



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XXIV No. X

October 2013



Mike Manser on a farewell run around RoadAmerica Race Track

OCTOBER EVENTS

Wed. Oct. 2

PIE Meeting

Sat. Oct. 5

Adopt-a-Hwy. Clean-up

Sun. Oct. 6

City Lakes Pkwy. Tour

Sat. Oct. 12

Fall Color Tour

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Minnesota
Web Site www.mnhealey.com

National
Web Site www.healeyclub.org

PIE**(President's Informal Evening)**

Date: Wednesday Oct. 2nd

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.

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 !

!

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

**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 Suzanne Willodson

This must happen to all of us every September – the need to pack in all the hours humanly possible behind the wheel of the Healey in the best weather of the year. September was filled with events every weekend, as is the first part of October.

It used to be that my mom would text on the weekend messages like “what are you up to this weekend?” Now she sends messages like “are you still alive?” This isn’t just because we’re driving at one of Tom Hazen’s autocrosses or hill climbs (hitting dangerously high speeds of nearly 30mph!), but because she doesn’t hear from us for days on end.

One important discovery was made this summer: Long distance drives are much more enjoyable than once believed. The Healey drove like a champ on the trip to Road America. Originally, we were a little apprehensive about a six hour drive in hot temperatures. After all, by the time we get home from the Amery events in June and August, our ankles are nearly on fire. Our fears were for naught, as the Healey was cool and comfortable for the entire drive. We still remain in awe of the Lausers who just returned from their 3000+ mile trip to the Southwest U.S.

By the way, I didn’t tell my mom about the unfortunate incident with the hay bale at Waumandee; so if you could keep it low, I’d be grateful. (Really though, the car needs a new paint job anyway.)

We have a few more weeks until the Healeys go to their winter hideouts.
Until then, Healey on!



Somewhere in Wisconsin.....

The Presidents Informal Evening

By Greg Willodson

September 4, 2013

President Suzanne Willodson called the meeting to order at about 7:05pm.

Recap of recent events

Aug 10 - Britfest Car Show

Aug 17 – Royal British Car Show

Aug 24 – Amery Airport Autocross and Speed Run

Discussion of upcoming events

Sept 6 -8 - Fall Vintage Festival at Elkhart, WI.

- Vintage cars in the heat of competition at Road America!

Sept 7 - Wings & Wheels Event

- 7am until 3pm in Osceola, WI

Sept 15 - Fred Ambli's "Norwegian Picnic"

- Arrivals welcome at 1pm

Sept 20 - 22 – Waumandee Hillclimb

- Second annual event, in beautiful western Wisconsin

Sept 29 - Intermarque Picnic

- This is the last Intermarque picnic of 2013, and the MN Healey Club is hosting the event at Cherokee Park in St. Paul, MN

Oct 5 - Adopt A Highway Cleanup

- Meet at 9am at Veterans Highway Roadside Park, just north of Lake City, MN

Oct 6 – City Tour Drive

- Meet at 11am on South Mississippi River Blvd, by Lock & Dam No 1, just south of Ford Parkway in Highland Village – St. Paul, MN

Continued.....

The Presidents Informal Evening... continued

Reports & Miscellaneous Highlights

Discussion took place of the recent communication that some club members had with a British gentleman seeking a Healey. Jeff Johnk and the Willodsons had offered to view and inspect a Healey that was supposedly for sale at a Minneapolis dealership. Jeff got the run-around trying to schedule a viewing, making him immediately suspicious. The Willodsons drove to the address listed for the dealership and found that it did not exist. There also was an article in the Star Tribune about car selling scams. Our British friend continues his search for a project BJ7.

Treasurer's Report – Jim Manion reported that the club is financially healthy.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 PM

In attendance:

Jeff Lombard, Dan Powell, Brian Duoos, Michael Manser, Dick Mathews, Tom & June Moerke, Curt Carlson, Andy Lindberg, Jim Manion, Greg & Suzanne Willodson, Rich & Liz Stadther, Steve & Kim Rixen, Gary & Eileen Wetzell, Clarence & Kate Westberg, Jim Kriz, Scott McQueen, and Tom Hazen.

MAHC Board of Directors Acts On Three Motions at July Meeting

by Greg Lauser

The four members of the MAHC Board of Directors present at its July 10 meeting voted unanimously on three proposals affecting ongoing club operations.

First, since a small minority of club members regularly volunteer to uphold MAHC's club-wide commitment to the Adopt-A-Highway civic project, board members approved paying for participants' meals at club expense the day of scheduled pickups. The board stipulated that the club pay for no alcoholic beverages to eliminate possible club liability, if such beverages are consumed.

Second, in years when MAHC elects a new National Delegate, the club will pay the transportation, meal and lodging costs for the retiring delegate and delegate-designate that are not covered by the Austin-Healey Club of America, so both may attend AHCA's November Delegates meeting. Board members believe doing so will allow the retiring delegate to introduce his or her successor while providing continuity in club representation. (Currently, AHCA pays up \$150 of transportation costs and 25 percent of lodging expense at the designated meeting site for each club's National Delegate. The remainder of delegate expense is paid by MAHC. AHCA provides no reimbursement for persons designated to become National Delegates.)

Third, at this time MAHC will neither solicit nor accept advertising from non-members or commercial businesses for its newsletter, web site or other online communications. It was board consensus that the investment in time and effort required to develop advertising policies, procedures, specifications and conduct online updating services could not be justified for the amount of revenue that might be generated

2013 Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival at Road America

By Suzanne & Greg Willodson

The Vintage Fall Festival races took place on September 6 – 8 at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. The Minnesota Austin-Healey Club was extremely well represented. Jeff Johnk, Jeff Lumbard, Mike Manser, Dan Powell, and Rich Stadther all participated on the track.



Jeff Lumbard and Dan Powell in a superb photo-op

We departed the metro area on Friday morning before sunrise. It was raining a bit, but we were determined to make the drive to Elkhart Lake with the top down – and we did. We followed Jag Club member Gene Berghoff and made excellent time, even with several stops at scenic outlooks and cheese shops.

We arrived at the track in the early afternoon with wide eyes of amazement that gave away the fact that we were new to the scene. The roar and rumble of the cars on the track rippled through every molecule of our beings. We were issued our wristbands and proceeded to drive into the paddock area where we easily found our racers and the Ronnings and Wetzels. The weekend had officially begun!

We watched a few races from different observation areas throughout the expansive track property. Gene Berghoff drove us through the grounds, pointing out the various curves and corners on the track. Carol Johnk gave a similar tour to the Wetzels. Now armed with a good understanding of the lay of the land, we spent the rest of the afternoon exploring, watching more races, and most importantly hanging out with the racers and the gang under the canopies.

Dan Powell and the rest of the racers pulled us in and made us part of the gang immediately upon our arrival. It is a technical feat preparing for and recovering from every race. To see their operation up close was a true honor.

Continued....

2013 Elkhart Lake..... continued

An almost equal honor was “participating” in happy hour which took place after all the serious driving was done for the day. Jeff Lumbard must have been crowned many years ago as the one with the best knowledge and skills to prepare Tanqueray and tonics. They were perfect.

The evening did not end there. After battening down the hatches at the track, a subset of the group continued on to an oasis in the Wisconsin farmland known as Schwarz’s. Writing about an evening at Schwarz’s could never do it proper justice, so it will not be attempted here. Let’s just say that the place is legendary, and it is tradition to go there for dinner every night.

Saturday started early and there was plenty of action on the track all day. In the afternoon, the Ronnings, Wetzels and Willodsons drove in the Reenactment Tour that wound from the track to the town of Elkhart Lake. We made our way down the street full of rare and vintage cars toward the lake, where we found a place in the shade with a great view of the water and cold refreshments. Afterwards, some of us proceeded to the Osthoff Resort to view the best of the best at the “Gather on the Green” invitational car show. The Osthoff knows how to throw a party. Of course, the real party was back at the track, so we left the town of Elkhart Lake and headed back for happy hour, followed by another perfect evening at Schwarz’s.

Sunday brought gray skies and cooler temperatures. The racers had a great day. There was also an opportunity to tour the track, so Jeff Lumbard took his son Scott and then Eileen Wetzel for some laps. Eileen loved it! Rich Stadther and Jeff Johnk saved their best performances until after most of us were on our way home, finishing second and third in the Group 2 Feature Race on Sunday afternoon.

The drive home on Sunday took us over nine hours! The Ronnings left early, so the Wetzels and Willodsons took a leisurely way home on Wisconsin Highway 10. We stopped a few times - for lunch, a late dinner, and finally reached home sometime after 10pm. It was such an enjoyable ride home – scenic and peaceful.

It was a bittersweet weekend for Mike Manser, as his pending move to Texas has prompted him to put his Datsun 240Z race car up for sale. The Club won’t be the same without Mike.

This was the first time Suzanne and I had been to an event like this, but it won’t be the last.

Healey Club attendees were:

Jeff, Carol, & Jessica Johnk, Jeff Lumbard, Scott Lumbard, Mike Manser, Dan Powell, Rich & Liz Stadther, Barb & Gary Ronning, Phil & Sue Ethier, Eileen & Gary Wetzel, Suzanne & Greg Willodson, and Gene Berghoff.

Other notable attendees: Brian Crombie, Leroy & Sue Joppa



Rich Stadther (Finished 2nd Place) and Jeff Johnk (Finished 3rd Place) in the Group 2 Feature Race at the Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival.

More Elkhart Lake Weekend !



On September 6, 2013 Deb Korneli and Kas Kastner presented a member of the MAHC's family, Jessica Johnk, with the VSCDA Vintage Spirit Award. This award is given only when a person demonstrates the true spirit and support of Vintage Racing. Normally this award is given to drivers, but Jessica's award was one of the very few ever given to a non-driver. Especially noted was her enthusiastic support, help, and volunteer work at VSCDA race events for over a decade.

Jessica's parents state that her efforts of service were ignited way back on 911 when she had just turned 11 years of age. Wanting to help 911 victims by collecting donations for the Red Cross, she contacted VSCDA and asked permission to do so among the spectators, crews, and drivers at the year's two remaining VSCDA race events. Although underage at the time, VSCDA gave her special permission to drive her parents Yamaha golf cart during her donation drive. While soliciting drivers, she realized many were having difficulty getting race results and time sheets. So, in addition to her donations collected, Jessica started "running" time sheets and grids for timing and scoring.

Thus started her years of service, and she is perhaps one of the most universally known people in the paddock. A measure of her service is that to date, her same old Yamaha golf cart has gone through 3 sets of tires and it is not uncommon for it to use 5-7 gallons of fuel at an event. Congratulations Jessica!



Deb Korneli, with Kas Kastner, presenting Jessica Johnk with the Vintage Spirit Award 2013



Second Annual Norwegian Picnic

By Greg Willodson

Fred Ambli and Sandie Swenson hosted the Second Annual Norwegian Picnic on September 15. A few of us met up in Forest Lake to caravan to Fred's house together. The weather was somewhere between brisk and freezing cold depending on whom you talked to, so Kim Rixen and Suzanne Willodson willingly and gratefully took up Tom & June Moerke's offer for a ride in their comfy sedan. Geoff & Diane Rossi and Greg Willodson led the way in their Healeys - tops down, weather be damned!

Eileen and Gary Wetzel had made the trip north a day earlier to help Fred and Sandie prepare for the picnic. Steaks and a broad selection of side dishes made for a memorable meal, and there was no shortage of sweets for dessert. Some of us enjoyed the crisp clean outdoors and ate outside, and others spent a good part of the afternoon in Fred's kitchen and great room. Fred's place has undergone a bit of a transformation over the past year and has benefitted from the interior decorating talents of Sandie.

Fred always has something interesting going on in his shop. On this occasion he had his second Big Healey up on a rotisserie. What a difference the proper tools make! Tasks that would normally present a huge challenge suddenly become "easy". Welding, painting, running brake lines, and wiring can be done at eye-level - instead of laying on your back in the dark. Gravity is no longer the enemy, as debris falls on your shoes instead of your face.

Thanks to Fred and Sandie for hosting this get-together in the North Woods for a second year!

Club members present:

Fred Ambli & Sandie Swenson, Gary & Eileen Wetzel, Gary & Barb Ronning, Chuck & Jean Norton, Curt Carlson and cousin Doug, Spencer Angel and Donna Kennedy, Geoff & Diane Rossi, Tom & June Moerke, Kim Rixen, Jim Kriz, and Greg & Suzanne Willodson.





Waumandee Hillclimb Weekend: September 2013

By Geoff Rossi

This, the second running of the event, got its kick-off in Alma, Wisconsin, at 5PM Friday evening with a line-up of cars on 2nd Street in front of the Castlerock Museum. Led by Tom Hazen, the group headed up County E nine miles to Waumandee for a preview drive up Blank Hill Road, Saturday's two-and-a-half mile course. Then we proceeded along the route drivers would be traveling to the Starting Line. The convoy's destination was Suncrest Gardens Farm for brick oven-baked Pizza with New Glarus Spotted Cow Beer.

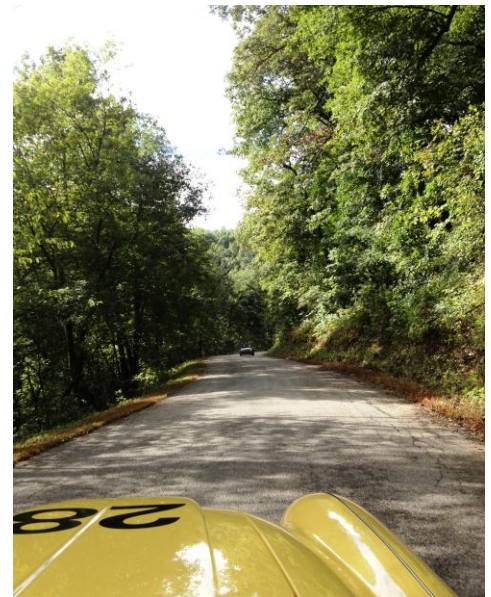
Saturday morning activities began with the mandatory drivers meeting. The weather was beginning to look like a rerun of last year – grey clouds, brisk winds, and cool temp. The forecast had promised a partly cloudy day of sunshine and 60s. This ultimately panned out just after lunch break. First car was out of the Gate and headed to the Start at 9:25. The course had been extended a bit giving the drivers a nice little straightaway before the Finish. Those that drove through until 5PM made seven charges up the hill with times ranging from 3:57 to 2:35. About the 3:57, Andy Lindberg said that he was certain the rules were “to slow down and wave to the corner workers”.

By 5:30 the course had been dismantled and cleaned up; and sixty hungry people had gathered at the Waumandee House for a country fried chicken buffet dinner, awards, and the opportunity to rehash the day's excitement. After a few hours the group began to disperse. On Sunday morning some gathered at the Pier 4 Café for breakfast and then a drive to Elmer's Auto & Toy Museum which sits atop the highest point in the area – Eagles Bluff. For those driving home the day was splendid. The tops were down to enjoy the sunshine, the warm temp, and the delightful southwestern Wisconsin terrain.

In all, nearly 100 people descended on the Waumandee area to drive, spectate, or work the Saturday event sponsored by the Minnesota Austin Healey Club - organized and captained by Sir Thomas Hazen. Many were from the Metro area, but some came from Milwaukee and Rockford. Safety ruled the day with no incidents. The overall running of the course all day by the 37 participants yielded only five penalty points (hitting a cone in one of the ten chicanes) -- very clean indeed!

And so, the 2013 Waumandee Hillclimb is history; and it was a very good chapter.







Total Starts:

Royal British Car Show and Classics Revival

By Greg Willodson

The Jaguar Land Rover Lotus garage in Golden Valley hosted the Royal British Car Show and Classics Revival on Saturday August 17th. They had a great turnout and the weather was perfect!

There was even a fashion show/Twiggy look-alike contest! Our club members participating included June Moerke, Kim Rixen and Barb Martin as contestants! (photo courtesy of Steve Rixen)

Mike Lynch warmed up the cooking equipment below. Mike and crew offered barbeque pork with accoutrements to raise money for the Celtic Band that played the show.





City Drive

Sunday Oct.6 • 1:00 pm

**We had a great time touring the city last year,
so we are doing it again!**

**You are invited to take a scenic city drive through the parks and
neighborhoods of the Twin Cities (40 miles).**

**We will meet at the scenic overlook for the Ford Dam
on East River Road, just south of Ford Parkway
in St. Paul's Highland Village at 1:00pm.**

**For the next two and a half hours, we will wind through the parks
and parkways of Minneapolis and then through the historic
neighborhoods of St Paul.**

**Our destination will be Joseph's Grill
on South Wabasha Street for a drink and snacks.
Mark your calendar for a fun drive on October 6th !**

**If you will be joining us or have any questions, please email
Dale.martin5@comcast.net (for restaurant count).**

Lucky John - by John Sprinzel

A Book Review

By Jessica Johnk

I will start by making a statement that is often used in book reviews, "If there is one book that every car enthusiast should have on their shelf".... I truly feel this is the case with *Lucky John*, an autobiography about John Sprinzel. The book is incredible, filled with such vivid detail and it is expressed beautifully to the point where you feel like you are actually there living every experience with him.

Sprinzel takes you on a remarkable journey of his life, starting out in Germany where he was born in 1930. He continues on into his time of growing up in England and later when he was a part of the Royal Air Force. While in the R.A.F. Sprinzel found himself involved with motorcycles-first by fixing them up so they would be road worthy and then eventually racing them on base. This became his stepping-stone and first path of many through the world of motorsports during a time when cars, tracks, drivers, and other people involved, were making history and heroes were being born.

Sprinzel's first motorcar race was the RAC International Rally of Great Britain with his co-worker Lutz Arnstein. The car he used was an Austin A30, which belonged to his mother. After doing surprisingly well in his first rally, he noticed that a large sum of the other rally cars were TR2s and decided to get a Triumph himself. This car was not only used for rallies, but for hill climbs, gymkhanas, and sprints. He also joined the Harrow Car Club where he met Stirling Moss (and eventually ended up dating his sister, Pat Moss). I'm sure everyone will find his rally stories highly entertaining. My personal favorite tale was the Monte Carlo Rally. I will resist giving details because that will spoil your joy of reading it for yourself, but I am laughing even as I think of it. The book also features tales from The RAC Rally, The Alpine Rally, The Liege-Rome-Liege, The East African Safari, The Tulip Rally, The Tour de France, The London-Sydney Marathon, and The London to Mexico World Cup Rally (which Sprinzel also helped to organize). Each rally chapter contains great stories from the events, but as a huge bonus there are also beautiful period Rally pictures. As a photographer I could go on at length about how wonderful the pictures are, but will just state the book to me is worth the price of admission just for the photos.

Of course readers also get inside knowledge about Sprinzel's time at Speedwell and the time he spent with the Healeys (the people and the cars). The stories from road circuit races like Nurburgring, Monza, and Sebring are equally as enjoyable.

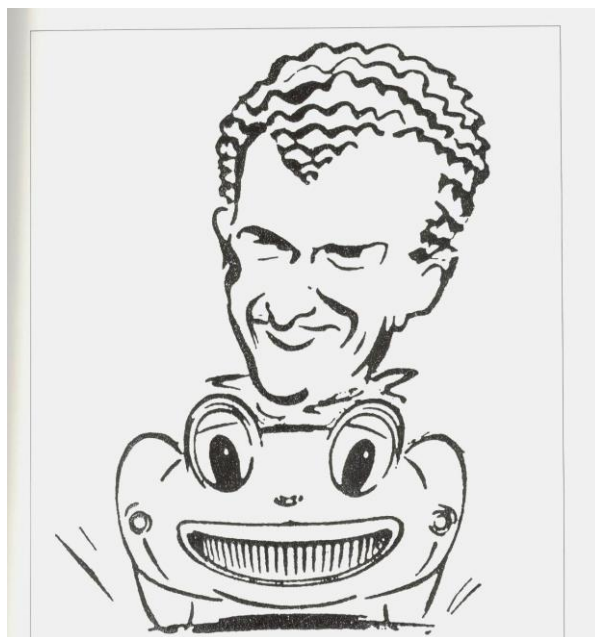
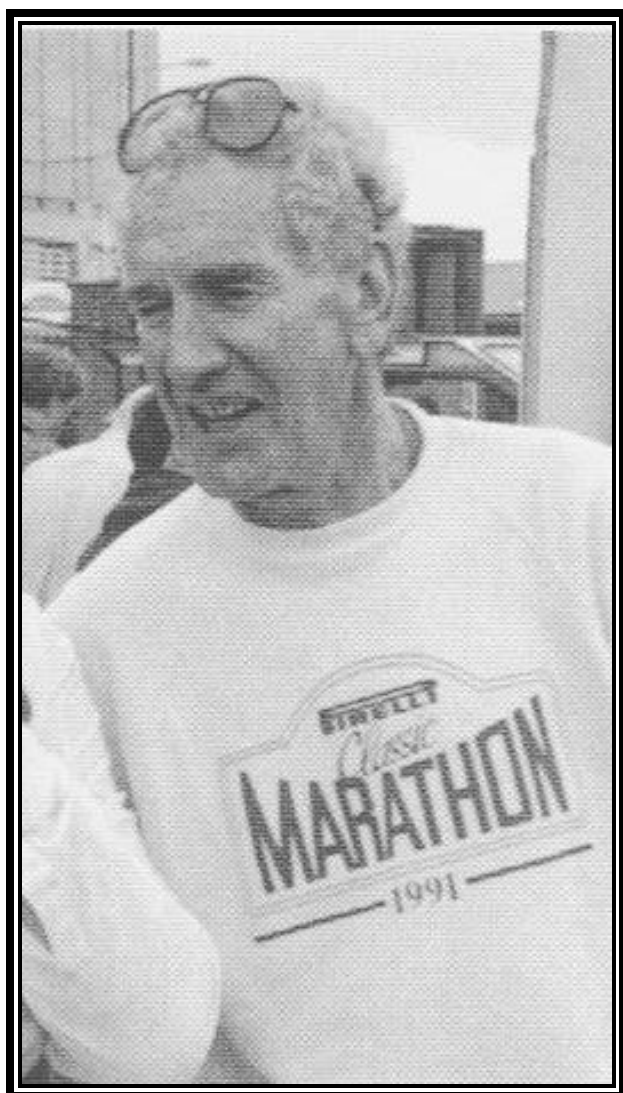
Continued....

John Sprinzel....continued

It may surprise some that after Sprinzel "retired" from motorcar racing he enjoyed yet another career in of all things, Windsurfing! Our man Sprinzel is certainly not your typical "fade off into the sunset" type of guy. The tales of John's windsurfing days in Greece and Turkey are as remarkable and colorful as his motorsport tales.

Sprinzel says in his book, "It was fairly obvious that I was a bit of a thrill junkie..." and that quote is more than true. We all get to share his thrills and adventures by reading this book. There were times when I was turning the pages just shaking my head because I was just completely floored at everything he has done and everyone he has met. I do not think John can do anything without being extraordinary at it. All I have to say is, John Sprinzel has lived one amazing life and by reading this book, you will get the greatest first hand account of his incredible story.

His book will be available sometime in October so stay tuned!



....a couple of historic shots of John.....!

Adopt-A-Highway Folks to Get Free Meal Oct. 5

By Greg Lauser

The second of MAHC's two Adopt-A-Highway clean-ups for the year will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 when we meet at Veterans Highway Roadside Park on U.S. Hwy. 61 - just above Lake City, Minn. 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.

Due to unanimous action by the MAHC Board of Directors members present at its meeting after July PIE, those who collect roadside litter will receive a free meal for representing the club in this civic activity.

If it's raining and you spy no one at Villa Maria, check for the crew at The Whistle Stop Café in Frontenac Station just north of our two-mile highway stretch, where we'll wait for weather to improve while having breakfast.

Unless rain makes breakfast a priority, after the pickup is finished we'll adjourn to a nearby eatery for lunch. Look forward to seeing you at Veterans Highway Park Saturday, Oct 5. The more the merrier and the quicker we'll complete our ninth year of highway clean-ups.

Fall

Color

Tour



We will be leaving from the Rainbow Foods at 7280 East Point Douglas Road in Cottage Grove, MN at 9:30AM on Saturday, October 12th, driving some beautiful roads, making a couple comfort stops, then having lunch at 1:00PM at Vino in the Valley near Maiden Rock, WI. The tour is free, the lunch is pay-your-own. Tour will be led by Tom Hazen.

Events Schedule

- Oct. 2 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Oct. 5**** **Adopt a Highway Clean-up** - (Sat) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to be on this date. Arrangements by Greg Lauser. See page 18.
- Oct. 6** **City Lakes Parkway Tour** – (Sun) Enjoy again a sunny Sunday afternoon driving the beautiful parkways of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Arrangements by Dale Martin. See page 15.
- Oct. 12** **Fall Color Tour-** (Sat) Another Tom Hazen colorful drive through the Wisconsin countryside. See page 18.
- Nov. 2** **Charity Event** – (Sat) At the Feed My Starving Children building in Eagan. Curt Carlson will arrange this very worthwhile event. It is an enjoyable and worthy cause.
- Nov. 6 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Nov. 16 **** **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. 4**** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Dec. 7 **** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2014 will be on the agenda for this meeting hosted by Greg Willodson at Joseph's Restaurant in St. Paul. A Board of Directors meeting will follow.
- ** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity**

Events 2014

- June 12-15** **Rendezvous 2014**
The 24th Rendezvous will be held in Thunder Bay, Ontario at the Nor'Wester Hotel.
- June 15-20** **AHCA Conclave 2014**
The Carolinas Austin Healey Club will be hosting this event in Hot Springs, Virginia.

People submitting photos
for the October issue:

Jessica Johnk
Greg Lauser
Steve Rixen
Barb Ronning
Eileen Wetzel
Greg Willodson
Suzanne Willodson

Thank you !



Steve Rixen is...



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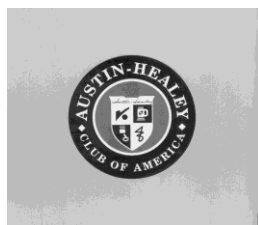
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