



Volume 37, Number 4

Healey Enthusiast

September/October 2026



Austin Healey station in Eileen and Gary Wetzel's Garage at their BBQ in August.

Photo by Phil Ehtier.

Upcoming Events

Tues	8 Sep	Plains Zoom Tech Session
Sat	12 Sep	Wheels and Wings
Sun-Fri	13-18 Sep	Conclave 2026
Fri-Sun	18-20 Sep	Ariens VSCDA Vintage Weekend
Sat	26 Sep	Waumandee
Sat	26 Sep	InterMarque Lift Garage Car Show
Sun	27 Sep	Intermarque Picnic
Sat	3 Oct	Herreid Pizza Party CANCELLED
Wed	7 Oct	PIE
Sat	10 Oct	BMC Stiff Upper Lip Open House
See the website for details: www.mnhealey.com		

Minnesota Austin Healey Club (MAHC)

Staff

President	Steve Rixen 612-590-6513
Vice President	Charley Klima 952-913-7710
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 612-220-3517
InterMarque Delegate	Jay Jacobson 612-388-8929
Regalia	Open
Board of Directors	John Hatzung Dave Herreid Jim Koktavy Matt Miron Greg Willodson

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, September 2, 2026

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

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

Curt Carlson
Phil Ethier
Charley Klima
Matt Miron
Steve Rixen
Suzanne Willodson

Please send submissions 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

President's Column: Stepping Up!

by Steve Rixen

Well, my year as president is coming to a close, and as November and the annual business meeting and banquet are just around the corner, it is time to think about what happens next.

It seems the club is still having a strong case of Covid hangover, especially among the senior members, myself included. The activities and driving events have suffered with only a few people stepping up at the December planning session to host a tech session, a social gathering, or a drive. Few have attended events planned by other clubs that are open to our membership.

The important volunteer members who make the club work and exist at all are tired. Our **Healey Enthusiast** editor has kept it going for 8 years and has given us plenty of warning that she is quitting at the end of the year. I don't blame her for being tired. She has also served us by maintaining the website and sending out notifications and reminders and beseeched us to send in an article or picture in a timely manner for many months/years.

No one has "stepped up" to fill that position.

Our treasurer is also stepping down at the end of the year and that is another position that needs be filled. No volunteer yet.

I put the Board of Directors on notice at the August PIE meeting they need to fill their own positions vacant by end of term with their own slate of candidates. (Vacancies plus one for an actual election, mind you.) The BOD is our MAHC governing body. People need to assume these positions for us to keep our not-for-profit status.

As your outgoing president (for the second time), I'm telling you this needs to be addressed by each of us. Most immediately we need an enthusiastic person to be elected the incoming vice-president for next year. Who will "step up" to fill this position? There are many positions in the MAHC—elected, appointed, and volunteer—that could use some enthusiastic participation by our membership.

Now the good news is we do have people in the club who are concerned and are trying to make the MAHC viable, relatable, and hopefully vibrant in the coming years.

Charley Klima is the current vice president and is in line to be president at the November business meeting. He is trying to evolve the **Healey Enthusiast** from what began as a typed, mimeographed and mailed monthly into a modern method of communication. Hopefully you will read his thoughts in this issue. In any case, moving the newsletter into this modern era will require some adaptation and revision of the MAHC bylaws. It will also need inspiration,

knowledge, experience and input from MAHC members to transition to a timely, informative, enthusiastic communication tool.

Matt Miron has volunteered to add zest to our MAHC Facebook presence and my Facebook friendly wife Kim and others are submitting photos of our summer's car related activities to the MAHC-Facebook administrators. Please read Matt's article in this issue. Facebook, for better or worse, is one of our windows open to the world and requires postings just as the newsletter needed articles and photos.

We have a great membership chairman in Curt Carlson, and I hope he keeps working in that position in the future.

Our MAHC racing contingent is strong and viable and has a great following within the club. As club members we meet, converse, and follow our Race Heros as we can and try to get on the crew or over-crew lists at race events as we have time. That said I hope the racers know we need them and that they in turn need the MAHC as well.

So, that is my screed for this President's Column. Let's shake off the Covid malaise and go into the coming year rejuvenated and ready to be Healey Enthusiasts!

Remember, your MAHC won't work unless you do.

Volunteers Needed

The annual MAHC Banquet and Business Meeting is in November. We have the dates reserved at Joseph's Grill. We need a small number of volunteers to facilitate this event.

- Menu Decisions with Joseph's
- Cost proposals for the members and the club
- Activities, prizes, auction or ?
- Any other pertinent proposals or decisions.

Contact Steve Rixen by text at 612-877-1938

PIE Meeting Notes 8/5/2026

by Charley Klima

What we did last month

- Rustic Roots Winery drive was a well-attended event with the Triumph club
- Intermarque picnic was hot
- Horse and Hunt Club lunch was a nice event with 12 cars

What we will do next month and beyond

-
- BritFest in Hudson this Saturday August 8 at 9:00
- Conclave in Galena IL September 13-18.

What do you want to talk about?

- Matt Cassman has volunteered to manage our Facebook presence. if you have content to be posted, send to Matt at mjmiron@frontier.com
- We are looking to fill positions for vice president, treasurer and club newsletter editor
- Discussion about what the newsletter will look like going forward. Email blast? Web site? Facebook? Other??? Ongoing conversation. Daphne will continue newsletter through EOY.

Attendees: Dave Herreid and Daphne Walmer, Steve and Kim Rixen, Charley Klima, Greg and Suzanne Willodson, Matt Miron, Dave Cassman, Jeff Lombard, Jeff Johnk, Gary and Eilene Wetzel, Curt Carlson, Scott McQueen

PIE Meeting Notes 9/2/2026

by Suzanne Willodson

New member

We had a potential new member join us tonight: Danny Chang. In 1989 at a car show, Danny noticed a little car and he loved it immediately. He bought the 1965 Sprite on the spot, drove it for 10-12 years, and now it's in his garage waiting for him to get it going again. He has a special motivation: He wants to eventually hand the keys over to his grandson.

Danny made good connections with other members tonight at PIE and looks forward to getting more advice from our members to get this Sprint back on the road. He'd love to turn it into a 5-speed.

What we did last month

- Last month, Plains Tech Session was sparsely attended.
- Rich Stadther raced at Graten and placed 19th. He was within hundreths of a second of our Triumph friend, Greg Thompson. Jim Koktavi was there too driving his Lotus Super Seven.
- Wetzel's BBQ. Many thanks to Eileen and Gary for hosting another fabulous event.
- Jack Pine Sprints at Brainerd. Eileen Wetzel, Jim Koktavy, Jeff and Jessica Johnk, Rich Stadther, and Phil Dawson raced.
- Brit Fest. Rich S went with a Super Seven. Not many Healeys. Charley Klima, Scott McQueen, Phil Dawson and Steve Brown represented.
- MAC driving event last Sunday at DCTC. Charley Klima and Phil Ethier were there from our club. too. Charley reported there was a Healey there! He talked to the guy and he's been invited to join our club.

What we will do next month and beyond

- Tuesday, Sept 8 Plains Tech Session.
- Sept 12 Wheels and Wings in Osceola.
- Sept 13-18 Conclave. If anyone wants to drive to Galena together, let's talk. Reach out to Dave Hatzung.
- Right after Conclave is RoadAmerica (Ariens Art of Wheels).
- Waumandee Time Trials are coming up and sold out!
- Sept 27 InterMarque Picnic
- ~~Oct 3 Horreid/Walmer Pizza Party~~ [NOTE: This year's Pizza Party has been cancelled because Dave and Daphne's house in Afton will not be ready.]
- Ozarks VSCDA racing. Jim Koktavy is going.
- Spring Kick Off 2027: Austin Healey is the featured marque. They need to have pictures of our cars to make posters. A photographer will come and take photos of identified cars. There will also be an effort hopefully to make sure SKO isn't the same weekend as RoadAmerica. [Note from Dick Leininger: I am no longer in charge of the Spring Kick

Off, but the date for the 2027 event has already been selected to be May 22. If anyone wants to question that decision, they should contact Patrick Holt, Chairman of Minnesota Intermarque.]

- NEW EVENT: Saturday Oct 24. Steve Myers, who conducts tech sessions from time to time with Steve Rixen, is hosting an event at his place in Ames, Iowa. He has 247 cars and a YouTube channel (My Week with Cars). Details coming.
- Car Show in Norwalk Wisconsin. Sat Oct 17. General car show.

What do you want to talk about?

- Reminder that our Facebook page is being brought back to life by Matt Miron. Please submit pictures and short summaries/captions would be much appreciated

Attendees: Gary & Eileen Wetzel, Steve & Kim Rixen, Dave Hatzung, John Hatzung, James Kottavy, Rich & Liz Stadther, Clarence & Kate Westberg, Phil Ethier, Curt Carlson, Charley Klima, Dave Cassman, Dan Powell, Jeff Lombard, Greg & Suzanne Willodson, and Danny Chang



John Hatzung's and Curt Carlson's cars at the September PIE meeting. Twinsies!

Future of *The Healey Enthusiast*

by Charley Klima

It shouldn't be a surprise to hear that the club has been seeking a new editor to take over responsibilities for assembling our newsletter, *The Healey Enthusiast*. Unfortunately, nobody has stepped forward. Daphne will be done with her tour of duty at the end of this calendar year. We are very grateful for her contributions. Barring the late rise of a fresh volunteer, the newsletter will cease to exist in its current form. Steve and I, along with the input of others, have had multiple conversations about what can be done as a replacement. We are seeking opinions from anyone in the club. Some of the ideas being kicked around include (in no particular order):

- Further utilizing Facebook or other social media
- Email blasts
- Text messages
- Highly abbreviated monthly newsletter
- Website updates
- Annual newsletter
- Online community/forum
- Contracted service
- Combining newsletters with other car clubs
- Doing nothing

I think it is safe to say that none of these options are an ideal substitute for what we have historically done with *The Healey Enthusiast*, although some combination of a few may work. Communication, both within the club and public facing, is important for the health and longevity of the club. I believe this is a subject that needs to be hashed out collectively, so expect the topic to come up again at PIE meetings. Please contact Steve or me if you have any ideas.

Contact Steve Rixen by text at 612-877-1938.

Contact Charley Klima at charleyk63@yahoo.com or 952-913-7710.

Prior Lake Horse & Hunt Club Lunch

by Matt Miron

Fourteen club members met for lunch at the Prior Lake Horse and Hunt Club. Rave reviews for the fantastic food with us all enjoying pheasant and walleye.



Jessica Johnk won Excellence in Motorsports Leadership Award

Jessica's father, Jeff writes, "Little did I know when she was five years old and I started dragging her to every racetrack in the country to race our Austin Healey and MAHC events that she would develop a career in Motorsports. She now is so busy working for Porsche, HSR, IMSA and various race teams she barely has time to race her own car. It's always fun picking her up from the airport after her working a major race event to hear the 'Behind the Scenes' race stories. This day and age it seems every parent is terrified to let their children out of their sight, but we never worried for Jessica at race, MAHC or Conclave events. Some say it takes a village to raise a child, I say it takes an Austin Healey car club!



August InterMarque Picnic

from Steve Rixen

The Mercedes Club sponsored the InterMarque Picnic at Upper Cherokee Regional park Sunday, August 30. Healey to Citroën to Morgan to Merc. Good food and good time!



Healey Blast from the Past: Duluth 2000

from Phil Ethier

In 2000, the Around the World In 80 Days Rally made a full day stop in Duluth. There was a car show at the Fitgers ramp. Curt Carlson was there with a Healey (bottom left). The cars with numbers were going around the world on the rally.



Stiff Upper Lip Open House at BMC

October 9, 10:00–3:00



The October 10th *Stiff Upper Lip Open House and Gathering* is Coming up Quickly at BMC British Automobile in Isanti, MN, from 10am to 3pm.

Food will be served, on the house, with cars to look at and people to talk to. You're bound to enjoy it!

Mark Your Calendar. Bring a Friend. This is a great time for Clubs to use a Fall Colour Tour with a great end point!

<https://bmcautos.com/event>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/4000162606955623>

Fall Color Tour & Car Show Opportunity

by Greg Lauser

I'll be on the road in the Healey to British Colombia on Sept. 1, but Nancy & I can coordinate a Driftless Area Fall Color Tour that includes The Creamery Fall Car Show in Norwalk, WI, Oct. 17, which is southeast of LaCrosse and southwest of Tomah, WI. If enough people are interested, we can qualify for having our cars parked as a group according to show organizers. Folks can make it a one-day outing or stay Saturday night in accommodations of their choosing.

The show is billed as a relaxed, family-friendly gathering at a restored historic Creamery, with fall scenery and plenty of time for owners and visitors to trade stories. We'd probably leave at 9:30 a.m. from Prescott's Freedom Park and plan on arriving at the show between 11 a.m. and noon. The show runs from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with awards at 3:30. Show-car entry and spectator admission are completely free. Classics, customs, street rods, muscle cars, trucks, imports and motorcycles are welcome, and the BBQ and beer garden open at 11.

Those interested can send me an e-mail at greglauser@gmail.com, and please indicate if they favor a one-day or two-day outing. If enough want to participate, I'll get back to show organizers to secure group parking and develop overnight stay recommendations.

Thanks,
Greg



Date and Time: Sunday, September 13, 2026, 8:00 AM until Friday, September 18, 2026, 5:00 PM Central Time (US & Canada) (UTC-06:00)

Join us for the 50th anniversary of AHCA's treasured national event—a golden milestone of fellowship, driving, and Healey heritage. This year's celebration takes us to Galena, Illinois, a historic town set amid one of the most geologically fascinating landscapes in the country: the Driftless Region.

The Driftless Difference Unlike much of the Midwest, the Driftless Region escaped the flattening effects of the last Ice Age. The result is a landscape of dramatic bluffs, winding rivers, and valleys that feel more like the Appalachians than the prairies. For Healey drivers, this means one thing: roads with character. Tight curves, rolling climbs, and breathtaking vistas make this a driver's paradise—without needing to trek to the mountains or coasts.

Why Galena? Galena itself is a jewel—rich in history, with 19th-century architecture, cozy restaurants, and boutique shops just a short drive from our host venue at Eagle Ridge Resort. It's the perfect base for a week of spirited driving, good company, and new adventures.

Highlights of the Week • **Scenic Touring:** Discover the Driftless Region on curated drives designed for Healeys. • **Driving Fun:** Autocross, funkhana, and other events to test both skill and creativity. • **Austin-Healey Car Show** on the river: Celebrate Healey beauty on the show field with the Mississippi and downtown Galena as the backdrop. • **First-Timers Meetup:** A special welcome for newcomers—get connected from day one. • **Explore Galena:** Wine tastings, walking tours, and cultural outings for those looking to explore off the road. • **Banquet & Awards:** Close the week with a celebration of 50 years of Healey gatherings.

Join Us Be part of history. Registration is open now! We look forward to seeing you at a Conclave 50 - 2026

Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa

Eagle Ridge Website

444 Eagle Ridge Drive
Galena, IL 61036 USA
800.892.2269

[Register here](#)

2027 European Healey Meeting

At the Healey Museum this summer, Jeff Johk heard about the next Europe Healey meeting coming in 2027. He knows more than a couple Australians who have in the past shipped their Healeys to Europe and raved about this event. Great Europe scenery, great people and great driving experience in their Healeys. If you ever want to see Europe in your Healey ... this is it. Jeff brought home this great poster.



Marketplace

1980 Triumph TR7 convertible with a Dolomite Sprint engine for sale, 67,000 miles



The Sprint engine that I bought in 2009 from Richard Truett is the performance engine Triumph intended for the TR7. I have a lot of manuals, parts, and even an original Triumph TR7 Sprint Handbook. Richard wrote about this engine in *The Vintage Triumph Magazine* #93 in the spring of 2005, which I can share with you.

The car's body is in good shape; it a few spots of surface rust. The seats, carpet, and top have been replaced.

The car sports Wilwood brakes, sport suspension, 15" Minilite style wheels, and low-mile tires. Lots of spare Sprint parts and the original engine on a stand.

The car is currently not running; it needs the newly rebuilt distributor to be installed, a new battery, and the like.

Asking: \$6,000 as is

Contact: Dave Herreid at david.herreid@gmail.com or 651-334-3879.

Marketplace (continued)

Cars for Sale by Don Heath, 612-616-4369,
Donrose96@msn.com

1957 MGA 1500 roadster with 106,000 miles

- Red with black Robbins top and Moss interior.
- Owned since 1976
- It does have a gas leak and has been stored for the last few years.
- Asking \$18,000 or best offer



2000 Honda S2000 in Silverstone Metallic

- Four-speed 240 hp with 31,000 miles.
- 240 hp with a 6-speed transmission.
- Black top and interior.
- Good tires.
- Fun care to drive.

Asking \$34,000.



Marketplace (continued)

1967 Austin Healey 3000 for sale, NEW PRICE. I have been the second owner since 1984. I have driven it to Conclaves in Colorado, Michigan, Quebec, and Illinois. Dr. Ernie recently rebuilt the engine, and Dan Iburg just overhauled the overdrive, so it is ready for the road. HBJ37328 is a bit cosmetically impaired with some dings and dents and minimal rust, and one repaint from years ago before I owned it. Original top and interior, but the carpeting is shot. Originally listed at \$38,500; I am now ready to listen to offers that are reasonable and respectful. Contact Tom Politiski at 218-841-1070.



Free: Decades of Austin Healey Club of America monthly magazines that need a reader or archiver. *Chatter* from the late 80s through *Healey Marque Magazine* 2019. Get my attention at casadirossi@hotmail.com or a call to Geoff at 612-822-7069.

**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 2026 Calendar

Day	Date(s)	Description	Time	Place
Tues	8-Sep	Plains Zoom Tech Session	7:00 PM	
Sat	12-Sep	Wheels and Wings		Osceola
Sun-Fri	13-18 Sep	Conclave 2026		Galena IL
Fri-Sun	18-20 Sep	Ariens VSCDA Vintage Weekend	8:00 - 5:00	Elkhart Lake Road America
Sat	26-Sep	Waumandee Time Trials		Alma/Waumandee WI
Sat	26-Sep	InterMarque Lift Garage Car Show?		
Sun	27-Sep	Intermarque picnic	1:00 PM	Cherokee Regional Park
Sat	3-Oct	Herreid Pizza Party Cancelled		Herreid Afton House
Wed	7-Oct	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	10-Oct	BMC Stiff Upper Lip Open House	10:00-3:00	Isanti, MN
Fri-Sun	9-11 Oct	Ozarks VSCDA Racing		Ozark International Raceway
Sat	10-Oct	BMC Stiff Upper Lip		
Tues	13-Oct	Plains Zoom Tech Session	7:00 PM	
Sat or Sun	17-Oct	MG Fall Color Tour		
Wed	4-Nov	PIE	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Sat	6-8 Nov	National AH Club Delegates Meeting		Indianapolis, IN
Tues	10-Nov	Plains Zoom Tech Session	7:00 PM	
Sat	14-Nov	Annual Meeting and Banquet	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Wed	2-Dec	2027 PIE and Planning Meeting	6:00 PM	Joseph's Grill
Tues	8-Dec	Plains Zoom Tech Session	7:00 PM	
Mon-Fri	7-11 Jun 27	Austin Healey 75th Anniversary Meet		Lake Tahoe, CA

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

