

Healey Enthusiast

Volume 31, Number 4

June 2020



Dan and Steve Wester in one of Gary and Eileen Wetzel's Healeys. See The birthday gift on page 6.

Upcoming Events Most suspended until further notice due to COVID-19

Minnesota Austin Healey Club (MAHC)

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PIE

(President's Informal Evening) Date: Wednesday, TBD (maybe August?) Time: 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:00 Place: Joseph's Grill 140 South Wabasha Saint Paul, MN 55107 651-222-2435 Come and enjoy beverages and/or food with the friendly club members, catch up on news and

events, and discuss cars and restorations.

Thank you to those who submitted news, articles, and photos for this issue: Cliff Black Dave Hatzung Greg Lauser Dan Powell Rich Stradther Eileen Wetzel Gary Wetzel

Please send submissions before the 15th of the month to: <u>daphne.walmer@gmail.com</u>

Current and past newsletters: http://www.mnhealey.com/mnhealey/newsletter.htm



HEALEY ENTHUSIAST

The official publication of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club, a Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation. THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST is published 11-12 times per year for the benefit of its members. Articles that appear in THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST are the opinions of the authors and do not express the position of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club on any matter unless specifically noted. We do our best to ensure accuracy but cannot be held responsible for errors and omissions. Contributions are welcome on any subject related to Healeys, club members, or of general interest to the classic car hobby. Material from THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST may be reprinted in any other publication provided reciprocal article use permission is granted by that publication. Deadline for submissions to the editor is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. Classified ads are free for MAHC members, \$5.00 for nonmembers. For display rates contact newsletter advertising. The Minnesota Austin Healey Club Inc. is operating as a Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation and is affiliated with the Austin Healey Club of America, Inc.

June 2020

President Dave Hatzung's Very Presidential Column

As I write this it is early June and I just finished reading some old Healey Enthusiasts that the **Rademacher's** brought to one of our last PIE meetings. They were from 2009-10. **Eileen Wetzel** was president in 2010, and **Rod Richert** was the president in 2009. The reason I mention this is that I seem to be doing a lot of catch-up reading lately ... I wonder why? So, in the June 2009 edition, **Rod's** presidential article talks about the **MAHC** just joining the **British Marque Car Club**. I never heard of it, but then again, what do I know. I'm sure the rest of you have and probably subscribe to their monthly publication. I looked it up and joined. I now have one more thing to read each month. It is quite a publication. You can check it out at <u>www.britishmarque.com</u>.

Another thing I've been working on lately is the insurance for the **Austin Healey Club of America**—our national organization. It has been a pleasure doing that with **Gary Feldman**, THE top guy and President for many years. I also have to admit that my "Top Person" at my agency, **Cynthia Adair**, is really the one that put the time in reviewing the proposals that were under consideration. She's one of the smart ones at my agency specializing in complex commercial business insurance. I can tell you that both **Cynthia** and **Gary** put in hours analyzing coverage for the club. I'm sure you'll hear the result in one of the next newsletters, but I have to tell you that it is good. I would also like you to know how much time and effort **Gary Feldman** puts into being President. The guy is relentless and thorough in his desire to be sure all things are in order. Thank you, **Sir Gary Feldman**, for all you do for our clubs. You're the best.

One last thing, and that is my hope that we can get back to meeting as a club again. The *Covid* thing has affected everyone, whether you got ill or not. The unrest and riots over the George Floyd death were also terrible. I feel especially bad for the kids and young adults. I know they say there is a blessing in everything that happens, and my prayer is that we come out better as a nation than when these started.

With that being said, I have talked to a few people about starting **PIE** again, but not everyone is ready for that yet, not even Joseph's Restaurant. Maybe we can try some of **Suzanne Willodson's** "Pop-ups." If you recall, those are just get-togethers at the lastminute kind of deals. If you have ideas for that or would like to put one together, do it. If you want some help setting one up, just let me or my brother **John Hatzung** know, and we'll be happy to participate or assist in any way we can. **Daphne Walmer** can send emails to the club until **David Lee's** computer is back from the shop. As one of my mentors, **Bugs Bunny**, says, "That's all folks!"

Dave Hatzung

2021 Rendezvous in Kenora

Had the world not been shut down by COVID, right about now many of us would be making our home from Rendezvous in Kenora. Unfortunately, that is not the case and it will be a year until we all get together again.

In planned to send out information about the hotel situation for June 2021 by now. Instead we are going to ask for your patience one more time. We have been talking with the Clarion Lakeside Inn about their post-fire renovations and when they expect to re-open for business. They are extremely optimistic about being ready for next June, but it will be another couple of months before they are ready to give a firm commitment. Based on that the Organizing Committee felt that it would be worth waiting to finalize the hotel arrangements until early August.

In the meantime, rest assured that the Organizing Committee is communicating with the vendors of the various events and are working hard to deliver an excellent Rendezvous experience in 2021!

Chad Edwards on behalf of the 2020 Rendezvous Organizing Committee

MAHC events remain suspended

We hope you and all of your loved ones are safe and healthy. While we know that many of you are following the recommended social distancing guidelines, your MAHC Board and I feel we need to continue to put large club activities on hold.

We will keep you posted as to when we can start meeting again. In the meantime, have fun with your Healeys in small groups. And, don't follow anyone too closely! (Stay at least 8' behind them.)

Take care, stay healthy and maintain a safe distance,

Your President

Dave Hatzung

From Out of the Past: Cruising to the A&W Drive-in

Six East Side club members returned to the days of yesteryear, taking a sportscar cruise and stopping for root beer floats and Coney Island hot dogs at the A&W Drive-in near Baldwin, Wisconsin, on June 12. The Healey Rangers rode again!

Western Wisconsin members Stefanie and Phil Dawson, Betty and Carl Stine, and Nancy and Greg Lauser combined Healey cruising and camaraderie with slaking their thirsts for root beer. The Lausers led the way in their 3000, followed by the Dawsons in their Bugeye and the Stines driving their Miata.

The excursion began on the Minnesota shore of the St. Croix River, crossed the new Stillwater bridge, and explored curving roads in St. Croix and Pierce counties of Wisconsin. The journey included scenic byways around and through Bayport, Minnesota, and Baldwin, Burkhardt, Deer Park, Hudson, Somerset, Spring Valley and Star Prairie, Wisconsin.

Following a late lunch at the A&W, the sextet drove to the overlook at the Eau Galle Dam near Spring Valley, where they had the lovely park-like setting to themselves. In addition to stunning views

of Lake George, which was created by the dam, they spotted a turkey vulture and bald eagle soaring on warm thermal breezes. After enjoying sunny, low-humidity, topdown weather that should be bottled and kept for chilly January days, they took separate trails home.

Gathered before the Dawson's Bugeye at the A&W were, from the left, Phil Dawson, Carl Stine, Nancy Lauser and Betty Stine. Stefanie Dawson was multi-tasking in the navigator seat while monitoring a team-meeting business teleconference.

Stefanie Dawson, Nancy Lauser and Betty Stine enjoyed the Eau Galle Dam overlook.







by Greg Lauser

The birthday gift

by Eileen and Gary Wetzel

"That was the best father's birthday gift I ever gave him ... he was smiling all the way home." — Stephen Wester.

It all started with an e-mail received by Suzanne Willodson requesting help to find someone that might rent out or loan an Austin Healey. The goal was to give a dad a ride in a Healey, fulfilling a birthday wish.





Suzanne phoned and forwarded the e-mail to Gary and Eileen Wetzel knowing they would love to share their enthusiasm for Healeys with others. They were also geographically viable.

Sunday, June 14th Steve and his dad, Don, arrived for a Healey experience. Shortly after, brother Ian arrived as well. We started with a tour of the garage, the three Healeys, and a volley of stories which included Don reminiscing about the 100 he bought in Japan while in the service, and then shipped home. Ian, armed with a really intimidating camera, took pictures of the entire experience.

We loaded into the two Healeys. Eileen with the father, Don Wester, in the '67 BJ8 and the two

brothers in the '63 BJ7 with Steve at the wheel. Our tour took us through Wayzata and on the backroads of Orono and Long Lake. At about the halfway point, the drivers switched vehicles, with Steve driving his dad back to the house. The weather was perfect. We all had a great time. We may even get some new club members in the future!

As a way of gratitude, Steve donated \$200 to the DMH fund. Thanks, Steve, hope to see you again soon!



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June 2020

Carpe diem



and our little British cars are still in operating condition.

Around Memorial Day, we tend to have a smug sense that a long, lazy summer lies endlessly ahead, and we are shocked when Labor Day rolls around in what seems like a couple of weeks. Here is where the *carpe diem* (seize the day!) advice comes into play. And we Austin-Healey drivers (particularly big Healeys) really have two metrics to be aware of: 1) The summer is fleeting; use it wisely, and 2) Take advantage of days with low-humidity and

by Cliff Black, Winona

Shakespeare wrote, "Summer's lease hath all too short a date." I always wondered if he was envisioning the quick blink of Minnesota's warm season. We spend the long winter tinkering with our cars, reading Healey literature, exchanging tall tales with like-minded people, and anticipating that first run after a decent rain washes the salt off Minnesota roads. Then, finally, that day arrives: the sun is high, the sky is blue, the air is soft, the humidity is low, and we venture forth in glory and gratitude that both we



moderate temperatures. As we all know, Healeys are the source of the term, British Thermal Unit. In fact, on hot, humid days I sometimes think my BT-7 tri-carb might be better



designated a BTU.

So, with those cautions in mind, I've already taken advantage of six fine days to drive my car in perfect Healey elements: cool, dry weather, traffic-free, twisty country roads on both sides of the Mississippi. *Carpe diem*. It will be November before you know it.

Tale of a Bugeye Sprite

This Bugeye Sprite story was written for the Intermarque group newsletter but involves an Austin Healey. This was the fourth Bugeye that I have owned. Beautiful little cars, but getting in and out involved tucking my left knee behind my ear so my big feet could clear. It was not as much fun as it was in 1974 when I purchased my first Bugeye for \$900.

On January 25th I went to Saturday morning Intermarque group breakfast as was the practice before the great virus imprisonment. Frank Gigler asked many people if anyone was interested in a Bugeye Sprite that belonged to a co-worker friend and had been sitting for many years. Steve Rixen told him I am always interested in projects. The next Saturday, February 1st, a bunch of breakfast regulars went to see the Sprite.

The car looked sad. Last licensed in 1986, it had no radiator, front crank pulley, generator, or front bumper. The soft top was damaged, the hardtop sitting loose –it might not fit. Its tires were flat and the engine stuck, so I agreed to buy it. I was going on vacation so the owner and I agreed to wait until February 15th for me to pick up the car. On Sunday I gave the owner the money and took a closer inventory. The odometer showed 24,834 miles. It had a hard top, it had very little rust, and the components appeared to be all original. I squirted WD40 in plug holes, poured in ³/₄ quart oil in valve cover filler to lube the cam, and aired the flat tires. Three of the tires and the spare took air. They appear to be new with one having the manufacture sticker on the tread.

On Saturday February 15th I went to pick up the Sprite with Tim Engle, Joe Jacobson and Bill Connell. We rolled the car onto the trailer with no problems and unloaded it with Bill and Steve Gray into the heated garage. While pushing, we put it in gear and the engine turned over. We hooked up a battery and it cranked over (love that WD 40). While Bill and Steve were present, we removed the hood and hardtop and placed them in storage.

From February 15 through early May I worked on the car a little almost every day. At the end of February, I only lasted about ½ hour a day because I had what the Doctor thought was a bad cold (this was before we knew about Covid 19). Friends came over and we re-installed the hood at the end of April, and I drove to the Intermarque gathering at Silverwood Park in St Anthony. The car has been a great way to beat the 'Rona blues.

In the second week of May I put up a picture on the Bugeye page on Facebook and asked if anyone was interested in the car. I was swamped with responses (I think 130 likes). The car sold to a fellow in Oklahoma.

Thanks to all that helped. Frank Gigler who told a number of breakfast people about the car, the group that looked at the car on February 1st, Tim Engle, Joe Jacobson & Bill Connell who helped me push the car out of its 34-year parking spot, Steve Gray, Paul Gau, Mark Brandow, and Randy Byboth for generous help with parts, Steve Gray and Bill Connell for help removing the hood, Steve Gray and Bruce Allen for help lifting the hood back on, and online friends for all the advice.

by Rich Stadther

From the July 1976 Chatter thanks to Dan Powell

Detroit Club

by GARY DEWEY

The June meeting was held at Farrell's Ice cream parlor. Eighteen people including three new members attended. One of the new members responded to a prospect card, properly placed.

A short discussion followed the business portion of the meeting. One of the members announced that he will be producing the anti-rattle inserts for roll up windows out of a superior Teflon material. Information on how to get these will be made known when they are available.

It was announced that Bob Owens Sport Cars will give club members a 20% discount. Payment must be made inn advance of the ordering being placed.

The July meeting will be held as a pool party by Dick and Kay Jubelt on July 11, 1976. This meeting will serve to make final plans for the CONCLAVE trip.

Please call Dick Jubelt at 399-3841 to confirm your attendance at the pool party.

Doug Holloway and his wife have invited all members to attend a gathering at BORROUGH'S Farm on July 31. The farm has a lake, ball fields, tennis courts and picnic grass.

<u>Please call Doug at 537-1339</u> if you are planning to attend. He must know in advance who is coming to arrange for passes.

AUGUST meeting August 18 At home of Gary and Penny Dewey 19349 Denby Redford Township 538-1743

Minneapolis Club

By DAVE BAKKE

In spite of inclement weather and a misunderstanding as to where we were to meet, the Minnenapolis Chapter of the AUSTIN-HEALEY Club of America had its first meeting onn May 16. This initial gathering was solely a social function to see what interest there is in this area for a local chapter of the club. To my amazement, all of 13 Healeys inn various stages of restoration and approximately 21 people attended. After about an hour of exchanging nanmes and a little mutual admiration of each others automobiles, we formed a caravan proceeding to a picninc area I nShakopee, Minn. It turned out to be a delightful afternoon with a considerable amount of interest expressed I nbecominng a viable extension nof the parent organization. Hopefully, we will have our next meeting on nJune 27 to elect officers and discuss organizational procedures. If all goes well, shortly after this meeting we will have a caravan to Somerset, Wisc. To go innertubing down the Apple River. Every effort will be made to get as many representatives as possible to the CONCLAVE. Information and guidance that we could from the main body of the club will be invaluable in getting our new Chapter off to a good start.

The officers and staff of the central club wish the best to this new chapter. It is well to reiterate that any assistance required at any time is available for the asking. Indianapolis Club

By TOM SPENCE

On June 12, 1976, a nucleus group of five Healey owners met at the office of Jim Alderson to form an Indianapolis Chapter of the AUSTIN-HEALEY CLUB of America. In attendance besides Jim were Carl Erdmann, Tom Spence, Dan Tharp, Clarence Atwood and Walt Blanck of the central club.

The enthusiasm was instantaneous and plans were made to publicize the formation and organize a sizeable group prior to CONCLAVE.

Over the next two weeks (until June 26) an advertising campaign would be waged followed by a meeting of the nucleus group to analyze results. If appropriate, the advertising campaign will be repeated. A general meeting will be held Sunday afternoon July 11, 1976, beginning at 2:30 P.M.

Besides organizing the club at this July meeting, it is planned to get a tour group together to attend CONNCLAVE (45 miles away).

Since the group was small, no officers were elected although Tom Spence agreed to be the CHATTER correspondence.

After the meeting we all adjourned to inspect Tom and Clarence's BJ8s. They were really good looking cars and will both be at CONCLAVE for all to see.

We want to wish the group the best of luck In their organizational endeavors.

Financial Report

CASH ON HAND 1/1/76 INCOME	\$60.00
Dues	3355.00
Advertising	334.00
Regalia	43.00
Club events	183.00
Total income	3915.00
EXPENSES	
Chatter	861.00
Other postage	105.00
Telephone	129.00
Regalia	363.00
Club events	364.00
Detroit Club exp.	100.00
Office supplies	72.00
Advertising	45.00
Other	75.00
Total expenses	2174.00
CASH ON HAND 6/15/76	\$1801.00

Manser Austin Healey race car build:

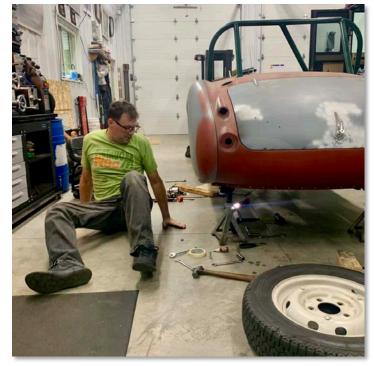
Season #3/week #23





This would-be race car arrived recently in Lakeville Minnesota to make a guest appearance at the Johnk compound. Season #3 Episode #23 was intended to take this chassis and add suspension parts to make a rolling chassis suitable to allow the car to move on to its next episode at a new destination.

It was Friday, June 5th, when a group of amateur



Healey mechanics gathered at Jeff Johnk's workshop to admire progress and contribute some labor and expertise towards this big Healey race-car project. This 1959 BN6 car had arrived in Minnesota late Thursday afternoon with its financial benefactor Mike Manser trailering it from southern Wisconsin (with a loaner trailer generously offered for the task by Mike Escriva, a Healey guy from Texas).

In the previous phase of this project (Season #2 weeks 46-through Season#3 week #22) the car was at Fourintune Garages in Cedarburg Wisconsin. Under

June 2020



Tom Kovacs' guidance it was made into a Healey that was true on its frame with good panel fit, etc. An additional project to re-fit the roll cage was added to his task as well, due to COVID travel restrictions for Mike.

The benefactor's plan called for it to arrive at Johnk's for the next step of the build, which was to create a rolling chassis. Local, free "semi-expert" help descended on the big Healey's carcass. On the shop's buffet table were boxes of expensive bits from England. The crew was strong on leadership, and low on collaboration, and as such, independent work began on all four corners. Occasionally

small conferences broke out to reconfirm direction. Donuts were awarded for hard work and taunts were handed out for incorrect work. At one point a crew had to start over on the linkage when informed that the steering wheel would be on the right-hand side of the car and not the left. Before too much was accomplished, pizza was ordered to bring progress to a crawl. Work continued in the afternoon and on until early evening. The well equipped shop of Mr. Johnk made it easier to get things done.

Present on Friday were Mike Manser, Jeff Johnk, Jeff Lumbard, Dan Powell, Scott McQueen, and Gary Wetzel. Some were sporting Covid hair styles that made them nearly unrecognizable. All were happy to be together working on a Healey and feeling "normal" again.

Saturday morning 9am another gathering occurred to continue the progress. It was yet another busy day full of discussion, debate and re-doing the right-rear brake assembly a few times. Lunch was ordered from a Northfield watering hole, delivered by our race girl Jessica. Work became quite focused after lunch as the allotted time was winding down. By the end of the afternoon, it was time for Gin and Tonics to celebrate the accomplishment.....She was a roller!! Our bartender Jeff

Lumbard made sure we had the best mixes of Sipsmith and Fever-tree. Now the BN6 racer was ready to be trailered on to Austin TX for the next leg of the journey.

As we get an update on Season #3 week #26 from the Lone Star State, the car is now getting brake lines and wiring installed at the Manser hacienda in Austin, TX. Next journey to these parts is scheduled for September for paint. Then the engine work is to be finished in November-December for install over winter.

Stay tuned for updates on this exciting project. If all goes well, we hope to have six big Healeys racing together at Road America from the Minnesota club in 2021.



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1966 Austin-Healey Sprite for sale by charity. Car was donated to the Center for Vision Loss in Allentown, Pennsylvania. 166K miles. VIN: HAN8L53998. Contact Dennis Zehner at (610)433-6018 x 241 or dennis.zehner@centerforvisionloss.org.



1960 AH 3000 BN7 (rare twoseater) for sale by member of the Flatwater AHC in Omaha, NB. Jerry Mimick has owned this car for over 40 years and completed a full restoration in July of 2018. For more information/pictures contact Jerry at (641) 691-6961 or email mimshouse7@Q.com.



1964 Austin Healey BJ7, 72-spoke chrome wires, overdrive, perfect runner, great driver. \$37,500. Contact Steve Walburg at (612) 272-7069 or swalburg13@gmail.com. Minneapolis, MN.



MAHC Membership / Renewal Form

Minnesota A-H Club Dues Austin-Healey Club of America Dues 30TH CLUBS	New		
Minnesota A-H Club (Local only) Due	s New	Renewal \$	625.00
Name:		Spouse:	
Address:			
City:		<u>State</u> <u>Zip</u> :	
Home Phone: ()	Work	Phone: ()	
E-mail address:		Receive Newsletter via em	ail? Yes No
Н	EALEY INF	FORMATION:	
Year Model	Color	Original (Owner (Y/N)
Year Model	Color	Original (Owner (Y/N)
Condition: Show Quality Nice Could be running with		-	
Make checks payable to: MN Aust	tin Healey (Club (or MAHC)	

Checks covering AHCA membership renewals must reach Jim Kriz no later than **January 1**, 2015, to assure that your information appears in the 2015 AHCA Membership Directory.

Send form and checks to:

Jim Kriz 2000 Kenwood Pkwy. Minneapolis, MN 55405

InterMarque Breakfasts

The Saturday morning location has been changed to: **The 400 Tavern** 1300 Industrial Blvd (near 135W) Minneapolis, MN Phone: (612) 455-6312

InterMarque Newsletter

Check out InterMarque's multi-marque calendar in their latest newsletter for even more car events! www.InterMarque.org

July				
Wed	1-Jul	PIE Meeting	7:00PM	Joseph's Grill
Thu-Sat	9-11 Jul	Car Show and Swap Meet		Iola, Wisconsin
Fri-Sun	10-12 Jul	VSCR Vintage Race		Brainerd International Raceway
Fri-Sun	24-26 Jul	Vintage Racing Road America		Elkhart Lake, WI
Sat	25-Jul	Lynch Mexican Fiesta		Mike & Gloria Lynch home
Sun	26-Jul	Intermarque Picnic	1:00PM	Cherokee Park, St. Paul
August				
Wed	5-Aug	PIE Meeting	7:00PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	8-Aug	BRIT FEST all British Car Show	9:00AM	Hudson, WI
Sun	10-Aug	Antique Car Run		New London to New Brighton
Sat	22-Aug	Amery Autocross		Amery WI Airport
Sat-Sun	29-30 Aug	SCCA Brainerd Racing		Brainerd International Raceway
Sun	30-Aug	Intermarque Picnic	1:00PM	Cherokee Park, St. Paul
September				
Wed	2-Sep	PIE Meeting	7:00PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	12-Sep	Wheels and Wings		Osceola, WI
Sat	12-Sep	Pizza Party		Herreid cabin, Afton, MN
Fri-Sun	18-20 Sep	Vintage Racing Road America		Elkhart Lake, WI
Fri-Sun	25-27 Sep	Waumandee Hillclimb		Waumandee (near Alma, WI)
Sun		27-Sep	Intermarque Picnic	1:00PM
October				
Wed	7-Oct	PIE Meeting	7:00PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	10-Oct	Adopt a Highway		
Fri-Sun	16-18 Oct	Blackhawk Racing		
Sun	10 or 17 Oct	MG Fall Color Tour		
November				
Wed	4-Nov	PIE Meeting	7:00PM	Joseph's Grill
Fri-Sun	6-8 Nov	AHCA Delegate's Meeting		
Sat	21-Nov	Annual Banquet/Business Mtg		
December				
Sat	5-Dec	Annual Planning Breakfast	7:00PM	Joseph's Grill

Marketplace

Marketplace policy: All ads are free to current members. For non-members, the charge is \$5.00 per month. Ads will be run for three months, after which time the advertiser needs to submit new ad copy. Please inform the editor if your item or items have been sold during the three-month period, so that the ad can be removed.



1960 Bugeye Sprite for sale: 85–90% restored. Yellow with black interior. All body work done by Fargo's Finest Auto Body. Engine in and running. New wiring harness installed. Reupholstered seats installed. New carpet partially installed. New chrome front and rear bumpers ready to install. Have majority of all other parts to complete restoration. Needs brakes finished and it will be drivable. "Bugeye" Collector Plate. Mechanics manuals. Other books and memorabilia. Professionally framed picture. Bugeye tshirt and tank top (never worn). Have owned 28 years. Vehicle in Fargo. Lifestyle and activities have changed through the years and I have lost interest in completing the project. \$10,900.00, OBO. f you call, leave a message. I don't answer unfamiliar phone numbers because of all the "robo calls." If you email put Sprite in subject line so I can identify it if it comes in my junk mail.

Brad Grondahl 701.361.9835 <u>bdahl@msn.com</u>





(more Marketplace on page 12)



