



**OCTOBER 2023**

# **Exhaust Notes**

**AUSTIN-HEALEY CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND**

## **STATE OF THE PRESIDENT**

Fall may be the only time of the year when we can appreciate heat coming through the floor and transmission tunnel of your Healey. Take advantage of it because for most here in the northeast, fall signals the end of the driving season. Fall is also the time when you can enjoy agricultural fairs in many picturesque, rural communities in New England. A word of caution, they say when you go to an agricultural fair in Maine remember to lock your car or you may find it filled with Zucchini when you return.

We are just back from Summit in Mystic, Connecticut. Thanks to all who made this such a great event.

## **AHC NE Officers**

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Steve Pierce captured it all in hundreds of photographs which you can find on our club website [www.ahca-newengland.org](http://www.ahca-newengland.org).

Please consider a year end contribution to our 2023, club charity, Work Vessels for Vets. Work Vessels for Vets, Inc is a nationally recognized and award winning public charity with highest ratings for low overhead and high value of service. E-mail: [info@wvfv.org](mailto:info@wvfv.org).

Hope to see you on the road.

Best, BLK

*Bruce L. Ketchen*

*President AHC-NE*

*October 2023*



## Wing Coordinators

### 1. SE NY, NYC & SW CT (ACTING)

*Vacant*

### 2. CENTRAL MA & CT

*Vacant*

### 3. EASTERN CT & WESTERN RI

*Dutcha Sliker-Hersant*

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860-859-7476

### 4. SE MA & E. RI (HEMRI)

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### 5. NORTSHORE & EASTERN MA

*Roy Crane*

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### 6. NH & ME

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603-381-3158

### 7. VT, UPSTATE NY & WESTERN MA

*Ken Gypson*

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518-423-7565



# Help Wanted!

*Coordinators for Wing 1 (NYC, SE NY, and SW CT) &*

*Wing 2 (central CT and Mid MA)*

The Austin Healey Club of New England (AHCNE) is the largest club affiliated with the Austin Healey Club of America with over 350 members, and the largest geographic area. In fact, AHCNE welcomes many members who live outside the six New England states. In order to facilitate in-person meetings and gatherings AHCNE has been divided into seven geographic areas or Wings. This division was initially established using USPS area Zip Codes, but was not intended to create boundaries. ALL Wing activities are open to ALL AHCNE members. For organization and administrative purposes, a volunteer Wing Coordinator position was established for each Wing. The Wing Coordinator is not an activities director, but rather a facilitator and information resource for new and old members. Subject to annual appropriation, a small budget is available to the Wing Coordinator to facilitate gatherings and can be used for reimbursement of certain Wing expenses. The following is not a formal job description, but rather a list of activities where Wing Coordinators can be most helpful to the club:

- *Welcome new Members and introduce them to club website and resources.*
- *Assist members in planning and advertising Wing tours.*
- *Facilitate member networking.*
- *Promote two-way communications with club Board of Directors.*
- *Identify and recruit members to assume leadership roles within AHCNE.*
- *Encourage members to organize periodic breakfast or dinner gatherings and bring guests.*
- *Remind members to promote AHCNE at local car events.*

Thank you to your current Wing Coordinators and please reach out to them for ideas for events in your Wing.

<b>Wing &amp; Area</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
1 SE NY, NYC, SW CT	Available		
2 Central MA & CT	Available		
3 Eastern CT Western RI	Dutcha	860-859-7476	healeydutch@gmail.com
4 SE MA/ E. RI (HEMRI)	Steve Bell	508-947-6499	scbell1@comcast.net
5 Northshore & Eastern MA	Roy Crane	978-761-3930	roycrane@verison.net
6 NH/ME	Bob Britton	603-381-3158	healeybj7@hotmail.com
7 VT Upstate NY Western MA	Ken Gypson	518-423-7565	kengypson@yahoo.com

We need volunteers to fill the two Available Wing Coordinators for Wing 1; Southeastern NY, NYC, and Southwestern CT, and Wing 2; Central MA and CT. Please let me know if you are interested or would like additional information. The two previous Wing Coordinators have agreed to support the transition.

Thank You,

**Bruce L. Ketchen**

President AHC-NE

[bruce.ketchen@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.ketchen@gmail.com)

617-947-6473





# Cruisin' at the speed of fun

## August 17 Bass Pro Shops Cruise Winner

Selected as one of two Vintage Motorsports cruise night winners, the story of Peter Sturdevant's beautifully restored 1954 Austin Healey 100 BN-1 roadster is documented in a two-part 2018 Hemmings series titled "Restoring the Parts Car: Austin-Healey 100" which you can search on Google.

Phil Gardner in England had what was left from a parts Austin-Healey 160880 he imported from the U.S.A. in 1995 to restore a 1956 Austin Healey 100 BN2 for the 50th anniversary of the marque in 2002. That's when Peter who attended the event and Phil hatched a plan to restore Phil's parts hulk rather than scrap it. Peter would travel to England hauling the needed Healey parts as luggage in addition to shipping the body parts too big to carry. He then spent long weekends in England with Phil on what he calls the shared ownership "coalition project". Somewhere along this project, Peter bought out Phil's share and, after having to repair the A-H 100 after a rear end collision during a test run in England it finally made it home to Massachusetts in 2007.

We hear auction houses touting about a vehicle's rarity, original condition, number matching, racing or celebrity provenance being important factors that set high valuations to potential buyers, but it seems resurrection from the scrap heap to become a quality appreciative build recognized by its designer Gerry Coker should also be highly valued as well.



**Gerry Coker  
1922—2020  
Designer of the  
Healey 100  
& Sprite signed  
the dash in 2015**





# Scandinavian Healey Tour

*Bob Britton*

## PART 2 – Geiranger to Oslo

We left Geiranger for our next stop in Flam. Flam is another resort town located at the foot of the Aurlandsfjord which is a branch of the famous Sognefjord which is 126 miles long, 3 ½ miles at its widest section and a staggering 4291' deep. Along the way we drove through the very barren Jostedalbreen National Park with many glaciers along the peaks. At one point along the route, we had a choice of driving through the Laerdal Tunnel, which at 15.2 miles is the longest tunnel in the world or taking the scenic route known as the "Snow Road" over the mountain pass. Our group elected for the Snow Road. This had to be one of the most thrilling drives of my life.



*Start of the Snow Road*

The road first started out at sea level and quickly climbed through a narrow valley eventually reaching a desolated treeless snow covered landscape 4281' above sea level. This road was just wide enough for one vehicle and had very few guard rails, so we had to be alert at each turn, which was difficult for the drivers as the scenery was so majestic. During the entire 29 mile drive we did not see any other cars on the road. After a long descent we entered Flam and headed to the hotel's bar for a well deserved beer or two. We enjoyed dinner at a local brew pub which featured a delicious New England style IPA beer.



*Top of the Snow Road*

The next day we headed to the seaside port of Bergen, founded in 1070, which once was the capital of Norway back in the 13th century. Bergen has many historic buildings including the Rosenkrantz Tower, located right next to our hotel. It dated to 1270 and was the residence and fortress of the Norwegian king in the 13th century and later the home of Governor Erik Rosenkrantz who expanded the residence in the 16th century. With narrow winding passageways it was an intriguing building to tour, including the torture chamber in the lower level.



*One of narrow passageways in the Rosenkrantz Tower*





*Bergen waterfront*

The following day's journey was a 6 hour drive along numerous fjords and remote valleys to the ski town of Hovden. We passed through another national park with snow covered peaks and numerous waterfalls along the route. Being off season Hovden was noticeably quiet, and we were the only patrons at our hotel for the evening.



*The beautiful Setesdal valley*

Denmark here we come. We were off early to catch a 2 ½ hour ferry to cross the North Sea to Denmark and our destination of Aarhus. Aarhus is Denmark's



*One of Norway's magnificent waterfalls*

The next day we headed south through the remote Setesdal Valley with sod roofed homes, ancient churches, derelict farmhouses, and gentle scenery. Our destination was the portside city of Kristiansand, our gateway to Denmark.



*Healey's packed together on the ferry*

second largest city, but it had a very cozy feel. We stayed at the most unique hotel of our trip, the Hotel Royal, dating back over 170 years, with an Art Deco Casino which would feel at home in any Agatha Christie novel.

The hotel was right in the center of the old town with its many delightful outdoor cafes, narrow winding streets, and century old homes. This was one of our favorite cities we stayed in, unfortunately we were there only one night.





*Old town in Aarhus*

The next few days we traveled across Denmark with the first night stay in Odense, birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen. Compared to the rural and mountainous terrain of Norway, Denmark was mostly flat with huge fields of wheat and other crops and many, many windmills providing the country's power.



*Many windmills dotted the landscape in Sweden.*



*Birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen*

With an extra day in Odense, Linda and I opted to take a ferry out to the island of Aero, the "Nantucket" of Denmark, located in the Baltic Sea with its old stone cottages along narrow cobblestone streets. We stopped at a small museum to view the world's largest collection of ships-in-a-bottle, more than 1000 in total all created by one man over a lifetime. Time allowed us to take an island tour on the free island bus before we had to catch the ferry back to Odense.



*The main street in Aero*

The next day we headed to Copenhagen with a stop in Roskilde, a 1000 year old city, to visit the Viking Ship Museum and Roskilde Cathedral. The ship museum featured the remains of five Viking ships that were sunk in the harbor 1000 years ago to prevent an enemy attack from the sea. Even more interesting was the Roskilde Cathedral, built in the 12th and 13th century where 39 Danish royals are buried over a 500 year period. It is Denmark's version of Westminster Abbey and is constructed with over 3 million bricks. The current queen of Denmark already has a room and crypt reserved for her remains.





*Danish Royal burial crypt in the Roskilde Cathedral*

Ah, Copenhagen. So much to do, so little time. With only one day to explore we decided to get some exercise and take a 3+ hour walking tour of the city, eventually ending up at the famous Little Mermaid on the rock. We were hoping to visit the famous Tivoli Gardens in the afternoon but with threatening thunderstorms we headed back to our hotel. One thing that was quite different from major US cities was the number of folks riding bikes thorough the streets alongside cars in dedicated bike lanes.



*The famous Little Mermaid*

Farewell to Denmark, Sweden here we come. But first we had to drive 7.3 miles over and under the North Sea via the Oresund Bridge and Drogden Tunnel. It was a very scenic drive but the toll was pricy at \$72!

Our first stop in Sweden was the portside city of Kalmar, a walled city located on the Baltic Sea dating back to the

12th century. Again, we stayed in a classic hotel dating back to the 17th century, located in the old cathedral square area with charming cafés dotting the narrow streets.

Our next stop was the city of Norrköping. But first we visited the world famous Kosta Boda glass factory, dating back to 1742. From a small glob of molten glass, we watched their craftsmen by consistently blowing and turning the molten piece and reheating as necessary to create a beautiful glass bowl.

On day 23 we finally arrived in Stockholm after a wonderful scenic drive compliments of a local Healey club member through numerous inlets along the Baltic Sea and Swedish countryside. We spent the next 2 days exploring this exciting city with so many old and historic buildings in the nearby old town section with its narrow cobblestone streets and of course many outdoor cafes. The highlight of our stay in Stockholm was visiting the Vasa Museum. Vasa was a ship that was built between 1624-27 with a double gun deck, the first of its kind for a man-of-war ship of the period. However, the ship turned out to be too top heavy and sunk in less than 1 mile on its maiden voyage when a gust of wind knocked it over. The ship sat at the bottom of the harbor for 333 years before it was raised and preserved. Over 98% of the original ship survives, making this the most preserved ship of the 17th century. Anyone visiting Stockholm must make it a point to visit this museum.



*The Vasa War Ship, circa 1627*





### *Stately architecture on Stockholm's waterfront*

We left Stockholm on day 26 of our trip and visited the Alfred Nobel Museum, the inventor of dynamite before arriving in the delightful city of Karlstad, our last night in Sweden. The next day was a long drive to return to Oslo, our starting point on the trip 27 days before to drop our cars back at the port to be shipped home.



### *Road to Oslo*

Our group enjoyed a farewell dinner for telling tales, sharing anecdotes, and reliving the high (and low) points of our trip. The group gave a well deserved recognition and thanks to trip organizer Steve Kirby of the Austin Healey Association of Southern California for his efforts in organizing the thoroughly planned tour that everyone enjoyed.



### *The Healey Tour Group*

The European Healey Tour was a lifetime 28 day trip with 30 Healey's driving approximately 2500 miles through 3 countries, 123 tunnels, 135 roundabouts, crossing numerous fjords, mountain passes, pristine valleys and visiting many of Scandinavia's historic and beautiful cities.

The next European Healey Meet will be held in Holland in 2027.





## REMEMBERING ROLAND PREVOST:

Recently, I had the opportunity to stop by the Salty Dog restaurant to try check up on an old friend Roland Prevost. Sad to say that his son Lucas reported that Roland recently passed away.

Most of you probably don't remember Roland. It has been many years since he was active in the Healey club.

Thanks to Roland, Donald Healey came to visit Boston. We all had opportunity to met up with Donald on occasions and for a birthday party, and at our annual Cape Cod gatherings.

On one occasion, Roland organized a Healey car show at the Faneuil Hall Boston Marketplace.

Besides a street 100-4 Healey that he drove, Roland was fortunate to own a "100-S" Healey. Although he didn't race it, we took it to Lime Rock Vintage Festival for show. I know Roland later sold the car to someone.

I'm sorry I didn't keep in touch with Roland.  
Rest in peace.

Duane Walzer  
Medway, MA

## Cruise Nights at Patriot Place

Presented by Bass Pro Shops

Join Patriot Place every other Thursday from April – October for free and exciting Cruise Nights!

The Bass Pro Shops Cruise Nights with the Mass Cruisers are known throughout New England. Bi-Weekly hundreds of cars, owners and fans attend for FREE and enjoy all the sights and sounds of Patriot Place.



Thursday, October 5, 2023  
4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Thursday, October 19, 2023  
4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

[www.patriot-place.com/masscruisers/](http://www.patriot-place.com/masscruisers/)

## AHC NE 2023 Event Calendar

October				
Monday October 9th 7:00 PM	All	Monthly Technical Zoom Meeting	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85606466257?pwd=TVdOSm1HaUpSTkdwMkE1czZTMlh6Zz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85606466257?pwd=TVdOSm1HaUpSTkdwMkE1czZTMlh6Zz09</a>	Pete Sturtevant healeybn4@comcast.net
November				
Monday November 14th 7:00 PM	All	Monthly Technical Zoom Meeting	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85606466257?pwd=TVdOSm1HaUpSTkdwMkE1czZTMlh6Zz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85606466257?pwd=TVdOSm1HaUpSTkdwMkE1czZTMlh6Zz09</a>	Pete Sturtevant healeybn4@comcast.net
December				
Monday December 11th 7:00 PM	All	Monthly Technical Zoom Meeting	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85606466257?pwd=TVdOSm1HaUpSTkdwMkE1czZTMlh6Zz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85606466257?pwd=TVdOSm1HaUpSTkdwMkE1czZTMlh6Zz09</a>	Pete Sturtevant healeybn4@comcast.net