



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XVI No. 12

December 2005



Merry Christmas, Ho Ho Ho !

December Events

Saturday December 3 – Annual Planning Breakfast

Wednesday December 7 – Pie with the President

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Presidential Mike**By Mike Martin**

Well our "ship of state" has now had a "change in command" as the Navy would say. Our board has three new members to guide us for the next year, and a new slate of officers has stepped up. Thanks to the outgoing members for their admirable service. A special nod to Greg Lauser for not only the year of his presidency, but in the midst of that, holding everything together during a great Rendezvous event which took almost two years of planning.

With the bylaws changes, the board has given the new president more access to spending; but final approval of projects is still required. A small increase in dues will manage to keep the club on an even keel and allow for a balanced budget.

My promise to you is to lead the club towards the purpose in Article II of our bylaws: Bring together those with a common interest in the ownership, restoration, preservation, and driving any car built and designed by Donald Healey, and to share resources and knowledge, and thereby enhance the enjoyment of owning and driving a Healey. I like the last sentence - Fun and camaraderie are to be the hallmark.

Our planning session on the 3rd of Dec. will fill our 2006 calendar year with many Healey events. I would encourage all of our new members to get involved. Come on out to our monthly "pie" meetings, and "let's talk Healey" !!



Cover picture compliments of Moss Motors.

THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST

The official publication of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club, THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST, is published 12 times per year for the benefit of its members. Articles which appear in THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST are the opinions of the authors and do not express the position of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club on any matter unless specifically noted. We do our best to ensure accuracy but cannot be held responsible for errors and omissions. Contributions are welcome on any subject related to Healeys, club members, or of general interest to the classic car hobby. Material from THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST may be reprinted in any other publication provided reciprocal article use permission is granted by that publication. Deadline for submissions to the editor is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. Classified ads are free for MAHC members, \$5.00 for non-members. For display rates contact newsletter advertising. The Minnesota Austin Healey Club is affiliated with the Austin Healey Club of America.



Presidential Pie

Date: Wednesday December 7th

Time: 7:00 p.m. (or before)

Place: Fort Snelling Officers Club

This location is on Hwy. 5 (east of I-494) on the southeast side of the Mpls./St. Paul Intl. Airport. Exit at the Post Road ramp, turn south (east) towards the river and proceed on to the road heading for the park, take the first left and wind around to the Officers Club building.

Come and enjoy refreshments and/or food with the friendly club members, catch up on news & events, and discuss cars & restorations.

MAHC Annual Planning Meeting

Date: Saturday December 3rd

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Old Country Buffet
7433 Currell Blvd.
Woodbury, MN
Phone: 651-739-3890

Food: All you can eat!

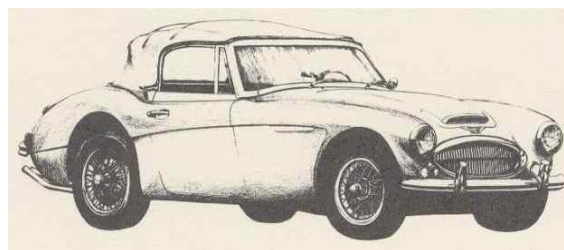
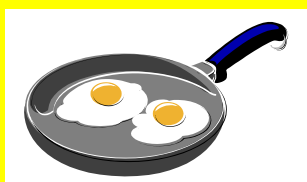
Planning session starts about 9:30 and should be over by 11:30. Bring your new ideas for 2006 events. Free calendars for all attendees to mark down those important dates! Come and support our new officers for their kickoff meeting. **The restaurant is 1 block East of the interchange at I-494 and Valley Creek Road (2 exits south of I-94 and I-494) on the East side of the metro.**

See you there!!

Breakfast at the Peg

This casual event every Saturday morning about 8:30 continues to be very popular! Great food, reasonable prices, & friendly LBC car enthusiasts make it a great place to keep in touch. **Come see the new room added on just for us!!** The location again is:

**The Square Peg Diner
2021 East Hennepin Ave. Mpls.**



New Member

Laura Dehnbostel of Prior Lake is our newest member. She is the proud owner of an Austin Healey 3000 BJ8. We hope to see her at events soon! Welcome!

Pizza Party 2005 !

Editor

We gathered once again at the Country Inn Suites / Green Mill Pizza in Woodbury on Saturday night. It was a balmy November evening, however there were no "soft tops" in the parking lot. A crowd of over 40 people started gathering at 6:30, so there was much commotion and conversation taking place. The room was set up nicely with some display tables around the perimeter, which ended up containing regalia, photos, AH Club Archives, auction items, and assorted other memorabilia.

The food was served at about 7:00 p.m., and it looked really good! Fresh Tossed Salad w/dressings, delicious Pizza, and Soft Drinks were the fare. It seemed like everyone REALLY liked Pizza! The large round eating tables seated about nine each, so it was a good time to socialize with neighbors.

At about 8:00 p.m., President Greg called the meeting to order. After some remarks commending the club on the successful events this past year, he called for committee reports. Curt Carlson gave a membership report and said that the total members numbered 124 – the same total as last year. There were, however, some that had left and some that were new. Steve Rixen passed out printed copies of the Treasurer's Report that wife Sandy had prepared. The club has a good balance at this time and should be sound financially for some time to come.

As Chairman of the Board, Steve also reviewed the changes to the ByLaws and the proposed change in annual dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00. All changes were discussed, voted upon, and approved. Jeff Johnk announced that the Australian / U.S. racing events were very successful during this past summer. The Australians were very impressed with the hospitality they had experienced during their stay here. So much so, that they are organizing a U.S. / Australian Tour in Australia in 2008 and would like to host people from the U.S. Jeff will have more information as it develops.

New nominees for 2006 Officers and Board of Directors members were then announced. Nominations from the floor were requested. The slate of Officers was voted on and approved verbally. Three new Board members needed to be elected, so ballots with four nominees were distributed. Three were elected. After all the business was transacted, the auction of many wonderful donated items took place. Posters, books, AUHC Regalia, and other items were in the mix. Tom Politiski was the auctioneer, and he did a professional job! A tidy sum was gained for the treasury, and many people went home with new memorabilia. It was an enjoyable evening !



MAHC 2006 OFFICERS



**Jim Klein, Treasurer, Mike Martin, President,
Michael Manser, Vice-President**



**2005
Review**





Presidential Pie !

Mike Martin

Who would have believed that in November we would have such a nice evening. Shucks, there were two Healeys in the parking lot – with the tops down! A total of 23 Sportscar addicts arrived at the O-club to talk Healeys and other odd bits of information. It was great to see Jack Stein there after his recent (non-Healey) auto accident. He looked great, and Fran is expected home soon. Happy healing to both of them!

Folks are getting ready to "put the baby to bed" for the winter. Oil changes, greasing of joints (the cars that is), polish, car covers, etc. It seems like yesterday that Spring Awakening was the talk, and now it's time for the Pizza Party. I hope you all enjoyed your cars at the great Healey events this year!

Greg Lauser reminded us to be sure to come to the Annual Pizza Party/Business Meeting. He touched on the proposal for a dues increase on which the membership has to vote. No one can remember the last time the dues were raised. Some minor by-laws changes are in the offing; and, of course, a new slate of candidates must be voted on to fill the offices for 2006. By the time you read this, the new folks will be hard at it keeping the club running like a well oiled machine - sort of like a Healey!

After two years of Tom Hazen and one of Greg Lauser as presidents, I'm not sure who will be able to fill their shoes - and big ones at that! Thanks for a great year, Greg!

Tech Tip

by Doctor Ernie

Subject: NUTS & BOLTS

Sometimes I struggle to find a subject to write about, but this time it jumped right out at me while working on a customer's car. This car was a recent major frame-up rebuild. It was obvious that the owner and mechanic (maybe the same guy) wanted to do a top-notch job and spent all effort and money towards that end. But ----- every bolt and nut was little more than finger tight, or worse - loose! These were major fasteners that were critical to safety and or reliability. The rear axle to drum to hub bolts were so loose, that grease was leaking out totally saturating all brake parts. The rear spring and lever shock bolts were loose and working so much as to egg shape the holes. The problem was the same with the front lever shocks. A legitimate question at this time is: why or how could that happen?

There are quite a few possible reasons, but basically just two are the main culprits. They are paint, and fear of over tightening. First off let's explain what torquing or clamping is all about. It's not just tightening two pieces together. That is accomplished the moment the two pieces are touching each other with no clearance between them. The torquing is the actual tightening of the nut and bolt to a point that the bolt actually stretches. There are many formulas and charts to accomplish this, but a classic example is to get at least .003" of an inch of stretch on rod and main bearing bolts. This is a very critical area with very much stress involved, and a mechanic should follow the recommended specs exactly. Most "do it yourself" books only cover these most critical parts, then leave the whole rest of these fasteners to fall under a "bolt size torque chart". In most cases this is adequate.

Let's go back to the paint problem. It's completely normal and common to paint all parts when restoring a car. The problem is that even a light coat of paint will be .003" inch thick. A heavy coat of paint could be three times that thick. Now even if you do properly torque those hub bolts, shock bolts, spring bolts, etc., in short order this paint can squeeze out and your .003" stretch is gone. The nut or bolt is now loose. This problem can be lived with, if you follow up your job by periodic retightening during the early life of your rebuild. A better idea is to just don't paint mating surfaces.

Now let's address the torquing process itself. How nice it would be if everything were so accessible as to allow a foot and a half long clumsy torque wrench to be used. In real life you have to accomplish this using hand wrenches, or flex ratchets, or flex sockets. Sometimes you may even be forced to tighten a nut or bolt using a pry bar against a wrench. Find me a book that has a chart for that! FAT CHANCE.

By now you should be getting an inkling of what skills a good mechanic must possess. It's a talent learned from experience, and you can learn it too. For practice, start with a selection of bolt sizes. Put a nut tight in a vice, then thread the correct bolt into it. Tighten until you think it's tight enough with a hand wrench. Now with a torque wrench, see how close you came to the torque spec for that size bolt. Keep practicing with different length wrenches and ratchets. Now try it with two fingers pulling the wrench. Try all the variables. You'll be surprised at how close you can guess after practicing a while. Next move up to different size bolts or bolts of different grades (different grades will tolerate different torques). In most cases I'd guess you would be surprised at how hard you have to pull on a hand wrench to reach the suggested torque to accomplish the required stretch of the fastener.

There are exceptions to every rule. The torque specs of most charts don't apply to soft metals like brass or aluminum. Some fasteners must be re-torqued after a set amount of time or miles. Some examples are: new mag wheels, some head gaskets, and header bolts. In most cases when retorquing, you should first loosen the nut or bolt, then re-torque it. In the case of head gaskets, you should follow the torque sequence pattern as well.

One last thing: Most torque specs require the threads to have a light oil or Lock-Tite on them.



Annual MAHC Dues

The MAHC Board of Directors has voted to bring the local club dues more in line with our expenditures and costs of doing business.

Local club dues will increase by five dollars to \$20.00 per year beginning with the 2006 membership year. National Dues remain at \$40.00 per year, which brings local AND national dues to \$60.00 for renewing members.

You may pay your dues at one of our meetings, or you may wait to renew once you receive your membership renewal form from the National Club. Please always renew all memberships through me, your local club membership director, rather than mailing them to National directly; as this often results in a delay, which could jeopardize your receipt of the local newsletter. Lastly, please remember to renew prior to the end of February to avoid the \$5.00 late fee.

Thank you. Curt

Curtis L. Carlson
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Membership / Renewal Form

- Minnesota A-H Club** New Renewal **\$20.00**
- Austin-Healey Club of America** New Renewal **\$40.00**
- BOTH CLUBS** **\$60.00**

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

E-mail address: _____ Receive Newsletter via email? Yes No

HEALEY INFORMATION:

Year ____ Model _____ Color _____ Original Owner (Y/N)____

Year ____ Model _____ Color _____ Original Owner (Y/N)____

Condition: Show Quality Nice & Roadworthy Could be running with help Restoration Project

Make checks payable to: Minnesota Austin Healey Club. Send to Curt Carlson (see page 2 for address)

Events Schedule

- Dec. 3 **** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat.) Meet at 8:30 am at the Old Country Buffet – 7433 Currell Blvd. -- Woodbury, MN. Making the schedule of events for 2006 will be on the agenda for this meeting. Mike Martin will be presiding. See page 3 for details.
- Dec. 7**** **Pie with the President** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3 for details.

**** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity**

The Perfect Winter Project !

To be driving “cool” next summer, Herb Miller found this ideal solution for our “Hot Healeys”! Just get yourself a few components and install them this winter – as shown below. Not only will you be cool inside, your friends will think you’re cool too!



Minnesota Austin Healey Club
Gary Ronning, Editor
3624 - 46th Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

First Class Postage



MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: In-Car Race Action of the 2005 Aussie-U.S. Challenge Series as seen from the cockpit of my racecar. All five venues - over an hour of race footage on this DVD. Special price for MAHC members: \$15.00 (regular price \$20.00). Send your personal check to Dan Powell @ 6005 Chowen Ave S., Edina, MN 55410 and I'll post a copy to you. (10/05)

FOR SALE: Approximately 1500 automotive magazines from the late 60's to current. Primarily **premium** American (Vintage Motorsport, Car Collector, SIA, R&T, etc.), and **premium** British titles (Thoroughbred & Classic Cars, Classic & Sports Car, and MotorSport). Save me from myself ! Best offer. George Arthur 651-436-3227 (10/05)

FOR SALE: 1973 Triumph GT6 MK III rolling chassis. Owned since 1989, put many miles on it. Recently removed engine, transmission, and exhaust, which are not included. Complete interior, gauges, radio, glass, new tires, & trim are included. \$1,000. Call Scott McQueen at 612-623-4938 eves & weekends or email smcqueen@mn.rr.com . (10/05)

Marketplace policy: All ads are free to current members. For non-members, the charge is 5.00 per month. Ads will be run for three months after which time the advertiser needs to submit new ad copy. Please inform the editor if your item or items have been sold during the three month period so the ad can be removed.