



# The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XVIII No. 8

August 2007

## GYMKHANA VI INVITATIONAL



### August Events

Wednesday Aug 1 PIE

Friday Aug 3-5 Donnybrooke – Brainerd

Sunday Aug 5 Smiley Tour Bogus Creek

Saturday Aug 11 All British Car Show Ellingson's Rogers

Saturday Aug 18 Lauser/Stine Tour and Picnic

Saturday Aug 25 Amery Airport Event III

Sunday Aug 26 InterMarque Picnic #3 Cherokee Park - St. Paul

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## Presidential Polemical Exhortations



By Mike Manser

Hello Healeyphiles...

“Don’t look I’m changing!” In light of last month’s column extolling my physical misfortune you must be asking yourself if I have suffered additional torment at the hands (i.e., handles) of tools. Fortunately, no more damage and surprisingly the old wounds are healing quite nicely...the scars should not be too bad once the stitches and casts are removed. This month I want to share a few thoughts with you about buried treasure. No not the buried treasure the other driver finds in his nose while waiting in rush hour traffic. This buried treasure is typically dry and may in fact be interesting to others....it is Buried Car Treasure. I have heard of restorers pulling apart Healeys and finding “Merry Christmas” written on the inside of a fender. Apparently, an assembly-line worker in England was in a jolly mood just before going to the pub just before going on Holiday break. Recently, I read an article about a person who was disassembling an American muscle car and found a faded out very old vintage Dixie cup in the inside bottom of the door. The reason for the cup, the author posited, was that the factory worker did not want to take the time to walk over and throw out the cup properly. I wonder how many other cups are riding these cars...or perhaps treasure that is often found during rush hour traffic. Alas, I found my own buried treasure (no, that was not me in traffic). A year ago while pulling apart a Datsun 240Z parts car I found some Japanese writing under the dashboard. My Japanese friends at Nissan indicated an assembly person likely wrote it. The rough translation was “safe” and “inexpensive”. I failed to understand how the symbol meant two entirely different things but it did not matter...I was happy with my buried car treasure. More recently I found in my Healey a Wisconsin Parks System window sticker that my dad put on the window during the Conclave held in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin in the late 1980s. I wonder what buried car treasure I will leave. Blood stains from tools perhaps? “What did the first stoplight say to the second stoplight?”

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 1st

**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.

## 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.



## PIE REPORT

By Tom Moerke

**PIE on 7-11-07 was lots of fun**

In attendance were Larry Nimmerfroh, June Moerke, Tom Moerke, Tom Wolters, Bruce Hetrick, Dick Mathews, Wayne Soderbeck, Jan Huston, Greg Lauser, Brian McCullough, Rich Stadther, Jeff Lumbard, Dan Powell, Paul Weidner, Dan Wolters, Curt Carlson, Steve Rixen, Jeff Johnk, Gary Ronning, Mike Martin, Jack Stein, Brian Duoos, Don Rould, Betty Rould, Darrel Pearson, Andy Lindberg, Tom Hazen, and Scott McQueen.

Before the meeting started June Moerke gave everyone a piece of cherry pie she had baked that day with cherries she had picked. Several people ate more than one piece.

The treasurer's report showed \$10,722. in the till.

Scott McQueen talked about the upcoming Brown and Bigelow gymkhana on the 14th.

Greg Lauser talked about his trip to Conclave and also that the 2008 Conclave would be held in San Diego, CA.

Andy Lindberg gave us details on Drive-in Movie night at the Valley Hi. Come early and tailgate! Valley Hi is on I94 between St. Paul and Hudson.

Tom Hazen told us about his upcoming Aug. 5th Smiley Face Tour. Meet at several places, the most interesting would be the Bogus Creek Cafe in Stockholm, WI. See poster herein

Gary Ronning discussed Regalia and delivered some items.

The IM picnic was mentioned; at Cherokee Park in St. Paul on July 29th and Aug 26th.

Curt Carlson talked about Jeff Forss (the alignment guy) whom he, Curt, recommended highly. Phone no. 612-925-4483.

Where will Rendezvous 2009 be held? After some discussion it was apparent that Ashland, WI was the first choice.

Steve Rixen challenged all the vintage car owners to see if they could beat him at the Brown and Bigelow Gymkhana on the 14th.

Did anyone?

Hopefully there is a report by

Scott (gymkhanameister) McQueen in this newsletter

NEXT PIE is AUGUST 1, 2007 at Fort Snelling.

## TECH Tip: by Doctor Ernie Paper

My father-in-law used to say: Paper will lie still for anything. Meaning, you can write or print anything on it, whether it's true or not. I've touched on this subject before, but just in this last month I've run into three instances of incorrect information. So I'm going to cover it again.

While, in the automotive information field, it's rare to find intentional falsifying of facts, it's quite common to find errors. These errors can be chalked up to a number of excuses. Here's an abbreviated list: 1. The latest catalog was sourced out to a Taiwan firm where no one speaks English. 2. The typist hiccupped and the decimal point moved one place to the left. 3. The top boss at Acme Mfg. Decides it's a waste of money to include every car older than 1990 in the latest catalog ----- so the counter man assumes all spark plugs are about the same ---- so that's what he sells you. 3. The picture in the book was a copy of a transparency. Unfortunately the image was reversed. So you try to install a right side part on your cars left side. 4. Then there's the parts page that's hand drawn from memory, by a guy that's trying to recollect what last night's martini infested seminar was all about.

Well, you get the picture. (Pun intended). The fact is, do your homework when buying parts or reading a repair manual. If something doesn't seem right, do more research.

## REMINDERS FOR SEPTEMBER

5th	PIE
8 <sup>th</sup>	Wings 'n Wheels
14 – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Vintage Race Festival RoadAmerican
30 <sup>th</sup>	Wine Tour

## LAUSER / STINE TOUR and PICNIC August 18<sup>th</sup>

Meet for tour at Freedom Park in Prescott, WI 1:00 pm, \$10 per person for picnic.

Directions: Cross the river from MN, turn right on WI 35, 1/2 mile south to Freedom Park on the right. Please RSVP by August 11<sup>th</sup> to Greg at 715-262-9813 or email gLauser@pressenter.com.

Hosted by Betty/Carl Stine and Nancy/Greg Lauser

## WINERY TOUR and PICNIC September 30<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calender for Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> for a fun tour We are planning on a visit to a winery or two, an apple orchard, and a picnic in the scenic country area of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Full details in your September newsletter.

Hosted by Jan Huston, Wayne Soderbeck, and Tom Moerke

## The VP REPORT by Tom Moerke

We attended the Brown and Bigelow Gymkhana on Sat. the 14th.

I didn't get to run for any of the following reasons. My Midget is in the shop for a noisy header, hard to find low gear on my Jensen-Healey, my wife wouldn't let me because I had eye surgery on the 12th. I sure missed getting out on the course especially after Steve Rixen challenged anyone to beat his time. While I know I wouldn't have had a chance to beat his superior driving skill and faster car with my lowly midget, I sure wanted to try. But anyway, Steve sure sets the gold standard for autocrossing/gymkhanaing with a vintage English sports car. No modern front wheel drive car for him, or me either. We did have a nice time, saw a lot people, met two of Gary Ronning's brothers who with caps and sunglasses on could easily pass for Gary. A very nice mix of cars there, including Mark Brandow's MG-F. On his first run the tail end of the modern MG tried to beat out the front end around the pylons, but he tamed it on further runs and that F could really move out there. Brian Duoos was there with his very sharp Jensen-Healey, owned by him for over 30 years. His car looked really nice, helped by having his stock wheels transformed into sparkling gems. After more pressing matters on my J-H are attended to I will have that done also. Dick Wallrich, the MG Group's President, was there to watch with his very nice MGA with a five speed and a B engine. Scott McQueen and wife Heather did a great job on the event and while it doesn't exactly roll off the tongue, deserves to be known as Scott (gymkhanameister) McQueen.

By the time you read this, July will be history but a lot of good events left in July:

The Kohler International Challenge,  
The MGT national meet in Chaska,  
Andy Lindberg's Drive In Movie night  
and the IM Picnic  
are (were) a few of them.

August looks like a good month with

An early PIE meeting on the first,  
Followed by the Donnybrook Road Racing Revival on Aug. 3-5  
Tom Hazen's Smiley Face Tour on the 5th.  
Then on the 11th is the Ellingson's all British Car and Bike Show. Curt Carlson and I will lead a group of Healey's from the Square Peg to Ellingson's leaving the Peg at 8 am. Please join us to show our club's presence at the really big show at Ellingson's. On August 18th we'll be going to the Lauser/Stine Tour Picnic. While the tour is always good the real highlight is Betty's SOUTHERN cooking. Oh my goodness, the food is good.  
On the 25th the Amery Airport Run will be exciting  
and we can top off the month with the IM Picnic at Cherokee Park the next day.  
See you all there!

## Events Schedule 2007

- August 1 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- August 3 – 5** **Donnybrooke Road Racing Revival** Brainerd International Raceway see flyer
- August 11** **All British Car Show and Swap Meet** - (Sat.) Ellingsons at Rogers
- August 18 \*\*** **Lauser / Stine Tour & Picnic** – (Sat) There will be a short Tour ending up at Carl & Betty Stine's for a Picnic at their very interesting farm in Beldenville, WI. See page 4.
- August 25 \*\*** **Amery Airport Event 2007 #2** – (Sat.) – This event was so well received last year that Tom Hazen and Tom Moerke will be having “two more runs at it” in 2007 ! See page 8
- August 26** **InterMarque Sunday Picnic #3** – (Sun.) Cherokee Park St Paul 1:00PM Do it yourself picnic.
- September 5 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- September 8** **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.
- September 14-16** **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.
- September 30 \*\*** **Wine Tour** – (Sun) – We will venture to one of the local Taylors Falls wineries to taste some of the recent vintages. Should be delightful! Details later. Wayne Soderbeck, Jan Huston and Tom Moerke are coordinating
- October 3 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- October 6 \*\*** **Adopt A Highway Clean-up** (Sat.) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to take place on this date. Details later.
- October 7** **Fall Color Tour**- (Sun.) The final drive of the year to enjoy the Fall tree colors. Details later.
- November 7 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- November 10 \*\*** **Charity Event** – (Sat) Dale Martin will check the possibility of our club taking part in a food packaging charitable exercise. Details later.
- November 17 \*\*** **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.
- December 1 \*\*** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2008 will be on the agenda for this meeting. Tom Moerke will select the site.
- December 5 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- December 8 \*\*** **Tech Session** – (Sat) – Dick Mathews will check into the possibility of our having a Tech Session at a local shop that does custom mechanical work.

## Events Schedule 2008

- June 5 – 8 \*\*** **Rendezvous 2008 Pinawa, Manitoba**
- June** **Conclave 2008 San Diego**
- June 28 - Aug 3** **VELOCITY: the Art of Motion**  
**Automotive Fine Arts Show in Hopkins, Minnesota**

## Events Schedule 2009

- June 2009 \*\*** **Rendezvous 2009 - Minnesota**

\*\* Denotes MAHC official club activity



# The Smiley Face Tour

Starting at  
Bogus Creek  
Café and Bakery  
Stockholm, Wisconsin

9:15 AM Sunday  
August 5, 2007



Is this your favorite road sign? You will cruise by **dozens** of them on this tour. We'll be driving the most scenic, hilly, curvy, and wooded roads in the country. Guaranteed to put a 😊 on your 😊!

From



to



This is a "**couples friendly**" tour, not a competitive rally. Complete and easy-to-follow route instructions with road names, mileage, and a detailed map will be provided. But best of all, actual Smiley Faces, painted on the pavement with temporary paint, will guide you at every turn so you can't get lost!

Three meeting options:

1. 8:00am at Rainbow Foods, 7282 S. East Point Douglas Rd in Cottage Grove, MN. Take Hwys 10 & 61 southeast past 494, exit on 80th Street and turn left, over the highway then right onto East Point Douglas Road. Rainbow will be on your left. The group will leave at 8:10am after radios are loaned out.

2. 9:15am at Bogus Creek Café and Bakery, N2049 Spring Street, Stockholm, WI. From 494, it's a scenic 50-minute drive to Stockholm. Take Hwys 10 and 61 south and east out of the Twin Cities. Turn left to stay on 10 East, heading toward Prescott. Cross over the drawbridge in Prescott and turn right onto Wisconsin Hwy 35 South. Pass through Diamond Bluff, cross Hwy 63, go through Bay City and Maiden Rock. In beautiful downtown Stockholm, turn left onto County J. Bogus Creek is one block up on your left. We will be having a fabulous breakfast at Bogus Creek, served by the lovely and talented proprietor, Colleen.

3. Join us for lunch at Hansen's Hold Up, north of Fountain City, WI, along Hwy 95, probably about 1:30pm. Just remember it's at least 90 minutes from the southeast corner of 494. Take Hwys 10 and 61 south and east out of the Cities. Turn left to stay on 10 East, heading toward Prescott. Cross over the drawbridge in Prescott and turn right onto Wisconsin Hwy 35 South. Pass through Diamond Bluff, cross Hwy 63, go through Bay City, Maiden Rock, Stockholm, Pepin, Nelson, Alma, and Cochrane. In Fountain City, turn left onto Hwy 95 and head up the ridge. Hansen's is about 12 miles north on Hwy 95. We'll leave Hansen's to resume the drive at about 2:30 or so.

Questions? Contact Tom Hazen at 612-237-1883 or [myliberty@comcast.net](mailto:myliberty@comcast.net)

We'll see your smiley face in the twisties!

To reduce tailgating and passing, cars will line up in order of anticipated driver enthusiasm, according to their self-chosen spot on the "Official Scale of Driving Effort". The most motivated drivers will be in front.

**6/10ths maximum**

## The Official Scale of Driving Effort

- 0/10 - Up on blocks or, more charitably, a crouching tiger in the garage
- 1/10 - Get out and push (damn Lucas!)
- 2/10 - Grandma going to church on Sunday
- 3/10 - Just out for a leisurely jaunt
- 4/10 - Rev it up a little on the straight-aways
- 5/10 - Honey, slow down! You'll wake the baby!
- 6/10 - **Happy Speed**
- 7/10 - Promise you won't tell anybody?
- 8/10 - Zoom Zoom Zoom
- 9/10 - Fourth in class at Elkhart Lake
- 10/10 - Wide open 'til you see God, then BRAKE!

**The tour is FREE!**

# AMERY AIRPORT AUTOCROSS AND STRAIGHT-AWAY SPEED RUN III

**Saturday, Aug 25, 2007** (rain date Sunday, Aug 26)

Registration opens at 8:00am, closes at 10:00am

**MANDATORY DRIVERS MEETING 10:00am**

If you are not present and registered by 10:00am, you will NOT drive the course!



Turn quickly through the orange cones of the autocross, then straighten 'er out for the 1/2 mile taxiway top speed run. Our state-of-the-art and precisely calibrated stopwatch/walkie-talkie system will measure your time on the course, and a radar gun will capture your top speed.

Drivers must be 18+, sign waiver, pass on-site tech inspection, wear helmet (Bring a Snell 85 or newer - we'll have some loaners)

**CORNER WORKERS NEEDED!** Want to get close to the action but not drive? Like to wave flags and blow whistles? Free treats provided to all volunteers. Space is limited, so call Tom now to reserve your coveted place among the cones.

Directions: The simple route is 94 East into Wisconsin, take the Baldwin Hwy 63 exit, turn left heading north on Hwy 63 which eventually becomes Hwy 46. For a more scenic drive, from the northeast corner of 694, take Hwy 36 East into downtown Stillwater, turn right and take the old drawbridge over the St. Croix into Wisconsin, following Hwy 64 East. Stay on 64 past Somerset and through New Richmond, then turn left onto Hwy 46 North. The airport is on your left before you get to Amery, WI.



**Despite all precautions taken, this event remains dangerous and may result in property damage, serious injury, or death. Drivers, spectators, and workers enter at their own risk.**

**Advance registration (deadline Aug 24)** \$30 per driver. \$15 for Austin-Healey Club members. Make check payable to the **Minnesota Austin-Healey Club** and mail to Tom Hazen, 130 East 18th Street #202, Mpls, MN 55403. Or pay via PayPal adding \$1 service charge to myliberty@comcast.net. Sorry, no refunds. Day of event payment will be \$10 more.

Driver(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Year, make, model, color, requested car number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Tom Hazen at 612-237-1883 or myliberty@comcast.net

This event brought to you by the



The course is entirely paved. Drivers will run in the order their paid registrations are received. We will try to give everyone four runs, more if time permits.



**BRING A FRIEND!** Helmeted passengers 16+ will be allowed on all runs.



Refreshment stand provided by the



Girl Scouts.





# **GYMKHANA VI INVITATIONAL**

**by Scott McQueen**

Once again a good time was had by all at the 6th annual Brown & Bigelow Gymkhana Invitational. This year we hoped to attract a majority of vintage cars and make this driving event an invitational to other clubs. We had 18 cars attend, predominantly (2/3) vintage and truly intermarque; 3 Austin-Healeys, 1 Jensen Healey, 3 Lotuses, TVR, Mini, Triumph, MG, Citroen with a modern Toyota, Mitsubishi, Mazda, MG, Mini, and Volkswagen.

Thanks to everyone for attending, and all the help. With everyone pitching in things ran smoothly all day. The weather cooperated as well, with partly sunny to sunny conditions all day. Paul Weidner designed an excellent course which proved to be a good test for all. 4 drivers had their best times in their first run. 4 drivers had their best times in their last run. Everyone else seemed to peak on their 2nd or 3rd run. Drivers all did nearly as many runs as they would like (some up to 7 and 8 runs).

There was lots of good driving and as always, a chance to "get loose" for the crowd. Steve Rixen wowed everyone with a big slide in the middle of the course, and Aaron Courteau's lotus spun nearly 360 as well. The "pin" cone in the center of the course layout created much debate as to the quickest strategy (options: either clockwise traditional route or the counter-clockwise pretzel move). Over the day, the course began to get slippery and very few times improved.

Afterwards a group of 20 or so went over to George's on Plato for late lunch and beverages. Tom Hazen shared great video from the day including much in-car footage. I shared the results of the day, and distributed the fastest time of day certificates to all drivers.

Awards:

Most cones in a single run: 6 Phil Ethier

Most use of reverse: 3? (estimated) Mel Turcanik

Most passengers in a single run: 3 Tom Hazen

Most improved thru persistence: Tom Strombeck

Fastest time of the Day: Paul Weidner 1.09.0

Slowest time of the Day: Andy Lindberg 1.42.2

Full results attached.

For those that couldn't attend, you missed a great day with great friends.

# Vintage Sports Car Racing, Inc.

## PCA Loonacy Club Race & VSCR's Vintage Revival

August 3-4-5, 2007

At Brainerd International Raceway  
In Conjunction with the Nord Stern Porsche Club

*Three days of Vintage Racing and Porsche Club Racing in our own backyard!*

No charge to spectators (must sign waiver at the gate), Children under 18 are the responsibility of their parents/guardians.

### **Lunchtime Track Touring on Saturday and Sunday:**

See the daunting Brainerd track from the other side of the guardrail. For a \$20 donation to the Courage Center (each day) you can take your own car onto the track and get a sense of its challenges. Cars must have proper seat belts. Car clubs are encouraged to attend.

### Tentative schedule:

Friday August 3<sup>rd</sup>: Track opens at 7:00 am. First race group at 9:00 am, vintage race sessions at 9:55 am, 1:25 pm and 3:10 pm. Final race group goes out at 4:30 pm. There will be a vintage race get-together at the vintage barn at 6:00 pm.

Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>: Track opens at 7:00 am. First race group at 9:00 am. Vintage race groups at 9:25 am and 11:45 am. Track touring at noon. Porsche racing all afternoon. Courage Center auction at 6:30 pm.

Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup>: Track opens at 7:00 am. First race group at 8:20. Vintage race groups at 9:00 am, 11:00 am and vintage feature at 3:00 pm. Track touring at noon. Last Porsche race at 3:50 pm and awards and refreshments at 5:00 pm.

For more information contact:

Kevin Clemens or Bill Groschen

President VSCR Event Chair

[wtr@aol.com](mailto:wtr@aol.com)

952-746-8880 Days

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## MARKETPLACE

**FOR SALE** - '65 AH 3000 BJ8 - Frame up restoration completed in 2001. Colorado Red with Black interior.  
Call Gary Ronning at 763-684-4041 or email to [gtronning@aol.com](mailto:gtronning@aol.com) .(6/07)

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.