



AHSTC Valve Cover Race rules

The AHSTC has been running a Valve Cover Race (VCR) competition at the annual Encounter since 2005. John Davies wrote up the original description of the activity as it is competed in England along with a set of rules for the AHSTC competition.

The goal remains to involve our younger participants in a bit of Healey competition and to encourage family projects in the construction of a valve cover racer (VCR). Since 2005, the competition has gained a great following and continues to draw more enthusiasts every year.

SUMMARY OF THE RULES FOR THIS YEAR'S VALVE COVER RACE:

1. The VCR can be any length but the width must fit on the official AHSTC 14-inch wheel track;
2. The car must be constructed from an Austin-Healey valve cover and have 4 wheels;
3. Any style of wheel, bearing or lubrication is allowed. Wheel diameter is limited to 6 inches;
4. All motive force must be provided by gravity;
5. Wheel base is not to exceed 24 inches;
6. A part of the front wheels must cross the finish line ahead of the body;
7. No electrical or magnetic devices allowed on the VCR;
8. VCRs must run through the finish line within the marked course for a valid run;
9. There is no construction material, weight or height limit on VCRs;
10. Decoration and personalization is encouraged!

We will continue to separate the drivers into Junior (under 12 years of age) and Senior (12 or older) classes. Men and women are in the same class for this competition.

A "Modified" classification is created to accommodate some of the more creative engineering now being seen. The "Modified" class will contain any extreme variation from the original valve cover racer concept in order to make the competition as fair as possible. The prior classification is now known as "Stock." All VCRs will be declared either Stock or Modified.

Examples of Modified Class VCRs:

- a. Any VCRs with other than 4 wheels;
- b. Any VCRs with wheels larger than 6 inches;
- c. Any VCR longer than 24 inches but still able to fit properly at the starting line;
- d. Any VCR with a body extending beyond the front wheels;
- e. Any VCR deemed in the opinion of the Chief Judge to offer an unfair advantage against the participants in the Stock class.

Other rules:

1. The VCR must fit on the starting area of the AHSTC track (with the present hinged extension) in order to qualify to run;
2. In order to classify each VCR, a "Tech Inspection" will be held beginning 1 hour prior to the race. Appropriate inspection stickers will be provided. Driver's names will be collected and classification of that driver assigned at that time;
3. In order to assist the Chief Judge and other personnel, name tags will be provided to the drivers which must be worn during the competition;
4. VCRs can continue to be shared among drivers of both classes with appropriate notice to the Chief Judge for ease record keeping;
5. The double-elimination system will continue to be used for each class, culminating in a runoff for the ultimate Grand Champion at the end of the day;
6. The results of the registration, classification and results will be recorded on official forms to create a permanent record and reduce any clerical errors on the part of the organizers;
9. One award for each age classification will be presented in both the Stock and Modified classes for a total of four racing awards. Grand Champion (runoff among category winners) and People's Choice Awards (appearance and creativity in design) will be presented at the discretion of the AHSTC Valve Cover Racing Commission. That would bring the total of awards to 5 or 6.

The AHSTC Valve Cover Racing Commission will review the conduct and results of the overall event annually and suggest any needed changes as appropriate for the next Encounter. Suggestions are always encouraged.

The Chief Judge will be available to address any concerns.

The decisions of the Chief Judge shall be considered final.