



# 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](mailto:Prafe@aol.com)

It's the middle of summer and we here at the world headquarters of the *New England News* get to have somewhat of a brake.

The newsletter will be shifting to the by-monthly part of the year.

But don't let that stop you from sending over news and interesting articles like the following.

There has been a Healey Blue BJ8 on e-Bay that has been offered for sale on three different occasions in the last three months, each time from a location widely separated from the other two. For a car that has changed hands and traveled so much in a short amount of time it has a **"Buy it Now" price that is ridiculously low.**

Anyone who is thinking about buying a BJ8 from e-Bay or anyplace else is welcome to contact me first. With 6,262 cars now included in the registry, there is a good chance I might have some history on a given car if that is of interest.

Steve Byers.HBJ8L/36666

BJ8 Registry

Havelock, NC USA

## President's column

*By Frank Motta*

Greetings to you all!

Well Summer has finally arrived, and I am quite sure that those of you who have a Healey to drive are out and about enjoying invigorating open air rides. Unfortunately my BJ7 is about to spend its second anniversary in the restoration shop, and I am about to experience my third full year of Healey driving withdrawal. I use the term withdrawal; because driving a Healey is somewhat like an addiction; once you start to do it on a regular basis it is extremely difficult to kick the habit. The reason we all tend to become so addicted to Healey driving is because it is so much darn fun to get behind the wheel and go. Being deprived of that simple pleasure has caused a hole in my life, and points up the fact that long time Healey owners like myself really enjoy driving their cars, and never miss the opportunity to go for a Healey ride. It is only Human nature that people really miss doing the things they love, and if you own a Healey you have to love driving it.

So why are long time Healey owners, and maybe even those who have always wanted a Healey, afflicted with this intense devotion for this marque? I know that this kind of love is the sort of insane attraction, which is extremely difficult for non-Healey people to even fathom. This almost maniacal devotion to this automobile is almost certainly not a recent development within the mind of a Healey person, but is more than likely the result of having been smitten early in life by the Healey bug. No doubt encountering a Healey back in our younger days created a wonderfully positive impression, which hence made the acquisition of a Healey the object of our desire. Young people have an inherently keen eye for beauty, and despite the fact that some people would argue that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder there are some cars whose style and grace make them universally held as a beautiful automobile. To my way of thinking the Austin Healey keenly embodies those traits and characteristics that are universally held to be standards of sports car excellence.

Cont. page 4

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**SUMMIT 2006**  
**Camden - Rockport, Maine**  
**July 27 - 30**



For you club members who have been around for a while and miss the smell of the salt-sea air from the Cape Cod meets of the '80's & '90's, here's your chance to sniff it again ! This is the 11th SUMMIT since those days and the first one to be held on the seacoast since the Cape days. The beautiful and scenic Camden - Rockport area has it all, and then some. Picturesque harbors & boats, unique boutique shops, self-guided hiking or driving tours up Mt. Battie, the Farnsworth Museum with Wyeth Center, seaside walking paths, winery tours, Windjammer cruises, lobster boat tours to the seal rocks, etc., etc. And that's just some of the extra stuff to do. For more of what's available in the area, the hotel websites - mentioned below - offer links to local Chambers.

But let's get more to the point of SUMMIT 2006. As of this writing, the Country Inn, [www.countryinnmaine.com](http://www.countryinnmaine.com), has only 8 rooms open and the Cedar Crest, [www.cedarcrestmotel.com](http://www.cedarcrestmotel.com), has 10. That's some 55+ Healey's and 100+ members already signed up. And by the time you read this there'll be fewer rooms and more Healey's & members. Better get'em while the gettin's good!! The Country Inn, by the way, features a gift shop, heated indoor pool, fitness room and library. Cedar Crest has a heated outdoor pool, sundeck, spacious backyard and woodlot, children's playground and computer in the lobby. Don't forget, you can't get a room at either until you submit your SUMMIT Registration Form and get a registration number !! Forms can be printed out from our website - [www.ahca-northeast.com](http://www.ahca-northeast.com).

**Let's take a look at the Schedule of Events:**

**Thursday, July 27:**

6-9 PM: SUMMIT Registration, Hospitality Room and Regalia at the Country Inn. Get a bite of dinner on your own -- lot's of local restaurants.

**Friday, July 28:**

Breakfast on your own at your hotel or try a local favorite.

8-10 AM: SUMMIT Registration and Regalia is open at the Country Inn.

9:00 AM: Firefly Tour leaves the Country Inn. Firefly Restorations is the foremost fire truck facility in the US. Ladies -- here's a chance to grab his credit card and head for some of the unique boutiques.

12 Noon: Lunch on your own. Lots of local choices. How 'bout a lobsta roll!

## Westport Wine Tour

Saturday August 5, 2006

9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Come along with us as we tour the South coast of Massachusetts, and take in the scenic countryside, marvelous beaches, and quaint harbors, as we cruise along the winding back roads of Westport and Little Compton. We will be making our way in a leisurely fashion to our appointed destination at the Sakonnet Vineyard in Little Compton Rhode Island. There we will be afforded the opportunity to partake in a wine tasting, and guided tour of the vineyard. Following that we will return to our house for a catered lunch. The total cost will be \$20.00 per person, which includes a souvenir Sakonnet wine glass from the tasting. The tour will leave from 14 River Road, after coffee and pastries, promptly at 10:30 AM, as time constraints require a crisp schedule. If you plan to attend please call (508) 636-8636 or send an e-mail to [fmott@surfglobal.net](mailto:fmott@surfglobal.net). Hope to see you on August 5<sup>th</sup>, but it is imperative that you call or e-mail so we can plan the food and make an accurate vineyard reservation.

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## Bennington Tour

July 8th.

We will meet a Bill Berg's house - 3 Birch Drive, Bennington, Vt.05201 at 11.00 A.M. We will leave Bill's house and travel to the actual site of the revolutionary war battle of Bennington in Wallomsac, NY. Then on to the Bennington monument where you can take an elevator to the top for some scenic views of the Green mountains and a view of four states. Our last stop will be the Old First Church of Bennington.

While taking in these sites we will be traveling over all 3 covered bridges in Bennington. There will be a small fee to enter the battle of Bennington site and to take the elevator in the monument.

After our tour we will be treated to a real Texas BBQ Brisket and fixins at the Bergs. For those of you who haven't had Debbie's Barbecued Brisket, it's worth the trip .

RSVP by July 5th to Bill Berg @ 802-442-2777 or Denny Broughel 518-663 -8879.

Thanks, Denny

1-3 PM: Autocross / gymkhana @ Camden Regional HS. Not your cup of tea, ladies ? How about a sail on a schooner or boat to the seal rocks. Maybe relax at the hotel pool?

3-5 PM: All Healey's gather at the Rockport Grade School ballpark for a Group Photo taken from on-high in a cherrypicker bucket. After that, there will be individual car photos taken. The individual photos will be free and the group picture will be available for purchase.

5 PM 'til?: BBQ dinner at Rockport Marine Park.

### Saturday, July 29

Breakfast on your own. Maybe Maine blueberry pancakes ?

8-9 AM.: Final SUMMIT Registration at the Country Inn.

8 AM on: Car wash area will be open all day.

8:30 AM: Downeast Fun Rally starts from the Country Inn.

11 AM - 2 PM: Event at the Owls Head Transportation Museum. As part of their Wings and Wheels Spectacular, Healey's will be the featured marque and we will have our own parking area and show. This is the OHTM's largest event of the year. There will be thousands of spectators, hundreds of other vintage cars, flying antique planes, an air show and their famed museum. Lunch is available.

3-4 PM: Tech Sessions at the Country Inn.

4-7 PM: Free time. Here's another chance to do one of those "extra" things -- or maybe lump out at the pool with your favorite beverage..

7:00 PM: Banquet and awards at the Samoset Resort in Rockport. Smart casual dress.

### Sunday, July 30:

8-11 AM: Get some breakfast, check out and say teary good-byes 'til the next event.

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Hello,

I have a **1967 Austin-Healey for sale**. It's an older restoration. It is painted Porsche gray. Originally a CA car , it came east about twenty years ago. It has very good compression and is a great driver. I am asking 27,900. The car is located in NY state.

Thanks. Bev Thomas Brewster 896-8705

Cont: page 1 Pres

To be sure the charm of a Healey is obvious to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear, for there can be little argument that the luscious curves of its body and the throaty roar of its pipes will warm the heart of any real sports car enthusiast. Despite the unquestioned physical charms of an Austin Healey automobile, your true love cannot really be established until you have ridden in a Healey, and certainly cannot be truly sealed until you have taken to the road sitting behind the wheel. Once you have experienced the thrill and excitement of taking a Healey, at speed, down a winding road at dusk, with the pipes roaring and the wind blowing through your hair you are hooked for life. That thrill will never leave you, and fostered by the positive can do attitude that comes with the freshness of youth there was little doubt among all those who had that experience that they would one day have an Austin Healey of their own

I can relate the very moment at which my own Healey infatuation began. I was in my freshman year at college when I fortuitously got the opportunity to have my first Healey ride. It was on a lovely warm early September Friday evening in 1962, when a newfound college friend offered to give me a ride to an off campus mixer in his brother's car, a 1958 100-6. That very night I fell in love with the Austin Healey, and I am to this very day enamored still. On that very September night I decided that one day I was going to purchase a big Healey, but because I did not have the financial where –with –all as an undergraduate I was forced to wait until the end of my collegiate career to pursue Healey ownership. I was so love struck that as soon as I got my first real job with a steady income I purchased a brand new AH 3000 MK III convertible, and own it to this day. So I believe that others in our club, very much like myself, have loved the Austin Healey automobile for years. Some may not have been as fortunate as I to have owned one for 37 years, but have more than likely dreamed of owning one since their youth. Some people may have just recently acquired a Healey, and may be relatively new to Healey ownership. Still others may have recently reacquired a Healey, having been forced to reluctantly sell their beloved possession many years ago due to the practical necessities of their then life circumstances. Whatever the

particulars of a person's present Healey ownership it is more than probably the result of a long ago attraction to this car that has finally been a dream come true. They are fulfilling a long ago desire to own and drive a Healey, and this is why people who are long past the folly of youth will spend an exorbitant amount of money to purchase and restore an Austin Healey. They are after all living out a longstanding desire of Healey ownership.

Many people become members of our club to be joined with others who equally appreciate the uniquely charming attributes of Healey ownership, and also maybe in an attempt to remember and recapture some of the fading passions of their youth. The Austin Healey Club of America, through its club-sponsored events, affords an opportunity for people, who are drawn to the beauty of these truly classic sports cars, to participate in this shared common bond of Healey ownership. The enjoyment and pleasure of the continued preservation and use of the Austin Healey automobile is a primary tenant of our club, and why we have our Conclaves in the first place. To work hard to produce a good and worthwhile Healey Conclave that everyone will enjoy is important not only because it celebrates the Austin Healey marque, but because it also celebrates something in our life that we have been passionate about for a very long time. So make sure you come to Green Mountain Conclave and enjoy the fruits of all those who have worked so hard to make it a wonderfully enjoyable occasion. The one thing that is quite certain is that we will attempt to create an entertaining opportunity for all those present to drive and enjoy their Austin Healey automobile!

Hope to see you in Burlington!

Frank

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## SOUNDS & SIGHTS AT SPRING TUNE-UP

Saturday -- April 22, '06

I have always enjoyed the Spring Tune-Up meets since I joined the New England Region back in the '80's -- mainly because of the sounds & sights. Outside, reconnecting with the unmistakable and distinct sound of the 6 cylinder Healey engine after being awakened from its' winter slumber each year



can't help but bring a smile to your face. Inside, I recall the sound of the Margarita Girls firing up the blender signaling the fun times ahead. Well, Margaritaville has mostly moved on -- as most of us have -- but the outside din of the faithful carries on !

And so it was at the home of hosts Peter and Cindy Sturtevant in Mansfield, MA last Saturday. There's something about the first meet with the cars each year. The guys move around with a gleam in the eyes and smiles on their faces, the sounds of old friends reigniting, the sound of bonnet latches releasing to reveal the sight of the familiar greyish/green Big Healey engine, the murmur of Healey chatter and the occasional squeal of cold disc brakes. It's kind of like someone has taken the winter lock off of a big toy box.

This year's Spring Tune-Up did not disappoint. In attendance were some 25ish members and 4 Bugeyes, 6 BJ8's, 2 - 100-6's, a BN7 and a BT7. Also seen were a TR6, a repro Lotus Super 7 and a Vette. And Charlie Krut arrived in Gene Markowski's new Lotus Elise (I think that's what it was, but -- anyway -- it's English). And if you haven't been to Pete's place, from what I've seen he wins the "envy" contest. There's a 3 car garage attached to the house and in the back there's a 4 car (5, if you count using the 4 post lift) "barn" with ALL the toys. There's a scissors short-lift in addition to the 4 poster, welders & lots of tools, automobilia including an old gas pump, a model cabinet and lots of posters & stuff on the walls.

Not much tune-up action was noted. Maybe folks weren't familiar with the facilities. Lou Guilett did an oil change and lube job on his BT7 and Ed Brennan hoisted his car to deal with a leaky exhaust system. Treat of the day, car wise, was the arrival of Keith Risk with his just-purchased-the-day-before in NY '65 white BJ8 on the trailer. He chugged it off and the gawkers descended. Another one will come back to life !

Our thanks to Peter and Cindy for hosting, providing a a sumptuous feast and being brave enough to invite us to their beautiful home. We're off and running on another great season. The only sight and sound missing was the trumpeter from Churchill Downs heralding the call to action.

Len Cannizzaro

**Austin Healey Club of America Eastern  
MA/RI Region  
South County RI Planned Drive and  
Cookout**

Sunday, August 20th 11 AM to 5 PM  
Beginning at: North Kingstown, RI  
Ending at: 45 Ocean Village Court, Matunuck, RI  
02048

RSVP and information 508 509 5517

The day's event will start at 11 AM with a private tour of Smith Castle (optional) in North Kingstown, RI (\$5 donation per person if you would like to tour the property). From Smith's Castle you will receive an easy to follow, "Tulip Rally Map". The fun rally will take you along the scenic and interesting back roads of South County RI for approximately 50 miles.

On the Tulip map you will have some questions and clues. The answers to those questions can be found along your drive. The answers will also help you to solve the 'password' puzzle that will give you admission to the cookout lunch at Pete and Cindy Sturtevant's "Sunray Cottage" at 45 Ocean Village Court, Matunuck, RI. We will plan to eat around 2 PM. After lunch, you can enjoy a walk or swim at South Kingstown State Beach, which is across the street.

Please RSVP your attendance to Pete at: [healeybn4@comcast.net](mailto:healeybn4@comcast.net) or call 508 509 5517 by August 18<sup>th</sup>

Directions to Smith's Castle: From 95 South of Providence, take Route 4 South, towards North Kingstown. At Exit 5, take Route 102 South towards Wickford for 2.5 miles. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light (Shell station on right) turn left onto Tower Hill Road towards Quonset Point. The Smith Castle is 1.3 miles on the right across from the RI State Police Barracks.

**July - August 2006**

## **The Racing Line** \_\_\_\_\_

By Jim Smith, Contributing Editor

Well, the vintage racing season is off to a good start. In the Northeast, the roar of the vintage racecars can be heard from Loudon NH, to Lime Rock, down to Virginia, and over to the Pocono tri-oval.

After a major rebuild over the winter, The Blue Chip Racing BN1 is back on track as strong as ever. The maiden voyage was at NHIS in Loudon, NH. This is a three day race event featuring vintage cars sanctioned by VRG (Vintage Racing Group). We shared the track (not at the same time...although that would have been fun!) with vintage motorcycles of several classes including sidecars. The sidecars are a real hoot to watch. The person on the sidecar (called the Monkey, and usually the female of a two person team) provides weight distribution, transferring weight to one side or the other depending on LH or RH turns. You can single out the monkeys walking through the paddock by the pavement marks on their helmets! Occasionally, the Monkey and/or Driver gets ejected, and has to be scraped off the track. Elaine, flagging at turns 3 and 10 had to rescue at least two Monkeys during their Sunday race in the rain.

The car races were much less eventful, although persistent rain kept us on our best behavior throughout the weekend. The BN1 performed flawlessly.

Another rainy race weekend was at Lime Rock in June. Friday was a washout throughout New England, but believe it or not, Lime Rock stayed dry. That was Friday. Saturday was another story. Good thing we race in the rain (unlike those NASCAR wimps, sorry Kevin). Again, the good old BN1 behaved quite well.

Next out will be the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Mid July. This is held in Schenley Park in Pittsburgh with over 100,000 spectators. Look for my report next issue.

## **The Lime Rock Vintage Festival on Labor Day**

weekend is always a great event for spectators and participants alike, with races, car shows, flea market, and lots of other fun stuff. If we get enough cars, you can get a club

discount, and will get to do noon parade laps in your street Healeys. This will most likely be on Saturday Sept 2.

More info in the next newsletter.

Keep the shiny side up.  
Jim



## **Austin Healey Club of America New England Chapter**

### **Schedule of Events**

**July 8, 2006** Rally and Tour at Bennington VT contact Bill Berg at Tel 802-442-2777 or e-mail [jmberg@sover.net](mailto:jmberg@sover.net) or Dennis Broughel at Tel 518-663-8879 or e-mail at [brougheldp@earthlink.net](mailto:brougheldp@earthlink.net)

**July 27,28,29,30** Summit 2006 to be held at Camden ME Please contact Jim Lea at Tel 207-236-3632 or e-mail [clocks@midcoast.com](mailto:clocks@midcoast.com) or Deb Katz e-mail to [summit@ahca-northeast.com](mailto:summit@ahca-northeast.com)



**August 5, 2006** Wine Tour will be held in southeastern MA please contact Frank Motta Tel 508-636-8636 or e-mail [fmott@surfglobal.net](mailto:fmott@surfglobal.net)

**August 19, 2006** A Cookout will be held in southern RI Please contact Peter Sturtevant Tel 508-339-1582 or e-mail [fealeybn4@aol.com](mailto:fealeybn4@aol.com)

## July - August 2006

**August 26, 2006** National Healey Club Ice Cream Social will be held in each local club Area. Please contact your local area coordinator for more information..

**September 1,2,3,4, 2006** Lime Rock Park Vintage Races at Lime Rock CT. Please contact Charlie Krut Tel 860-668-0715 or e-mail [ckrut@shepardsteel.com](mailto:ckrut@shepardsteel.com)

**September 9, 2006** A Road Rally will be held in Hadley MA. Please contact Paul Choiniere Tel 413-585-0976 or e-mail [Paulch@charter.net](mailto:Paulch@charter.net)

**September 15,16,17, 2006** British Invasion weekend Stowe VT. Please contact Bob Britton Tel 603-525-4226 or e-mail [healeybj7@hotmail.com](mailto:healeybj7@hotmail.com)

**September 22,23,24,** Healy Fund Run (a charity drive for the American Cancer Society) Please contact Steve Bell for more particulars Tel 508-947-6499 or e-mail [scbell@mail.Rockland.mec.edu](mailto:scbell@mail.Rockland.mec.edu)

**October 6,7, 2006** a meet will be held at Plymouth MA on the first full weekend in October. Please contact Steve Bell Tel 508-947-6499 or e-mail [scbell@mail.Rockland.mec.edu](mailto:scbell@mail.Rockland.mec.edu)

**December 2, 2006** Christmas Party will be held at a location yet to be determined. Please contact Betty Bender Tel 413-684-3934 or e-mail [rbender1@berkshire.rr.com](mailto:rbender1@berkshire.rr.com)

**All events are subject to change or modification**

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## *Racing up Monroe Hill*

*October 21*

Come join us for fun and food in Rowe Ma. October 21st for an up hill slalom event. followed by a chicken barbecue dinner.

We will be racing up Monroe hill, steep, lots of turns, one and a half miles long, good blacktop ,and no driveways or other turn offs.

There will be classes for everyone and we should be able to have four runs apiece. There will be a couple of "other" classes, but it will be restricted to any two door car 25 years old or older .Normal gymkana teching will be in place just to make sure your ride is reasonably safe .SEATBELTS WILL BE A MUST. The club has helmets.

So mark the date on your calendar and get ready for a fun day! (More updates will be coming).

Paul Dunnell 413 339 0102  
nights,802 254 9222 days or  
[austin67@togethernet.com](mailto:austin67@togethernet.com)

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## Good Day,

Early registration ends June 30th for the 2006 America's British Reliability Run, this year through Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky. In three years, the run has raised over \$84,000 for children; last year's run netted more than \$40,000 for children battling cancer.

Info follows:

Here's a challenging, but fun, driving event to benefit a worthy charity, The Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland's youth camp, Camp Ho Mita Koda. The 2006 America's British Reliability Run, an all-British driving event scheduled for October 14-15, 2006. The run is an 800-mile run in 30 hours through Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia, with a goal of raising \$500 per crew to help provide financial 'camperships' to underprivileged kids coping with diabetes to an educational summer camp. In three years, the run has raised over \$84,000 for children; last year's run netted more than \$40,000 for children battling cancer.

The event is open to any British marque vehicle. Up to 50 British cars may participate in this, the fourth annual, run. Even if you can't participate in the run, please support our effort by making a donation of any size. Teams pay their own expenses, so 100% of your donation goes to the charity. An excellent web site full of information on the event is at <http://www.abrr.org>. Please check it out and register your car or make a donation today.

Cheers,

Blake Discher, event organizer

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## *New England News*

### **Deadlines and Issues**

Deadline – Aug 15 for **2006 Sept/ Oct's** Newsletter

Deadline – Oct 15 for **2006 Nov/Dec's** Newsletter

Deadline – Dec 15 for **2007 Jan/Feb.'s** Newsletter

Deadline – Feb 15 for **2007 March's** Newsletter

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### **1961 Austin-Healey "Bugeye" Sprite.**

Iris blue w/blk top & interior. Bare metal restoration completed in 1999 costing \$16,500 and fully documented. Engine (948cc), rib-case transmission, body and paint professionally rebuilt and restored.

All aluminum was anodized, chrome re-chromed and rims powder coated. All parts fully restored or replaced. About 500 miles since restoration completed. \$15,000 firm. Not cheap, but you won't be disappointed. Ed Jackson, Thomaston, Ct. 860-283-8659 or Email: [edevjackson@snet.net](mailto:edevjackson@snet.net)



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I just received my August '06 issue of Sports & Exotic Car magazine. The cover picture and 6 page feature article is a comparison between a Porsche Speedster and Dave Altman's / Bob Abbott's '56 BN-2. It's a very interesting article with lots of good pictures.

It's at times like this when I wish we had a more complete e mail address list of our members. It would be nice to be able to advise folks of things like this and to be able to get other time sensitive news out without having to wait for the next newsletter or hope that they go on the club website. Perhaps Debbie could write an article for the newsletter (isn't she the keeper of the list?) asking folks to forward their addresses to her. Please don't ask me -- I don't know computer-speak or technical stuff. This may also be another step towards getting to an on-line newsletter which would save the chapter a LOT of money.

Anyway, congratulations to Dave and Bob on a very nice article!!

Len Cannizzaro

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