



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XVII No. 2

February 2006



The New Healey 5000 (?)

February Events

Wednesday February 1 – PIE Meeting
Saturday February 18 – Tech Session
Saturday February 25 – Wine & Cheese Party

MAHC STAFF

President	MIKE MARTIN 952-898-1634 ahbn1@aol.com
Vice President	MICHAEL MANSER 612-237-8078 michael@santrymotorsports.com
Treasurer	JIM KLEIN 763-559-1607 abmake@citilink.com
Membership & Publisher	CURT CARLSON Box 6844 Minneapolis, MN 55406 612-721-8667 spritemann@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	GARY RONNING 612-722-8397 gtronning@aol.com
Photographer	BARB RONNING
Video Librarian	JIM WOJCIK 651-653-4523 jvwojcik@comcast.net
WebMaster	JOHN SNYDER 952-929-4792 mnhhealey@consistentc.com
Email Broadcaster	DAVE LEE 651-489-3157 dlee@usfamily.net
Name Tags	TOM HAZEN libertytrans@mn.rr.com
National Delegate	GREG LAUSER 715-262-9813 glauser@pressenter.com
Intermarque Delegate	ANDY LINDBERG 651-292-8585 andylinberg@earthlink.net
Future 50 Coordinator	DAN WOLTERS 651-793-7123 healey100jedi@yahoo.com
Regalia	JESSICA JOHNK 952-461-2720
Technical Resources	
Sprite	CHUCK NORTON 651-483-0836
100	DAN WOLTERS 651-793-7123
3000 & Modified	JEFF JOHNK 952-461-2720
Board of Directors	TOM HAZEN DAVE LEE DALE MARTIN Chrmn. TOM MOERKE CHUCK NORTON
Web Site	www.mnhhealey.com

Presidential Mike



By Mike Martin

What happened to January already? I thought I had just written up the article and Gary calls and wonders where the next one is. The faster I go the behinder I get.

I've found a bank that will NOT charge us a fee for using our money. Free checking, if we use less than 150 checks a month - fat chance on that. This will save us more than 130 bucks a year!

How are your projects going? With this mild winter the Healeys ought to be ready early this year!

Chris and I are off to Oregon in a week. I've been in touch with a car owner that wants to sell, and I'll look that one over. I'm also calling on Reid Trummel, our new Healey Marque editor, who lives in Portland. More on our conversation next time. Looks like I'll have to send the March article from Depoe Bay, Oregon, if it's going to be on time.

Our Vice-Pres. Mike Manser paid a visit to Fourintune in Wisconsin early this month. I've decided to take a trip down to Lawton Iowa and The Healey Works, but first I have to find Lawton. These two shops specialize in the restorations of Austin-Healeys, and it will be interesting to compare notes. See you all in a month!



Cover courtesy of Ribble Valley Classic Car Hire

THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST

The official publication of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club, 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 is affiliated with the Austin Healey Club of America.



Tech Session

Date: Saturday February 18th

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Place: Mike Lynch's Garage
6630 Horseshoe Curve
Chanhassen, MN
Ph: 952-474-5642



This Tech Session will be on Refinishing Wood – such as Dashboards, etc. Mike has much experience in Woodworking and Wood Finishing. Refreshments will be available and Lunch is served at Noon.

Don't miss it!

PIE (President's Informal Evening)

Date: Wednesday February 1st
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.

Wine & Cheese Party!



Date: Saturday February 25th

Time: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Place: Dick & Carla Mathews' Home
1301 Waterford Drive
Golden Valley, MN
Phone 763-587-0285

What to bring: Wine, Cheese or Snack.
Also books, videos, paper.

This annual event is the Great Winter Warm-up! Lots of wine and snacks to consume with a bunch of friendly people. Mathews' lovely home is the perfect place to enjoy it!!

See you there!

Breakfast at the Peg

This casual event every Saturday morning about 8:30 continues to be very popular! Great food, reasonable prices, & friendly LBC car enthusiasts make it a great place to keep in touch. **Come see the new room added on just for us!!** The location again is:

The Square Peg Diner
2021 East Hennepin Ave. Mpls.





Tech Session

Editor

Saturday afternoon in mid-winter is a great time to gather with friends in a garage and talk about car parts. Many people agree, as there were a bunch of members that showed up at Steve Rixen's Strictly British Garage in Hudson to discuss Tom Hazen's modified Sprite engine (which was sitting in front on an engine stand).

Steve started the discussion with his large easled tablet and made suggestions as to why Tom's motor was "smoking". The question was whether the problem was in the top, the middle, or the bottom of the engine. There were pictures drawn and comments made back and forth.

After talking about it, the time came to tear down the engine to actually see what was going on inside. No one was prepared for the lurid outcome. First, be aware that Tom had sent his block out of town to a custom builder just last year. They were supposed to enhance the output and return the unit ready to have the peripheral components installed.

The head was removed. In checking the cylinder walls, there were gouges galore. Turning the engine upside down, the oil pan was removed. Lots of small (and not so small) metal pieces were in abundance. The crankshaft was removed and the pistons released. The skirts on the piston heads were chewed. It seems that the wrist pin retaining clips were either inserted incorrectly, or were of insufficient quality to withstand the stroke of the engine. With the keeper clips gone, the wrist pins were free to dance around the cylinder walls, scoring them badly.

Tom was a good man and took the pain in stride. There were only about 1500 miles on that engine. He will have to look for some major new/used parts to start rebuilding again. Hopefully he will be back on the road again soon. If you have a 1275 engine block available for purchase, please contact Tom Hazen at 612.237.1883



Vice President's Report

By Michael Manser

"The horse, who is having the worst day of his life, walks into a bar for a quick drink. The bartender takes one look at him and says..." The January 'Pie with the Prez', or perhaps more appropriately, 'Planes and the Prez', was well attended by members who included David Meek, Jim Kriz, Dave Lee, Paul Weidner, Rich Stadther, Jeff Johnk, Jeff Lombard, Dan Powell, Ron Corazzo, Steve Rixen, Jim Klein, Mike Martin, Gary Ronning, Scott McQueen, Dan Wolters, Curt Carlson, Greg Lauser, Jack Stein, Dale Martin, Chuck Norton, John Snyder and Mike Manser. In line with my call to include more women at our events Tom Hazen graciously subjected Molly Coyne to the meeting highlights; which included, ironically, teasing Tom about bringing his "girlfriend" to the meeting. On a more serious note, Curt Carlson reminded everyone to renew memberships as soon as possible.

As we move through the winter months I am amazed at all the things that are happening in the MAHC. One thing is the construction of a Healumphfordota by Dan Wolters right here in the Twin Cities. The Healumphfordota is an ultra rare car consisting of a custom made frame, Healey body, Triumph roof, Ford rear-end, and a Toyota drive train. The picture you should be developing in your minds-eye is a handsome lightweight Healey coupe with an extremely powerful drive train and the reliability of modern components. The final road test is still quite some time off, but when it does happen, I want to be there.

Other items of discussion included the installation of 5 speed tranny's, final construction of a mildly hopped-up 100-4 engine, and the restoration of a couple cars. My work includes some new items for the racecar, and planning my participation in racing and Healey events for the remainder of the year. Don't forget the tech session later this month at Lynch's Garage! "Why the long face?"

What Is a Sports Car? Popular Mechanics, 1956

A car that can be used both for racing and everyday driving...

When you can't wait for the next hairpin curve, you're driving one...

A car that makes driving on crowded, winding roads an adventure, rather than a chore...

Uncomfortable, impractical, expensive, but lots of fun...

Must cause hot feet, cold ears, and a tired behind...

A car that rides hard, burns your face and neck, takes you back to high school days, and lets you forget business completely...

A car which can be driven over the road to a race, can compete in the race, and with luck return home under its own power...

The more turns – the better, the sharper the corner – the better. It is in the cornering that the sports car excels.

But if any single word defines the sports car, that word would be FUN. A sports car is fun – fun to own, fun to drive, and fun to take care of. It is not a car that must be driven fast to be fun – although driving fast is certainly a part of the fun. It is that one commodity – FUN – which makes addicts of sports car owners!



AUSTIN-HEALEY RISES AGAIN

New roadster here by next summer?



Austin-Healey 100/4



The Austin-Healey 5000?

Will Austin-Healey rise again? As previewed on PistonHeads in October, a new model, the 5000, could be here in time for the British Motor Show next summer.

It'll be a long-nosed, rear-driven two-seater propelled by a 385bhp 5-litre V8 modded from the Ford Mustang's quad-cam lump, and be based around the underpinnings of the MG SV coupé -- all with the aim of recreating the wonderful 100-4, which made a huge splash at the motor show in 1952.

If it's built, the 5000 will be made by a consortium consisting of the Chinese company Nanjing Automobile and GB Sports Car Company, who are close to signing an agreement to re-start production at the Rover plant at Longbridge. Nanjing, you'll remember, bought the remains of Rover for £53 million in July, while GBSCC is funded from the US but based in the UK, and was set up with the aim of kicking off sports car production at Longbridge.

It's not a done deal though. According to Autocar this week, the two companies still need to ink a binding agreement to start production, and to call it an Austin Healey, a name to which Nanjing holds the rights. So far, all they have is a memorandum of understanding and full agreement is reported to be at least six weeks out. Fingers crossed...

Article found and submitted by Curt Carlson

Annual MAHC Dues

The MAHC Board of Directors has voted to bring the local club dues more in line with our expenditures and costs of doing business.

Local club dues will increase by five dollars to \$20.00 per year beginning with the 2006 membership year. National Dues (*as of the date of this writing) remain at \$40.00 per year, which brings local AND national dues to \$60.00 for renewing members.

You may pay your dues at one of our meetings, or you may want to renew once you receive your membership renewal form from the National Club. Please always renew all memberships through me, your local club membership director, rather than mailing them to National directly; as this often results in a delay, which could jeopardize your receipt of the local newsletter. Lastly, please remember to renew prior to the end of February to avoid the \$5.00 late fee.

Thank you. Curt

Curtis L. Carlson
MAHC Membership Director / Newsletter Publisher
PO Box 6844
Minneapolis, MN 55406-0844
spritemann@hotmail.com www.mphaleys.com

**Last days to
renew.
Memberships
are due by
February 28th.**

- Minnesota AHC Club New Renewal \$20.00
- Austin-Healey Club of America New Renewal \$40.00
- BOTH CLUBS \$60.00

**Late fees WILL
apply this year
with no
exceptions.**

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

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

HEALEY 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 to Curt Carlson (see page 2 for address)

Events Schedule

- February 1**** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- February 18**** **Tech Session** – (Sat.) Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the garage of Mike Lynch - 6630 Horseshoe Curve in Chanhassen. Lunch will be served at 12:00 Noon. Subject will be Wood Refinishing. Phone: 952-474-5642.
- February 25 **** **Wine & Cheese Party** – (Sat.) From 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Dick & Karla's Mathews' home at 1301 Waterford Drive in Golden Valley, MN. Bring wine, a snack, photos, videos, memorabilia.
- March 1 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- March 4 **** **Tech Session** – (Sat.) Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the garage of Jeff Johnk – 9505 Aspen Road in Lakeville, MN Phone: 952-461-2720 Jeff will discuss the Aluminum Engine in his race car.
- March 25** **Intermarque Go Kart Challenge** –(Sat) From 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the race track in Burnsville. This is the sixth year for the Jaguar Club sponsored event. Awards lunch will follow. Call Dave Meek at 952-942-5001 for more info.
- April 1 **** **Tech Session** – (Sat.) Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the garage of Paul Weidner – 3730 Hubbard Ave. No.in Robbinsdale. Session will focus on autocross modifications for a Bugeye Sprite.
- April 5 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- April 22 **** **Clean-up/Tour** - (Sat) Meet at 9:00 a.m. 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. There will be a tour afterwards to an Austin car collector's home nearby in Wisconsin. Arrangements are being made by Greg Lauser.
- April 29** **Midwest Motor Sports Open House** – (Sat.) Details later.
- May 3 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice
- May 6**** **Spring Blossom Tour** - (Sat.) Another sparkling drive to be arranged by Tom Hazen.
- May 19-21** **Vintage GT Challenge** – (Sat.) This will be the weekend for the Spring races at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI.
- May 21** **Intermarque Banquet & Car Show** – (Sun.)The Intermarque Council will again sponsor the Spring banquet. It will take place at the Radisson Conference Center in Golden Valley.
- May 26-28** **Donneybrooke Vintage Revival** – (Fri – Sun) – The VSCR will again have their racing and touring weekend at BIR in Brainerd. For info call Rich & Liz Stadther at 651-698-1981.
- June 7 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- June 11** **Classic Car Club of America/Mercedes Benz Concours Event** – (Sun.) Very nice showing of Classic Cars at Rice Park in downtown St. Paul. Details later.
- June 15 - 18**** **Rendezvous 2006** - This will be the 16th year for the annual Lake Superior Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous. The location this year will be in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Get your hotel reservations in early!
- June 18 - 23** **AHCA Conclave 2006** – “Ohio Odyssey” The event will be in Akron, Ohio this year, and it should be a good one. Reserve early. For more information, call Greg Lauser at 715-262-9813 or email to glauser@presenter.com.
- June 23 – 25** **Back to the 50's Car Show** – The annual supersize car show at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. If you want to see tons of fancy cars, here's the place!

** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

Events Schedule

- July 5 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- July 14 – 16** **The BRIC – The Brian Redmond International Challenge.** This is the big annual vintage car race event held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI. For details, call Jeff Johnk, Dan Powell, or Jeff Lumbard.
- July 29**** **Tour & Picnic** – (Sat.) This will be another Tour ending up with a picnic at Carl & Betty Stine's beautiful farm in Beldenville, WI. Details later.
- Aug 2 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Aug 12** **Swap Meet/Car Show** – (Sat) 9:00 a.m. This event has been held at the Ellingson Car Museum on Hwy. 94 near Rogers, MN for the past several years. It's a great place to buy or sell parts and show your car. Sponsored by the MN MG Group.
- Aug 13 **** **Healey Morgan Picnic** – (Sun) Annual event. Jeff & Karen Sartell will host the picnic this year at their home in Princeton, MN. Details later.
- Aug 19 **** **Gymkhana** – (Sat) Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Brown & Bigelow parking lot at 345 Plato Blvd. In St. Paul. The pylons will be set up, and you can test your driving skills. For more info, call Scott McQueen at 612-623-4938 or email to smcqueen@mn.rr.com.
- Aug. 27** **Antique Tour** – (Sun.) This will be a shopping tour that is being arranged by Mike and Stacey Manser. Details later.
- Sept. 6 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Sept. 9** **Wheels 'n Wings** – (Sat) 8:00 a.m. Always a lot of cars and a lot of books. Airplanes, a train ride, hot dogs, and friendly people make it an enjoyable day in Osceola, WI.
- Sept. 15 – 17** **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., or Jeff L. for details.
- Sept. 18 – 23** **Black Hills Tour** – (Mon. – Sat.) A multiple day event is being organized by Dale Martin and Tom Politiski for a beautiful road tour through the winding roads of the Black Hills in South Dakota. Please let them know if you are interested in participating. Call Dale at 651-436-5902 or Tom at 218-367-2168.
- Sept. 30**** **Adopt A Highway Clean-up** (Sat.) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to be on this date. Details later.
- Oct. 4 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Oct. 7** **Fall Color Tour-** (Sat.) Come out and enjoy the beautiful Fall colors with our Jaguar Club friends. George Arthur will be arranging the event. Details later.
- Oct. 21**** **Final Fall Tour** – (Sat.) – Details later.
- Nov. 1 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Nov. 18 **** **Annual Business Meeting Party** – (Sat.) The annual business meeting, election of officers, and dinner banquet will occur on this evening at the Officer's Club. Details later.
- Dec. 2 **** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat.) The schedule of events for 2007 will be on the agenda for this meeting. Mike Manser will select the site.
- Dec. 6**** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.

** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

Minnesota Austin Healey Club
Gary Ronning, Editor
3624 - 46th Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

First Class Postage



MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: About 1500 automotive magazines from the late 60's to current. Primarily **premium** American (Vintage Motorsport, Car Collector, SIA, R&T, etc.), and **premium** British titles (Thoroughbred & Classic Cars, Classic & Sports Car, and MotorSport). Offers considered. Call George Arthur 651-436-3227 (1/06)

FOR SALE: Factory original Hard Top for 1967 (& newer) A-H Sprite & MG Midget. Good condition. \$400.00 Call Tom Moerke at 715-386-5341 (1/06)

FOR SALE: AH 3000 BJ8 "original" Boot Cover. Has "slight flaws", but very serviceable. \$20.00 Call Jack Stein at 651-455-6220. (1/06)

FOR SALE: New AH 100-4 Blue Everflex Tonneau - \$75.00 . New AH 100-4 Badge Bar - \$50.00 . Call Dick Mathews at 763-507-0285. (1/06)

FOR SALE: New Gear Shift Knobs – Exotic Wood – Custom Designs. Call Dale Martin at 651-436-5902 (1/06)

FOR SALE: – parts - Austin Healey 100-4 BN1. Engine, Rear Axle, Differential, Springs and Suspension, Fenders, Windshield Frame, Cockpit Trim Surrounds, etc. Call Curt Carlson at 612-721-8667 or email to sprite@hotmai.com. (1/06)

FOR SALE: Set of four Coker Tires, bias ply, size: 685-15, new in 2000, \$50.00. Also 1973 Triumph GT6 MkIII rolling chassis – motor and transmission have been removed. \$1,000. Call Scott McQueen at 612-623-4938 eves & weekends or email smcqueen@mn.rr.com (1/06)

WANTED: Sprite or Midget or other British car for daily use and gymkhanas. Prefer complete and in running condition. In need of minor work OK. Call future MAHC members - Pete and Katie Smith 320-983-3243. (1/06)

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.