



Healey Enthusiast

Volume 32, Number 2

March/April 2021



Spring Forward!

Photo courtesy of Dave Herreid

Upcoming Events

Many suspended until sometime this summer due to COVID-19

Sun-Fri	May 16-21	Conclave 2021, Big Bear Lake, California
Sat	May 22	InterMarque Spring Kickoff & Car Show
Thurs-Sun	June 10-12	Rendezvous 2021, Kenora, Ontario
Fri	Aug 6	MAHC Driving Event at DCTC

Minnesota Austin Healey Club (MAHC)

Staff

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Vice President **John Hatzung**
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InterMarque Delegate **Jay Jacobson**
612-388-8929

Regalia **Gary Ronning**

Board of Directors **Phil Dawson**
Greg Lauser
Dan Powell
Scott McQueen
Geoff Rossi

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Sprite **Paul Gau**
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100 **Mike Manser**

3000 & modified **Jeff Johnk**
952-461-2720

Jensen Healey **Jay Jacobson**
612-388-8929

Websites

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

PIE

(President's Informal Evening)

Date: **Wednesday, TBD**

Time: **6:00 p.m., 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
Dave Herreid
Dick Leighninger
Jim Manion
Dan Powell

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.

President Dave Hatzung's Very Presidential Column

Welcome Spring! Yes, that's a little premature, but when you own and love sports cars, and the snow is off the roads and the grass seems to be greening up, all you can think of is driving your car, maybe even with the top down. 😊 The problem is, I'm not at home where my Healey is, otherwise I know I'd be chomping at the bit to drive it.

What got me thinking about driving my car was wondering if we could have a club planning meeting to get some activities going for 2021. My wife Mary and I had our first Covid shot last week, and I'm hoping that most of our club members will get theirs pretty soon, so we can start planning on getting back "close to normal" again. I know the Conclave is still going to be held, and I'm thinking we could start to plan some things for this summer.

My brother, and VP, **John Hatzung**, has things started for the Dakota County get-together/gymkhana on August 6th (save the date!!!), but I'm hoping we can plan some road rallies, tours, and/or picnics before that. As President of this prestigious organization (the #1 Healey Club in the Universe) I feel a responsibility to get things rolling again. That's a guilt thing I've got going. I called a few club members to get their opinion, and the consensus seems to be that we still need to hold off until July. If any of you feel differently, feel free to call me and we can certainly talk about what you think would work (like an outdoor picnic???).

Fellow MAHC member **Geoff Rossi** got a thank you in the March issue of *The Healey Marque*. He has been in charge of the "Original Owners Healey Registry Program" for years and retired from that position. Thanks, **Geoff!!!** The President of the AHCA, **Gary Feldman**, is looking for a replacement. If you are interested, contact him. Gary also mentioned that we wrapped up the new program for the AHCA's liability insurance program. That took a while, and I have to say again that he did a great job getting that done.

I hope this message finds all our club members still healthy and surviving this year of Covid.

Stay well and stay happy!

Dave (Mario) Hatzung

More election news!

The January/February issue of our newsletter (which was emailed to members on January 31st) announced that our election of Officers and Directors would be occurring soon and asked anyone interested in running for any Officer position or one of the three upcoming vacancies on the Board to step forward.

All of the current officers had previously indicated a willingness to run for their current positions. No additional candidates have come forward. There being no competing candidates for any officer position, the Board has determined that the 2020 slate of officers have been duly elected for the year 2021.

There were three Director positions open, per our bylaws. Three candidates stepped forward to volunteer to help guide the club for the next two years. No additional candidates volunteered to run for the Board. There being no competing candidates for the three Director positions, the current Board has determined that the following individuals have been elected to the Board for the next two years.

New Directors: Greg Lauser, Geoff Rossi, and Scott McQueen.

On behalf of the Board and the general membership, I would like to thank the individuals who stepped forward to help our club through these trying times. Hopefully by the time we have our next election life will be back to some sort of normal and we can hold an in-person election.

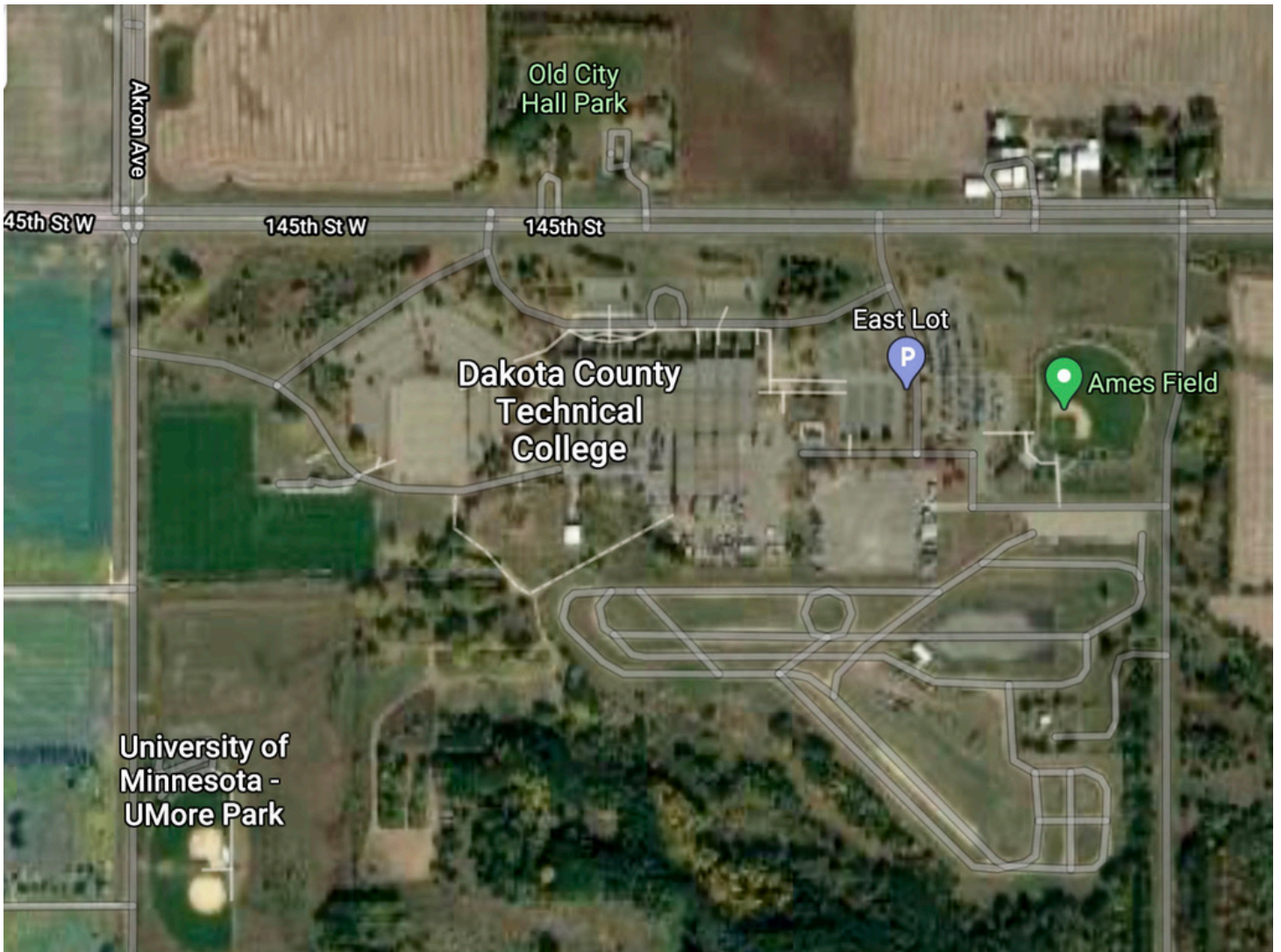
For the Board,

Dan Powell
Board Chairman

Dakota County Technical College (DCTC)

Driving Event Planning Meeting #1 by John Hatzung

March 18, 2021	A group of the vintage racers are planning a new MAHC driving event.
Present:	Dan Powell, Clarence Westerberg, Suzanne Willodson, Greg Willodson, Dave Hatzung, John Hatzung
Date:	Contract is signed for a full day event on Friday, August 6.
Finances:	\$1,600 rental fee. Entrant fee: \$40?? and up. Break-even would not be a priority.
Entrants:	40 – 60 entrants Vintage, semi-vintage cars. Selective, but no hard restrictions. 1st Priority MAHC members 2nd Priority Triumph & MG clubs 3rd Priority Other Intermarque clubs
Type of Event:	Track/autocross/gymkhana: use full course, reduce speed with cones & turns. Social, informal, picnic atmosphere. Concourse? Parade?
Course Layout:	TBD. Organize visits to observe other events at DCTC.
Timing:	MAHC has all the equipment needed. A few corner workers required. Morning and afternoon shifts.
Setup/Teardown:	John will check access night before and evening after.
Marketing:	MAHC Newsletter Intermarque T-shirts for entrants and volunteers Need a name for the event.
Hospitality Food:	Picnic, food truck or other No alcohol Rental tent & canopies No provisions for ambulance on site if service is available nearby.
General:	This will be a MAHC event, the post-COVID restart. John will be the primary contact and clearinghouse for any suggestions, questions or volunteer support in any of the areas discussed.
Next Meeting:	Mid-April



Satellite photo of the Dakota County Technical College campus, site of new MAHC driving event.

Bogus Auction Sale of 1967 BJ8

VIN# HBJ8L-39324

by Jim Manion

The story begins innocently enough one day in January 2014. While sitting in my office on lunch break, I decided to check on current 67 Healey sales prices. I went to the Barrett-Jackson auction house and found a 67 Healey painted in Healey blue just like my car. Then I noticed the VIN for the car was HBJ8L-39323, which is the same VIN as the Austin Healey I've owned since new.

After going home that evening I double checked the VIN and confirmed it was the same as the one for my car. In response I sent a letter to the president of Barrett-Jackson informing him he sold a car that had an incorrect VIN, since it was the same VIN as my car. After about a week I get an email from a West Coast builder/restorer telling me I was in error and the VIN was correct for the car he sold, claiming it was his VIN and not mine. In response I showed him some of the documentation I have: 1969 auto registration with the VIN listed, a license number matching photo of car, BMIHT certificate, and the original bill of sale for the car. He backed off after seeing this info and agreed to contact Barrett-Jackson and get the name of the buyer (apparently, they don't tell the seller the buyer's name). Once he did so, he said in a follow up email that he would go to the buyer's home in Washington and replace the VIN plate with a corrected version.

Several things are interesting here. The builder indicated he bought the car from a guy in Oregon who bought it from a guy in Arizona who was a detective who investigated stolen cars—read into that what you'd like. This was resolved quickly and amicably because I had great provenance on the car that he simply couldn't challenge. The seller also indicated he thought the car was originally painted red, so if he had obtained a BMIHT certificate using this VIN he would have seen the car was originally Healey Blue not red, a sure sign something was incorrect. Also trying to register the VIN with Steve Byers Healey registry might have helped identify there was a problem. The builder did neither of these things.

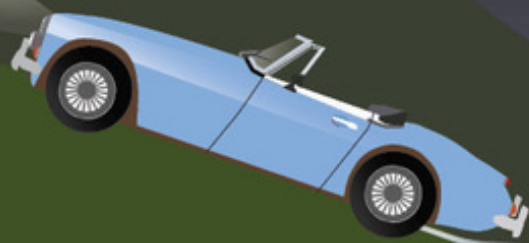
Since most of us are not the original buyers, proving provenance could be very difficult if not impossible in the event of duplicate VINs. It's also apparent states do not share VIN information on vehicles, so an old car like the Healey could potentially be stolen in one state and easily registered or given a new VIN in another state. There is no way to completely stop this from happening, but the minimal protection to take should be to get a BMIHT certificate and register your car with Steve Byers. It worth noting the BMIHT lists the body, engine and chassis numbers, which can be used to cross check and substantiate the VIN number. I recall a story of an owner of a Healey stolen years before recovering it because the VIN was noticed on an auction site. Apparently, this is one reason auction sites are less likely to list the VIN on cars for sale. Finally, even though the VIN for my car was corrected by the seller, the way the internet works you can still find the VIN online showing it was sold by Barrett-Jackson in 2014. This means I will need to keep the provenance data forever in the event my car is sold, or I decide to register it in another state.

Austin-Healey Association of Southern California

presents

CONCLAVE 2021

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CONCLAVE 2021 IS ON!

All registrants please note: We have heard questions (and not a few rumors) about Conclave 2021 in Big Bear, CA. The organizers would like to assure you that CONCLAVE IS ON.

We are confident that with the current deployment of the Covid vaccine and preferences being given to our most typical demographic (that's PC speech for "old people"), Conclave can be conducted in a safe and healthy manner. Thank you for registering for Conclave 2021 and we will see you in Big Bear this May.

Steve Kirby, Conclave Chairman, sackirby@pacbell.net, 949 261-8208

AHCA Conclave, 2021 THE LODGE AT BIG BEAR LAKE BIG BEAR LAKE, CALIFORNIA

Sunday May 16 – Friday May 21, 2021

REGISTRATION OPEN

Regalia Now On Sale

WWW.CONCLAVE2021.COM



Kenora, ON June 10-12, 2021

Presented By



Event Sponsors



Activities

- Meet & Greet
- Scenic Driving Tour & Lunch
- Art Gallery & Museum Tour with lunch
- Evening Cruise on the historic M.S. Kenora
- Fun Rallye
- Harbourfront Charity Car Show
- Awards Banquet at the Kenora Recreation Centre



Accommodations

Comfort Inn
1230 Highway 17 E.
807-468-8845



Days Inn
920 Highway 17 E.
807-468-2003

www.rendezvous2021.com

Rendezvous 2021 Update

Your Rendezvous organizing committee co-chairs are continuing to plan for this year's Rendezvous in Kenora, June 10-13. We are assuming that provincial restrictions will be relaxed by then and it will be safe to hold our event. We know, of course, that masks and physical distancing will still be in effect, but most of our cornerstone activities, such as the rally, scenic tour, and car show, are outdoors. The banquet is to be held at the Kenora Recreation Centre in the Arena area where there is lots of space to spread out.

We will make decisions on the other planned activities, such as the Lake Of The Woods Brewery meet and greet, charity wine and cheese, Art Gallery and Museum tour, and the M.S. Kenora boat cruise, as the COVID-19 picture becomes clearer. As a result, we will hold off sending out new registration forms until at least the end of February. If the Canada/US border is still closed to nonessential travel, we will go ahead with a Canadian only event.

The two hotels are accepting bookings:

- **Comfort Inn**, 1230 Hwy 17 E., 807-468-8845 – Prices starting at \$139CND, including a hot breakfast
- **Days Inn**, 920 Hwy 17 E., 807-468-2003 – \$129CND with an indoor pool

Fingers crossed that we get to see you all this June 10-13.

Stay safe,

Ted Moorby – Austin Healey Club of Manitoba
Peter Foreman – Mid-Canada Mini Group
Rob Hawley – British Car Club of Manitoba

Goodbye to Adopt a Highway **by Dave Herreid**

May you live in interesting times ... indeed.

Here's a quick update; the Union still stands, Dave is coming out of his Covid phase, and the Adopt a Highway is now legend, meaning the door has closed and the sun sets on the grand MAHC beautify America clean-up effort. I got a very nice note from Virginia Hassler (from the State Department of Transportation) thanking us for our 15 years of service. I've been proud of the club's effort to give back, which began with Greg Lauser's vision of what could be. I think participants can all agree that the road has lots of stories to tell along one of the great highways of American legend, Highway 61.

Memory Lane

selected by Dave Herreid

A selection from past issues of *The Healey Enthusiast* and other Minnesota Austin Healey publications. Remember a distant event with fondness or dread? Let me know and I'll try to bring light through careful consultation of past Minnesota Austin Healey publications.

President's Column: Ups & Downs of Classic Car Prices

by Jeff Johnk from the April 1994 Healey Enthusiast

It would seem that lately every major car magazine has run an article explaining how classic car prices have bottomed and will surely start to rise in the very near future. Understanding the unusual roller coaster of classic car price of the last ten years bears our attention if we are to be financially prudent while enjoying our Healeys.

To review, sometime in the mid 80's, investors and their bankers began to move into the collectible car market. Just why investors began to show up in droves with blank checks at classic car auctions is somewhat of a mystery; perhaps they were becoming nervous about the record high stock market was reaching and felt it was time to put their money into other investments (if investors were nervous about the highs of the 80's, they must be terrified now of the stock market's recent highs. This huge influx of money into the collectible car market drove prices up and most enthusiasts right out into the cold, unless of course they had their own banker.

I have a friend who went to one such auction and found himself explaining to an investor the importance of the car the guy had just purchased, all the while the fellow was reciting verbatim his every word on a cellular phone to a business associate, crazy!

Sometime late in 1989 the market began to plummet. Many reasons have been given for the fall, but I personally believe the critical key was the looming Persian Gulf War. I believe we Americans began to become cautious in the face of uncertainty as to where this war may take us. Many restoration shops watched their scheduled customers cancel and shove their cars back under a tarp the day we invaded Kuwait. It should be noted that Healeys, in particular, did not drop to near the degree of most other classics. The only explanation that I can come up with for this is the strong enthusiastic backing Healeys attract.

Where is the market today and where is it going? According to what I am reading, the market may have bottomed. The basis for this thought is the

widespread feeling the economy is headed out of the recession and into better times. Recent conversations with Ran Bailey of Color Works and Dave Helms of G.T. Cars also suggests the markets may have bottomed and will start climbing next spring. Ran says in the month of January alone he has booked the entire year for restoration projects from people he has not heard from for years. If you have been thinking of buying a Healey (or another one), now may be the time.

Personally, I really don't care that much what the market does one way or another beyond keeping myself educated and how it affects my enjoyment of Healeys. Carol says the minute I get behind the wheel of a Healey, a smile appears which remains firmly attached to my face until the driving experience is over. Driving a Healey reminds me that motoring was at one time considered an enjoyable experience, not just a means of getting to and from work. When was the last time you went for a Sunday afternoon drive (race) in your Honda? The driving experience is, frankly, all the reward I need for owning a Healey.

The reality of the subject is that no one can say for sure when or how far the price of Healeys will go up or down. However, the future would appear to look bright. One thing is for certain, I know of no other hobby that will give the degree of financial return once you need to sell.

If you've got 'em, drive 'em.

Jeff Johnk

MAHC Membership / Renewal Form

Minnesota A-H Club Dues	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$20.00
Austin-Healey Club of America Dues	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<u>\$50.00</u>
BOTH CLUBS		\$70.00
Minnesota A-H Club (Local only) Dues	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$25.00

Name: _____ Spouse: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____
 E-mail address: _____ Receive Newsletter via email? Yes No

HEALEY INFORMATION:

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

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

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

Checks covering AHCA membership renewals must reach Jim Kriz no later than **January 1, 2021**, to assure that your information appears in the 2021 AHCA Membership Directory.

Send form and checks to:
Jim Kriz
2000 Kenwood Pkwy.
Minneapolis, MN 55405

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.



1966 Austin-Healey Sprite for sale by charity.

Car was donated to the Center for Vision Loss in Allentown, Pennsylvania. 166K miles. VIN: HAN8L53998. Contact Dennis Zehner at (610)433-6018 x 241 or dennis.zehner@centerforvisionloss.org.



1960 AH 3000 BN7 (rare two-seater) for sale by member of the Flatwater AHC in Omaha, NB. Jerry Mimick has owned this car for over 40 years and completed a full restoration in July of 2018. For more information/pictures contact Jerry at (641) 691-6961 or email mimshouse7@Q.com.

Marketplace (continued)

Parts for a BJ8 for sale

Black-color Boot, Top, and Tonneau Covers made from Sun-fast material, from Moss Motors, brand new in the box. Moss book price for three pieces is \$2850; asking \$2000 or best offer. Dave Anderson, 218-821-6884 or oicu81292@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: Getting desperate—make an offer A set of three 72 spoke wheels with tires. The wheels are not pretty, but functional. I also have five original 60-spoke wheels. Three are mounted with tires. From an unfinished project started in 1992, 32 long, 64 short spokes and 96 nipples together with a spoke wrench (all new in the box). I would like to sell the whole kit and caboodle as a lot. \$150. I have back issues of The Marque and Enthusiast dating back to 1991. Email Barry Wahlberg at geo4bar@gctel.com

If nothing else, the wire wheels would make a great art project or boat anchor.

4 tires and wire wheels for sale: These are from my 1967 BJ8, which I replaced some chrome wheels that I bought from the Wetzels. Best or any offer ... as with the rear exhaust from the same car. Hoping someone can use them. Dave@ hatzunginsurance.com or 952-913-6313.

Body parts from 100-6 for sale: Front scroud, beautiful condition, stripped. Rear deck. Hood. Door, one side only. Fender, left (driver's) side? Also, other minor parts. Call Dennis Koepsell 920-400-6052 anytime or email koepselldennis@gmail.com.



Demonstration of Prototype MAHC Website

As you may remember, *Healey Enthusiast* newsletter editor Daphne Walmer has been working with assistant professor Daniel Card at the University of Minnesota on an update of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club website, to make it easier to use and maintain, as well as to add some new features. (One new feature is the ability to link to videos on YouTube.) Professor Card and Daphne have ideas for next phases to be completed by upcoming classes, such as breaking news on the website, a more fully functional calendar, and the ability for new members to join via the website.

The spring class has developed a prototype based on designs from earlier classes and feedback from Daphne. At a time to be determined in the next few weeks, Dan Card will demonstrate a further enhanced prototype website via Zoom to everyone from the club who is interested.

If you are interested, please email daphne.walmer@gmail.com. We will set up the demonstration for a day and time when the most participants can attend.

I hope to see you there!

Daphne Walmer

