



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XVII No. 11

November 2006



November Events

Wednesday November 1 – PIE Meeting
Saturday November 4 – Int. Book & Art Fair
Saturday November 18 – Annual Banquet

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Presidential Mike**By Mike Martin**

How about this last year! Great planning, and then a great year of Healey activities. Take a look at the list of volunteers in the adjacent column. You'll find 23 names, all of which made a contribution to the overall success of this last year. If I named anyone as the main player that makes it all click, I'd have to name you all. I do have to thank Gary Ronning for putting my thoughts into some semblance of order. He turned gibberish into good thoughts. Thanks also to Curt Carlson for the publishing effort and always being ready to sign up new members.

We set out to balance the budget in the beginning of 2006. Give or take a few bucks, we made it. We have more funds in the treasury now than we had in February. No special assessments in the future, and our 2009 Rendezvous is assured.

We've got the business party (meeting) coming soon, so sign up and have a great time!

**Thanks to you all for your support.
It's been a nice ride!**

COVER:

The very beautiful cover was borrowed from the AUSTIN HEALEY MAGAZINE of a few years ago. The picture was done by John Loftus, and there is an interesting story behind it. (Come to Pie with the President this Wednesday to hear the story).

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 November 1st

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.

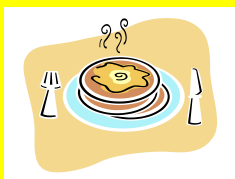


Would be nice to see one of these....

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.



Annual Club Meeting and Banquet

Date: Saturday November 18th

Time: 6:00 pm - Dinner at 7:00 pm

Place: Fort Snelling Officer's Club

Cost: \$20.00 per person

RSVP: By November 10th

(to Mike at ahbn1@aol.com or call 952-898-1634)

The old Pizza Party has been fancied up this year! There will be a very nice Dinner Buffet (with Prime Rib and Pork Loin) at the Officer's Club in the lower level meeting room with a cash bar available. After dinner, the Annual Business Meeting will be held. It will be an enjoyable evening !

If you would like to bring along an item for auctioning, please do. Last year there were quite a number of nice collectables that were sold, with the money going into the Treasury. It was also entertaining!

InterMarque Book and Art Fair

Date: Saturday November 4th

Time: 8:00 – 12:00 Noon

Place: The Square Peg

There will be New & Used Books, Magazines, Posters, and Original Art for sale. Kevin Clemens will have his new book "A Lap of the Globe" on sale at a reduced price. Local artist Michael Jekot will have his fine art for sale too. This sale is presented by the Demontreville Press and will be a great place to shop for the Holidays!! See you there

Jag-Healey Fall Color Tour

Editor

Driving enthusiasts gathered near Stillwater on this Saturday morning. George and Pam Arthur had organized the Tour and had directions printed out for the drivers and their co-pilots. There were about 18 cars attending (however the Fowlers in their Jensen Healey had to leave early). Healey members driving Healeys for the Tour were Byron & Susan Peterson, Jim Kriz & guest, and Gary & Barb Ronning. Five additional members/navigators drove "other British"!

We went across the St. Croix River to Wisconsin and headed south. The Fall colors were just a bit past their prime, however the roads and the scenery were just great. We traveled along without incident until arriving in Red Wing. After finding the historic St. James Hotel, we assembled in the very lovely Victorian Room. The lunches were predetermined by RSVP and were delicious. Afterwards George announced that there would be a prize for the driver that had come the longest distance to the meeting place. Well, the newly relocated Ronnings from Buffalo took the honors. A very nice deluxe aerosol bottle of Jaguar Cologne now resides in a Buffalo Bathroom! Thanks to the Arthurs for organizing this event !



What are these Road Gangs(ters) up to?



(See Page 9)

The VP Report

By Mike Manser

Joke Matchgame. Presented at the top is the punchline...it is up to you to match the question at the bottom in order to "get" the joke. 1) A Towtruck. 2) A friend of mine went to the Yugo dealership the other day and said, "I'd like a gas cap for my Yugo." The dealer replied, "...," 3) Passengers. 4) When you sense an impending accident, start pumping real fast.

Hello everyone. Well, yet another month has screamed past me without my taking much notice and my not feeling like I was able to take advantage of it. Is the quick passage of time related to my getting older. I was able to get outside and enjoy the weather a couple times while the leaves were changing. One of those events was the Healey Roadside Beautification Project. As a refresher this is the event where many members take an incredibly scenic drive (leaves changing makes it a perfect driving experience) and then graciously park their Healeys by the side of the St. Croix river for about an hour to basically brighten up the place and make the roadside more beautiful than it is already. Well, a few altruistic people decided to beautify the roadway even more by picking up litter across a 2 mile stretch of roadway. I must say there was very little trash so time away from the cars was around an hour, and there was a great deal of conversation...and not just car talk. The event was topped off with spectacular hamburgers that would stop a heart. Participating members included Mike Martin, Dave Lee, Steve Rixen, Curt Carlson, Don Heath, Rod Richert, Tom Moerke, Carl Stine, Chuck Norton, Greg Lauser, and Stacey Stevens.

I also spent some time in my garage figuring out how to park the race car and the Healey. While this is not such a big deal, it was nice to have the doors wide open with fresh air rolling through the place. My other event was the monthly Pie with the President. Attendees included Wayne Soderbeck, Tom Moerke, Rich Stadther, Jay Fowler, Herb Miller, Gary and Barb Ronning, Dan Wolters, Tom Wolters, Mike Martin, Dick Mathews, Jack Stein, Steve Rixen, John Snyder, and Jim Kriz (a.k.a. Speed). There was plenty of great conversation...most of it again not entirely related to cars or Healeys in particular. It reminds me once again that our car club is a social club whose common element amongst the members is the admiration of Healeys. I am proud to be affiliated with a group that has such broad interests.

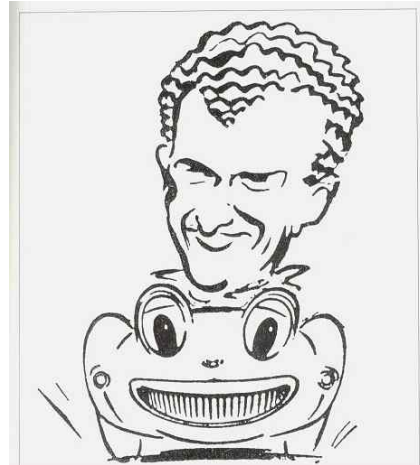
I did get a chance to ponder the future of my race car. No, I won't be selling it. Ya see, every year beginning in early spring there is generally one event or activity per month to which I bring the Datsun. It all starts with the SCCA inspection in late March/early April, SCCA races, the Hill Climb, the Kohler International Challenge, Fall Festival, etc. All these events are fantastic but it sort of leaves me wanting...wanting some more events at the end of summer/early winter. But not necessarily to race. Ya see, truth be told, I really like to race but I really like the interaction with other people and really like visiting the different venues equally as much and the abrupt end of racing season breaks that cyclical interaction. I guess it just makes me wish for winter to be over that much sooner. Good thing I am getting older, and time seems to be passing by faster.

Finally, special thanks goes out to Dick Kantrud for donating a racing helmet to be used for Healey Club events. A) How do you make a Yugo go faster? B) What do you call the shock absorbers inside a Yugo? C) Did you hear the Yugo has an airbag. D) Okay, sounds like a fair trade.



Goodwood Revival Meeting

John Sprinzel



We all remember the first time don't we? I took part, and won my first motor race at Goodwood in 1957, half way through this incredible circuit's 18 years of International Motor Sport, so it will always have a special place for me. A return visit this year, to the Goodwood Revival Meeting has certainly further embedded the place into my memory.

International Motor Racing ceased here in 1966, partly because the Duke of Richmond and Gordon's son seemed to have little interest in the sport, and mostly, I imagine, because the trend in modern race circuits was for the safety of ARMCO barriers, thick and ugly tire walls, high chain link fencing and spectator seating rather far from the action. Eight years ago the Duke's grandson, Lord March, as much an enthusiast as his grandfather had been, restored every aspect of the track to what it was in those glorious days of the fifties and sixties. While my scant knowledge in the ways of the nobility are rather restricted to knowing Sir Stirling Moss, Sir John Whitmore and Sir Jacky Stewart – all of whom attended this year's Revival – I do know that the Earl of March has done enthusiasts an incredible service with a Goodwood circuit that is frozen in time.

To attend the Revival, your automobile needs to be of the era, and post 1966 vehicles are not permitted to enter the circuit. Transport from the external trailer and motor-home enclosure is via World War Two Jeeps, and correctly uniformed owner-driver enthusiasts cheerfully ferry us back and forth to the entrance of the Paddocks. Even the Police, Ambulance, Fire and Nursing trucks are all of genuine fifties and sixties origin, and the clothes and uniforms also have to be of the era. This gives the well over 100,000 visitors a great opportunity to really dress up, and particularly the ladies who just love this sort of thing, gives us a very glamorous insight of their idea of fifties and sixties fashion. Perhaps the only things that I noticed as different are the drivers' overalls and crash hats, which are in keeping with 2000's safety requirements; the famous chicane at the start of the main straight is now built of Styrofoam, and not the rather intimidating concrete that I remember of old. Finally, the rest rooms are sensationally clean, heated, well stocked, and supplied with ample hot water, and this lasted throughout the four days of the event.

Goodwood is not just about motor racing. The 12,000 acre estate has had the "Glorious Goodwood" horse racing track since 1801! There is a very busy full-service airfield, which was a wartime RAF aerodrome hosting several squadrons of Spitfires, some of which entertained the crowds at the Revival with repeated fly pasts – at excitingly low levels – and mock dog-fights with aged Mustangs – although all the pilots I met looked far too young to even remember propellers! I flew RAF planes just a few miles from here at South Cerney, so you can imagine the lump in my throat as the roar of Merlin engines filled the air! Goodwood has 2,800 acres of mixed farming in the largest lowland organic farm in the United Kingdom, with the biggest organically fed dairy herd in the country. To top it all, there is a superb 18-hole golf course next to the 94 roomed Marriott Goodwood Park Hotel.

The home of the Dukes of Richmond for over 300 years, Goodwood House contains one of the finest collections of English paintings and French porcelain and furniture in the country. Drivers and Entrants were privileged to wander around these priceless exhibits during the annual Veuve Cliquot cocktail party. There was so much to take in, Canaletto, Stubbs, Van Dyck and Reynolds as well as a collection of Sevres porcelain from the 18th century accompanied by a never ending flow of champagne!

The motor racing was fun too!

Publishers note: Fantastic Goodwood photos can be viewed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tags/goodwood2006/>. It is WELL worth the trip! (Thanks John!)

TECH TIP:

by Doctor Ernie

Flat Rate

One of the most feared things of any business transaction is "The Bottom Line". In fact, many times this "Bottom Line" number is the deciding factors above all other considerations.

As far as car repairs go, a supposed protection of all persons concerned is the use of a flat rate book figure. These figures translated through an hourly rate number give you a so-called fixed cost. These rates are based on a set of parameters that are described at the front of the flat rate book. These parameters generally cover an ideal situation of an average car, in an average condition, of an average age, done by a skilled and trained mechanic, with an average set of tools, with a full set of manuals, that has performed these particular repairs many times before, etc, etc.

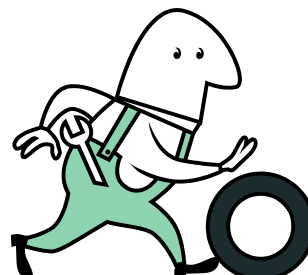
As you can imagine these parameters have disappeared on most of our collector cars that are 30, 40, or even 50 years of age. Another error is the lumping together of similar cars and models. A case in point is the lumping together of all Triumph TR2 through TR6 clutch jobs as being the same. In fact, the TR6 job may take twice as long because of a more complicated design.

It's not to hard to understand that a Chevy line mechanic that puts on Chevy water pumps all day long might get pretty good at it. He will know exactly what tools he will need with just one trip to the tool box and will of course have that special tool to meet "The Flat Rate".

If you were building a new home, you'd get estimates from contractors based on an exact blue print of materials and design. But katy-bar the door if midstream you make changes. Then the price negotiating starts all over.

The same holds true if anything out of the norm happens during an automotive repair. In fact, in forcing a mechanic to meet flat rate on an old car, you're just inviting a questionable outcome. By taking the time to do the job at an efficient rate, using penetrating oil, heat, and sometimes two mechanics, the end result can be being much more satisfactory. Also it will allow time to do additional repairs at the correct times, rather than pay for almost another full labor to come back to that extra thing a week later.

It's just natural to want to know what the bottom line will be. But some flexibility should be allowed, especially on older vehicles; and my suggestion would be to not even open a "Flat Rate Book". Three things should be present for a happy outcome: trust in your mechanic, respect and honesty to the customer, and reasonable communication before, during, and after the repair.



**Annual Meeting
Minnesota Austin Healey Club
Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006**

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. President's Report
3. National Delegate's Report
4. Membership Director's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Board of Directors' Report
7. Bylaws Issues
8. Officers' Elections
 - a. Board of Directors – Candidates:
 - b. Officers – Candidates: President - Mike Manser
Vice President –
Treasurer - Jim Klein
Membership Director - Curt Carlson
National Delegate - Greg Lauser
Editor -
9. Old / New Business
10. Auction
11. Adjourn

Reminder Note !

Editor

At the November Annual Meeting, it will be time to select new Board Members, Club Officers and Staff. Two special positions for you to consider are a new Vice President (to be President the following year) and a new Newsletter Editor. After being the Editor for five years, I believe there should be a new person to take the position and insert new ideas. Also, any other staff members that want to be replaced should make their intentions known to President Mike Martin and VP Mike Manser.

Events Schedule 2006

- Nov. 1 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- 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. See page 3.
- 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

Events 2007

- June 14 – 17** **Rendezvous 2007** - (Thurs. – Sun.) The Jaguar Club of Minnesota will be arranging the event for next year at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids, MN. Make room reservations and registration early !
- June 24 – 29** **International Conclave** – (Sun – Fri) The Austin Healey Club of America (AHCA) Conclave will be in Burlington, VT in 2007. This is a beautiful and historic part of our country, which should contribute to an exciting gathering of Austin Healey people and cars. Make plans now. It should be a great event!

ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROJECT

by Curt Carlson

What could be more fun and enjoyable than a walk in the wilderness with a group of friends on a [clear fall day](#)? Maybe if we coupled that walk with a Healey Drive? How about if some great burgers and cold beer afterwards are tossed in? Still not interested? Okay, but I know that you'll bite on the deal when I throw in some colourful and fashionable apparel to wear while we're out, and an educational and enlightening demonstration of the longevity and tear resistance of various products from the plastics industry. What's more, all this fun is coupled with a chance to do something good for your mother, the Earth.

This year's fall highway cleanup was actually fun. I think that the littering public has a soft spot in their hearts for Healeys. I could swear that they have been holding their fast food bags and beer bottles a little longer to throw them in the next sections to the north and south, (adopted by the "LOSERS - Litterpickers Of South Eastern Ramsey Shire" and "POOP - People Of Our Past") which to me had all the cleanliness of the sidewalks and gutters of downtown Detroit. Our last outings to beautify the Earth in previous years and months have been enlivened by a friendly competition to see who could retrieve the most unusual find. Of course there were the token shoes and bottles, but in years past, used condoms and normally publicly unseen articles of clothing seemed to top the list of discoveries. Naturally, the money and card-filled wallet from last year tops the list so far. However, this year I can report that there were NO items of interest or of an unusual nature. None that I saw or heard about anyway. So, the walk was worth it, the workload was weightless, the weather was wonderful, the companionship was respectable, the conversations chipper, the drive was delightful, and the food was fantastic. What more could one want on a [clear fall day](#)?

Pictured on page 4 from left to right are: Rod Richert, Tom Moerke, Carl Stine, Greg Lauser, Don Heath, Mike Manser, Dave Lee, Mike Martin, Steve Rixen and Chuck Norton. Not pictured: Stacey Manser and Curt Carlson.

Minnesota Austin Healey Club
Gary Ronning, Editor
1019 Ridge Haven Circle
Buffalo, MN 55313



Wheels of Italy – 9/10/06 - Could this be the next Healey Club member's car?

MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE - Healey "flipper". This device bolts to the suspension points on a big Healey and allows the bare chassis to be turned over for tinworm eradication and rust repair. It is about 14 feet long and 3 feet tall. Call Tom Wolters at 651-388-7377. (8/06)

FOR SALE - 1961 Bugeye Sprite Completely restored - no nut left unturned or refurbished. British Racing Green with Black Convertible top. Over \$20k invested. Will accept reasonable offers. Also have a Morris 948 engine, Horizontal flow Radiator & other Stuff. Open for offers: Call John Morrison at 763-757-2424 (9/06)

~~**FOR SALE** - Four 60 spoke Austin Healey Wire Wheels - excellent condition. \$200.00 Call Dick Mathews at 763-587-0285 (9/06)~~

SOLD!!!!

FOR SALE - New pair of Front Bumper Brackets for A-H 3000 - \$50.00 Call Gary Ronning at 763-684-4041 or email: gtronning@aol.com (8/06)

FOR SALE - Set of new BJ8 rear leaf springs, BN7 distributor parts, new 3000 heat shield kit, set of rocker panels, trunk floor panel, brake master cylinder for BT7, parking brake cable for BT7, seven - 72 spoke painted wire wheels. Call Rossi at 612 822 7069 or email: casadirossi@hotmail.com (10/06)

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.