



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*

From the Editor

Peter Rafe Williams
Prafe@aol.com

Looks like the consensus at the January organization meeting, was that we should try to have more varied content in the newsletter. To do this we will need to try a different approach to the old what is coming up stuff. Some of the suggestions were:

Having columnists and contributing Editors for different subjects such as:

Member profiles

Car modifications

Racing reports

That other car in the garage

Auto Crossing report

How I got my car

Having a follow up column on the activities of the clubs events

Doing healeys trivia questions

If you have some more suggestions and /or would like to contribute to the newsletter just send over an e-mail. Or give me a call at 860-463-5312

President's column

By Frank Motta

Hi Everyone

I hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderfully happy and healthy holiday season, and are now looking forward to the 2006 schedule of Healey events. Firstly, as we begin the New Year, I would like to thank everyone who worked so diligently to help make 2005 a wonderful success. There is no doubt that it is only through the unselfish efforts of our membership that we can keep producing the high quality meets that we in New England have become accustomed to. It is only through the sustained effort of a tireless few that the New England region of the AHCA has consistently operated at such a high level of performance since it's founding in 1977. With that in mind, each of us in our club should try to do our part to keep that tradition alive, for such a tradition of excellence can only continue to be achieved by our organization if we ALL work all that much harder during this coming year. Given the fact that Conclave 2007 has Charlie and his committee now seriously involved in the real planning and development of that International event, and that most of the traditionally active members of our New England region are extremely active in this work, it is quite a reach to expect these same people to be responsible for any type of large local meet that would require extensive effort on their part. Because we have decided to be a host region for Conclave 2007 should not be allowed to diminish our ordinary schedule of events, but realistically that could occur, and hence that does appear to be a potential problem. However this dilemma could well be solved, or at least somewhat mitigated, if we could somehow convince new and different people to get involved in the planning of a meet. This infusion of new blood into the mix of those who are actively involved in club activities would not only give us the immediate benefit of freeing up those on the Conclave committee from having to do double duty this year, but would have the long term benefit to the club of broadening the base of active participation among our membership.

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How I first got interested in British Cars

When I graduated from high school in 55, I needed a first car but could get no help from my dad so it had to be cheap. In those days it was rare for a HS student to have a car and there was only one in my whole school. (a 49 Ford chopped and channeled and driven by a kid named Choo Choo). For some reason I have never been able to understand I was never interested in American Iron like all of my friends. While they hopped up their cars and went to the drags, all I wanted to do was go to the nearest circuit. Luckily I lived in Toledo Ohio so I was in the middle of some of the best early tracks in the country. Within a few hours drive there was Elkhart Lake, Mansfield, Watkins Glen and Mich. International was just being built.

In a local junkyard I found a mashed 1952 TD that had been side swiped by a truck and bought it for \$100 and my first dates with Barb where spent with her sitting on a stool and passing me wrenches while I worked on getting that car back in running condition. My first race in that car was at Put In Bay, an island in Lake Erie where a bunch of guys from Cleveland SCCA convinced the town fathers to let us block off the streets with hay bales and run right through the town! Those were the days!!

That was 1955 and we have owned a long string of British cars ever since. Among them a TC, the TD, two A's, six B's, a TR 250, an E-type, my first Austin Healey, a 120 Jag drophead, and a few Rover P-4's. Oh, and a Formula V which I built to race in the late 60's. As of now we, have a 58 Rover P-4, our second Austin Healey BT7, Barb's 52 Triumph Mayflower and the 52 TD we bought last fall as the latest project.... Will this addiction never end??????

I have been obsessed with British cars since I was a kid. (Say 'yea' if you know the feeling). So much so that one day in 1965 when I ran across a Powder Blue MGA with wire wheels with a price was sooooo cheap and just begging for a new owner that in a rash moment I traded in the family Chevy wagon on it. Needless to say that was just too much of an LBC strain on any relationship. The wife was not happy as we had three babies at the time and she booted me right out of the house. It took almost a year and the sale of the MGA to get back in. Since then we have done all of our "car stuff" together and have been happily married for almost fifty years. My story reminds me of the book "The Red Car" which I only read a few years ago but highly recommend for any gear head raised in the fifties or sixties. Boy, did it bring back the memories.

James Lea, 2 West St. PO Box 25, Rockport Maine 04856

“How I first got interested in British Cars”

What’s your story? We all would like to here how you got the LBC bug.

The Racing Line by Jim Smith

The Australia / US Healey Challenge is history, but what a ride! Five race venues in just two short months. Road America in Wisconsin to Summit Point West Virginia, to Watkins Glen NY, to VIR to Mid-Ohio.. Most racers did one, two, or three of the events, some did them all. I did them all....or I should say I had the BN1 on the racetrack for them all.

Road America was the best for me, finishing first in class. Swelled with pride, I had visions of repeating that at the four remaining venues. Well that was not to happen. Seems I used up all my luck at RA. Anyway, all is well that ends well, and the racecar is ready for a new season.

The Northeast Region AHCA had good representation:

Andrew McCabe was blindingly fast as usual, but had an unfortunate mishap in practice at Watkins Glen and had to do some serious bodywork in preparation for the All Healey race.

Dick Rowley raced in his usual smooth-as-silk manner at Watkins Glen and VIR. His brand new BN2 racer performed as if it had been developed over several years.

John Einhorn Raced his 3000 BJ8. This car is the only big Healey still racing in SCCA. The car sports a new red and black paint job, and is absolutely striking. He could have given the Aussies a real run, but he had some nuisance mechanical problems, which held him back

Jim Smith entered all five events with the BlueChip warhorse BN1. Finished first in class at Road America.

The Local AHCA regions provided support at each of the racetracks, and our Northeast Region was no exception. As reported in a previous newsletter, we provided the trophies for the Watkins Glen event, and the racers were cheered on by a large contingent of NE region race fans.

Thanks to Dave Barton for providing excellent crew-chief duties at Road America and Watkins Glen; Thanks to Dick Rowley for his help getting the BlueChip BN1 repaired after a little Watkins Glen mishap; Thanks to all the AHCA members who provided support and encouragement throughout the AUHC series.

Jim Smith ,
Contributing Editor, *The
Racing Line* .

Editors note: For a copy of this article with action pictures visit our website

**** TECH CALL ****

The 2006 Summit Committee has requested that we canvas the membership as to what type of technical sessions that would be interesting to have. If you have any suggestions phone, send or E-mail your ideas to:

James Lea · 207-236-3632 clocks@midcoast.com

**** TECH CALL ****

Green Mountain International Conclave 2007 Update

Some of you will be reading this prior to our next meeting and some after due to your choice of delivery options of the newsletter. We will be having our next meeting at the Hyland Brewery in Sturbridge on January 28 at 10:00 am. We will be coordinating the registration, finance, publicity, and hotel teams in order to get prepared to go to Ohio this summer to promote our event.

We have made our final presentation at Delegates meeting in November and it was well

received by all and the general feeling is we will have a crowd of people attending.

We have set up the many teams to take on this task of Conclave 2007, but there is still plenty of room for more hands during the planning and during the event it's self. So don't be bashful and lend a hand. Give me a call or email and we can put you on a team of your liking. I will be scheduling more coordination meetings on the 28th so keep your eyes open.

If you are still get a hard copy of the newsletter and now have a computer with email, and want to get the newsletter sooner please email the editor with your information.

CHRISTMAS REVELERS PARTY ON
by Len Cannizzaro

If you throw a party, they will come. About 52 of the Northeast Region's finest revelers showed up for the Christmas Party at Admiral T.J. O'Brien's in centrally located Sturbridge, MA on December 3rd, just passed. Everyone was particularly happy to see Charlie Krut and Jon Kastberg there showing remarkable recovery from their recent surgeries !! On the other hand, we missed welcoming new members Paul & Janet Choiniere, he being a Firefighter, as the bell rang just before they were about to leave. But it's nice to know that he may be at a meet if the smoke escapes from the Lucas wires.

Of the many Christmas Parties that I have attended, O'Brien's has perhaps the coziest ambiance of all. However, no doubt the Bender's and Kastberg's - underestimating their reputation for party-throwing - didn't foresee the great turnout as the atmosphere headed from 'cozy' closer to 'intimate'. Like the boat Captain in JAWS was in need of larger boat, if we keep having super parties we're going to need a larger room -- which shouldn't be a problem.

Everyone soon got into the spirit of the evening as we crowded around the bar with revelers being fortified by the spirits therein. The only potential problem was when a coffee urn on the bar came

apart and spilled on the server. Luckily, she sustained no serious injury -- and neither did the other liquid consumables. After everyone had a chance to greet and chat with old friends, we headed over to the bountiful buffet table and enjoyed a wonderful meal.

With smiles on our faces and bellies a-full, the party was kicked up a notch with the appearance of Old Saint Bob -- err, Nick. With his flip-flopping hat garnering some chuckles from the ladies (no one understands this phenomenon), the letch took charge of the Yankee Swap. As mentioned, the room was pretty crowded and there was little room for the women to escape his clutches. The gift pile, of course, was Santa-rigged with the good stuff waaay in the back. Every year there are one or two presents that are chased around the room. One such item was an old, but collectible Barbie Pink Healey in need of some minor restoration. That fact, though, is no deterrent or stranger to Healey owners. Another item, neither old nor collectable, was a pair of men's boxer shorts with the picture of a Bull Dog and the words "Big Dog Inside" on the outside. Apparently several women understood what this meant as the shorts changed hands a few times.

Coffee, dessert and farewells were in order after the beautiful table centerpieces, made by Betty Bender, Pam Broughel and Jan Kastberg, were claimed by those who had a Santa sticker under their chair. Judy was one of the lucky sitters. And so, another wonderful event of the Holiday Season came to close with everyone looking forward to Spring -- another Healey driving experience -- and the next Christmas Party

We are looking for a clean driver 1966-67.
Needing some work ok. 508-896-8705 in
Brewster, MA.
Thanks for your help.

Bev and Bill Thomas

Cont from page 1

So as your president I am seeking new and different people to get involved at this critical juncture for our club, and ask you to consider putting on a Healey meet. I am positive that you will produce a high quality event, if you simply plan some type of activity that would likely please you if you attending a meet held by someone else. You should be confident that you will be able to conduct a first rate event, and don't sell yourself short or be fearful that others won't like what you have planned. Most folks who go to Healey events are usually just looking to take nice leisurely ride somewhere and enjoy the company of other Healey enthusiasts. So don't be reluctant to get involved! We need fresh ideas and different people to help us do the double duty our club is presently involved in, and we need your effort this year to produce the kind of quality events that have been our hallmark. So get involved for the benefit of us all! Feel free to call me at (508) 636-8636, or e-mail me at fmott@surglobal.net so that we can discuss any ideas that you might have.

Volunteers Needed for SUMMIT 2006

OK folks. This is what we have so far for volunteers. If you do not see your name on the list, it's time to help share the load. Many of the jobs are not time consuming but are still very important to the overall success of the weekend and the more people involved the less work it is for any one person. Most of the ground work is in place for each job. What we need is someone to follow up and make sure each one runs smoothly. Please let me know where you would like to help. If you see something I have overlooked or have questions you can reach me at 207-236-3632 or clocks@midcoast.com. Thanks, JL

COMMITTEES

REGISTRATION - RECEPTION. Bob Bender,
Deb Katz

HOSPITALITY. _____

FRIDAY BBQ. _____

SATURDAY BANQUET. _____

AWARDS. Frank Motta

GYMKHANA. Steve Bell, Bill Berg

LOGO. Jim Lea

PUBLICITY _____

RALLY. Bob Abbot.

REGALIA. Jan Kastberg, Pam Broughel

PUBLICITY. _____

RAFFLE. _____

CAR SHOW AT

OHTM _____

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES. Barb Lea

TECH SESSIONS. _____

Member Survey

Over the course of the next few months we will be asking the membership some questions about the Club in general.

Questions thinking of to date:

Do we have your correct mailing address and phone number?

Have you ever attended any meets?

Would you like to see more meets in your area?

Is your Healey currently running or in restoration phase?

Do you have any other collectible cars?? If so, what are they?

Would you be interested in communicating with other members who have your same car or are interested in any of your other cars?

Would you be interested in any regalia from the National Organization or from our local group?

Are you interested in racing, gymkhanas, up hill slaloms or just fun tours of an area?

Are you interested in getting together for picnics, our annual Christmas party or just receiving the newsletter and the Marque?

Could you please give us your home e-mail address so that we would not interrupt your mail at work?

Would you like to receive our newsletter by postal service or by e mail?

2006 Planning Calendar

This is the time of the year that the Area Coordinators (AC's) get together with the Clubs Officers and start planning for the year to come, this years calendar is starting to shape up. So contact your AC with any ideas you may have and will pug them in.

Member Modifications

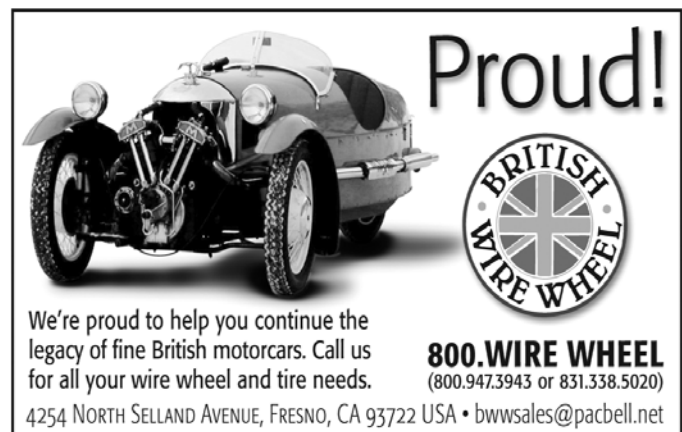
From time to time we would like to feature a member's car modification in the newsletter. Something that is not stock, but helps us in enjoying our own special Healey

If you could e-mail a picture and a short description of your Modification to Prafe@aol.com we could then share it with the rest of the New England regions members.

Ad Requirements

Members may submit classified ads to be run in the New England News free of charge for other than commercial business. Commercial ad rates are listed above. Send camera-ready artwork to: Peter Williams; c/o 149 Maple Street, Ellington Ct, 0602 or via email at rafewilliams@comcast.net. Ads will be run once unless specified.

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