal. While totally correct restorations are to be admired, you will not find the judges to be looking for authentic hose clamps, etc. To sum it up, they are looking for WOW!



Classification:

Highlands Motoring Festival 2018 focuses on Classes of Autos from Model Year 1989 and older.

Touring: Pre-1949 vehicles with no, or very minor modifications. Examples of cars in this class would be Model T, Model A, 1940 Ford Sedan. Minor modifications would be upgraded brakes, radial tires, etc.

Classic: Domestic (non-sport car) 1949-89. No, or minor modifications (as noted above). Examples would be stock cars (no. resto-modifications), including 1962 Chevrolet Impala, 1955-1989 Thunderbirds, etc.

Street Rod and Custom: Modified American or European. This would include resto-mods, T-buckets, customized 57 Chevy, customized VW bug, etc.

American Sports: American Sport and High Performance – Includes Cor-

vette, Mustang, 442, GTO, etc. Little to no modifications.

Foreign Sports: MG, Austin Healy, Porsche, Sprite, etc. Little to no modifications. May have different wheels, seats, etc. For 2017, all cars of Italy will compete in Marque of the Year.

Foreign Classic: Mercedes sedan, Rolls Royce, Bentley, Jag sedans, etc.

Trucks/Utilities: Not or lightly modified. Jeep, trucks, VW Thing, tractors, etc.

As in the past years, there will be an award for Best of Class in each of the above. In addition to the Best of Class there will also be Outstanding in Class awards. The number of the Outstanding in Class will be determined by the number of registrants in each class. The award will be a special locally produced piece of pottery commemorating HMF2018.

One Lap of the Mountains

Route Tour Guide

will be available for sale to the public on June 9, at the merchandise tables of the Highlands Motoring Festival.



1953 Ferrari

Vintage Race Cars

The Marque of Highlands Motoring Festival 2018

For the past six years, the Highlands Motoring Festival has had a featured marque entry.

For 2018, the festival committed to doing something different and fun. In lieu of a featured marque, there will be a featured class of "Vintage Race Cars." The judging committee took on development of the class and its entries. It was decided that entries would be invited cars, a festival first.

This Invitational Class will not be judged, and entry fees are waived. On site, owners will be presenting a history of their entry to interested members of the public. A procedure is established to allow owners of race cars to apply for entry into the Vintage Race Car Class. For details, visit HighlandsMotoringFestival.com.

Cars for this class are actual documented competition vehicles built prior to 1990. This includes purpose-built race cars. Production cars that were modified in their period for competition are also included. Cars are expected to have significant racing provenance for the actual car entered. Special arrangements have been made for transport vehicles and trailers with off-site reserved parking.

The first car accepted into the class is a

1972 BMW CSL Group 2 factory racer with many contemporary victories and podium finishes. Most significant is its class win at the 1973 LeMans at hands of drivers; Hezemans, Quester, and Stuck. After a life of competition, and with assistance from the BMW museum, the car has been rigorously restored back to its original Group 2 livery.

NASCAR fans will get to see Gober Sosebee's 1939 Ford Standard Coupe which won the Daytona race in 1949, 1950, and 1951. Along the way it set a record qualifying speed of 114 mph in 1950. It also holds the record for the fastest pit stop in NASCAR history- five gallons in zero seconds.

In 1953, Hollywood screenwriter Randy McDougal ordered a special Ferrari to compete in the two-liter classes on the west coast. The "McDougal Special" is a 1953 Ferrari 166/53. The car was raced extensively during the year and won the Pebble Beach race. McDougal eventually crashed and flipped the Ferrari and it was witnessed by the insurance man for Universal Studios. McDougal was forced to retire from racing, but the little Ferrari was repaired and continued racing for two years at the hands of Jack Brumby. It will be on display along with other entries that include cars from Lotus, Morgan, Lola, and McLaren.

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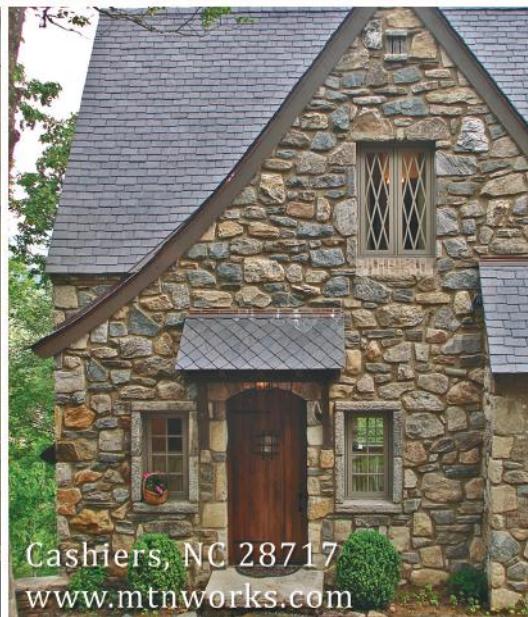
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Monte Carlo Night

Highlands Falls Country Club | Thursday, June 7 | 6:00 PM

The Highlands Motoring Festival launches its 2018 lineup with Monte Carlo Casino Night on Thursday, June 7, from 6:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. at the Highlands Falls Country Club clubhouse.

Admission is \$75 per person and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, along with a complimentary cocktail, and an initial supply of tokens for the games. Tickets will also be available for a drink bar.

Monte Carlo Night brings a decidedly European flair to the mountains. Attendees arriving at the clubhouse will have the opportunity to preview exotic new sports cars provided by event sponsors, including Porsches and Audis by Harmony Motors of

Asheville, Mercedes by Skyland Mercedes and Ferraris and Maseratis from Ferrari Maserati of Atlanta.

After an evening of games at the tables, including blackjack, roulette, and craps, gamers get down to the serious business of using their new found "play money" winnings to bid during a fast-paced live auction. Items for the auction are provided by local individuals, businesses and other supporters of the Festival. This is a rollicking way to end an evening of fun and raise money for this year's non-profit beneficiaries of event proceeds – REACH of Macon County, Literacy Council of Highlands, and Community Care Clinic. There will also be several silent auctions.



The High Dive

Welcome Party

The High Dive | Friday, June 8 | 6:00 PM

Newly opened The High Dive will host this year's welcome party on Friday, June 8, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

It's located on Carolina Way, right in town, and within sight of the HMF show field, the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founder's park. Your favorite beverages will be on sale and complimentary appetizers will be served. There is an abundance of parking. The facility includes outdoor space where enthusiasts can enjoy the Highlands evening while viewing their parked

collector cars.

It is a time for old friends to meet again and for new friendships to form. "One Lappers," participants in the annual One Lap of the Mountains, will be on hand to share their experiences of the day.

With growing visibility in the collector car world, Highlands Motoring Festival draws car owners and enthusiasts from great distances. The Welcome Party is where they all come together and find mutual acquaintances and share experiences.



One Lap of the Mountains

Beginning at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park | Friday, June 8 | 7:30 AM

The annual One Lap of The Mountains will be held on Friday, June 8. This exhilarating driving adventure is a technical rally as opposed to a timed rally, designed to give drivers a chance to enjoy the scenery while staying together as a group. Event organizers plan a different course every year on roads chosen to provide the ultimate mountain driving experience.

One Lap of the Mountains VI is scheduled to roll on Friday morning. You're invited to join the fun as 40 lucky drivers and their passengers drive beautiful mountain "less traveled" roads and experience the camaraderie the One Lappers from past years have enjoyed. One Lap of the Mountains will begin on Pine Street in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, also site of the Saturday event, Cars in the Park.

A complimentary continental breakfast will be available to all participants beginning at 7:30 AM. Because of the logistics involving rest room stops, sightseeing stops and restaurant seating, Lappers will depart in two groups of 20 cars. The first cars will depart K-H Park at 8:30 A.M. sharp and the second group at 9:00 A.M. sharp.

Pre-register if you plan to participate, as One Lap has become so popular it fills up quickly. Please designate your preference as to the 8:30 AM or 9:00 AM departure. We will do our best to accommodate your wishes, but spots will be assigned on a first come-first serve basis. One Lap of the Mountains 2018 will be capped at 40 cars.

The first drivers' meeting will begin at 8:00 AM sharp for Group 1 and at 8:30 AM sharp for Group 2. Each driver and one passenger



will receive a HMF cap. Drivers will also receive a 2018 HMF poster. Instructions for the day and detailed driver's logs will be handed out and covered in the driver's meetings.

One Lap of the Mountains 2018 registration is \$125 per car and includes one passenger. The charge for each additional passenger is \$25, which includes a HMF cap. The continental breakfast is included in the registration price, but participants pay for their own lunch.

Awarding of points to those One Lap participants who also show their car on Saturday was a big success last year and will be continued in 2018. All "interesting" cars are invited to participate in the One Lap,

but please be advised that we will be navigating very mountainous and curvy roads. Make sure your choice of wheels is up to the task!

This year's route will encompass an approximate total of 180 miles. Chuck St. John, the owner of Fat Buddies Ribs & BBQ in Franklin, has reserved a dining room especially for One Lappers. You will be able to order everything from great barbecue to "a lite affaire" from the menu.

If all stays on schedule, everyone should return to Highlands no later than 4:00 PM, and in plenty of time to rest up and prepare for the Friday night Welcome Party at The High Dive.

Route Tour Guide

Over the years of Highlands Motoring Festival, the most popular driving event has been the One Lap of the Mountains Driving Tour.

Each year a new route has been designed for a perfect combination of road condition, scenery, and terrain. Every effort is made to avoid high traffic areas. Breaks and lunch stops are selected to accommodate the enjoyment of a group activity. Points of interest and local history add color to the detailed instructions. Each route is repeatedly test driven and verified.

Now, detailed directions, just like on the original One Lap tours, are available in the form of a route guide book. The book includes the six most recent "One Lap" routes – each updated and verified. There are also two new routes with sections of unpaved surface. And there are additional bonus routes and photos. The book is authored by the originators of the event, Jan and Gus Lard.

"One Lap of the Mountains' Route Guide" will be available for sale to the public on June 9, at the merchandise tables of the Highlands Motoring Festival.



Classic Car Show

Kelsy-Hutchinson Founders Park | Saturday, June 9 | 10 AM

The Classic Car Show, the dazzling centerpiece of the Highlands Motoring Festival, is set for 10:00 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. Saturday, June 9 at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.

Entrance to the show will be at Fifth and Pine Streets. Organizers expect 125 entrants, with more than 2,500 visitors expected on show day. The early registration fee to enter a car is \$35. There is no charge

for spectators, but donations to the charity partners are appreciated. Judging begins at 11:00 A.M. and awards are presented at 3:00 P.M.

Spectators will see classic (prior to 1990) and unique, sometimes very limited edition, cars in eight or more classes. Each class will have a Best in Class winner and an Outstanding in Class winner, and there will be an overall Best of Show award. At the



1964 Austin Healey



1972 BMW colfia



judge's discretion, additional awards can be given for unique cars or circumstances.

Volunteers will be cooking and selling hot food on-site. Merchandise tables will have festival posters, hats, polo shirts, and other festival items for sale.

Previous year's shows have featured a collection of cars that includes a chauffeur-driven vintage Rolls Royce limousine, 1939 pre-war BMW race car, and a BMW M1. Once, in attendance was a Flower Child of the 60's – a rare yellow 1969 Plymouth Barracuda with the "Mod Top" option.

Another remarkable entrant in previous

HMFs was an early 50's Jaguar XK-120, with its long flowing front fenders, bringing British elegance to the gathering. Italian-car lovers have brought cars from Ferrari, Alfa, Fiat, Maserati, and Lamborghini. Antique Model As, muscle cars, and many other classic cars round out the collection. Sometimes a word can spark an image – icons such as Countach, Miura, Testarossa, Stingray, Gull-wing have graced the HMF show field.

Trophies for the winners are one-of-a-kind, much like the cars they are awarded to, and are designed and produced by Highlands Mayor (and renowned potter) Pat Taylor.



Music in the Mountains

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park | Saturday, June 9 | 6 PM

For the second year in a row the Highlands Motoring Festival is featuring Music in the Mountains as the fun filled ending to your day in the Park. This concert starts at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, June 9 at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, the same location as the Classic Car Show, held earlier in the day. Brought to you by the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, this concert features the crowd-pleasing Colby Deitz Band.

This high energy band performs a wide range of music from rock, outlaw country, bluegrass, and folk, to their own singer-songwriter compositions. In 2018 they are releasing exciting new, original music so be among the first to hear their new releases performed. They have become crowd favorites wherever they play, garnering a faithful following who come out to dance the night away and enjoy the lively stage performance of this highly

seasoned band. This band thrives on stage, leaving nothing on the table, and giving every ounce of energy into every performance.

The soulful voice of Colby Deitz is supported by the outstanding musicianship of his band with each member having their moment to shine in the spotlight. Their website proudly proclaims that "this Tasmanian Devil and his band will give you the show you've been trying to catch your entire life".

There is no charge for this concert, but donations are appreciated and encouraged.

It's a chance to unwind from the day's activities and relax with new and old friends. Food and drink may be brought to the event, so pack your cooler, blankets, and lawn chairs and head to the park. Additionally, there are options to purchase food from nearby businesses.

Wrap up your day by enjoying the concert and a picnic under the twilight sky.



Cars and Coffee

Main Street, Highlands | Sunday, June 10 | 8:30 AM

Winding up a perfect Highlands Motoring Festival weekend is the annual Cars and Coffee on Main Street at 8:30 A.M. on Sunday, June 10, at Wright Square on west Main Street.

This informal gathering is a great way to assemble one more time with fellow car enthusiasts, share a few war stories, make plans to meet again next year, and say goodbye. It's a uniquely home-grown event, an extension of a weekly gathering of local car lovers known as Butts on the Bench with its own Facebook page. Every Saturday during the summer months from 9:00 until 11:00 A.M. and during the winter months from 10:00 A.M. until noon, you'll find sports and classic cars parked in front

of the bench, and car lovers drinking coffee and talking cars.

Over the years these mornings have evolved to include passing motorists who notice the cars and stop to join the gathering. Car clubs often travel to Highlands, and more and more often their members make it a point to stop to talk shop and show off their cars. One year a Model A club joined the fun on their weekend in Highlands.

All are welcome here, and on the weekend of the Motoring Festival, it's a great place to be.

Old and new friends will find this the opportunity to exchange contact information, tell one more story, make plans for HMF2019, and bid each other a fond farewell.

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Highlands Motoring Festival History

The vision for Highlands Motoring Festival was conceived in 2007, at a lunch table after a Rotary Club of Highlands meeting.

The mission was to contribute to local charities and the Highlands business community by attracting Gear Heads to our beautiful area.

The Highlands Motoring Foundation, a 501 C.3, was incorporated.

The inaugural event took place in September 2008 with 114 cars in attendance. The show venue was created by blocking off Pine Street and utilizing the park and the parking lots of Bank of America and Entegra Bank. The cooperation of the Town of Highlands and both banks made the event possible.

Good weather brought a large turnout of spectators. Support of the Highlands business community was solidified. Local car enthusiasts stepped up and volunteered to help. The vision of an annual event had become reality.

Since then, the festival has continued uninterrupted with net proceeds going to many local charities including The Hudson Library, Rotary Club of Highlands, The Emergency Council, REACH, Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, and the Literacy Council of Highlands.

For the first four years, the Motoring Festival was held during the month of September. To eliminate conflicts with some of the major car shows, the event was moved to July for two years. Finally, the second Saturday in June was determined to be optimal, a tradition that started in 2012 and continues. And the event has expanded in scope, now including driving and social gatherings spread over four days.

When major infrastructure work was required for Pine Street Park in 2013, the Motoring Festival venue moved to Highlands Rec Park for two years. For 2015 the event moved back to Pine Street and the renamed Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.

Over the years, the financial strength of



the Motoring Festival has grown at a 20-plus percentage rate. This has been the result of overall greater participation, local sponsors, and the addition of Platinum Sponsors. In 2016, the result of the joint effort between the Highlands Motoring Foundation and the Literacy Council of Highlands, the Festival raised more than \$30,000. The festival continues to operate as an all-volunteer organization.

In 2012, the Organizing Committee was approached by the Alfa Club about special recognition. That group promised and delivered a strong field of Alfas, competing in the event's first Featured Marque class. In succeeding years, featured marques have been Porsche, British Cars, Mercedes, BMW, and the Cars of Italy. For 2018, "Vintage Race Cars" will be the featured theme. And for the first time, this class of theme cars will be invitational. An application for entry can be obtained from the festival's website: HighlandsMotoringFestival.com.

Many very interesting cars have graced

the show field of the Highlands Motoring Festival. There have been past LeMans entrants, one-of-a-kind customs, pre-war classics, muscle cars, antiques, sports cars, utilities, mid-century classics, and sedans of every ilk from America, Europe and beyond.

One of the most memorable was a collection of three Mercedes 300SL Gullwings, some of the most coveted cars existent. The most unusual was probably the Tupolev Cosmonaut Retrieval Vehicle. One year, a full-blown funny car was given permission to startup and demonstrate with some revving but was derailed by a dead battery. The Highlands Fire Department came to the rescue with a jump from one of their fire trucks to the cheers of bystanders.

Every car on the show field is special to someone. And that's the point of the event. These Gear Heads turned out to be very social and generous people. The Highlands Motoring Festival is delighted to host them, every year, on the second Saturday of June.



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Volunteers

Highlands Motoring Festival is blessed with a wealth of volunteers of all ages.

Many are automobile devotees. Some are there serving a beneficiary charity group. There are volunteers who just love spending an afternoon in June with enthusiasts having a great time. There are many reasons our volunteers step forward. A list of over 100 individual volunteers made the HMF2017 events possible. The work of every individual is appreciated.

There are varying levels of volunteer participation. The festival committee consists of a dozen or so individuals, each with special expertise, working all year to make the four-day motoring festival possible. The committee members are often accompanied by working spouses who jump in as needed.

In 2018 the festival has five events, each requiring volunteers in its planning and execution. The bulk of the manpower requirement is on the day of the show. This is when the volunteer army we call "The Friends of the Motoring Festival" goes to work. These are the workers from past festivals and new recruits who are organized and trained to make the show run smoothly.

In 2017, when the festival was launching the inaugural Monte Carlo event, the festival committee reached out to the Rotary Club of Highlands. The Rotarians had hosted similar events more than a decade earlier. This is when a group of "vintage" Rotarians jumped into action. The original gambling tables and gear were found in storage. The original dealers were put back in service on the night of the event. The evening was a huge success, raising over \$6,000 for R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County.

The 2018 partner charities are REACH, Literacy Council of Highlands, and the Community Care Clinic. All these groups share a common theme of assisting the less fortunate who are in need of help. It is not surprising then, that many of the festival's volunteers are also active in these other groups. HMF is a community-based event. It is a conduit for volunteers and contributors to channel resources to those in greatest need.

The Highlands Motoring Festival is proud to be an all-volunteer organization with all net proceeds going to charity. We welcome all new volunteers to our group.

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Road Tours

Of the Highlands Cashiers Plateau

Magic awaits those who love driving! Highlands is surrounded by National Forests with mountains, rivers, forest canopies, wildlife, and unique driving experiences.

When you arrive in town, you'll find the main intersection. From this stop light in the center of town, each of the four directions is rewarding to the driver and passen-

ger. And each road presents a different personality. Highlands is at the top of the Plateau, so it'll be a downhill experience when driving away from Highlands and uphill for your return.

Here are four options to explore:

Your first adventure should be the Waterfall Highway (US 64 west, or The Franklin Road to locals), which will take you along



Cliffside Lake

Photo by Terry Barnes

the Cullasaja River. Being a river road, it snakes along with the river and is nicely banked and freshly paved with moderately tight turns and many short straightaways but no passing zones. High speed motor-ing is not recommended on this segment. Curves and inclines keep the driver engaged even at reduced speed. Passengers will be dazzled by the scenery of the river and mountain peaks.

The first waterfall encountered will be Bridal Veil Falls. There is a parking area on the side of the road, where visitors can park and view the falls.

About a mile further down the road is Dry Falls and its large parking area with facil-ties. On foot, you can walk down to the falls where the path continues behind this large waterfall. While the name implies otherwise, you might want an umbrella or raincoat if

you truly want to stay dry.

Continuing toward Franklin will take you past Cliffside Lake, a great picnic site. Traveling along the Cullasaja River for a few more miles brings you to Bust Your Butt Falls, a popular swimming spot with plenty of parking.

The final attraction will be Cullasaja Gorge and Falls. Here, the mere existence of a road is a marvel with its sheer cliff face on one side and massive gorge on the oth-er; the driver must stay focused on the road. Passengers can view the impressive water-fall at the bottom of the gorge.

About a mile past the gorge is Buck Creek Road where you can turn around and drive back to Highlands; this road should be driv-en in both directions. Alternatively take Buck Creek Road, which will intersect with US 64 east of Highlands.



Whiteside Mountain

Going north from the main intersection, US 64 East is The Cashiers Road and it offers great mountain views and varying terrain. Nicely banked switchbacks, varying elevation, and medium straightaways make this the “drivers road” in the area. Driving across ridges and through valleys you will pass five golf courses as you approach Whiteside Mountain, Highlands’ most popular hiking trail.

Continuing toward Cashiers, the road changes personality, going through a forest canopy with tighter turns and more decline. From the Cashiers Crossroads, an alternative return to Highlands can be taken on NC 107 north to Norton Road, which snakes back to US 64 east of Highlands. For additional exploration and beautiful scenery, continue to travel Hwy 64 East towards Lake Toxaway and the historic Greystone Inn.

The Walhalla Road, NC 28, runs out of town to the south as you depart the Highlands

Plateau. There are long distance mountain views as the road drops through valleys and crosses rivers and ridges. This route has fantastic sweeping turns and inclined straightaways, making it the fastest road in the area. In a few miles, the road passes the Georgia state line and the community of Satolah. Continuing on Highway 28 toward Walhalla and into South Carolina, the road levels out and follows the Chattooga River with interesting river views. An alternative return route to Highlands is Warwoman Road, which intersects Highway 28 south of Satolah and runs to Clayton, Georgia.

Our final adventure is Highlands best-kept driving secret – Horse Cove Road. From our main intersection in the middle of Highlands, proceed east on Main Street and just keep going. You’ll pass Highlands Nature Center and Sunset Rock Trail, popular designations for visitors. Passing Bowery Road on the left,

Horse Cove Road

Photo by Cynthia Strain



Sunset Rock

Photo by Sarah Valentine

the real fun begins as you cross the Eastern Continental Divide.

Over the next 1.8 miles of travel the elevation drops 990 feet, making an average 10 percent grade. Forty hairpin turns and switchbacks make an unrivaled driving experience. The turns are perfectly banked and separated by steep short straight sections allowing the driver to set up a driving rhythm. Near the bottom of the valley is Rich Gap Road – a good turn-around spot and the location of Highlands' largest tree, the Bob Padgett Poplar. The uphill return to Highlands is even

more rewarding. The driver can use power on uphill straights and gravity to supplement braking into the corners.

We hope you enjoy the roads of Highlands. Enthusiasts will be stimulated into spirited driving, but we ask that you be safe and courteous as you explore the many wonders of the Highlands Plateau.

If you enjoy exploring mountain roads be sure to check out the new "One Lap of the Mountains Tour Book," published by the Highlands Motoring Festival and available on the merchandise tables on June 9.

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Beneficiaries

R.E.A.C.H., Community Care Clinic, and The Literacy Council

The Highlands Motoring Festival is known as the "Festival with an Altitude," but it is also a festival with a heart for giving back to local non-profits in our area that provide much needed services to the community. Over the past three years HMF has given over one hundred thousand dollars to area non-profits.

The Motoring Festival is the operational element of Highlands Motoring Foundation, a 501c3 founded in 2007. Over the years, beneficiaries have included the Hudson Library, Literacy Council of Highlands, Cashiers Highlands Humane Society, Rotary Club of Highlands, R.E.A.C.H of Macon County, and many smaller local non-profits.

As the Festival has grown, so too has their ability to give back to the community. In 2018 HMF has selected three non-profits as beneficiaries of this year's proceeds: R.E.A.C.H of Macon County, Literacy Council of Highlands and the Community Care Clinic.

R.E.A.C.H, as their name suggests, serves an important need in Macon and Jackson Counties, providing resources, education, assistance, counseling and housing to vic-

tims of abuse. They work closely with law enforcement and other local agencies to provide emergency relief for abuse victims and their families, offering them safety, guidance, legal help, counseling and support. In 2017 HMF proceeds enabled R.E.A.C.H to make capital improvements which reduced its operating costs and improved services provided.

The Literacy Council of Highlands provides much needed services to adults and children in Macon and Jackson Counties with their programs to advance literacy, including their after school enrichment program, homework helpers, individual tutoring, adult literacy and GED program, and English as a second language classes for adults and children.

The Community Care Clinic provides free primary medical care for individuals without medical insurance who meet the federal eligibility guidelines for assistance, ensuring that all in our community have access to medical care.

The Highlands Motoring Festival is able to give each of the deserving organizations much needed funding to continue their programs that offer so many vital services.



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Trophies

The Art of Pat Taylor

Awards are presented to owners of winning cars in several categories. There are "Best in Class" and "Outstanding in Class" for all seven classes of judged competition. There is also the judges' "Best in Show" award. And each Platinum Sponsor will select a car for recognition from the entry field with the "Sponsor's Award." In 2018 there will also be the "Mayor's Award," determined at his discretion.

This amounts to over 24 trophies, which would normally be a lot of brass. But at Highlands Motoring Festival we would have to say, "that's a lot of mud." Really! Each is a piece of hand made pottery reflecting HMF logo and theme.

With a town full of artists, Highlands Motoring Festival has benefited from the creativity of local artisans. A good example is Patrick Taylor, the creator and craftsman of the HMF trophies for the past several

years. His approach to pottery is to utilize elements of nature in the design and building of art pieces. Flowing forms with high detail are crafted by hand-making each piece being unique.

Operating as Taylor Pottery, his studio is equipped with work tables, a potter's wheel and an inventory of materials, forms, and templates. Outside the studio are the specialized kilns, each designed for the type of glaze being fired.

Highlands is home of The Bascom, a renowned center for visual arts. Its most popular programs are in the pottery barn, a ceramics workshop. The program is directed by Frank Vickery, a gifted artist in his own right. But his greatest talent is the way he energizes the whole community's interest in pottery as a functional art. Patrick Taylor was the first Potter-in Resident at the Bascom from 2009 and 2010 and has been a mentor for Frank Vickery.



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Cars of Highlands

It should not be surprising that Highlands has attracted an eclectic population of resident vehicles, albeit many are seasonal.

Further adding to the vehicle diversity are the many daily visitors to Highlands. Both individuals and groups motor to Highlands for many reasons. Often the reason owners of classic and exotic cars come to Highlands is to experience the mountain roads surrounded with beautiful scenery.

Pulling into the Highlands Plaza parking lot can have its surprises. It is not uncommon to site a Bentley, Maserati, Maybach, Testarossa, Panoz, Rolls, or Porsche of exotic ilk. The best, however, is probably the Bugatti Veyron, parked within sight of mere mortals. Or having a pre-war BMW 328 pull up at the next pump at the Shell Station. Or chasing another pre-war 327/8 out the Cashiers Road and not catching it in a modern M3. Regional Ferrari Clubs will have meets that fill Main Street Highlands with red cars.

Throughout the year, car enthusiasts gather on Saturday mornings on Main Street for Highlands' version of Cars and Coffee that the locals call "Butts on the Bench." They even have a Facebook page. All are welcome.

It is at one of these gatherings that led to the rescuing of a 21-window VW Samba Bus by an avid VW enthusiast. Highlands' own

"Barn Find" is currently undergoing full restoration in Florida.

Two year-round cars are of interest. First is the 1966 Shelby 350-GT. The car has been restored to the highest Shelby show standards. It's one of a few Shelbys ordered as "delete racing stripes" that year.

A car at the other end of the spectrum is the early 50's Jaguar XK-120, which can be seen cruising Main Street almost every weekend, year-round. Finished in white, light reflects off the curved edges of its pronounced front fenders, the line then flowing horizontally to the tail. It's an OTS, or open two seat, a pure roadster. If it rains you get wet. The Jaguar gets its name from its top speed...120 mph.

One of Highlands' favorites is the 1958 Mercedes 300SL "Gullwing" of K.B. Pierce, which is seen regularly at the Motoring Festival and cruising around town. Until recently the "Gullwing" coupe shared garage space with a matching 1958 300SL Roadster.

Oh, and a Smart Car and a 1957 Plymouth Sport Fury (think "Christine") owned by the family since new.

While we're on the subject of "Gullwings," we must mention Gerry Sutterfield's 1956 300SL, the car he and his wife took on their honeymoon in 1960. The car survives, drivable, in its original un-restored condition – it's a family treasure.



Highlands Motoring Festival

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