



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XXV No. XI

November 2014



The Waumandee Hillclimb!

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Sat. Nov. 1	Charity Event - cancelled
Wed. Nov. 5	PIE Meeting
Sat. Nov. 15	Annual Banquet/Business Mtg.

MAHC STAFF

President	GREG WILLODSON 763-390-4133 greg.willodson@gmail.com
Vice President	CURT CARLSON 612-251-7492 mnhealey@gmail.com
Treasurer	JIM MANION jmanionep@aol.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@aol.com
Video Librarian	JEFF JOHNS 952-461-2720 jeffj@centuryrefining.com
WebMaster	JOHN SNYDER 952-929-4792 jvs@consistentc.com
Email Broadcaster	DAVE LEE 715-837-1751 dlee@usfamily.net
Name Tags	TOM HAZEN myliberty@comcast.net
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@aol.com
Technical Resources Sprite	CHUCK NORTON 651-483-0836
100	CURT CARLSON 612-251-7492
3000 & Modified	JEFF JOHNS 952-461-2720
Jensen Healey	TOM POLITISKI 218-367-2168
Board of Directors	CURT CARLSON GREG LAUSER JEFF LUMBARD, Chmn. DAN POWELL STEVE RIXEN
Minnesota Web Site	www.mnhealey.com
National Web Site	www.healeyclub.org

PIE

(President's Informal Evening)

Date: Wednesday November 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.

**People submitting photos
For the November issue:**

Curt Carlson
Tom Hazen
Barb Ronning
Geoff Rossi
Liz Stadther
Greg Willodson

Thank you !

THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST

The official publication of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club, a Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation. THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST, is published 12 times per year for the benefit of its members. Articles which appear in THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST are the opinions of the authors and do not express the position of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club on any matter unless specifically noted. We do our best to ensure accuracy but cannot be held responsible for errors and omissions. Contributions are welcome on any subject related to Healeys, club members, or of general interest to the classic car hobby. Material from THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST may be reprinted in any other publication provided reciprocal article use permission is granted by that publication. Deadline for submissions to the editor is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. Classified ads are free for MAHC members, \$5.00 for non-members. For display rates contact newsletter advertising. The Minnesota Austin Healey Club Inc. is operating as a Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation and is affiliated with the Austin Healey Club of America, Inc.

The Presidential Corner

By Greg Willodson

When Suzanne's mother Barbara sent her beloved Healey home with us 3 years ago, we had no idea how much our lives were about to change. As I drove the car home, I remember feeling uneasy about taking her up to 60 mph. It's a 51 years old car! Would it really make the 20 miles home - in the dark? Gee, I wish the car didn't jump up and down like that when I let the clutch out. I thought only first gear didn't have synchro. I wish this car could drive like it did when it was new. Where's all that hot air coming from???

It would sure be nice if there were a few Healey's in the area. Somebody we could talk to. There are maybe 5 or 6 around these parts; but nobody actually drives them anymore, do they? Maybe see them in a parade or something....Sunday brunch perhaps?

Three action-packed seasons later, all those misconceptions are gone. We have more than 100 great new friends, lots of miles and memories, and enough "Fastest Time of Day" awards to wallpaper the.... never mind.

It's been an honor for Suzanne and me to serve as officers of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club over these last three years. We're looking forward to new responsibilities and adventures with an amazing group of people!



The Presidents Informal Evening

By Curt Carlson

I can't believe that we're approaching the end of another driving season! Time flies when you're burning gasoline, I guess. Although I have not had my 100 out as much as I'd like to this summer, I've at least had a little bit of fun with it. My plan is to get in a few more runs around the neighborhood before the snow flies.

Greg W., Dave R., and I went on an impromptu run over to Steve and Kim Rixen's house to see what they were up to, while the ladies held Healey Knit 2 last weekend at my house. Dave Herreid was there already. It was a *perfect* day for a fall drive. Temps in the high 60's with a warm October sun. I let Greg drive my beast while I drove his. I'll say that I got the better part of that deal. His drives like you're sliding into silk sheets, and mine drives like my fraternity's long neglected 1928 Ford fire truck.

That 5-speed he has installed really makes all the difference! What really gets me is that putting in 1970's technology makes it a **new** car! Just 10 years or so after the last Healey rolled off the line, the Japanese had figured out how to build a silky-smooth fully synchronized transmission. If you're not a purist, what are you waiting for? Greg, that shift lever is about 8" too long though. Cut that thing down man, and re-tap it for an 8-ball shift knob.

October's PIE went much like the others with recaps of past events and promotion of upcoming events. Steve and Sue Greenway thanked 33 attendees for attending the first of what I hope is *many* picnics at their new place in Wisconsin. Tom Hazen thanked us for the help moving he and Jane in to a new location and especially for the help in making the Waumandee Hill Climb a success. Jeff Johnk talked about the races at Elkhart Lake, while Jeff Lumbard couldn't pass up the chance to tell everyone how he passed Dan Powell twice on the track that weekend.

Please take a moment to mark your calendars for our upcoming Annual Banquet & Business Meeting on Saturday November 15th at the Officers' Club.

Next there will be the Annual Planning Breakfast on Saturday December 6th at a new venue - The Machine Shed Restaurant 8515 Hudson Blvd. No. in Lake Elmo. Arrive at 8:30 (or earlier), and we'll start planning 2015 around 9:00 am. Bring an appetite and ideas !

PIE attendees: Greg & Suzanne Willodson, Greg & Nancy Lauser, Carl & Betty Stine, Gary & Eileen Wetzell, Tom & June Moerke, Rich Stadther, Lisa Culver, Gary & Barb Ronning, Jim Manion, Geoff and Diane Rossi, Tom Hazen, Dave Herreid, Andy Lindberg, Curt Carlson, Mike Martin, Jeff Lumbard, Steve Greenway, Steve Rixen, Clarence & Kate Westburg, Spencer Angel, Jeff Johnk, Jim Kriz, Scott McQueen & Dave Hatzung.

Dave Rademacher,
Dave Herreid,
Greg Willodson,
Steve Rixen
Curt Carlson – taking picture

(not at the Knitting Bee !)



Healey Knit 2 & Guys in the Garage with Healeys

By Suzanne Willodson

Teresa Boyer hosted a second Healey knitting event on October 12. Curt Carlson wisely added on an invitation for the guys to join him for refreshments and Healey talk.

Teresa is an accomplished (and even published) knitter and offered to teach knitting to any of us who wanted to learn. Most of the seven who attended walked in the door with excellent skills, but there were a couple of us who needed a refresher course from Teresa to get started.

Outside in the garage were Curt Carlson, Dave Rademacher and Greg Willodson. After checking out Curt's latest work on his Healey, the three decided they should head over to the Rixen's place just a mile or so down the road. Steve was there working on a garage project with Dave Herreid. It is unknown whether the five of them made any type of progress on Steve's project. They did, however, test drive each other's cars on the way back to the Carlson-Boyer residence.

The ladies reported varying degrees of progress, and all agreed that it was a pretty great way to spend a Fall afternoon. Thank you Teresa and Curt!

Hosted by Teresa Boyer and Curt Carlson and attended by Linda Larson, Cheryl & Dave Rademacher, Barb Martin, Kim Rixen, Sue Greenway, Suzanne & Greg Willodson.

(Unbeknownst to them, Steve Rixen and Dave Herreid also participated in the day's events.)



Teresa Boyer, Barb Martin, Cheryl Rademacher, Kim Rixen and Sue Greenway.

Waumandee Hillclimb 2014

Rossi Reporting

On Friday September 26, drivers and volunteers descended on an area of Wisconsin near the small hamlet of Waumandee in anticipation of the third running of the Waumandee Hillclimb that is sponsored and conducted under the auspices of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club.

The main event and centerpiece of the weekend is Saturday's action on the two-plus mile Blank Hill Road, but there are other activities that pull this into three days of car fun. Most people began arriving during the day on Friday. Some checked into their lodgings. Others proceeded to the hill to help with set-up and sweeping. A few walked the streets of the river town of Alma visiting shops. In late afternoon cars began lining up for a drive from Alma to "the hill" and an introductory cruise up the winding four hundred foot elevation. Once on the ridge above, the caravan was lead on a seven-mile route to Suncrest Garden Farm for wood fired-oven pizza, a keg of New Glarus Spotted Cow beer, live music, and chatter about the upcoming day.

As the light of dawn spread over the countryside on Saturday morning, folks began heading to the paddock area at the top of the hill that also served as a bivouac area for some in RVs and in tents. Cars were given techs and trunks were emptied of excess equipment. Some vehicles had arrived in trailers - they were rolled out and prepared. At 0845 the mandatory meeting for drivers was assembled. Event master Tom Hazen ran through the rules of the day and details of the run. Safety (and fun) was stressed throughout the meeting. Once the formalities were covered, it was time to rev the engines and kick things into gear.

This year's running consisted of 34 drivers in 31 cars, all vintage pre-1984. The oldest was a 1937 Morgan Trike (3-wheeler). The newest was a 1984 Monte Carlo. The Monte did far better on time, but the driver of the Morgan appeared to have a much broader smile! Six racecars also challenged the hill. 80% of the registered cars were European in origin (most from the 1960s and 70s) and created a nice mix for the corner workers to watch. There was a vast range of drivers - from the very skilled to the not-so-much first timers getting a feel of what hill climbing can be. Everyone starts some place. The very skilled finished with a 2:36 fastest-time-of-day in a 1976 Triumph Spitfire, and the least skilled at 4:43 from a 1963 Triumph TR4. What's with Triumph, from quickest to slowest? Guaranteed both drivers had fun, however!

Those 34 drivers completed 179 starts on the 2.3-mile stretch that consisted of a Start, 10 corners, and a finish. There was also an Entry where cars were released at one-minute intervals to drive a seven-mile back roads route to the Start. Cars were always in motion. With this arrangement there was very little waiting time at the Start. During the day there were a few cone hits, but no serious incidents. The worst - a Healey demolished two hay bales in the chicane at Corner 9.

The local Girl Scouts provided a terrific lunch for the hungry. Before the afternoon session started, there was a "fun run" down and up the course in cars that the Scouts picked to ride in. It was a great fundraiser for them as well.

The afternoon drew to a close nearing five o'clock. Three of the cars completed eight runs. For two of those it was their best time of day. For them, it was a fine ending to a fine day. The weather had been the best so far for this event - 81 degrees, sunny and clear, with slight breezes. Those on the top of the hill stationed in the sun were seen applying sunscreen.

Continued....



Waumandee Hillclimb 2014 continued...

After the course was shut down, there was a gathering in the paddock. Before heading the few miles into Waumandee for the Awards Banquet, we found bottles of chilled Prosecca being opened in the vicinity of Dan Powell's trailer! Seems that the Powell's, Laurie and Dan, were celebrating their 33rd anniversary! Coincidentally, the number of Dan's race Healey is 33. The clinking of glasses challenged the muffler sounds of the day. From that we headed to the fried chicken dinner and an evening of celebration and relaxation.

On Sunday, everyone was on their own. Some met for breakfast and gathered for a drive home together. Dick and Kathryn Harry opened their Franklin Car Museum in Alma to everyone. That is a fascinating place with much more than the many Franklin autos to see. All in all, it was a wonderful weekend in the hills of Wisconsin. The people involved loved it, and the cars loved it. They were all doing what they do best, and the 2015 edition won't come soon enough.



Tom, Jane, Suzanne, Rich, & Liz relaxing



Dan & Laurie – Congrats !

Waumandee, Wisconsin - September 27, 2014



Chow time at Waumandee



Kim Rixen and friend



**What's not to like about Hillclimbs?
Tom Politiski in his Morgan Trike**

Nine Round Out 10th Year of Adopt-A-Highway Pickups

By Greg Lauser

Minnesota Austin-Healey Club members who participated in the fall 2014 pickup Oct. 4 completed the club's 10th year of cleanup commitment to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The weather was cool and dry, but overnight sprinkles left moist grass in the ditches for the crew.

Thanks to Curt Carlson, a new wrinkle this fall was 10-year-old Henry's joining him and adding youthful enthusiasm to the team. Other roadside rehabilitators included Steve and Kim Rixen, Greg and Suzanne Willodson, Greg and Nancy Lauser and Dave Herreid.

After detailing the ditches, the group reconvened at the Smokin' Oak in Red Wing to warm up before the restaurant's oak-fired rotisserie and enjoy lunch.



New recruit Henry Boyer was an enthusiastic addition to the MAHC highway pickup north of Lake City. Shown here with Nancy & Greg Lauser.



Healey/Jaguar Cities Tour -- October 12

By Geoff Rossi

There was a general agreement by the thirty or so folks gathered at Highland's Overlook Park on this Sunday morning that we had been blessed with perfect weather for the drive ahead of us. It was what is often called one of those "great October days". And, it was, with 61 degrees by early afternoon. The sunshine showed off the colors of the many changing maples, as we drove under them.

As we waited to speed out onto the route, those who had come with tops up were now seen dropping them and preparing for a top-down day. Many convertibles were in the lineup. This year's group was comprised of the usual Healey models – a bug-eye, a square-body, a 100, and some 3000s. The Jaguar contingency held a few XJSs and XKs and a very nice grey vintage sedan. All totaled, we had 23 cars that were split into two groups to make the trek.

At 10:05 we pulled out onto West River Road to begin our drive. This is the stretch of road that we traditionally seem to get the most waves and thumbs-up, and that was true for today. We encountered a major detour below the West Bank Campus of the U of M. The hillside had collapsed because of spring and summer rains and has not been stabilized. We navigated that with little problem and worked our way to Wirth Golf Course. Then the groups continued along the lake's parkways of Minneapolis to Minnehaha Creek. That brought us back to St Paul and Mississippi Boulevard, where we came up against a second detour - easily negotiated. Our swing through St Paul then took us onto Edgecombe, Lexington, and Summit Avenues.

The Cities Tour ended at Joseph's Grill at 12:40 where the afternoon continued. Food. Drink. Friendship. All good. The 34-mile journey had taken us two hours and thirty-five minutes. Do the math, and you will find it was a leisurely experience. There were some first-timers who had not seen some of these areas. It goes to show that you don't always have to travel a great distance to enjoy good driving and scenery right at your own back door.



Fall Color Tour 2014

Rossi Reporting

Our annual Fall drive into Wisconsin lead by Tom "Amazin" Hazen commenced in the Cub parking lot in Cottage Grove on Saturday, October 18. As we departed toward Prescott to have another car join in, thick heavy clouds blanketed the skies. There was a brisk breeze and the temp was in the high 40s. It truly looked ominous and would be a top-up day on the road.

The tour was planned to consist of 90-plus miles, 2 comfort stops, and a finale at a trendy eating locale. 19 cars trailed Tom - all British with the exception of 2 German and 2 Japanese. The majority, however, were Austin Healeys with 11 - including 3 bugeyes that stayed together throughout the run. Each navigator was supplied a directions sheet and equipped with a two-way radio, allowing Tom to stay in constant communication with all cars and to inject observations, info, and humor into our meandering.

By the time we reached Ellsworth and our first stop at the Freedom filling station, the clouds had melted away yielding a clear blue sky and a temperature soaring into the mid-50s. Tops began coming down, and only a few convertibles kept their lids on for the remainder of the day. We were back on the road after the short break for another 35 miles before making the second layover at Flat Pennies in Bay City. This is becoming a traditional stop on our Fall drives. The proprietor, Jim Ross, is friendly and has an ample stock of good ice cream, hearty cups of coffee or soup. Also, parked alongside the shop is Caboose #27 - a retired Soo Line railcar open to tour and collect area travel info.

Continuing on to the final leg, we sped the 25 miles of dips, turns, hills, snakelike curves, and deep coolies reaching our late lunch destination by 1:30 at Vino in the Valley near Maiden Rock. An area of tables had been set-aside for us to enjoy the camaraderie of sharing a meal together. This eatery serving Italian fare is a wonderful setting. Today it was crowded and teeming with folks out to enjoy what may be one of the last of the finest Fall afternoons.

After the meal and a bit more conversation, cars began departing for home singly and in pairs. This drive had been fun and well worth participating in. The colors had passed their peak by probably a week, but the more rustic browns, reds, dark yellows, and oranges painted the countryside in striking display all along the route. It was truly a grand way to bring an official end to the Club's very robust 2014 driving season. Spring Awakening seems so very far off.

Membership / Renewal Form

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

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

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

E-mail address: _____ Receive Newsletter via email? Yes No

HEALEY INFORMATION:

Year _____ Model _____ Color _____ Original Owner (Y/N) _____

Year _____ Model _____ Color _____ Original Owner (Y/N) _____

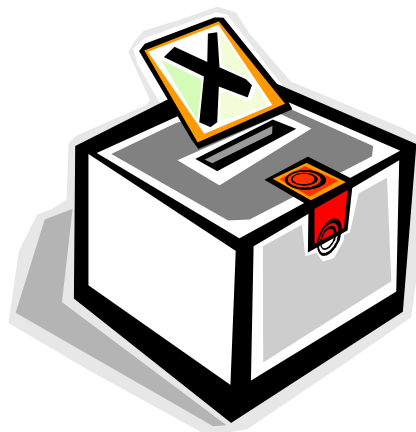
Condition: ☐ Show Quality ☐ Nice & Roadworthy
 ☐ Could be running with help ☐ Restoration Project

Make checks payable to: **MN Austin Healey Club** (or MAHC)

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

Send form and checks to:

Jim Kriz
2000 Kenwood Pkwy.
Minneapolis, MN 55405



MAHC ANNUAL BANQUET BUSINESS PARTY !

Date: Saturday November 15th

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Ft. Snelling Officers Club

Cost: \$20.00 per person (Club is paying the remainder)

Bring: Raffle prize or auction donation (not required)

RSVP to Barb Ronning – email: barbararonning@yahoo.com

or phone 763-684-4041

**Come join this annual gala
to wind up another successful year for
The Minnesota Austin Healey Club !**

Happy Hour – cash bar – will be from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Buffet Dinner will commence at 7:00 pm

Election of Club Officers for 2015 will be held.

Prizes and Regalia will be drawn for throughout the evening.

Silent and Live Auctions will be held.

Don't miss this very enjoyable event !

Events Schedule

- Nov. 1** Charity Event – (cancelled)
Nov. 5 ** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2.
Nov. 15 ** **Annual Banquet / Business Meeting Party** – (Sat) The annual business meeting, election of officers, and dinner banquet will occur on this evening at the Officer's Club.
- Dec. 3**** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 pm. See page 2.
Dec. 6 ** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2015 will be on the agenda for this meeting hosted by Curt Carlson at Joseph's Restaurant in St. Paul. A Board of Directors meeting will follow.
- ** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

This will be my last issue as Editor of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club. For 11 years it has been fun to be in the middle of club activities. I want to personally thank all the club members for their support, their articles, and their pictures. These are necessary for your editors to publish interesting and informative newsletters.

It is time for new talent and ideas to keep this wonderful organization going strongly. Liz Stadther and Suzanne Willodson will be your new co-editors. Please continue to supply them with your support. I know they will do an excellent job.

Healey on ! Gary Ronning



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

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