



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XXVIII No. III

March 2017



MARCH EVENTS

Wed. March 1

PIE Meeting

Sat. March 18

Tech Session

MAHC STAFF

President	DAVE HATZUNG 952-922-3246 dave@hatzunginsurance.com
Vice President	PHIL DAWSON 612-721-8667 stephil1972@hotmail.com
Treasurer	STEVE GREENWAY Smgreenway1@gmail.com
Membership	JIM KRIZ 612-374-2666 jkriz1@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	GARY RONNING 1019 Ridge Haven Circle Buffalo, MN 55313 763-684-4041 gtronning@gmail.com
Video Librarian	JEFF JOHNK 952-461-2720 jeffj@centuryrefining.com
WebMaster	JOHN SNYDER 952-929-4792 jvs@consistenc.com
Email Broadcaster	DAVE LEE 715-651-2479 dlee@usfamily.net
Name Tags	GREG WILLODSON greg.willodson@gmail.com
National Delegate	EILEEN WETZEL 763-541-9571 econlon@hotmail.com
Intermarque Delegate	SUZANNE WILLODSON 763-390-4133 suzanne.willodson@gmail.com
Regalia	GARY RONNING 763-684-4041 gtronning@gmail.com
Technical Resources	
Sprite	PAUL GAU 952-933-7277
100	CURT CARLSON 612-251-7492
3000 & Modified	JEFF JOHNK 952-461-2720
Jensen Healey	TOM POLITISKI 218-367-2168
Board of Directors	ANDY LINDBERG STEVE RIXEN GEOFF ROSSI RICH STADTHER SUZANNE WILLODSON, Chair.
Minnesota Web Site	www.mnhealey.com
National Web Site	www.healeyclub.org

President's **I**nformal **E**vening

Date: Wednesday March 1st

Time: 7:00 p.m. (or before)

Place: Joseph's Grill

140 So. Wabasha

St. Paul, MN 55107

651-222-2435

Come and enjoy refreshments and/or food with the friendly club members, catch up on news & events, and discuss cars & restorations.



Thank You

To the members that submitted news, articles, and photos for this newsletter issue:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Paul Gau | Byron Peterson |
| Dave Hatzung | Phil Dawson |
| Greg Lauser | Eileen Wetzel |
| Tom Politiski | |

Current and past newsletters:

<http://www.mnhealey.com/mnhealey/newsletter.htm>

Cover Picture courtesy of Paul Gau

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.

President Dave Hatzung's

Very Presidential Column

March?

It won't be long now before we put the batteries back in our cars, check the tire pressures and the oil, - and in my un-mechanical case just hope that the car starts. That car would mean the '67 AH. Just last week when the temperatures reached the high 50's, I did uncover my XK8 and drove that for a couple days. What a treat...in February even!

I imagine the people that are really excited are Scott McQueen and Eileen & Gary Wetzel ! By the way, thank you both for the great articles written regarding the history of your new race cars. Thanks also to Carol Johnk for her nice story about Jeff in a previous issue. I know there are a lot more stories like theirs that we need to hear about.

My brother John, who is the latest MAHC member, called our cousin Gary Wolf this week. After college, Gary took a job out East with a Wall Street law firm. That was good for him, but it meant we had little contact with him and his family. We would just hear snippets of what was going on out East.. One of the things we did hear was that he raced cars.

So, now with John and I joining the MAHC, racing is relevant. That prompted John to call him. Turns out he was on Paul Neuman's race team for a while. Gary hung up his race gear a while ago after 25 years of vintage racing. I asked John what kind of cars he raced, and it turns out he started with a Sprite! Funny thing is, Gary is over 6 feet tall - not a small guy. I have no idea how he fit into one of those.

I told John we need to hear more of Gary's story. This brings me full circle back to my point of writing down some of the fascinating stories we have right here in the MAHC. I'm still relatively new in the club, so I don't know many of them. Look forward to hearing more.

Maybe the place to start is to go back to some of the past newsletters. In the meantime, if you'd like to share when you bought your first car, or an interesting car story, please let me know and I'll get it published - even help write it for you. See you at the next PIE meeting !



The Presidents Informal Evening

By Phil Dawson

Feb 1 2017 PIE meeting:

President Dave chaired the meeting. Unexpected knee surgery kept him from flying to the wedding he was hoping to attend. The meeting started at around 7:30 and was finished just after 8:00 pm.

There was no new business to record, but a few jokes were told. Then we had an update on the new logo for the June Sugar Lake Rendezvous event. There was a report on the open house at Gary and Eileen's house. Everyone had a wonderful time, and they were very impressed with the new race car - and puppy!

Tom Politiski shared some of the prices that classic and vintage cars were going for at the auction block. All in all it was a fun time to hang out with the club and get to know everyone a little better. As Spring and Summer approach, the calendar will fill up, and there will be more things happening. If by chance I have missed anything, my apologies.

Attendees:

Greg & Nancy Lauser, Tom Politiski, Dave Herreid & Daphne Walmer, Tom & June Moerke, Dave & Cheryl Rademacher, Greg & Suzanne Willodson, Kim & Steve Rixen, Dick Leighninger, Phillip Dawson, Dave Hatzung, Jeff Lombard, Jeff Johnk, Dan Powell, Rich & Liz Stadther, Jim Manion, Jim Kriz, Andy Lindberg, Gary & Eileen Wetzal, and Phil Ethier.

InterMarque Breakfasts

Elsie's Restaurant, Bar and Bowling Center is the breakfast destination every Saturday at 8:00 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>.

New! On the first and third Saturdays, the East Ender's Breakfast Group meets at 9 AM at **Brookside Bar & Grille** 140 Judd Street, Marine on St Croix MN
<http://www.brooksidebarandgrill.com/>

InterMarque Newsletter

Check out InterMarque's multi-marque calendar in their latest newsletter for even more car events!

InterMarque.org



SPRITE RACING !

Editor

Back in the late 1970s, I met some people that became the sources (and friends) for doing restoration work on Austin Healeys. They included Bob Elliott, Paul Gau, Byron Peterson, and Tom Politiski (and we are still friends!).

The MAHC historically has had a strong contingent of drivers that have been very active in racing for a long time. Recently, the club has been very fortunate to have members that have obtained some very important race Healeys. We look forward to watching them perform this year.

With that in mind, some attention to the Sprite contingent racing of the past should be recollected. Paul Gau has raced Bug-eyes for many years – starting in the 70's (see cover picture). He has always raced an all black, right hand drive with a (knock-out loud) modified engine – taking first place in many races of his class. His old race car has been sold, but he still maintains a very complete maintenance & restoration garage. Right now, he and wife Pat have an MGB-GT and a beautifully restored white Bug-eye. They enjoy attending Rendezvous events. Also, he is building another race car. Paul serves the MAHC as the Technical Resource for Sprites.



Being chased by Bob Youngdahl in the Pinto at BIR in the 70's. Paul had the pole position and won first place over-all.



Current stock !



BLACKHAWK!

Ask any child what one of their favorite days of summer would be, and I am sure the answer would be the 4th of July - parades, ice cream, games, and of course, the fireworks! What's not to love? As it is with most holidays, the gathering of friends is what makes them special. The event this year at Blackhawk boasted many of the traditions for me that make the midsummer holiday so great, as well as playing host to a number of truly exceptional people I feel lucky to call my friends.

The Midwest AH Club, in concert with the Alpha Romeo club, has been hosting a track day at Blackhawk Farm in Illinois for the past number of years. This year, track day was July 1st. My husband, Gary, and I loaded up our Healey on a perfect Thursday afternoon and met up with club member Scott McQueen to embark on our journey together. First stop was a gas station. As will happen with these beautiful classic machines, Scott's Triumph GT6 did not want to cooperate - a tendency that it must have picked up from a previous owner. After gazing longingly into the engine compartment, whispering sweet nothings, and giving a tickle in just the right place, we were up and running. There is something about driving with the top down on a summer day that no words can adequately describe - feeling the road beneath you, smelling the sweet summer air, watching the other drivers on the road gawk at your beautiful car with the occasional toot of the horn. This indicates one thing: at that moment, they wish they were you !

The journey to Blackhawk from the Twin Cities affords the opportunity to traverse the drift-less area of the Midwest, following the Mississippi south thru Minnesota into Iowa, then heading east across the border into Wisconsin. Upon crossing into Wisconsin, a determination was made. In order to truly make the most of this journey, ice cream would most certainly be required. Upon departure from the purveyor of these cold delicious treats, once again the GT6 was proving difficult. The soft whispers and gentle tickles that had proved effective earlier had no effect this time. The GT6 required a less graceful mode of coaxing. The tow rope dragged the car along just long enough for it to fire before the tow rope suddenly snapped. We departed from our route, embarking on a mission to find an auto parts store to get a new battery for the GT6. While the entire trip took a good bit longer than expected, a couple of new restaurants were stumbled upon that will definitely be added to the pit stop list for years to come. It also turns out that Scott has quite a knack for finding those long winding roads we love to drive so much. Hiccups were had but ultimately good friends, great attitudes, and beautiful machines prevailed.

Friday morning arrived, with butterflies fluttering in my stomach. We headed to registration, got our transponder, prepped our cars, and headed to the tech inspection bays. It was a beautiful day. It was race day. Following a brief meeting informing drivers of the rules of the day, we were off to the track.

It's as if time doesn't exist when you're on the track. Twenty minutes seems like an eternity, and an eternity seems like a minute. Speeding around the course draws on all your instincts and experiences. You listen to your machine, as it communicates to you its limitations. Each time around, corners get tighter, handwork improves, and time shrinks as you dance on the pavement beneath. (continued...)

As you push the limitations of your machine, you also look to push constricts of the track, while always considering the other drivers. Ignored the blend line - black flagged! In a real race that could be devastating. Two laps later another black flag. This time the flag was given for passing on a corner. These were rules that had been determined at the aforementioned meeting. Black flags call you to the pits for a serious talking to. We learn from mistakes, and those mistakes help us understand the limitations. Fatigue is an interesting thing - your mind slows, and along with it your decisiveness. Indecision resulted in the second black flag. The brief moment, in which I was determining whether or not to make the pass, ultimately resulted in the infraction.

Now a brief public service announcement: Please exercise safe and decisive driving at all times on a track or otherwise. Putting the safety of yourself, your machine, or others, in jeopardy at any time is totally un-cool and should be avoided whenever possible.

Scott and his temperamental GT6 entered into the last session of the day with slightly concerning brake issues. Determined not to push the car too hard, Scott decided to "take it easy" as to not impose any undue stress on his machine. Much to his delight, the GT6 responded to his kind hand by turning in the best times of his day! This proves that the relationship between car and driver is just that - a relationship.

Cars were raced, good company was enjoyed. Having done what we had set out to do, it was time to embark on the journey home. Along the way, we had the pleasure of stopping in Mineral Point, WI. It was a beautiful town with great food, plenty of entertainment, and stunning historical architecture. Whether you attend annually, or intend on attending in years to come, put Mineral Point on your pit stop list.

Thank you to the Midwest AHC and everyone who attended, as it made for a truly marvelous experience. To those of you who did not attend, get your day planners out and put it in the calendar for 2017. Your exceptional company will make for an even more exceptional experience in years to come.

Eileen Wetzel



Scott McQueen in his Triumph GT6



Eileen Wetzel in her AH 3000



The shores of Sugar Lake and banks of the Mississippi in Grand Rapids beckon you to "Race to the Rapids" for the 2017 Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous June 1-4.

With Sugar Lake Lodge as the focal point of weekend activities and accommodations at other Grand Rapids inns, there are plenty of rooms for everyone to enjoy the hospitality of the Minnesota Austin-Healey Club and citizens of the Greater Grand Rapids area.

Those wanting an early start on the weekend, can arrange a relaxing – or at least challenging – round of golf Thursday at the lodge's 18-hole course. Tee times can be made directly with the pro shop. The official good times begin Thursday afternoon with registration from 3-7:30 p.m. At 8 p.m., welcoming hospitality begins at the lodge with refreshments, announcements and activities that renew existing friendships and foster new ones.

Friday will dawn on a variety of activities. Gymkhana enthusiasts will gather at 9 a.m. for the drivers' meeting at the Grand Rapids Airport, followed by pulse-pounding runs until 3 p.m. on an autocross artfully designed by Greg Willodson. If you prefer more sublime driving, take one of several self-guided tours of the surroundings, or meander into downtown Grand Rapids for nearby shopping and lunch.



Friday's "Sweet Sixteen" Downtown Car Show will be a fundraiser for Grand Rapids area Boy Scouts.

Starting at 3:30 p.m., Dave Herreid's team will begin aligning our sports cars around the Grand Rapids town square for a 4-7 p.m. "Sweet Sixteen" Downtown Car Show benefiting the local Boy Scouts troop. Each driver will receive a bucket with their registration number on it to place before their car. Townspeople and tourists will be encouraged to cast as many votes as they wish for their favorites using \$1 bills to buy ballots. All proceeds go directly to the scouts. Car owners also may vote for their cars as often as they like. The byword



is "Vote Early & Often" – just like they do in Chicago. The 16 sports cars receiving the most ballots will be recognized at Saturday's awards dinner. Food and beverage options will be available on the square and at local restaurants throughout the late afternoon and early evening.

Saturday morning is all about rallying or otherwise enjoying the beauty of the area. Afternoon highlights include a Lakeshore Show & Shine, Wine & Cheese Party and Tech Sessions for the guys. That evening's happy hour and awards dinner will cap weekend activities.

Register Now: www.mnhealey.com/rendezvous

27th Annual Can/Am Rendezvous

June 1-4, 2017

Vintage Sports Car Gathering
Grand Rapids, Minnesota



Host: Minnesota Austin-Healey Club

Weekend Schedule

- Thursday -- Registration: 3-7:30 p.m. Hospitality: 8-9:30 p.m.
- Friday -- Registration: 8 a.m.- Noon, Airport Autocross, Self-Guided Tours, Downtown Car Show
- Saturday -- Fun Rally, Lakeshore Show & Shine, Wine & Cheese Party, Awards Dinner
- Sunday -- Breakfast & Goodbyes

ON-LINE REGISTRATIONS PREFERRED @ www.mnhealey.com/rendezvous

Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____
(PRINT LEGIBLY first and last name/names as they should appear on badges)

Street _____ City _____

State/Province/PostalCode _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____
(Include e-mail address if you want a confirmation of registration – none will be sent otherwise.)

Club Name _____

Vehicle/s to be registered: Yr. _____ Make _____ Model _____
Yr. _____ Make _____ Model _____

On-line Registration \$75 Mail-in Registration \$80 After April 20: \$90 (All fees in U.S. \$\$s) \$ _____
(Registration includes one vehicle, two adults, one child under 18 & one free event ball cap)

Each additional person: \$5.00 x _____	\$ _____
Each additional vintage car: \$5.00 x _____	\$ _____
Extra ball caps: \$15.00 x _____	\$ _____
Wine & Cheese Party: \$15.00/person	\$ _____
Awards Dinner tickets: \$40.00/person x _____	\$ _____

SIGN ME UP FOR: Autocross ___ Downtown Car Show ___ Rally ___ Total \$ _____

IF MAILING REGISTRATION, make checks payable to Minnesota Austin-Healey Club (U.S. \$\$s) Send completed form to:
Greg Lauser, W12349 694th Ave., Prescott, WI 54021 Registration questions to: glauser@centurylink.net
Cancellations before April 20 are subject to a \$15.00 fee. No refunds after April 20.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Sugar Lake Lodge at info@sugarlakelodge.com or call 1-800-450-4555 or 1-218-327-1462

Other Grand Rapids Lodging: AmericInn. 1-218-326-8999
Super 8, 1-218-327-1108
Sawmill Inn, 1-800-667-7508 (Special Group Rate \$79/night for Rendezvous)
Timberlake Lodge, 1-866-800-2200

Events Schedule

- March 1** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. **Hot Wheels Racing Night !**
Bring your favorite fastest Hot Wheels race car. See p. 2
- March 18** **Tech Session** – (Sat) Held at Scott McQueen’s garage in Mpls. Always a lot of Healey memorabilia and great cars. See the latest addition !!
- April 12** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. Note 2nd Wednesday. See page 2.
- April 29** **Hatzung Tech Party** – (Sat) Dave & Mary invitation ! Details later.
- May 3** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. See page 2
- May 6** **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 by Greg Lauser..
- May 13** **InterMarque Spring Kick-Off – (Sat)** The InterMarque Council will again sponsor this well attended event in downtown Osseo, MN.
- May 19-21** **Vintage GT Challenge** – (Fri - Sun) This will be the weekend for the Spring Vintage races at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI.
- June 1-4** **Rendezvous 2017** - (Thurs-Sun) This will be the 27th year for the annual Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous. The location this year will be in Grand Rapids, MN and sponsored by the MN Austin Healey Club. Get your hotel reservations in early!
- June 7** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2
- June 10** **Moerke Party** – Tom & June Moerke will be hosting a party at their home in Hudson, WI.
- June 10–11** **Walleye Rally** – Hosted by Dave Tobin of the Mercedes-Benz Club.
- June 17** **Amery Competition Run** – (Sat) Excellent test running of your favorite Sports Car orchestrated by Greg Willodson.
- June 23-25** **Back to the 50’s Car Show** – (Fri-Sun) This huge annual show will be at the MN State Fairgrounds again – 10,000 cars...or more?? (note corrected dates)
- June 24** **Coulee Classic Rally** – (Sat) 10:00 am at Maiden Rock Village Park in Maiden Rock, WI. The 25th Annual Rally. Led by Ed Solstad.
- June 25** **InterMarque Picnic** – (Sun) The first monthly InterMarque picnic of the season. Join your fellow British enthusiasts for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul.
- June 30** **Blackhawk Farms Raceway Healey-Alfa Track Day** – (Fri) An opportunity to run your car at a genuine race track. Contact Steve Rixen of the MAHC or Neil Anderson of the Midwest Region AH Club.

Events Schedule

- July 5** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2 for details.
- July 8** **Greenway Party** – (Sat) Rixens will plan a short drive to land at Steve & Sue Greenway's home in Cumberland, WI. Details later.
- July 9 – 14** **AHCA Conclave** – (Sun-Fri) This huge annual event will be held in Waco, Texas this year. Lots of cars, lots of people, lots of Healey talk ! Reserve early.
- July 16** **Mexican Fiesta Party** – (Sun) Mike & Gloria Lynch will again host their annual Fiesta !
- July 20–23** **Races at RoadAmerica.** (Thur-Sun) This is the super big annual vintage car race event held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI.
- July 22** **Stine/Martin Picnic** – (Sat) Always delicious food in a gorgeous rural setting.
- July 30** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 p.m. Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- August 2** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. See page 2
- August 5** **Herreid Pizza Party** – (Sat) Rixens will plan a short drive to end up at Dave & Daphne's home on the river near Afton for wood-roasted Pizza.
- August 12** **The "New" Brit Fest** – (Sat) At Lakefront Park in Hudson, WI. Sponsored by the MN MG Group.
- August 19** **Royal British Car Show** – (Sat) At the Jaguar dealership in Minnetonka, MN.
- August 20** **Ambli Norwegian Picnic** (Sat) Take a drive to Carlton, MN to enjoy Fred and Sandy's hospitality – and steaks !
- August 26** **Amery Airport Run** – (Sat) Greg Willodson will hold a second run at Amery, WI.
- August 27** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 p.m. Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- Sept. 6** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Sept. 9** **Wheels n Wings** – (Sat) Osceola, WI. Car and Air Show.
- Sept. 10 – 15** **Monterey International Healey Week** – (Mon-Fri) This apparently will be one very large gathering of Austin Healey owners & enthusiasts.
- Sept. 15-17** **Fall Vintage Race Festival** - Held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI. A great opportunity to see vintage racing up close. Watch our members racing up close !
- Sept. 22-24** **Waumandee Hill Climb** – (Fri-Sun) The annual vintage car uphill slalom will be held under the direction of Tom Hazen. Not to miss !
- Sept. 24** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 pm Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- Sept. 30** **Dawson Party** – (Sat) Phil and Stefanie Dawson will be hosting a party at their home in River Falls, WI. Details later.
- Oct. 4** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Oct. 7** **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.
- Oct. 21** **Mathews Model Train Event** – (Sat) Come and enjoy the wonderful result of many years' layout construction by Dick Mathews. Multiple trains, beautiful buildings, & bridges.
- Nov. 1** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Nov. 11** **Annual Banquet / Business Meeting Party** – (Sat) The annual dinner, election of officers, and business meeting will occur on this evening at Joseph's Grill.
- Dec. 2** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2018 will be on the agenda for this meeting hosted by Phil Dawson at Joseph's Restaurant in St. Paul. A Board of Directors meeting will follow.
- Dec. 6** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.

Please note that the 2018 Events Schedule is tentative and may be incomplete.
Watch for announcements and changes as the year progresses.

Minnesota Austin Healey Club Inc.
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.

(please submit new want and for sale ads to the editor – gtronning@gmail.com)