



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XVII No. 7

July 2006



The Last LeMans Healey (See story inside)

July Events

Wednesday July 5 – PIE Meeting
Saturday July 8 – Healey Hill Climb
Saturday July 22 – Amery Airport Event
Saturday July 29 – Parade and Picnic

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Presidential Mike

**By Mike Martin**

Well, here we are – Summer! We've been waiting for it, and now it's time to get out there and enjoy our Healeys. Had a chat at the Peg with Byron Peterson. He has his BN7 project taken down to the frame and will send it to the strippers soon. Oh boy, another new car to scope out. I wonder what color he will pick?

Speaking of picking, I stopped over at Jeff Johnks to pick up a couple of Healey hats and to pick his brain about my green machine. Jessica got the hats, and Jeff provided lots of info for me. New wheels are a must, and I think that the splined mini-lights will be my pick. I'm even going to try out his idea of balancing the rear drums! He said it made a world of difference. Other ideas like rear disk brakes and tube shocks are now sitting on the rear burner. Thanks again Jeff for taking the time out of the family's softball summer to fill me in.

Everyone wants good brake lights, right? Well Jack Stein and I are going to remedy a problem by installing the brake light fix found in the May issue of Healey Marque. The switches have arrived; and by the time you read this, hopefully, the task will be completed. More on that later.

We've got things to do and places to go in July - Hillclimb, Amery Airport, Elkhart Lake, and of course checking out the potato salad at the Steins on the 29th. Get that Healey going and check out some of these venues!

By the way, I'm sure we'll get a complete run down on Rendezvous and Conclave at PIE on the 5th, so don't miss that!

And bring those Healeys!

**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.

PIE (President's Informal Evening)

Date: Wednesday July 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.

NEW MEMBERS

Jensen Healeys are hot, and Ernie & Rhea West of Richville, Minnesota own one of the hottest! They joined the MAHC recently and are anxious to conquer the Hill at Afton! Ernie has been writing Tech Articles for some time, so many are familiar with his mechanical knowledge.

Welcome!

RSVP for 2006 Austin-Healey Pierce County Parade & Picnic

Betty & Carl Stine and Nancy & Greg Lauser will be coordinating and hosting the 2006 Pierce County Parade & Picnic that will begin at **1 p.m. Saturday, July 29**, on the bluffs above the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers in Prescott's Freedom Park.

Freedom Park is located one mile south of the U.S. 10 bridge in Prescott, Wis. Turn right immediately onto Broad St. after you cross the bridge. (There's a new stoplight just across the bridge, so be careful not to run it and get a ticket.) At the top of the hill, there will be a small brown sign indicating a right turn onto Monroe St. to Freedom Park. While we wait for everyone to arrive we'll be able to use the restrooms, visit the interpretive center in the park's main pavilion, and enjoy dramatic vistas from several bluff-top vantage points.

A 1.5-2 hour driving tour of scenic byways in Wisconsin's Pierce County will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. We'll end up at the Stine's beautiful farm. Betty and Nancy are catering the entire event, so there is no food to prepare or buy beforehand. There will be a \$10 per person charge to make the event self-funding, so there is no strain on the MAHC budget.

RSVPs required no later than 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, so there are enough victuals for everyone. Include the total number in your party and bring exact cash to pay for your picnic repast. RSVP to Greg Lauser, 715.262.9813, or online at glauser@presenter.com.

See you July 29. Rain date is July 30

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. **Meet in the room added on just for us!!** The location again is:

**The Square Peg Diner
2021 East Hennepin Ave. Mpls.**



Cover Photo courtesy of Curt Carlson.



Rendezvous 2006

Editor

The "Back to the Bay" Rendezvous in Thunder Bay, Ontario was a great time. The weather was beautiful, and the Thunder Bay Vintage Sports Car Club did a super job. There were several Tours from which to choose. The Automotive Triathlon included a Funkhana event, a Road Rally, and a Pitstop Challenge held during the Show & Shine Car Show on Saturday afternoon. In between all this, we managed to eat very well!

Show attendance included about 80 registrations, and the Minnesota Austin Healey Club had 13 of them. Award winners from our club included Joe & Sue Werner for Second Place in the Rally, and Dan & Alycia Wolters for the "Hard Luck" Award. They gave an excellent presentation of their experience, which caused many smiles and laughter. The (In)famous Mystery Guest for the event weekend was our own Tom Politiski. Congratulations Tom! George Arthur then made a pitch for the 2007 Rendezvous being sponsored by the Minnesota Jaguars. The weekend was very enjoyable.



The Last LeMans Healey

by Curt Carlson

The last entry in LeMans to bear the Healey name left the pits in the afternoon of June 13th, 1970. This car was based on the chassis designed by Donald and Geoff for the 1969 Healey entry to the race and was driven by Roger Enever and Andrew Hedges. Both Mr. Enever and Mr. Hedges were successful BMC drivers and had won many rallies and races around Europe in other British makes. They were especially well known for their wins in various MG's in the 1960's.

Powered by a Repco de-tuned Formula 1 V-8, the engine performed well through out most of the race. The Healey entry finished 264 laps in 23 hours and change when the car finally gave up. There had been some minor problems and skirmishes with other cars which set them back early in the race, but the car was battling back and was running 14th overall when the ignition system failed in the last hour and the last lap. The race was won 1st, 2nd, 3rd by Porsche. Incidentally, the filming of the Steve McQueen Movie "LeMans" was shot during the 1970 race, and footage of the last Healey entry can be seen in the final cut. This original photo, was purchased recently by Curt Carlson and now resides in the Healey room in the south wing of his home in Minneapolis.

Healey Brake Caliper Rebuild

Curt Carlson – Strictly British, Hudson, Wisconsin

I recently converted my Healey 100 to feature a front disk brake setup from a BT7. During this procedure, I thoroughly rebuilt the entire front suspension, steering, and braking system *off of the car* prior to installation. This included cleaning, inspecting, and rebuilding the kingpins, fulcrum pin, bushings, trunion assembly, front hubs, bearings, and brake calipers.

Many people have a difficult time rebuilding brake calipers. Since I've done this now so very many times for clients, I thought I could shed some light on the process. It's really not so daunting if one is diligent about cleanliness, and if one exercises care during the reassembly process.

1. Thoroughly disassemble and clean the brake calipers. To do this, I use an air compressor and a blow gun to "pop" the "pucks" or pistons out of the brake calipers. Force air through the hole in the caliper assembly where the flexible brake hose fits. Be careful not to get your fingers anywhere near the caliper and cover it with a cloth to control the pistons as they fly out. Brake fluid may also be released so a cloth will contain this away from the paint on your car. Once the pistons are out, remove the old rubber seals and reinsert the pistons back into the calipers. Tape the pistons into the calipers or insert a wood block to retain the unsealed pistons in the calipers. Cover the bleeder screw and the input hole for the flex line and sandblast the caliper. The piston will protect the caliper internals during sandblasting. Thoroughly clean the calipers again using alcohol to remove any sandblasting residue and dust. We use a parts cleaner filled with isopropyl rubbing alcohol for brake and clutch parts.
2. Lightly coat the inside of the cleaned brake caliper with a little red rubber brake grease. (see **Figure 1**). Do this especially in the 2nd groove for the seal and the first groove for the rubber dust boot.
3. Carefully insert the new seal into the 2nd groove in the caliper. The first groove (near the inner edge of the caliper) is for the ridge on the dust boot.
4. Lightly coat the inside of the new seal with red rubber grease so the piston may slide past it gently.
5. Feed the ridge end of the dust boot onto the brake piston starting from the outer open edge of the piston (the end with the groove for the dust boot). (see **Figure 2**)
6. Continue sliding the dust boot down the piston until the first edge (with the ridge) falls off the inner (closed) edge of the piston. (see **Figure 3**) The ridge of the dust boot feeds into the first slot in the brake caliper. The trailing edge of the dust boot has no ridge and will feed into the grooved end of the piston once the piston is fully inserted into the caliper.
7. Carefully insert the dust boot ridge into the dust boot groove in the caliper while supporting the attached brake piston above. Once the dust boot has seated in the first groove in the caliper, begin lightly rocking and pressing the piston down into the caliper. (see **Figure 4**) The piston will slide past the first seal of the dust boot and this will provide some alignment for the piston as you further guide it down into the caliper past the seal in the second groove.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Continued from Page 5

8. Continue to rock and gently work the piston down into the caliper. Be careful; if you work the piston into the caliper with too much force, you risk shearing the seal against the caliper like a scissors and the piston will not seal and will leak brake fluid. Use gentle force and pressure and a rocking motion to move the piston down into the caliper. (see Figures 5 and 6)
9. Repeat steps 3 through 8 until all four pistons are inserted into the calipers.
10. Install the caliper on the spindle and kingpin assembly with new pads, pins, and clips. Bleed the brakes and inspect for leaks.



Figure 6

The VP Report

by Mike Manser

"What did the oil can say to his obnoxious oil can buddy?" The May Pie with the Prez was well attended with members including Mike Martin, Gregg Lauser, Curt Carlson, Dan Wolters, Tom Moerke, Dale Martin, Steve Rixen, Dan Powell, Dick Matthews, Rich Stadther, Jack Stein, Andy Lindberg, Dave Lee, Jim Kriz, Dave Jensen, Tom Hazen, Scott McQueen, Darrel Pearson, and Gary Ronning. The June Pie was also well attended by members that included Curt Carlson, Mike Martin, Jeff and Karen Sartell, Chuck Norton, Tom Moerke, Brian and Rebecca McCullough, Paul Weidner, Jack Stein, Tom Hazen, Dick Matthews, Herb Miller, Dave Lee, Darrel Pearson, Andy Lindberg, Rich Stadther, Scott McQueen, Jim Kriz, and apparently, as indicated by the attendance sheet, Donald Healey. I arrived late and did not see Don so he must have left fairly early.

Similar to the saying that "There never seems to be enough time" I am putting forth a new statement "There never seems to be enough good customer service relations". Our local club members are fantastic in helping out, providing valuable goods, and great services. However, I feel some of the bigger companies with which I interact for both racing and Healey parts have lost touch with customers. For example, a company selling Datsun race parts shipped to me a fragile head gasket packaged loose in a large box along with a fairly indestructible header. Needless to say the headgasket arrived looking like crumpled tinfoil. The company service reps then made me feel at fault for the shipping problems and was reluctant to correct the situation. Jet-Hot Thermal Coatings promised to get my headers back to me within a week if I overnighted the headers to them immediately. Well, after a large shipping expense, plenty of reminder phone calls, and company promises they mistakenly shipped them ground and they arrived 5 days later than promised thus, forcing me to cancel a race weekend with friends. Since then I have been redirected into the phone tree numerous times and it appears they won't acknowledge their mistake or make the situation right. I understand the occasional goof, slip, or mistake but when these things continue with great regularity it is time for concern. If anyone has any tips on how we as consumers can best work with these companies to receive the parts and service we deserve I would be happy to share them with the entire Chapter. "Quit spouting off".



Healey Hillclimb V

Saturday, July 8, 2006

(rain date Sunday, July 9)

Afton Alps Recreation Area

The Minnesota Austin-Healey Club invites you to **TAKE THE HILL!** Hillclimbs enjoy a proud place in the history of European motor sports. Now you can be part of that tradition and make history with your own run **TO THE TOP!**

On-site registration opens 7:00am, closes 8:30am
MANDATORY drivers meeting at 8:30am

Late arrivals will NOT be allowed to run, even if they are prepaid. No refunds.

Drivers must be 18+, sign waiver, pass on-site tech inspection, wear helmet (Bring Snell 85 or newer. We'll have some loaners) Visit www.healeyclub.org/safetymain.htm for details.

New this year: Vintage Race Car Exhibit
See pre- and post-war track classics!



CORNER WORKERS NEEDED! Want to get close to the action but not drive? Like to wave flags and blow whistles? Free treats provided to all volunteers, and those who stay 8:30 to 5 will receive a free buffet lunch! Space is limited, so call Tom now to reserve your coveted place among the cones.

Directions: I 94 East past St. Paul, take exit 253 and turn right onto Manning Ave/Hwy 95. After 6.8 miles turn left onto 70th Street. After 3.5 miles turn left into the Afton Alps complex.

Advance registration (**deadline July 5**) \$20 for Austin-Healey Club members, \$30 for all others. Day-of-show registration \$25 for A-H Club members, \$40 for all others. Make check payable to the **Minnesota Austin-Healey Club** and mail to Tom Hazen, 130 East 18th Street #202, Mpls, MN 55403. Sorry, no refunds.

This event is limited to 60 cars, of which only 20 can be younger than 1980, so register early!

Driver(s)

Year, make, model, color

Email:



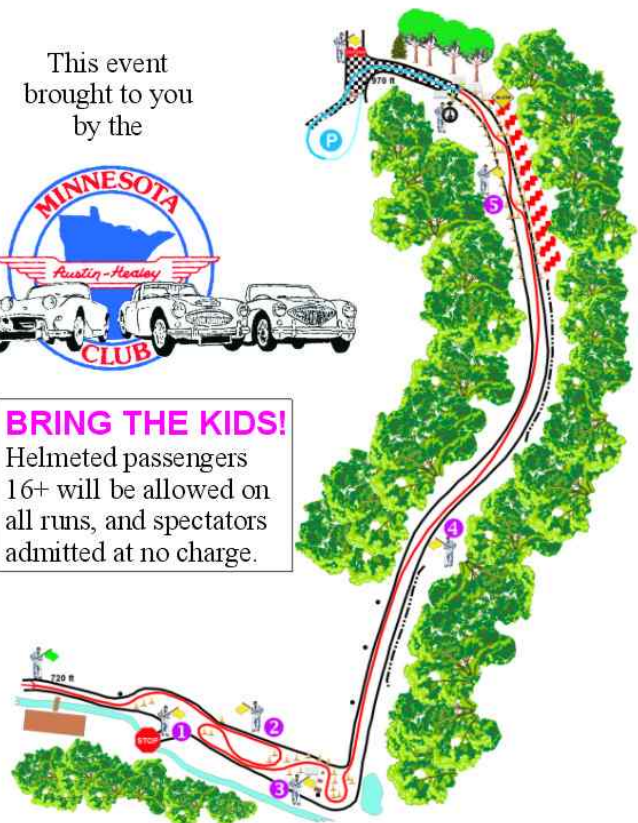
Bob Lee speeds around the bend just before the finish line in his TR6 - Photo by Greg Lauser

This event brought to you by the



BRING THE KIDS!

Helmeted passengers 16+ will be allowed on all runs, and spectators admitted at no charge.



The course is entirely paved roadway. Drivers will run in the order their paid registrations are received. We will try to give everyone five runs, more if time permits. From 12:30 to 1:30 we will take a break to enjoy the optional buffet luncheon served in the ski chalet (\$10 cash or check, pay your server).

Coffee and breakfast treats provided by:

The Square Peg Diner

2021 East Hennepin · Mpls · 612-378-0855
www.squarepegdiner.com

SEE YOU ON THE HILL!

Questions? Contact Tom Hazen at 612-237-1883 or libertytrans@mn.rr.com

AMERY AIRPORT AUTOCROSS AND STRAIGHT-AWAY SPEED RUN

Saturday, July 22, 2006 (rain date Sunday, July 23)

Registration opens at 8:00am, closes at 10:00am

MANDATORY DRIVERS MEETING 10:00am

If you are not present and registered by 10:00am, you will NOT drive the course!



Dave Meek turns his Jaguar XK 150 - Photo by Joe Werner

Turn quickly through the orange cones of the autocross, then straighten 'er out for the 3/4 mile taxiway top speed run. Our state-of-the-art and precisely calibrated stopwatch/walkie-talkie system will measure your time on the course, and a radar gun will capture your top speed.

Drivers must be 18+, sign waiver, pass on-site tech inspection, wear helmet (Bring a Snell 85 or newer - we'll have some loaners)



CORNER WORKERS NEEDED! Want to get close to the action but not drive? Like to wave flags and blow whistles? Free treats provided to all volunteers. Space is limited, so call Tom now to reserve your coveted place among the cones.

Directions: The simple route is 94 East into Wisconsin, take the Baldwin Hwy 63 exit, turn left heading north on Hwy 63 which eventually becomes Hwy 46. For a more scenic drive, from the northeast corner of 694, take Hwy 36 East into downtown Stillwater, turn right and take the old drawbridge over the St. Croix into Wisconsin, following Hwy 64 East. Stay on 64 through Somerset and New Richmond, then turn left onto Hwy 46 North. The airport is on your left before you get to Amery, WI.



A pack of classic cars returning on the taxiway to prepare for the next run group. Photo by Jason Montana.

Advance registration (**deadline July 19**) free for Austin-Healey Club members, \$10 for all others. Day-of-show registration still free for A-H Club members, \$20 for all others. Make check payable to the **Minnesota Austin-Healey Club** and mail to Tom Hazen, 130 East 18th Street #202, Mpls, MN 55403. Sorry, no refunds.

Driver(s)

Year, make, model, color

Email:

Questions? Contact Tom Hazen at 612-237-1883 or libertytrans@mn.rr.com

This event brought to you by the



The course is entirely paved. Drivers will run in the order their paid registrations are received. We will try to give everyone six runs, more if time permits.



Dick Mathews' Austin-Healey 100M - Joe Werner

BRING THE KIDS!

Helmeted passengers 16+ will be allowed on all runs.



A "square body" Austin-Healey Sprite takes a corner - Joe Werner

Events Schedule

- July 5 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3 for details
- July 8 **** **Healey Hill Climb** – (Sat.) This is the very popular annual event arranged by Tom Hazen. See page 7 for details.
- 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 Lombard.
- July 22**** **Amery Airport Gymkhana/Straight Line Event** – (Sat.) – Tom Moerke and Tom Hazen have arranged for an event for quick cars at the Amery Airport. See page 8 for details.
- 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. See page 3 for details.
- 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. Entry fee - \$5.00 per 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. 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
1019 Ridge Haven Circle
Buffalo, MN 55313

First Class Postage



MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: 1958 Austin Healey 100-Six - We have just found a vintage "Nasty Boy" out in Dakota – 302 Mustang engine with a three speed stick. Solid straight body with a factory hardtop. Not run since 1989. For more details, email Tom Politiski at healeymog@yahoo.com . (4/06)

FOR SALE: New Rear Leaf Springs for AH BJ8 - \$125.00. Non original leather interior for AH BT7 – Black/red piping - \$150.00. Moss Carpet Kit for AH BT7 (Center-shift) – Black - \$165.00. New Floor Heat Shield (above muffler) - \$50.00. Call Gary Ronning at 763-684-4041 or email to gtronning@aol.com . (6/06)

FOR SALE: Four sets of ignition points for BN4, BN6, B7's - Moss part #872-861 - new, in boxes. Also one new condenser to match. 25 bucks for all five. Call Rossi at 612 822 7069. (7/06)

FOR SALE: Mint condition 1986 Jaguar XJ6 Vanden Plas. Very low mileage, cared for tenderly. Call Rossi at 612 822 7069. (7/06)

FOR SALE: 1974 Jensen Healey, runs well, starts easily, and has surprising power. (Factory spec is 140 HP.) Repaired the floors, replaced seats, brakes, alternator, and timing belt. All fluids changed last winter. The car has minor scratches but is a great British car as is. \$1500.00 Rich Stadther, St. Paul, MN 651-698-1981 or stadther@comcast.net . (7/06)

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.