



Healey Exhaust Notes

*The official newsletter of the
New England Region of the Austin-Healey Club of America
Serving the following areas
NY, CT, MA, RI, VT, NH, ME & Northern NJ*

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From the President:

September was a pretty good month for meet activities starting with the Vintage Fall Festival at Lime Rock Park on Labor Day and the British Invasion at Stowe on the third weekend of the month. I was not able to make it to the Vintage Festival and I hear that I missed a couple great hot laps on the circuit. Deb and I did have a great drive up Route 100 to the British Invasion and nice time at the event. We even made a run up the notch (Smugglers Notch) on Saturday afternoon after the car show. It was apparent several participants had the same idea. The two-way, one lane wide road keeps your attention especially near the top of the notch.

There are articles with more details on both events in this newsletter and I do need to bore you with some club business here so I guess you can turn the page and not realize you have been nominated and elected to a club position or you can read on.

The main item is club officers. If you have been paying attention, you might realize you have been reading these columns authored by me for two years and nine months which means there is only three months left in my term as president of the New England Region Austin Healey Club of America. Ipso facto the secretary position will also come to the end of term at the end of the year also.

As well as president and secretary positions, I know we also would like to find some help and new blood in the regalia and newsletter editor positions as well. If you have enjoyed some of the events this year, I hope you might consider taking a more active role to bring new energy and ideas to help our club flourish. I am looking for nominations and / or volunteers for all of the positions above. If you have an interest in helping with any of these positions or have someone to nominate to any of these positions, please send me an e-mail to bill.berg@vtcomposites.com I will clean out my Inbox so there will be plenty of room for all of your responses.

Safe journey,

Bill Berg

New England web site: www.ahca-newengland.com

2010 Tentative List of Events

Date	Event	Contact
December 4	Christmas Party Sturbridge, MA	Betty Bender 413-684-3934

FOR SALE

Austin Healy 100-6 Parts:

- * 100-6 top frame. Nice. \$300
 - * Windshield frame and posts with cracked glass. \$200
 - * Pair aluminum side frames with plex glass. \$125
 - * Rear seat back squab. Black. \$50
 - * Grille. Good. \$175
 - * Upper aluminum grille surround. \$125
 - * Lower aluminum grille surround. \$20
 - * Aluminum rear seat (single piece) cockpit surround. \$100
 - * Aluminum door top moldings. LH and RH. \$40 each.
 - * Rear bumper with brackets. \$200
- Call Wayne in West Boylston, MA
for details (508) 835-4038

3



Repair, Restoration, Spring Commissioning

The middle of winter can be a tough time to think about all the projects you have in mind for your British car. But it really is the best time.

British Car R & R can schedule the work you want to do now and have it completed at a relaxed pace. Why try to cram everything into the spring rush? Your car deserves all the care you can give it. Now is the best time to get started.

Give us a call, we'll listen to your plans and work out a schedule to have your car ready for the road this spring. We offer reasonable rates, timely service, and can arrange to pick-up and deliver your car on our trailer.

Call Bob at 603-425-3333 or Dave at 508-577-0077




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(860) 526-4256

From the editor:

DON'T FORGET TO:

Notify me of email changes

Just got a note from new member Ed Collins that his 1957 MG ZB Magnette took first place in Class 9 in the Lime Rock Concourse Car Show.

Ed's Healey got an award at Summit last June and it took 1st place in the Foreign Class at the Melha Shriner's Annual Show in Chicopee in 2008.

Newsletter Deadline!

All meet write-ups and advertisements by the 25th day of the month. Your email newsletters about the 1st.

Snail mails about the 5th of the month.



A decorative border of red poinsettias with green leaves surrounds the text.

HEALEY HOLIDAY PARTY

Romaldo's Restaurant 455 Main Street Route 20
Fiskdale, MA 01518 (Sturbridge, MA)

Saturday, December 4, 2010

Cocktails: 6 PM

Dinner: 7 PM

Cash Bar

**Family Style meal (roasted chicken, sirloin tips &
meatballs) includes appetizers, salad,
dessert & coffee/tea**

Tax and gratuity included!

Cost per person: \$35.00

Please RSVP by November 21, 2010

TO: Betty Bender

117 Patricia Ave Dalton, MA 01226-2046

(413) 684-3934

Make Checks payable to:

AHCA NEW ENGLAND REGION

**Don't forget a \$10 gift per person for
the Yankee Swap**

Hotel information for those in close proximity to Romaldo's Restaurant

Motel 6:

408 Main St. Route 20 Sturbridge, MA 01566 (508) 347-7327

Quality Inn:

478 Main St. Route 20 Sturbridge, MA 01566 (508) 347-5141

Sturbridge Host Hotel:

366 Main St. Route 20 Sturbridge, MA 01566 (800) 582-3232

The Hearthstone Inn (Connected to Restaurant)

(508) 347-9965

Country Room \$119

Queen Jacuzzi \$149

King Jacuzzi \$179

**For those interested, Old Sturbridge Village celebrates "Christmas by Candlelight"
on Friday, December 3. Call (800) 733-1830 for more information or check them
out on the internet. Saw it last year and it was great.....**

Westward Ho 2010, Departing Awards Ceremony

By Dominic Falconieri

WESTWARD HO is over for two thousand ten
The adventures we had won't be repeated again
The scenery, the weather, and views along the way
Only got better with each passing day
The camaraderie, the laughter and chatter we share
Is typical of friends who sincerely care
Each trip we take seems to top the last
The years fly by, so increasingly fast
Bob and Jill started out with a nut through the glass
They escaped serious injury and abrasions on their ASS
They also had an overdrive which would not stay in gear
It put them in the back to bring up the rear
John had a problem, his car wouldn't start
The car proved OK, It was his head that blew apart
Peter's car had a tendency to overheat
But on the downgrades he was difficult to beat
He said to Cindy, I've won the Award before
I'm just keeping the throttle down to the floor
If this Sprit blows up, I don't give a shit
I'm not going to be the object of Dom's poetic wit
And then there was DOM with his five gallons of DIESEL
Who picked up the wrong nozzle as he gazed at a Weasel
The animal was posed to surely attack
Causing Dom a moment to turn his back
That's my story and I 'm sticking to it
As Flip Wilson once said "THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT!"
Now if brother-in-law John, had his way
He'd see it quite differently and have his say
But he should remember the next time his car won't start
He'll be calling Dom for the necessary part
I do love him of course, after all he's Mary's brother
I've enjoyed these 47 years, like I've enjoyed no other
And don't forget the fact that I sold him the Healey
That proves the point, that I love him so dearly
We've had a year to ready our cars for the road
We knew well in advance when our classic cars would load
We'll be putting stress and demands on Donald Healey's design
To make them road worthy and tuned and perfectly aligned
Things were going smoothly on days one to five
We all stood in Ouray's Boxed Canyon saying "It's great to be alive!"
As we left the Canyon climbing to higher elevation
Our radios crackled with a startling revelation
"It's coughing and skipping and farting too
Bob, can you hear me, I know not what to do!"
So down the hill a few of us went
To give guidance, assistance, and some to lament
Rafe came to the rescue with a gallon of gas
Which put the owner securely planted back on his ass

Next on the list was the fuel filter line
He insisted from here everything would be fine
The flat tire was next leaving Monument Valley
His points getting so high they were hard to tally
And just when we thought nothing else could transpire
He was dead in the parking lot of the Best Western Squire
Up went the bonnet, the tools and test light
It only took 40 minutes for ED and Bob to get things right
Now things should have been easier with only 100 miles to go
He just had to coast, but it wouldn't be so

Bill on the radio exclaiming you better slow down
Your tires wobbling; it looks out of round
Oh yes my friends, this didn't happen on a whim
You can't put that stress on a 50 year old rim
So total points accumulated I cannot total
He has surpassed previous records by any other mortal
Frank Motta couldn't hold a candle to this guy's car
The incidents along the way lead all trips by far
It proves the point that you can't prep enough
You can't put stress on 50 year old stuff
So Dave, you're the winner of this coveted prize
An award has been selected; don't be fooled by its size
It's for you and Maggie to equally share
It comes from the Westward Ho group to show that we care
It's not a trophy, or an engraved plaque
But a gift you will cherish and not want to give



Eight couples, Altmans, Abbotts, Beyers, Loosigians, Falconeiris, Kelleys, Brennans, and Sturtevant's toured Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona for two weeks. Tops down and all back roads for two weeks. The cars were shipped to Denver and back home from Sedona. We visited the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Black Canyon, Natural Bridge Canyon, Monument Valley and several Old west mining towns. We dined on Elk, Buffalo, wild boar, Rattlesnake to name a few of the items....also Prickly Pear Margaritas. Bob Abbott won the award for the most breakdowns in his 100M.

Some fun candids from Lime Rock



Yummy breakfasts.....



Everybody cooks



Time for relaxing.....



Visiting with old friends!!!!



A great place to meet.



Jim & Bob ready for the track run



They attracted lots of attention

Setting up for the night...Really should have started in daylight!!!!



Should have tried setting this up at home first!!



Finally....Luxury accommodations!!!!

"Historic Festival 28" at Lime Rock.

Previously known as the "Vintage Fall Festival" (VFF), it's a "time-warp" back to the '50s and '60s. Over the past 28 years, I've attended many of the VFF events and enjoyed every one – rain or shine. Perhaps Lime Rock is going up-scale like the other "Historic" venues.

As far as "Historics" goes, I've seen many of the rare and GREAT cars. Street cars, race cars, and historic cars, as well as big name drivers. It's safe to say that all the marques are represented. I've seen the many changes that Lime Rock has made. Still, you can get up close to the cars, mechanics, and drivers who are more than willing to answer questions, or to borrow a tool if needed.

I travel to Lime Rock with just my Healey, a couple of spare parts, tool box, tent, and clothing. Being dependent on my Healey makes the 300 mile trip a road test. I've encountered an occasional problem but nothing disabling. Well, this year was almost a serious problem. After a stop at a highway rest area, my Healey ran terrible, and quit just as I entered the highway. Pushing my car back into the rest area (in 90 degree heat), I wasn't careful and got the car into the guard rail and put a big scratch in the paint. Ouch! Long story short: my distributor somehow slipped out of timing or slipped a tooth so timing was way off. After re-positioning the gears, the engine started and I was on my way.

Over the years of camping in a tent, I've gotten to know several of the "regulars" who camp there. Always a campfire, the smell of hardwood burning, and star lit nights. Lively discussions of politics, cars, and anything else; and beers. Perhaps a bit rowdy late at night. The crow's wake-up time is always at 6:30am.

The past few years, my friend Rick Neves has been racing his Healey 100. Hanging around the pit area, it's been interesting to hear from the drivers how they run the track. It presents a different perspective than just watching the cars from the side lines. This year was especially interesting. One of Rick's friends who also drives a 100, was having engine problems at high RPMs. Everyone came to his aid with suggestions and hands-on help. After checking and cleaning fuel lines and carbs, sorting out a distributor (dual points) issue, and some carb tweaks, the engine ran better. Ultimately, Rick's friend won Group-4 first place!

Besides winning on the race track, Healeys did well in the car show. Two Healey 100-6 won 1st and 2nd place in "Fancy & Fun – Open Cars" class; a 100-4 won 3rd place in "Road & Track – Sporting Machines" class; and two Healey 3000 won 1st and 3rd place in "Keep the Sunny Side Up Sports Cars" class. Considering the calibre of the cars present, these awards are quite an accomplishment.

Healeys were well represented in the car corrals. I counted approximately 15 – 16 Healeys as I went through. (Perhaps more since parking was somewhat disorganized.)

As always, the Healey club was represented in the vendor area. Both Bob Bender's and Don Paye's 100 –4 Healeys provided fine examples to see. The club's space becomes a meeting place for members and other interested enthusiasts to gather and learn more about the New England Region of AHCA. It is also a place for possible spare parts purchases, club regalia sales and to ask some tech questions. Of course, the weekend highlight was the appearance of Jim Smith. Good to see you again, Jim!

Sadly, the weekend went by too fast. My old Healey made it home with no problems. At home, it was sooo strange to have the roar of unmuffled race cars replaced by the purr of a neighbor's lawn mower!! Time now to fix my car and prepare for another "trial run" to Lime Rock. Just look for my red Healey in the camp grounds. Duane Walzer



“20th British Invasion 2010”

For those of you have never had the opportunity of attending a British Invasion in Stowe, VT you must imagine an open field filled with 650 plus British cars and motorcycles of all kinds and colors. Main Street in Stowe and businesses along the highway leading to the show field are decorated with British flags and other adornments honoring the annual event, this being the twentieth year. Although Carole and I had attended many previous Invasions, this was a particularly special event for me. Late last summer I began dismantling our black 100 which we have owned for 38 years. Of course I was the butt of a few jokes from those who know that I can field strip an Austin Healey in an afternoon but may take five years to complete a project. However, this was not to be the case with the 100. Retirement is wonderful ! Working with a local part time body man, we finished the body prep and paint work before winter descended upon us thus giving me the winter and spring to hibernate to my heated garage and carefully assemble all the panels while detailing the engine bay and interior. Unfortunately the finished product developed electrical issues (never install a used voltage regulator you have had hanging around for years) at Summit thus rendering it unable to make the car show on Mount Greylock.

Throughout the summer my work on the 1954 100 was centered around fine tuning and tending to minor details always with the thought of having things finished for British Invasion. I think most of us who dote over our cars must admit that they are basically an “Ego Trip” otherwise we would all be driving Yugos and Renaults. Fortunately this year Carole and I were able to arrive early on Friday and along with the Bergs made our way to Main Street in Stowe for the annual Block Party. Traffic is detoured around the village and the street is lined with all sorts of British iron as space will allow. Store fronts are decorated for the event, judged by a committee and awarded prizes for their efforts. A British theme band plays old favorites throughout the evening as folks mingle about the cars or dance in front of the band stand. There are plenty of eateries to satisfy your hunger and we found a Malt Shop with 50’s décor just off Main Street. Along with a slew of teenagers, we enjoyed great soup and sandwiches. Then back to Main St. for some more ego building. I still can’t believe the amount of photos that were taken of the various Healeys along the street but then I am partial to our breed.

Saturday morning found the show field shrouded in fog but soon the sun blazed through to shine upon a field quickly filling with Brit cars and bikes neatly assembled by makes and model categories. There are also many vendors on hand with all sorts of T shirts, books, hard to find manuals and tool kits. Our Club was amongst those vendors with our usual offering of regalia plus information on the club and friendly chit chat. Many thanks to Paul Dunnell for continuing to lug around the club tent, tables and chairs to these meets along with Bob and Betty Bender hauling in the regalia. Of course the menu would not be complete without food including pizza being baked in a wood fired oven right on the show field. Concours cars are assembled in a circular manner limited to 36 cars this year. For those who wanted to add another car to their stable or for those who were just visiting the show as a spectator, the corral offered some interesting cars for sale. Popular voting is completed by all attendees with ballot boxes conveniently located at each class location. Later in the day after all ballots were counted, awards were presented. Fortunately with Austin Healeys being one of three featured marques this year. Folks in our area did not have to wait long for the results. (The listing of winners will be in the November issue)

Saturday evening Club members gathered in the tavern of the “Inn at the Mountain” for cocktails and appetizers. The Inn also served as the gathering place and accommodations for Club members traveling from all parts of New England. Many thanks to Bob Britton and “Piggy” for making all the necessary arrangements. We all hope Piggy is making a successful recovery after unexpected bladder surgery.

British Invasion is not limited to Saturday’s car show. For those who haven’t had enough in one day, Sunday will find tail gate display competition including a red, 1960 Austin Healey recently purchased by new member, Jennifer Taylor, featuring a theme reminiscent of fox hunts complete with a pack of stuffed hounds and a similarly stuffed horse. Great job! Cars on Sunday are arranged by color with judging for the most favorite in each spectrum. At least one Healey was seen taking part in the blind man gymkhana.

By now hopefully you are psyched about attending next year’s British Invasion. We know you will not be disappointed.... And, oh yeah...all my efforts on the 100 were rewarded by a first in the 100 class and also best in the black color category of the Competition of Colors.

Don Paye

