



Volume 36, Number 4

Healey Enthusiast

August 2025



Geoff Rossi took former Healey owner Brad Caron for a ride in a Healey 40 years later. See story on page 11.

Upcoming Events

Wed	6 Aug	PIE
Sat	9 Aug	Brit Fest
Fri-Sun	15-17 Aug	Grattan VSCDA racing
Sat-Sun	16-17 Aug	Can-AM Invitational Vintage racing
Sat-Sun	22-24 Aug	Jack Pine Springs VSCR racing
Sat	30 Aug	Cars & Caves British Cars
Sun	31 Aug	Intermarque Picnic
See the website for details: www.mnhealey.com		

Minnesota Austin Healey Club (MAHC)

Staff

President	Dave Herreid 651-334-3879
Vice President	Steve Rixen 612-590-6513
Treasurer	Liz Stadther 651-698-1981
Membership & Historian	Curt Carlson 612-251-7492
Newsletter & Communications	Daphne Walmer 651-398-3658
Video Librarian	David Herreid 651-334-3879
Name Tags & Events	Greg Willodson
National Delegate	Eileen Wetzel 763-541-9571
InterMarque Delegate	Jay Jacobson 612-388-8929
Regalia	Open
Board of Directors	John Hatzung Dave Hatzung Charley Klima Dan Powell Geoff Rossi

Technical Resources

Sprite	Paul Gau 952-933-7277
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, August 6, 2025

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:*

Cliff Black
Curt Carlson
Dave Herreid
Steve McQueen
Steve Rixen
Eileen Wetzel

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

Current and past newsletters:
www.mnhealey.com/newsletters/



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 7/2/2025

by Daphne Walmer

Three new people attended the meeting:

- **Erik Wesman** has been a stealth member off and on for a long time. He has a '67 BJ8 owned since 1988.
- **Lynn Boyd** has been retired for 3 years. He was accompanying Dave Cassman, his friend since 3rd grade who is looking at purchasing a Healey.
- **Dave Cassman** doesn't yet own an Austin Healey. Back in 1974 he found a big Healey and wanted to buy it, but his dad said no, and since he lived under his dad's roof, no meant no. Dave has been retired 4.5 years and has space that could accommodate a Healey. He did a little research and found our group. His dad had a Ford dealership, and so Dave grew up with American cars, but doesn't know a lot about British ones.

Past Events:

- **Charley Klima's Open Garage.** Dave Hatzung said it was unbelievable, very interesting. The engine that Charley rebuilt is "crazy." They came out with that engine in the early 20s. The one Charley has was built in the 40s. 3 cylinders 7000 pounds, built in Two Rivers WI. Charley had to manufacture tools to work on it. It's going to Door County Maritime Museum in Gills' Rock. He's going to deliver it; they'll have to get it off. They won't run it. That same model is in Duluth in the canal there. If you want to see one running, there's one in Albany, MN, at a farm show end of August, next size up.

Upcoming events

- **Donald Healey birthday** is tomorrow, July 3
- **InterMarque breakfast and picnics.** Every Saturday morning there's an InterMarque breakfast at Elsie's.
- **Cedar Lake Speedway Invitation** between Somerset and ?? is on the weekend of July 12th. Car show is in the afternoon. You can get in free to watch the racing. Dave Herreid says you can tour the track in your car after the racing.
- **July Road America** race at Elhart Lake is July 18-20.
- **Cars and Caves** American Cars is Saturday July 26
- **Wetzel BBQ and Potluck** is Saturday July 26. Eileen asked Clarence to do the tour before or after. Bring a side to share. Eileen can run the route next week to make sure the roads are still open.
- **Cars & Coffee** Aug 30 at Automotoplex. It starts at 9:00 but you need to get there at 8:00 if you want a spot. Hundreds of cars.
- Every other Sunday there's an **InterMarque coffee** across the street from the old Schmidt brewery on west 7th and approximately Randolph. Bring a nonperishable food item to donate.
- The Lift repair shop has a car show on Lake Street in Minneapolis. It's also in the InterMarque calendar.

Old Business

- Curt Carlson brought a mockup of the non-adhesive **vinyl window cling**, which was designed to promote the club. Scanning the QR code takes one to the Membership page of the club website. Doesn't hurt your car. Eileen mentioned the idea to national and they loved it.
- Possible visit to Gary Ronning. No news yet. Maybe in the fall.

New Business

- Liz reported that the Rendezvous leaders did a great job. We lost 20 cars from Canada, but MAHC just got a check for \$3K, and there's another \$800 or so coming. The silent auction made the difference.
- Joe Soucheray used to be a member of the Healey Club years ago, although never had a Healey
- Drive Healey to events; best way to attract new members.
- The club is going to need new board members this year.
- MAHC got a certificate of donation from the Healey Museum in Europe.

Delegate's Report

- Eileen has been put on a special committee to look at retention. Our members are aging and dying; some can no longer get in and out of the car. Why aren't we getting new younger members? Inhibitors: big Healey pricing, relatively few young people can drive a manual shift, today's adults remember cars from the 1980s vs. the vintage cars we drive, cars are increasingly seen as commodities, the current styling is by laws of physics. How can we promote our marque, because then the value stays up. Was worth \$80K, now \$50K. Ideas to attract new members:
 - Emphasize styling of cars.
 - Doing programs at schools.
 - Making our cars available for parades and homecoming.
 - Making our cars available to ad agencies.
 - Regional events. Would someone write a summary of Rendezvous.
 - Promote drivability and maintainability of Big Healeys.
 - Expose the cars and let others see them.
 - Offering participation awards for local clubs.
 - National has redone the website to make it more user-friendly.
 - Doing more videos and zoom tech sessions.
- Curt shows the chart of membership. Peaked in 2001-2002, about 30-35 years after the last Healey rolled off the assembly line. We were 45 years old when we could afford to buy a car and join the club and had the time. Amery also helped the membership peak.
- Eileen got an email about an Ice Cream Social challenge from an individual, suggesting going out in your car for ice cream and publishing a picture.

Attendees: Lynn Boyd, Dave Cassman, Curt Carlson, Dave Hatzung, John Hatzung, Dave Herreid & Daphne Walmer, Charley Klima, Dan Powell, Rich & Liz Stadther, Clarence & Kate Westberg, Eric Wesman, and Gary & Eileen Wetzel.



Eileen Wetzel talks about the National Club Delegates Report during the PIE meeting on July 2, 2025.

Photo courtesy of Curt Carlson.

Charley Klima Open Garage

Charley Klima held an open garage on Saturday, June 28, 2025. It featured a marine engine that Charley rebuilt. The company came out with that engine in the early 20s. The engine Charley has was built in the 40s. With three cylinders and weighing 7000 pounds, it built in Two Rivers, WI. Charley had to manufacture tools to work on it. It's going to Door County Maritime Museum in Gills' Rock. Charley is going to deliver it. Charley started up the massive engine during the tour, but the museum won't run it. The same model is in Duluth in the canal there. If you want to see one running, there's one in Albany, MN, at a farm show end of August, next size up.

Photos courtesy of Curt Carlson.



Charley Klima Open Garage (continued)



Click below to see a video of the engine starting up:

<https://youtu.be/C0BsMBz05Bk>



Charley Klima Open Garage (continued)



Wetzel Tour and BBQ Potluck

by Eileen Wetzel



Saturday, July 26, turned out to be a beautiful morning, with sunshine and the promise of a warm day ahead. Gary and Eileen met up with the participants in eight cars, all eager to tour the Western countryside. After seeing everyone off, Gary and Eileen returned home to prepare lunch while Clarence Westberg took the lead on the tour.



Although the route had been vetted just days earlier, no one anticipated that one of the small towns on the itinerary would be holding a parade that morning. Clarence, driving his MGA, was swept into the parade—likely mistaken for a festive addition to the lineup—and even had candy tossed to him, perhaps as the summer version of Santa Claus. Eventually, he was able to turn off and continue along the intended route.

Others, especially those in BJ9s, weren't so lucky. They were rerouted around town and,

faced with the confusion, many decided to set their GPS for the Wetzel home. Despite the detour, everyone arrived just after noon.

Lunch was well worth the unexpected adventure. Eileen's son once again worked his magic on a smoked brisket—this one hailed as his best yet. It was served alongside baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, and an array of other delicious dishes and desserts, many generously brought by the attendees.

Top: Wetzel Healeys in their garage. **Middle,** from left: Steve Rixen, Kate Westberg, Greg Willodson, Eileen Wetzel, and Clarence Westberg. **Bottom:** Suzanne Willodson and Kim Rixen. *Photos courtesy of Scott McQueen.*



Wetzel Tour & BBQ Potluck (continued)

The rest of the afternoon was spent relaxing in the comfort of the air-conditioned great room or poolside, enjoying good food, great company, and a welcome break from the summer heat.

Tour Attendees: Geoff and Diane Rossi, Greg and Suzanne Willodson, Phil Ethier, Dan Powell, Steve Brown, Brian Duoos, Clarence and Kate Westberg

Lunch only: Fred Ambli, Jeff, Carol and Jessica Johnk (and Cooper), Jim Koktavy and Jaime Horner, Steve and Kim Rixen, Scott McQueen, and race crew Jack Pohl, and Gary and Eileen Wetzel.

Top, from left: Steve Rixen, Greg Willodson, Eileen Wetzel, Kate Westberg, Clarence Westberg, and Jaime Horner.

Bottom, from left: Diane & Jeff Rossi, Jim Koktavy, Gary Wetzel, and Jaime Horner.

Photos courtesy of Scott McQueen.



Back in a 3000

by Geoff Rossi

It started with a call from Jean Caron of Winnipeg on a cold, late-fall day in 2024. A gal from Minneapolis had phoned to ask if she could somehow get a ride for her dad in a Healey. After explaining that he lived in Canada, that would be difficult. Jean connected with me and passed her contact info, and I called her. It seems her dad once owned a Healey. I reached Brad, and we

made some plans to get him back in the seat of a Healey on a good weather day during the upcoming summer. That day came for Brad on July 17. A perfect Healey day was in the forecast—75 and cloudy.



I picked Brad up at 10:30 at his Minnetonka home. There was a bit of getting acquainted conversation in the driveway and listening to a few Healey stories from him and his wife Deb. After taking a few photos, we were off for a few hours. Already being on the west side of town, we took to the roads out there — Minnetonka Blvd to Navarre, Hwy 15 to Watertown, then 20 to 26 to 92 into Lyndale. A lunch stop at the Ox Yoke Inn and then onto County 6 to 101 and back to his home. In total Brad spent over 80 miles back on the road in a Healey.

During our drive, but mostly at lunch, I heard stories about Brad and his car. Quite a few sounded like my Healey stories. He was based on a Navy destroyer in Charleston when he bought a 1962 3000, colored in many shades of primer, for \$500. By his own admission it was just a fun driving car for a young kid. He had no cares or concerns.

Through the years of ownership, he rebuilt the engine and transmission, did some bodywork and repainted in a dark blue. He sold the car in 1982 to someone in the Twin Cities area. His was the usual scenario of “new family” and a two-seat British sports car ain’t going to make it. He tells of the day he sold it: two guys responded to his want ad and arrived at his house at the same time. They nearly had a fist fight over who would buy the car. (Does this sound familiar to anyone who may have bought a blue Healey in the early 80s?)

There are some things I took away from this very delightful day I spent with Brad. People who have owned Healeys, especially in their young formative years, have their stories and memories. Even the bad memories are now fond recalls. That’s part of a British sports car; they come with it. A Healey can actually become connected to your psyche. Here was a man who sold his car over 40 years ago, and he still smiles with the thoughts of his dozen years with it.

Photos: Brad Caron's 1962 3000.

Steve Rixen & Person of the Year



MAHC Vice President Steve Rixen drove Shoreview's Most Valuable Person of the Year, Carol Brown Mills, in his beautiful Healey in the Shoreview Parade.



Rolling Car Show in Winona

Cliff and Jeanine Black in their tri-carb BT-7 do a drive-by at a retirement home in Winona, May 14. The residents were delighted by the Healey and other vintage autos in the parade, which circled the Benedictine Callista Court assisted living facility. Cliff's other car club, the Viking Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America, has done similar rolling car shows at this and other Winona-area retirement homes. The Austin-Healey is always a favorite among the residents and staff.





CERTIFICATE OF DONATION

This certificate is presented to:

*The Minnesota Austin Healey club
For their generous donation to the
Healey Museum Foundation*

The Board of the Healey Museum Foundation:

May 2025

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans v.d. Kerkhof".

Hans v.d. Kerkhof

Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert Hartink".

Albert Hartink

Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karel van Gelder".

Karel van Gelder

From The Archives

from Curt Carlson

The following is from the August 1987 issue of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club newsletter. Dan Powell was the editor at the time.

The following is a paraphrased recount of the Popularity Judging event held August 1st, as told to me by Jeff Lumbard. It was a hot and muggy day ... just the kind of day that you would expect to have for a British driving event...the bees sensed the "Sweetness" of the Austin Healey (or was it leaking anti-freeze) and decided to join the party... since your editor was in Colorado it couldn't rain, but the air hung heavy enough that drops couldn't form ... but through it all, eight Healeys bravely showed up along with several non-Healeys to participate in another Club event. Jeff arranged for some super trophies for each class and Don Rould (advertised posters for sale in our July issue) donated several posters which were awarded to second place winners ... as you may guess, there were more winners than non-winners this year. (Ed. Note: should you have disposed of your July issue and wish to order posters, please call me and I'll give you his address, etc. (These are really nice posters and based on retail pricing his donation was worth \$20.00)

Winners were:

Sprite 1 st place:	Chuck Norton
Sprite 2 nd place:	Rod Richert
100-4 1 st place: (no 2 nd place)	Mike Mickelsen
3000 (early) 1 st place: (no 2 nd place)	Kirk Roebken
3000 (late) 1 st place:	Jane Politiski
2 nd place:	Dennis Wiese
Special 1 st Place	Jeff Lumbard (100-M)

President's award for most "un-drivable Healey" went to Greg Eriksmoen who is a club member living in Fargo ND. Greg Trailered his 100-4 (basically a frame and rear section assembly) to the even and received a beautiful Union Jack from Jeff for his sportsmanship and willingness to support the club.

In that same issue:

EVEN MORE CRYTIC NOTES FROM ELKHART LAKE

As noted in previous newsletters, several club members went to Elkhart Lake to race our Healey's....things did not go well in Healeyville this year. Rich Stadther destroyed several sets of brake pads (the Sprite just goes too fast!), Jeff Lumbard put a hole in his #1 piston during the first practice Friday, and Dan Powell dropped a valve through #5 during the first practice Saturday. With the help of Fourintune owner Tom Kovacs (A-H Specialists in Cedarburg Wi. 414-375-0876) who brought some used parts on Saturday, and Dave Helms (whose Healey looks a lot like a TR-3), Jeff was able to run on Sunday. Disasters in other parts included a 3000 with a rod through the block, a 100-4 with a disintegrated flywheel, and a 100-4 with unknown problems....such is life. At least I had Sterling Moss autograph a poster for me.

Big Healey for sale



19620 Mark II BT7 Red

- Professionally restored, 1962 tri-carb
- New black leather interior and 72-spoke wheels
- Repainted ~10 years ago
- Very good condition
- Very low miles (28,000)
- White hardtop
- Email: cwash211@comcast.net

**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 5511

MAHC 2025 Calendar

Day	Date(s)	Description	Time	Place
Wed	6-Aug	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	9-Aug	Brit Fest	AM	Hudson WI
Fri-Sun	15-17 Aug	Grattan VSCDA racing		Grattan Michigan
Sat-Sun	16-17 Aug	Can-AM Invitational Vintage Racing		Gimli Motorsports Park
Sat-Sun	22-24 Aug	Jack Pine Sprints VSCR racing		Road America Elkhart Lake
Sat	30-Aug	Cars & Caves British Cars		Chanhassen Motorplex
Sat-Sun	30-31 Aug	Labor Day Brainerd Race		Brainerd International Raceway
Sun	31-Aug	Intermarque picnic	1:00 PM	Cherokee Regional Park
Wed	3-Sep	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	6-Sep	Wheels and Wings		Osceola
Fri-Sun	11-14 Sep	Ariens VSCDA Vintage Weekend	8:00-5:00	Elkhart Lake Road America
Sat	20-Sep	Herreid Pizza Party or Dawson Party		
Sat	27-Sep	Cars & Caves German Cars		Chanhassen Motorplex
Sat	27-Sep	Waumandee		Alma/Waumandee WI
Sun	28-Sep	Intermarque picnic	1:00 PM	Cherokee Regional Park
Sun	28-Sep	Lynch Mexican Fiesta	3:00 PM	Lynch's Mexican Fiesta
Sat-Sun	TBD	Brock Thorson Garage Tour		Thorson House
Wed	1-Oct	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Fri-Sun	10-12 Oct	Ozarks VSCDA Racing		Ozark International Raceway
Sat or Sun	25-Oct	Fall Color Tour		
Wed	5-Nov	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	8-Nov	National AH Club Delegates Meeting		Indianapolis, IN
Sat	15-Nov	Annual Meeting and Banquet	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Wed	3-Dec	2025 PIE and Planning Meeting	6:00 PM	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 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.

Free! Contact Fred at 218-348-3178.

- Two sets of original intake and exhaust manifold that are ceramic
- Three drive lines that are sized for the original 4-speed and overdrive
- One set of rear resonators that are still in the bubble wrap, plus several exhaust parts
- A complete 2.6-liter engine that needs to be rebuilt

For sale: BJ8 overdrive unit, rebuilt by Jean Caron, \$800, and 4-speed transmission for BJ8, \$500 or best offer. Contact Fred at 218-348-3178.



**Rare Opportunity to Acquire
Vintage Drink Glasses:**

Set of 5 eight-ounce glasses. 5 inches tall. Two Jaguar XK-150, two Austin Healey 100-Six, one Triumph TR-3. \$35 for the set. Very nice condition. Could easily qualify Gold in Concours. Contact Geoff, 612-822-7069.

Tires: Set of 5 brand new Michelin XAS 180 HR 15 tires. Bought new in February but discovered a clearance issue during mounting, so had to remove them and go down a size. Zero miles. New lower price: \$1,000. Contact Charley Klima 952.913.7710.

Cars For Sale:

- **Big Healey**, see page 22.
- **1973 Triumph GTS MKIII**, see pages 23-24.

