



The *Healey Enthusiast*

Volume XXI No. 2

February 2010



HEALEY SILVERSTONE COMPETING IN THE MILLE MIGLIA

FEBRUARY EVENTS

WED. FEB 3
SAT. FEB 20

PRESIDENT'S INFORMAL EVENING - PIE
RIXEN TECH SESSION

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Minnesota Web Site	www.mnhealey.com
National Web Site	www.healeyclub.org

PIE**(PRESIDENT'S INFORMAL EVENING)****Date: Wednesday February 3rd****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 !

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



Cover picture courtesy of the CHATTER Austin Healey Club of America magazine.

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.

Presidential Ponderings

As you read this, January will be just a memory. I am always amazed at how fast time flies. January seemed like a quiet month; just staying warm consumed the first half. The Star Tribune suggested activities to occupy our time such as: skiing, snow shoeing, an ice dip, indoor climbing, and winter orienteering, or just cuddling up with a good book, to name a few.

In our household it goes something like this: pull engine out of "My Car", get it into Steve's care (I know what Steve will be doing to keep himself busy for a while). With all the work needing to be done, it is amazing the car got us to so many destinations in the past year! While Steve is rebuilding the engine, Gary will be making improvements to the engine compartment. This includes but is not limited to: cleaning and repainting, recoring the radiator, and installing a new wiring harness. I will accompany Gary on trips to the body shop to check on the progress of Gary's car "Lady Jane"! In an attempt to practice what I preached in the January newsletter, I have committed to be of more assistance to Gary in helping with the improvements of "My Car". I know I will value it even more. With a lot of work and God willing, we will have at least one car ready to go this spring!

On a different note, as a club we have had a slow start in the activity department. Due to a scheduling conflict, our January event had to be cancelled. I have taken it upon myself to add a February event that is very close to my heart. I would like to invite you all to participate in an afternoon of comedy and music. I have reserved a block of tickets for the production of "How To Talk Minnesotan" on Sunday, February 28th at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$25 per person if we can get a group of at least twelve. Following the play, Gary and I would like to invite you all back to our home for appetizers and beverages. I will need an RSVP by Feb. 13th. Our phone number is 763-541-9571, or e-mail me at econlon@hotmail.com. Hope you all can make it!! (see page 4)

Please remember that Steve Rixen is hosting a tech session on February 20th. Don't miss it!!

I have been contacted by Bell Unger of Des Moines. The following is a copy of his e-mail contents. "I am an Austin Healey Sprite owner. I am also on the board for the Salisbury House Concours d' Elegance in Des Moines, Iowa. The 2010 Concours is an invitational show and concours. The 2010 event will have two special interest categories featuring British and European cars. I am requesting that the Minnesota Austin Healey Club contact its members and let them know of the 2010 website. The web site is www.salisburyconcours.com. Hopefully, some of the club's members will have an interest in applying to exhibit their Austin Healey. The event will take place the weekend of September 11-12, 2010."

I am off to Kaplan Bros. to buy myself a coverall. I hope they come in hot pink!!!

Eileen Wetzel

Twenty years ago this month: Cabin Fever Rally.

Ten years ago this month: Tech Session on replacing bearings at Dan Powell's garage.

THE PRESIDENTS INFORMAL EVENING

BY EDITOR

The MAHC members are diehards, as a good bunch of them came to PIE on a cold January evening. The refreshments and the food are also always good at the "O" Club.

Eileen called the meeting to order around 7:00 pm. The Treasurer's Report was read, and the club is still in good financial health. It was reported that the Mathews would not be able to host the Wine & Cheese event in later January. It will be re-scheduled at another place and time, if possible.

Membership Chairman Jim Kriz announced that club dues for 2010 are now being accepted. National Members should have received a notice – which is to be submitted to Jim with their check. Local Members will be getting an invoice from Jim. That is also to be mailed with a check to him. Please try to submit your dues soon, so your information can be included in the National Roster, as well as the local Members Manual.

Conclave 2010 was again discussed, and people are being encouraged to reserve early. The Rixens are reserving a cottage on the event site that would house 4 couples. Anyone interested in sharing that unit should contact them. Steve also talked about the Tech Session at his garage in February.

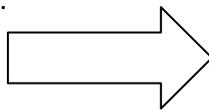
Dave Meek talked about the upcoming Go Kart Challenge occurring on March 27th in Burnsville. This is the 10th year for the event, and is always a good time for those that like to push the pedal to the metal !

There was a discussion by the women regarding the High Tea in March. Recipes will be available for people to make and bring authentic British Cuisine to go along with the Tea. The Rixens are hosting this event at their home in Shoreview.

One other highlight for the evening was enjoying a beautiful birthday cake with an Austin Healey frosted on it. Gary Wetzel had recently had a birthday, and Eileen brought the cake for us to help him celebrate. Happy Birthday, Gary !

Those attending were Dick Mathews, Gary & Eileen Wetzel, Carl & Betty Stine, Kim & Steve Rixen, Spook & Britt Johns, Michael Manser, Dan Powell, Rich Stadther, Scott McQueen, Curt Carlson, David Meek, Jim Kriz, Mike Martin, John Snyder, Barb & Gary Ronning.

See the Presidential Ponderings article regarding the "How To Talk Minnesotan" event.



An Interesting Connection....

We were talking about movies at the last PIE with Spook & Britt Johns when a story came up. Spook was a naval fighter pilot during the Viet Nam War. He had a good friend that was also a pilot whose plane got shot down over Laos. His name was Dieter Dengler.

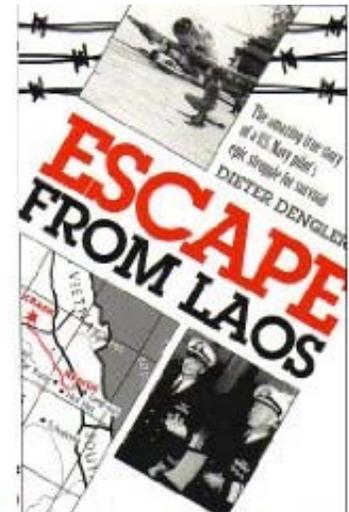
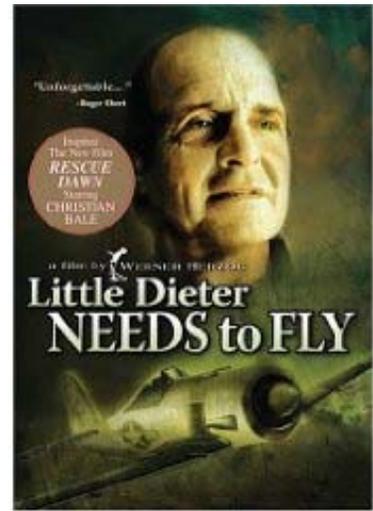
Dieter was captured by the Viet Cong and held in a prison camp in that area. He was tortured and witnessed many terrible things during his captivity. Eventually he led an escape with several other prisoners. Wandering in the jungle for over 20 days, he was finally rescued by airmen in American helicopters. After losing almost half of his original weight, being sick and injured, he was in very bad shape. It took a long while to recover.

Dieter was born in 1938 in Germany and migrated to the U.S. in 1957. He wanted to fly since a child, and the book "Little Dieter Needs to Fly" was written about his childhood. After his ordeal in Viet Nam, he wrote about his experiences there in a book entitled "Escape From Laos". More recently, the film "Rescue Dawn" starring Christian Bale was made of his story. War movies are hard to watch, but they are enlightening. It was fun to see the character in the movie named Spook.

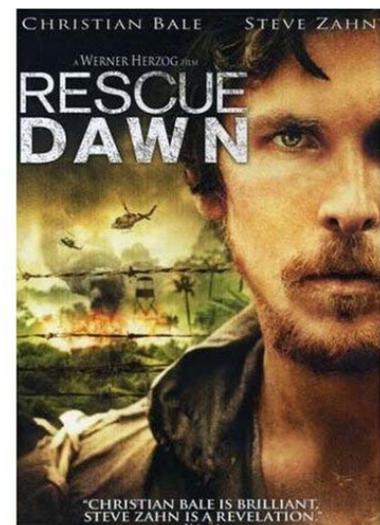
The connection, of course, is that Spook Johns was Dieter's friend. They were together on the ship from which they both took off on that fateful day. There were four planes on the mission. Spook and Dieter were flying alongside each other. After making their runs, Dieter's plane was hit, and he crash landed. Air searches were made, but Dieter was captured and taken away from the area.

Upon hearing on a newscast back in the states that Dieter had finally been rescued, Spook was extremely emotional. Dieter lived until age 62 and passed away in 2001 of the unfortunate illness ALS.

Editor



"SPOOK" JOHNS





Bill Emerson at the wheel of his Austin-Healey 100S at Laguna Seca Raceway

Austin Healey Magazine 1988



Note: A Cartoon borrowed from an old AHCA Chatter Magazine – and drawn by our own local “illustrious” member, Spencer Jones !!



March 27th, 2010
Jaguar Club of Minnesota
10th Annual Classic Go-Kart Challenge

Organized by Jaguar Club of Minnesota – Open to All Sports Car Clubs

Saturday March 27th. All drivers need to be at the track by 8:30 AM. Mandatory drivers meeting at 8:45 AM. Racing begins at 9:00 AM and goes to 11:00 AM. Awards will be presented during lunch at the Buffalo Tap immediately afterwards. The *Buffalo Tap* is located 4990 SW 123rd St., Savage MN Telephone: 952-808-7317

Event is limited so sign up now! **Sold out all previous 9 years!** Fastest lap times will determine grid positions for each heat. Each heat group assignment will be based upon prior experience. All club members are welcome to attend to support their drivers.



ABSOLUTELY NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION!!



Event is limited to licensed drivers. Helmets provided, personal DOT approved helmets with face shield approved. Drivers waiver required. All shoes must be secured to the foot (no flip flop style sandals). ProKART Indoor Racing does not allow kart-to-kart contact, kart-to-barrier contact or dangerous/reckless driving.

ProKART Indoors – 12500 Chowen Avenue South, Burnsville, MN 55337 – Phone (952) 808-7223
 Check out www.prokartindoor.com for detailed directions

New Racing Format again this year – Position Counts!



Participants are considered signed up when their checks are received. **No cancellations or refunds.** Drivers may find an alternate in event of being unable to drive. Jaguar Club reserves the right to deny participation to applicants that do not understand the “spirit” of the event or have exhibited inappropriate behavior in the past.

For questions call: **David Meek – 612-799-5555**

After two hours you will be worn out !

Cost is \$40 per driver, please make checks out to Jaguar Club of Minnesota.

Send you checks to: **Jag Club of MN, c/o David Meek, 10267 Meade Lane, Eden Prairie, MN 55347**

Drivers meeting at 8:45. If you're late you won't get to race!

Driver #1 (\$40.00 Per Driver) *Please rank realistically, if you sandbag you'll run with rookies...*

Name	Years Karting	Self Rank (1 to 10)	Slow to Fast
Street Address	Prior Go-Kart challenge?		
City	State	Zip	Phone ()
E-Mail	Club (or make one up)		

Driver #2 (\$40.00 Per Driver)

Name	Years Karting	Self Rank (1 to 10)	Slow to Fast
Street Address	Prior Go-Kart challenge?		
City	State	Zip	Phone ()
E-Mail	Club (or make one up)		

**Don't be afraid
of the Sprite.**

**Its growl is
bigger than
its bite.
(under \$2,000)**

You've got a right to growl when you growl. When you're a sports car. And Sprite's all sports car. SCCA Class G, in case you're interested. With a long string of wins over its classmates—even though it's the lowest priced of them all.



Sprite's growl is the singularly satisfying sound of a gutsy 1100 cc engine. To go

with the growl, tight racing suspension. Bear-hugs even wet pavements. And stubbornly refuses to yield an inch to the most determined turns.

The steering is rack-and-pinion. There's no play in it. For the wheel to turn, you have to turn the wheel. Very safe. Plus fade-free disc brakes that adjust themselves. For unworried stopping stop after stop.

Get to your nearby MG/Austin Healey dealer and give the Sprite a go. And when you hear the growl, remember the bite. Less than two grand.



Sprite:
another action car from the
sign of the Octagon.



**Vintage Ad Service
Security Mark**

FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES AND OTHER INFORMATION, WRITE: THE SPRITE MODEL SHOW LOANERS, INC. 8801 E. 15th AVE. DENVER, CO. 80232

Tech Session

Saturday February 20th - 11 AM to 3 PM
729 Paul Burch Drive - Hudson, WI 54016
612-877-1938

Steve Rixen will have the shop warm, coffee brewed, and donuts available.

Technical Subjects will probably be:

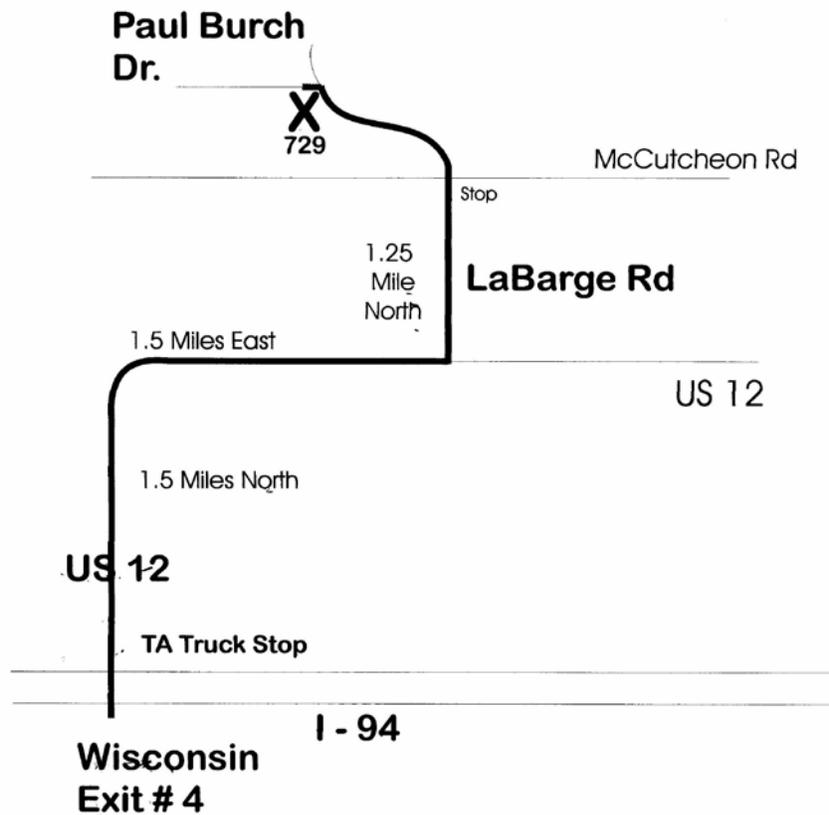
5 speed Conversion Installation for the Big Healey

Porting of Manifold and Head

SU Carburetor Repair and Modification

Torque Techniques

.....and whatever else you want to talk about.....



Events Schedule

- February 3**** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- February 20**** **Tech Session** – (Sat) From 11:00 to 4:00 pm at Rixen's Strictly British Garage in Hudson, WI. Treats will be served. See page 9.
- February 28**** **Musical Play** – (Sun.) 2:00 p.m. "How to Talk Minnesotan" See details in the Presidential Ponderings on page 3.
- March 3**** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- March 14 **** **High Tea Party** – (Sun.Aft.) The Tea will be furnished, and the attendees will bring authentic British dishes. Hosted by Steve & Kim Rixen at their home. Details later.
- March 27** **Intermarque Go Kart Challenge** – (Sat) From 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the ProKART Indoor Race Track located at 12500 Chown Ave. So. in Burnsville. This is the tenth year for the Jaguar Club sponsored event. Awards lunch will follow. Info-call Dave Meek at 952-942-5001.
- April 7 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- April 24 **** **Adopt a Highway Clean-up** - (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. Arrangements are being made by Greg Lauser.
- May 5 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice
- May 8**** **Spring Awakening Tour** - (Sat.) "Get Your Cars Out" tour to be arranged by Tom Moerke.
- May 14-16** **Vintage GT Challenge** – (Sat.) This will be the weekend for the Spring races at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI.
- May 22** **Intermarque Spring Kick-Off** – (Sat.) The Intermarque Council will again sponsor the Spring car show. It will take place from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at Como Park in St. Paul.
- May 23**** **Three Stop Northwest Metro Progressive Dinner** – (Sun.) We will start at the Ronning's in Buffalo for appetizers, proceed to Wetzels in Plymouth for the main course, and end up at Klein's in Maple Grove for dessert. Details later.
- June 2 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- June 12** **Amery Competition Run** – (Sat.) Excellent test running of your favorite Sports Car orchestrated by Tom Hazen.
- June 17 - 20** **Rendezvous 2010** - This will be the 20th 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 18 - 20** **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!
- June 27**** **Lynch / Ronning Tour & Picnic** – (Sun.) There will be a driving tour in the southwest metro area ending up at Mike & Gloria Lynch's lovely home for refreshments and dinner.
- ** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity**

Steve Rixen is...

 **Strictly British** 

Parts, Service, Consultation



729 Paul Burch Drive

Email: scriven@gmail.com
Phone: 812-877-1938

Hudson WI 54016

Events Schedule

- July 3 – 4** **VSCR Races** – At Brainerd International Raceway. Includes Show & Go Drag Races.
- July 7 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- July 11 – 15** **Austin Healey Conclave** – (Sun.–Thurs.) This year the national AHCA Conclave will be in Galena, Illinois. We should have good representation at this event. Reserve early !
- July 15 – 18** **Kohler International Challenge.** This is the big annual vintage car race event held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI. For details, call J.Johnk, D.Powell, R.Stadther, or J. Lumbard.
- July 18** **Lynch Mexican Picnic** – (Sun.) This will be another grand picnic put on by Mike & Gloria Lynch. Always great food in a great setting. Details later.
- July 24** **InterMarque Movie Night** – (Sat.) Join your Sports Car loving friends for an evening at the (outdoor) movies. Arrangements by Curt Carlson.
- July 25** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun.) 1:00 pm Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- Aug 1 **** **Stine / Lauser Annual Country Picnic** – (Sun.) Gather at the Stine Farm for their annual Luncheon on the Lawn. Foods are always delicious. Details later.
- Aug 4 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Aug 14** **Brit Fest** – (Sat) 9:00 am – 1:00 pm 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. 29** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun.) 1:00 pm Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- Sept. 1 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Sept. 10 – 12** **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.
- Sept.11** **Wheels 'n Wings** – (Sat) 8:00 am 30th Year! 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. 12 **** **Healey Morgan Picnic** – (Sun.) Enjoy a sunny Sunday afternoon at Herb & Marsha Miller's Bloomington home and browse through Herb's projects and toys. Details later.
- Sept. 19 **** **Soderbeck-Huston Picnic in the Woods** – (Sun.) Come to Wayne's house in the woods for down home cooking and trail games. Details later.
- Sept. 25**** **Adopt a Highway Clean-up** (Sat.) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to be on this date. Details later.
- Sept. 26** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun.) 1:00 pm Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- Oct. 6 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Oct. 16** **Fall Color Tour-** (Sat.) Be out and enjoy the beautiful Fall colors with our illustrious road event leader – Tom Hazen ! Details later.
- Nov. 3 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Nov. 13** **Charity Event** – (Sat.) 9:00 – 11:00 am. For Feed My Starving Children. Dale Martin arranges this very worthwhile event each year. It is an enjoyable exercise for a very good cause.
- Nov. 20 **** **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. 1**** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Dec. 4 **** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat.) The schedule of events for 2011 will be on the agenda for this meeting. Tom Hazen will select the site.
- ** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity**

Minnesota Austin Healey Club
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.

WANTED – Front and Rear Wings (fenders) for A-H 3000 BT7 – in good condition – no rust. Call Jeff Lumbard at 952-469-6681 or email to lumbard@msn.com . (01/10)

WANTED – A-H Bugeye Sprite. Good to Great Driver. No restoration projects, no Red cars. 1275 engine and 5-speed tranny are a plus. Cash or trade for a great Citroen2CV. Contact Andy Lindberg at andrewlindberg@comcast.net . (01/10)

FOR SALE - I have a collectible for sale. It is a plastic model kit of an Austin Healey 100-6 put out by Matchbox about 7 or 8 years ago. The box is still sealed with the cellophane wrapper. This is an assembly type kit - 1:25 scale. Call Geoff at 612-822-7069 or email to casadirossi@hotmail.com for more details. (1/10)