



The

Healey Enthusiast

Volume XIX No. 9

September 2008

MAHC SUMMER ACTIVITIES

EVENTS – SEE PAGE 7 DETAILS

AUGUST

- Sat. Aug 23 Amery Airport Event V CANCELLED for paving
Sun. Aug 31 Intermarque Picnic Cherokee Park see page 7

SEPTEMBER

- Wed. Sep 3 PIE Meeting – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 PM. See page 3.
Sat. Sep 6 Wheels 'n Wings – (Sat) 8:00 AM Osceola See page 7.
Sun. Sep 7 James J Hill Days Charity Car Show Wayzata see p11.
Fri. Sep 12-14 BIR / Donneybrooke Vintage Revival (Fri-Sun) VCSR
at Brainerd. See page 8
Sun. Sep 14 Healey Morgan Picnic – (SUNDAY) 2:00 PM.
Herb / Marsha Miller hosting, Bloomington see p 7.
Fri. Sep 18-20 Fall Vintage Race Festival XXIII - RoadAmerica
in Elkhart Lake, WI see page 7.

OCTOBER

- Wed. Oct 1 PIE Meeting (Wed) Meet at 7:00 PM See page 7.
Sat. Oct 11 Fall Colour Tour (Sat) Details page 6.
Sat. Oct 25 Adopt A Highway Cleanup see page 7.

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The President's Report

By Tom Moerke

Rendezvous 09 plans are starting to firm up.

Greg and Nancy Lauser will do registration, which is the biggest job,

Dale Martin is in charge of awards,

June Moerke will take charge of planning the banquet,

Tom Hazen has agreed to do an autocross in his usual classy fashion,

Joe Werner will be the photographer,

Mike Lynch will be in charge of auctions and donations,

Wayne Soderbeck and Jan Huston will plan a tour of the Bayfield Peninsula,

Sue Werner will plan a golf outing,

Tom and June Moerke will do a guided tour of Bayfield and Madeline Island.

Barb Ronning suggested that we greet visitors at the motel and then move the get together at the Great Lakes Visitors Center, which is a dandy place.

All club members are invited to come up with idea's for Rendezvous. We have 10 months to go before it happens and we all want this to be a great Rendezvous !

The Car and Art Show in Hopkins is now history and it was simply great. Our thanks to Dick Wallrich and Phyllis Galberth for a very well organized event and the food was pretty fancy, thanks I suspect to Val Wallrich. Also our thanks to Cold Spring Brewing Co. I only sampled one of their beers but it was awfully good. I hope this event could be held again with the same 5 British car clubs.

By the time you read this most August events will be over but I am excited about entering my Jensen-Healey in the Amery Airport Event V. I suspect I will be very slow as the the JH feels so big, even huge, compared to my Midget. How can I steer between the orange cones ?

Sept. 6th is Wheels 'n Wings at Osceola. Lets take the HILL and fill it with HEALEY'S !!

A week later we can all go to the Miller's for the Healey Morgan Picnic. They have a beautiful home and lovely grounds and maybe Herb will show us his garage.

Dont forget BIR/Donneybrooke Vintgag Revival on the 12th thru 14th and Road America on the 18th to 20th Have fun.

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 September 3rd

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

This casual event every Saturday morning about 8:00 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.



PIE REPORT

By Rod Richert

Tom Moerke opened the informal meeting with a review of volunteer committees for Rendezvous '08. Greg and Nancy Lauser are handling registration, Mike Lynch donations for auction & prizes, June Moerke the banquet, Tom Hazen as always our autocross specialist, Wayne Soderbeck & Jan Huston optional tour of Bayfield Peninsula, Tom & June Moerke optional tour of Madeline Island, Joe Werner Photography and Sue Werner a golf outing.

Tom praised Dick Wallrich for the well run Velocity car show.

Greg Lauser spoke of the magic number of 16. \$16,000 plus raised for the Make A Wish Foundation drive to Conclave and the sixteen days he spent in Albuquerque overseeing his engine rebuild.

Dave Lee recounted his car trouble preventing his joining the Velocity car show. Others who showed cars spoke of their experience.

Rich Stadther passed out flyers for B.I.R.'s 40th anniversary event September 12-24th.

Tom Hazen had a birthday on August 10th through the rolling hills of Wisconsin. Our "speedmaster" reported profits of \$1289 for the Afton Hill Climb and the Paul Wiedner Amery speed run.

Scott McQueen's Brown and Bigelow Gymkhana netted \$11.64, not quite covering last Year's losses!

In attendance: Greg Lauser, Jack Stein, Steve Rixen, Dan Powell, Jeff Lumbard, Tom Hazen, Tom & June Moerke, Carl & Betty Stine, Wayne Soderbeck, Stu Johnson, Larry Nimmerfroh, Rich & Liz Stadther, Dan Gallagher, Jim Kriz, Scott McQueen, Dave Lee, Ron Corazzo, Katy Olson, Dave & Cheryl Rademacher, and Dwight & Bobbi McCullough with guest Jack Kane.

Veep

NEXT PIE IS AT FORT SNELLING

SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

TECH TIPS: *by Ernie West*

Head Gaskets To be more specific, how to not have a blown head gasket.

As simple as it sounds (just bolt the head to the block) it's more than that. And the more sophisticated the engine, the more critical small details become. I recently became the victim of a blown head gasket with my 907 Lotus engine, 230 miles from home naturally. Like in most cases there was no one obvious cause. In my case I'll admit to ignorance. I didn't know specs like the latest torq figures, the latest torq sequence, the correct tool (a torq angle gauge), and the fact that on this engine you DON'T retorque the head after 1,000 miles.

So in summary let me emphasize that you bone up on all of the latest factory specs for your engine. For instance if your factory manual is twenty years old, the factory may have changed its mind (they call it up-dating) several times already. That plus as time goes along head gasket materials change and the old recommendation to retorque the head after a specific time might actually be detrimental. Also using a torq angle gauge is getting to be more and more accepted as the preferred method of tightening head nuts or bolts. Of course the old standard rules of having head bolt holes clean so the bolts don't bottom against rust and having all of the threads clean and properly lubricated (or not) still apply, along with the obvious, that the head and block surfaces must be flat or within factory specs for warp.

And one last thing. If your head has washers under the stud nuts or bolts make sure they all fit and are the correct thickness. I had one oddball washer on one stud right where the gasket blew. Yep, I still don't know for sure why it blew.

Windshield Wiper Blades

Many collector cars have very unique or one of a kind wiper blades. And although maybe hardly or never used, the ravages of sun and time still bring their life to an end. When the thin wiping edge starts to flatten out or worse yet starts to separate, it can allow the metal part to start to rub the windshield. Sometimes as little as one pass back and forth can scratch the glass.

Next, where do you find new blades for, such a relic (your neighbors opinion)? If you do find a set, and the bank agrees to float a loan, for something as valuable (the seller's opinion) as they are; they might be 40 to 60 years old, and brittle as glass and ready to self-destruct at first use. Here's what I've been able to do many times on cars I work on. Take the blade to the local parts supply place. If you look at their choice of refills you'll see that there are several widths and groove styles to choose from as well as lengths. I almost always can pick one long refill and cut it to get two shorter refills for my short wiper blades. The cost seems to be the same for a 24" as a 12" refill. If the retaining clips can't be reused, most times a suitable method is accomplished by melting a little burr on the refill support end using a soldering gun, or if the support is metal I'll glue the end piece or opening with black silicon gasket glue. If there are a dozen different types, there should be a dozen ways also to hold the rubber part in place.

Safe Motoring Dead Lake Motors

The VP REPORT

By Rod Richert

UNIQUE AND DIMINUTIVE

On the ride home from Rendezvous, my Bugeye developed a fuel leak when the tank was topped off. The culprit was a bad sending unit gasket. Located on the top of the tank and inaccessible from the boot, the tank must be removed to repair. Also, many years bathed in oil and gas had the effect of stripping the finish from the exterior, so a quick refinishing was in order.

Gasket replaced and tank repainted and installed, I was very surprised that it now leaked from a pin hole on the bottom near the drain plug. Well the interior of the tank is pitted and there is evidence of previous solder repairs, so maybe it's time to replace it. Apparently the unique style (filler neck welded to the tank) of the Bugeye tank results in a retail price including shipping of approximately \$375.

Steve Rixen and Greg Lauser recommended Gas Tank Renu formerly of Eden Prairie now located in Shakopee. (952)937-0557. A quick phone quote of \$175-\$225 with a lifetime guarantee sounded pretty good, but of course a final price required inspection.

Now diminutive worked in my favor. After inspection the tank was deemed small enough to bring the quote down to \$125. This included exterior refinishing, not part of the deal with a newly purchased tank. Sounds good to me.

VELOCITY--THE ART OF MOTION

The all British car show at the Hopkins Center For The Arts was a huge success. With Main street blocked off in front of the Hopkins Center for the Arts, fourteen cars shown by club members joined other Marques on a hot, sunny Friday August 1st. The best view of the cars was from the balcony windows of the arts center. (Note: Names listed are as shown on car signs and include spouse when named) Showing: Gloria and Mike Lynch--Jaguar Mark IX, Tom and June Moerke--Jensen Healey, Dale and Barb Martin--Jaguar XF150, Carl Stine--BN7, Curt Carlsen--BN2, Jim Kriz--BJ7, Dan Powell--BJ7 racer, Jim and Barb Wojcik--100-6, Gary and Barb Ronning--3000 MKII, Scott McQueen--BN1, Herb Miller--Bugeye, Aaron Courteau--Ginetta, George Arthur--Jensen C-V8, John Shorrock--2009 Jaguar.

One dollar ballots gave the public the opportunity to vote for their favorite car, \$20 worth of ballots bought a VIP pass to the hospitality spread--great food and all the root beer and beer you cared to sample. All proceeds benefited Opportunity Partners. Framed art, sculpture and multi-media exhibits of automotive art lined the halls of the center and also an exhibition room below the balcony. Besides the all British crowd, there was a lot of walk up traffic from local shops enjoying a wonderful summer evening.

Veep

FALL COLOUR TOUR

The Fall Colour Tour will start at the parking lot of Birkmose Park in Hudson, WI, overlooking the scenic St. Croix Valley at 10:30 AM on Saturday Morning October 11th.

Please arrive breakfasted, at home, The Peg, Regionally Famous Dick's Bar in Hudson, or your favorite local.

We will tour about 75 miles of the nicest roads in the region, viewing the best fall colours Nature provides. Route notes will be provided as well as time in hand for elective stops at Antique Stores and Orchards enroute.

We will end at Paddy Ryan's Irish Pub near US Highway 12 and I-94 (WI exit 4) about 4 PM. Paddy's is a very nice Pub in an unlikely location, but I have sampled many of the dishes and libations and find it excellent and reasonably priced with charming and competent staff.

Steve Rixen 612-877-1938

INCIDENTALLY

The Aug. 16 Stine-Lauser driving tour of Pierce County backroads and picnic that we catered at the Stine farm near Beldenville raised an additional \$655 for Make-A-Wish kids. So far this year, members of the Minnesota Austin-Healey Club have raised a total of \$2,065 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota through the caravan in June and last weekend's picnic. That fundraiser plus other events since the San Diego mock-check presentation have brought the total of funds raised by members of the Austin-Healey Club of America to more than \$17,000 -- \$17,720.60 to be exact.

Greg Lauser

Event Schedule 2008

August 31	Intermarque Picnic – (Sun) 1:00 PM Cherokee Park
September 3 **	PIE Meeting – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 PM. See page 3.
September 6**	Wheels 'n Wings – (Sat) 8:00 AM Always a lot of cars and a lot of books. Airplanes , a train ride, hot dogs, and friendly people make it an enjoyable day in Osceola, WI.
September 12-14	BIR / Donneybrooke Vintage Revival - (Fri-Sun) VCSR racing and lunch time touring at Brainerd. For info, call Randy Byboth at 952 936 9335 see page 8-9 here
September 14 **	Healey Morgan Picnic – (SUNDAY) 2:00 PM. Herb and Marsha Miller are hosting again! How much does your sports car weigh?? Herb will tell you ! Bring something to grill and a dish to pass. Refreshments will be provided. Come to 9701 – 16 th Avenue South in Bloomington (near the Mall of America).
September 18-20	Fall Vintage Race Festival XXIII - Held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI. A great opportunity to see vintage racing up close. Call Jeff J., Dan P., or Jeff L. for details.
October 1 **	PIE Meeting – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 PM. See page 3.
October 11**	Fall Colour Tour- (Sat.) The final drive of the year to enjoy the Fall tree colors. Meet at Birkmose Park in Hudson, WI. Steve Rixen coordinating. See page 6 for details.
October 25 **	Adopt A Highway Clean-up (Sat.) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to take place on this date. Details later.
November 5 **	PIE Meeting – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 PM. See page 3.
November 8 **	Charity Event – (Sat) Dale Martin will schedule our club for taking part in a repeat food packaging charitable exercise. Details later.
November 15 **	Annual Business Meeting Party – (Sat.) The annual business meeting, election of officers, and dinner banquet will occur on this evening at the Ft Snelling Officer's Club. Details later.
December 3**	PIE Meeting – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 PM. See page 3.
December 6**	Planning Breakfast – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2009 will be on the agenda for this meeting. Rod Richert will select the site.

** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

Event Schedule 2009

June 11-14**	Rendezvous 2009 AmericInn in Ashland, WI Hosted by MAHC
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We cordially invite you to join us in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Brainerd International Raceway and Resort on September 12th, 13th and 14th.

Pre-Register Racetrack Driving Pass - \$20.00/day
General Admittance - \$10.00/day
RV Pass - \$35.00/night \$10.00/person
Camping Pass - \$10.00/person

Register on-line here:

<http://www.birperformance.com/viewpage.aspx?ID=120>

WHAT IS PAST IS PROLOGUE . 2008 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Brainerd International Raceway (BIR) and the beginning of a new era of motorsports in Minnesota . Come join us as we celebrate this iconic racetrack and look forward to a future filled with new and exciting events.

Throughout history, virtually every form of motorsports has been represented by this legendary Minnesota raceway. From the early days of Can Am cars roaring down the straightaway to the modern day NHRA Top Fuel dragsters, the Brainerd International Raceway has always been the top destination for Minnesota racing enthusiasts!

September 12th, 13th and 14th mark the days when we will be celebrating what's old and what's new. Join us for a weekend of festivities and fun-filled activities as we debut BIR's new 2.5 mile, 13 turn road circuit. Participants will have the opportunity of testing the new track out firsthand! Pre-register now, and be the first to tour, lap or race on this new course.

Our 40th Anniversary event will include professional level bench racing, road racing clubs, classic car clubs, performance vehicle shops, motorcycle racing clubs, go-kart racing competitors, vehicle manufacturers, and nostalgia drag racing exhibitions. During this event, the entire BIR facility will be open to visitors.

The event kicks off Friday morning with the 2.5 mile course open for lapping and race Group practice. On Friday evening there will be a Pig-Roast at the track.

Saturday's track schedule includes high speed lapping and low speed touring. The course's first ever wheel to wheel racing groups will be made from members of VSCR (Vintage Sports Car Racing), Land O' Lakes SCCA drivers and Nord Stern Porsche Club members.

Saturday Evening's banquet will be held at the track with key-note speaker Chris Economaki "The Dean of American Motorsports." During the banquet, BIR's first ever documentary video will be shown for the first time. Later in the evening the Johnny Holmes band will be playing at the band-shell.

In an effort to keep this affordable for all, weekend participation in the driving events on the new track surface will be a mere \$20.00 per driver per day for pre-registered drivers and a \$10.00 charge per day for spectators. Camping will also be available during this weekend along with BIR's full service RV sites.

We look forward to seeing you during this 40th Anniversary weekend. Whether you have attended BIR events in the past or are new to motorsports and racing, this is a fantastic opportunity to both relive and create new memories.

WAYZATA ROTARY & THE MINNEAPOLIS CLUB

CHARITY AUTO SHOW



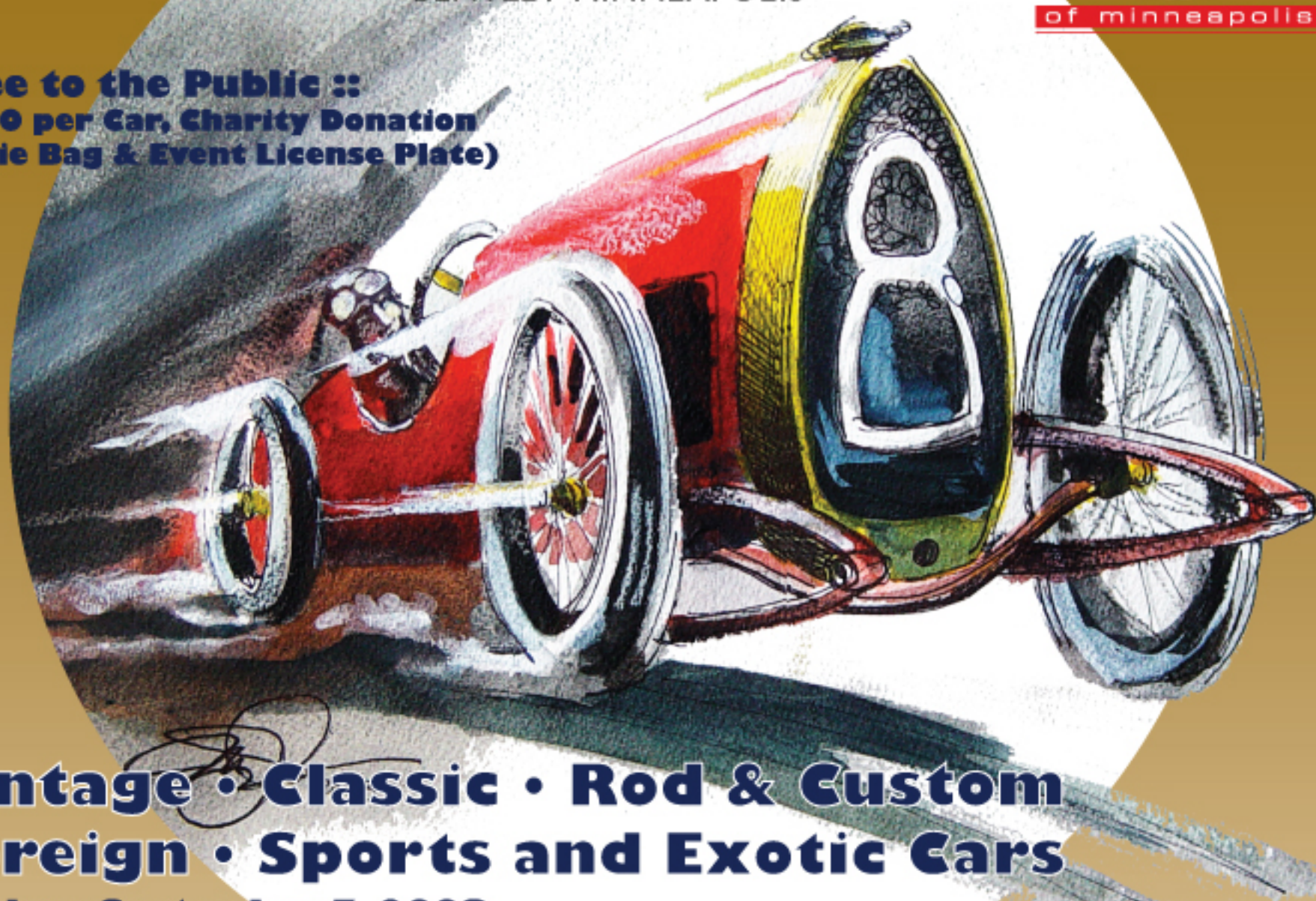
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BENTLEY MINNEAPOLIS



of minneapolis

:: Free to the Public ::
\$15.00 per Car, Charity Donation
(Goodie Bag & Event License Plate)



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Sunday - September 7, 2008

10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Rain or Shine

Mill Street, Downtown Wayzata Minnesota

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● **Automotive Fine Art Tent by Michael Jekot**

Contact: Marty Schneider

612-237-3843

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**ROGER
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EST. 1965

**Lakeshore
Weekly News**
Covering The Greater Lake Minnetonka Area

Hi everybody from Bob Jensen,

Anybody that is interested in a enclosed dry storage area with concrete floor for car storage please contact me. This is in Lake Elmo and has enough room for around 100 cars.

Cost is \$40 per car per month. (you must continue your own Ins.) and a car cover is probably best.

If we can get 30 or more cars the price will drop to \$35 per car.

Also I have worked out that if we can get more, around 50 cars we can have an entire building to ourselves.

Access is available every day of the week and weekends with a call.

This is an old wood factory that my neighbor and his brother and their company have.

If there are any questions please call Bob Jensen (651) 351-9500 or Jim directly

James Edison Jr.

Vice President/TPC

11320 Upper 33rd Street North

Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Tele 651-430-0435

Fax 651-430-0783

Cell 612-845-2563

Ellingson's Car Show Results

8/9/2008

Category	Place	Name	Car
MGA & MGT's	1	Dennis Oberloh	1958 MGA
MGB's	1	Mary Jo Kukacka	1963 MGB
	2	Roger Olson	1974 MGB
Jaguar	1	Dale Martin	1957 XK-150
	2	John Ruggeberg	1973 XKE
Classic Mini	1	Karl Jenstad	1972 Mini
	2	Dean Sulander	1964 Austin
Mini (2002 & Newer)	1	Johnny Caldron III	2004 Cooper
	2	Merlin Holz	2005 Cooper
Triumph	1	Amber Ahmann	1966 Spitfire
	2	Greg Gelhar	1973
Rolls Royce & Bentley	1	Paul Rozendaal	1972 Silver Shadow
	2	Douglas Ray Sanduos	1978 Rolls Royce
Other British	1	Aaron Courteau	1967 Ginetta G20
	2	Steve Shogren	1967 Lotus Super
Diamond in the Rough	1	Gary Krukuski	1950 MGTD
Ladies Choice	1	Lynn Schulte	1955 Nash Metrop
Best of Show	1	Bob Tirrell	1929 Invicta

Velocity Art / Car Show



Just Lovely!

Pics by Barb Ronning



Ellingson British car / swap Meet



Twass a Beautiful Day !

Photos by Barb Ronning

Stine/ Lauser Pierce County Annual Parade and Picnic

by June Moerke

Eleven vehicles met at Point Douglas Park near Prescott WI at the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers on a bright and sunny Saturday Aug. 16th for the Make a Wish Fund Raiser. We wove thru the back roads, criss-crossing through open and shaded areas on a very interesting route designed by club members and co-chair Greg Lauser. We had up hill and down hill and around the bend and around the curve views to take in our sports cars. Ken Merrill made the drive on his motorcycle. New member Katy Olson also used the nice weather and met us at the Stine's on her bike. When we all arrived at the Stine's country ranch around 3 p.m. we were joined by Larry Nimmerfroh and Dave Lee about a mile out. Simon and Lorna Bosworth were already there for their private garden and grounds tour by Carl and Betty. Not to worry, the whole gang got the whole tour after the wonderful bar-b-que meal.

What a FEAST !

For starters we had Greg's salsa and scoops, Betty's dressed up deviled eggs, along with a colorful and crisp veggie tray with dip. Betty prepared her own special home made potato salad, a celery, green onion and lime gelatin ring mold salad, home made chicken salad, and a creamy cole slaw.

We had bread 'n' butter pickles and Greg and Nancy's spinach with fresh strawberry salad dinner rolls. There were 3 meat choices - a grilled pulled pork, a baked southern style ham (each with a special bar-b-que sauce), and homemade chicken salad. A favorite was Carl's char-grilled sweet corn served with drawn butter !

After we had our fill and a short breather, out came dessert: Betty's famous 5 layered trifle topped with real whipped cream garnished with cherries and pecans, and Nancy's melt in your mouth 4 layer turtle brownie cake. Both to die for. What a yummy meal.

To top all this off we all hiked about a quarter mile across the lawn to the deep woods to see and climb into Carl and Betty's enchanted forest tree house. It was complete with decking, railings, screen porch, and sleeping loft - furnished with reading chairs, love seats etc. etc. The house was anchored high above ground and onto many trees. Nearby, 2 brown cows with small calves could be seen grazing in a fenced clearing. Neat drive, awesome weather, and great food ! The Healey, MG, Triumph, and Jaguar clubs were all represented.

What a Day !



Cross Country Caravan 'geared up' to help kids

Minnesota Austin-Healey Club member helps raise \$16,001 for Make-Wish Foundation®

When MAHC member Greg Lauser thinks about June 2008, the highlight is driving his 1967 Austin-Healey 3000 from Prescott, Wis., to San Diego to help raise money benefiting children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Lauser was one of a trio of officers of the Austin-Healey Club of America that drove together to Conclave in San Diego. Along the way, members of several regional AHCA clubs generously supported the club's "Cross Country Caravan for Kids" by raising and contributing \$16,001.

"We were very impressed by the generosity of club members, their families, friends and employers as we drove across the country," Lauser said. "Those contributions provided a good foundation for building added success."

In addition to money already contributed to The Make-A-Wish Foundation, upcoming events planned by various AHCA clubs are expected to raise additional funds for local Make-A-Wish chapters. All money pledged and collected until the end of the calendar year will be used to fulfill wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions.

"The cross-country drive was a symbolic way of creating awareness and excitement among our local clubs about helping fulfill wishes of children in their own regions," Lauser said. "The Make-A-Wish Foundation has chapters all over the continent for our 46 regional clubs to work with so that funds raised in their own backyards can be put to work there."

"A mock check for the total raised by clubs before and during the drive was presented to Make-A-Wish on July 1 at the Conclave car show. Now, it's time for clubs that haven't already done so to contact their local Make-A-Wish chapters and keep the ball rolling," he said. "Fundraisers during the remainder of the year will be done with or for local Make-A-Wish chapters, so proceeds of local fundraisers will be presented directly to them."

Lauser said that although his regional club's formal fundraiser wasn't be until Aug. 16, club members and complete strangers already had made generous contributions to the June caravan. "Nancy and I were having breakfast downtown at The Boxcar the morning (June 19) I left to meet the other two national officers near St. Louis. Another customer asked if the Healey out front was mine. I told him it was and he said he'd just bought a Healey as part of a collection of cars. He asked about the caravan magnets on the doors of my car and I told him I was leaving on the fundraising drive after breakfast."

"After we chatted a bit longer and I gave him a membership application to join the Minnesota and national clubs, he responded by saying he wanted to get my trip started right. With that, he handed me a \$100 bill," Lauser said. "He certainly made my day."

During the caravan, several local and regional clubs arranged meetings and meals for the intrepid travelers. Before Gary Brierton, a club vice president from Lexington, N.C., left for Vermont, the Corsa Rosa driving club in Winston-Salem, N.C. hosted his AHCA regional club and added their donations. When Brierton and his wife arrived in Bennington, Vt., a "kick-off" event hosted by the AHC of New England was attended by more than 20 members and checks were collected. After arriving back in Charlotte, N.C., the Carolinas and Atlanta AHC clubs fed Brierton and AHCA President Carl Brown and added their dollars to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. After leaving Charlotte, clubs in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana gave money and hosted Brierton and Brown.

AHCA Vice President of Conclaves Jim Frakes of the Central Indiana club stumbled on an innovative way of raising funds. In addition to friends and employees pledging money for miles he and his wife drove through Indiana, one joker who has worked for him for many year added a special incentive. He said he'd pay an extra \$20 a day for every day Jim stayed away from the office.

When Lauser drove down river from Wisconsin to join Brierton and Brown, he brought along \$1,410 in contributions from MAHC and \$425 from the Midwest Region club, whose members met him for dinner near Savanna, Ill., June 19.

Members of the St. Louis-area Austin-Healey Club hosted the "Three Amigos" for dinner on June 20 in Pacific, Mo. The next day the trio stopped in Jefferson City to capture photos of their cars in front of the Missouri state capitol. While there, a lady approached Brierton and said, "I don't want to offend you, sir, but my granddaughter thinks you're Santa Claus. Would you mind posing for a picture with her?"

Although the woman explained that her granddaughter normally is very shy, she leapt into Brierton's arms when he offered to pick her up. Everyone enjoyed that wonderful moment on the steps of the state capitol – particularly Brierton, who often plays Santa Claus back home in North Carolina.

As the trio pulled off the toll road in Wichita the toll booth operator noticed Brown's Make-a-Wish magnet on the door and told him the organization had granted her son's wish.

"We heard this type story all along the way," Lauser said. "Gary met a Make-A-Wish beneficiary and her grandfather, who is an AHCA member, in Bennington, Vt. In Knoxville, Tenn., where the Smoky Mountain Club was the center of television and broadcast media attention during a gathering there, Carl and Gary met another AHCA member whose grandson had his wish fulfilled by Make-A-Wish. As a result of the Knoxville gathering, the Smoky Mountain club recruited three new members that day."

After overnighing in Wichita, Kan., and Guymon, Okla., “The Three Amigos” were treated by about 15 members of The Roadrunner Club to a New Mexican dinner in Albuquerque the evening of the June 24. The trio left early the next morning for Flagstaff, Ariz., to avoid the increasing heat being encountered.

Up at dawn the next day (June 26), the trio was intent on driving historic parts of Route 66 between Seligman and Kingman, Ariz. They also stopped briefly in Kingman to be interviewed by a reporter for the local newspaper and to take their own pictures before a mothballed steel plant outside of town that Lauser helped establish in the 1990s. From there, it was on to Laughlin, Nev., and down to Lake Havasu City, Ariz., where it was 107 degrees at 1 p.m.

That evening the three were hosted by about 50 members of the Cruisers Club of Lake Havasu City, an event arranged by Judy and Ted Hardy, who also are members of Utah’s Bonneville AHC. The restaurant parking lot was overflowing with classic American Iron and four Austin-Healeys. As the trio and their hosts munched sandwiches in air-conditioned comfort, the thermometer on a bank down the block rose to 114 degrees by 7 p.m.! The next morning, it was on to San Diego.

The caravan tally was \$16,001 raised for Make-A-Wish and zero mechanical problems all the way to San Diego “Ongoing fund-raising efforts through the end of the year by local clubs can make the caravan total just the ‘tip of the iceberg’ for AHCA contributions to Make-A-Wish and we hope that will be the case,” Lauser said.

Since returning from California, the Lausers (Nancy) and Betty and Carl Stine hosted and catered the Pierce County Parade & Picnic at the Stine’s farm Aug. 16 near Beldenville, Wis. That event, thanks to food costs being underwritten by MAHC, raised an additional \$655 for Make-A-Wish children.

Anyone who wants to contribute to the nearest chapter of Make-A-Wish in the Twin Cities as part of the sports car club’s efforts may contact Lauser at glauser@pressenter.com or phone him at 715-262-9813.



Pictures:

Left: Gary “Santa Claus” Brierton and the young girl he befriended in front of the Missouri State Capitol Building at Jefferson City. Photo by Greg Lauser.

Right: Chris Sichel, executive director of the San Diego Chapter of Make-A-Wish, left, thanks officers, from the left, Carl Brown, Greg Lauser and Gary Brierton of the Austin-Healey Club of America for fundraising efforts represented by the mock check for \$16,001 generously contributed by regional club members before and during the Cross Country Caravan for Kids. John Sprinzel stands off to the right. Photo by Nancy Lauser.

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