



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XXVI No. I

January 2015



Barn Sprite

**The story of finding and restoring
a 1964 Sprite**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs	January 1	Wetzel's Open House
Wed	January 7	PIE
Sat	January 31	Second Harvest Volunteer Event
Wed	February 4	PIE

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National Web Site	www.healeyclub.org

PIE**(President's Informal Evening)****Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2015****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.

**People submitting
news, articles and photos
for the January issue:**

**Dave Herreid
Rick Kane
Tom Politiski
Barb Ronning
Allen Wehr
Greg Willodson**

Thank you!

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.

Healey Wings

By Curt Carlson, President

A new year has dawned once again and we greet 2015 with enthusiasm and frozen fingers. I've been enjoying my newly heated garage (thanks, Santa!) but I haven't been doing any Healey work. I've been focusing on some woodworking projects around the house. A new mantle and fireplace surround and some craftsman oak paneling in the family room. A few days off over the Christmas holiday will surely help me finish all of my projects, right? Well, probably it's wishful thinking but a man can dream, can't he?

I want to thank everyone for a fantastic turnout to the planning breakfast! What a great bunch of folks we have here, and we're going to have a SUPER year! V.P. Dave and I are excited to get started on 2015. I've updated the website calendar and we're ready to go. Please let me know if anything changes throughout the year and I'll make the change to the web calendar. Likewise, please let your newsletter editors know promptly if there are any changes too, because they'll need to update the calendar in the back of this fine publication.

We're going to have a GREAT 2015! We're going to do some of the trusty tried-and-true events that we all love, and we're going to try a couple of new things, too. I'm especially looking forward to a tour of Crystal Cave, a tech session to finally see Lisa's 100-4, a Regatta on Lake Minnetonka, and it looks as if I'll finally get the chance to see Gene Berghoff's spread out in Shorewood. I've heard rumors that its splendor rivals Earl's Court!

We have a FULL year of great events planned starting with PIE in just a couple of days. **I've lined up a special guest, Matt Hardy, of Richfield, to come and tell us about his all-electric Sprite conversion project.** (<http://evsprite.com/>) This is something that I'd consider for my MG Midget. Please join me in welcoming Matt to our gathering.

Healey On!

Curt

Happy New Year!!

The Presidents Informal Evening

By Dave Herreid

The December 3, 2014 P.I.E. meeting was a brief and boisterous event. It was brief because not much had happened since the recent Year End Banquet, and the Event Calendar for next year hadn't been created. The good cheer was due to the company at hand, a new member, and possibly the revelation that beverages could be ordered by the pitcher at a considerable savings.*

President Curt Carlson called the meeting to order. We welcomed Bob Tollefson, a new club member. He owns a 67 BJ8 that he bought in 1981; the car hasn't been driven since 1991, and a restoration is in the car's near future.

Gary Ronning gave a review of the Banquet and its related successful financial conclusion.

On Saturday, December 6th the upcoming Planning meeting is scheduled (three weeks ago to those that are reading this), and all members are encouraged to show up and get involved. After the meeting the Board of Directors will meet to approve the schedule. The new Board members are Kim Rixen, Dave Rademacher, and Greg Willodson; they will join Dan Powell and Jeff Lumbard.

Jim Kriz relayed membership statistics to our President: we have 105 members, 30-plus have already renewed, and the rest are encouraged to get their local and optional national membership renewals in by the 26th of December. This will get you included in the national club directory, and will also make Jim's life easier.

President Carlson initiated a discussion about the status of the club's technical resource people noted in the newsletter. One of many benefits of membership in our club is the knowledge of various club members and their willingness to share that information. It is obvious to those who attend meeting that all one has to say is "I've got this problem..." and remedies are offered. But how active and effective is the phone approach to technical help in the Newsletter? (I looked in the Newsletter and there is no specialist in that category.) So a review is in order, but for now if you have a Healey related problem, look in the Newsletter for the tech person that represents your car and call or come to a meeting/event.

Jeff Johnk, the club librarian, informed us that the transfer of VHS tapes into DVD format was complete. Additionally, Jeff has secured two copies of a nostalgic look back to the 70's racing at BIR (Brainerd International Raceway). Are Healey Club members satisfied? No, we want Jessica Johnk's videos included in the library too. This is under consideration: Jeff said for now you can see one of her videos on YouTube by searching for "ELVF 2014 @ Road America." Warning: not only does this video include "the crash," but side effects may include rapid acceleration and/or daydreams of summertime past and future. This video works on your computer, not your smart phone.

A discussion of name tags involved getting them for new members and replacing lost ones. Let Tom Hazen know if you need a tag, or if you would like to take over the job of getting said nametags. My understanding is that a yearly order is placed, and now is the time to order for the upcoming year.

Dan Powell noted both an interesting and rare Healey item for sale. Do I have your attention? You have a choice between two Healey Drones, described by Dan to be part Healey Silverstone, part farm tractor. Few were made, apparently for a good reason.

(continued on next page)

The Presidents Informal Evening (continued from previous page)

Greg Willodson noted that Suzanne is recovering nicely. (Indeed she led us to the Walker to see the British Arrow Awards. See a review in this newsletter.)

Tom Hazen mentioned that an economics professor has approached him about doing a study evaluating the local economic impact of events like the Waumandee Hill Climb. Tom commented that this study would be an effective tool to help influence communities considering vintage car events in the future. He will participate in the questionnaire.

And with that the December P.I.E. meeting was adjourned.

* Mark, our accommodating bartender, informed Greg Willodson and me that one pitcher of beer vs. three glasses of beer was a fiscally smart decision. Stunned by this information, we forgot to ask if this same economy of scale could be implemented in the production of Tanqueray and Tonics. It may be that the Racers will find the answer.

Members who were present: Bob Tollefson, Greg Willodson, Tom and June Moerke, Steve Rixen, Gary and Barb Ronning, Jack Stein, Jeff Lumbard, Jeff Johnk, Lisa Culver, Dan Powell, Rich and Liz Stadther, Curt Carlson, Dave Hatzung, Jim Manion, Steve and Sue Greenway, Gary and Eileen Wetzel, Scott McQueen, Geoff and Diane Rossi, Tom Hazen, and Dave Herreid.



Healey Duncan Drone

2015 Planning Meeting By Dave Herreid

December 6, 2014 at The Machine Shed in Lake Elmo

We came, we ate, we planned, and we went on our way. See Event Schedule in this issue. Please check the calendar on the MAHC website for updates.



Geoff and Diane Rossi, Dick Mathews, and Dave Rademacher



Liz and Rich Stadther



Kim and Steve Rixen, Greg Willodson (standing), Gary and Eileen Wetzel, Dave Hatzung, and Lisa Culver

Present: Tom Politiski, Dan Powell, Jeff Lumbard, Rich and Liz Stadther, Lisa Culver, Dave Hatzung, Gary and Eileen Wetzel, Steve and Kim Rixen, Scott McQueen, Mike Martin, Dave Herreid, Curt Carlson, Rod Richert, Gary Ronning, Barb Ronning, Carl and Betty Stine, June and Tom Moerke, Chuck and Jean Norton, Dave Rademacher, Dick Mathews, Geoff and Diane Rossi, Clarence Westberg, Greg and Suzanne Willodson, Dale and Barb Martin, Tom Hazen.

2015 Events Schedule

Thu January 1	Gary Wetzel's Birthday Bash	1-5 PM at Gary and Eileen Wetzel's house. RSVP to Eileen at 763-541-9571
Wed January 7	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat January 31	MAHC Charity Event Second Harvest Heartland	9 AM Second Harvest Heartland in Golden Valley. See page 12.
Wed February 4	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sun February 15	Wine and Cheese Party	2 PM Steve and Kim Rixen's house. See page 12.
Wed March 4	MAHC Pie with the President - Hot Wheels Challenge	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat March 14	Tech Session - Scott McQueen	10 AM at McQueen's
Wed April 1	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat April 18	Tech Session - Gene Berghoff	4 PM Berghoff Fachhallenhaus.
Sat April 25	Midwest Motor Sports Tech Party	Midwest Motor Sports
Sun April 26	Tech Session - Lisa Culver	10 AM Airport Hangar
Sat May 2	MAHC Adopt A Highway Cleanup	9 AM Milepost 80 Highway 61 (Revisited)
Wed May 6	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Fri May 15	Spring Vintage Weekend at Road America	Road America
Sat May 16	InterMarque Car Show	Main Street
Sat May 23	Harvey West Classic - BIR	Brainerd International Raceway
Sat May 30	Crystal Cave Tour and Drive	Crystal Cave
Wed June 3	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat June 6	Rendezvous Rallye Superieur	
Thu June 11	South Beach Rendezvous on Lake Superior	AmericInn Ashland
Thu June 18	Blackhawk Vintage Classic	Blackhawk Farms Raceway
Fri June 19	Back to the 50's	
Sat June 20	Amery Airport Speed Run	Amery Airport
Sat June 20	Coulee Classic Ralleye	
Sun June 28	Intermarque Picnic - MAHC Hosts	Cherokee Park - Saint Paul

2015 Events Schedule

Wed July 1	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat July 4	Chetek Blast from the Past Car Show	9 AM
Sat July 11	MAHC Lake Minnetonka Regatta	10 AM Lake Minnetonka
Thu July 16	The HAWK vintage race	Road America
Sun July 19	ENCLAVE Austin Healey Club of America	Wyndham Gettysburg & Courtyard By Marriott
Sun July 26	Intermarque Picnic	Cherokee Park - Saint Paul
Fri July 31	Blackhawk Farms Track Day	Blackhawk Farms
Wed August 5	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat August 8	BritFest - Hudson	
Sun August 9	Morgan Healey Picnic	
Sat August 22	Martin / Stine Picnic	Carl & Betty's Farm
Sat August 29	Amery Airport Speed Run	Amery Airport
Sun August 30	Intermarque Picnic	Cherokee Park - Saint Paul
Wed September 2	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat September 5	Jack Pine Sprints Race	Brainerd International Raceway
Sat September 12	Norwegian Picnic	Fred Ambli's House
Sat September 12	Wheels and Wings Car Show	
Fri September 18	Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival at Road America	Road America
Fri September 25	Waumandee Hill Climb	
Sun September 27	Intermarque Picnic	Cherokee Park - Saint Paul
Sat October 3	Drive and BBQ at the Lake	
Mon October 5	Ouray Colorado Ralley	Glenwood Suites Hotel
Wed October 7	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat October 10	MAHC Adopt A Highway Cleanup	Highway 61 Revisited
Sun October 18	Fall color tour - Waumandee Days	
Wed November 4	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat November 14	MAHC Annual Banquet and Business Meeting	Fort Snelling Officers Club
Wed December 2	MAHC Pie with the President	6 PM Fort Snelling Officers Club; meeting at 7 PM
Sat December 5	2016 Planning Breakfast	9 AM

British Arrows Awards at the Walker Art Center By Suzanne Willodson

Another excellent selection of winning British television advertisements were shown at Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Twelve of your fellow Healey Club members attended a showing on Sunday, December 21.

Every year we think we'll spot a Healey in one of the ads. We've never seen one UNTIL THIS YEAR. Yes, thanks to Geoff Rossi's keen eye, we saw a Healey! To be truthful, only Geoff saw the Healey during the actual showing of the "Farmers of Alsace" commercial (about an English village where farmers attain celebrity status for growing hops for Kronenbourg beer). But thanks to YouTube, we found the advert where we witnessed the existence of the Healey.

If you want to view it online, go to youtube.com and do a search for "Farmers of Alsace official publicity" and look for the video that's 1:01 minutes in length. You'll find the Healey about 25 seconds into the clip. Or if you're reading this article online, here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJnJVB4hYiY>



After the showing, we headed to Kip's Irish Pub for a late lunch and some Guinness. The Guinness ads we had just viewed worked as the producers intended.

Our group: Dave and Daphne Herreid, Dave and Cheryl Rademacher, Steve and Kim Rixen, Geoff and Diane Rossi, Liz and Rich Stadther, and Greg and Suzanne Willodson.



At the Walker Art Center



At Kip's Irish Pub



The official programme of the awards show

The Story of a Sprite Barn Find

By Allen Wehr

A 2009 March reading of Hemmings online...

I had been looking for some time for an original, low mileage, Austin Healey Sprite Mk2, and better yet, finding the original red Mk2 Sprite I bought from new from Mark Doyne Imports on Lake Street in January 1962! (Good luck!!!)

That Sprite was delivered in March to me in London back in 1962. After driving 10,000 miles around Europe for six months, it came home with me and then spent two more years in Minneapolis (winters and all) and I am sure that it was scrapped many years ago.

So one warm day on vacation I was looking at the ads on eBay and Hemmings online and there it was... a red Mk2 1964 1098 Sprite with 16,000 miles and no rust! I called the gentlemen in Kansas City, Missouri. After deciding that I would probably buy the car, I flew to KC and took a look. There was no rust but it had a few problems, as it had sat for 40 years in a barn. It looked good, as it was all cleaned up but the pictures in the barn were telling a story.

A couple weeks later the Sprite arrived in an enclosed trailer. I was able to drive it 500 feet down the street to my driveway where the brakes locked up. Then the work began with many people in the Minnesota Healey Club, helping me to get it back on the road, and doing the things here and there that I could not do myself.

So now several years later and many dollars later, it has a mildly/hot cam 1275V engine with a Weber two barrel carburetor and extractor exhaust and hooked to a Datsun 5-speed overdrive, rebuilt brakes, shocks, radiator, alternator, tires, carpet, an original (period) Blaupunkt Frankfurt AM/FM/SW Radio, a pair of Lucas Flame Throwers Road Lamps, front sway bar, cleaned or rebuilt instruments, and air horns. (Original engine, carbs, etc. are in a cabinet in my garage.)

It remains today with the original upholstery, top, tonneau, tools, and bags for same, and with the original paint and chrome. With some 18,000 miles of the car now, it's a fun car to drive and it would most likely make a drive to either coast and back without fearing a breakdown on the road (but probably not with me in it!).

It has been a work in progress but it has produced a car that works pretty well – it almost doesn't drip a drop of fluids now (that has not always been the case!!). The 1275 gives it enough power to get out of people's way.

I enjoy the people at our local Austin Healey Club and I try to make it to as many events as I can and the Conclaves as well.





Volunteer Event Saturday, January 31, 2015 9:00 AM

The Minnesota Austin Healey Club is organizing a volunteer event with Second Harvest Heartland West in Golden Valley on Saturday, January 31 at 9:00 AM. We will be sorting and packaging food that benefits members of our local community. Please volunteer with us by calling or emailing Suzanne Willodson.

We will meet Saturday morning, January 31 at 8:45 AM. Our shift runs from 9 AM – 1130 AM.

Second Harvest Heartland WEST

6325 Sandburg Road
Suite 1700
Golden Valley, MN 55427
651.209.7980

RSVP today to
Suzanne Willodson
651.269.3752 or
suzanne.willodson@gmail.com

The MAHC Annual Wine & Cheese Party Sunday February 15 at 2 PM

Steve & Kim Rixen's House
5995 Highview Place
Shoreview MN 55126



Bring your favorite wine and a bit of cheese or nosh to share!

RSVP appreciated but not required
612-590-6513
scixen@gmail.com

Membership / Renewal Form

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

Minnesota A-H Club (Local only) Dues New Renewal \$25.00

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: MN Austin Healey Club (or MAHC)

Checks covering AHCA membership renewals must reach Jim Kriz no later than **January 1, 2015**, to assure that your information appears in the 2015 AHCA Membership Directory.

Send form and checks to:

Jim Kriz
2000 Kenwood Pkwy.
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Watkins Glen Tour de Marque, September 11-13

By Tom Politiski

In September of 2009 I went to the Watkins Glen International (WGI) race track as Morgan was the featured marque for that year. What a great time! Watkins Glen is a very old historic race track, somewhat similar to Road America in Elkhart Lake. We had two laps on the old road course, ending in downtown Watkins Glen with cheering fans lining the street. Unforgettable.

So with Austin Healey being the featured marque for 2015, I would urge all my Healey friends to consider attending this event. It is well worth the trip east.

Watkins Glen Tour de Marque

Open exclusively to participants driving this year's marque of any vintage. A fee of \$140 per car includes a visit to the Wings of Eagles, brunch for driver and guest at Watkins Glen International, two laps on the world famous WGI course, two laps of the original 6.6-mile Grand Prix course through the streets of Watkins Glen, and reserved downtown display parking for the festival. You will also receive two weekend general admission tickets for the Glenora Wine Cellars U.S. Vintage Grand Prix at Watkins Glen International with special parking at the track on Saturday and Sunday.

Purpose

An opportunity for owners of the featured car of each year's event to participate in the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival and enjoy the The Glenora Wine Cellars U.S. Vintage Grand Prix presented by Welliver at Watkins Glen. For a quick overview, here is a small pictorial sample of a previous year's Tour de Marque, when Corvettes were featured.

Date

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday - September 11-13, 2015

Location

Starts at the Wings of Eagles.

Eligibility

Austin Healey

Cost

Registration fee of \$140 per car includes a visit to the Wings of Eagles, a terrific brunch for driver and guest at Watkins Glen International followed by two parade laps on the world famous WGI course, two laps of the original 6.6-mile Grand Prix course through the streets of Watkins Glen, and reserved downtown display parking for the festival. After the parade laps of the original course, there will be an optional driving tour of approximately 90 miles that will take you on a spirited drive through the scenic countryside surrounding Watkins Glen. You will also receive two weekend general admission tickets for the The Glenora Wine Cellars U.S. Vintage Grand Prix presented by Welliver at Watkins Glen International with special Austin Healey Corral parking while at the track on Saturday and Sunday.

To Enter

For an entry form call Watkins Glen Promotions at 607-535-3003 or download the form. **Please note that registration for all events is limited and events fill up fast, so don't delay your registration!**



Photo taken October 27, 2014. Rick Kane's 100 parked by a 3000 he spotted near Lake Harriet. Healeys are happiest when they are together. Photo submitted by Rick Kane.

InterMarque Breakfast Time!

The tours, rallies and racing have come to an end and the Healeys are tucked away, but all is not lost. Don't forget the InterMarque Saturday breakfasts that tend to be quite lively as winter sets in.

Elsie's Restaurant, Bar and Bowling Center is the breakfast destination every Saturday at 830 AM. The second Saturday of the month is Ladies' Day, though of course, they are welcome every week. 729 Marshall Street N.E., Minneapolis. Map at <http://elsies.com>.

On the first and third Saturdays, the East Ender's Breakfast Group meets at 9 AM at Sail Away Café, 1321 St. Croix Trail, Afton, MN. It's north of County Road 18 and St. Croix Trail.

Minnesota Austin Healey Club Inc.
Suzanne Willodson & Liz Stadther, Editors
12325 30th Avenue North
Plymouth, MN 55441

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.

1962 Austin Healey 3000 MK II BT7: This vehicle has been owned for over 30 years, and it had a complete nut and bolt frame-up restoration with important upgrades as completed in 1997. It is black with red interior. Numerous engine modifications resulted in an increase of horsepower to 170 without a compromise in dependability. The engine maintains its original appearance. All four shocks were given heavy duty upgrades. Austin Healey rally vents were installed in the fenders and louvers were installed to the hood to assist with cooling and keeping hot air from the cockpit. It features a rally exhaust system with side exit in front of the rear tire. The interior was upgraded to all red leather with red wool pile carpeting in keeping with the original appearance. A custom cloth top and tonneau were hand-built to exact specifications. The wire wheels were upgraded to Dayton 70 spoke center-laced wheels to provide strength, a wider stance and improved handling. It has new Goodyear GT tires. An oil cooler was added as an engine upgrade. A handsome Derrington steering wheel was installed, as was an Aston Gas Cap. The car is sold with a complete picture book of the restoration. All restoration receipts are available to the buyer. This car has been driven to many Austin Healey Conclaves. It has been very well maintained since its restoration and now has 20,000 miles. This car is extremely dependable, a joy to drive, and a real bargain at \$47,500. Email or call Byron at eaglesptst@msn.com or 651-269-3360 for more information.