



The *Healey Enthusiast*

Volume XXII No. 12

December 2011



A Thank You to Eileen – Presented by Geoff

DECEMBER EVENTS

SAT. DEC. 3

PLANNING BREAKFAST

WED. DEC. 7

PIE MEETING

SAT. DEC. 17

TESTIMONIAL / VIDEO PARTY

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National Web Site	www.healeyclub.org

PIE**(PRESIDENT'S INFORMAL EVENING)****Date: Wednesday December 7th****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 !

Bring your appetite !

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



Cover photo by Diane Rossi

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 Steering Column

By Geoff Rossi

The Annual Banquet on November 16 marked the cycle of the Club. It is a point of refreshment, and the opportunity to cast an eye back - not only at this past year, but at all the years past. The Minnesota Austin Healey Club traces history to the early 1970s, and there are some members who were there. If you lose sight of your history, you lose sight of purpose and value. A recap of the Club history is in order, and we shall see what we can do about that.

There is a need to revisit this year, 2011, just to appreciate the many events that were scheduled. Every month there were three or four things you could choose from to exercise your Healey. This came together because of the people that stepped forward to organize and put on a Club function. The events for the 2012 calendar will be crafted at the Planning Meeting on December 3. Your participation is welcomed.

Our departing president's column last month says a lot and is surely worth a second read. Take a moment to do so. She so captured what this group is all about. Eileen expressed how easy it is to hold office with such a low-pressure group as ours. What I noticed most was that the Wetzel's were at everything Healey related. They certainly shortened the time span of getting to know everyone by becoming immediately involved.

We have the same thing occurring this year with Suzanne and Greg Willodson. Suzanne has inherited her father's 3000, of which he was the original owner. They joined into one of those "all-day Wisconsin drives" last summer at the invitation of Kim and Steve Rixen. By the end of the day they were convinced that driving in a group was a blast. Suzanne did not hesitate when asked if she wanted to be involved at the level of Vice President. She acknowledged that it would give them the opportunity for a high degree of interaction.

This is a group of folks and enthusiasts who do many things to keep the Minnesota Club as vibrant and exciting as it is, and each year's cycle adds to its history.

Healey On!!



THE PRESIDENTS INFORMAL EVENING

BY GEOFF ROSSI

Meeting was called to order: 7:02 PM

President Wetzel presided

Three Board of Directors members are retiring this year. A discussion and request for candidates was conducted. A simple majority elects the members for those positions at the Annual Meeting on November 19. Next year two positions will need to be filled.

Another topic on the agenda was the InterMarque Spring Kick-Off, which is scheduled for May 12, 2012. Steve Rixen, our InterMarque representative, gave a report. There will be a new location for the event in downtown Osseo. It would appear to be a good move, and there is no cost to use the area.

Some of the Healey racers present gave a synopsis of the final events of the racing season. There are many MAHC members that actively participate in full scale vintage racing, as well as Gymkhana and Hillclimb events during the summer. They are all very entertaining, and the drivers love to see members come out to cheer them on.

Finally, the November 19th Annual Meeting was brought up. It is to again be held at the Officer's Club beginning with a Social Hour at 6 PM. Members were asked to donate and bring items for the silent auction. Tom Politiski informed the group that he will not be present, so we will miss his auctioneering skills.

Meeting adjourned: 7:41PM.

More than three dozen members were present. Much socialization transpired !

Community Service Project Saturday 11-5-2011

Editor

The Minnesota Austin Healey club along with the Minnesota Jaguar Club joined together to package food for the Feed My Starving Children organization. This volunteer effort has been coordinated by Dale & Barb Martin for the past several years. It is certainly a worthwhile activity to help the less fortunate children of the world.

We met at the Eagan facility at 8:45 am and listened to a short summary of the project and the very sanitary conditions in which it is done. For about two hours the group (along with other volunteers) packaged the mixture of several foodstuffs into packages that could be given out to the recipients in a foreign country.

Afterwards we all met again to hear the results of the morning's work, and were happy to hear we have surpassed our goals. Also the two clubs, along with other donors, donated over \$700.00 to help pay for the foods that were supplied. It was a very rewarding morning.

Those attending from our club included: Barb & Dale Martin, Jack Stein and Caren LaBelle, Greg & Suzanne Willodson, Curt Carlson, Mike Martin, Dick Mathews, Jean & Chuck Norton, Steve Rixen, Carl & Betty Stine, Eileen & Gary Wetzel, and Barb & Gary Ronning.

Afterwards, we adjourned to the Granite City Restaurant nearby to have lunch. There were about 30 people from the Healey and Jaguar club at one long table. Despite bewildering the waitresses, we had a nice time with good food. Join us next time !





Suzanne, Eileen, and the Centerpiece !



Rod, Jean, & Chuck – smilin' !

Minnesota Austin Healey Club 2011 Annual Banquet and Business Meeting

By Suzanne Willodson

The Club enjoyed excellent attendance for the November 19 annual club banquet and business meeting, especially considering the weather. The first real snowstorm of the season swept over the state earlier in the day bringing snow, sleet, and slick roadways. Reminiscent of last year's weather, the State Patrol reported 442 crashes throughout the state on the day of our banquet, with nearly 300 of those in the metro area. Needless to say, nobody drove their Healeys!

Despite the treacherous weather, nearly 50 members arrived for a lively social hour where events of the past year were recalled and plans for the upcoming year were discussed. Stories were told and retold again, men in suits exchanged cash for manifolds, and everyone eyed the items being set out for door prizes and the silent auction. Old friends were brought together after losing contact long ago, like Dave Knowles and Greg Willodson who were thrilled to meet again after nearly 30 years.

Members were soon called to the dinner buffet where a delicious feast was laid out before them. As usual, the Officers Club did an amazing job caring for our entire group and even sent us home with leftovers. Dinner was followed by a fantastic dessert and coffee. As dinner was ending, door prizes were announced and winners selected their gifts. We are grateful to all members for donating such great prizes.

Throughout the evening, a slide show played on the screen highlighting scenes from events of the past years. The memories of warmer driving weather were fondly remembered and new ideas were planned for the upcoming year. Many thanks go to Barb Ronning and Geoff Rossi for putting together the photos and to those who stepped in to offer their assistance to overcome the technical obstacles involving the projector. Thankfully, once Jeff Johnk's daughter Jessica provided Geoff with the elusive Apple adapter, the presentation was fired up and ready to go.

Continued on Page 7

The business portion of the evening was presented by several members. As sad as it was to see the current President step down after two wonderful years, new officers were elected and warmly welcomed by the members. Geoff Rossi was elected as our new President and Suzanne Willodson as our new Vice President. New Board of Directors members are Steve Rixen, Greg Lauser, and Mike Martin. We're grateful to Tom Moerke, Gary Ronning, and Wayne Soderbeck for their dedication as board members over the past two years. Jim Klein delivered the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted, and provided an overview of the financial health of the organization.

Greg Lauser presented the AHCA Delegates Report on national matters. It was noted that the travel receipts he submitted suggest he must have slept on a park bench rather than in a hotel. While going to such extents was not necessary, we're impressed with how he put frugality before comfort and safety.

Steve Rixen announced the Intermarque Spring Kick Off scheduled for May 2012 in Osseo. Dick Mathews graciously invited members to his home for a party on December 17th.

After dinner, the evening was expertly emceed by Eileen. She did a beautiful job welcoming all members and engaging them in an energetic game of "Battle of the Sexes." As President, she immediately instituted a rule that she would be the final decision-maker on the accuracy of answers. The scoreboard indicated a tie between the guys and the girls, but it was unclear which side truly prevailed in the end. Several unnamed sources indicated that the guys would not have had nearly as many points as they did if it weren't for the help of the ladies.

Bidding for the silent auction began to wrap up and announcements of the winners were made. Many comments were made throughout the evening about the generosity of the members who donated the items. The homemade items were particularly lovely. Many members went home with new books, artwork, and Healey accessories, but only one person went home with the coveted Aveda basket. Perhaps next year...

The Minnesota Austin Healey Club members who attended this year's annual dinner were:

Kent & Jane Brown, Wayne & Maria Buchholz, Curt Carlson & Teresa Boyer, Jeff, Carol, & Jessica Johnk, Spook & Britt Johns, Jim Klein, Chris Knowles, Dave Knowles, Greg Lauser, Jeff Lombard, Michael & Stacy Manser, Dale & Barb Martin, Dick Mathews, Herb & Marsha Miller, Tom & June Moerke, Chuck & Jean Norton, Dave & Cheryl Rademacher, Rod Richert, Steve & Kim Rixen, Gary & Barb Ronning, Geoff & Diane Rossi, Jack Stein & Caren Labelle, Carl & Betty Stine, Greg & Suzanne Willodson, and Gary & Eileen Wetzel.



Dining.....and.....Shopping !

AHCA Ponders Biennial Membership Directory

Dues the Same for 2012

By Greg Lauser, MAHC Delegate

There will be no national dues increase for 2012. Other highlights of the Nov. 11-13 national delegates meeting in Louisville were:

With an eye on reducing costs and forestalling further dues increases, delegates voted to publish the national directory every-other year and then rescinded that vote. It was felt that before changing the publication's frequency all delegates should poll their memberships about the idea. After Healey Marque, the directory is the largest expense item in the national budget. It currently costs between \$14,000-\$15,000 annually, and with another postage increase expected in 2012 it could top that figure.

The vote to change the publication frequency was made conditional on the AHCA Web site giving all members electronic access to an update of new members in the years a book is not published. There was some concern that such Web site access would not be available to members by 2013, the year after publishing the 2012 directory. So, this is your chance to let me know what you think about such a change in directory publication. Shoot me an e-mail at glauser@centurylink.net with any input you want to share.

Delegates also heard and rejected a proposal from the Gateway AHC delegate that the structure of AHCA be changed. He proposed combining the 46 regional and specialty clubs into nine districts. Discussion concluded that while there might be minimal budgetary savings, maintaining AHCA clubs' distinctive one-club, one-vote delegate representation was preferable and a national club feature of AHCA be changed. He proposed combining the 46 regional and specialty clubs into nine districts. Discussion concluded that while there might be minimal budgetary savings, maintaining AHCA clubs' distinctive one-club, one-vote delegate representation was preferable and a national club feature that convinced many clubs to affiliate with AHCA. Let me know if you feel consolidation of delegates is needed.

A way to help hold dues steady is for members to recommend a parts or services supplier to Angie's List, which at this point has been under-utilized by local clubs. Go to: <https://www.angieslist.com/AngiesList/review/charitablereports.aspx> and enter Austin-Healey Club or America as the charity. Angie's List will donate \$5 to AHCA for each valid report. You'll be asked for your own and the supplier's contact information, like you'd find on a business card.

National officers remain the same. Long-time national officer and past president Bob Gilleland will be stepping down as advertising director for Healey Marque. If you want to throw your hat in the ring to solicit advertising for the magazine, contact President Gary Brierton of the Triad Club in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The Conclave Colorado 2011 group contributed its total profit of \$9,500 to AHCA. That's because AHCA officers planned and hosted the event, with able assistance from several regional clubs. Conclave 2012 is slated for June 17-21 in Louisville, Ky.; with Conclave 2013 set June 23-28 at a castle in Charlevoix, a northeastern Quebec resort area about 5 hours northeast of Montreal and two hours north of Quebec City. It is a Fairmont resort named Le Manoir Richelieu and I have a brochure about it if you wish to see it. Conclave 2014 is tentatively set in the Southeast U.S., but since there has been no formal proposal made yet an exact location isn't available now.

All vintage car clubs continue fighting two trends: decreasing membership and increasing costs. National membership was 3,065 in early November, down from 3,195 last year at the same time. Currently, annual turnover rate in membership is about 500 non-renewals while adding 400 new members. Overall, membership is down some 13 percent in the past four years.

Minnesota *Austin - Healey* Club Statistics:

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS, 2011 = 119

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS, 2010 = 113

MEMBERSHIP INCREASE OF 6

NATIONAL MEMBERS, 2011 = 83

LOCAL ONLY MEMBERS, 2011 = 36

HEALEY BADGED MODELS REPRESENTED:

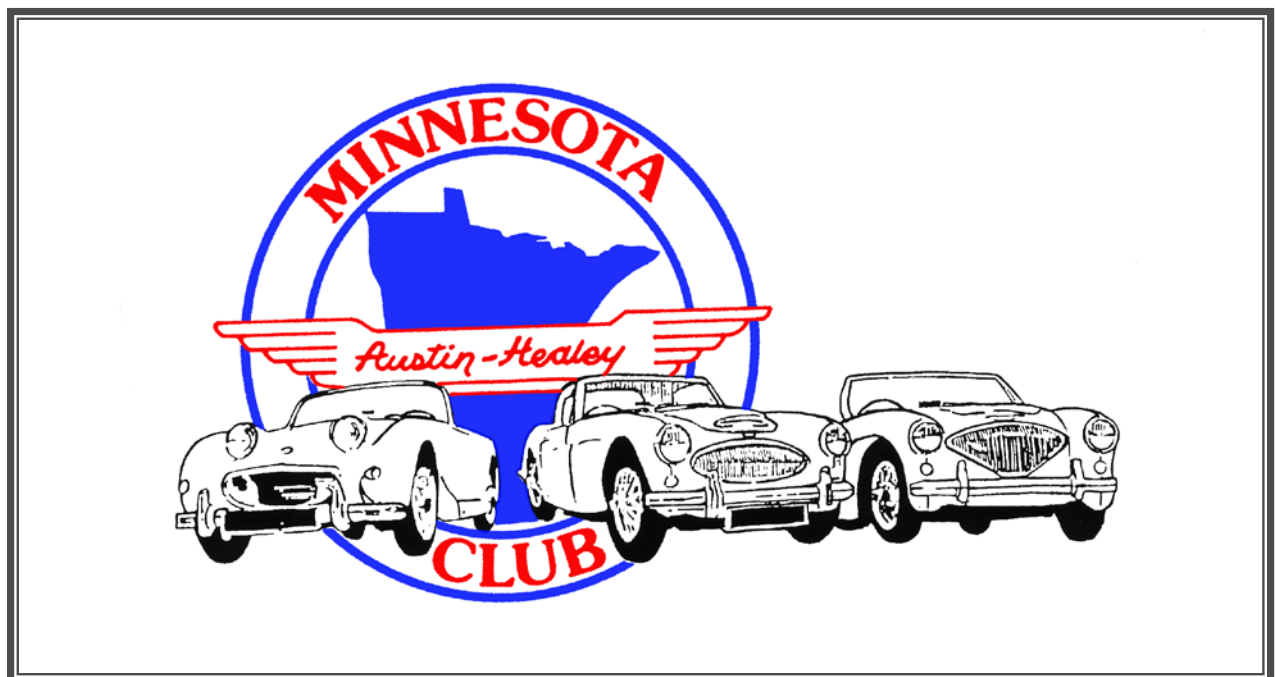
AH 100's = 16

BIG HEALEYS = 82

AH SPRITES = 36

JENSEN-HEALEYS = 6

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY JIM KRIZ, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



Cooling Tech Tip

Steve Rixen

Ethylene Glycol is the most popular chemical used to keep your engine block and cooling system from turning into an (cracked) ice cube in winter. It comes in green or red and it carries chemical additives which aid in preventing rust and corrosion year round.

Unfortunately for our pets and kids it also has a 'sweet' taste which is found attractive to the unwary and can be ingested in a quantity which will cause injury, long term organ damage or death.



Propylene glycol anti-freeze is also available which is no less injurious to living things but it does not have the attractive sweet taste of ethylene glycol. Prestone Lo-Tox is the one brand name I could find available, carried by some O'Reilly Auto Parts stores. My local store ordered a case, of which I purchased a number of gallons.



A 50/50 mix of concentrated antifreeze and water, (distilled is best) will give -34° F freeze protection for Ethylene and -32° for Propylene. If you decide to use a Low Tox type of anti-freeze, you will need to also update your tester to one made for propylene. The picture is of a propylene tester (green bulb). If it were a ethylene version it would have a black bulb.



Modern antifreeze serves another function in that it inhibits corrosion of steel and aluminum parts by having what is termed 'reserve alkalinity' (RA). Test strips which test the amount of 'reserve alkalinity' are available at your local auto parts store or can be found at website like Amazon.com in various quantities. By dipping these strips in your radiator fluid you will find a pad portion of the strip changes colors. One of the strips colors will tell if your antifreeze has sufficient RA to protect your engine from corrosion. The strips also have a pad which will tell the freeze protection level. Level of protection is indicated by comparing the color of the pad with a color chart provided.

Continued on Page 11



If your antifreeze no longer has the freeze protection or reserve alkalinity to protect your engine, or if your fluid is full of rust and looks bad you may need to flush your cooling system. This can be done in your driveway or done at your local oil change business for a reasonable price where your fluid should be removed, filtered, chemically adjusted for RA and freeze protection and returned to your system. (Precision Tune advertises for \$49.90.) If you choose to do it in your driveway, there are some videos in YouTube on flushing and reverse flushing your engine, radiator and heater core at: <http://www.youtube.com/>

If you do it in your driveway you will have some old antifreeze to dispose. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency guidelines are available as a PDF file at their website at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=4057> which state small quantities may be disposed of through sanitary sewer systems which will be able to filter and dilute it. The document also has a list of business which re-cycle antifreeze.



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FOR YOUR MALE FRIEND - ALL CAR RELATED!

I know some of the ladies may object to the title, then I suggest you come up with a list for your female friend as well. All the websites I am including here have very unique and sometimes rare gifts and memorabilia. All are car related and in many cases, British Car related. I also realize it may be a little early for thinking of Christmas gift ideas, however keep in mind that none of the sites I give you here are located in Manitoba or Western Canada. Some are from overseas so you may have to order early. Have fun looking them over anyway.

I will list only the websites, therefore it will be up to you to find a suitable surprise.

Let's start off with some tools. No one has enough tools, much like shoes for women, you can always use more of them. It is a Canadian site www.G2Sequip.ca. These guys handle good quality tools at reasonable prices. How about some car cleaning supplies - top quality! I have ordered from them in the past and they are really good to deal with. See www.griotsgarage.com, from the USA.

Looking for some rare and collectible items? Here is another Canadian site, www.collectorStudio.com. Some items are very pricey, but many are very reasonable as well - take your pick. How about some more automobilia? Here are three more sites: www.artauto.com, www.carartinc.com, www.driversroad.com. These last three are all located in the USA.

Fancy some cards of your favourite British wheels? Here is a site located in the UK: www.motorgraphs.com. How about some videos of your favourite British brands - see www.britishpathe.com. You think about signs, decals, or anything in between. Then you will be amazed by these next two sites from the USA. The first one does custom signs to your specifications. www.garageart.com, www.magicofmotoring.com.

So there you have it. Ten sites packed with loads of things related to one of our favourite pastimes, and I believe they all take credit cards. Have fun!

By Jean Caron



InterMarque Year End Report

By Steve Rixen

The InterMarque Council which I attend as representative of the MAHC had changes during the year.

Our InterMarque Spring Kick-Off was held at the unfortunately rainy and cold Como Park venue in May.

John Engstrom, of the recently consolidated Mini and MINI clubs, has stepped up to lead the Council; when, after years of service by our friend and fellow Healey owner, Andy Lindberg stepped down as Chair. Andy is continuing as Editor-Emeritus at the *InterMarque Monthly*. You too can receive the *InterMarque Monthly* by sending a request to: intermarque@gmail.com

John has arranged for the InterMarque Spring Kick-off to occur around 'The Square' in bustling Downtown Osseo on Saturday Morning May 12, 2012. Details will follow as the SKO date approaches.

The best way to keep up with the MAHC is to have Dave Lee alert you by email. If you aren't receiving MAHC updates send an email requesting to be put on the list to: dlee@usfamily.net



MAHC 2012 Event Planning Meeting

Come for breakfast - Come to plan !

Date: Saturday December 3, 2011

Times: Diner opens at 8 AM.
Meeting begins at 9 AM.

Place: The Square Peg Diner
2021 East Hennepin Avenue
Northeast Minneapolis
612 - 378 - 0855



Roadside Testimonials & Videos Afternoon Bash !

Date: Saturday December 17th

Time: 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Place: Dick Mathews home
1301 Waterford Drive
Golden Valley, MN 55422
Phone: 763-226-4517

Bring: Beverage and/or Snack



Membership / Renewal Form

- ☐ **Minnesota A-H Club** ☐ New ☐ Renewal \$20.00
- ☐ **Austin-Healey Club of America** ☐ New ☐ Renewal \$50.00
- ☐ **BOTH CLUBS** \$70.00

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell/Work Phone: () _____

E-mail address: _____ Receive Newsletter via email? Yes No

HEALEY SPORTSCAR INFORMATION:

Year _____ Model _____ Color _____ Original Owner (Y/N) _____

Year _____ Model _____ Color _____ Original Owner (Y/N) _____

Condition: ☐ Show Quality ☐ Nice & Roadworthy ☐ Could be running with help ☐ Restoration Project

Make checks payable to: Minnesota Austin Healey Club.

Send form and checks to : Jim Kriz
2000 Kenwood Pkwy.
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Events Schedule.

- Dec. 3 **** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2012 will be on the agenda for this meeting. See page 13. BOD Meeting will be held afterwards.
- Dec. 7**** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Dec. 17**** **Roadside Testimonials and Videos Afternoon Bash** – (Sat) This will be an interesting new event to be held at Dick & Karla Mathews' beautiful home. See page 13.

**** - Denotes an MAHC club activity**

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Saturday December 3rd

Time: 11:00 am (approximately)

Place: The Square Peg Restaurant

Purposes: To Elect a Board Chairman
 To approve the Schedule of Events
 To discuss a second Hillclimb in
 To discuss any other old/new business.



Steve Rixen is...



Strictly British, LLC



Parts, Service & Consultation

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Minnesota Austin Healey Club Inc.
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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 -** Austin Healey 1960 BT7. Stored carefully and indoors for the past 30+ years and is a very complete car. It includes rare original hardtop. 3rd owner car. Engine rotates. Healey blue over blue. \$9500. Contact Andy Staebell at email: staebell@comcast.net or call 612-638-7807. (9/11)
- FOR SALE -** 1 amp trickle charger. Winter hibernation is ahead! Call Geoff Rossi at 612-822-7069 or email to casadirossi@hotmail.com . (10/11)
- FOR SALE -** New A-H parts. I'll provide a list, just email a request to Geoff Rossi at casadirossi@hotmail.com . (10/11)
- WANTED -** Need partner w/ e-bay account & experience to sell car parts. Call Mike Lynch at 952-474-5642. (11/11)

*Merry Christmas * Happy New Year !*