



Volume 32, Number 3

# Healey Enthusiast

May/June 2021



John Sprinzel, legendary driver and entrepreneur, and original inductee into the [British Sports Car Hall of Fame](#), passed away in May 2021 at the age of 90. He is shown here with his Sprite Rally Car in a photo from the Healey Museum in Holland. See article on page 8.

## Upcoming Events

Wed	July 7	President's Informal Evening
Fri-Sun	Jul 16-18	Road America
Wed	Aug 3	President's Informal Evening
Fri	Aug 6	MAHC Driving Event at DCTC
Wed	Sep 1	President's Informal Evening

## Minnesota Austin Healey Club (MAHC)

### Staff

President	<b>Dave Hatzung</b> 952-927-4600
Vice President	<b>John Hatzung</b> 952-270-8321
Treasurer	<b>Liz Stadther</b> 651-698-1981
Membership	<b>Curt Carlson</b> 612-251-7492
Newsletter & Communications	<b>Daphne Walmer</b>  651-398-3658
Video Librarian	<b>David Herreid</b> 651-334-3879
Name Tags & Events	<b>Greg Willodson</b>
National Delegate	<b>Eileen Wetzel</b> 763-541-9571
InterMarque Delegate	<b>Jay Jacobson</b> 612-388-8929
Regalia	<b>Gary Ronning</b>
Board of Directors	<b>Phil Dawson</b> <b>Greg Lauser</b> <b>Dan Powell</b> <b>Scott McQueen</b> <b>Geoff Rossi</b>

### Technical Resources

Sprite	<b>Paul Gau</b> 952-933-7277
100	<b>Mike Manser</b>
3000 & modified	<b>Jeff Johnk</b> 952-461-2720
Jensen Healey	<b>Jay Jacobson</b> 612-388-8929

### Websites

Minnesota:	<a href="http://www.mnhealey.com">www.mnhealey.com</a>
National:	<a href="http://www.healeyclub.org">www.healeyclub.org</a>

### PIE

(President's Informal Evening)

**Date:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021  
**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**  
**Tom Politiski**  
**Dan Powell**  
**Steve Rixen**

Please send submissions before the 15th of the month to:  
[daphne.walmer@gmail.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> 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**

In my last article I talked about getting our club up and running again because Spring was on its way, so here we go! We're having our first meeting in a long time on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Our VP **John Hatzung** has us scheduled for our summer **MAHC RESTART AUTOCROSS on August 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Dakota car track ... O MAN, what more could we ask for?! Well, pray for nice weather on those days!

I started my own summer rally on my way back from Florida. Mary and I turned left at Rockford, Illinois, and headed west to Galena. Spent the night there and toured a bit, and the next day headed north to catch Wisconsin highway 35 to head the rest of the way home. We had never been that far south on that stretch of highway.

The first town we encountered was **Dickeyville**, the home of **Holy Ghost Catholic Church** and their inspirational and beautiful Grotto and shrines, built back in the late 1920s by the then head parish priest. Built from stone, mortar, and brightly colored objects from around the world, it is dedicated to the unity of two great American ideals – the love of God and the love of country, two things we seem to be missing more and more of these days, but I won't get into that. It does bring to mind how fortunate we all are to be able to belong to our club and drive the cars we do and go anywhere we want.

Anyway, back to the drive ... headed north, through more small towns, rolling hills, more beautiful scenery along Lake Pepin, barges on the water, some trucks on the highway as usual, but overall an inspiring and memorable drive.

On another note, our friend and fellow member Chuck Ash is selling his beautiful red Healey, so turn to the back page and get the scoop on that – it's one of the nicest cars in the club – hope it stays here with one of our members.

Looking forward to hearing more from everyone at our meeting at **Joseph's** July 7<sup>th</sup>. I'll be using our past agenda, but we'll add a discussion about adding other events over the balance of the summer/fall. Be there or be square!

**Dave (Mario) Hatzung**



# MAHC DCTC Re-start Report

## Minutes from June 23 meeting for August 6 event

**Agenda:**

- 7:00 pm (Thursday) Canopy setup (Need 2 - 3 volunteers)
- 7:00 am (Friday) Venue set up
- Track / timing set up TBD
- 8:30 am Drivers meeting
- 9:00 am Morning session - track hot
- 11:00 am – 3:00 pm Food truck (PJ's Grill)
- Noon Lunch break and parade
- 1:00 – 1:30 Afternoon session
- 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm Wrap up track runs
- 5:30 pm Take-down

**Finances:**

Expenses

Track rental	\$1,600 (actual)
Canopies (2 – 20 x 30)	\$ 426 (actual)*
Food truck	\$ 500 (estimate)**
Miscellaneous	\$ 74 (estimate)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,600 (estimate)</b>

\*Need volunteers for set-up Thursday evening & take-down Friday evening

\*\*For purchase with \$1,200 minimum sales guaranty.

Revenue

Timed-track entrant fees

MAHC members	\$20	x 15 =	\$75
General until 7/31	\$40	x 30 =	\$1200
General after 7/31	\$50	x 10 =	\$500
55 paying entrants			<u>\$1,775</u>

**Entrants**

40 – 60 entrants

- 1<sup>st</sup> Week MAHC club members
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Week MG, Triumph & Jaguar club members
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Other Intermarque club members
- 4<sup>th</sup> Week Open to all vintage & classic cars

Bias towards vintage cars. Selective, but no hard restrictions. MAHC can allow or disallow vehicles to maintain sane, safe runs.

**Food truck**

Will contract with PJ's Grill: Burgers & Fries.

**Registration**     *Please email [johnhatzung@usfamily.net](mailto:johnhatzung@usfamily.net) with your name, car, vintage. Add your car number if you're joining the track event.*

**Type of Event**     Track/autocross/gymkhana: use full course, reduce speed with cones & turns.  
Picnic with NA beverages and food truck

**Course Layout**     TBD

**Marketing**             Direct contact other Intermarque clubs.  
T-shirts for entrants and volunteers – discuss at July meeting  
Need a name for the event – discuss at July meeting

**Portraits**              TBD

**Toilets**                 There are two there now.

**Miscellaneous**     No power. Any need for a generator? Does anyone have one?

**Announcement for MAHC:**

**Registration is officially open!**

Mark your calendars **Friday, August 6** for the formal restart of MAHC activities after our pandemic hiatus. This event is first and foremost for MAHC members. Bring your Healey (or whatever wheels you favor for the day). Drive the track or hang out in the shade with a cold beverage\*, eat good food and catch up with fellow car enthusiasts.

The venue is the Dakota County Tech Track, our local gem track just down the road in Rosemount.

Registration is now open to MAHC club members. Next week it will open to MG, Triumph and Jaguar club members and any remaining driving slots open to vintage and classic car owners on July 1. Registration fee is \$20 for the timed track event; **free** for everyone else. **Please email [johnhatzung@usfamily.net](mailto:johnhatzung@usfamily.net) with your name, car, vintage. Add your car number if you're joining the track event.**

**Entrants**

Name	Car	Number	Year
Dan Powell	Austin Healey 3000	33	
Dave Hatzung	Austin Healey 3000?	19	1967
Phil Dawson	MG Midget	79	1976
Eileen Wetzel	Austin Healey 3000?		
Gary Wetzel	Austin Healey 3000?		
John Hatzung	MX-5 Miata 102		1991



# Fast Times at Road America 2021

Reported by Dan Powell

This May, four Minnesota club members exercised their Healey's at Road America. They were Jeff Lumbard, Jeff Johnk, Eileen Wetzel and Dan Powell. Scott McQueen was there, but the engine for his race car was still in the process of being put back together after various parts argued with each other at an event last fall (various parts turned into many smaller various parts... you get the idea). Also acting as crew were our friends Brian Crombie from Denver and Mike Manser from Austin Texas. Mike's new Healey race car is about 85% done, with him picking up the completed motor in Bloomington after the race weekend. He should be on the track next spring.

For most of us, the spring race at Road America is our first speed event of the year. The first few laps of the track consist of the brain telling the right foot not to press so hard ... a survival technique, I guess. The balance of the weekend finds the brain telling the right foot to push harder, and questions why the driver isn't as good as the machine he/she is driving or why the driver didn't tweak more speed out of the car over the winter. So basically, good times were had by all.

The cool weather provided extra horsepower for everyone. I had my quickest lap time in three years, which isn't bad for someone who has been on Medicare for ten years. Eileen was faster than Jeff Johnk in a couple of sessions ... her mechanic/husband/crew chief Gary had developed a monster car over the winter. That Eileen is an extremely talented driver didn't hurt either. Jeff Johnk was consistently fast as usual, making the Porsches quake with fear. All four cars went back into their trailers looking none the worse for wear. I realized on the way home that I hadn't even taken the floor jack out of my tow vehicle all weekend. Our next adventure is mid-July at Road America. Scott's race car should be back on the track then and we are all looking forward to keeping the Healey's racing heritage alive. Should you decide to attend the event, you will find a warm welcome and possibly a cold beverage or two in our paddock area.

By the time you read this we may actually have a club meeting on the schedule ... and we have an autocross/club reawaking event coming up at the Dakota County road track on August 6<sup>th</sup>. John Hatzung is organizing this event and he has planned much more than on-track driving time. It is intended to jump start our club activities which were so rudely interrupted by Covid. Make it a point to support our club by attending this event. Our club had a reputation of being the most active club in the area ... let's get back to having fun with our cars. See you there.



# Intermarque Spring Kickoff

We could not have had a more successful Spring Kick Off on May 22, 2021. Having had to cancel the Annual Intermarque car show twice in 2020 due to the pandemic, we were hoping that the third time was the charm. And it was! Again, the City of Osseo organized a craft show in the park which looked like a big success. For 2021, we delayed the event from early May to May 22, hoping for better weather, and increased vaccinations, both of which occurred.

The original chairman for the Osseo show, John Engstrom, walked the streets on a very hot day, and counted 252 cars. I was hoping for 200. Given the fact that cars come and go during the day, it's possible we had 260 cars, which I think sets a record for this event.



Again, we asked participants to donate non-perishable food to Cross Services, who reported receiving 300 pounds of food and \$300 in cash donations. The Girl Scouts once again helped us by selling tickets for the Peoples' Choice award and reported they had sold \$428 worth of tickets. Fred Ambi with his gorgeous Austin Healey 3000 won the first-place prize.

I must attribute the success of the show to the remarkable group of Intermarque members who helped me, a first-time chairman, set up and run the show. Lucky for me, John Engstrom was around to guide me. While I may miss some folks, in addition to John, I want to thank Doug Burch, Brian Cornell, Todd Bjerknes, Tim

Engel, Mike Gondek, Mark Hill, Pat Holt, Jay Jacobson, Dave Lindemann, Harry Reynolds, and Greg and Suzanne Willodson. (There are some spouses in there who helped but I do not have their names, so please forgive me). Additional thanks go to the City of Osseo (Riley Grams), who graciously waived all fees for our show and provided timely Police (Michael Smith) and Public Works (Nick Waldbillig) support, and to our vendors Further Performance, Eau Claire British, BMC, and Quality Coaches.

I think everyone who attended had a good time. We saw lots of families, which was our intent. We had a de-brief of the show on Saturday, June 12, where we discussed problems and opportunities to be addressed next year. We also selected a car club to feature in 2022 (Alfa Romeo) and also an event date of May 21, for the 2022 show. Stay tuned for more information. And thank you all for your wonderful help and support for this event.

**Dick Leighninger, Show Chairman**



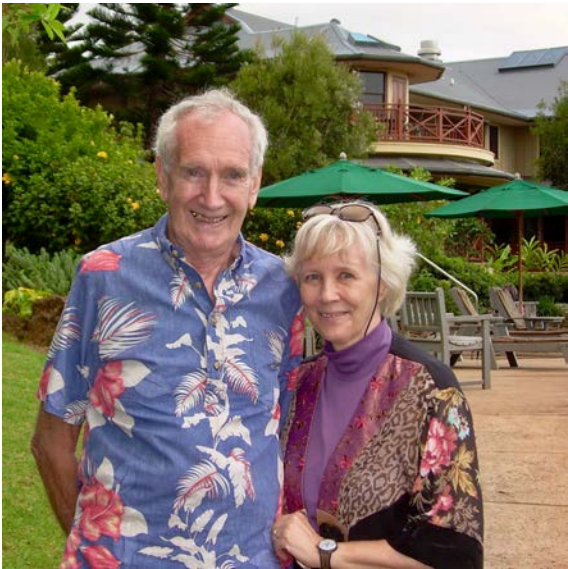
# John Spintel (1930-2021)

remembered by Steve Rixen

John was given lifelong membership in MAHC in 2007 after years of supporting our club, attending our 2001 conclave, and a subsequent MAHC-sponsored Rendezvous which honored the Sprite, which he truly enjoyed and rallied with great success.

John started as a Rally navigator for an officer and friend during his time in the RAF.

He was a works driver for Donald Healey, driving both the early big Healey and the Frog-eye Sprite. An inveterate entrepreneur, he started Speedwell, with DMHMC support, as a speed shop, and he developed many speed-engine and body modifications for the Sprite and Midget when not Rallying for DMH and the BMC Works or participating in worldwide advertising junkets for BMC.



When open road Rallying in Europe was waning in the late 60's and early 70's, he organized and participated in World Rally with ultra-long-distance events such as London to Sydney and London to Capetown.

He and wife spent years operating a wind surfing school for Brits to get away and spend time in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and finally in the strait between Malokai and Lanai in the Hawaiian Islands.

In his later years they lived on Malokai, she as college professor and he as an author of motoring books and articles and free roaming supporter of British Motoring in competition appearing at Vintage enthusiast and

Racing events worldwide.

**Top:** John Spintel and his wife Caryl in front of their house in Hawaii. **Right:** Steve Rixen presenting John Spintel with honorary lifetime membership in the Minnesota Austin Healey Club.





## John Spinzal remembered by Tom Polotiski

In 2000 I thought that I would contact John to see if he would be interested in being a guest at our Conclave 2001. This was before I had internet access, so I sent a handwritten letter. This led to John attending our Conclave in 2001, but John would later joke with me about receiving a crudely handwritten letter in the age of the internet.

John was indeed our guest for our Conclave in Grand Rapids in 2001. And what a delightful guest he was! John was very friendly and unassuming, always accessible to everyone. In fact, when I first met John, I said, "Hello, Mr. Sprinzel." He was quick to correct me, saying, "No, please call me John."

John gave a very informative presentation at Conclave telling about his years of rallying in his Austin Healey Sprite, PMO 200. John was successful in most European rallies, notably the Liege-to-Rome-to-Liege, finishing third overall in 1960 in a Sprite against many bigger more powerful cars!

John returned to Minnesota as a guest at one of our later Rendezvous meets, and to Road America at Elkhart Lake. John was indeed a friend to many in our Minnesota club, with many of us receiving Christmas cards every year.

Eventually John and his wife Caryl moved to Hawaii to pursue his interest in windsurfing. Suffice it to say that John was an incredible champion in everything that he did!



**From left:** Caryl Spinzal, John Spinzal, Tom Polotiski and Carol Johnk

### Other obituaries:

The Herald: <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19389384.obituary-john-sprinzel-legendary-driver-entrepreneur-lifelong-need-speed/>

Just British: <https://justbritish.com/passing-of-john-sprinzel-at-90/>

### MAHC Membership / Renewal Form

Minnesota A-H Club Dues                     New    Renewal .....                    \$20.00  
Austin-Healey Club of America Dues    New    Renewal .....                    \$50.00  
**BOTH CLUBS** .....                    \$70.00

Minnesota A-H Club (Local only) Dues    New    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 Project

**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](mailto: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](mailto:mimshouse7@Q.com).

### InterMarque Breakfasts

Contact Todd Bjerknes to be added to email list for the week's location

RSVP to [tbjerknes46@gmail.com](mailto:tbjerknes46@gmail.com)

### InterMarque Newsletter

Check out InterMarque's multi-marque calendar in their latest newsletter for even more car events!  
[www.intermarque.org](http://www.intermarque.org)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:koepselldennis@gmail.com).





## Marketplace (continued)



**For sale:**  
1962 Austin Healey BT7  
MK II  
Very low miles restored  
to a high level.  
Red with white hard top.  
Asking \$50K  
Chuck Ash  
715-245-7303  
[cwash211@comcast.net](mailto:cwash211@comcast.net)

