



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*

From the newsletter editor
Carole Paye

A couple of weeks ago, I emailed everyone on the snail mail list and asked (very nicely) if they might consider receiving their copy of the newsletter via their computer instead of through the post office. Thank you to everyone who responded. As of today, 62 people have switched to email!!!! They will now get their newsletter faster and in color. Is there anyone else who wants to join?

I am still looking for someone who might like to take over editing the newsletter. Most of the articles and announcements come through the internet now. Cut and paste is the rule of putting together the editions. Why do I want to give this job to someone else? Because a vibrant club has many new and interested members. We need those members to take on some of the jobs of the club. Reminds me of the story of the "Little Red Hen". No one wanted to help her plant the grain for bread, harvest it, grind it into flour or make the bread. Everyone wanted to be there when it was time to eat the bread! Be a planter, harvester, grinder or baker so that those of us who have been the mainstay of the club will not be too tired to enjoy the eating of the "bread."

To a super 2009 Austin Healey
Year.....Carole

To all those who traveled to
Nova Scotia with Steve Bell:
We have received word of last years
death of
Bert Miller
Contact Steve Bell

From the President:

For me this is the time of year when cabin fever starts to set in. It is that time of year when I need to get out in the garage and get that Healey to-do list started. My greatest deterrent so far has been time; the second is temperature, garage temperature that is. The second deterrent is more of an excuse than a deterrent as our house was built back in the mid 60's when fuel oil companies paid you to take the fuel oil off their hands so the builder insulated the garage and included it as part of our house's heating system. It has its own separate zone but as it is part of the total system I do not want to close it off and risk it freezing up so I turn it down as low as it will go which keeps the garage a toasty 45°F. I have no idea what it is costing me as I never hear that zone turn on when I am in the garage. So now I just need to solve the time deterrent. I am considering a couple vacation days from work in February to solve that issue. I'll keep you posted on how that works out as there is no lack of work on the horizon there either. I have learned when things are good you are busy and when things are down you are even busier.

I want to thank everyone who was able to make it to our January business and planning meeting. We were able to cover all the major issues facing us this year but we do not have all the answers yet. We are in good shape financially, and we have some great events forming up for the year, as you can see from the list of events already on the calendar as shown in the list of events later in this issue.

The two main issues at hand are the need for a little help with both the newsletter and with regalia. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to give it a try as newsletter editor for a trial period and also someone who can help with the club regalia. Neither of these positions are very time consuming. The hardest part of the newsletter is getting the monthly column out of the president. The hardest part of the regalia job is handling the remaining Conclave regalia which will be resolved by May. You can call me on details about that one.

As for the events for the year so far, we have a good start on an interesting list but we could use more ideas concentrating on local half day events to attract those with less time to travel or wish to start out on shorter adventures with their car. As I have suggested in previous columns, a good way to get started on hosting events is to plan a short fun rallye or short tour to a local place of interest. This is how Deb and I started to host events and I encourage you to try the same. Just open up the membership book and call folks in your local area. We were pleasantly surprised when we did that. Only 7 weeks until spring. Will you be ready?

Safe journey,

Bill Berg

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2009 Current Calendar of Events

Date	Event
March 21, 2008 T	Tech Session Sports Car Specialties Grafton NH Contact –Don Paye (413-625-6568)
May 15-17	Carlisle Import and Kit/Replica Carlisle PA
June 6 - 7	MMSCC British Car Weekend Camden ME
June 7	British Cars by the Sea Harkness Memorial State Park Waterford, CT
June 21 - 26	Conclave 2009 Kingston, Ontario Canada
July 12, 2009	Valley Classic Wheels Charity Benefit Car Show Simsbury, CT
August 6 - 9	Encounter 2009 Pocono PA
September 18 - 20	British Invasion Stowe VT
September 11-13	New England AHCA Fall Light House Tour Eastham-Cape Cod, MA Contact-Pete Williams (Prafe@aol.com)

Meeting Announcement

February Business and Planning Meeting

When: February 28, 2009, 10 AM to Noon

**Where: T J O'Brien's Restaurant
407 Main St
Sturbridge, MA 01566**

--TECH SESSION--

**Be sure to set aside Saturday, March 21, 2009
for what will be a great session at
SPORTS CAR SPECIALTIES
with Jon Thompson
Grafton, NH**

Jon is a self proclaimed professional "Tin Knocker" and started doing business in 1985 as Sports Car Specialties. He specializes in professional restorative services on antique, classic and exotic automobiles. This includes custom metal shaping/panel beating services from a repair panel to a complete body. He also does fixture built/straightened chassis and panel work. Be sure to check out his web site at www.sportscarspecialties.com

Covered in his demonstration will be a brief discussion of the methods and theory of metal shaping (panel beating) including hand tools and their use as well as power tools and safety. He will also touch upon welding processes including joint configuration and hammering seams. These demonstrations will be explained as Jon completes repairs to an Austin Healey fender.

Coffee and pastries will be provided along with sandwiches and drinks at lunch time. It would be helpful if you notify Don Paye at dpaye@crocker.com or 413-625-6568 in advance so Jon can plan on quantities. However this is not mandatory.

**Saturday March 21 st.
9:30 Am to 4:30 PM**

Directions from South and East: I-93 N to I-89 and get off at Exit 11, and take RT 11 and then RT 4 West (not 4 "A") to Grafton then see BELOW

Directions from South and West: I-91 North to I-89, get off at Exit 17 and go East on Rt 4 to Grafton then see BELOW

"BELOW": From RT 4 in Grafton Village turn left if you are coming from Boston area/right if coming from I-91 and Vermont onto Slab City Road (Jon warned that he is in very rural area) Proceed 1.9 miles to Dean Road (if you are using GPS it will be Dean Hill Road) and watch for signs to 444 Dean Road

" HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! IT WILL BE WORTH THE TRIP..."



2009 New England AHCA Fall Light House Tour

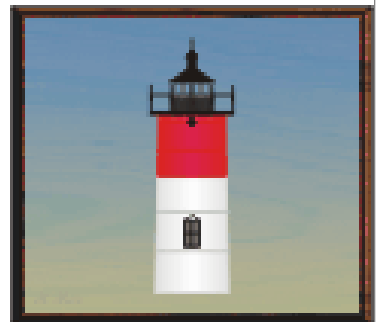
Save the dates, September 11, 12 & 13

and plan on spending the weekend touring the lighthouses of *Old Cape Cod*.

More details to follow in upcoming newsletters and on the website.

If you have questions or would like to help out contact Peter Williams at Prafe@aol.com

Photo Contest - Beach Sand Castle Competition - Wine Tasting



Friday: Hit some on the list as you arrive on the cape
6:00 à Kickoff Dinner Party - Pot luck cookout at the William's in Eastham

Saturday: Take the northern or the southern tour suggestions
6:00 Shore Dinner

Sunday: Send off Breakfast - 7-11:00 at the William's in Eastham
Find the ones you missed as you depart for home