



Volume 34, Number 5

Healey Enthusiast

July 2023



From left: Jim Manion, Tom Hazen, and Suzanne Willodson at the June DCTC Driving Event.

Upcoming Events

Sun	30 July	InterMarque Picnic
Wed	2 August	PIE
Fri	4 August	DCTC Track Day
Sat	12 August	Britfest
Sun	20 August	InterMarque Car Show
See the website for details: www.mnhealey.com		

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Websites

Minnesota:	www.mnhealey.com
National	www.healeyclub.org

PIE

(President's Informal Evening)

Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m. social hour; meeting at 7:00

Place: Joseph's Grill
140 South Wabasha
Saint Paul, MN 55107
651-222-2435

Come and enjoy beverages and/or food with the friendly club members, catch up on news and events, and discuss cars and restorations.

*Thank you to those who submitted news, articles,
and photos for this issue:*

Dave Hatzung
John Hatzung

Please send submissions before the 15th of the month to:
daphne.walmer@gmail.com

Current and past newsletters:
<http://www.mnhealey.com/mnhealey/newsletter.htm>



HEALEY ENTHUSIAST

The official publication of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club, a Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation. THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST is published 11-12 times per year for the benefit of its members. Articles that 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.

PIE Meeting Notes, July 5, 2023

by Daphne Walmer

Chairman of the Board Dan Powell ran the meeting in the absence of President Dave Hatzung and VP John Hatzung. New member Hunter Mertes was introduced. He has a red-over-white 61BT7 with a tri-carb engine.

Recent Events

- The June DCTC had only nine drivers, so everyone was able to drive as much as they wanted. Then they ate sandwiches and everyone was gone by 1:00. Despite the forecast it never rained. They don't put up cones, so they don't need corner workers. Suzanne Willodson handled the timing gear.
- **Rendezvous 2023** was held in Ashland, WI and was run by the Triumph Club, which did a great job. There weren't so many events, and no overlapping events. People liked that because it's really a social event. People want to talk to each other. They had 90 cars and only 80 for the car show.

Upcoming Events

- The next DTCT event will be Friday, August 4, 2023, with a 9:00 AM drivers' meeting.
- The Wetzel's have decided to have their party on Saturday, September 9. They'll do the same tour as last year, starting at 11:00. A meal will start at 1:00 PM.

New/Other Business

- **Rendezvous 2025:** The attendees voted to send a check for \$500 to the Sugar Lake Lodge Grand Rapids, which along with the same amount from the MG club will hold it for Thursday June 5 through Sunday June 8.

Suzanne Willodson presented a tentative plan to co-host with the MG Club, which is anxious to co-host with the Austin Healey Club. Rendezvous used to rotate between different clubs at 4-year intervals, but during our last hosting in 2017 it was hard to get enough people. Also, if people took part in one event, they were missing another, so some people suggested simplifying the agenda so that only one thing is going on at a time and co-hosting. The Triumph Club reported about the hotels they talked to for the 2023 event. They had looked at a place in Duluth, but the rooms were very expensive. Fortunately Sugar Lake Lodge still has room for the dates proposed, which is also a preferred date for a lot of people including the Canadians, because they have snow earlier, and they have other events later. The Canadians also like the Sugar Lake location because it's not as far for them.

Room rates at Sugar Lake: Studio villa \$175, Lodge studio \$195, Suites, 2-bedroom and cabins \$295/night. The \$500 check will lock in those room rates.

There was some discussion about whether it's a good idea to co-host, because

someone needs to be able to make an ultimate decision in a timely way. The attendees voted was to lock in Sugar Lake even though the precise roles and decision-making haven't yet been decided.

Tom Politiski showed an idea he has for trophies, and he volunteered to head up trophies.

- Eileen Wetzel brought up the MAHC helping the Wisconsin Healey Club on **Conclave 2024**, which will tentatively run 15-19 Sep at Road America. Eileen is talking to Clarence; he's doing rallies if the dates work out. The Conclave hopefully would be the weekend after the Vintage weekend, starting on that Sunday.

Attendees: Steve & Kim Rixen, Chuck & Mary Sue Ash, Eileen & Gary Wetzel, Hunter Mertes (new member), Dick Leighninger, Tom Poltiski, Steve McQueen, Jeff Lumbard, Jeff Johnk, Jim Manion, Jeff & Diane Rossi, Greg & Suzanne Willodson.

Welcome to new member **Rick Morris**. This is his 1961 Austin Winchester Sedan.



The Journey

by Dave Hatzung

My brother Dave set me on this path. We share semi-retirement and a devotion to driving cars fast. He taught me how to drive a stick, though neither one of us would remember – it was his piece-of-crap car, and I had no other means of learning. We'd each had our fun cars over the years, Dave with his MGs, my various German cars. His Healey dream led him to this club of kindred spirits, who embraced him not just because he had a Healey, but also because he's a fun guy, throws great parties, and knows how to lead meetings.

The racing crew (heroes for their willingness to thrash these fairly rare and expensive machines around racetracks on a regular basis) inspired Dave to try thrashing his. He was hooked, only to experience the anxiety of the costs of maintaining a car treated as race cars are (thanks, Marv/Dad). His solution was to bring in his car nerd brother and buy a less-expensive thrash-able car. That lasted a couple of years before our inner Type A sent us both off to find cars that would enable us out of last place.

About that time, Covid, the Great Insurance Crisis, and other events laid waste club sponsorship of our traditional timed events. There we were, keys in hand, with no other choice but dodging cones with hundreds of younger, serious MOWOGs. About that time someone mentioned Dakota County Tech, a *real track actually used* for sorting out race cars and training drivers for competition—and it was available to rent. With the support of the club and The Willodsons, we dove in.

Last Saturday was our third event. Prep had started back in February when the board gave the go-ahead. Dates were available in the required windows to avoid big track events. Word was spread, if not far and wide, among our target clubs. The goal has always been to curate the cars to keep it interesting and a little laid back. This vision continues to evolve as we try to attract what we see as a sweet spot number of drivers. As it came to be, for various reasons (a memorial service, family events, a disabling injury, etc.), we had a smaller group, but it more than made up for numbers with enthusiasm.

With our trusty Honda Odyssey loaded with canopies, tables, chairs, and lots of cones, Lisa and I sailed the Saturday morning freeways down to Rosemount. As



Greg Willodson next to Dave Hatzung in his race car.

we pulled into the lot, my heart sank as I had no recollection of what or where the lock box code was. Probably written down in a notebook on the dining room table. Suzanne and Greg pulled up and listened to my hopeless lamentations (couldn't get hold of the manager, blah blah). Suzanne pulled it up on her phone and hallelujah, we were back on.

At least half the joy of these events has come with the friends who just come to help. Tom Hazen was the first to show up and showed me the finer points of laying out cones on the course—invaluable with Dan unable to join us. I hope he found it relaxing to not be in charge. Without the Willodson's capable work with organization and timing, it would have been a painful experience. It was great to have Jim Manion join us – he raised the discourse up more than a few notches, and everyone was happy to have him there. And Bruce, who, if my brain was functioning properly, I would have tapped for a driving lesson. I cannot remember his last name—if anyone can let me know, I'll send him a thanks-for-coming note. Dan and Ethan Hatzung (Dave's progeny) showed up and seemed to have

a good time – Ethan was coy about whether Dave or I gave the most thrilling ride. It seems like most of my efforts happen before the event, so by the time the first car broke the starting timer beam, my mind was filled with a heady combination of relief and elation. We had several visitors whose names I failed to note in my foggy state. I hope at least some of them will join us on August 4.

I'll call Brian Duoos the hero in this event. He ran his beautiful and mighty Jensen within seconds of a field of cars with twice the horsepower and generally 20 – 30 years newer—largely track cars. As far as I could see, he was smooth and fast, putting his beautiful Jensen Healey through the turns as it was meant to be.

Dean Borris had his lustful Lotus 7/Ford—to me the most fun car in the bunch. The big Healey race cars were supplanted by Eric Dieterle and his vintage BMW 2002. Having dueled with them at Brainerd a couple of weeks ago, Eric was able to bring its finicky Webers closer to tune for Road America. He set the pace for the modern Porsches and a newer Subaru

(how did that get in there?). Greg Willodson found time to exercise both his Boxter and Beemer to respectable times.

Merlin Schwaiger compensated for my fancy new Falken tires and suspension upgrades with his superior driving skills in the Miata "class." We were both hot on the time of the newer German cars, I'm proud to say.



By lunchtime everyone had many runs in (about 10 – 15 laps). With what looked like weather coming in and sated by a morning of racing and Jimmy Johns, everyone was ready to pack up. On the downside, the Subaru had some kind of failure. Greg and I waited with Tim for the tow truck: who could pass up a truly captive audience for our many car stories, no doubt raising the pain level. About that time Stefanie and Phil Dawson stopped by. Phil expressed his “deep” disappointment for missing the event—a definitely disturbing muscle tear from a battle with a log (ask Phil; it's a good story). After that, I headed home. Everyone involved seemed to have a good time and many voluntarily told me as much.

August 4 is a Friday, Come and join us—we'll set up a canopy and chairs for you.

Minnesota Austin-Healey Club invites you to

2023 Track Days

Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount Minnesota

Saturday June 24 & Friday August 4

Registration Desk opens at 8am | Drivers' meeting at 9am

Each event is \$65 per driver (\$85 for registration on day of event)

I'm registering for event date(s):

☐ Saturday, June 24

☐ Friday, August 4

Payment via **PayPal** to **MnHealeyClub@gmail.com**

or

by **check** made out to **MAHC** and mailed to:

John Hatzung
6024 York Ave S
Edina MN 55410

Driver Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Year/Make/Model/Color _____

Requested Car #s (give 2-3 backup #s) _____

Emergency Contact Name & Phone _____

Registration is now open for members of InterMarque car clubs and owners of American, foreign, and vintage cars at least 10 years old.

The Healey Club will be serving lunch on site.

Rendezvous in the Black Hills

Foreign Motor Car Rally
August 17-20, 2023



Mt. Rushmore



Crazy Horse

All Marques Welcome



Presidential Hospitality Suite and Limited Block
of Rooms at the Lodge in Deadwood
For Reservations call 877-393-5634

If you have questions contact Bob at
rendezvousintheblackhills@gmail.com

**Membership Form
(for Local only members)**

Curt Carlson – Membership Director
Minnesota Austin-Healey Club

**Dues for both Minnesota AH-Club and
Austin-Healey Club of America**

(\$20 Minnesota + \$70 National) Renew or Join via www.healeyclub.org \$90.00

Minnesota A-H Club Dues (Local only) New or Renewal \$30.00
(circle one)

Name: _____ Spouse/Friend: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Day () _____ Evening: () _____

E-mail address: _____

Spouse/friend email (if they want MAHC email): _____

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

Local only make checks payable to: MN Austin Healey Club (or MAHC)

Send to:

Curt Carlson,
1984 Nebraska Ave E,
Saint Paul, MN 55119

MAHC Planning Calendar 2023

Day	Date(s)	Description	Time	Place
Sun	30-Jul	Intermarque picnic		Cherokee Regional Park
Wed	2-Aug	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	Aug	Brit Fest	AM	Hudson WI
Fri	4-Aug	DTCT Track Day		Dakota County Technical College
Sun	27-Aug	Intermarque picnic		Cherokee Regional Park
Sat-Sun	2-3 Sep	Labor Day Brainerd Race		Brainerd International Raceway
Wed	6-Sep	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	9 Sep	Wetzel Tour and Party	11:00 AM	Wetzel Home
Sun	17-Sep	Lynch Mexican Fiesta	3:00 PM	Mike Lynch Home
Fri-Sun	15-17 Sep	Aviens Art on Wheels Vintage	8-5	Elkhart Lake Road America
Sun	24-Sep	Intermarque picnic		Cherokee Regional Park
	Sep?	Waumandee		
Wed	4-Oct	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	7-Oct	Wisconsin drive and breakfast	tentative	
Fri-Sun	13-15 Oct	Ozark International Raceway		
	Oct?	Fall Color Tour		
Wed	1-Nov	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	18-Nov	Banquet		Joseph's Grill
Sat	2-Dec	2024 Planning Meeting	9:00 AM	Joseph's Grill

InterMarque Breakfasts

Contact Todd Bjerknes
to be added to email list
for the week's location
RSVP to
tbjerknes46@gmail.com

InterMarque Newsletter

Check out InterMarque's
multi-marque calendar
in their latest newsletter
for even more car events!
www.intermarque.org

Marketplace

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 that the ad can be removed.

1978 Triumph Spitfire 1500 for sale

4- Cylinder 1.5L
59,798 miles
Blue Exterior, Tan Interior
Factory Hardtop Included
\$6500

Recent work done:

- New brake master cylinder
- Front brakes bled and operational
- New brake lines to front assembly
- New rear passenger brake solenoid
- New rear passenger brake hose
- New battery

1978 Triumph Spitfire plus the factory hardtop in sound condition. The exterior has very minimal rust, and the interior is in great condition. This is a great hobby car. It starts and runs on all cylinders but needs a new rocker shaft and pushrods. The front brakes have had work done and are operational, but more needs to be done to the rear brakes, because there appears to be a clog at the rear brake junction. New junction plus driver's side rear brake hose included but not installed. Contact Jeff Butler 952.412.2607



1967 Sprite for sale. California body on a rotisserie now. Included is a Datsun 5-speed transmission hooked up to a 1275 that Ernie West rebuilt, with the head and carbs flowed, punched out to .60 over. This ran great in my prior 1969 Sprite. Lots of spare parts, and two MG Midget parts cars. \$7000. Contact me at healemog@yahoo.com Tom Politiski

