

The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XVI No. 4 May 2005



THE AUSSIES ARE COMING.....!!

May Events

Wednesday May 4 – Pie with the President Saturday May 7 – Australians Welcoming Party Fri. – Sun. May 13-15 – Healey Challenge at RoadAmerica Sunday May 22 – InterMarque Car Show & Banquet Sat. – Sun. May 28-29 – Donneybrooke Vintage Revival

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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, 55.00 for non-members. For display rates contact newsletter advertising. The Minnesota Austin Healey Club is affiliated with the Austin Healey Club of America.

-- Through the Windscreen -- President's Perspective

By Greg Lauser

There have been three significant MAHC developments in the past week. First, hats off to the 16 folks who weathered the threat of rain and participated in the initial Adopt-A-Highway clean-up April 16. We used all the garbage bags the Minnesota DOT provided, collecting 60 bags of debris from the roadside. DOT officials told me that signs identifying our efforts will be erected on U.S. 61 within the next two weeks.

Fortunately, while it was raining hard in the Twin Cities, it didn't start to drizzle on us until about 40 minutes before we finished cleaning up the ditches. Following the clean-up, we went to King's in Miesville, Minn., for liquid and burger sustenance. By the time that session adjourned, it was raining in earnest.

A second bit of great Healey news arrived in a phone call from Jeff Johnk last night. The Aussies' race team cars will make landfall in the Bay Area later this week, so they'll be delivered to his business site in plenty of time for a May 7 get together with the Aussies and their vehicles. Let's all plan on circling the wagons in Lakeville that Saturday to support the great work Jeff has done in organizing the premier international Healey event for 2005. Jeff and Mike Lynch will be providing directions and more details on event timing and refreshments available.

Those who join us that day will help raise funds to defray some of the expenses incurred to stage this major racing series. The plan is that \$10 of the \$15-per-plate cost for the meal will be earmarked to help with racing series expenses. In addition, the MAHC board authorized the chapter to match up to \$300 in funds collected. So if at least 30 members participate, we can contribute \$600 to the cause.

Third, we're getting down to the short strokes in planning Rendezvous 2005, and things are coming together nicely. A contingent of the Rendezvous planning team will be visiting Grand Rapids the weekend of April 22-25 to tie up loose ends, and will report to the entire Rendezvous planning group at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 27, at the O Club. Everyone is urged to attend that meeting and the May 4 Pie for updates and more information on how they can become involved in hosting our Upper Midwest friends on both sides of the border.

See you on the road!

Presidential Pie

Date: Wednesday May 4th 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.

InterMarque Banquet & Car Show

Date: Sunday May 22nd Time: 12:00 to 5:00

Place: Radisson Conference Center

3131 Campus Drive Plymouth, MN 55441 Phone: 763-559-6600

If you want to see over 100 vintage sportscars for free, this is your opportunity! The cars will be parked on the grass again (barring rain), and you should wear sunglasses to control the (car) shine on your eyes!

Banquet will begin at 3:00 and will cost 15.00 per person – to be paid at the door. Please RSVP to Andy Lindberg at andylindberg@earthlink.net . The hotel would like to have an estimate on the number of people eating at the Banquet.

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 - and now the cars are out!! The location again is

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

Australian/Racing Events

Welcoming Party Date: Saturday May 7th

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Century Refining 21630 Hanover Ave. Lakeville, MN 55044

Come out and show our hospitality to the Australian visitors, view their Austin Healey Racecars, and enjoy a fabulous cookout prepared by Mike Lynch. Cost is 15.00 per person. Bring a lawn chair, your own beverage, and some to share with our guests. Regalia will be available. You won't want to miss this opportunity! (Note: There is road construction on I35W south, so Cedar Avenue to Lakeville would be a better choice)

Australia/US Healey Challenge

Date: May 13 – 15

Place: RoadAmerica Race Track Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

This will be the first of five race events featuring the Australian and US Healeys. There will be fierce competition to see who has the fastest cars. This will be the closest venue for us to watch the exciting challenge. Be there! p.s. See notes on page 7 regarding entry and registration to RoadAmerica.

DONNYBROOKE VINTAGE REVIVAL

Date: May 28 - 29

Saturday - Sunday

Place: Brainard International Raceway

Brainard, MN

Come for a weekend of fun watching vintage cars race and touring the track with your own car!! This may be the last year for BIR. Rumor has it that the track will become a golf course very soon. Rich and Liz Stadther are arranging the event, so give them a call if you have questions. Phone: 651-698-1981

Presidential Pie

By Mike Martin

Wow, another great pie! I counted 26 Healey addicts, and I might have missed one or two. Scott McQueen is now in the crisis mode on his home remodeling and garage update (including a lift?). He is also talking of rebuilding his 100's front end and rear springs. Dale Martin brought a sample of the Rendezvous trophies - nice job Dale! Jack Stein brought a sample of the spare tire leather strap made by a friend for a big Healey - only 10 bucks and it looks like the original. Larry Nimmerfroth has put his BJ8 on the market. He said it's now worth too much for him to drive. And all that was the chit chat before the meeting.

After swilling down a pint, or daintily sipping a glass of wine, we got down to it. Greg called the meeting to order:

A video was played regarding the highway cleanup on April 16th. We'll start the cleanup at mile marker 78, just North of Lake City around 0945hrs.

Andy Lindberg mentioned the InterMarque Banquet on the 22nd of May. Don't miss this one. They expect over a 100 cars!

Tom Hazen was next. He mentioned a possible race complex near Pine City and maybe the end in sight for Brainerd. He also brought up our Hillclimb event on the 9th of July (or 10th,if rained out). You can register now.

George Arthur talked briefly about the car show in St Paul on the 12th of June in Rice Park. It's the regional CCCA show, and many beautiful cars will be present. He also left some magazines for 'recycle'. I grabbed a couple.

Curt Carlson checked on everyone's receipt of the new membership roster. If you didn't get yours, call him. Now the biggie!

Jeff Johnk gave us the latest update on the Healey Challenge. Due to shipping problems, the cars may not get here in time and might have to be unloaded in Chicago, Ill. This will do away with the off-load and the BBQ on the 7th and 8th of May. A phone tree is being developed so we can be notified at the last minute. If it goes down for that weekend, then it's a pizza party. More later.

Greg finished the meeting with a review of Rendezvous. There will be a Rendezvous meeting at the O club on the 27th of April and also the 18th of May to tie up any loose ends. It's 10 weeks to go, and we'll be there!

Late breaking news. The 7th and 8th of May looks to be on. The Aussie cars are being shipped by truck (instead of rail), and should be here on time. Plan for a party on that weekend, and take a gander at those cars (all Healeys). How good is that??



The Rubbish Rumble

By Mike Martin

A 9 a.m. meet, and a leisurely drive south on Wis.35 from Prescott put our first ever clean up crews into the rest stop north of Lake City around 10 a.m. A short briefing by Pres. Greg, a division of labor and gear, (so we wouldn't have a 4 mile walk), and off we went.

Thanks to Nancy Lauser, Barb Martin, and Julie Wolters it was not just a "guy thing". What could have been a vulgar brawl turned out to be a genteal outing. Curt Carlson was wearing a hard hat to protect him from any falling aircraft parts (it did keep his head dry). Wayne Soderbeck had duck taped his pants cuffs – smart, but I didn't get it. A later tick explained it to me - duh! Chuck Norton chatted about his 750 BMW motorcycle - brought back memories. No doubt he was thinking of his as a couple hundred bikes roared by while we were plodding along. He plans to do a light overhaul of the engine, and it should be good for another 30 years. Tom Politiski tried to help our club finances by cleaning up the railroad right of way. I expect a check from Southern Pacific any day now.

About an hour into the clean up, it started to rain. By the time the crews finished it was coming down quite nicely. The crew managed to pick up 60 bags of trash, and even though wet, could say that it was a clean sweep. By now it was around 1:30 p.m., so we headed for lunch at Kings in Meisville. Dan Wolters had driven his 100, sans top, so there was no relief for him while driving. I remember him doing a fall tour in much the same way!

At Kings you can get a burger any way you like it and with anything on it. Along with a beer it saved my life. Gary Ronning got into a discussion with Tom Politiski about his German Tri-carb. I hear only 50 or so of these "continental" Tri-carb cars were made. He's got a rare one. In black with a black hardtop, it ought to be a show stopper!

Thanks to these diligent souls for a job well done: Chuck Norton, Curt Carlson, Julie and Tom Wolters, Wayne Soderbeck, Mike Manser, Gary Ronning, Dave Lee, Greg and Nancy Lauser, Barb and Dale Martin, Paul Weidner, Dan Wolters, Tom Politiski, and Mike Martin.









Tech Tip:

by Doctor Ernie

Subject: Electrical Systems of Older Cars

If you are like me, Ohms times amps plus volts divided by resistance equals smoke or a similar formula is way beyond my abilities. I like simple one word, or at least just a few word, solutions to help me figure out my problems.

Back around 1960, I went to a school put on by Delco-Remy, and an instructor at that time instilled some thought in me that has stuck till this day. As simple as this sounds, it clears up a lot of possible errors while working on electrical systems. Don't confuse electricity with a liquid. Again when your "good ol uncle" says "got any juice there yet?" - you're on your way to a confusing diagnosis. Here's why you shouldn't compare electricity with a liquid. When you cut a water line the water (juice) flows. When you cut an electrical wire, electricity (juice) stops flowing. So quit comparing electricity with a liquid.

Now back to diagnosing electrical failures. Again I'm talking about older cars, back when alternators were the newest things, and computers that had the capacity of the watch on your wrist were about the size of a small garage. For tools, the most basic need is the common Test Light. The ice pick type that has a 12-volt light in the handle with a length of wire with an alligator clip on the end. The first test you will <u>always</u> want to do is test the Test Light by touching the ice pick end to one battery terminal and the alligator clip to the other battery terminal. If the bulb is good and the battery's up, it should light. Take note at this time of how bright the light is, as this is an indicator of how good of an electrical supply you have (or ground connection) at the unit your testing.

I almost always start at the part that's not working. Let's use a non-working taillight as an example. With the lens cover off and the bulb removed, clip on or hold the alligator clip to the metal housing that holds the bulb. Then carefully touch the probe end of the test light to the center contact button (there will be two buttons if it's a combination turn signal/tail light bulb). I say carefully, because if you touch the button and the metal housing, you will probably blow a fuse. If the Test Light lights, then you probably only need a new bulb. If it doesn't light or only lights dimly the whole light assembly may just be poorly grounded to the body or chassis. To test this just move the alligator clip to a known good ground like a bumper or non-painted body part. If the test light shines bright doing this, then spray or squirt some form of oil on the tail light assembly mounting screws and alternately loosen and tighten the screws till a fresh new ground connection is obtained.

If you get no light from the test light no matter what you try, then you can assume that circuit is dead. (It doesn't hurt to check your test light again, especially if you've dropped it!). If the other taillight is working you can assume that the light switch and fuse are okay. Rarely do they fuse each taillight separately.

If the other taillight \underline{is} working, you will have to follow the wiring from the non-working light till you find the bad junction or connector or maybe a broken wire. Always remember though, that the ground connection is every bit as important as the hot wire connection. It's not uncommon to find poor ground connections at every joint, rivet, or crimp of every part of a light assembly.

If neither tail lights have 12-volts (the test light doesn't light) but the parking lights in front are working, then the light switch and fuse should be assumed to be okay. You will then have to test every connection from the taillights forward. Also look for a cut wire along the way. If you are testing the wire using the ice pick to puncture the insulation, always reseal that puncture with a small dab of silicone glue.

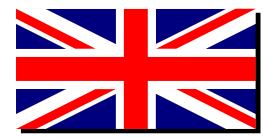
Most other electrical units can be checked using these same procedures. Occasionally a manufacturer will use a relay to carry the main electrical load, thus saving unnecessary wear and tear on a switch. These relays are most often only used on head light or horn electrical circuits. The most difficult "not working situation" system to diagnosis is the windshield wiper wiring. They often incorporate a reverse grounding circuit that's further complicated by having a self-parking feature. There are two systems that frequently have reduced voltage on purpose. They are the fuel and temp gauge systems and the ignition feed to the coil.

One last system that's different is the turn signals. The early systems are fairly simple (with the exception of some British cars that use an eight terminal relay) and the main faults are related to just bad connections or wrong wattage bulbs. The cheaper turn signal flasher units are very sensitive to load, and if you have the wrong wattage bulbs, you can have either a rapid or no blinking situation. On later cars that have hazard warning systems, the system gets more complicated as this circuit overrides the complete turn signal system and blinks all 4 turn lights at once. This system generally uses a separate flasher unit too.

How's that for a simple tech subject? Guess I just violated my "few words" solution!

The History of the English Flag

(Sources: Moss Motors, Ltd. and Healey Happenings)



If you will look at the Union Flag (or Jack) closely, you will see that it is actually made up of three different flags! One for England, one for Scotland, and one for Ireland. The English flag of St. George is a red upright cross on a white background, and was used as long ago as the 13th century in the Crusades.

The flag of St. Andrew of Scotland is a white diagonal (or to use the terminology of the flag heraldry – "saltire"!) across on a blue background, and was added to the St. George's flag on the unification of England and Scotland in 1603.

The flag of St. Patrick of Ireland, which is a red diagonal cross on a white background, was added on the Act of Union in 1801 – the three flags forming the Union Jack we know today.

The flag is always flown with the broader white diagonal at the top, nearest the top of the flagpole. If it is ever flown upside down, with the broad white stripe at the base, it is usually taken as a sign of distress! Usually this only happened on the high seas, but was also widely used in this manner when the English forces were under siege, as in the Boer War, or during the fighting in India during the late 18th century.

The History of the Australian Flag

(Sources: World Book Encyclopedia & Internet)



The Australian flag was determined after a design competition in 1900. The King of England proclaimed the design official in 1903. The British Union Jack is in the upper left hand corner. The large seven point star under it represents the six states of Australia – Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, Western Australia, and Tasmania – plus the territories (of which there are several). The capital city is Canberra.

The five smaller stars on the right side of the flag represent the stars of the Southern Cross constellation, which can be seen from all states and territories of Australia.

Australia is known for many wonderful things, but most especially the grooming and racing of Austin Healey Sportscars!

Registration at RoadAmerica - Elkhart Lake

It is suggested that Club members attending the **Road America Healey Races** on May 13-15 (especially those arriving on the 13th) should **not** enter and pay through the main gate. Instead, go to SVRA trackside registration and asked to be placed on the Main Overcrew List. This allows you special extra perks throughout the weekend, including coming and going after hours and admission into the Saturday night SVRA banquet. The all Healey reception is on Friday evening in the Healey Paddock. SVRA trackside registration is located in the building just west of the Road America silo near the old farm house, and I am told will close at 5 p.m. sharp on Friday. \$35 is the Overcrew rate, which is for the entire weekend. This is just \$5 more than the gate fee but with the extra perks. Jeff Johnk

Events Schedule

Pie with the President - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. at The Fort Snelling Officers Club Mav 4 * located on Hwy. 5 at Post Road - just across the road from the entrance to the Mpls./St. Paul Int'l. Airport. There is always an enjoyable group of members to discuss a variety of topics. Australian Welcoming Party - (Sat.) Meet at 3:00 p.m. at Century Refining 21630 May 7 * Hanover Ave. Lakeville, MN Ph: 952-985-9995. Mike Lynch will do the catering. There will be AUHC regalia available, and it will be a great time to see the racecars up close too! See Page 3. May 13-15 RoadAmerica at Elkhart Lake - Australia /US Healey Challenge - (Fri-Sun) The closest location of all the sites to watch the exciting Challenge Races. Visit the website at www.auhc.net . Let's get a nice crowd to cheer at the races! See page 3. **May 22** Intermarque Banquet & Car Show – (Sun.)The Intermarque Council will again sponsor the Spring banquet. It will take place at the Radisson Conference Center in Golden Valley. See May 28-29 Donneybrooke Vintage Revival - (Sat - Sun) - The VSCR will again have their racing and touring weekend at BIR in Brainard. For info call Rich & Liz Stadther at 651-698-1981. **May 31** Morgans Over America (MOA) - (Tues) There will be a group of Morgans touring the country that will stop in Stillwater for lunch. Anyone wanting to see a good group of Morgans and to welcome the hearty souls driving them should be there. Call Dale Martin for details at 651-436-5902. June 1 ** Pie with the President - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice June 12 Car Show - (Sun) - The Classic Car Club of America (CCA) will have a large car show at Rice Park in downtown St. Paul from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to display your car (1972 & older), call Ray Kroll at 763-391-6656 or email to rckroll@comcast.net . **Rendezvous 2005** - This will be the 15th year for the annual Lake Superior Vintage Sports June 16 - 19** Car Rendezvous. The MAHC is hosting the event in Grand Rapids, MN. See the December newsletter for a registration form. Get your hotel reservations in early! June 26 - 30 AHCA Conclave 2005 - "Carolina Conclave" The event will be in Winston - Salem NC this year, and it should be a good one. The Aussie Race Cars will be there too. Reserve early. For more information, call Greg Lauser at 715-262-9813 or email to glauser@pressenter.com.

** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

New Members !!

Paul and Dawn Sjolund of Exclesior have recently joined the MAHC. They have an A-H 3000 BJ7 MkII. Hope to see them and their car out in the sun soon! On the other side of town, **Ron Corazzo** of Shoreview is working on his A-H BN4 100-6 to get it out on the street again. I believe Ron's car has been in "storage" for some time, so we hope he will have it going in the near future.

Rendezvous 2005

Make your plans now and get your registrations and reservations in for this beautiful June event! The Sugar Lake Lodge, the Sawmill Inn, and the Country Inn Suites have all been holding rooms for us. Some may be sold out already. Most important is to get your registrations in now, so the event organizers can plan for your coming. See the December Healey Enthusiast for a registration form or go on line to www.mnhealey.com and download one. Don't miss out!

Events Schedule

	Events Schedule
July 6 **	Pie with the President - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
July 9**	Healey Hillclimb IV – (Sat.) Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Afton Alps Ski Resort. Once again Tom Hazen will arrange this popular event. More details later.
July 15 – 17	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 Lumbard.
July 30**	Tour & Picnic – (Sat.) The MAHC will arrange this event. Details later.
Aug 3 **	Pie with the President - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
Aug 13	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. Sponsored by the MN MG Club.
Aug 14 **	Healey Morgan Picnic – (Sun) Annual event. Details later.
Aug 20 **	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 Steve Rixen at 715-386-2880 or email to steve@rixen.com
Aug. 25 - 27	Rally in the Valley 2005 - at Paradise Shores – (Thurs – Sat)) This is an annual event arranged by Steve & Diane Rindt in Holcombe, WI. Festivities include a Rally, Poolside Party, Boat Cruise, Car Show, Funkhana, and Texas Style Banquet Party with Awards! Ph: 715-832-8316 or email to: drindt5953@hot mail.com .
Sept. 7 **	Pie with the President – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
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^{** -} Denotes an official MAHC club activity

Minnesota Austin Healey Club Gary Ronning, Editor 3624 - 46th Ave. So. Minneapolis, MN 55406

First Class Postage





MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: Original 1958 Bugeye Sprite "Soft" Side Curtains. Original vinyl bag included. Very good condition. Have been in storage many years. \$100. Call Rich Stadther at 651-698-1981(3/05)

FOR SALE: NEW PARTS – 100-4 Badge Bar-\$60., two 2" SU Carbs \$125. each, 100-4 Blue Tonneau-\$75., 100-4 Hardened Lifter Set, 100-4 Radiator, 100-4 Front Springs. Call Dick Mathews at 763-587-0285 (3/05)

FOR SALE: Lots of odd pieces of British car literature, old magazines, sales brochures, etc. – mostly Jensen and Jensen Healey. Call Bob Elliott at 651-983-0026 or email to relliot1@amfam.com (3/05)

WANTED: For a Bugeye restoration – Decent, presentable Grill, pair of Rear Bumperettes, running or rebuildable 1275 cc Motor. Also need any books, magazines, & brochures on Sprites. Thanks! Call Bob Elliott at 651-983-0026 (3/05)

FOR SALE: 1974 TR6 with a Turbo Blower, new Top, moderate rust, runs like a champion – everything works.

\$5000. Also a 1975 MGB Black, beautiful, great road car. Entire drive train rebuilt professionally in last year. Needs to be seen to appreciate. \$10,000. Call Larry Nimmerfroh at 952-294-4314 (3/05)

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