



## *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**

*Jim Smith*

*Bluechipracing@snet.net*

Its finally Springtime!  
All the car club newsletters are full of planned activities and events for the coming driving season, and as you thumb through these pages, you'll find ours is no exception.

Follow Frank's advice....Dust her off, check her out, gas her up. Lets go cruisin'!



Many readers get the newsletter by email instead of snail mail. It's easy to convert. Simply send me an email [bluechipracing@snet.net](mailto:bluechipracing@snet.net) indicating that you would prefer the electronic version. You'll get the newsletter two or three days earlier and the photos will be in color instead of B&W, and you'll save your club a few bucks. Of course, we will continue to accommodate those members who prefer the hard copy delivered by the USPS.

### **President's Column**

Warm greetings to all of you!

That's right, the atmosphere outdoors is warming up and springtime is here at last. We are all no doubt anxious to dust off the Healey and venture forth on our initial ride of the season. It's always exciting to hear the roar of those pipes for the first time each year. For it brings to mind all those Healey days gone by, and the fun we have all experienced behind the wheel of our beloved classic. I know I get goose bumps, and have a nice glow about me each spring when I drive out of my yard and cruise down the road for the very first time. This feeling of elation is most probably motivated by my anticipation of this driving experience for several weeks previous to the actual event. Whatever the reason, all I know is that it is an absolute fun experience to be on the road again, and serves to bring a vigorous renewal to my spirit, and a huge smile to my face.

So hurry out to the barn, if you have not already done so, uncover your Healey, and get her ready for the upcoming driving season. I'm sure that most long time Healey owners know the drill of getting their cars ready to drive each year, and have put them to bed in the fall with proper meticulous care, but many new to Healey ownership may not be aware of the proper steps to take to ensure a happy first day of "Healey Motoring".

First and foremost, you cannot go for a ride if your car will not start, so be sure that your battery is fully charged, and that you left your car with a full tank of gas. As often happens with power lawn mowers when stored over the winter with little gas in the tank, varnish forms and makes the fuel unusable because it prevents ignition from taking place. You will then be forced to drain your tank of the contaminated gasoline, and put in fresh gasoline in order for your car to run. This is a time consuming job, which is a real pain where you sit. It would also be wise to test your brakes before putting your Healey in gear and backing out of the garage, for brake failure at that moment could result in dire consequences, such as crashing into your BJ9 which is parked in your driveway, or worse still, rolling out into oncoming traffic. Perish the thought! So each season you should complete the brake test by sitting behind the wheel in your Healey and pushing in the brake pedal while the car is completely stopped. This will make you aware of the amount of pedal pressure you have, and give warning to any problem that might be lurking in the hydraulic system. The corrosive nature of ordinary brake fluid can eat away at the rubber parts in your system and cause brake failure, so if your brake and clutch reservoir was extremely low when you were initially

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topping off your car's fluids that should be an indication as to a possible hydraulic problem. However, since the clutch also shares a common reservoir with brakes, low fluid, especially if it is not below the smaller inner- tank can't rule out the clutch as the root of the problem. So check out the clutch pedal, to be sure you have a firm pedal as well. You should also check the anti freeze in the radiator to make sure it is filled to the proper level, and top off your oil and windshield washer fluid. Oh! Don't forget to check the pressure in your tires as well. These tasks being completed, you are probably safe to go on a short first ride, but I suggest you make sure that you have renewed the registration on your antique Healey plates before you turn out of your driveway. The Police frown on people driving unregistered vehicles, even those as pretty as an Austin-Healey.

These few measures will for the most part ensure your safety, and make your inaugural drive a pleasurable and refreshing experience. Well! That is unless your fuel pump quits during the cruise, or your car skips because of bad plugs or points, or you get flat tire. These things will happen from time to time in a car that is, in its youngest form, approaching 40 years of age, so you need to understand the nature of the beast and stay on top of your preventive maintenance in order to enjoy the fun of the Healey driving experience to its fullest extent. Remember that this is an old car, and unless it has undergone a ground up restoration within the last couple of years, or you have owned it for a very long time and know its repair history, things are bound to wear out. So learn the drill, and take care of your Healey. You will be happy that you did!

SEE YOU AT CONCLAVE!

Frank



If you haven't registered for Conclave yet, you had better get with it! Early bird registration ends April 15, 2007. After that date, the registration fee increases to \$125. We have 320 registrations so far and some of the events are filling up fast.

Note 1: The Von Trapp Luncheon is sold out. We've arranged for a second luncheon at Ye Olde England Inne in beautiful Stowe, VT.

Note 2: The Sheraton Burlington Hotel is sold out. Arrangements have been made to accommodate the overflow at two nearby hotels.

Note 3: We've secured a second boat for the Wednesday night Cruise and Dinner. The second boat is limited to 150 people.



**TWO WAY RADIOS  
NEEDED**

We need to borrow your Healey FM two way hand held radio to use at Conclave.

These will be used by workers at the Uphill Slalom and Gymkhana.

We can mark the radio with your name and we will be responsible for keeping it charged. In the event of loss or damage, we will also be responsible. Most of the club radios are old and in poor condition.

We are looking for red dot 151.625 frequency.

If you can help us with this, please contact Dennis Broughel 518-663-8879  
brougheldp@wildblue.net

Thank You,  
Conclave Staff

**2007 Events and Meets**

- March 31 Get Acquainted Meet, Dalton, MA.  
Gerry Paquette (413) 684-3927
- April 14 BMCNE Swap Meet, Woonsocket, RI  
Lucien Forget
- May 6 Spring tune-up South, Mansfield, MA  
Pete and Cindy Sturtevant
- May 12 Spring tune-up North, Ipswich, MA  
Dave Altman and Bob Abbott
- May 18-20 Vintage Races, Louden, NH  
Jim Smith
- May 18-20 Carlisle AutoJumble, Carlisle, PA  
Steve Bell
- June 1-2 Vintage Races, Lime Rock, CT  
Jim Smith
- June 3 British By the Sea, Waterford, CT  
Dave Barton
- June 24-29 Conclave 2007, Burlington, VT  
Dave Altman, Richard Pignatello
- July 29 Auto Museum Stafford Springs, CT  
George Randall
- Aug 25-26 Balloon Show, Plainville, CT  
Deb Katz (tentative)
- Aug 30- Sept 3 Vintage Festival, Lime Rock, CT  
Jim Smith
- Sept 16 British Invasion, Stowe, VT  
Paul Dunnell
- Oct 13 Fall Foliage Tour, Western MA  
Don and Carole Paye
- Dec 1 Christmas Party, E. Windsor, CT  
Betty Bender



**Dinner With Your Healey Friends**

This spring, summer and fall your Eastern CT Area Coordinators would like to invite all members and friends to a monthly dinner outing. Starting April 12, we will be taking our Healeys out to dinner, so dust off the seats, put the top down and come on over to *John Harvard's* - Manchester for an Austin-Healey New England Region get-together. We will be having dinner about 7:00 PM. Come early or late but remember Lucas our Prince may be just around the bend.

The Thursday dates we have set up are: April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug 9, Sept 13 and Oct 11. Give Pete Williams a call a couple days before @ 860-463-5312 if you think you may be going, so he can give the restaurant a heads up on how many may show up.

See Ya there

*John Harvard's* is in Manchester, CT near Buckland Hills Mall. [www.johnharvards.com](http://www.johnharvards.com).

**British car and parts swap**

**Sunday, April 14, Woonsocket R.I.**

Come join us for the third annual swap meet and flea market of British cars and parts. Last year was a great success for the British car fraternity here in the New England area and we are hoping to make this year even better.

If you have unwanted spares and restoration leftovers, bring them to this popular event.

Let all your LBC pals know that more than ample vendor space is free for the day and we'll provide coffee and donuts for the early birds.

Saturday April 14th from 8:30 to 4:00

Outside area and also inside if rain

Place

667 Providence Street

Woonsocket R.I. 02895

Contact person, Lucien Forget

(401) 766-1588

E-mail [loumgb@cox.net](mailto:loumgb@cox.net)

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**Spring tune-up and Newcomers meet,**  
**Saturday, May 12 Ipswich, MA**

Join us at the warehouse in Ipswich, Ma. for a combination "New Members Meet" and "Spring Tune-up." The "tune-up" theme always seems to bring out the gear-heads in the group and maybe by calling this a "New Members," we'll see some new faces as well. Don't think this is for wrench turning guys only. Those who have been to the warehouse before know that there is ample space for those that want to sit and chat with old friends, enjoy a glass of wine, or commiserate about the weather. But the shop area of the warehouse also allows us to invite anyone to bring their supplies for small service or repair jobs on your car. The lift will be ready if you need it and we have most of the tools anyone will need. There are also a couple of BJ8 restorations in the works for you to look over and tell us what we are doing wrong.

Things will get under way around 9:30 - 10:00 o'clock and we'll have the Hart House cater lunch about noon. So bring your wives, your supplies, and your questions. We'll try to find the answers from the assembled knowledge.

From the North

Rt 95 south to exit 50 Rt 133 East

Follow 133 E to Rt 1 South 3/4 mile to Linebrook Rd

Take left on Linebrook Rd

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Go 1/8 mile and take right at our sign Altman Dist Co Inc

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If lost call 508 577 0077 Daves cell  
or 978 356 4369 Altman Dist

**Spring Tune Up and Newcomers meet**  
**Sunday, May 6th 10 AM to 4 PM**

10 Cedar Ridge Lane, Mansfield, MA 02048

508 339 1582

Here is your chance to get your Healey ready for summer driving and Conclave 2007. Pete and Cindy Sturtevant will host the "Healey Spring Tune Up and Newcomers meet". Ever wish you could inspect under your Healey without crawling on the ground? Want to adjust your brakes without jacking up the car and using jack stands? Need to use a MIG welder? Need to sand blast some parts? Do you have a nagging problem with your Healey, and would like some advice from knowledgeable "experts" in the area?

The expectation is to focus on modest Healey jobs, like tune-ups, oil and grease, tire rotation, etc. You will be responsible for providing your own parts and supplies.

Continental Breakfast and Cookout Lunch will be included in the day's festivities. Please RSVP your attendance to Pete at: [healeyn4@comcast.net](mailto:healeyn4@comcast.net) or call 508 509 5517 by May 1<sup>st</sup>

Directions: From Route 495, take exit 10, Route 123 East (E. Main St.) towards Easton. Approximately, 1 mile from the exit, take your first left onto Newland St. Follow Newland St. for 1.3 miles, and take an immediate left, at the Mansfield town line, to Cedar Ridge Lane. We are the second house on the left, number 10.



**Healeys at Carlisle, May 18-20, 2007**

Once again, members of the New England Region of the AHCA will be in attendance at the annual "British, Import & Kit Car Show" held at the Carlisle Fairgrounds in Carlisle, PA from May 18-20, 2007. This show continues to be the premier event for those who are looking for NOS and used parts. There is an active car corral with cars for sale and there is a giant car show on Saturday. If you have never attended this event, it is worth the trip just to see what is available. Club members are welcome to bring parts for sale and leave them for sale at our site, E10-12. If you are interested in more details or have parts you want to sell, contact Steve Bell at 508-947-6499.



**Additional News from Etienne Cloche'**

I have received the official registration form for the International Healey Meet in Sweden for 2008. The good news is that the response has been so good, the organizers have added another hotel and are accepting additional registrations at this time. Some of our club members were turned away when the first hotel was booked. So, do not delay if you have any interest in this 3rd European Healey Event. Email Per-Gunnar Johansson at [pg.bighealey@telia.com](mailto:pg.bighealey@telia.com)



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**News Tidbits**

The Austin-Healey Sports and Touring Club (AHSTC) based in PA is considering becoming a region of AHCA. This would add approximately 267 members to the AHCA.

There's an excellent 12 page article by Graham Robson in the April 2007 issue of *Collectible Automobile* magazine. Look for the gorgeous Healey Blue BN2 on the cover.

**SURF'S UP!**

Check out these links

[www.teamsprite.com](http://www.teamsprite.com)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qcxu6A6qLM>

Remember, you'll see the *New England News* first on our Website [www.ahca-northeast.com](http://www.ahca-northeast.com).

## Healeys get the green flag at Lime Rock



## Bugeyes by the mile

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### Wanted

Heater box and components for a 3000 in re-buildable condition or in excellent condition.

Call or email Paul Dunnell (413)339-0102

[Austin67@together.net](mailto:Austin67@together.net)

#### For Sale

### 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 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. You won't be disappointed. Ed Jackson, Thomaston, Ct. 860-283-8659 or Email: [edevjackson@snet.net](mailto:edevjackson@snet.net)