



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XXIII No. 12

December 2012



DECEMBER EVENTS

Sat.	Dec. 1	Planning Breakfast
Wed.	Dec. 5	PIE Meeting

Happy Holidays !

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Minnesota
Web Site www.mnhealey.com

National
Web Site www.healeyclub.org

PIE**(President's Informal Evening)**

Date: Wednesday December 5th

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.

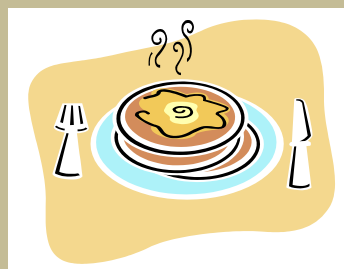
Come and enjoy refreshments and/or food with the friendly club members, catch up on news & events, and discuss cars & restorations.

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



The beautiful cover picture was created by John Loftus for the Austin Healey Magazine in December 2003.

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 Suzanne Willodson

First of all, thank you for allowing me and Greg the honor of heading up the Healey Club for 2013. We are eager to get to know as many people as we can in the club and to participate in as many Healey events as possible. We'll spend the winter making sure the Healey is fit for duty by spring time!

Here's a little background on our car and how we joined the club...

Our 1961 Austin Healey was purchased new by my father, a US Air Force pilot, while stationed in Texas. When he was transferred to a Royal Air Force base in Germany, the car went with him. While there, he met my mother, an RAF school teacher. The two of them were married and travelled all over Europe in the Healey.

Eventually, they moved back to the US and were stationed at McCord AFB in Tacoma, Washington. They brought back the Healey, as well as a new 1966 Jaguar XKE purchased at Henley's in London. Everything was going smoothly until they had children and found themselves taking two cars everywhere they went. What seemed like a really good idea at one time (to my Dad and possibly you guys) was now becoming impractical. A decision had to be made: Keep the Healey or the Jag? My Dad's first love was the Healey, so it easily won out. They traded in the Jag for a Volvo station wagon.

I have wonderfully vivid childhood memories of the Healey – the smell of the leather interior, the sound of the exhaust, the challenge of operating the toggles and switches with my little kid hands. Only in the past few years did it dawn on me that the car (a BN7) wasn't a four-seater. After all, my two brothers and I (ages 2, 3 and 4) rode around in the "back seat" all the time. It was the 70s, and seatbelt and child seat laws just weren't what they are today.

It was just a few years ago that my Mom completely handed over the responsibility to us of caring for the car. Since my father passed away in 2002, my Mom stored the car and drove it only a few times a year. Eventually I took on more of a role in caring for the car, but I was in over my head. Imagine my extremely good fortune when I met Greg, who as a teenager had a Midget, Spitfire, TR3 and an MGB GT. He knew all about British cars. The Healey had a new mechanic! For the record, I liked him before I knew he could fix a Healey, and he liked me even before he knew I had a Healey.

Jump to 2011, which went something like this... August 28: Drove to St Paul to stop in at the Intermarque Picnic. Met Steve and Kim Rixen. "Come to Wisconsin for a drive in the countryside", Steve said. September 2: Drove the Healey like maniacs all day at Ed Solstad's Coulee Classic. Met Diane and Geoff Rossi. Became great friends with all of them. September 7: Headed to the Officer's Club to the Healey meeting. Became members.

It would be impossible to have guessed that our Healey would be instrumental in leading us to where we are today, but we are so grateful it has! Happy Holidays to you all!

The Presidents Informal Evening

By Suzanne Willodson

President Geoff Rossi called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10pm.

A recap of October/early November events was given.

Oct 6 Fall Color Tour

- Kate and Clarence Westberg led us on a very enjoyable drive thru western Wisconsin, ending with a late lunch at Paradise Landing on Balsam Lake.

Oct 13 Highway Cleanup

- Greg Lauser headed up this event. Fifteen brave souls showed up for this soggy, but always enjoyable team building exercise. Approximately 12 wore appropriate footwear.

Oct 27 Halloween Party

- Bob and Lori Jensen hosted an InterMarque Halloween party at their home in Stillwater.

Nov 3 Feed My Starving Children

- Greg Willodson and Glenn Nickleski, representing the Healey and Jaguar Clubs, stood in for an ailing Dale Martin, who was greatly missed.

Announcements were made for November and early December events.

Annual banquet – Saturday, November 17 at the Officer's Club.

6PM – Social Hour

7PM – Dinner

Door Prize Drawings, Silent Auction, and Live Auction (auctioneer Tom Politiski)

Breakfast Planning Meeting at 9:00 AM Saturday, December 1 at Joseph's Grill, 140 S Wabasha Ave, St Paul, MN.

Tom Hazen announced that Waumandee 2013 is ON! Tom had club officers sign thank-you letters, which he intends to send to Waumandee board members and other individuals who helped make 2012's event such a great success.

Guest Speaker - We were joined at this month's PIE meeting by Al Henriksen, who is originally from South Minneapolis. Al helped "prepare" teachers at South High for a young Master Gary Ronning, who would walk the halls for 3 years after Al graduated. Al shared a story with us about his early life in San Francisco, where he and his new bride enjoyed a "two year honeymoon", touring the West Coast in their 1956 Austin-Healey 100/4. Recently, after reminiscing with his wife about their most fun car ever, he found the MN Austin-Healey Club website. The photo of Curt Carlson's 100/4 immediately grabbed his attention, as it was a spitting image of his old Healey. Al called Curt; and the two of them conversed for a considerable time, after which Al was inspired to attend our PIE meeting. (nice job, Curt!) Who knows; Al and his wife may be looking for a Healey next spring when they return from Florida!

Treasurer's report – The Club is financially healthy and continues to meet all of its responsibilities.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM

In attendance:

Jeff Johnk, Rich Stadther, Andy Lindberg, Tom Hazen, Steve & Kim Rixen, Jim Manion, Dick Mathews & daughter Danielle, Jeff Lombard, Scott McQueen, Jim Kriz, Jack Stein, Dan Powell, Bob Featherly, Mike Martin, Kate & Clarence Westberg, Tom & June Moerke, Jack Stein, Carl & Betty Stine, Nancy & Greg Lauser, Barb & Gary Ronning, Gary & Eileen Wetzel, Geoff & Diane Rossi, Greg & Suzanne Willodson, and special guest Al Henriksen.

Feed My Starving Children Volunteer Event

By Greg Willodson

Members of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club and Minnesota Jaguar Club joined forces to package food for the Feed My Starving Children organization on November 3. This event, which in the past has been coordinated by Dale & Barb Martin, was coordinated through a joint effort by Dale (via emails from an undisclosed location), Glenn Nickleski of the Jaguar club and Greg Willodson of the Healey club.

Our shift at the FMSC Eagan facility began at 9:00 am. George of FMSC presented information explaining what we would be doing, and the miraculous impact that this food has on the lives of children who receive it - often making the difference between thriving and starving.

After scrubbing any remnants of Healey grease from our hands and donning lovely headwear, we spent about 90 minutes in the food packing area, where we filled packets with rice, soy, dried vegetables, and flavoring. The sealed packets were packed into cardboard boxes and moved out to the shipping dock.

When our shift was finished, we reconvened in the front room, where we got to sample some of the food. It actually tasted pretty good! George informed us that our group produced 79 cases of food. The two clubs each donated \$300.00 (officially). Other miscellaneous cash contributions came from many donors throughout the room; and in the end when the dust settled, there was no way to tell which club raised more money (we won) for the cause.

Austin-Healey Club members in attendance (based on FMSC registrations, apologies to any not listed): Steve Shogren, Dan Gallagher, Carl & Betty Stine, Gary & Eileen Wetzels, Geoff & Dianne Rossi, Greg Lauser, Curt Carlson, Teresa Boyer, Henry Boyer, Jackson Hickel, Greg & Suzanne Willodson.

Afterwards, many members of both clubs gathered at Granite City Restaurant to have lunch. There was no repeat of the billing confusion that occurred last year, but we all had fun anyway!

Dale & Barb Martin's spirit and guidance were certainly missed at this year's event.



...how attractive
are hair nets...!

Minnesota Austin Healey Club

2012 Annual Banquet and Business Meeting

By Greg Willodson

The annual club banquet and business meeting was held at the Officer's Club on November 17.

Fifty Nine members arrived to a 6 PM social hour, followed by a buffet dinner and plenty of fun activities. Congratulate yourselves, as I'm told this is a new high water mark for Healey Annual Banquet attendance. It was especially nice to see Dale and Barb Martin, after missing them at the last couple events.

The Officer's Club staff took care of us in the manner in which we've become accustomed. They laid out a really nice buffet consisting of the standard fare, which I think makes most of us feel like we're home. Dinner was followed by peach cobbler and coffee.

As in years past, one that I know of for sure, a slide show helped us relive events of the last few months. Par for the course - it took five people, 27 minutes, and three Google searches to get the show to display on the big screen. (Note for next year: F4 and respect the near-mythical powers of the projector "Input" button, and God help us if it's a Mac!) The results were worth it, thanks to those Healey members who diligently bring their cameras to the events and snap some really great shots. THANK YOU! You have talents that others of us simply do not possess.

Lots of incredible items were donated by club members, to be given away as door prizes or auctioned off through both silent and live auctions. The live auction was called out by our own resident auctioneer, Tom Politiski. Perhaps reflecting a still tight economy, members this year did not run up the bidding too high on most items. As I tried to get some sleep later in the evening, in my head I kept hearing "Have 10, Bid 15!" over and over. A few amazing items did generate some competitive bidding. A very nice used wood Moto Lita steering wheel seemed to be on everyone's wish list, and brought a very respectable winning bid. Overall, the best bargain of the evening had to be the Moment/Anderson Healey Restoration Guide, which commonly appears on the internet in the \$500 – 650 range. It went home with a new owner for about a hundred bucks! Again, THANK YOU members, for your incredible generosity! Continued on page 7.....





Suzanne and Geoff



Current & some of the past Presidents

Many of the auction items were homemade this year: June Moerke's cookies and jams, Diane Rossi's candy, Dale Martin's turned bowl, Teresa Boyer's hand-knitted scarves, and Suzanne Willodson's framed and bedazzled "Stay Calm" prints were all big hits. Once more, THANK YOU for your talent, creativity, and hard work!

The business portion of the evening started with the election of new officers. Geoff Rossi, outgoing and esteemed President of 2011, conducted the first portion of the business meeting, and then passed the baton to incoming President Suzanne Willodson. In an unprecedented and potentially unwise effort to try out "under one roof" leadership this year, Greg Willodson was nominated and accepted as Vice President. New Board of Directors members are Spook Johns and Curt Carlson. We're grateful to Gary Wetzal and Jack Stein for their dedication as board members over the past year. Greg Lauser presented the AHCA Delegates Report on national matters. Other officer reports will be called for at the Annual Planning Meeting.

The Minnesota Austin Healey Club members who attended this year's annual dinner were: Dale & Barb Martin, Tom Hazen & Angie Le, Fred Ambli & Sandie Swenson, Jack Stein & Caren LaBelle, Jan Huston, Jim Kriz, Mike & Gloria Lynch, Tom Politiski, Jim & Patty Manion, Kent & Jane Brown, Wayne & Maria Buchholz, Curt Carlson & Teresa Boyer, Jeff, Carol, & Jessica Johnk, Spook & Britt Johns, Greg & Nancy Lauser, Jeff & Betsy Lumbard, Michael & Stacey Manser, Dale & Barb Martin, Dick Mathews, Herb & Marsha Miller, Tom & June Moerke, Chuck & Jean Norton, Steve & Kim Rixen, Geoff & Diane Rossi, Carl & Betty Stine, Clarence and Kate Westberg, Greg & Suzanne Willodson, Gary & Eileen Wetzal, Dan & Lauri Powell, Jim & Rose Klein, Gary & Barb Ronning.

AHCA Will Bill Chapters for Local-Member Insurance Coverage; National Dues the Same in 2013

By Greg Lauser, MAHC National Delegate

There will be no national dues increase for 2013. Other highlights of the Nov. 9-11, 2012, national delegates meeting in Indianapolis were:

- Delegates passed a resolution requiring each local member of chapters to pay their fair share of AHCA's costs for general liability and officers & directors insurance. Insurance protection provided already by AHCA protects all national and local club members' liability (regardless of whether someone belongs only as a local member) when sponsoring and participating in events where liability coverage is required, i.e., uphill slaloms, airport runs, gymkhanas, tours, etc.

The resolution requires that by January 15 of each year chapter membership directors provide AHCA's VP for Club Support with a list of names and addresses of local-only members and the total number of local-only members. Each affiliate club will be billed \$5 per local member, to level the playing field in sharing insurance and bonding costs. Chapter members who are AHCA members already pay their share in national dues. AHCA left to the discretion of local chapters whether that cost is recovered from local members in local-dues increases or absorbed by local clubs. Based on 42 local members, billing for MAHC will be \$210. Please advise members of MAHC's board of how you feel the added cost to our club should be handled.

- Here's a reminder on behalf of membership director Jim Kriz. Last year the deadline for AHCA dues renewal was moved to January 15. That change was a response to members' complaints that directories don't reach members soon enough each year. To be assured that your information appears in the 2013 AHCA Membership Directory dues must be received by the national membership director by Jan. 15. That means Jim Kriz needs to receive all renewals in time for him to get a complete list of renewed members to the national director by then.
- The Oregon Austin-Healey Club is the newest local chapter whose affiliation with AHCA was approved by delegates. Several of its 125 members already are National AHCA members and that club's bylaws also allow local members.
- Ongoing discussions also have been held with Austin-Healey Club USA officers about merging with AHCA. AHCA provided its member and financial records to AHC USA and was assured there would be an exchange of that information at a meeting during September in Colorado. Unfortunately, AHC USA has not shared membership and financial records necessary to move forward with such a merger. Delegates authorized AHCA President Gary Brierton to continue discussions, but only after AHC USA provides the documents promised. At this point, it is estimated that about 800 of AHC USA's alleged 1,400 members are potential new members of AHCA.

Continued on page 9....

- One way each of us can help hold down national dues is to recommend/review services from parts or service suppliers for Angie's List. Club members who successfully add a vendor/supplier to the referral list will receive one year free membership to Angie's Classic Cars List. You can add multiple suppliers to the list; and you can recommend the same supplier named by others. 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 suppliers' contact information, like you'd find on a business card.
- New national officers elected were Ben Moore as Vice President of PR, Jo Switzer as Vice President of Conclave and Ann Jones as Secretary. Other national officers remain the same.
- Louisville Conclave 2012 hosted 275 registrants, 521 people, 230 vintage cars and contributed \$10,292 to AHCA. That's half the profit realized by Louisville's Bluegrass AHC. Conclave 2013 is set for 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 slated for The Homestead Resort in western Virginia.
- All vintage car clubs continue fighting two trends: decreasing membership and increasing costs. National membership was 3,167 in early November, down from 3,195 last year at the same time. The annual turnover rate in membership is about 500 non-renewals while adding 400 new members. Overall, membership is down some 12 percent in the past five years. End of report.

Minnesota Austin Healey Club 2012 Stats

By Jim Kriz

National Members - 81
Local-only Members – 41
Total Members - 122

Austin Healey ownership by model:

BJ-8	33	AN-5	25	Jensen-Healey	3
BJ-7	7	AN-6	3		
BT-7	17	AN-7	2		
BN-1	6	AN-8	3		
BN-2	5	AN-9	2		
BN-4	5				
BN-6	3				
BN-7	4				

Tech Article: Got Ground ???

By Steve Rixen

When you are overhauling an engine or considering an upgrade in performance you have to consider the heart of your engine, the camshaft. Purchasing a cam for the Big Healey is a MAJOR investment. A stock or performance BJ8 cam from Moss Motors will set you back over \$800 on sale, \$900 if you can't wait for the sale. It will cost more like \$1100 plus shipping for a modified cam from England's Southern Carburetors or Dennis Welch, if you want to step up the performance.

Most cams which come from a typical sixty thousand mile engine have worn lobes and acid pitted lifters. While you are doing the engine freshening, upgrade, or overhaul, you may as well deal with the damage caused by years of neglect in a way which is effective but a little less expensive.

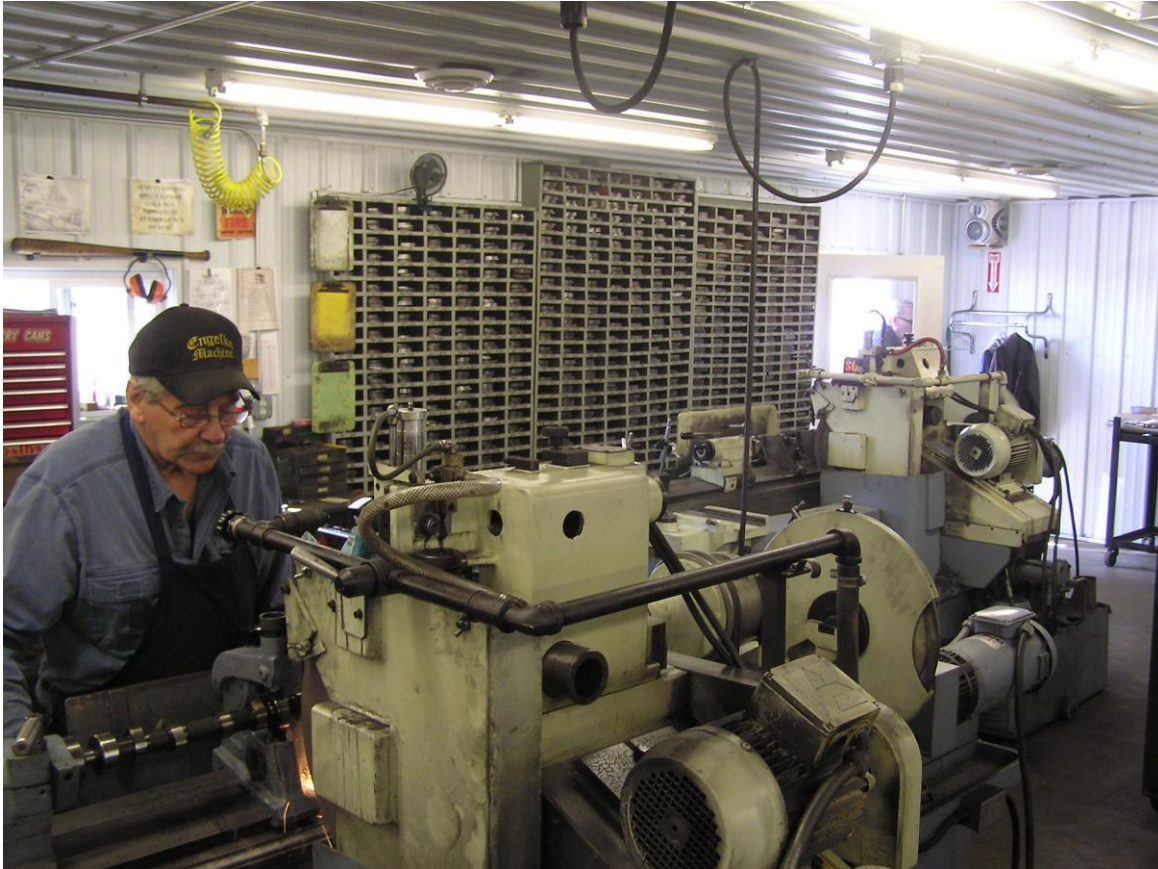
Berry Cams is located outside of Lester Prairie, MN and has been in operation for decades. Joel is the current manager of the cam shop - shown here evaluating the condition of a cam brought into the shop. On this machine he checks the condition of each lobe, identifying any which will not have sufficient material to regrind to a useable profile. The lobes worn to excess will require welding of those lobes at about \$35 each.



Once the cam has been evaluated there is a discussion about what kind of performance profile you may be looking for; cam lift, duration/overlap and profile. The stock Healeys were developed with very conservative cam specifications. A slightly more aggressive cam can give appreciable improvements in performance, even with the original low to mid compression engine. Berry has many profile master cams, which allow regrinds from mild to wild enough where it will barely run.



This picture shows Joel paging through his hand written master cam profile notebook to see what profiles are available for your engine. His stock Big Austin Healey spec is an upgraded BJ8 cam, which checks out at slightly more aggressive than the 256 degree 0.368 lobe lift at 270 degree and 0.380. If you want more than that, you can find it.



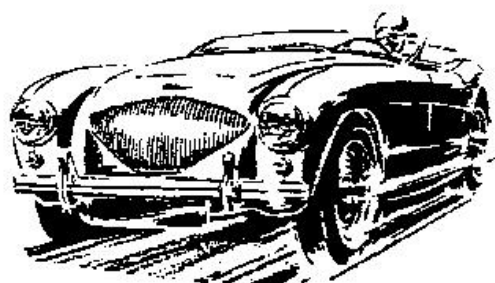
This picture shows the machinist operating the cam grinding machine. Behind him are some of the cam master profiles stored in the cubbyholes.

The cam work is done well and relatively inexpensively for the six cylinder, at usually less than \$200 if no lobes need to be welded. Much better when compared to the cost of a new cam.

Berry also has profiles for the Sprites - whether 948, 1098, or 1275 - at a cost of about \$135, if no lobes are welded. Many new stock or performance ground cams are available at a cost from APT (Moss), Kent (Victoria British LTD), Piper etc. These cams were fairly inexpensive in the past but are not so now - usually running around \$500.

In any case, if you are doing the cam, you have to replace the lifters as well. Use the lube recommended or provided when assembling the cam and lifters, so there is always a little more to spend your money on.

Next month we will try to shed light on how much cam you need....or want !





Remember to make plans for

RENDEZVOUS 2013

June 6 - 9, 2013



MAHC 2012 Event Planning Meeting

Come for breakfast - Stay to plan !

Date: Saturday December 1, 2012

Times: Restaurant opens at 8:00 am
Meeting begins at 9:00 am

Place: Joseph's Grill
140 South Wabasha
St. Paul, MN
651-222-2435



MAHC Members Attend Waumandee Town Board Meeting

By Suzanne Willodson

On Monday, November 12, several MAHC members made the drive to Waumandee, Wisconsin to attend the town Board Meeting. On the agenda was the proposal to hold the second annual Hill Climb on Blank Hill Road in September 2013. Tom Hazen was fully prepared to present his case in support of the popular event.

When our issue finally came up on the agenda, the board discussed the event for only a moment before a motion to approve the event was made. Surprisingly, board member and Buffalo County Sheriff Michael Schmidtknecht seconded the motion. Victory!

Tom Hazen has scheduled the 2nd Annual Waumandee Hill Climb for September 20-22, 2013.

The MAHC was represented by: Tom Hazen, Brian Duoos, Andy Lindberg, Carl and Betty Stine, and Greg and Suzanne Willodson. Also in attendance was Patrick Holt from the Minnesota Triumphs Club.

Events Schedule

Dec. 1 **

Annual Planning Breakfast – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2013 will be on the agenda for this meeting. See page 14.

Dec. 5**

PIE Meeting – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.

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

2013

June 6 – 9

Rendezvous 2013 – Grand Rapids, MN See page 12.

June 23 – 28

A-H Conclave 2013 – Quebec, Canada

Sept 20 – 22

Waumandee Hillclimb II

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Saturday December 1st

Time: 11:00 am (approximately)

Place: Joseph's Grill
140 So. Wabasha – St. Paul, MN

Purposes:

To Elect a Board Chairman

To approve the Schedule of Events for 2012.

To discuss any other old/new business.



People submitting photos for the
November issue:

Steve Rixen
Barb Ronning

Thank you !



Steve Rixen is...



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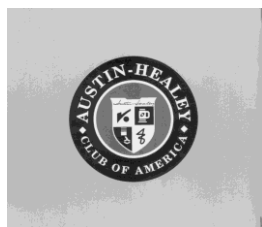
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FOR SALE: 1959 Austin Healey Sprite. Stalled restoration. Started a ground up restoration, body professionally restored, British Leaf Green paint. Front end rebuilt by Apple Hydraulics, radiator boiled out and refurbished. Many manuals, restoration books, DVD's. Many new parts, original parts are boxed and cataloged. \$6000.00. For more info, contact Bruce at: brucewinder@yahoo.com or ph. 218-587-2752. (9/12)