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AHCA NE October 2012 President's letter

The fall is the best season for driving your Austin Healey while enjoying the New England foliage. On those cool mornings, you will appreciate the heat emanating through the cockpit. Healey's run so much better with cooler temperatures, and only other Healey owners will know how toasty warm, you will be even with the top down.

Cindy and I had a great European holiday, traveling from Belgium to Luxembourg, through France and Germany, to Switzerland, and over the Alps, to Italy. Overall, the 100-6 ran great, with only a faulty cutoff switch, which we by passed, and running out of gas, on a Sunday in France, with so few gas stations open. Cindy was scared to death, to drive the car over the Alps, but with some friendly coaxing from the others, she agreed. For the return through Switzerland, we drove through a scary 17 kilometer tunnel deep into the mountains. In two days, we drove 1300 kilometers to the UK to see our great friends in the New Forest. After a couple of days prepping the car from the European tour, she sold our first Healey at the full asking price, to the first buyer. The proceeds from the sale of the RHD BN4, will be used to purchase a BJ7.

The only downside of our European holiday, was missing the action packed AHCA NE event schedule in September. I have heard positive reviews from the vintage racing at Lime Rock over Labor Day weekend. Roy Balthazard and Betty hosted New England Air Museum and barbeque the second weekend in September. And finally, British Invasion in Stowe, VT was another excellent multi marque event, coordinating the AHCA NE effort by Bob Britton.

I have been receiving several recent inquiries from individuals interested in selling their Healey and new members looking for a particular model. I think buying or selling your car within the AHCA membership, is a great way to maximize the experience. If you are selling your Healey, or interested in buying a certain model, you are welcome to use our newsletter and website to promote your cause. Speaking of new members, I would like to welcome Jeff Liroff from Woodstock, VT and Mike Garvey from Swampscott, MA to AHCA NE.

We have a couple of exciting AHCA New England events to close out a very fun packed 2012. Saturday October 13th Linda Hakala and Bob Britton are hosting the Monadnock Tour and Rally. Our Holiday party will be Saturday December 8th at a new, excellent venue that is centrally located in Sturbridge, MA. Carole Paye is planning a party not to be missed, and to celebrate a fantastic season, the club will happily subsidize much of the cost of this year end event.

Happy Autumn Healeying, Pete Sturtevant

www.ahca-newengland.com

AHCA New England Event Schedule 2012

October 2012			
Cancelled October 6 th – October 7th	Foreign Auto Festival	Owls Head Transportation Museum	Owls Head, ME 04854
NEW!! Saturday, October 13, 2012	Fall Monadnock Tour/Ralley	The rally starts in Milford, NH	Bob Britton/Linda Hakala healeybj7@hotmail.com Cell: 603-381-3158
November 2012 – No Events planned at this time.			
December 2012			
Saturday, Dec 8th 6:00 PM	AHCA NE Holiday Party	Publick House Inn & Lodge Sturbridge, MA	Carole Paye 413 625 6568 dpave@crocker.com

AHCA New England Holiday Party

When: Saturday, December 8, 2012 6:00PM

Where: Publick House Inn & Lodge (3 minutes from the Mass Pike)
On the Common (Route 131) Sturbridge, MA

From the Mass Pike take exit 9 (ramp 3-B which bears into Rt 20 West.) At the 1st set of lights, turn left onto Rt 131.

Go up over the hill and through the next set of lights.

Publick House is on the right. We are in "Crafts Hall".

There will be a planning meeting from 5:00 to 6:00 in a conference room.

Don't forget a \$10 gift if you wish to participate in the Yankee Swap.
Santa will be glad that you want to join in.

Fresh Fruit with Mango Sorbet

Caesar Salad with Herb Croutons and Parmesan Cheese

Entrée choices

Herb Roasted Baked Stuffed Chicken w/ Corn Bread Sausage Cranberry Stuffing

At \$27/person

OR

Roast Prime Rib of Beef au Jus

At \$38/person

Warm Deep Dish Apple Pie w/ Vanilla Ice Cream

Freshly Brewed Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee And assorted Hot Teas

Dinner prices include all taxes and tip

Each person will receive a \$5 coupon to be used at the bar

The motel at the Publick House has rooms with 2 double beds for \$99 per night plus tax. Price includes a continental breakfast...

Full breakfast selections are available in their main dining room .

Crafts Hall normally can accommodate 50 people.

Please register for the dinner and send your check to

AHC of NE % Carole Paye 24 Conway Rd. Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

on or before MONDAY, November 26, 2012

MONADNOCK REGION, NH FALL FOLIAGE TOUR & RALLY

WHAT: Spend a few hours with your AHCA-NE friends taking part in a foliage tour or optional gimmick rally for those who like to be challenged by finding the answers to silly clues. The Tour/Rally will start in Milford, NH and wind its way through a number of classic New England towns in Southern NH. This is usually peak foliage time in S/W NH so come enjoy the beautiful rural back roads of the region. There will be spectacular views of the local mountains along the route and the route is sure to delight every Healey driver.



The Tour/Rally will end at the home of Bob Britton and Linda Hakala, 17 Bittersweet Lane, Hancock, NH for an afternoon BBQ Lunch.

WHEN: Saturday October 13, 2012 (rain date Sun 10/14). Gather by 10-10:30 AM and depart on the Tour/Rally by 11:00 AM. The Tour/Rally will be about 50 miles and will take about 1 1/2 hours (unless you insist in finding the answers to every stupid clue!).

WHERE: Starting at the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) parking lot at the corners of Route 101 and Phelan Rd in Milford, NH 03055. (Actual DMV address is 4 Meadow Brook Dr. if you want to Google it). This is west of Milford center, a left off Rte.101 at the traffic light onto Phelan Rd and then left on Meadow Brook Dr. into the DMV parking lot. Other landmarks in the area are the VIP Auto Store and Market Basket Supermarket. If you get to the intersection of Rte.101A you went too far on Rte. 101.



COST: A nominal fee per person for the BBQ lunch.

RSVP: Please call or email by Wednesday October 10th to let us know you are coming so we can plan for the food and beverage. Bob 603-381-3158 or healeybj7@hotmail.com



Repair, Restoration, Winter Storage

Winter is just around the corner and many people are thinking about putting their cars away for the season. At British Car R and R we offer a complete fall service program and there is still some space left for winter storage.

Our storage area is a concrete floored area with sprinklers and an alarm system. The building is active so critters are never a problem and we can keep your battery on trickle charge if you wish. Cars stored with us will be ready to go in the spring when you're ready to start driving again.

Call to inquire about prices and the remaining spaces.

Call Bob at 603-425-3333 or Dave at 508-577-0077



**A little piece
of Europe
on our side
of the ocean.**



Conclave Charlevoix 2013

Charlevoix, Québec, Canada

June 23rd-28th, 2013

Hosted by the Québec Austin-Healey Club www.conclavecharlevoix.org

Wanted to Buy

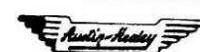
Austin Healey BJ8
1965 or later in "driver"
condition or better.

Contact r3m1g4@verizon.net
(Massachusetts) with details

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Robin and Rebecca Attend the British Invasion 2012

We arrived in Stowe, Vermont Friday night around seven o'clock. We had hoped to arrive a little earlier but still congratulated ourselves on a journey well-traveled. Our ten year old "Suzy Ascender" had managed the 211 miles quite well with our 1967 Austin Healey in tow.

Conventional wisdom may have dictated that we check into our hotel first but this was a rather unconventional undertaking for our family. After almost five hours in the car, the twins, age 9, were ready to go. So, we approached the officer on Main Street rather timidly to inquire as to where we might park (all 22 feet of us). He quickly directed us to the elementary school parking lot—perfect!

Following the "sound of music" (no pun intended—the von Trapp family lodge is in Stowe) led us into the thick of the British Invasion Block Party. As Jack and I relished hearing the music of the Stones, our girls covered their ears saying, "This is too loud! How can you stand that music?" We just smiled as we watched 40, 50, 60, and 70somethings gyrating to the beat.

We meandered down Main Street, hearts aflutter, as we gazed upon shiny fenders—Healeys, Triumphs, MGs, Jags... Open bonnets revealed carburetors, Lucas electrics, and valve covers sparkling under the street lamps. The girls, who love pretty colors and all-things-shiny, were delighted. A couple of cookies later we made our way to the hotel and headed straight for bed.

Saturday dawned cold and gray with a mist in the air—perfectly British weather. We layered up, unloaded our BJ 8 and headed for the show field. The twins were very impressed by the important looking red folder complete with an official show entry. We assured them repeatedly that ours is a "driver" and not likely to win an award. Nevertheless, they primped over the Healey and gave her a pep talk just the same. "After all, Mama, we could win." Our collection of LBBs (little British bears) graced the dash and we headed up the field.

We've been told that 650 British cars were present that day—we looked at every one. Family favorites included a very old Singer (the featured marque of this year's event), a two-tone green 1933 MG, and a concours-level white over black Healey. The girls, and Mommy, especially enjoyed the ladies' hat competition. The day was very special with H.R.H. in attendance.

After a drive past the von Trapp Lodge, we stopped by the Healey Club cocktail party at the Matterhorn restaurant. The girls opted out of sushi and ordered chicken fingers instead. The atmosphere was jovial. Our nine year old "Healey girls" met 20 year old "Healey girls", having "Healey dads" Jack and Bob in common.

Sunday offered more traditional New England weather, complete with sunshine. The picnic competition was a smashing success. A time-traveling Dr. Who, orange-faced Oompa Loompas, an English king with blackbird pie, and a cowboy and Indian (all the way from Nebraska with their MGB) were in attendance. A Triumph Spitfire was accompanied by a five foot model WWII remote controlled airplane of the same name. Some picnics boasted traditional British fare. The twins had befriended the Nebraska couple the day before and were very pleased to see them in costume. Their car was dressed as a Conestoga wagon complete with a "Vermont or bust" sign.

The Competition of Colors interested the girls more than the previous days' class designations. They loved comparing all the red cars. They took lots of photos that day, many of them of the "best" car—our 1967 BJ 8. They are very proud to be Healey owners. As the girls say, "If you are going to get an old car, you should get a Healey!"

Two roving Bobbies kept order throughout the day. "Back up" included a camouflaged British military truck and a Land Rover with a machine gun. Another Land Rover precariously perched on a stack of tires was intriguing. "How did they get that car up there?" Robin and Rebecca stopped in their tracks when they saw Santa driving a red 1996 Jaguar convertible. They behaved very well that day, just in case....

We spread a blanket and listened as competition winners talked about their vehicles. The stories were charming. Recurrent themes of "it took me X number of years to restore" were rampant. There were also several "wonderful wife" stories. Translation: She let me buy this Healey, Aston Martin, Jaguar, etc.... The girls drew pictures and relaxed with a snack. We ended the day with a drive through Smuggler's

Notch. It was a very steep and winding road—took my breath away—perfect Healey terrain. It was quite fun to drive around the town and wave at all the LBCs. We hope we made a lasting impression as we sped by in our Austin Healey 3000—two long blonde braids flapping in the wind.

On the way home to Massachusetts, the trailer had a flat tire on Route 89. (Thank goodness we had a spare.) Jack bravely changed it, without removing the Healey from the trailer, while the girls and I sat down by the woods. We held our breath every time a semi barreled by. What an adventure! We can't wait to go back to the British Invasion next year. "It is fun, fun, fun!"

Written by Rebecca, Robin, Grace and Jack Miller



Grace, Jack, Robin & Rebecca



2nd place Concours, first place is behind it.



Robin & Rebecca

Wanted BJ7

Committed buyer for an Austin Healey BJ7! I prefer a recently fully restored excellent driver, but will consider a restoration project, for the right price.

Please call Pete Sturtevant 774 284 1212, or e-mail to healeybn4@comcast.net

For Sale

Tonneau cover fits BJ7 & BJ8

Black Vinyl. Brand new, never fitted on a car with all snaps and fasteners... still in the box from Moss. Price in current Moss cat. # 021-539 is \$424.95 plus shipping. Price: \$350.00 includes shipping.

Call Bruce @ 508-272-6565

Jud's "Healey Hauler"

Bet you didn't know that there was a "Healey Hauler" Austin Healey model. There was one... and I owned one in college. Upon graduation from The Ohio State University I loaded my 1964 BJ-8 with every possession I had in the world (this was before UPS and Federal Express) and drove cross country through South Dakota, the Little Big Horn area of Wyoming and then on to Los Angeles for graduate school. Part of the reason for my taking the off-the-beaten-track northern route was defensive as I didn't want to be on a high traffic route and have to unload the car every night for fear of having something taken. As you can see from the photos this would have been quite a task. Using a Polaroid camera (remember those) I took pictures of the car upon arrival and then with everything that had been in it set beside it. Note the ground clearance in the rear upon arrival. A partial inventory included a 19" television set, large Samsonite suitcase, shortwave radio, record albums, text books,



golf clubs, all my clothing (see the soft bags), boxes of miscellaneous gear and other stuff. Fortunately the weather gods shined their light on me and there was no rain on the entire trip. I have no idea what I would have done had it rained.

I did get the car clean after much scrubbing. Funny that with everything I've forgotten over the years I still remember many of the mechanical tasks for this car and now apply them on the BJ-8 that I bought 8 years ago after spending 30 years regretting that I had sold the Heavy Hauler. My love for Healey's started with the Heavy Hauler which I sold in 1970 with 135,000 miles on it (wish I'd put it on jacks and saved it as it would have been one of my better investments).

"Jud Perkins" judperk@comcast.net

The New England Air Museum and Bar-B-Que September 8, 2012

Despite the gloomy weather reports, it was an impressive display of about 12 big Healeys and 2 Sprites that showed up with their tops down. There were also several "Bj9s" made by Nissan, Volvo, Mazda and BMW, tops down. From the Cape, RI, VT, NH & CT, we gathered at Betty Charlands' house in Southwick, MA for coffee and DONUTS from Mrs. Murphy's, (the best, bar none). She and Roy Balthazard were our hosts.

The 10 mile drive to the Air Museum was outstanding. Southwick, part of Pioneer Valley, includes such treats as long, full potato trucks, tobacco, corn and pumpkin fields, foothills, and lovely historic homes.

A huge Delta passenger jet landed over our left shoulders as we approached the three hangar Air Museum. Our tour guide was our own Carl Carvell, a docent there. We were expertly guided through the tour when the skies darkened and car tops had to be raised. With the exception of this brief interruption, aviation history enlightened us and was a marvel to behold through so many planes and displays. Thank you Carl, we are honored.

The rain let up and we all cruised back to Betty's for the bar-b-que. Burgers and chicken from the grill were delicious, side items, brownies, and the good company shared, made for a swell day!

In the end, several Healeys left, tops still down for the long way home. I bet Bob Britton in his tri-carb 3000 had a thrilling 2+ hour drive, top down and one car left with no brakes for their long way home.

"Gotta love grit and determination".

Thank you Betty and Roy for such an enjoyable New England day together.

By Robert Scalla and Donna Scalla



Bob Britton and Donna



Bill Berg trying one on for size.



Very impressive Carl!

See the next pages for more pictures of the The New England Air Museum and Bar-B-Que

Martha & Frank admire the Sprite



At Roy & Betty's Bar-B-Que & Just admiring the cars!!!



Robert & Paul check
out Roy's car



Patently waiting to find out who is the winner will be of the valve cover.....

At the New England Air Museum



At the NE air & space museum
Before the rain hit...tops all

Guess Who?????



YUP!!!! IT'S JOE!!!!



2012 Canadian Grand Prix “Parade des Pilotes”

By Bob Britton & Linda Hakala

After a delightful ride from our Condo in Stowe, VT, Linda and I arrived in Montreal on Thursday to join the members of the Quebec Austin Healey Club in the Parade des Pilotes. Since 2001, this is an annual event at the Canadian Grand Prix for the Quebec club in which they drive the F1 race drivers, or “Pilots”, as they are referred to in Montreal, in a parade around the race circuit before the Grand Prix race.

While it took only 2 hours to drive from Stowe to Montreal we arrived at the height of rush hour traffic and it took well over an hour to go the last 15 miles from Montreal to St Eustache, the home town of our hosts, Roger and Lise Hamel. Luckily the Healey did not overheat in the bumper to bumper rush hour traffic. After a wonderful dinner at a local French restaurant we retired early to get ready for the fun packed days that awaited us.

On Friday we meet up with Tidewater member Bill Parks with his beautiful factory original 100M and his friend Tripp Ferguson. Along with Roger and Lise and friends John and Michele Yancey we all headed into Montreal with the Healey’s to enjoy the day in the city. Roger was very gracious to offer Lise’s beautiful Pacific Green 100/6 to John and Michele to drive. We headed right into downtown Montreal and drove down the main “drag”, St Catherine’s Street, along with all the exotic cars in town for the Grand Prix weekend. Driving alongside Ferraris, Lamborghini’s, Ford GT40’s and other exotic’s, our Healey’s got their fair share of thumbs up from the thousands of spectators lining the streets of Montreal.

After a few cruise by’s we wisely parked the Healey’s in a secured parking garage and then headed on foot to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Grand Prix party scene on the closed streets of Montreal. And scene it was! The streets were lined with displays of exotic cars, a few F 1 cars and booths promoting all sorts of products. Race sponsors had beautiful young women in evening dresses and other enticing attire giving out samples of their products to the crowd on hand. And of course beautiful young women were on hand everywhere. Oh, to be 20 something again!! As a treat Roger and Lise took us all to the world renowned Schwartz’s Deli for lunch to sample their famous Montreal Smoked meat sandwich. That is all the deli serves besides French fries and kosher pickles. Yummy.

We walked many miles that Friday afternoon and eventually stopped in one of the many crowded bars in the areas for some liquid refreshments and appetizers before heading back to St. Eustache for a quiet and relaxing evening at a local Sushi restaurant with Roger and Lise. One interesting thing we noted during our day in Montreal as well as during the entire weekend was the amount of security present everywhere. Police, many in full riot gear, were stationed on the streets, subways, and just about everywhere we went. I doubt the PM of Canada was afforded better security that weekend.

Next day we regrouped and drove the Healey’s into the outskirts of Montreal and took a Metro train direct to the Grand Prix race course, Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, named after the legendary Canadian Formula 1 driver, to watch the qualifying heats, as well as a number of other races being held that weekend. The first thing you noticed, or should I say heard, was the noise of the F1 cars. Absolutely deafening, even 1/3rd mile or more from the race track. As you got closer to the track you found yourself reaching for your earplugs to mute the deafening sound. The only thing louder I imagine is being at the end of a runway as a fighter jet takes off.

Walking around the grounds of the race circuit you get the true sense of the international flavor of Grand Prix racing. There were fans from around the world displaying the national flags or colors of their home team or drivers. We could hear many different languages being spoken as we walked by various groups mulling around or buying beers or tee shirts or whatever. Not your typical NASCAR crowd, that is for sure.

After the qualifying rounds Roger headed us back to our cars where we set off for a fantastic BBQ dinner and car show hosted by a local sports and antique car club. There were many different marques in attendance, mostly foreign, and many you typically would not see in the US. My favorite was an Alfa Romeo Montreal that was all original in almost showroom condition. This model was never imported to either the US or Canada but one lucky Montrealer is sure enjoying this limited production supercar of its day.

The next day, Sunday, was race day and the sun rose to a cloudless sky and the temps started an early ascent to a very warm day. We headed off at 7AM to meet the rest of the Quebec Austin Healey Club members who would be participating in the Drivers Parade to have breakfast and draw names of the drivers, or “Pilots” as Roger kept reminding us, for each Healey. Being the guests of the club Bill Parks and Linda got to draw first. Bill drew Lewis Hamilton, Former World Champion and one of the top F1 drivers for the past few years and Linda drew a relatively unknown driver, at least to most of us, from Mexico named Sergio Perez, who is only in his second year of F1 racing. Well, Bill and Linda sure lucked out as you will read later on.

The thrill of driving into the race circuit with thousands of fans looking at you, admiring your car, giving you the thumbs up, can’t be described in words. Everywhere fans were coming up to ask to have their photos taken next to your Healey because their favorite driver’s name was blasted across the windshield. People were asking you to get autographs for them as they knew their favorite F1 driver would be in your car in a few minutes. And of course a few lucky fans were invited to sit in the Healey’s to have their photos taken. At times you felt as popular as the drivers just because you would be driving them in the parade and the fans new the connection you soon would have with their heroes. Well, that was my fantasy at least, but then I had to turn over the keys to Linda, who would be driving my BJ7 in the parade. She did outbid me for the privilege! Damn it!

(cont’d on next page)

LIME ROCK'S "VINTAGE HISTORICS-30"

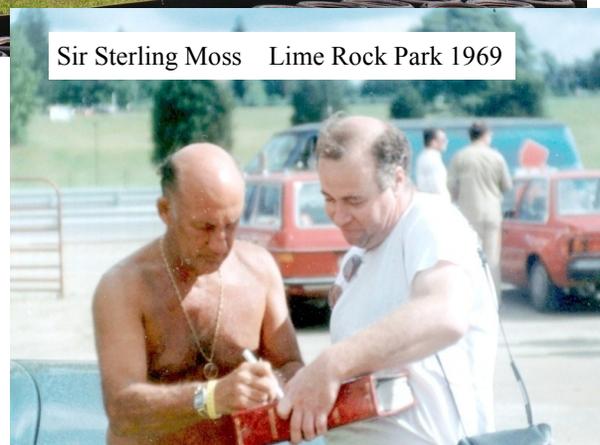
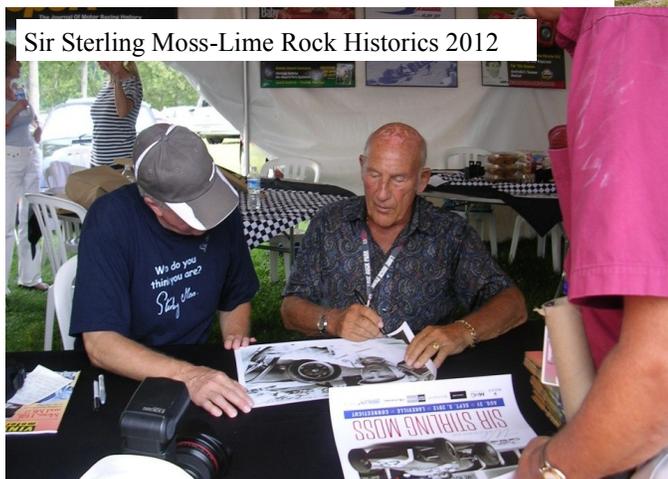
Except for Sir Sterling Moss as honored guest, this year's Lime Rock's "Historic Festival 30" was uneventful. As always, there were great cars to be seen. This year, there were a few F1 cars, and several of Sir Moss's rides. It amazes me how fragile the old race cars are, and how vulnerable the drivers were. Back in 1989, I had opportunity to meet Sir Sterling Moss at Lime Rock - down in the unpaved "paddock-A". He was very accommodating and, with no crowds, it was easy to get his autograph. This year; still s young looking as ever, he accommodated fans & photographers during 6 autograph sessions with long lines to get some attention and his autograph, 2 conversation meetings, and a tribute lap around the track. Like Donald, Sir Moss is a true gentleman and friend to all his fans.

In the car show, there were some 25 - 30 Healeys of all types on display. This was the biggest Healey showing I've seen at Lime Rock. Show cars wrapped around most of the entire track - both sides! Outside the car show, there were a few other Healeys. I only met one other Healey club member (that I knew) during the weekend. Sadly for me, a couple last minute problems prevented me from taking my Healey to the weekend. I like to think of myself, and one other Bugeye, as representing the Healey marque off-track. Off-track, all the marques seemed few in number. Even Jaguar (old Jaguars), the featured marque this year, seemed few in number.

There was the typical number of swap space vendors (i.e: not much Healey hardware). In the pits, and on track there were 8 Healey racers. My two Healey racing friends did well, with no incidences. Interestingly, one friend with a 100-4 had difficulty getting past a Bugeye sprite. A "nasty boy's" bugeye? Unless you follow the racing, or talk with the drivers, it's hard to realize the competition.

Personally, it was a hot and muggy weekend - especially down in "paddock-B". It was better up top in the campgrounds with a little more breeze. Good to see old friends again. In spite of new setup restrictions in the campgrounds, things were pretty much the same - except for the fees they now charge.

See you next year at the "Vintage-31" weekend
Duane Walzer



As Linda was getting ready to head off to the staging area where the F1 drivers would be picked up by the Healey drivers for the parade she was asked by several course workers and a few avid fans to get her driver, Sergio, to sign hats, programs or photos for them. But Linda outdid them all as she had Sergio sign his name on a pink tank top I had bought her for the occasion. Now that is an autograph!

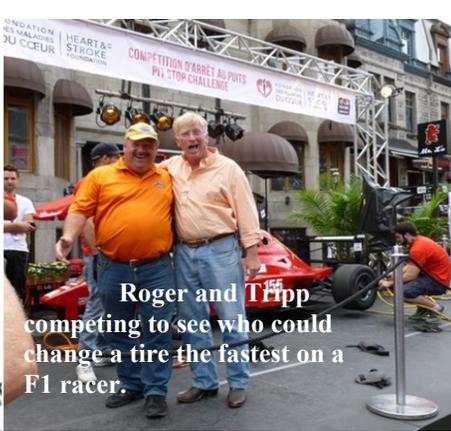
After Linda returned from her 2 laps of fame around the race circuit with thousands of fans waving, cheering and taking photos as the parade progressed at a snail's pace we all retreated to our seats in the bleachers to watch the race. If you have never been to one of these races the most thrilling parts are the first few laps and the last few laps. Other than that the race is just a blur. At the speeds these cars drive by you end up with a sore neck as you twist it back and forth just trying to watch the cars blitz by. After a while you give up trying to follow the race and settle back, enjoy a beer and watch the race on the huge TV screens in close view. Just like being at home, except for the sound, which you can't lower the volume or turn off!

As the race is nearing the final laps I turn to Linda and say "I think that is your "pilot", Sergio, who is either chasing the leader, or being lapped". Well, as it turns out it was the former and the next thing we know young Sergio is on the Podium spraying champagne on the other two top place finishers, having fought his way from the 17th grid position to a 3rd place finish. His second podium finish of the year. We both felt proud as "our Formula 1" driver was a hero for the day to us and his many fans! Needless to say Bill Parks was just as proud as he lit up a cigar when he drove back in his 100M from the race circuit having driven the eventual winner, Lewis Hamilton, in the "Parade des Pilotes".

What a fantastic weekend in Montreal. Driving in the Montreal F1 parade should be on every Healey owners bucket list for sure.



Getting ready to head into Mont-



Roger and Tripp competing to see who could change a fire the fastest on a F1 racer.



Lined up at the BBQ Car Show



Outside of Schwartz's Deli



Linda & Bob



Linda driving Sergio Perez in the parade



Putting the Pilots name on the wind-