

December 2008



From the Editor

Jim Smith

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From the temporary Editor

Carole Paye dpaye@crocker.com

Well, here we go again for another 2008 newsletter. What I have discovered is that I really find email VERY unreliable!! Why? Because some of the emails that I have sent are not being delivered! Other offers seem better and people change their addresses but don't always remember to tell newsletter editors. Last month I had almost twenty emails that were returned as undeliverable. After checking my accuracy, I found that I had entered them correctly from my information. Sooooo... If you get a better email source, please don't forget to notify me. (Remember that you can always find the current and past newsletters online at the address below.)

It has been a pleasure dealing with each of you as I try to keep this newsletter current while awaiting Jim's return.....Carole

PS.. Don't forget to sign up for your newsletter to arrive in color by email.

There will be a short board meeting 4-5 PM in the loft area of the Nutmeg on Saturday December 13th before the Christmas party.

New England News

The Newsletter for members in the New England Region of the

Austin-Healey Club of America

NY, CT, MA, RI, VT, ME & Northern NJ

I have discovered a new vocation for myself since the last newsletter! Weatherman! It turns out my prediction of an extended fall season and more Healey driving weather still in this year was dead wrong. The driving season came to a screeching halt in my neck of the woods when we had three inches of snow the week before Halloween. Now the first snowfall of the season is usually no big deal since it melts as soon as it hits the ground . . . usually. This year it hung around for two or three days which caused the appearance of that four letter word, SALT!

Even if it was not for the appearance of salt on the road, my driving season was going to be abbreviated by mechanical sympathy for my clutch. It seems like I may have been a little over exuberant on one of my journeys up Rowe hill a couple weeks previous. I do not believe this one trip up a rather steep hill caused my mechanical problem but it accelerated the symptoms to give me fair warning time to have a look at the clutch over the winter so it would not give up the ghost halfway to Kingston next year. I actually find this the second best reason to do a little bit of gymkhana type driving of my car. If some mechanical gremlin is lurking beneath that beautiful flowing sheet metal of a Healey body, finding it in the control environment of a gymkhana parking lot is a lot safer than the left hand lane of 15 Sud in Montreal while pacing an 18 wheeler in the right lane at 65 MPH. (been there, done that, have the upholstery puckers to prove it.) Of course the best reason is the adrenaline rush even though it is a rather safe environment. (Anyone can be a hero in second gear)

Looking back on this year in review, I would classify it as a year of recovery and rebuilding. We came off a busy 2007 year with Conclave and have had some challenges to face while we were recovering and regrouping. We had a great group of events this year, many of which Deb and I were able to enjoy. I would like to thank all of those who planned and hosted events throughout this year. Like our government however, we are in need of CHANGE. Now I am not an Obama speech writer coming out of the closet but our club needs your ideas, enthusiasm, and efforts to bring more to the club and enjoy our cars. We are always looking for new places to explore and new members to meet and entice into activity throughout the region. Do not be timid about putting on a meet or suggesting a gathering place. I would love to here your ideas for events and activities. Please give me a call with any questions . . . or better yet answers!

I hope to see many of you at the Christmas party in East Windsor on December 13th. Give Betty Bender a call for reservations. I thank everyone for their support through my first year. Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Safe journey,
Bill Berg

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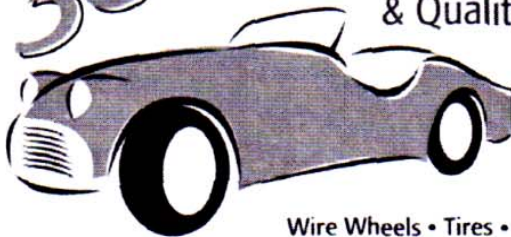
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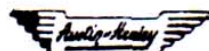


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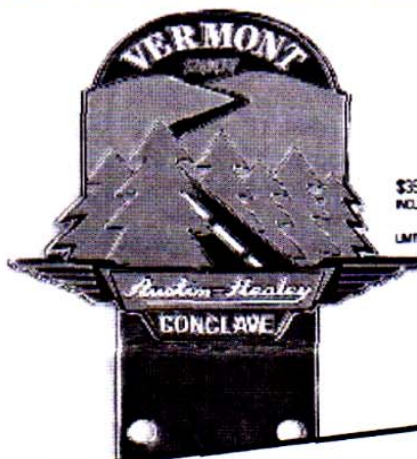
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UPHILL SLALOM

On October 11 2008, an uphill slalom was held in Rowe MA on a 1.2 mile uphill course laid out by Paul Dunnell. It was a cool start typical of north-western Massachusetts, and perfect for racing vintage cars. Fifteen cars showed up to race four runs up the hill, and the results were as follows:

Bugeye *Jeanne Conroy*
Austin Healey 100 *Bob Bender*
Austin Healey 3000 *Bob Britton-*
Modified Healey and fastest time of the
day *Bill McMahon*

Non Healey Lotus Elan *Bob Gillette*

All winners received denim shirts as prizes.

Following the race we enjoyed a wonderful chicken barbeque with master chefs George Randall and George Miller handling the grilling.

The temperature warmed in the afternoon and the farmyard was filled with many beautiful cars.



Many thanks for all those that helped with the scoring, working the race course and the meal preparation. Also, thanks to the town of Rowe for allowing us to close the road and reroute traffic on a busy foliage weekend.

Gerry Paquette

Healey Nasty Boy Mini-Triathlon By Bill McMahon

This Spring, within a 24 hour period, this NASTY BOY and I attended three car events. They began at the New England Dragway, proceeded to a road race at NHMS, and ended at a Cruise night.

On Wednesday, May 28, 2008, this Healey NASTY BOY ran at New England Dragway in Epping, NH. It made several runs with the best time of 12.2 seconds on street tires. The last run after dark was on a slick track. I damn near wrecked and called I quits!

At 10:00PM NASTY BOY was in the trailer leaving New England Dragway and heading to New Hampshire Motor Sports (the old N.H.I.S.) track in Loudon, NH. At 7:30 AM Nasty Boy was unloaded, sported 17" Hoosiers, registered and was ready to run the 1.5 mile road course. By 12:00 noon, we had put on about 110 miles with an average lap time of 1.23 to 1.24 with a best time of 1.20.4.



NASTY BOY went back in the trailer and arrived in Shrewsbury, MA at 3:00PM on May 29, 2008. It was unloaded and driven to a cruise night at the Hebert Candy Mansion also in Shrewsbury. While doing these three events within 24 hours, both the drags and the road racing were an adrenaline rush. At the cruise night, NASTY BOY got a lot of attention. But the real satisfaction came from the 10 or 12 young kids getting in the car and having their pictures taken. Their expressions said it all! At most park and cruise events folks can't get near the cars let alone get in them. This NASTY BOY has a sign that reads "Yes! You may touch! And kids may sit in it for photos!"

The NASTY BOY provides a lot of fun for its driver and kids!



Healey Meet Review / July 13, 2008

Today, Sunday, Donna and I sponsored a breakfast for Healey Club Members at our house to precede the CVCC Benefit Car Show here in Simsbury, CT. We had a local showing with 2 other couples and their cars. We had a fabulous day!

The weather was as outstanding as it could be. First to show was Bill and Diane Hare from Bristol in their perfect red Bugeye Sprite. They are fun and we had a lot to talk about. Soon, new Club members Bruce and Leslie Silvers from Avon arrived in their gorgeous red 100-4. They were also terrific to meet. We had full egg and sausage breakfast on the deck, with a fabulous view of the Talcott ridge. We looked at my toy car collection briefly, then it was time to go to the show, about a 2 minute ride and we were there.

My red 3000 and their red cars were quite a trio, and represented the Marque quite well. This year's show set a new record for attendance, over 450 cars of every make and color. It is quite a show in a tree lined setting, especially on this most fabulous day with breezes blowing. We truly all had a great time. We walked and talked, looked and voted. Sat, ate and gabbed in the shade. I expected not much from the awards because they have lots of categories for the American cars, but only one for all the foreign types. An MGA coupe won



our foreign category, which is impressive against the Jags and such. We all assumed that was it. But in the end they announced the Best-in-Show and, Ta Da!, it was one of our trio. The Silvers

had won with their 100-4. It is right hand drive with a louvered hood and the leather straps, and lovely driving lights rather than a front bumper. The trophy is about as big as Leslie! How cool. We were so surprised. This is their first car show and one I bet they won't ever forget.



I believe that a color photo of their car will be featured on the dash plaque next year, with the trophy. You can get one for free just by attending the show. You are all invited to attend next year.

I often attend this local show by myself or with Donna. This year it was much more fun being part of this group. Thanks for joining us the Silvers and the Hares!

Robert Scalla

MAKE ME AN OFFER!!

Several front and rear fenders, 2 doors, front and rear shroud for 100-6 early 3000. poor condition all would need repairs.

Some other small items here and there.

Joe Chretien

joe@austinhealey.net

Wanted:

rebuildable motor / short block
for late 1967 BJ8.

Nick Barber

Work (518) 761-9616

Home (518) 793-0855

nick@pilotknob.com

