



# New England News

*The newsletter for members in the New England Region of the  
Austin Healey Club of America  
NY, CT, MA, RI, VT, NH, ME & Northern NJ*

## President's column

*By Frank Motta*

Hi Everyone

Well it has been a wonderful Healey season, and an absolutely gorgeous sun filled summer. I am quite sure that most people in the club have availed themselves of the opportunity to enjoy plenty of top-down driving, especially in the pleasant warm evenings. But all good things must come to an end, and with the arrival of the fall season Healey rides, are more likely to be daytime events with the top up. A falling leaf landing on the bonnet of your Healey serves as an unwelcome reminder that the bulk of the driving season is once again unfortunately behind us. It also signals that the time has come once again get our cars ready to be put up for the winter season.

Very often it is this time of year that classic car enthusiasts choose to affect any changes or repairs on their vehicles. Even though in my last column I seemed to emphasize the down side and the negative aspects of people attempting to complete a total Healey restoration in their own garage, I did not mean to imply that you should never attempt to work on your Healey. I truly believe there is a very positive benefit to be derived in attempting to repair or restore certain individual elements of your own Healey. Such work is very likely to be a most interesting and rewarding venture that will undoubtedly make you a good deal more familiar with your Austin Healey. However, there are only a few people in our club who are armed with the ability and know how to rush headlong into such a venture.

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## “HO HO HO”

### IT'S HEALEY PARTY TIME

2005 New England Region  
Austin Healey Club of America  
Christmas Party

**Date:** December 3, 2005

**Time:** 6:00 Cocktails (Drinks on your own)  
7:00 Dinner

**Place:** Admiral T.J. O'Brien's (508-347-2838)  
407 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA (Rt. 20)

**\$30.00 per person**

**Includes :** Appetizer, dinner, dessert, tax, tip  
**Park in upper level lot and enter thru the street  
level entrance**

**50 People maximum**

**Lodging is across the street from the restaurant:**

**Sturbridge Coach Motor Lodge**  
408 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA (Rt. 20)  
508-347-7327

**Single: \$45.00 (1 person)**

**Double: \$55.00 (2 People)**

**Rate includes Continental Breakfast**

**Santa will be there with Bells on.**

**Don't forget: \$10.00 grab bag gift for each  
person participating**

**\*\*\* r.s.v.p. by: Nov. 20, 2005 to:**

**Jon/Janet Kastberg: 413-245-4618**

**Bob/Betty Bender : 413-684-3934**

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**New Web site -new look and new name**

**[www.ahca-northeast.com](http://www.ahca-northeast.com)**



How's that for short, sweet and to the point? Our club Web site has a new look and feel. Be sure to visit [www.ahca-northeast.com](http://www.ahca-northeast.com) and bookmark the site. I'll be working on completing certain new sections and the photo gallery is still under construction. Feel free to send me your latest and greatest photographs to include. Be sure and give me a short comment to include under the picture so everyone knows whose car it is. Find a broken link? Want to see a change to some wording? Please send your comments and suggestions to Deb Katz at [dlkatz\\_99@hotmail.com](mailto:dlkatz_99@hotmail.com).

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Most of us are more than probably just novice mechanics, and will tend to move slowly Being cautious and deliberate with measured steps through the repair process. makes good sense for anyone involved in something for the first time, but such a pace will more than likely render your Healey un-useable for a significant amount of time. The down time required to make the desired repairs or alterations on your Healey, could significantly alter your ability to use your car during off-season. To my way of thinking this should not dissuade you from attempting to complete the task on your own. With the end of the normal driving season any use of your car would be somewhat limited, even under normal conditions, and any interruption or suspension of the usage of your Healey, while the changes are being made, is essentially a non-issue. Not being able to drive your Healey in December is not a great burden, but not being able to drive it in June is! So it is important that you begin the job as soon as possible and plan ahead.

In order to be sure that you will be able to have the desired repairs completely accomplished during the off-season you must lay out a plan of attack. If you were going to send your car to a repair shop to have the desired work done, you would have told the shop specifically what you wanted done, and would have asked them for a fairly accurate estimate as to what your cost would be to complete the work. You would have required them to assure that they would have the work completed before the next Healey season began. The fact that you are doing the work yourself does not alter these requirements, but since it is you that must fulfill these requirements it is even more essential that you plan ahead.

It does not matter how extensive or limited the repairs you plan are as long as you are realistic about the time frame. Things almost always take longer to do than the original estimate, so plan accordingly. Since you are doing the work yourself be sure to have the parts you need on hand, so as not to be held up for lack of small bit or missing gasket. If you need the use of a machine shop to do milling for you, be sure to schedule them in advance, as the winter is their busy time. If you don't get your work to them at your appointed time they may not be able to do your job, as other jobs now in hand will take precedent. Be sure you have read as much information as you can about whatever particular job you are tackling. If a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, no knowledge can be disastrous. So be as prepared as you can before you start, and don't be afraid to seek the help of others in the club who might be more experienced and informed than yourself. Make sure you have sufficient time allotted each week to work on your project, or you may not get the job completed on schedule. It

always helps to have experienced Healey people come over to work with you on your project, as they not only often bring with them some technical knowledge, but motivation as well. Their appearance at the back door on a cold Saturday morning in February will certainly inspire you to leave your warm house, to work on YOUR project out in your garage. When you do get help from others, have your goals for that days work clearly laid out so as to derive the maximum benefit from the expert assistance these people are bringing to your project. Wise use of time is critical to insure that the job gets done right, and on time.

When your Healey project is completed, and you hear the roar of the engine once again, you will enjoy a great measure of satisfaction that you and your friends have been able to put you Healey back in proper running order. Then next spring at the newcomers meet as you relate the story of the “Great Winter Project” to all who will listen, some new member might just tap you on the shoulder and ask you to help him tackle his project next winter. My experience has taught me that this new members request won’t be a great problem, because helping others members is what the club is all about. More than likely the same group of Healey guys who helped you with your repair will be more than willing to help this new member as well. The only difference is that now you will be included as one of the helpers. Helping others keep their Austin Healey automobiles on the road has become a tradition of our organization and speaks volumes about the nature and quality of our club’s members. The Austin Healey Club of America is all about fellowship and the love of a beautiful classic car, so do your part to keep them healthy running and on the road.

Frank

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## *Green Mountain International Conclave 2007 Update*

A final presentation of our plans for Conclave will be presented at the delegates meeting in November. The chairmen will be meeting to discuss budget, schedules and events prior to having team meetings. Team meetings will be set up after the first of the year and your team leader or I will contact you by email or phone.

At our first meeting in Sturbridge, many of you signed up for your team choice and most showed an interest in more than one team, if you have the time and would like to be a part of two teams that will be your option. I will send out a list, which will include your team choices. **BUT** more volunteers are needed and welcome, please email or call me to sign up for a team of your choice. (See the list of teams below, where can **YOU** help?)

Art & Logo, Finance, Advertising and Publicity, Hotel Coordination, Registration, Vendors, Tech Sessions, Alternative Activities, Awards, Gymkhana, Funkana, Car Show, Tours, Entertainment, Team Refreshments, Regalia, Event Imaging, Rallye, Arts And Crafts, Hospitality, (*Raffle & Auction, Special Guest, Concours Judging*) Team leaders and members needed!

Thanks, Charlie [charliebugeye@cox.net](mailto:charliebugeye@cox.net)

860-668-0715

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Hi Club Members,

Donna and I joined the **Hyland Brewery Rally** on Sunday, July 10. It was a gorgeous day and all was perfect in the world. It was really great to see and hang out with you all. Thanks Janet and Jon Kastberg for doing such a fabulous job hosting this event. And congrats to you as new grandparents.

Since the Healey's brake fluid mysteriously disappeared a couple of days ago, D and I drove our convertible BMW BJ9. We were on the tour portion of the day between the Winery and the Brewery and were following a long line of Healeys through the countryside. The sights of New England and the sounds of Austin Healeys are a match if you ask me.

We got to the intersection 148 & 9 in the town of Brookfield, MA and had to turn left. One by one the cars went to the stop sign and turned left. When the traffic was clear, we all hurried to get thru and catch up. D & I were last and when I pulled up to the stop and looked right momentarily, I saw the car sitting with the light bar on top. I just turned the car left and kept going Maybe I didn't stop fully, I thought I did.

Lights and sirens, we had a little visit with the local Man. He sends his regards to the Austin Healey Club of America. Though I told some of you that he stopped me to tell us how much he admired our cars, that is not really how it went. It was more like, "I should have pulled the whole bunch of you over. I could have written 'bout a thousand dollars worth of tickets". He must have decided to let the Healeys go thru until our BMW quickly stopped and went thru, it was one too many. I said I was part of that Rally group and he said (see above). He wanted me to spread the good word to ya all, so there it is.

The lowest moment of the day was much later at the Brewery when I learned that Charlie Krut has been ill. I was crushed to hear this. Also I heard of others, where have I been? He is on my list of MAPs (most admired people) in this Club for sure. My heart goes with you Charlie, and Bob and those others in our Club who have been battling illness.

At the end of the day, our group gave awards to those who won the Rally contests. No surprise, the Plues won for the most words. They always win, and I'm glad. They deserve it. Andy and Pat are also at the top of my MAP list in this Club.

Donna and I also received an award for 'Being Harassed' by the Police. We went home with a cold case of 22oz Hyland's Sturbridge Amber Ale. How awesome is that? I love this Club and all of those who are in it. We drink these to your and our health. Cheers!

Robert Scalla

## Calendar of Events

### **Dec 3, 2005**

New England Region - Christmas Party 05  
Bob & Betty Bender,  
413-684-3934

### **June 18-23 2006**

*Conclave 2006 – Akron, OH*

### *Summit 2006 – Maine*

The dates for the Summit 2006 will be **July 28 to 30**. This is the busiest time of the year on the coast of Maine but I have managed to book 80 rooms for those dates, reserve the Rockport Marine Park on the harbor front for the BBQ Friday night and

find a nice room at the Samoset Resort for the banquet Saturday night. The rally will be held Saturday AM. Instead of an autocross we will be attending the Wings and Wheels Spectacular, Classic Cars and Aerobatic Air Show at the Owls Head Transportation Museum Saturday at noon. The museum is looking forward to our participation and will set aside a special area for us to park and display our cars. This event is attended by thousands of car and airplane buffs so it should be a great day.

More later. Cheers, JL

### **June 24-29, 2007**

*Conclave 2007 – Burlington, Vermont*