



The *Healey Enthusiast*

Volume XX No. 10

October 2009



Austin Healey Endurance Car
- at the starting line -

OCTOBER EVENTS

WED. OCT 7	PRESIDENT'S INFORMAL EVENING - PIE
SAT. OCT 10	ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP
SAT. OCT 10	FALL COLOR TOUR

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Minnesota Web Site	www.mnhealey.com
National Web Site	www.healeyclub.org

Presidential Proclamations

By Rod Richert

It's been a busy September for your President. Unable to attend most of the month's club events, I've none the less thought a lot about the waning days of this year's schedule. Soon I'll be passing the Presidency to Katy. She'll be searching for the 2010 Vice President. A new newsletter Editor will fill the shoes of interim Editor Gary, all to be sorted out by the Annual Business Meeting November 15th. Anyone interested in serving in any capacity as a club officer is encouraged to contact me.

See you at PIE Oct. 7th or one of the other October events--I hope to make it to all the Fall functions!

Ten years ago this month, 1999's second Gymkhana School was held at the Stillwater Area High School parking lot.

Twenty years ago this month, our president, Mark Mallander, (having just returned from England) conducted an Annual Planning Meeting to assess the year's events, plan for next year, and look to new officers for 1990.

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 October 7th
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.

Addresses !

Please let us know if you have had any changes in name, address, phone number, or email address recently. Also **spouse email addresses** are welcome, so club activities and info can be better distributed to all members. Thank you !

Breakfast at the Peg

Come to this casual event (most) every Saturday morning about 8:00 a.m. for great food, reasonable prices, & lots of Intermarque car enthusiasts. It's a fun way to start off your weekend !

Bring your appetite !

The location: **The Square Peg Diner**
2021 East Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55414



The Pie Platter

by Curt Carlson

Attendees: Andy Lindberg, Bob Featherly, Curt Carlson, Dan Powell, Ed Raschke, Gary & Barb Ronning, Gary & Eileen Wetzel, Jack Stein, Jeff Gordien, Jeff Johnk, Jeff Lumbard, Jim Kriz, Kelly Schroeffer, Larry Nimmerfrohn, Mike Martin, Rod Richert, Scott McQueen, Spook Johns, Steve Rixen, Stu Johnson, Tom & June Moerke, Tom Hazen, Wayne Soderbeck and Wendi Sott

Jerry Griffin is selling a 1967 MKIII 3000. Rod noted how to get a hold of him.

The Treasurer's report was noted. Not much change in August. Tom Hazen reported that he is still working on the financials from this year's 2nd Amery Speed Run.

There is an upcoming Art Exhibit featuring Alexandra Easter - Automobile art. 8/21/09 at Java Joes' 700 Washington Ave N, Minneapolis, MN

Upcoming events were promoted:

Wheels 'N Wings - 9/12/09 Osceola, WI - looking for volunteers to 'conquer Healey Hill' at 7:00am

Healey - Morgan Picnic - 9/13/09 Herb Miller - Bloomington Please RSVP as per newsletter

Huston/Soderbeck Picnic - 9/27/09

Color Tour - Rixen - 10/17/09 along with MMGG - Birkmose Park - Hudson, WI

MAHC Banquet - November - Mike Martin will be out of town and unable to host. Consensus taken on continued hosting @ O-Club. Need a veteran and member of O-Club to serve as point of contact (Spook Johns?) Barb Ronning volunteered to coordinate the event in Mike's absence.

Elkhart Lake Fall Vintage Races - Jeff Johnk - 9/11/09 - 9/13/09 Featuring historic stock cars this year!

Continued on Page 4

The Pie Platter cont.

Discussion items:

Looking for a new venue for Healey Club Gymkhana. - should be a large isolated parking lot unoccupied on the weekends. B&B site was 5 acres in size - Curt suggested someone contact the Blaine National Sports Center. Persons with ideas should contact Scott McQueen who will establish contact with the parking lot owner.

Carlson discussed trafficator rebuild with show and tell of Featherly's recent rebuild.

Gordien showed pictures of his Bugeye paint with a gorgeous faux burl wood dashboard. Exquisite work.

Cars in parking lot included: Featherly BT7 Tri-carb, Gordien AN5, Wetzel BJ8

Guests included Hazen's new girlfriend Kelly Schroepfer and Raschke's friend Wendi Sott - MG owner.

Next PIE meeting 10/7/09 at O-Club

Jeff Gordien's Restored Bugeye !





Healey – Morgan Picnic



The Healey-Morgan Picnic was held at Herb and Marsha Miller's beautiful home and spacious grounds. There were 3 Morgan Plus 8's attending and one Plus 4 DHC. They were driven by Jack and Kathryn Schneider, Bob Cox, Jim and Marsha Easton, and Dale and Barb Martin. There were 4 "big" Healeys driven by Mike and Chris Martin, Steve and Kim Rixen, Gary and Eileen Wetzel, and Bob and Barb Featherly. Two pristine bugeyes were driven by Chuck and Jean Norton and our hosts Herb and Marsha Miller. A Jensen Healey5 was driven by Tom and June Moerke. Two BJ-9s attended – driven by Larry Nimmerfroeh, and Wayne Soderbeck and Jan Huston.

The weather was about perfect. The Millers were most gracious hosts, with a great amount of snacks and drinks provided. Herb treated us all to his perfect Healey 6 cylinder engine running on a very nice test stand. The perfect weather, the beautiful grounds, great food and drink -- what more could one ask for. Our thanks to Herb and Marsha for again hosting this great event. By Tom Moerke

29th Annual

Wheels & Wings

Osceola, WI



It's amazing the power that rumor can hold. Coupled with a weak economy, and a previous day's threatening weather forecast, even a 29 year old ritual can be shaken to its foundation. So it was at this year's Wheels & Wings – all things vehicle show in Osceola, Wisconsin. Despite what turned into a gorgeous sunny day, attendance was probably down by a third of what it usually is.

The lower than normal turnout was mirrored by our own club's showing, but the MAHC was decently represented none-the-less on "Healey Hill" by Tom Moerke with his '75 Jensen Healey, Dave Lee with his '66 BJ-8, Steve Rixen and his '57 100-6, Ray Petry and his '64 ½ BJ-8, Dan Wolter's '56 100-GT, Eileen Wetzel and her judged FINALIST '63 BJ-7, Cheryl & Dan Rademacher's '59 Frog Eye Sprite, Dale Martin's judged FINALIST and AWARD WINNING '57 Jag XK-150, Bob Cox's judged FINALIST '71 Morgan+8, and my '05 Lotus Elise.

It has been falsely reported now for a couple of years that "this is the last year" for W's&W's. The new owners and their key contact Mary Aarons has confirmed that the event is scheduled to go on – now and into the foreseeable future. So everyone relax – dust off and prep your cars – and plan on making a powerful showing in 2010 at one of the best events of the year!

By Aaron Courteau



Endurance Car

Bruno Verstraete, owner/driver



Carl, Dan, Greg, Betty, Barb, Gary

Bonneville Salt Flats

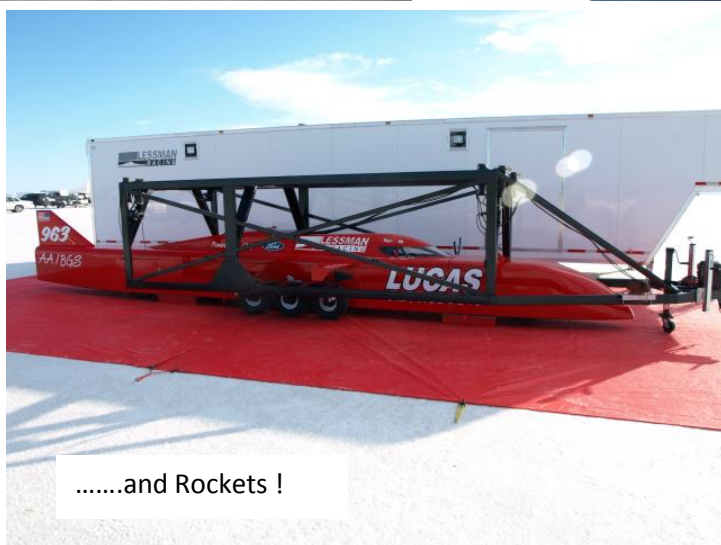
What a place. Like no other ! Kinda like being on a Minnesota lake in the winter – only warmer. Lots of wild vehicles ...even Austin Healeys ! They were beautiful. Had some issues with the Streamliner, but got it going Saturday. Endurance Car ran great. Besides those pictured, Tom Wolters, Jim & Barbara Wojcik, and Sue & Leroy Joppa were there. Nice group !



Streamliner



Bikes too!



.....and Rockets !

Huston – Soderbeck

Tour & Picnic



We met at about 12:30 and started a nice tour through the western Wisconsin Countryside towards Wayne's house. It seems that all the roads in Wisconsin are scenic, especially in the fall with Ruby Sumac lining the ditches, and the excitement of harvest-time in the air.

The short tour lasted about an hour, and we arrived at Wayne's cabin in the woods around 2:15 pm. Wayne started the bonfire; and Jan was ready for us with so much food and snacks, that it wouldn't fit on the tables! Wayne and Jan had prepared about 50 beer-brats with all the fixin's, chips, dips, veggies, salads, sides, snacks, candy, desserts, crackers and drinks that could fit into Wayne's sunroom - and then some. The food overflowed onto the coolers used as tables and onto the deck outside. We gorged ourselves silly with tales of barn-finds, lost cars, car crashes, cross-country trips, restoration foibles, and anything and everything else we could think of to share.

Wayne and Jan had prepared a 'scavenger hunt' through the woods for us. They passed out the questionnaires and sent us on our way to Wayne's 'nature trail' that he had blazed through his 40 acres of dense hardwood on his 4-wheeler. We found Frank Sinatra crooning from a stump, Kermit hanging from a tree, Trigger jumping a deer stand and deer poop! (*EDIBLE* deer poop! - yum!) The wind picked up, and an occasional rain shower moved through; but we toughed it out and continued eating and lying until we thought the suspension on our cars would bottom-out on the way home!

Incidentally, we answered that pesky 'If a tree falls in the forest' question **once and for all** with peak wind speeds clocked at 56mph that day. The answer is a resounding "YES"!

Besides Wayne Soderbeck and Jan Huston, those attending included Carl & Betty Stine, Chuck and Jean Norton, Jim & Rose Klein, Gary & Eileen Wetzels, Steve & Kim Rixen, Curt Carlson, Jack Stein, Steve & Diane Rindt, Frank Howard and Jane Southwood, Bob & Lori Jensen with daughter Niki, Dale & Barb Martin, and Wayne's brother Dean and his wife. A good group for a picnic in the woods !

By Curt Carlson



Removing rust with your battery charger

By Greg Gelhar (An account of my experience with data found on the internet)

Sandblasting and paint remover have been two of the most commonly used methods for removing rust and paint when restoring metal parts. However, both of these methods have their drawbacks. Sand can get into critical areas and sandblasting may damage fragile sheet metal. The use of phosphoric acid to treat sandblasted surfaces can also damage some surfaces. Paint removers are labor intensive, messy, and toxic.

On the Internet I recently ran across a description of rust (and paint). I was intrigued by the prospect of am very pleased with the results. I rummaged parts bins and found a typical TR6 part needing a is a combination of what I've read and what I have experienced. How does your battery charger come it supplies 12 volt power for the electrolysis process. used for many years by professional restorers. of steel, cast iron, or wrought iron can be de-rusted method. What is electrolysis? Strictly speaking, it is electricity to break down water into hydrogen and process for rust removal requires the water to contain an electrolyte, such as washing soda. Washing soda is simply



a method to remove trying it. I did so and through my spare clean up. This article personally into the picture? Well, Electrolysis has been Anything that is made by the electrolysis a method of using oxygen. To use this

sodium carbonate. Do not confuse washing soda with baking soda. Baking soda is *sodium bicarbonate*. Arm & Hammer® washing soda can be found in almost any grocery store. *Do not use baking soda*. An electrical current running through a solution of water and electrolyte will convert red rust into black rust (black oxide). Black oxide is a stable compound that doesn't want to react with oxygen any longer as does red rust. When black oxide dries it can be painted, but it is preferable to brush and wash the surface with water before drying and priming. When the black oxide is removed, the bare metal is revealed.



This heavily rusted carburetor linkage bracket was my test part.

How does the process work?

The electrolysis method involves putting water into a suitable heavy-duty plastic container and adding the washing soda. One wire from a battery charger is hooked up to an anode placed in the water and the other wire from the battery charger is hooked up to the metal piece from which the rust is to be removed. How this is done is very critical.

Step 1 – Select a container. You can use any heavy-duty plastic container but its size depends upon the size of the parts or number of parts you wish to place in the solution at the same time. For small parts, a five-gallon pail will work.

Step 2 – Partially fill the container with water. Add one tablespoon of washing soda for each gallon of water.

Step 3 – Insert into the plastic container a piece of steel or iron that will be used as an anode. It should be long enough so that one end will stick up out of the water. It should also have a fairly large surface. Fasten it to the side of the plastic container with a squeeze clamp to hold it in position. You can use old pieces of steel or pipes (nothing galvanized, however). Remember that the anode will gradually deteriorate so don't use something that you will want to use again for other purposes. I prefer pieces of flat stainless steel work. The surface will not deteriorate. A flat surface seems to work better than a round one.

Step 4 – Each part to be placed in the solution to be de-rusted should be hooked up to a 10-14 gauge iron, steel, or copper wire that will be hooked up to the battery charger. Using electrical squeeze clamps, such as those found on battery charger cables will work for smaller parts. Larger parts can be wired directly without a clamp by twisting, or bolting, the end of the wire around the part. Smaller parts can be suspended with much lighter gauge wire. I hung the bracket from a bar resting on top of the bucket using heavy steel wire and bolts. Most likely that was overkill. Make certain that the parts to be cleaned and the wires connecting them do not touch the anode(s).

Step 5 – Hook the wires to a manual battery charger. Those with automatic circuitry do not supply current without being hooked to a battery. If your battery charger lights a 12 volt bulb when its cables are connected to it, you are good to go. **Polarity is critical.** The **BLACK WIRE** from the charger is hooked up to the wires from the piece or pieces to be de-rusted. The **RED WIRE** from the charger is hooked up to the upper end of the anode protruding out of the water. This is important. If hooked up the other way, the anode will be cleaned and the parts will be further corroded.

Step 6 – Plug in the battery charger. You will begin to see bubbles rising up from the part or parts to be cleaned as well as from the anode. These bubbles are hydrogen and oxygen gas bubbles created by the proper flow of current and it means current is flowing just fine. If you have a lot of current flowing, or the meter goes off the scale, you probably have the part touching the anode. Shut off the power, reposition the part, and try it again. Once you have determined that the process is working properly, let it work for several hours. Since this process will only work on the red rust, you can leave the part in the bath for weeks, and as long as the electricity flows, the part will not rust in the solution. If the power stops, it will begin to rust in seconds.

Removing the parts

After it appears that all of the rust on the part or converted to black oxide, unplug the charger, take them under running water, scrubbing with a wire Brite® to remove the loose black oxide. Don't work paint or rust on it, cook it some more and work on note the pits will remain, as there is nothing you rusted metal that is now gone, but now the part is more time, put it back into the bath. On a or one that has a lot of paint, you will find that if and give it a good scrub, and then put it back in, it process. Then dry the part thoroughly and prime it (or oil it if it needs to remain natural) soon before it begins to rust again.



24 hours later, the part was looking better.

parts has been the parts out and place brush or some Scotch-too hard. If it still has something else. You'll can do to replace the rust-free. If it needs particularly rusty piece you remove the part will speed up the

Miscellaneous Points



Here is the same part after finishing with some steel wool and Eastwoods "Black Oxide" solution on the hardware.

You can use this procedure on exhaust manifolds, cylinder heads, engine parts, wheel hubs, spindles, brake pedals, tie rods, sheet metal, and even bolts with rusted nuts on them. Because almost any piece of iron or steel has some rust on its surface, even under the paint, soaking in an electrolytic bath can and probably will damage or remove paint. The water will slowly evaporate and break down so you must add a little from time to time to maintain the initial level. The solution can get pretty nasty looking, but it really doesn't ever need to be changed, though sometimes you may want to do so. You can strain it or skim off the large pieces of debris and foam. It's mildly basic, so you can pour it out in the yard, and hose things down well. The grass will like it as it normally likes to be limed anyway. You can scrape

off the crud from your anodes with a paint scraper or a wire brush. Do this frequently (daily) as this helps it to maintain peak conductivity. This method of removing rust is inexpensive, mostly labor free, and it works, although slowly.

Greg Gelhar has been an active member of the Minnesota Triumphs Club for many years and is a very knowledgeable resource. Thanks for the article, Greg !

Adopt-A-Highway & Fall Color Tour Combo

The second of MAHC's two Adopt-A-Highway clean-ups for the year will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 when we meet at Veterans Highway Roadside Park at mile post 80 on U.S. Hwy. 61 - just above Lake City, Minn. Here's hoping we can attract two dozen people to "pitch-in" as happened for the spring clean-up. The more the merrier. Once everyone has had a chance to "rest" at the modern facilities, we'll go north one mile to Villa Maria Roadside Park to distribute safety vests and garbage bags.

After the pickup is finished we'll give folks a chance to wash up at Veterans Highway Park and then immediately begin the Fall Color Tour, which will take us southeast of Lake City and into Wisconsin for a late lunch or early dinner at a new location. Look forward to seeing you at Veterans Highway Park Saturday, Oct. 10.

By Greg Lauser

MMGG Fall Tour





The Minnesota MG Group is having a Fall Tour on Saturday October 17th – starting at Birkmose Park in Hudson Wisconsin. Steve & Kim Rixen are leading the tour. Call them at 715-386-2880 for more information.



Tom Kovacs discussing strategy with Steve Pike

Steve Rixen is...

 **Strictly British** 

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Events Schedule 2009

- October 7 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- October 10 **** **Adopt A Highway Clean-up** (Sat) 9:00 a.m. The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to take place on this date. Arranged by Greg Lauser.
- October 10**** **Fall Color Tour** - (Sat.) 2:00 p.m. The final drive of the year to enjoy the beautiful Fall tree colors. Details later.
- November 4 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- November 7 **** **Charity Event** – (Sat) Dale Martin will schedule our club to take part in a repeat food packaging charitable exercise for Feed My Starving Children. Details later.
- November 21 **** **Annual Business Meeting Party** – (Sat) The annual business meeting, election of officers, and dinner banquet will occur on this evening at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club. Arrangements being made by Mike Martin and Barb Ronning. Happy Hour begins at 6:30 pm with Dinner at 7:00. Come and enjoy a beautiful dinner with good company !
- December 2 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- December 5 **** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2010 will be on the agenda for this meeting. Katy Olson will select the site.
- December 5 **** **Annual MAHC Board of Directors Meeting** – (Sat) The Board of Directors will meet following the Planning Breakfast to ratify the 2010 Schedule of Official MAHC Activities (tentatively set for 11:00 a.m.)
- ** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity**
- June 17-20** **Rendezvous 2010** - (Thurs – Sun) Location for 2010 will be at the Best Western Nor'Wester Resort Hotel in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Reserve early !

Conclave 2010

AHCA Heritage 1975 – 2010

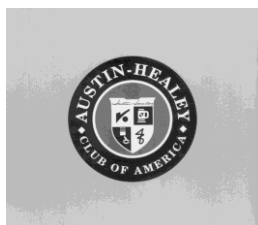
Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa, Galena, IL

July 11 - 16, 2010



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

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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.

FOR SALE: A-H 3000 early Grill – horizontal bars. Used, but very nice. Call Herb Miller at 952-888-2366 or email to: hgmiller3@qwest.net

FOR SALE: Hardtop for A-H 3000 four-seater (with side curtains). Exterior needs paint, interior needs re-upholstering. All rubber molding and interior materials are included. Rear window needs cleaning and buffing. \$2,000. Also includes rolling floor rack for storage. Call Gary Ronning at 763-684-4041 or email to gtronning@aol.com.

FOR SALE: New Black Carpet Kit for AH 3000 BT7 Center Shift - \$150.00 Call Gary Ronning

FOR SALE: 1964 ½ Austin Healey 3000 BJ8. Red with Black interior. Runs well and in good overall condition. Owned since 1978. Approx. 60M miles on odometer. \$35,000. Located in Cambridge, MN. Call Ray Petry at 763-689-2681 or email to: patnray@izoom.net.

FOR SALE: 1965 Austin Healey 3000 Mk III. Red with Black interior. 37M miles. Original car throughout. Even has the original window stickers and paperwork. Looks like new. Asking \$55,000. Call Gene Berghoff at 612-298-5648