



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XVII No. 8

August 2006



Paul (and daring co-pilot) attacking at
The Healey Hillclimb!

August Events

Wednesday August 2 – PIE Meeting
Saturday August 12 – Ellingson Car Show
Sunday August 13 – Healey-Morgan Picnic
Saturday August 19 – Gymkhana Event
Sunday August 27 – Antique Tour

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Presidential Mike**By Mike Martin**

Well, here's the latest. My 48 spoke wires, if adjustable, would cost \$60 to true and another \$25 to paint. That's from Hendrix Wire Wheels. A simple test is to put a wrench on the spoke nipple and try to turn it. If it turns the spoke, throw the wheel in the dumpster. That's pretty straight forward.

On Friday the 14th, Jack Stein and I went on a road trip to Lawton, Iowa. What's there you ask? Why it's the home of "Healey Werks", I answer. It is actually West of Lawton and less than 10 miles East of Sioux City - on the North side of Highway 20.

We met the owner, Craig Hillinger, in the showroom where there was space for at least three cars. Sitting in the room was the most beautiful BRG BJ8 I have ever seen. It sat next to a Ferrari and wasn't ashamed to be in the same company. That happened to be a Gold Concours 99.7 car!

We then went on a tour of the facility. You'd have to see it to believe it. Each stage of the operation was separate. Final assembly held around 6 cars and was as clean as a hounds tooth. Not just Healeys mind you, but a Ferrari, a Hemi powered Daimler, an E type Jag, and two more Healeys.

The next room was the engine room. Another clean room, and a bunch of engines covered with plastic sitting on stands. There was more than one V12 in the batch.

Another room was a very large space that could hold around 12 cars. This was the tear down and fabricate area. At least 6 Healeys were in various stages of repair. Craig said they can build a car from scratch, if needed. Various presses and rollers were there - things I'd not seen before.

The paint room contained the prep area and the paint booth. I asked if they did routine repairs and maintenance, to which he replied "of course, come with me". We walked back to another area near the showroom. Low and behold, there was a shop that's about 6 cars wide and 3 deep. It contained an in-house Dyno that is computer controlled. They can place a car on the Dyno and run it through its paces without even going out on the road. Amazing!

We spent about an hour with Craig and got the royal treatment. He said they are taking jobs now for delivery in the summer of 2007. By the way, shop rates are \$71 per hour. The only drawback was the 4 1/2 hour drive down there. Out front sat a new Ford flat bed transporter, so I'm thinking he might pick up for you. We did stop at the home of Blue Bunnies Ice Cream for a treat on the way back - not bad for a couple of old geeks on an adventure! I won't soon forget that BJ8.

Lets go back to the future. Coming up this month: Ellingson's on the 12th, Healey /Morgan picnic on the 13th, the Gymkhana on the 19th, and the Antique Tour on the 27th. Lots of activities for all, and a great chance to strut your Healeys. Wait a minute, I almost forgot PIE on the 2nd! We'll be off to Oregon on the 29th of July and back on the 23rd of Aug. See you on the Antique Tour.

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 August 2nd
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.

Cover photo compliments of Aaron Courteau.
 Thank you!

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 room added on just for us!!** The location again is:

The Square Peg Diner
 2021 East Hennepin Ave. Mpls.



Antique Tour

The details for the August 27th Antique Tour will be forthcoming via email. Please watch for it.

HEALEY / MORGAN PICNIC

At the home of Jeff & Karen Sartell
 6651 Alpine Road, Princeton
 Please RSVP to jksartell@ecenet.com or call 763-389-9151 cell: 612-227-1115

August 13 (Sunday) 2pm until dusk.
 Bring something for yourself to grill, a salad or dessert to share, and a beverage if you want something other than the softdrinks/water provided.

Go to MN highway 95 – I35 to Northbranch or 65 to Cambridge, or 169 to Princeton or 47 from Anoka (best drive).

FROM THE EAST on 95:

Turn left (south) onto Mille Lacs county 1– Alpha Road (0.2 mile past the “Princeton” sign). Go 0.9 mile on county 1. Turn left onto county 117 (Aspen Road). Go 1.4 miles on county 117. Turn left onto Alpine Road (gravel). Go 0.2 mile to 6651.

FROM THE WEST on 95:

Turn right (south) onto Mille Lacs county 1– Alpha Road (0.2 mile past Rum River Drive). Same as above: Alpha to Aspen to Alpine.

Gymkhana

Date: Saturday August 19th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Brown & Bigelow Parking Lot
 345 Plato Blvd.
 St. Paul, MN



It's time again to test your driving skills zipping around the pylons. The course is always new, even though the location is the same. Please bring your Safety Helmet, if you have one. There will be extras available at the site as well. You may want to bring some water or soda if the day is hot. We will adjourn to Awada's Restaurant, as usual, after the event. Spectators are welcome too!



Paul was supercharged, alright!



Al, chasing turkeys up the hill !

Healey Hillclimb!

Editor

The Corner Workers were there, the Timers lurking in the woods were there, the Drivers were there, and Tom Hazen was doing a Sunshine Dance. Someone had unexpectedly already done a Rain Dance, so Tom had to try to reverse that action. Yes, it was a bit damp in the morning, but the weather did level off, and another great day of Autocrossing and Hillclimbing did take place. Modern cars and Vintage cars provided excitement for everyone. A total of 66 cars took part with 207 starts!

Lots of Spectators were there as well as a full complement of Drivers and Cars. Last year Tom told the banquet manager there would be about 90 people for lunch, then only 70 lined up. This year he told them 90 to 120 people, and ended up with 175 customers. Everyone should be happy about that!

Healey Hillclimb goes high tech! One guy pulled up to the starting line with his girlfriend in the passenger seat. Can't remember the name or car, but it was a young couple. She was holding a laptop with a bunch of cables coming out the back. It was running data acquisition software. It measures acceleration, braking, pedal pressure, steering inputs and such. What next??



Randy, also known as "The ConeEater" !



Tom P. – the Jensen Healey Man!



Leroy cruisin' the cones !



Tom in the spotlight !

AMERY AIRPORT RUN !

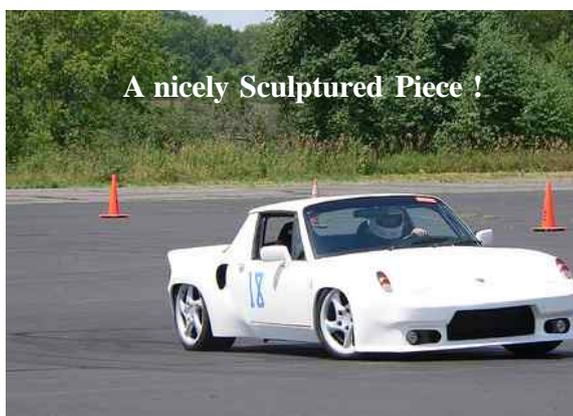
By Tom Moerke

The first annual Amery Airport Autocross and Straightaway Speedrun was a great success. The fastest time of day for the full course was 55.44 posted by Walden Ringwelski in his 1979 Porsche 930 turbo. Fastest time in the auto cross section goes to Paul Weidner driving his 1959 Austin Healey Speedwell Sprite. Fastest Radar gun speed at the finish line was obtained by Glenn Ciegler in his beautiful 2005 Ford GT. He screamed through the traps at 128 mph. We had a total of 76 cars and 253 starts.

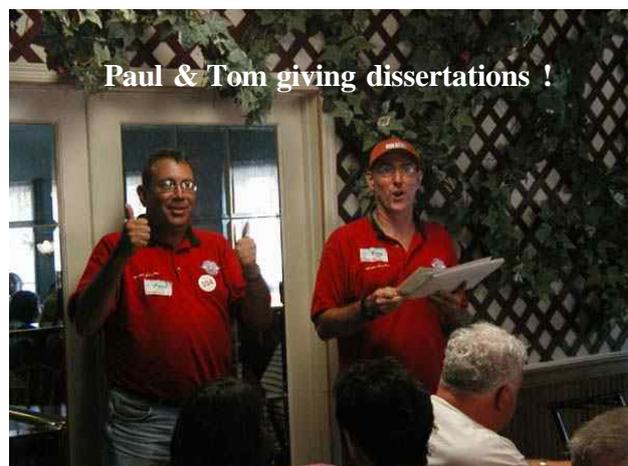
All the races were fun to watch, including Andy Lindberg's 2 CV's lean angles, Steve Rixen's slip sliding his big Healey through the auto cross, the smoothly efficient fast Miatas, and the Vipers which were awesome on the straightaway and handled the autocross quite well.

The layout was very good with great spectator viewing of the autocross. The Amery Girl Scouts did a super job of providing us with hotdogs, brats, cold pop, fruit, and of course Girl Scout cookies - all at reasonable prices. The Square Peg provided coffee and goodies to all free of charge - most welcome in the morning.

Tom Hazen did a superb job of running the event. Our great thanks to him, all the helpers, and Jay Griggs (airport manager), who kept the planes flying while allowing us to have fun. The weather was not beastly hot, and we even got a pleasant sprinkle in the afternoon to cool us all down. A very enjoyable day!



A nicely Sculptured Piece !



Paul & Tom giving dissertations !

Healey Club members who drove their cars at the Amery Airport Run:

Ernie West	1975	Jensen Healey	red
Paul Weidner	1959	A-H Speedwell Sprite	green
Tom Moerke	1972	MG Midget	red
Steve Rindt	1970	Triumph GT6+	red
Diane Rindt	1976	MG Midget	red
Larry Nimmerfroh	1964	A-H 3000 MK3 BJ8	blue
Randy Byboth	1996	Mazda Miata	red
Cindy O'Brien	1996	Mazda Miata	red
Steve Rixen	1957	A-H 100-6	yellow
Chuck Norton	1959	A-H Sprite	red
Andy Lindberg	1978	Citroën 2CV	blue
Don Eggebrecht	1999	VW Passat	silver
Matt Eggebrecht	1999	VW Passat	silver



Healey Club members were allowed to register for free. The Minnesota Austin-Healey Club Membership has its privileges!

The VP Report

by Mike Manser

“What did one teddy bear say to the other when he offered him some dessert?” The July Pie with the President was an enjoyable evening with lots of talk about current club member projects, upcoming activities, and, of course, Healeys. Herb Miller’s very very nice blue bugeye sprite graced the event in addition to several other Healeys. Members in attendance were Paul Weidner, Curt Carlson, Jeff and Karen Sartell, Dave Jensen, Jack Stein, Greg Lauser, Tom Moerke, Rich Stadther, Wayne Soderbeck, Scott McQueen, Mike Martin, Spook Johns, Don Eggebrecht, Darrel Pearson, Gary and Barb Ronning, Steven Rixen, Andy Staebell, Dave Lee, Tom Hazen, Herbert Miller, and Jim “Go Fast” Kriz.

Fun, fun, fun...that is the theme for this month’s column. For me, it started at the hill climb with me running the Datsun 240Z race car. Tom Hazen organized this highly successful and enjoyable event which consisted of a mandatory relaxation session due to rain, and then a bunch of runs up the hill. For me the hill was the most fun because of the “clench factor”. The clench factor occurs when you are blasting up the hill at a high speed, you have to take a blind corner, and clench your muscles in the hope that the road around the corner will be exactly where you hope. It is the anticipation of the risk. If the road is not where you expect both you and Tom will regret your coming to the event.

The second event was the Kohler International Challenge vintage race at Road America. If you are a lover of classic cars this should have been a mandatory event as there were 450+ vintage and historic cars ranging from Austin Healeys, to Triumphs, to Aston Martins, Porsches, and virtually any other car of which you could dream. There was a Lola T70, Porsche 917, and a stable of Can Am cars. The event was absolutely incredible. As for my racing...well, I did ok. I bested my best time, the car held together, and I didn’t fall over due to heat exhaustion. To me that is a successful event. I want to thank the Johnks, Lumbards, and Powells for the generous hospitality and for helping me navigate the event. “No thanks, I’m stuffed.”



Steve Hendrickson

Forty Four. It's just a number. If I had to put it on something, I'd have thought of the old Group Forty Four race team. Unfortunately I now have another reason to remember that number. That's the age Steve Hendrickson was when his family lost a husband, father, son, brother, and uncle; and we in the motorsports and publishing industries lost a friend.

I don't claim to know Steve well. My friendship with him started several years ago when he purchased a Sprite and started autocrossing. I would, however, like to share a few of my memories with you...

About that Sprite he had, he purchased it already built (rare for him as he was a builder - his first love was Hot Rods) and became involved with the local autocross and vintage Austin Healey clubs. He didn't make all the events as his family and work kept him busy, but he really enjoyed driving the car when he did come out. He was very willing to share it. He let me drive it at an Austin Healey Gymkhana. I think that's the reason I bought my project Sprite.

Steve had a great capacity to enjoy life and share with others. I was frankly quite overwhelmed when I bought my project Sprite several years ago. He came over and custom fabricated an inner door panel and installed a new door latch. Since it had been a race car, the old latch/door structure had been cut out and the door riveted shut. He was meticulous in his work, a true craftsman. While there, he me gave advice on what to do. "Start small, just do a little at a time, and before you know it..." . He had an interesting set of tools and delighted in talking about them. He could make a used sheet steel nipper sound interesting, and the story about how he found it was even better. When we were done, he refused any payment - not even for his time or materials. He said to "pay it forward", as he was that kind of guy.

I've talked about Steve to several members of the local autocross club, and they all mentioned how welcoming and helpful he was. A couple, that started after he did, said he helped show them the ropes and made them feel part of the group. One of my personal regrets is that my car wasn't done before Steve's illness progressed to the point that he couldn't autocross anymore. We'd been looking forward to competing with each other and enjoying our cars together. I did bring my car out for Steve to see this spring and gave him a ride. We visited for a couple hours. This was the last time I saw him. Being Steve, he was upbeat and more concerned with others than with his illness. He didn't dwell on it.

We'll all miss you Steve --- I know you can hear this: I will "Pay it Forward".

Paul Weidner

TECH TIP: by Doctor Ernie

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Maybe so. But a mechanic doesn't have that umbrella to hide under. No matter what your age or how old of cars you work on, technology moves on. Until just a month ago I thought that Permatex hardening number one and Permatex ultra black would work in all situations that I'd ever run into. Wrong! I've recently acquired a 1975 Jensen Healey with a thoroughly worn out Lotus 907 engine in it. With it came a whole new set of requirements for gasketing. In fact in many instances, no gaskets - just sealers. The reproduction "Factory Manual" spoke in terms and names more closely related to the Old Testament. No products today bear those names, and confusion was magnified because it's a British car with a British manual.

My next step was to surf the Internet regarding this car. After more than six hours, I found out all of the answers you could ask for. Unfortunately, almost all of them disagree or conflicted with each other. So, next I hit the local parts stores. None of those places provided much help - or they made such comments as: "We jes use ultra black". One of the stores did have the anaerobic cement; but when I read the container, it called for a cleaner/activator to be used. When I asked for that, I was informed-----"oh, we don't stock that".

Finally I asked to see their Permatex catalog. At last pay dirt! I was surprised to see the size of that catalog. Those folks have a product to solve about every problem but your uncle's bad table manners. The most useful product I found and needed was a gray product in a tube. It's quite thin, and its primary use is to seal split case situations common in motorcycles, snowmobiles, transmissions, and my Lotus engine. These are metal joints without gaskets. So, this tech tip could have just been shortened up to: ask to see, and read the Permatex Catalog.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**August 12 th
2006**

9:00am to 3:00pm

**The Minnesota MG Group presents:
The annual Ellingson's ALL British
Car Show & Swap-meet**

**The areas largest All
British Car Show and swap
meet!**

Do you own any of the following cars?

AC, Albion, Allard, Allegro, Alvis, Austin, Bantam,
Bentley, Bristol, BSA, Capri, Daimler, Healey, Jaguar,
Jensen, Land Rover, Lanchester, Leyland Motors, Lon-
don Taxi, MG Mini, Morris, Morgan, Nash, Oxford, Ri-
ley, Rolls Royce, Rover, Standard, Sunbeam, Triumph,
TVR, Vangaurd, Vanden Plaus, Wolseley, or any other
car built in Britain?



**Show your car for \$5
Swap meet spaces are \$5-\$15**

Come to the annual, All British Car Show and Swap-meet

- * View the cars
- * Buy & Sell Parts
- * Talk to the owners
- * Tour the museum

Ellingson's Car Museum
20950 Rogers Dr.
Rogers, MN 55374-9191
Corner of Hwy 101 and I-94 in Rogers
Contact: Minnesota MG Group,
Jim Pennoyer (763)536-5472



Events Schedule

- Aug 2 **** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- 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. Entry fee - \$5.00 per 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. See page 3.
- 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 will come via email.
- 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. 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.

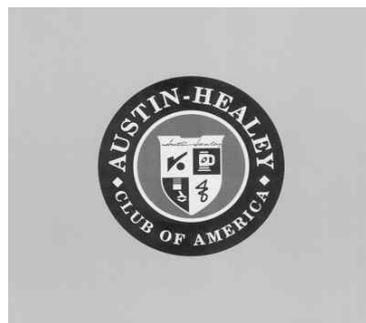
** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

Photos – Much appreciation is due to the many people who contributed Photos for this issue. They included Phil Ethier, Curt Carlson, Tom Hazen, and Aaron Courteau. Thanks to all!



Minnesota Austin Healey Club
Gary Ronning, Editor
1019 Ridge Haven Circle
Buffalo, MN 55313

First Class Postage



MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: 1958 Austin Healey 100-Six - We have just found a vintage "Nasty Boy" out in Dakota – 302 Mustang engine with a three speed stick. Solid straight body with a factory hardtop. Not run since 1989. For more details, email Tom Politiski at healevmog@yahoo.com . (4/06)

FOR SALE: Non original leather interior for AH BT7 – Black/red piping - \$150.00. Moss Carpet Kit for AH BT7 (Center-shift) – Black - \$165.00. New Floor Heat Shield (above muffler) - \$50.00. Call Gary Ronning at 763-684-4041 or email to gtronning@aol.com . (6/06)

FOR SALE: Four sets of ignition points for BN4, BN6, B7's - Moss part #872-861 - new, in boxes. Also one new condenser to match. 25 bucks for all five. Call Rossi at 612 822 7069. (7/06)

FOR SALE: Mint condition 1986 Jaguar XJ6 Vanden Plas. Very low mileage, cared for tenderly. Call Rossi at 612 822 7069. (7/06)

FOR SALE: 1974 Jensen Healey, runs well, starts easily, and has surprising power. (Factory spec is 140 HP.) Repaired the floors, replaced seats, brakes, alternator, and timing belt. All fluids changed last winter. The car has minor scratches but is a great British car as is. \$1500.00 Rich Stadther, St. Paul, MN 651-698-1981 or stadther@comcast.net . (7/06)

FOR SALE - Healey "flipper". This device bolts to the suspension points on a big Healey and allows the bare chassis to be turned over for tinworm eradication and rust repair. It is about 14 feet long and 3 feet tall. Call Tom Wolters at 651-388-7377 . (8/06)

FOR SALE - 1961 Bugeye Sprite Completely restored - no nut left unturned or refurbished. British Racing Green with Black Convertible top. Over \$20k invested. Will accept reasonable offers. Also, have a Morris 948 engine, Horizontal flow Radiator & Stuff. Open for offers: 763-757-2424 . (8/06)

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.