



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XVII No. 9

September 2006



DMH at Bonneville

September Events

Wednesday September 6 – PIE Meeting

Saturday September 9 – Wheels ‘n Wings

Fri-Sun September 15-17 – Fall Vintage Race Festival

Saturday September 23 – Open House

Saturday September 30 – Adopt A Highway Clean-up

MAHC STAFF

President	MIKE MARTIN 952-898-1634 ahbn1@aol.com
Vice President	MICHAEL MANSER 612-237-8078 michael@santrymotorsports.com
Treasurer	JIM KLEIN 763-559-1607 jimklein@jodcpa.com
Membership & Publisher	CURT CARLSON Box 6844 Minneapolis, MN 55406 612-721-8667 spritemann@h otmail.com
Newsletter Editor	GARY RONNING 763-684-4041 gtronning@aol.com
Photographer Video Librarian	BARB RONNING JIM WOJCIK 651-653-4523 jvwojck@comcast.net
WebMaster	JOHN SNYDER 952-929-4792 mnhealey@consistentc.com
Email Broadcaster	DAVE LEE 651-489-3157 dlee@usfamily.net
Name Tags	TOM HAZEN libertytrans@mn.rr.com
National Delegate	GREG LAUSER 715-262-9813 glauser@pressenter.com
Intermarque Delegate	ANDY LINDBERG 651-292-8585 andylinberg@earthlink.net
Future 50 Coordinator	DAN WOLTERS 651-793-7123 healey100jedi@yahoo.com
Regalia	JESSICA JOHNK 952-461-2720
Technical Resources	
Sprite	CHUCK NORTON 651-483-0836
100	DAN WOLTERS 651-793-7123
3000 & Modified	JEFF JOHNK 952-461-2720
Jensen Healey	TOM POLITISKI 218-367-2168
Board of Directors	TOM HAZEN DAVE LEE DALE MARTIN Chrmn. TOM MOERKE CHUCK NORTON
Web Site	www.mnhealey.com

Presidential Mike



By Mike Martin

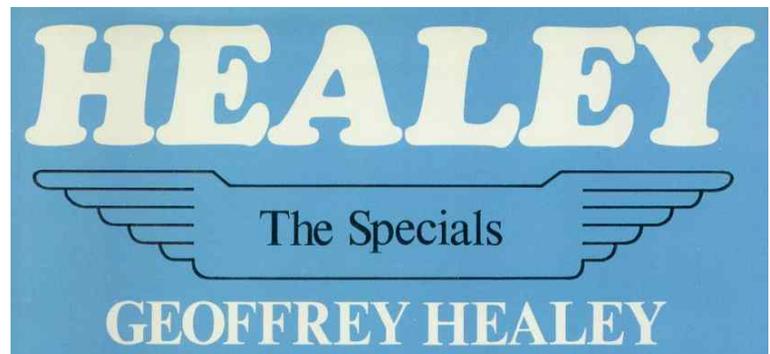
Hello from Oregon. I'm sitting here looking out our window at the whales and enjoying the great weather. Something is missing though – Healeys! I haven't seen a one, and this is a perfect place to tour around listening to that great exhaust note. I've got to figure a way to make that happen.

September is fast approaching - only about two weeks away as I write this - and that means only a couple months left of Healey weather. Make use of this time and drive, drive, drive!

Coming events are, Wings and Wheels, Elkhart Vintage Races, and our semi-annual Adopt A Highway cleanup. Don't forget PIE on Sept. 6, when I'll wax eloquently about the beauty of the Oregon coast.

See you all soon!

Cover Photo borrowed from the book:



Coincidentally, British race driver Andy Green broke the land speed record this week. He drove his twin diesel engine car to 328 mph on the Bonneville Salt Flats – the same place that DMH drove the car on the cover at 200 mph some 50 years ago!

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 September 6th
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.

Wheels 'n Wings

Saturday

September 9th

Classic Motorbooks

Osceola, Wisconsin

Loads of Cars –

Piles of Books!

Take a pleasant ride up the St. Croix River and enjoy this annual event.

Fall Vintage Race Festival

Sept. 15 – 17

RoadAmerica Race Track

Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

**Come out & cheer
for our MAHC drivers!**

NEW OPEN HOUSE

Date: Saturday September 23

Time: 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Place: Paul & Pat Gau's Home
 15613 Lake St. Extension
 Minnetonka, MN 55345
Ph: 952-933-7277
Email: pgau@mn.rr.com

Paul Gau has been a vintage race driver in his Sprite for many years. Paul and Pat have invited the MAHC and the VSCR (vintage racers) to their home for a casual afternoon to socialize and to admire the cars in their spacious yard. They will be serving Brats & Beer. Please bring a dish or snack to share. **Please RSVP before the 23rd (see above for email or phone).**

ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Clean Up

Date: Saturday September 30

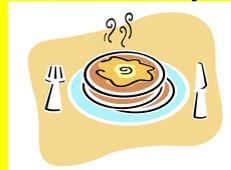
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Veterans Hwy. Roadside Park
 US Hwy 61 – Milepost 80
 Lake City, MN

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

The Square Peg Diner
 2021 East Hennepin Ave. Mpls.





Parade and Picnic

Pictures and story by Curt Carlson

17 hearty souls braved near 100-degree temperatures to participate in a tour and picnic of Western Wisconsin, culminating at Carl and Betty Stine's beautiful farm outside of Beldenville, WI. Those in attendance driving vintage cars included Wayne Soderbeck and his friend Jan, Curt Carlson, Dan Wolters, and Greg Lauser. Those who couldn't take the heat and decided to stay out of the kitchen included Dale and Barb Martin, Tom Politiski, Tom and June Moerke, and Chuck and Jean Norton. Present also in their BJ9's but with a valid excuse were: Steve and Sandy Rixen, Nancy Lauser, and Carl and Betty Stine. (Carl and Betty's car is in the shop with a minor fuel tank problem, and Nancy had to haul the food in Air-conditioned comfort.)

We were joined by Carl's daughter, granddaughter, and a family friend as we gorged under the shady oak trees on true southern barbecued ribs, succulent side dishes, and scrumptious desserts - including two of Betty's specialties. I'm not sure what Nancy made, but there wasn't one dish on the table that wasn't perfect and delicious. The ribs were so good that I still have dreams about them, and I'll remember that wonderful taste and texture until the day I die. Carl sure knows his way around the Barbecue. What a treat!

The day dawned with dire predictions for a sweltering afternoon, but it really wasn't that bad. The partial cloud cover stayed until we departed from Prescott, and once underway, Greg led us on a terrific tour through some winding coulee roads to Carl and Betty's. If you kept moving and had a cool drink nearby (and a tight car), the trip was most enjoyable. Once at Carl and Betty's there was a nice light breeze to keep us comfortable. All in all, I'd say it tops my list of this season's drives! Thanks to Greg and Nancy, and Carl and Betty for a most enjoyable day.



Have a Healey/Morgan picnic!

(How to guarantee an enjoyable afternoon in spite of a threatening weather forecast)

By Jeff Sartell

It was raining heavily Sunday morning August 13th. The weather channel suggested the condition would worsen by early afternoon. Then, shortly before 2:00 (the beginning of the Healey/Morgan picnic), the rain stopped and the day brightened. People started arriving. Four hours of car talk and ample delicious food followed.

(Ed. Note) Jeff and Karen Sartell moved to their present location near Princeton about a year ago. It is a lovely location on 3.5 acres in the woods on a small lake. Their home is beautiful, and there is a separate building in the back that can hold several Healeys. There is one very nice Healey in there – perhaps it will multiply! Jeff and Karen were very gracious hosts. Curt Carlson, Barb, and I arrived late, but they got the grill going again to make sure we were fed. Thanks to them for hosting the event!

The picnic was attended by Jim & Rose Klein, Dale & Barb Martin, George & Pamela Arthur, Robert & Karen Reed, Herb & Marsha Miller, Tom & June Moerke, Byron & Susan Peterson, Dave Lee, Jeff & Karen Sartell, Curt Carlson, Gary & Barb Ronning and future members/owners Pete, Katie, Trent & Dominick Smith.



Brainerd International Raceway (BIR)

Here's a news release:

July 27, 2006

Brainerd International Raceway sold to Forest Lake family.

Brainerd, Mn. - Brainerd International Raceway, Minnesota's premier motor sports facility long held by Sports Resorts International Inc., a Michigan based company, has been sold to BIR Holdings LLC, held by Jed and Kristi Copham of Forest Lake MN. The facility will be known as "Brainerd International Raceway and Resort".

Together, along with Sports Resorts CEO Donald J. Williamson, they take great pleasure in making this announcement for the Brainerd racetrack that has long played a historical significance in the Minnesota Motorsports landscape and Brainerd community. The 600 acre facility plays host each year to numerous automobile and motorcycle events including the renowned National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) 25th annual National Event scheduled for August 10 - 13, 2006.

"As the Mayor of Flint Michigan, and my wife Patsy Lou running for State Senate, we are focusing our efforts within our local community" commented Donald Williamson. "We have owned the Brainerd facility since 1994 and continued to invest each year with numerous capital improvements. We feel this has continued to make BIR a great destination for thousands of motorsports fans and racers". Williamson stated "they are pleased to have kept the 6-unit condominium building on the lake and sincerely wish the Cophams as much fun and success as we have had. We would also like to thank the Brainerd community for their support and continued well wishes for the new owners."

"As amateur road racers and occasional drag racers, my family and I are excited about the purchase of BIR" said Jed Copham. "Like many around the State of Minnesota and the Midwest, our family has been coming to BIR for years as participants and spectators. The opportunity for our company to purchase this facility and continue it's legacy is a welcomed challenge we look forward to for many years to come. My transition team is eager to continue the work that has taken place in this wonderful facility and we especially look forward to developing new relationships within the Brainerd area and all throughout the motorsports community".

"We want to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Copham into the NHRA family and look forward to working with them and the entire staff at Brainerd International Raceway for years to come," said Peter Clifford, Executive Vice President and General Manager, NHRA. "Given their personal involvement in racing, we are confident that as owners of the facility, they will make sure the needs of both the fans and the racing community are met and will be a great asset to the Brainerd community."

Future plans for BIR include a continuance of the current drag racing programs and road course racing programs while searching for new racing events for BIR's patrons and racing customers. Additional plans may include a revision of the current road course configuration with a goal of separating the current drag strip from the track's main straightaway. As allowed, additional configuration changes may see a new but separate and shorter road course design using turn's 2, 3, 4, and 5 on the current road course. Although BIR's famed 3 mile road course will continue to be an option for users, the construction of a shorter track will allow more options for multiple uses within the facility.

As many of you know, Jed was behind the recent valliant but failed efforts with Pine Run and Northstar to build a road racing course closer to the Cities. Apparently Jed will be abandoning the greenfield efforts and concentrating on refurbishing Brainerd instead.

Ed.: Thanks to **Tom Hazen** for this report

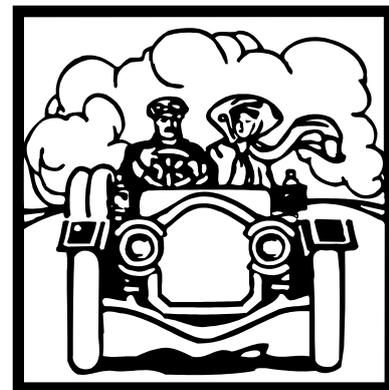
The VP Report

by Mike Manser

Can you believe it is the middle of August already? Honestly, it seems like only last week I was looking at the last wisps of winter out my back door. And now, just a few short weeks until the weather starts to change and the leaves fall. I hope everyone had a great time at the August Pie with the Prez. I apologize for not attending, but I was deeply engaged in several pints of Guinness just outside Dublin, Ireland and really couldn't bear to leave the conversation with the bartender. I know the corporate website indicates all Guinness tastes the same regardless of where it is served, but somehow it actually is better when drinking it in Ireland.

The purpose of my trip to Ireland was strictly for driving...I promise! Indeed, I was attending a professional conference detailing visual perception research on various aspects of driving performance. This is an area of research in which I have been involved for a number of years, and one which occasionally allows me to car-spot in different countries. I am unsure if the LBCs are now increasingly scarce, but my car-spotting turned up only a few interesting cars which included a couple old mini's and new and old MGs. The best sighting during this trip (and my previous trip to Ireland) was a 1929 Rolls Royce owned by a relative of mine, who is not much younger than the car. The car is special because of the remaining Rollers in Ireland, this is the only one with a ragtop that can be retracted. The car also features - on the steering column - OEM fuel mixture controls, spark advance/retard, and throttle control, which seems to be the forerunner of modern-day cruise control. It is a great car with a distinctive old car smell of combined fuel, oil, cloth, and dust.

O'Flaherty the Irishman was giving evidence in a road accident case: "Who was driving at the time of the accident?" asked the judge. O'Flaherty said, "My wife was, your Honour." The judge said, "And where were you at the time?" O'Flaherty said, "I was behind the wheel!"



Reminder Note !

It will soon be time to select new club officers and staff. Two positions for you to consider are a new **Vice President** (to be President the following year) and a new **Newsletter Editor**. After being the Editor for five years, I believe there should be a new person to take the position and insert new ideas. Also, any other staff members that want to be replaced should make their intentions known to President Mike Martin and VP Mike Manser.

TECH TIP:

by Doctor Ernie

Radiator Hoses

A no brainer right, yet how many of you haven't had grief with them? Not many I suspect. A problem that I run into quite frequently isn't actually a problem with the hose but its installation. And that's advice your old well meaning uncle or grandpa told you: "Just greaserup, she'll go on easy". Don't do it! Grease rots rubber! I've even seen some experienced mechanics do it. That practice can change a 10-year hose into a 2-year hose. You can identify a hose installed that way easily because that area will be swelled up and soft, with the hose clamp sunk in 1/8" and the end flared out like a trumpet. Using silicon glue won't hurt the hose, but it sure acts like a lubricant till it dries; and hoses can be simply blown off because of a natural buildup of pressure as the engine warms up. To avoid this, you may have to wait days for the silicon to dry. Then, of course, add to the problem that some sicko-casting engineer designs the water pump or thermostat housing nipple to be tapered to encourage the slipping off possibilities. Also there's the other blooming idiot who designs a 1/4" ridge around the nipple, when a 1/16" ridge would be plenty. And of course there's the normal casting flaws leaving divots and ridges. Don't fall for a name either. Just cause it's a high dollar-high tech car or engine doesn't remove it from the sloppy design list. A case in point - my own Lotus engined car had a water pump that looked like it was carved out with an ax.

Instead of using grease or glue, here are some tips on dealing with imperfect hose nipples: Don't be afraid to file off abnormally large ridges around the nipple end. 1/16" or even 1/32" of ridge is plenty. Next, file off any casting parting lines that run parallel to the nipple. If extreme casting lines or depressions can't be filed away, I clean the area with Brake-Clean, then fill in and smooth out with Quick Dry Number One Permatex or J-B Weld. After that sets up I simply install the hose dry.

On the radiator end or heater end of the hose great care must be taken when removing the hose. These brass connections are easily deformed. Use big pliers or screw drivers sparingly. A better way is to cut the hose carefully off with a carpet knife. If these brass nipples are damaged they can sometimes be trued up by using a small hammer and tapping out the dent using an appropriate sized bar or socket as an anvil on the inside of the nipple. To get maximum life from your hoses, don't let the antifreeze get too old, and clean off any grease or oil from the outside of the hose. After fixing an oil leak, part of the job should be to clean off all belts or hoses with Brake-Clean. There, that should take care of the entire British car crowds' spare time for an eternity!

More On Hoses

This is actually a follow up on the previous hose tech tip. Another problem with hoses is availability, especially on older cars. I've seen 40-year-old hoses go on E-Bay for ridiculous prices, if it's for a particularly rare car. You can compound this crime with the fact that such a hose is also probably junk. A hose that old unless it was vacuum packed in a sealed can has suffered the ravages of ozone and other deteriorating elements, rendering the hose with little life left; but there is an alternative to being satisfied with ancient hoses.

I've found that if I take the remnants of the old hose to my local parts supplier (Car Quest or NAPA) I can almost always find (out of there hundreds of hoses in stock) a suitable hose to use. I may have to cut off and throw away parts of the hose; but even at a 5 to 15 dollar price, it is far cheaper - and more important - a better alternative than using N.O.S. (New Old Stock).

Another problem you might run into is the need for a hose with different diameters on each end, I.E. a 350 Chevy in a Toyota Land Cruiser. In that particular case, I simply cut a 2" piece of hose that fit on the radiator outlet and then slid the larger hose over that and made sure that the radiator hose clamp was situated inboard of the rim of the radiator nipple. I had my doubts how effective that would be, but it has worked for ten years with cooling system pressures of 17PSI. Occasionally a parts store hose may come close but is too long between bends or the bends aren't quite correct. You can cut the hose in the middle, use a piece of appropriate diameter tail pipe, and two hose clamps as an effective splice - making it correct in length and angle.

This doesn't cover all possible situations you might encounter, but at least it will give you some ideas to apply. Happy Hosing!

Events Schedule

- Sept. 6 **** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- 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. 23** **Open House** – (Sat.) 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Paul and Pat Gau have invited us to their home in Minnetonka for an afternoon of car talk and browsing. See page 3 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. See page 3.
- 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**



NEW MEMBERS

Brian and Mary Duos of Eden Prairie have joined recently. They own a 1973 Jensen Healey that Brian purchased in 1976 ! Many years of driving enjoyment have been had in this car !

David and Anna Anderson also joined the MAHC. They live in Merrifield, Minnesota and own an AH 3000 Mk III BJ8.

Welcome to this friendly club, and we hope to see you all at future events soon!

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

First Class Postage



MARKETPLACE

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 & other Stuff. Open for offers: Call John Morrison at 763-757-2424 (9/06)

FOR SALE - Four 60 spoke Austin Healey Wire Wheels - excellent condition. \$200.00 Call Dick Mathews at 763-587-0285 (9/06)

FOR SALE: New pair of Front Bumper Brackets for A-H 3000 - \$50.00 Call Gary Ronning at 763-684-4041 (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.