



# *The Healey Enthusiast*

Volume XXIII No. 2

February 2012



**Ready and Rarin' for Spring**

## **FEBRUARY EVENTS**

**WED. FEB. 1**  
**SAT. FEB. 18**

**PIE MEETING**  
**LYNCH TECH SESSION**

**MAHC STAFF**

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Minnesota Web Site	<b>www.mnhealey.com</b>
National Web Site	<b>www.healeyclub.org</b>

**PIE****(PRESIDENT'S INFORMAL EVENING)****Date: Wednesday February 1st****Time: 7:00 p.m. (or before)****Place: FortSnelling 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 compliments of Victoria British

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## HISTORY. IT'S WHERE WE CAME FROM.

Here's the thing. I am really into it. All types of history. Probably got deeply under my skin when I delved into the family genealogy. Once you start that, you recognize the stories that lay back there in the dust - but even more, the people who created those stories. If you don't carry with you a sense of the past, arguably you will have a hard time valuing the present.

Diane and I became MAHC members in 1990. In November 92 the Club elected me president. At that time I wanted to know as much as possible about this group. I felt the need to know where it had been in order to know where it was going; and who the people responsible were. Tom Polititski was accommodating by loaning me his archive of newsletters.

I have just spent the last hour rereading four of those newsletters from 1991, in which Tom, as editor, presented a synopsis of the past. It put me back there, and then some. A dozen or so names kept popping up of folks who are still crucial in club activities. That shouldn't surprise you. When people feel strongly about something and decide to commit, they will generally stay for the long run. To say that I enjoy their company and friendship, and am thankful for their rock steady involvement in the Club, cannot be overstated.

We are making Club history today. As the saying goes, "These are the 'good-old-days'". The events and functions we do together now can only lead to a stronger group with closer and stronger friendships. The cars are only an excuse. My friends, let us enjoy the activities of the coming year and create more MAHC history.

Healey On!!  
Geoff.



# THE PRESIDENTS INFORMAL EVENING

BY SUZANNE WILLODSON

President Rossi called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm on Wednesday, January 4, 2012.

## Happy New Year to all!

The topics of the evening:

Dick Mathews' Roadside Testimonial Gathering was a success !  
There were about 12 or so members in attendance. Great stories were told.

Wetzel's Wine and Cheese Party is on Sunday, January 15.  
Bring your favorite wine and appetizer!

Mike Lynch's Tech Session is scheduled for Saturday morning, January 14.  
Please RSVP for lunch (call or email).

Greg Lauser gave an overview of the new member campaign, which was also outlined in the January newsletter. Greg had shiny new membership cards that current members can hand out to people who might be interested in joining our club. There is no requirement for members to own a Healey.

Jim Kriz offered to take membership renewals and mail them in for members.

Tom Hazen is still working on the Hill Climb events.  
No dates have been set yet.

President Geoff showed off his new denim Austin Healey shirt....Twice!

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Gary Ronning was busy with Regalia orders immediately after the meeting ended.

In attendance: Diane & Geoff Rossi, Greg Lauser, Gary Wetzel, Carl & Betty Stine, Gary & Barb Ronning, Tom Moerke, Mike Martin, Scott McQueen, Curt Carlson, Jack Stein, Dan Powell, Rich & Liz Stadther, Jeff Lumbard, Bob Featherly, Steve & Kim Rixen, Tom Hazen, and Greg & Suzanne Willodson.



## Tech Session at the Lynch's

By Greg Willodson

The turnout was strong at Mike and Gloria Lynch's home on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. I don't have a firm number, but it rose and fell in the high 20's, and the smarter ones in the crowd stuck around for lunch – Beef Stroganoff – which was fantastic!

The subject of the tech session was a rear brake job on Mike's 1966 3.8S Jaguar sedan, although Mike could have shown the group the proper way to sharpen a lawnmower blade, and no complaints would have been heard. Some of us were distracted, gazing about at Mike's dream workshop and stable of British hardware. Those that paid attention got to see Mike and Jeff Flynn remove virtually everything south of the transmission to get to the Jag's brake pads, which were buried deep within the sophisticated independent rear suspension. Jeff and Mike did most of the wrenching, so Mike could keep track of all the nuts and bolts (of which there were many) as they were removed.

There were a couple of challenges that slowed an otherwise smooth extraction. The tailpipes were woven through the rear suspension in a way that made removal nearly impossible. No one wanted to be the one that pulled the reciprocating saw out of its box; but in the end it seemed like the best choice, so out it came. A stubborn joint on one of the trailing arms fought the gallant fight, but eventually succumbed to Jeff and his arsenal of air tools. It's unclear whether mechanical force or sound waves actually dislodged the arm.

By the end of the morning, the entire rear suspension unit, estimated somewhere between 250 and 300 pounds, was lowered from the elevated host vehicle. Over the next month, Mike plans to completely rebuild the entire assembly. In later February, he plans to host another tech session. He will then show us the glamorous part of the restoration, when the gleaming assembly is reunited with the Jag.



## Wine & Cheese Party at the Wetzel's

By Suzanne Willodson

Eileen and Gary Wetzel were the hosts of a lively Wine and Cheese Party on Sunday afternoon, January 15. The gathering was a hit, and many of us hope this is a rebirth of the MAHC Wine Parties.

Eileen and Gary put together a beautiful display of wine and cheese pairings from several regions. Club members added to this with a variety of their favorite wines, appetizers, and desserts. Much of the cheese was placed on marble tiles – what a great idea! Another great idea was writing names directly on the wine glasses with a Sharpie (the ink washes off with soap and water).



*Greg Lauser, Dan Powell, Geoff Rossi, Greg Willodson, Eileen Wetzel and Diane Rossi band together to protect the wine table...*



*...from sweet little dogs who plead for a morsel of cheese because they haven't been fed for nearly five whole minutes!*

The Wetzel's have a perfect space for hosting large parties. What a truly stunning kitchen. We hope this get-together will be repeated again next Winter! What a great time. Cheers!



Continued...

## Wine & Cheese Party at the Wetzel's



*Hey, check that cool black sweatshirt.....and the hot blue denim ! Must be a very exclusive organization.*



In attendance: Geoff and Diane Rossi, Nancy and Greg Lauser, Mike and Gloria Lynch, Barb and Dale Martin, Carl and Betty Stine, Kim and Steve Rixen, Jean and Chuck Norton, Greg and Suzanne Willodson, Michael Connly, Dan Powell, Tom and June Moerke, Barb and Gary Ronning, Dick Mathews, and Gary and Eileen Wetzel.



*Baron eyes up a slice of Geoff Rossi's delicious cheese cake. Yum!*

## SU Piston Drop Test (Queenland AHC)

### Vacuum Drop Test - SU Carburettors

By Steve Rixen

SU carburettor suction chambers and pistons are furnished as matched assemblies from the factory. There is a controlled clearance and thus controlled air leakage between the piston and suction chamber bore. A convenient means of checking this is a Vacuum Drop Test. The proper damper should be in place. Chamber and piston should be clean and dry. Check piston for any points of drag or interference over full travel. Plug holes in the bottom of piston with windshield caulking (commonly referred to as Dum-Dum) - any other suitable compound which is light can be used. Spray piston rod lightly with WD-40.

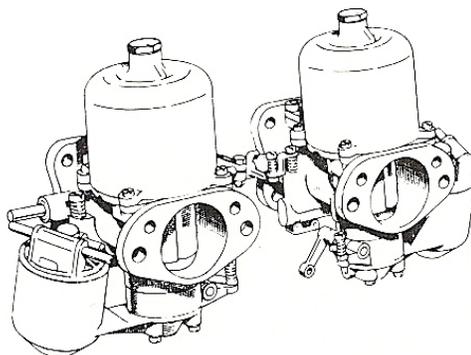
Turn assembly upside down with piston against top of chamber. Carefully holding needle, allow the chamber to slide down and off the chamber as you measure the time this action takes.

Specified Times Are:

1 ¼" and smaller carbs	3 to 5 seconds
1 ½" to 1 ¾" carbs	5 to 7 seconds
2" carbs	7 to 10 seconds

If vacuum drop time is too fast, the carb will tend to run rich. If drop time is too slow, carb will tend to run lean. If both carbs are too fast, there is nothing you can do to correct. Chances are someone has sanded the inside of chambers to clean them (this is a '**NONO**'). If they are too slow, you can very carefully polish the piston or chambers or both (but be very careful) and recheck frequently for compliance. If one carb is fast and the other slow, there is a good chance the pistons have been interchanged. Try switching them.

It is ideal if both are alike and right in the middle of the spec, but that doesn't happen very often these days. If you have carbies that are just below the spec, don't fret. Tuning adjustments can account for this - but if they are say 1 second or so, I would hunt around for some different chambers. **Of special note - if you do interchange pistons, it will be necessary to re-centre both jet assemblies.** Ideally this type of check should be done during complete carby rebuild.



# Who were / are these people ????



Answers are in this publication,  
but where.....

# Events Schedule

- February 1\*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2
- February 18** **Tech Session** – (Sat). Meet at 9:00 am in Mike Lynch's garage. Address is 6630 Horshoe Curve in Chanhassen. Watch for a Dave Lee broadcast. Please RSVP for Lunch at noon. Call 952-474-5642 or email [cmi@cmeters.com](mailto:cmi@cmeters.com) .
- March 7\*\*** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. Hot Wheels Racing Night ! See page 2.
- March 10** **Sub Zero Dinner**– (Sat) Meet at 6:00 pm at the home of Mike & Gloria Lynch.
- April 4 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- April 14 \*\*** **Tech Session** – (Sat) Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Steve Rixens garage in Hudson, WI.
- April 21 \*\*** **The Queen's Birthday** – (Sat) Hosted by the Wetzels and the Willodsons.
- April 28** **Midwest Motors Sports Tech Party** – (Sat) Sauk Rapids, MN. Details later.
- May 2 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- May 5 \*\*** **Adopt a Highway Clean-up/ Spring Awakening Drive** - (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 12** **InterMarque Spring Kick-Off – (Sat)** TheInterMarqueCouncil will again sponsor the event at a new location in downtown Osseo, MN.
- May 18-20** **Vintage GT Challenge** – (Fri - Sun) This will be the weekend for the Spring races at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI.
- May 26\*\*** **SpringTour** - (Sat) Tom & June Moerke will arrange a Spring drive and end up at the Laurel Inn in Wisconsin.
- June 6 \*\*** **PIE Meeting-** (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- June 9** **Amery Competition Run** – (Sat) Excellent test running of your favorite Sports Car orchestrated by Tom Hazen.
- June 14 - 17** **Rendezvous 2012** - (Thurs-Sun) This will be the 22nd year for the annual Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous. The location this year will be in Kenora, Ottawa. Get your hotel reservations in early!
- June 17 – 21** **National AHCA Conclave** – (Sun – Thurs) This year in Louisville, KY.
- June 22-24** **Back to the 50's Car Show** – (Fri-Sun) This gigantic annual show will be at the MN State Fairgrounds again – maybe 10,000 cars??
- June 24\*\*** **Stine/Lauser Drive & Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 pm.A perennial favorite.
- June 24** **Cherokee Park Picnic** – (Sun)Monthly InterMarque picnic.

\*\* - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

# Events Schedule

- July 11 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. Note second Wednesday this month only.
- July 13–15** **Kohler International Challenge.**(Fri-Sun)This is the super 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 22** **Lynch Mexican Fiesta** – (Sun) Meet at 3:00 pm at Mike& Gloria Lynch's home. Always great food in a great setting.
- July 29** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 pm Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- August 1 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- August 4 \*\*** **Ambli Duluth Picnic**(Sat) Take a drive to Carlton, MN to enjoy Fred's hospitality.
- August 11** **Brit Fest** – (Sat) 9:00 am – 1:00 pm In Hudson, WI.Sponsored by the MN MG Group.
- August 12\*\*** **Progressive Dinner** – (Sun) – This year Rixen's, Boyer-Carlson's, and Fosdick's will be hosting this previously well attended event.
- August 25** **Amery Airport Run** – Tom Hazen will hold a second run of the summer at Amery, WI.
- August 26** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 pm Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- Sept. 5 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Sept. 7–9** **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. 9** **City Lakes Parkway Tour** – (Sun) Enjoy a sunny Sunday afternoon driving the beautiful parkways of Minneapolis. Arrangements by Dale Martin & Greg Lauser.
- Sept .22** **Wheels 'n Wings** – (Sat) 8:00 am 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.23** **Healey-Morgan Picnic** – (Sun) Hosted by Herb & Marsha Miller at their home in Bloomington, MN.
- Sept. 30** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 pm Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- Oct. 3 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Oct. 6** **Fall Color Tour-** (Sat) Another Tom Hazen colorful drive in the Wisconsin countryside.
- Oct. 13\*\*** **Adopt a Highway Clean-up** - (Sat) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to be on this date. Arrangements by Greg Lauser.
- Nov. 3** **Charity Event** – (Sat) 9:00 – 11:00 am.At the Feed My Starving Children building. Dale Martin arranges this very worthwhile event each year. It is an enjoyable and worthy cause.
- Nov. 7 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Nov. 17 \*\*** **Annual Banquet / Business Meeting Party** – (Sat) The annual business meeting, election of officers, and dinner banquet will occur on this evening at the Officer's Club.
- Dec. 1 \*\*** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2013 will be on the agenda for this meeting. Suzanne Willodson will select the site.
- Dec. 5\*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.

\*\* - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

Minnesota Austin Healey Club Inc.  
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## First Class Postage



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### 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 allen wehr tom moerke glen donna paterson the editor if your item or items have been sold during the three month period, so the ad can be removed.

**WANTED -** Need partner w/ e-bay account & experience to sell car parts.  
Call Mike Lynch at 952-474-5642.(11/11)

**FOR SALE -** Driver's Side Seat for an A-H 3000 BJ7. \$35.00 Call Dan Powell at 612-751-4781.(1/12)

**FOR RENT -** Sedona 1 bedroom rental at beautiful Los Abrigados Resort & Spa.  
Available for 1 or 2 weeks until May 2012. Stocked kitchenette with full-size fridge, dishwasher. TV, DVD, VCR, linens and housekeeping included. Sleeps 4 (2 on sofa bed). \$100 pet charge/week. Your choice of 1<sup>st</sup> floor unit w/jacuzzi or 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony. \$1,500/wk. Contact Byron or Susan Peterson @ 763-540-0180

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