



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

Got this from our Treasurer Membership person, Keith Risk.

Renewal time for AHCA

is fast approaching. I'm told that the forms are going to go out earlier this year so as to avoid the Holiday rush. When you get the form, please make any changes and send the entire form (whether there are changes or not) to AHCA NE Region, 12 Fairfield St, Webster, MA 01570-3328 (please use the zip + 4 code as there is another Fairfield Street in a bordering town with the same zip. Remember, we're the New England Region now so make the check out to AHCA NE Region or AHCA New England Region. Please send the renewal to me and not National—I have 400 to process while National has 4000 so my service will be faster.

Thank you, Keith.

President's Column

Greetings to you all! Well it is difficult to believe that summer has already gone past us, and we are presently at the beginning of autumn. It seems like only yesterday that the Healey driving season got started, and we wonder where the time went.

But time, like each Healey summer, does surely seem to move faster as we travel along in our lives, most probably because the routine of ordinary daily living tends to keep our conscious mind so filled with the mundane and trivial, that we have little reason or space to engage in much real reflection or thought. It is only when an event of huge consequence, or something with an emotional impact takes place within the context of our lives, that we spend some moments pondering the meaning of it all. We try to discern just who and what have shaped our total voyage in this world, and try to gain the perspective that can allow us to understand what it all means. On September 11, 2006 while standing in a church in Suffield CT, in attendance at the funeral service of our dearly departed friend Charlie Krut, I experienced a moment of clarity in my understanding of the real meaning of this life we all share.. It occurred to me as I looked about the church that all these people who had come to pay their respects to Charlie were there out of friendship and love. They had come to this service because Charlie had, in some way or other, given meaning to their lives, and to acknowledge that with his passing a small part and meaning of their lives had departed as well. All these people had come to express to Charlie's family that he would be missed, and would not be forgotten.

At that moment I saw quite clearly that despite the fact that we are all connected in our common humanity, that to be a real participant, and to gain the full meaning that life can provide to each of us, we must gain and cultivate friends. Friends are all we will take from this life, and Charlie knew that well, for he was one of those special people whose energetic and positive persona tended to re-enforce the true meaning of love and friendship He was a man who would go out of his way to help others, even if it brought him nothing in return

Cont. page 3

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“COME LET’S CELEBRATE”

6 spaces still available!!

AHCA New England Region Holiday Party

December 9, 2006

Cocktails 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM

La Notte Restaurant

East Windsor Industrial Park

17 Thompson Road East Windsor, CT 06088

\$27.00 per person

(Includes appetizer, dinner, dessert, coffee, tax , tip)

CASH BAR

RSVP TO:

Bob/Betty Bender-413-684-3934

117 Patricia Avenue; Dalton, MA 01226-2046

Check or Money order sent with reservation
and made out to: AHCA New England Region
(Name, Address , Phone # , # Attending)

*** **Directions** ***

Restaurant:

91 North or South to Exit 44; Right at the end of the ramp

Take left at 2nd light into the industrial park

Dunkin Donuts is on the right

Restaurant is on the left up the hill ½ mile

Lodging:

Holiday Inn Express

260 Main Street

East Windsor, CT 06088

860-627-6585

Rate: \$75.00 plus tax

Make your room reservation by November 8, 2006
to the number above or book online with the code listed
below. CODE: AHC

Directions to Hotel :

91 North or South to Exit 44; Right at the end of the ramp
1st driveway on right (about 75-100 yards from exit ramp)

Restaurant is about 1-1/2 miles from hotel

Free shuttle service from hotel to restaurant and back
for members staying at the Holiday Inn Express

Until midnight

Don't forget your gift for the gift swap.

From page 1

He was a man who always tried to do what was right rather than what was easy, but most of all he was a man who was loyal and good to his friends and family. He was the type of honest forthright individual that was respected by all who knew him, and we can all count ourselves as having been quite fortunate having shared some time on this earth in his company. He will no doubt, be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him, and I, myself, will pray that his immortal soul will reside in the kingdom of the Lord forever.

GOD Bless You Charlie!

Here's an idea that might be of use and interest to those of you involved in your local AH club...

Over the past weekend, three friends and I gave "vintage sports car rides" to people who had won such in an auction held at a professional organization meeting. The spouse of one of us vintage sports car owners is a member of the professional organization, and they were raising funds via an auction.

The four people who won the auction took turns riding in an original (real!) AC Cobra 289, a 1959 Alfa Romeo Guilietta Spider, an MGB, and my Healey 100. None of them seemed to have any knowledge of what any of these cars were -- so I took the opportunity of having a captive audience to tell them about the Healey 100, beginning with the tale of a Cornishman who started a car-making company after the war...

We met at the office of one of our group, then toured on scenic roads to an upscale lodge (Skamania Lodge, in Washington state) where we had lunch (with the tab picked up from the auction proceeds), then toured back via different scenic roads, had a drink at a local watering hole, and bid farewell. Each of the four auction winners (actually there were two couples) got to ride in each of the four cars. It made a good fund-raiser for the professional organization, and it offered an opportunity to spread the word a bit about our favorite marque.

Maybe you know of some group, organization, club, team, school, etc., where a "**vintage sports car ride**" would be a good fund-raiser as an auction item or a raffle prize, in addition to being a chance to provide some exposure among "civilians" to our cars.

Cheers, Reid Trummel Editor, Healey Marque

February Trivia Question?? When Healey stopped production of the Elliott and the Westland what were the next 2 cars produced?

Answer: Tickford & Abbott Reference : Healeys and Austin Healeys Page 67 Peter Browning & Les Needham

April Trivia Question?? Who was the car enthusiast that built a Big Healey coupe' that resembled the E type Jaguar with the longer tail ? What was this car called? (Douglas Wilson-Spratt)

(WSM) Reference:
Healey- The Handsome Brute by Chris Harvey (page 179)



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THE RACING LINE

By Jim Smith, Contributing editor.

2006 Rolex Vintage Festival at Lime Rock

The Rolex Vintage Festival on Labor Day weekend was an exciting time for Healey racers. There were eight Austin-Healeys participating in the four day event. Bugeyes, piloted by Chris Gross and Tom McCormack raced in group 3, Healey Hundreds in group 2 had a good representation with Richard Maloumian Jr., Jim Smith, Ed Preusser, and John Buckley. The big sixes rounded out the group 6 entries with Jon Einhorn in his 3000 BJ8 and Andrew Male in his 100-6.

The weather was not exactly as forecast. Friday was a perfect late summer day but the forecast for Saturday had the fringes of Hurricane Ernesto dumping lots of rain and 60 MPH winds. Well the rain never happened, but the wind came through as promised. While I was on the racetrack, my crew (son Joe) commanded some spectators to help hold our canopy from sailing away across the paddock. When I finished the race we dismantled the canopy and it remained that way for the rest of the weekend. No racing on Sunday, but I understand it rained on the car show. Monday was cool and dry, partly sunny.

Racing was terrific. In Monday's feature race I started seventh, and worked my way up to 5th where I stayed. Made the Leader Board! Car never ran better. Hotshoe Rich Maloumian Jr. came in second behind an Allard and Ed Preusser came in 6th behind me. In group 6, Jon Einhorn drove an excellent race and came in fourth in his BJ8. All in all, a good showing for the big Healeys. Michael Oritt, well known Healey traveler from Maryland diced it up with the group 3 bugeyes in his Elva Courier.

Next race.....VSCCA Finale at Lime Rock, October 6 and 7. Nine Healeys entered! Free to spectators. See you there.



Healey Hundreds in the Lime Rock Paddock....Lets go racin'! *John Buckley photo*

Austin Healey Club of America New England Chapter

Schedule of Events

December 9, 2006 Christmas Party Please contact Betty Bender Tel 413-684-3934 or e-mail rbender1@berkshire.rr.com

Don't forgetting to RSVP for the Christmas Party by because we need 75 people signed up.

2007 Green Mountain International Conclave

Just a quick FYI for everyone thinking of Conclave.

1. The official Conclave site has been updated with Event Schedule Info and the Hotel form (the hotel form is being added this afternoon). <http://www.austinhealeyconclave.com/>

[A Roaring Hot Time on the Coast of
Maine](#)

2. The Event Schedule is available in pdf form on the Web site.

<http://www.austinhealeyconclave.com/>

3. To make reservations for the event pp must have a registration # from me. After they receive their number, they will email the hotel (sarah.lagrow@sheraton.com). She will confirm that they are on the list and then contact them directly for their CC#. Phone calls/faxes will not be accepted.

4. We are working on creating a nice brochure detailing all the events. Once that is ready it will be posted on the Web site as well.

5. We have 75 registrations as of today.

6. A block of rooms have been reserved for committee members at the hotel. Only pp designated as committee members will be given rooms in this area. And then on a first come, first serve basis. If you've already made your reservations and want to change to this block, please contact Sarah at the Sheraton.

All events are subject to change or modification

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After enduring a sweltering week in Bennington, Deb and I were looking forward to a cool relaxing weekend at the Maine shore for Summit 2006. We cleared the outskirts of town Thursday morning at 6:45 AM running over the cool, fog shrouded hills of Vermont. By the time we hit Concord, NH, we had lost all resemblance of coolness (except for the car). We stopped at a gas station 100 feet short of the Maine border to fill up. While I was trying to estimate how much gas to add so I would be down to a ¼ tank or less for the autocross on Friday, a local Healey owner, whose name I unfortunately did not get, informed us that even though we had just driven through the best part of two states, albeit small ones, we were barely halfway to our destination. We arrived in Camden to the reward of a fog bank that reduced the temperatures enough for Deb to need a sweater for the last few miles of the trip. Thursday night was time to catch up with old acquaintances and meet a few new ones.

On Friday morning a sizeable group was led by Jim Lea to Firefly Restoration, a fire truck restoration business for an entertaining and enjoyable tour. After the tour we took a quick run to the top of Mt. Battie for a view of Camden and all the islands just off shore. Then it was onto the high school to set up for the autocross. We had about a dozen participants (what happened to the other 20 of you who signed up?). The temperature was hovering in the high 80's with not a bit of shade in site. The highlight was Allie Markowski trying to turn the tires on her dad's Lotus into whitewalls with the shoe polish we were using to number the cars; while she was driving it. It didn't work so well. By Friday afternoon our ranks had swelled to 57 Healeys and about 120 folks. The Friday night barbeque dock side in beautiful Marine Park was abbreviated for some by a decent thunderstorm that rolled through and turned into a steady rain. Deb and I need a little more practice putting the hood and side curtains on in the dark, and in the light for that matter.

Saturday morning started with comfortable temperatures and several people participated in the Down East Fun Rally which ran through some pretty back roads in the local area. The rally was

November - December 2006
Here's a letter Steve sent to ACS

Northeast Region Austin Healey Club
American Cancer Society Fund Run

20 October 2006

Dear Cathryn Heffernan and ACS,

This is the wrap up report from our American Cancer Fund Raising Event. I have enclosed checks totaling \$6284 from those that were collected enroute during our rally. We all wish it could be more. As with all first year ventures, we will review the process and improve on those things that will allow us be even more successful in the future.

Saturday was a very wet and rainy day, yet some of the best stories come from the camaraderie of sopping wet friends as we tried to outrun the rain. We were surprised by the generosity of some of the people we encountered. With bad weather, we were forced inside and even under those adverse conditions, passers by contributed to our club effort. Both the Providence Journal and the Hartford Courant did wonderful stories on this event. I had contacted every major paper and even the weekly "pennysaver" types in each community with our press release. I still believe ACS could do a much better job with this aspect as your organizations has roots in all of these areas. Many chose to disregard us completely, which is truly a shame as they are usually looking for something worthwhile to put in their publications.

After speaking with Mary Murphy, who had said she was going to make a special appeal to the area reps at the October 15th regional meeting, I passed on my positive feelings to our area hosts and alerted them to look for ACS people. I must say, I was rather chagrined when no one showed up anywhere along the route. Especially in Suffield, CT, which is where Mary lives, I believe. While we know we did this for all of the right reasons, it doesn't hurt to hear a few "Thank you's" from those who

organization we were supporting. A little support can go a long way, as well you know.

We had several very generous donations and one will also be matched by a corporation later in the year. The web site did not seem to help us. Perhaps

dotted with questions to be answered; where would I store some grain??!! I'll show that #@\$%\$ rally master where to store some #@\$%\$ grain! Oops, winners can't be whiners ☺. The rally ended at the Owls Head Transportation Museum where we had a car show accompanied by an air show. The temperature hit 90 and the gazebo seemed a very popular place from which to view the events. Around 2:30 PM it was back to the Country Inn for an overdrive tech session for some or off to a schooner ride for others. The last official event of the meet was an excellent banquet at the Samoset Resort on Jameson Point. It was a fitting end to an excellent Summit.

I would like to thank Jim and Barbara Lea and all the folks who planned and ran the many events for excellent fun filled Summit. Deb and I got to cool off and relax on the way home.

Bill Berg

FOR SALE: 1961 Austin Healey 3000 four seater. I purchased the car in 1993. The fenders were removed, the body and frame (except engine compartment) were stripped and all rusted areas replaced. The car was professionally painted and reassembled. It has a new interior with black leather seats, wire wheels, clutch, tires, and tonneau cover. The engine has been tuned up. Garaged since before 1995 and driven less than 100 miles since work completed. It has working overdrive and the car runs well. Both hard and soft tops. Hardtop needs complete restoration. Contact Mike Anderson, Raleigh, NC for additional information and pictures. Home: 919-782-5878. Work: 800-542-2669. E-Mail: Lauraa101@aol.com.

Thanks, Mike Anderson

“\$6,284”

that was just too 11th hour and confusing to some of our members. Our New England Region Austin Healey representative, Mr. Robert Bender, of Dalton, MA, will be making a report to our national organization about the success of this event. For those of us who became involved, it proved to be enriching and rewarding. It is our hope that some national event can be coordinated in the future so that it becomes something our entire USA club can get behind.

I thank you for your support of Peter Williams, who worked diligently to make the web site work. Perhaps there can be some additional work done as he mentioned that the “canned” information really did not fit our event. All in all, our club experienced a wonderful feeling of accomplishment. As I have been saying, we have all been dealing with cancer in our own lives, within our family, friends and in the work place. Please use our donation to advance cancer research so that in our lifetime we can say “We won the battle!”

Best wishes,

Stephen Bell
New England Region
Austin Healey Club of America
508-947-6499

It's the bark that gets them.

“It’s a distinct sound,” said Ted Goodman of Charlestown who owns a 1963 Austin Healey 3000 Mk II, the first with roll-up windows. “I love the looks of the car, but the sound – it’s beautiful and mellow and unique. I can be standing with my back to the road and hear it and know (it’s an Austin Healey).”

Frank P. Motta, the president of the Austin Healey Club of New England, agreed. “It was love at first sight,” he said. “I heard it start and said, ‘Oh Wow!’ ”

Motta said he bought his first Austin Healey in 1967 right after graduating college. “I was in the showroom and the man said, ‘You better buy one now because it’s being discontinued,’” he said. “I’d just got a job that paid \$7,000 a year and the car

cost \$3,500. I went home and came back the next day and (put some money down on it).” “And I still have it!” he added, noting that it has only 73,000 on the clock. “It’s the long-stroke, six-cylinder motor,” said Bob Bender of Dalton, Mass., who owns a 1956 Austin Healey 100. “It’s the long stroke that gives it the bark.”

The Austin Healey, a classic British roadster manufactured between 1953 and 1971, was produced in four main styles over the years, although diehard fans like Goodman can – and do – cite myriad variations. The original Austin Healey 100 was a 4-cylinder car named for its top speed of 100 mph. When the 6-cylinder version was introduced in 1956, it became known as the Austin Healey 100-6. In 1959, that car was replaced by the Austin Healey 3000, which was produced in various editions through 1967.

All three models became known as the Big Healeys, as opposed to the Austin Healey Sprite, a smaller car known as the “Bugeye Sprite” for the headlights mounted on top of its hood, which was produced between 1958 and 1971. Overall production of the Sprite – at 130,000 – was almost double all other Austin Healeys combined.

About 15 Austin Healeys and their owners stopped by the Gazebo in Scituate last Friday evening at the invitation of British Motor Cars of New England, a local auto club that meets regularly on Friday evenings through the summer. The focus of the event was a rally to raise money for cancer research. A couple of the cars had driven down from Maine that day, with others joining en route. “We’ve lost some members to cancer recently, and we thought we’d do something and figured cancer research was the place to put our money,” said Steve Bell, event coordinator of the event for the Austin Healey Club of New England. “It’s the first time we’ve done this.”

The American Cancer Fund Run passed through all six New England states plus New York in a “Pass the Torch-type marathon,” according to Bell. The rally started in South Portland, Maine, Friday morning and snaked through New Hampshire and

Massachusetts before arriving in Scituate around 5 pm. The following day, the cars headed back into Massachusetts and on up to Vermont for the night.

On Sunday, the route took them into New York and then back into New England for the final stop at Suffield, Conn., at around 2 pm. There were various stops to raise money along the way and members joined and left the rally with only two cars completing the entire tour.

“People came out and made donations,” said Paul Dunnell from Rowe, Mass., who owns a brown-and-cream 1967 Healey 3000 Mk III, and was one of the two members who drove the entire rally. “We’re the stupid ones,” he said of himself and Bender and his red 1956 Healey 100. “There were about 50 cars in the whole array,” he said. “Some came early and spun off as others joined and left us later.”

“I was flabbergasted at how much money we raised and how we did it,” Dunnell said. He cited one stopover where the group got talking to some Harley-Davidson riders who promptly passed a hat and handed over \$150. He said the entire rally raised more than \$6,200 for the American Cancer Society.

Bell, a big man in height, girth and personality, was driving a 1960 Austin Healey Sprite that he has owned since 1991. The little white car has 179,000 miles on it, he said, although the engine was rebuilt at 149,000 miles. “It’s like a regular car to us,” he said, referring to his wife Susan, who shares his enthusiasm and the driving. “I came home from work, threw in the luggage and off we went.” Bell is a high school teacher in Middlebury, Mass. In 2001, Bell and his wife shipped the car to Europe for more than seven weeks of driving with 13 other cars and couples. They drove through Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco and Switzerland – although not in that order.

“We had gourmet meals every night and the landscapes were absolutely amazing,” he said, adding, “It’s a crazy car that makes you do things you would never to. What else would entice you to go to Europe and drive a 45-year-old car for seven weeks? It was absolutely the tour of a lifetime.”

“The Healey 100 was designed to fill the gap between the MG and the Jaguar,” said Dunnell, who said he was introduced to them at college. “A friend

had one and we used to beat on it and chase girls around,” he said, adding, “The harder you drive these cars, the better they run.”

“I’ve had the sickness since I was 14 years old,” said Goodman, a retired banker, looking over his blood-red Healey 3000 as though it was a favorite dog. He said it had been his wife’s father’s car and that he had met his wife and her family when he “came up from New York to buy a 1959 TR3A to race.” He added that while he bought the car, he never raced it. “We got married,” he said by way of explanation, “and started a family.”

“We kid him that he married Sandy to get his hands on that (Healey),” joked Dunnell.

“Unless you’re a car person, you can’t understand what you feel when you see one,” said Bender, a software engineer. “It’s hard to explain, you become one with the car,” he added, noting that he enjoyed working on it. “I also have a Mazda Miata, but I can’t work on that, it’s too complicated,” he said.

“(Healey’s have) personality, they enjoy being driven. If it sits in the driveway, it’s not going to be happy,” he said, adding, “Unless you missed it, I’m pretty passionate about these things.”

“And then there are the people in the club,” he said. “I call them my family.”

Indeed, many emphasized how much the social aspect of the club meant to them. “We are very close,” said Dunnell. “Some of us become very cliquy as we grow up belonging to this foolish club.” He said the club has about 400 members and he is good friends with about 30 of them.

“Some are my closest friends,” he said, noting that one of the reasons that he and Bender had driven the entire rally was the recent death from stomach cancer of fellow club member Charlie Krut.

“He was my best friend,” he said, “and a best friend to Bob.”

Thanks AHCA-NE

“SCITUATE”