

The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XXV No. IV

April 2014



The Prad Healey

Read the story about this interesting variation

in the January 2014 Healey Marque Magazine

APRIL EVENTS

Wed. Apr. 2 Sat. Apr. 26 PIE Meeting Midwest Motor Sports

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National Web Site	www.healeyclub.org

PIE

(President's Informal Evening)

Date: Wednesday April 2nd Time: 7:00 p.m. (or before) **Place: Fort Snelling Officers Club**

This location is on Hwy. 5 (east of I-494) on the southeast side of the Mpls./St. Paul Intl. Airport. Exit at the Post Road ramp, turn south (east) towards the river and proceed on to the road heading for the park, take the first left and wind around to the Officers Club building.

Come and enjoy refreshments and/or food with the friendly club members, catch up on news & events, and discuss cars & restorations.

Breakfast at the Peg

Come to this casual event (most) every Saturday morning about 8:00 a.m. for great food, reasonable prices, & lots of Intermarque car enthusiasts. It's a fun way to start off your weekend !

Location: The Square Peg Diner 2021 East Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55414



THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST

The official publication of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club, a Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation. THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST, is published 12 times per year for the benefit of its members. Articles which 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 non-members. 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.

The Presidential Corner

By Greg Willodson

Vehicular Inspiration

I'm curious what role our fathers played in getting us all so interested in cars. I'd guess that's where the spark started for most of us. My dad always traveled to earn a living, so he encouraged my two brothers and me to keep things running around the house while he was on the road. He'd always make sure we had plenty of great tools around so we could tackle any challenge.

Yup, those were some great tools. We've all rounded off the corners of a bolt now and then. At our house, the sockets rounded out. I don't blame my dad for not buying Snap-ons. We lived on a steep hill, and round tools (and a couple of cars) simply rolled away. If we looked hard enough, we could often find the wayward sockets along the curb. The cars would usually end up in the lot across the street, unless our mailbox got in the way.

My dad was always on the lookout for that single tool could do the work of five. I think all of our screwdrivers were the kind that stored inside the handle of some other tool that could be used to pull nails or split cordwood. To this day, I still have wrenches in my toolbox that have a flippy loop and a wedge on the end that allow them to fit any bolt ever made (poorly). Thank God my dad's friend never saw his combination lawnmower/snowblower go into production, or we'd surely have owned one.

Over time, I found that I could usually find the time and tools for taking things apart, but rarely for putting things back together, and the garage filled up with British cars that needed further attention. Looking back, Dad had a lot more patience than I've ever given him credit for. And for most of the 70's, he parked his car outside.



The Presidents Informal Evening

By Curt Carlson

March **P**retty Interesting Evening Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

If you've ever needed evidence that car clubs are 90% social and 10% motor oil, you're missing the obvious. Really, it's clear that we're all just a Bunch of Big Boys with Bauble. For most of us this year, our difficulty has been the unending onslaught of winter. And the Healey club, in typical British fashion, soldiered on through it with the plucky determination of the R.A.F. in the summer of 1940.

We talked about past events, upcoming events, potlucks and playtime, tech sessions and Rendezvous. Officer's reports were as succinct as Churchill:

- Treasurer: "Everything is Great."
- Membership: "91 Members."
- Librarian: "Come and get 'em."

The Racers brought show and tell. (http://www.racecoatings.com/)

But we all knew the real reason we were there. As soon as we could, we grabbed our Mint Juleps, donned our dapper hats and headed over to the Hot Wheels racing track so expertly set up and run by none other than 'Mr. Racing' himself, Tom Hazen. Some may question if this is even a sport. I would argue that it is. There is competition. There is skill. It is entertaining. The idea of exertion may be debated, but I would imagine that Mr. Racing's arm got sore by the end of the evening. Does it count as exertion if the referee expends more calories than the challengers?

When it was all done and the track was glowing orange from the friction of the wheels, a Healey racer came out on top. Jeff Lumbard edged out a 9 year-old competitor new to the field (Henry Boyer) for first and second place respectively. The **P**resident beat out the vice president for 3rd and 4th. There was a moment of dissention when it was revealed that the 3rd place winner (The **P**resident) clandestinely stole the 'Racer's Edge' secret weapon (graphite lubricant) brought to the races *IN GOOD FAITH AND IN THE SPIRIT OF FAIR COMPETITION* by the 4th place winner (ed. - a dude named Carlson). This became abundantly clear, after the winners had been announced and the certificates had been awarded, by the telltale grey fingerprints left on The **P**resident's certificate. There were also corresponding marks on the supply box brought by the 4th place winner. The certificates had been awarded, however, and the podium stood. It's possible that the dispute was settled with a secret handshake and a Mint Julep.

Challengers: Greg & Suzanne Willodson, Nancy & Greg Lauser, Sue & Steve Greenway, Tom & June Moerke, Rich & Liz Stadther, Barb & Gary Ronning, Andy Lindberg, Tom Hazen, Pat & Marsha Holt, Steve & Kim Rixen, Clarence & Kate Westberg, Jim Kriz, Dan Powell, Jeff Lumbard, Jeff Johnk, Gary & Eileen Wetzel, Teresa and Henry Boyer, Curt Carlson, Jack Stein, Mike Martin, Ron Corazzo, Geoff Rossi, Dave Herreid.

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Tom Hazen with the winners – Jeff Lumbard, Henry Boyer, Greg Willodson, & Curt Carlson



An Afternoon at the Theater And Potluck Supper





A group of Austin Healey Club members gathered on Sunday March 9th to attend the Plymouth Playhouse production of The Last Potluck Supper. We gathered at the Wetzel home first to drop off foods and enjoy a light refreshment. Then the group proceeded to the nearby Plymouth Playhouse to enjoy the Play.

The cast consisted of long time actors from the Playhouse. They did a great depiction – both singing and acting – of the "last Potluck Supper", as the small town church was being forced to close due to dwindling population. The history of the church, as well as the present circumstances, were portrayed. There was much laughing and chuckling in the audience. It was a fun event.

After the play, we adjourned to the Wetzel home again. There were delicious appetizers and refreshments to consume. The main "potluck" entrees were excellent – with rolls, salads, and "hot dishes"! Eileen and Gary are ideal hosts, and they had two large tables all ready to seat their guests. Dessert followed and people lingered for a long time – conversing and (some) inspecting Gary's garage projects ! It was a delightful afternoon, and we enjoyed driving home in the (daylight savings time) twilight !

Those attending: Gary & Eileen Wetzel, Geoff & Diane Rossi, Jean & Chuck Norton, Cheryl & Dave Rademacher, Wayne Soderbeck & Jan Huston, Steve & Sue Greenway, Kim & Steve Rixen, Wanda Driver, and Barb & Gary Ronning.

An Afternoon at the Theater And Potluck Supper



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McQueen Tech Session

By Suzanne Willodson

MAHC members and even a few from other area classic car clubs met on Saturday, March 15 for a Tech Session at Scott McQueen's garage in Minneapolis. Wisely scheduled around the University of Minnesota's Spring Break holiday, the typically lively neighborhood was quiet except for the 20 or so people huddled in the carriage house's lounge area like good students waiting for class to start. Our instructor for the day was Steve Rixen; and the agenda was SU carburetors, overdrive problem solving, fuel pumps, and other topics as they arose.

The tech session opened with a review of SU carburetors and how constant depression (or vacuum) type carburetors work. A quick quiz of Bernoulli's Principle was answered correctly (The smaller the opening, the faster the air moves. The faster the air moves, the lower the pressure. Extra credit awarded to Roger Shears). Although we lacked room around the actual car to work on it, Professor Rixen's presentation included many props and parts (both new and old) that were passed around to illustrate the workings of the SU carburetors, pistons, springs, needles, float, float reservoir and other parts that make our cars run - or may make it not run.

Popular question: What kind of oil to use in the carburetor damper? Answer: 20W-50 in the crankcase and 20W-50 in the carburetor was Steve's opinion. Why carry around two different types of oil when one will do? The heavier oil will slow piston rise during acceleration, increasing the richness of the mixture.

After covering SU operation and low air flow, transitional (acceleration) air flow, and high air flow, and SU richness adjustment, we moved on to fuel pumps and the overdrive.

We reviewed the workings of SU fuel pumps and discussed positive ground, negative ground or universal depending on whether you have positive ground or negative ground car. Steve explained how a check valve inside the pump stops the fuel from going backwards to the tank but allows two pumps to run in series or parallel configuration. He also talked about the advantages of having a mounted spare fuel pump that you can switch over to. This is much better than changing to a spare pump in the dark and/or rain on the side of the road. For security, and possibly a break on your insurance, you can have a SPDT (single pole double throw center off) switch that turns both off. A secondary "facet type" fuel pump can be purchased at nearly any good auto parts store. Be sure, however, to get a low pressure pump – one specified to deliver fuel between 1 ½ to 3 PSI. You don't want anything over 3 ½ or 4 PSI.

Scott's overdrive was working intermittently during the last year or two. It turned out that the "switch" was operating only intermittently. After replacing the switch, the solenoid would move slightly (but not far enough) to engage the overdrive. The problem turned out to be a little internal corrosion in the overdrive solenoid. They operated the solenoid and assisted its movement until it was consistently making a noticeable click every time the OD switch was flipped. A test drive proved reliable operation.

Continued.....

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Tech Session continued...

Afterwards, we admired the framed photos, posters, and other British car memorabilia lining the walls of Scott's place. Also we inspected the distinctive "fleet" kept in the garage - safe from the elements and ready for Spring. Thank you to Scott McQueen for hosting the tech session and to Steve Rixen for providing the learning opportunity!

Class roster: Scott McQueen, Steve Rixen, Greg Lauser, Dan Powell, Herb Miller, Steve Greenway, Bob Anderson of the MMGGroup, Tom & June Moerke, Tom Politiski, Gary Wetzel, Fred Ambli, Jeff Lumbard, Chuck Norton, Brian Johnson, Rod Reichert, Roger Shears, Rick Cane, and Greg & Suzanne Willodson



Steve Rixen dissected the mysteries of SU carburetors for an attentive tech session audience in McQueen's "Man Cave" room behind his garage.



Scott McQueen discussed the finer points of Healey Hundred and Jaguar XKE stacking in his garage with Brian Johnson and Steve Shogren.



Scott was sharing the story of the 2006 acquisition of his vintage 1930s Chris Craft wooden boat sporting a six-cylinder engine, the fourth vehicle in his garage, with Johnson and Shogren when Steve Rixen popped in to say it was time to start the tech session.

Collapsible Steering Column

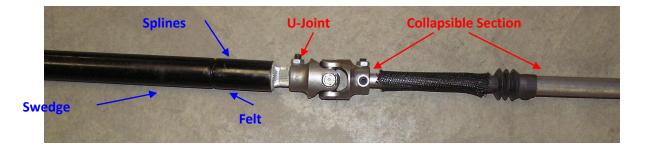
by Steve Rixen

At my Tech Session in January, I showed off a collapsible steering column in process of fabrication. It is now completed and installed.

The collapsible portion of the column comes from Borgeson Universal of Torrington CT. They specialize in steering components for street rodders and others with the same inclination. The collapsible section is described as a 24 inch unit, which I shortened to fit between the firewall and 13 inches above the steering box (but keep the 6 plus inches of slide in the collapsible section).

Of course the original steering shaft and column must have a section cut out of it to allow the installation, so measuring two or three times prior to cutting is required in all of the process. The steering shaft is cut, making allowance for the installation of two universal joints which connect the collapsible shaft to it. The column outer tube must be cut slightly more to fit. Alternately Borgeson can supply a rigid coupler in lieu of one, or both, of the universal joints. The U-joints add a safety flex in the column; and in a violent crash, the wheel and column will move away from the driver in an arc.

The universal joints are splined on the I/D to mate with the shaft. Welding (a no-no and illegal in many states) of universal joints to the shaft is not recommended, so finding a machine shop equipped to cut splines on the shafts is a search needed to do the job correctly. Twin City Gear in Blaine performed the job with only a 3 week wait in que.



Column and Shaft Modifications

I installed a swedge in the upper and lower column tube and inserted heavy felt to center and seal the shaft in the tube. Also I greased the inner shaft of the collapsible section and installed some plastic mesh to protect it.

The hollow shaft section ends were plugged by plastic plugs held in place by silicone sealant. The small tube which carried the trafficator wiring was cut to the length of the now shortened lower section, plugged, and installed into the steering box with the compression collet and nut.

Continued....



Complete Column Assembly

The column as modified is the same overall length as original. There was a short section of hose installed over the new splines of the lower shaft and silicone sealant applied to help seal moisture out of the new felt seal.

Parts cost of Shaft section and U-joints were about \$300, and the new splines were cut for \$235. Expect fabrication labor to involve about 6 hours, (Measure, figure, measure, refigure and then MEASURE and cut) and removing and installation to take what it takes.

If you do this you may as well disassemble and check/repair the steering box wear and replace the seal on the box.

If you do this modification the cost is not insignificant, but then what is your life worth?



The Collapsible Healey Steering Column Installed



Past Rendezvous Participant

This is your personal invitation to "Back to the Bay" the 24th Annual Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada - June 12-15, 2014.

This event was first held in Thunder Bay in 1991 with the support of the Austin Healey Club of Manitoba. Local efforts on the part of a few enthusiastic sports car owners yielded a great weekend (even though it rained) with 37 cars registered. Our American Austin Healey guests had such a great time they decided to host the event in 1992 and it has since become an annual multi-margue, multi-location, multi-club event.

The Rendezvous has continued all these many years due to the combined efforts of the Thunder Bay Vintage Sports Car Club, Manitoba Austin Healey Club, Triumph Driver's Club of Manitoba, Mid-Canada Minis, Minnesota Austin Healey Club, Jaguar Club of Minnesota, Minnesota MG Group, Wisconsin Austin Healey Club, and for 2011 we welcomed the British Iron Society of Fargo, North Dakota. This will be the 8th Rendezvous event hosted by the TBVSCC.

So what is the secret to the Rendezvous longevity? YOU!

We have a common bond, a deep-rooted interest in Vintage Sports Cars and a motivation to share a good time with others that possess the same interest. On that note some of our partners might agree that at times we do seem possessed.

In 2014 spirited by the Sleeping Giant we invite you "Back to the Bay". A mix of new and old activities are planned as well as tours of local points of interest including a trip to Russ Wanzuk's museum of old racing cars and motoring memorabilia. A Friday afternoon water front car show followed by an evening of Celtic music and dance set in a rustic rural barn will top off a great day of activity. Saturday will challenge the driver in all of us and the event will culminate with a fine feast and awards. Those who arrive early may even find time to squeeze in a round of golf.

We look forward to hosting you once again in Thunder Bay - hope to see you soon.

Hotel: Best Western Nor'Wester Resort Hotel @ 1-888-473-2378. A block of rooms is being held until May 1st.

On-line Registration: www.TBVSCC.ca

Register by May 1, 2014 to receive a free commemorative stowage bag and to qualify for the Early Bird Draw for one free night at the Hotel!

JUNE 12 - 15, 2014 Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada <u>www.TBVSCC.ca</u> to register or for further information contact Chris Pyne at <u>thepynes@shaw.ca</u>.

OPEN HOUSE/TECH SESSION

AT MIDWEST MOTOR SPORTS

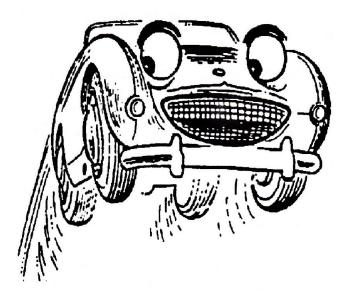
APRIL 26th, 9AM – 2PM, NOON LUNCH

GET YOUR CAR OUT OF STORAGE AND JOURNEY TO SAUK RAPIDS FOR LUNCH AND TECH SESSION

We will be demonstrating products to insulate and soundproof your car.

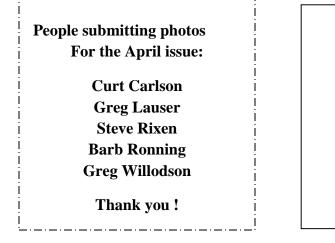
DOOR PRIZES AWARDED AFTER LUNCH

MIDWEST MOTOR SPORTS 728 8TH AVE. S. SAUK RAPIDS, MN 56379 320 251-0676 www.sportscarguys.com danielmms@aol.com



Events Schedule

April 2 **	PIE Meeting - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2.
April 26	Midwest Motors Sports Tech Party – (Sat) Sauk Rapids, MN. Details later.
May 3 **	Adopt a Highway Clean-up/ Spring Awakening Drive - (Sat) Meet at 9:00 am at the Veteran's Hwy. Roadside Park at milepost 80 on US Hwy. 61 – just above Lake City, MN for the Spring Adopt-a-Highway clean up. Arrangements by Greg L.
May 7 **	PIE Meeting - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2.
May 10	InterMarque Spring Kick-Off – (Sat) The InterMarque Council will again sponsor this well attended event in downtown Osseo, MN.
May 16-18	Vintage GT Challenge – (Fri - Sun) This will be the weekend for the Spring Vintage races at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI.
May 24-26	BIR Vintage Race Weekend - (Sat. – Sun) In Brainerd, MN.
May 29 - 1	Rally in the Valley – (Thurs – Sun) – Great long weekend event put on by the Rindt's in Wisconsin.
June 4 ** June 12-15	PIE Meeting - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2. Rendezvous 2014 - (Thurs-Sun) This will be the 24th year for the annual Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous. The location this year will be in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Get your hotel reservations in early!
June 15–19	National AHCA Conclave – (Sun–Thurs) Location this year is Hot Springs, VA.
June 20-22	Back to the 50's Car Show – (Fri-Sun) This huge annual show will be at the MN State Fairgrounds again – 10,000 carsor more??
June 28	Amery Competition Run – (Sat) Excellent test running of your favorite Sports Car orchestrated by Tom Hazen.
June 29	Cherokee Park Picnic – (Sun) The first Monthly InterMarque picnic of the season.
	** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity





Events Schedule

July 2 ** July 5 July 17–20 July 20 July 25 July 26 July 27 July 31	 PIE Meeting - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. Blast from the Past Car Show – Held in Chetek, WI. "The Hawk" Races at RoadAmerica. (Fri-Sun) This is the super big annual vintage car race event held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI. Lynch Mexican Fiesta – (Sun) At Mike & Gloria Lynch's home. Always great "sparky" food in a beautiful setting. Blackhawk Farms Racing – Sponsored by the Midwest A-H Club. Picnic at Stine's Farm – (Sat) Always delicious food in a gorgeous rural setting. Intermarque Picnic – (Sun) 1:00 pm. Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments. MG Gathering of the Faithful – A weekend of MG activities.
August 2 August 6 ** August 9 August 16 August 23 August 29 August 31	 Woodland Hills Winery Event – (Sat) Sponsored by the MN Triumph Club PIE Meeting - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2. The "New" Brit Fest – (Sat) At Lakefront Park in Hudson, WI. Sponsored by the MN MG Group. Royal British Car Show – (Sat) At the Jaguar dealership in Minnetonka, MN. Amery Airport Run – (Sat) Tom Hazen will hold a second run at Amery, WI. Vintage Racing at BIR – Held in Brainerd, MN Intermarque Picnic – (Sun) 1:00 pm Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
Sept. 3 ** Sept. 6 Sept. 7** Sept. 12-14 Sept. 26-28 Sept. 28	 PIE Meeting – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2. Wheels n Wings – (Sat) Osceola, WI. Car and Air Show. Ambli Norwegian Picnic (Sat) Take a drive to Carlton, MN to enjoy Fred's hospitality. Fall Vintage Race Festival - Held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI. A great opportunity to see vintage racing up close. Call Jeff J., Dan P., Jeff L., or Rich S. for details. Waumandee Hill Climb – (Fri-Sun) The third annual vintage car uphill slalom will be held under the direction of Tom Hazen. Intermarque Picnic – (Sun) 1:00 pm. Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
Oct. 1 ** Oct. 4** Oct. 12 Oct. 18	 PIE Meeting – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2. Adopt a Highway Clean-up - (Sat) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to be on this date. Arrangements by Greg Lauser. City Lakes Parkway Tour – (Sun) Enjoy again a sunny Sunday afternoon driving the beautiful parkways of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Arrangements by Dale Martin. Fall Color Tour- (Sat) Another Tom Hazen colorful drive in the Wisconsin countryside.
Nov. 1 Nov. 5 ** Nov. 15 **	 Charity Event – (Sat) At the Second Harvest Heartland in Golden Valley, MN. It is an enjoyable and worthy cause. PIE Meeting – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2. Annual Banquet / Business Meeting Party – (Sat) The annual business meeting, election of officers, and dinner banquet will occur on this evening at the Officer's Club.
Dec. 3** Dec. 6 **	 PIE Meeting – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2. Planning Breakfast – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2015 will be on the agenda for this meeting hosted by Curt Carlson at Joseph's Restaurant in St. Paul. A Board of Directors meeting will follow. ** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

Minnesota Austin Healey Club Inc. Gary Ronning, Editor 1019 Ridge Haven Circle Buffalo, MN 55313

First Class Postage



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 the ad can be removed.

FOR SALE - 2011 Pace American Cargo Sport Trailer (26-foot - Enclosed) (CS7x22TA3). Used to haul vintage race cars to Midwest races only - low mileage. 48" beaver tail, ramp door, load leveling hitch, spare tire, heavy duty axles, interior is 22' x 6.5' x 6' high, e-track on floor for tie-down, 12' x 20' awning. Photos at http://stadther.home.comcast.net/~stadther/pace.html. \$8500 or best offer. Will deduct \$100 if awning not included. Call Rich Stadther at 651-698-1981, or email rich_stadther@yahoo.com. (3/14)

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