



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XVII No. 4

April 2006



A recent Pic of our friend John going shopping in Hawaii !!

April Events

Saturday April 1 – Tech Session

Wednesday April 5 – PIE Meeting

Saturday April 22 – Highway Clean-up/Tour

Saturday April 29 – MMS Open House

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Presidential Mike**By Mike Martin**

The quest is over! A BT7 that spent the last 25 years with its caretaker in Cincinnati Ohio is now on its way to the Twin Cities. All it had to do was wink its turn signal at me, and I was smitten!

Prior to being smitten, however, there was another story. I arrived in Cincinnati on Monday evening just prior to a snowstorm. It snowed all night and into the morning, so driving this pearl was out of the question. The caretaker had the car up on jackstands, so I could crawl underneath and take a look. I did this; however when he went to start the car, it was no deal. I was thinking a few bad thoughts, two of which were a waste of time and money. I told him I would call the next morning at 9AM (my flight out was at 2PM) to see if he had gotten it started.

It only took a new battery, points, & plugs, and it fired right up. At 10AM I was snuggled up to the Healey, although the weather was too nasty to drive it. I gave it the once over and decided to ask her (the car) if she would consider changing caregivers. After backfiring through the carburetors about moving to Minnesota, I convinced her that I would spend lots of money on her, not smoke if she didn't, and keep her in a heated garage in the winter. The last item was a stretch, but it will feel warmer than being outside. A deal was struck; so rather than wearing an Ohio historic plate, it will have a Minnesota one!

I hope to move it here prior to April, but the best laid plans of mice and men could change that. It will have to wait till we get back from Oregon. Stay tuned for more next month's report, when I could drive it back with a stop at Fourintune in Wisconsin.

p.s. Be sure to come out for the Highway Clean-up! See you there.

**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.

PIE

(President's Informal Evening)

Date: Wednesday April 5th
Time: 7:00 p.m. (or before)
Place: Fort Snelling Officers Club

Note: Bring a Friend Night !

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.



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. **Meet in the new room added on just for us!!** The location again is:

The Square Peg Diner
 2021 East Hennepin Ave. Mpls.



Tech Session

Date: Saturday April 1st (no fooling!)

Time: 11:00 a.m. See Map p10

Place: Paul Weidner's Garage
 3730 Hubbard Ave. No.
 Robbinsdale, MN
Ph: 952-474-5642

The 11:00 start time is to allow people to attend Breakfast at the Peg. This Tech Session will be on modifications to the Austin Healey Sprite. Paul has done a lot to his car this winter, so he will have refinements to show. Also Tom Moerke will lead a discussion on tires for British Cars. Should be an educational outing!

ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Clean Up

Date: Saturday April 22

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Meet in Hastings at the
 Schoolhouse Square on
 US Hwy 61 & 10th Street

We will take a scenic road from Hastings down to Milepost 80 on Hwy. 61 to our assigned area. After doing our civic clean up duties, we will drive to a restaurant for lunch.

See you there!



Cover picture borrowed from the book *Spritley Years* by John Sprinzel and Tom Coulthard.



Wine & Cheese Party!



Editor

It was February. It was a Saturday afternoon. It was time for the wonderful Wine & Cheese Party at Dick & Karla Mathews' beautiful home. The day was a bright sunny winter's day. Lots of Healey club members turned out with not only wine but hors d'ouvres galore. There must have been 20 bottles of wine, and everything from luscious fresh fruit, to deviled eggs, to liver pate', to spinach soufflé, to shrimp & dip, to lots of interesting cheeses, breads, & crackers. Wow, what a spread!

Lots of conversations ensued, along with examination of period literature & memorabilia. Eventually the trip to the lower level found avid watchers of historic video footage. It can't get any better than this, with all the treats and friends enjoying a pleasant afternoon.

Dick's daughter and niece were again helping with the serving. It was great to see Sandy Rixen and Fran Stein attend. Both have had medical issues recently, and it was nice that they could be there. This event has become a highlight on the MAHC yearly events list. Thank you again, Dick, for allowing us to have this gathering at your home!





Report on 3/3/06 Tech Session at TOTAL ENGINE

By Dan Powell

Kids in a candy store. That's what it looked like when about thirty individuals from the Minnesota Austin Healey Club and/or VSCR saw the interior of Total Engine. Due to a mix-up, attendance wasn't recorded. Hence no list of attendees, but you know if you were there or not. Thanks to Jeff Johnk, who personally has funded at least part of one or more of their machines. We were treated to a rare, and possibly one-off, tech session by Kenny, the owner of Total Engine.

Kenny got his start in high school (1972) by working part time in a machine shop. He founded Total Engine in 1980 and from the number of engine blocks, etc, waiting "help", it appears business is good. Kenny introduced Jason and Bruce who work with him to provide quality engine services. In response to a question, Kenny said that the biggest normally aspirated engine they had built was about 1300 HP (probably Jeff's new engine).

Before and after his presentation, club members spent time contemplating what they would have done to their engines IF they stumbled onto a pile of cash. Their choices would include magnifluxing, flow bench work, balancing, head and valve work, milling, boring, honing, etc, etc, etc!

An interesting observation is that with all the work that's done at Total Engine, there wasn't a speck of dirt or grease on the floor or on any of the machinery.

The basic philosophy I came away with was: think it out, take your time, do it right, and enjoy the end result! A big thanks to Kenny, Jason, and Bruce for taking time out of their Saturday work day and to Jeff Johnk for arranging this interesting tech session.

Confession

Bless me Father for I have sinned. My last confession was several years ago when I ventured off the straight and narrow and bought three Morris Minor project cars. This time my sin is that I have bought seven Jensen Healey sports cars in the past several months. I know that this is considered a serious sin in some sports car circles - strangely, even by some Austin Healey enthusiasts. Father - I need your advice and consultation. Have I indeed sinned?

My son, this is a very delicate question. According to Cannon Law you may not have sinned, but by buying seven, you may be guilty of gluttony. So why seven, my son? Father, it's like shooting fish in a barrel. Even though they made 10,498 cars - they are readily available at a cheap price. I see different ones for sale every week on ebay, and then I go to the web site < Jensenhealey.com. > where more Jensen Healeys are for sale in the marketplace section. What am I to do, Father?

My son, you may have to stay away from these places as they are "near occasions of sin". Remember, my son, self control is a virtue.

I know this Father, but I'm not sure that something so wholesome as a Jensen Healey can be a sin. These cars are real Healeys, designed by Geoffrey and Donald Healey - built in England, by Jensen, who built the bodies for the Austin Healeys. They are real Healeys and real sports cars. After all, they were SCCA national champions for three years in D class, back in the early 1970's, beating the likes of Porsche, Datsun, and Alfa.

Father, I realize that Jensen Healeys had problems early on in production with teething problems with the Lotus 907 engine that did create frustration amongst early owners. Then there were engine fires because of some little plastic T in the gas line that failed after a few years. And yes, I know that the cam belts were not up to the task on the early cars, and this wrecked a lot of engines. But all of these problems have been addressed, and yet the poor reputations of these cars still remains yet today. Father, what can I do about this?

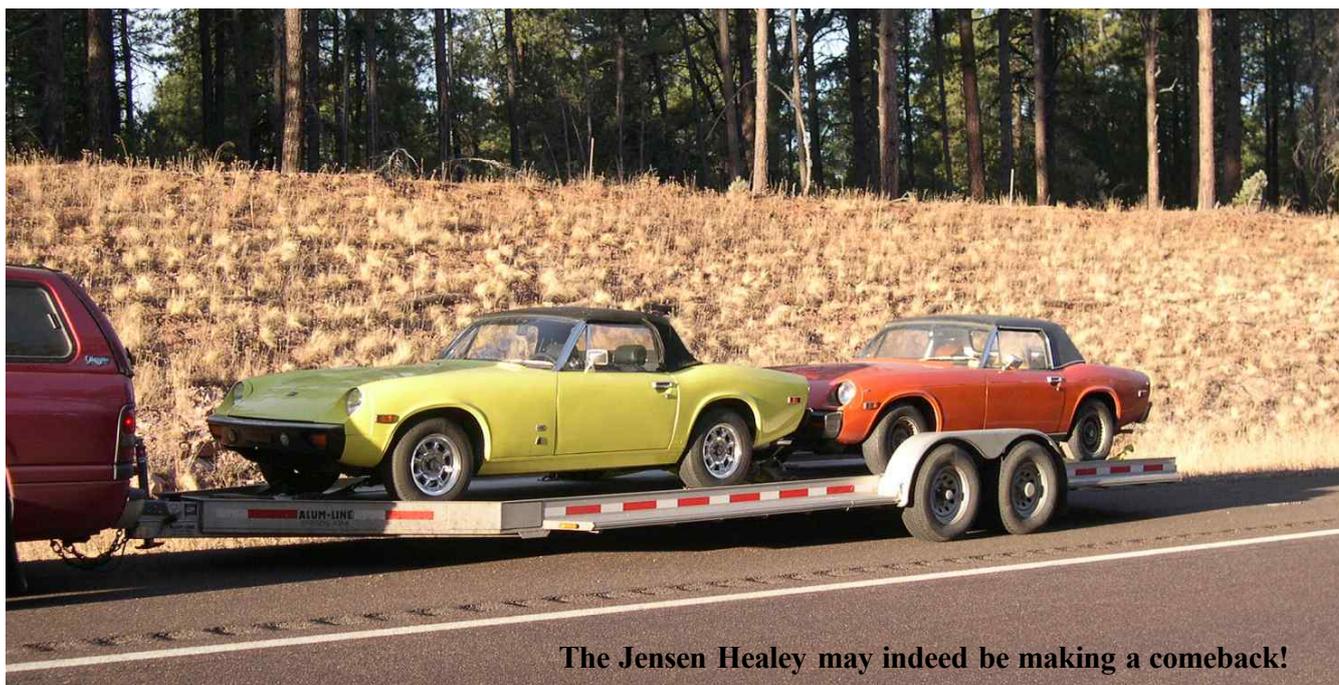
My son, I have just spoken with the Archbishop about the Jensen Healeys. He did some fact finding and has assured me that having Jensen Healeys is in fact not a sin at all. In fact it may be heroic and possibly saint like.

As for what you should do about this, my son, the Archbishop has appointed you to go on a mission to spread the gospel of the Jensen Healey marque. My son, he wants you to form "Team Jensen Healey" to show the sports car community what a great car the Jensen Healey is.

Go to club hill climbs, gymkhanas, and rally's to show the Jensen Healey in its real sports car element. My son, use your best talents and influence to make this project a success. God is on your side on this mission of mercy. Go forward into the sports car world bravely!

Thank you Father for your advice and best wishes. I will do my best. Just one more thing Father, I have some other regular sins to confess.....

By Tom Politiski



The Jensen Healey may indeed be making a comeback!

Vice President's Report

By Mike Manser

Road Signs ???

"What did the unfriendly mosquito say to his sidekick?" The March Pie with the Prez was well attended by Curt Carlson, Jim Klein, Jack Stein, Scott McQueen, Dave Jensen, Rich Stadther, Gary Ronning, John Snyder, Tom Moerke, Dale Martin, Tom Politiski, Mike Martin, Dick Mathews, Dave Lee, Steve Rixen, Stu Johnson, Tom Hazen, Dan Powell, and Andy Lindberg (aka Speed). The April Pie with the Prez is the annual "bring a friend" meeting. Spouses, children, friends are all welcome to accompany someone to the meeting.

There are some Healey Happenings to report. Dick Mathews is converting his 100-4 transmission to a more reliable 5 speed version. For a 100-4 like this the conversion is quite a project but, in true Mathews' style, it will be a much admired and sought after conversion. I think the tranny is from a Datsun...a very good choice. Paul Weidner's Bugeye is getting a new coat (green) to match some of the other new "fun" parts which you will need to discover for yourself.

As for myself, I am slowly gearing up for racing this summer by spending money so that I can spend money this summer racing. Confusing? Well, keep in mind that everything in racing costs money. If you even want to have fond thoughts of racing you might as well start writing a check. A small rules change in SCCA now allows me the opportunity to spend money on a new racing harness to continue to be compliant with safety regulations. I also hope to buy and install a badly needed set of headers and exhaust gas temp gauges and to revert the ignition system back to points from optical pickup. All of this should allow me to spend money to race at several vintage and SCCA events this summer (and allow anyone else to be pit crew...hint...hint). Hope all is well with everyone.

"You suck. And what did the companion say back?
You bite."



The new **Minnesota British Car Club Forum** was established for all British automobile Owners and Enthusiasts to come together and share a virtual pot of tea or your other favourite 'non-specific' drink of choice. Sections are specific for each club as requested so you can see what is going on with the Minnesota Austin Healey Club or jump over to see what's happening elsewhere in the various Twin Cities British Car Clubs. There are specific sections on British cars for sale, wanted and parts section as well as an 'other' section for all of our Italian, German, French and other counterparts.

We will also set up temporary sections specific for major events as YOU request them so you can communicate with various clubs and coordinate major events such as Rendezvous with our Canadian Counterparts, MG2006 with others traveling in the same group or other events that you feel cross the 'model specific' boundaries.

The MN British automobile forum can be found at:

<http://www.bmcautos.com/forum>

For Minnesotans and All surrounding communities with the British Automobile persuasion.

New Members !

From the North come the latest new members – Jim & Judy Cherveney of Duluth! They own an Austin Healey Mk III BJ8. We hope to see them at some club events this year.

Also Bruce and Donna Winder of Pine River have joined. They have an Austin Healey AN-5 Bugeye Sprite. Bruce has some "renewing" to do on the car, but hopefully we will see them on the road soon. Welcome All !!

Events Schedule

- April 1 **** **Tech Session** – (Sat.) Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the garage of Paul Weidner – 3730 Hubbard Ave. No.in Robbinsdale. Session will focus on autocross modifications for a Bugeye Sprite and Tires for British Cars. See page 3 for more information.
- April 5 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See notice on page 3.
- April 22 **** **Clean-up/Tour** - (Sat) Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Schoolhouse Square in Hastings (US HWY 61 and 10th Street). We will proceed down to our assigned area on US HWY 61 near Lake City, MN for the Spring Adopt-A-Highway clean up. Arrangements are being made by Greg Lauser. Note: The tour to the Austin car collector's home in Wisconsin has been postponed until Fall.
- April 29** **Midwest Motor Sports Open House** – (Sat.) Info at www.mmqq.org .
- May 3 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice
- May 6**** **Spring Blossom Tour** - (Sat.) Another sparkling drive to be arranged by Tom Hazen.
- May 19-21** **Vintage GT Challenge** – (Sat.) This will be the weekend for the Spring races at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI.
- May 21** **Intermarque Banquet & Car Show** – (Sun.)The Intermarque Council will again sponsor the Spring banquet. It will take place at the Radisson Conference Center in Golden Valley.
- May 26-28** **Donneybrooke Vintage Revival** – (Fri – Sun) – The VSCR will again have their racing and touring weekend at BIR in Brainerd. For info call Rich & Liz Stadther at 651-698-1981.
- June 7 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- June 11** **Classic Car Club of America/Mercedes Benz Concours Event** – (Sun.) Very nice showing of Classic Cars at Rice Park in downtown St. Paul. Details later.
- June 15 - 18**** **Rendezvous 2006** - This will be the 16th year for the annual Lake Superior Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous. The location this year will be in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Get your hotel reservations in early!
- June 18 - 23** **AHCA Conclave 2006** – “Ohio Odyssey” The event will be in Akron, Ohio this year, and it should be a good one. Reserve early. For more information, call Greg Lauser at 715-262-9813 or email to glauser@pressenter.com .
- June 23 – 25** **Back to the 50's Car Show** – The annual supersize car show at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. If you want to see tons of fancy cars, here's the place!

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

Another New Healey??

Evidently there is another group called HFI Automotive that is attempting to produce a new Healey Coupe. A gentleman named Tim Fenna is the Managing Director and supposedly has the blessing of the Healey family. It will be made in England and delivery is projected to be mid 2007.

Thanks to Tom Moerke for finding the article in US News & World Report and submitting it.

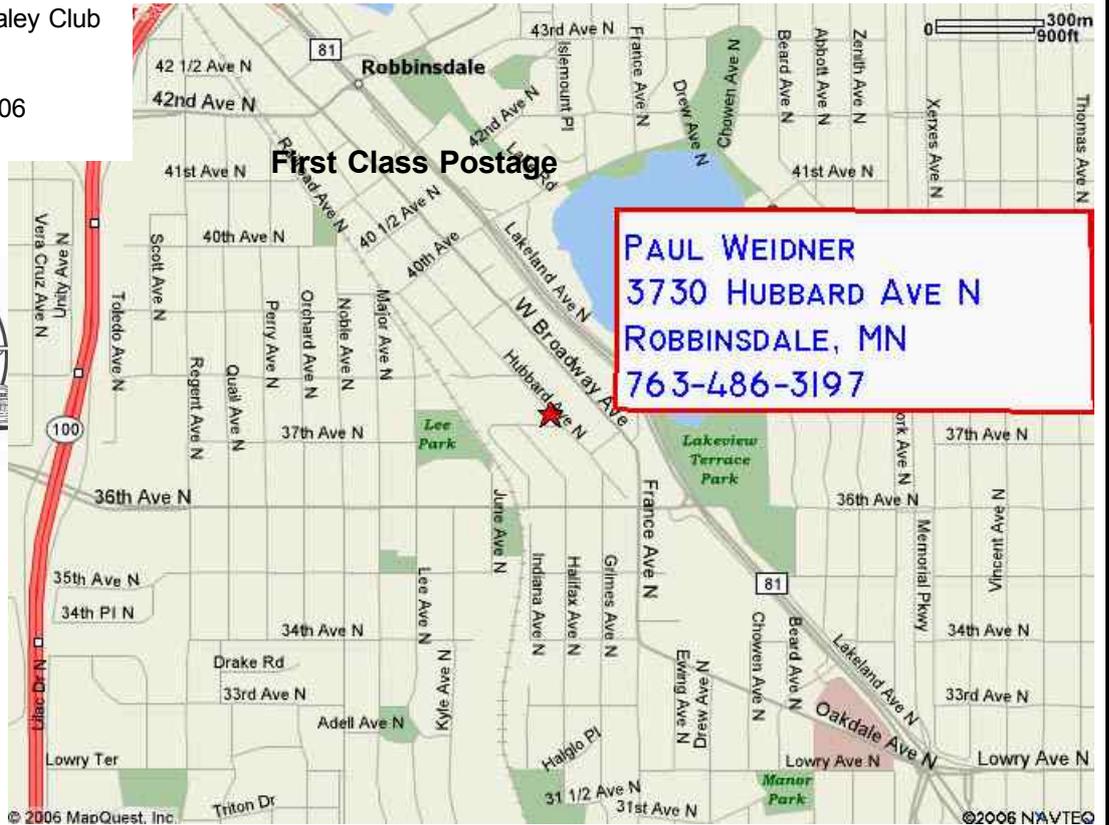


Events Schedule

- July 5 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- July 8 **** **Healey Hill Climb** – (Sat.) This is the projected date for the exciting annual event at Afton Alps Ski Resort. Details forthcoming.
- July 14 – 16** **The BRIC – The Brian Redmond International Challenge.** This is the big annual vintage car race event held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI. For details, call Jeff Johnk, Dan Powell, or Jeff Lombard.
- July 29**** **Tour & Picnic** – (Sat.) This will be another Tour ending up with a picnic at Carl & Betty Stine's beautiful farm in Beldenville, WI. Details later.
- Aug 2 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Aug 12** **Swap Meet/Car Show** – (Sat) 9:00 a.m. This event has been held at the Ellingson Car Museum on Hwy. 94 near Rogers, MN for the past several years. It's a great place to buy or sell parts and show your car. Sponsored by the MN MG Group.
- Aug 13 **** **Healey Morgan Picnic** – (Sun) Annual event. Jeff & Karen Sartell will host the picnic this year at their home in Princeton, MN. Details later.
- Aug 19 **** **Gymkhana** – (Sat) Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Brown & Bigelow parking lot at 345 Plato Blvd. In St. Paul. The pylons will be set up, and you can test your driving skills. For more info, call Scott McQueen at 612-623-4938 or email to smcqueen@mn.rr.com .
- Aug. 27** **Antique Tour** – (Sun.) This will be a shopping tour that is being arranged by Mike and Stacey Manser. Details later.
- Sept. 6 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Sept. 9** **Wheels 'n Wings** – (Sat) 8:00 a.m. Always a lot of cars and a lot of books. Airplanes , a train ride, hot dogs, and friendly people make it an enjoyable day in Osceola, WI.
- Sept. 15 – 17** **Fall Vintage Race Festival** - Held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI. A great opportunity to see vintage racing up close. Call Jeff J., Dan P., or Jeff L. for details.
- Sept. 18 – 23** **Black Hills Tour** – (Mon. – Sat.) A multiple day event is being organized by Dale Martin and Tom Politiski for a beautiful road tour through the winding roads of the Black Hills in South Dakota. Please let them know if you are interested in participating. Call Dale at 651-436-5902 or Tom at 218-367-2168.
- Sept. 30**** **Adopt A Highway Clean-up** (Sat.) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to be on this date. Details later.
- Oct. 4 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Oct. 7** **Fall Color Tour-** (Sat.) Come out and enjoy the beautiful Fall colors with our Jaguar Club friends. George Arthur will be arranging the event. Details later.
- Oct. 21**** **Final Fall Tour** – (Sat.) – Details later.
- Nov. 1 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.
- Nov. 18 **** **Annual Business Meeting Party** – (Sat.) The annual business meeting, election of officers, and dinner banquet will occur on this evening at the Officer's Club. Details later.
- Dec. 2 **** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat.) The schedule of events for 2007 will be on the agenda for this meeting. Mike Manser will select the site.
- Dec. 6**** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See previous notice.

** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

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



MARKETPLACE

WANTED: Soft Top Bows for a '59 100-6. Call Darrell Pearson at 952-927-9471 (3/06)

WANTED: LR big Healey fender with swage line beyond wheel opening. Call Dan Wolters at 651-793-7123 (3/06)

WANTED: Spare tire for Jensen Healey – 185/70-13 or thereabouts. Call Rich Stadther at 651-698-1981 (3/06)

FOR SALE: Five Spridget Rostyle Wheels – four with Mich.XAS145 tires. With tires – Free. Without tires - \$100. per wheel. Call Herb Miller at 612-860-8067 or email to hgmiller3@qwest.net . (3/06)

FOR SALE: 1958 A-H 100-6 BN4 Completely redone. New paint, Heritage interior, rebuilt engine, new wiring, etc. Many extra parts. \$24,500. Call Tom Hendel at 507-359-4766 or email to tomhendel@mn.rr.com . (3/06)

FOR SALE: 1975 Triumph TR6 Parts car. Rusty underneath. Many good parts. \$1000. Call Tom Hendel (above). (3/06)

FOR SALE: Parting out three Jensen Healeys. Email your needs to Tom Politiski at healeymog@yahoo.com . (4/06)

FOR SALE: 1975 Jensen Healey – 5 speed, no rust, good engine, weber carbs, needs cosmetics. \$3500. Email Tom Politiski at healeymog@yahoo.com (4/06)

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.