



# The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XIX No. 10

October 2008



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- NOW AS ONE -

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## The President's Report

By Tom Moerke

Only 9 months to go till Rendezvous 09. I'm starting to receive requests for info so here's what we know now. The time is June 11 thru 14th, 09. Location is the AmericInn in Ashland, WI. Ashland is on Lake Superior, about 150 miles northeast of Stillwater, MN. Nearby on the bay is the pretty little town of Bayfield, which has a ferry line to take people to Madeline Island. The AmericInn was chosen because it's the only motel large enough to handle the expected number of people coming. We have 80 rooms reserved for Rendezvous and if we need more there are two other hotels/motels nearby which could handle the overflow. It might be a good idea to make your reservation now; no deposit is required, just your credit card number. Their phone number is 715-682-9950. The cost is \$109.00 per night. To quote from a letter I received from Carrie K. Miller, Director of Operations, "All of our rooms include use of our indoor water park (complete with hot tub, sauna, kiddie pool, activity pool, and slides), our expanded continental breakfast (with make your own Belgian Waffles, biscuits and gravy, fruit, oatmeal muffins, and much more), complimentary paddle boats to play with in our bay (right off our private beach), complimentary bikes, evening S'Mores, etc." Lots of things to do and lots of places to see! A wonderful area!

On the 6th we went to Wheels and Wings and planted our Healey banner on our Healey Hill. We got there early but Dan Wolter beat us. The weather was perfect and Larry Nimmerfroh's Healey won the best in the Healey class. Frank Howard won with his Lotus and Jack Schneider's 1932 MG J2 won the MG class. British Other was won by a 1931 Rolls. I talked to one of the employees about the rumors floating around that this would be the last Wings and Wheels. Perish the thought! This employee said it will be on, regardless. We will see.

Then on the 13th we drove up to the BIR in Brainerd. Shortly after we arrived at 9:30 it started to rain; and it rained and rained. We saw Dan Powell and Rich and Liz. We sat in Steve and Diane's motor home and watched it rain. The course is new, shorter and will allow dragster and road racing at the same time. We gave up about 2:30 and headed home.

Yesterday, on the 14th, we attended the Healey-Morgan at the Miller's beautiful home. It rained and rained. Dale and Barb Martin drove their Ivory Morgan Plus 8 there with the top down. As did Tom Politiski with his Plus 8 Hardy Folk!! I thought by putting the top up on my Jensen-Healey in the morning I would stop the rain. I was wrong. Looks like a great fall schedule of events. Have Fun

### 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 October 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 8:00 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 Rod Richert

September PIE--Opportunities Lost

Several times this year last minute opportunities arouse and were announced at PIE. Earlier this year and again this month Tom Hazen offered a "last minute" non-club sponsored driving event. My favorite PIE was May 7th when Jeff Schlemmek of Advanced Distributors gave a great talk on distributor restoration (see May's issue, page 3). You truly have to be at Pie to take advantage of these opportunities.

Other events highlighted but now past events by the time you read this:

Tom Moerke spoke of Wings and Wheels Saturday September 6th and the James J. Hill Days charity car show September 7th.

Rich Stadther praised the great event planned for September 12-14th celebrating the 40th anniversary of RIR/Donnybrooke.

Herb Miller encouraged all to attend the Healey-Morgan picnic hosted with his wife Marsha Sunday, September 14th.

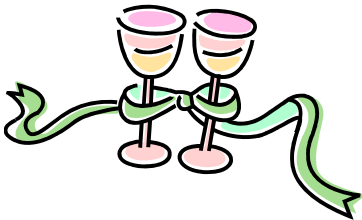
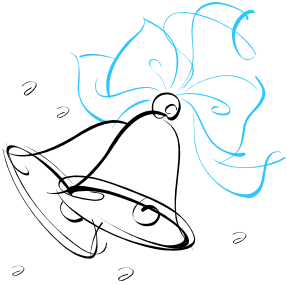
Jeff Johnk called the fall vintage race at Road America in Elkhart Lake (September 18-20th) to be the best time to race and watch racing--cool weather and practiced drivers willing to push their cars with all winter ahead to fix their mistakes.

Other notes from Tom Hazen--Airports in Osceola and Owatonna are possibilities for future speed events. Also, the local Maseratti dealer offers real time formula one broadcasts (at odd times, of course) with delicious eats.

Those not mentioned and also attending: Jack Stein, Greg Lauser, Jeffrey Gordien, Dave Rademacher, Curt Carlson, June Moerke, Larry Nimmerfroh, Betty Stine, Carl Stine, Jeff Lumbard, Dan Powell, Wayne Soderbeck, Jan Huston, Jim Kriz, Spencer Jones, Katy Olson, and new members Eileen and Gary Wetzell.

**NEXT PIE IS AT FORT SNELLING**

**OCTOBER 1, 2008**



**In an idyllic location, on the most perfect day of the year,  
Steve Rixen and Kim Kiser were wed.  
Was it lovely, beautiful, and romantic? You betcha!**

June and I drove down to the Stine farm in my recently painted bright yellow Jensen Healey - some 20 odd miles - to the wedding reception. We followed the biggest ( probably most expensive ) Audi sports car I had ever seen, and right behind us were the Lindberg's in their Citroen 2CV ( a study in contrasts ! ). We got there about 2:00 pm, and the beautiful grounds were already filling up with happy people. The handsome Steve and the beautiful Kim were greeting people. The garden flowers were at their best, despite it being on the 20th of September.

We met Kim's mother and father from Madison, Wisconsin and Steve's mother and sister from Iowa. We also met a lot of nice people who actually didn't own sports cars ( believe it or not ! ) . Many of the guests had never been to the Stine's before and were very excited over the spacious grounds, Carl's two-story tree house built high off the ground, the pond filled with large KOI fish and its waterfall, Betty's beautifully decorated house, the hanger nearby with Carl's plane ready for takeoff on his grass strip, and the list goes on...

At a suitable moment, Steve called everyone to attention and thanked people for coming. He then said that he and Kim were going to be first in line at the buffet and that everyone should follow them. All the guests did so with gusto - and more than once! Both the food and the beverages were fancy and plentiful.

Everyone sat around in the ample seating - eating, drinking, and having a good time. People lingered, reluctant to leave. We all hope for Steve and Kim that their days together be as lovely as this one was.

by Tom Moerke

# The VP REPORT

By Rod Richert

## Wings & Wheels

I can't seem to stop thinking of the book sale and car show at Osceola as a season ending event. I guess because it's close to the end of summer but thankfully not the end of the driving season. It never seems to rain this weekend after Labor Day (not in my memory, anyway). But the one constant that never fails to impress me is the dramatic temperature swing from the beginning of the event to its conclusion. Thankfully, the September sun works its magic and makes for a great end of summer event.

After "Healey Hill" is "captured", it's just nice to stroll the grounds and looking at the cars. Other years when I didn't have official duties to attend to, it was fun to take the shuttle to the airport and check out the vintage planes too.

Drivers, riders and cars spotted at this year's event: Tom & June Moerke--Jensen Healey, Dave Lee, Aaron Courteau--Ginetta, Tom Wolters--Bugeye, Dan Wolters--scratch built Healey coupe, Andy Lindberg--2 CV, Carl & Betty Stine, Spencer Jones (believed to be driving Jag with ex-president Mark Mallander as passenger but I didn't spot them as my "Lucas moment" caused me to arrive two hours later than I hoped), Greg Lauser, Katy Olson in her "new" Volvo P1800, Jim Wojcik--BN 7, Dale Martin--Jag XK 150, Tom Hazen, Jack & Kathryn Schneider--MG J2 Midget, Steve & Diane Rindt--MGB, Tim Byboth--MGB, Steve Byboth--MGB and George Arthur--E Jag.

## How Much Does Your Car Weigh?

Unlike the driving events that seemed to attract the sun's rays in 2008, the Healey Morgan picnic on Saturday, September 14th was a very damp one. Three Morgan enthusiasts braved the cool, wet weather--Tom Politiski and Jack & Kathryn Schneider. The only Healey to appear brought our president and first lady Tom & June Moerke.

The weather didn't dampen the spirits of the 29 people attending: Marsha and Herb Miller, the Moerkes, Schneiders and Mr. Politiski, Barb & Dale Martin, Steve Rixen, Kim Kiser, Wayne Soderbeck, Jan Huston, Jean & Chuck Norton, Mike Martin, Barb & Gary Ronning, Marsha and Jim Eastland, Dick Mathews, Barb & Bob Featherly, Larry Nimmerfroh, Karen & Jack Reed and Darrell Pearson and guest Rose.

The plan was that participants could weigh their cars on a scale apparatus designed to measure four corners. For racing purposes, the car presumably could be balanced (with shims?) to improve performance. Hopefully Herb will show us at a future event.

We had to "settle" for a tour of Herb's meandering garage showcasing an impressive collection of cars and then all partook of the delicious potluck spread.

## **FALL COLOUR TOUR**

The Fall Colour Tour will start at the parking lot of Birkmose Park in Hudson, WI, overlooking the scenic St. Croix Valley at 10:30 AM on Saturday Morning October 11th.

Please arrive breakfasted, at home, The Peg, Regionally Famous Dick's Bar in Hudson, or your favorite local.

We will tour about 75 miles of the nicest roads in the region, viewing the best fall colours Nature provides. Route notes will be provided as well as time in hand for elective stops at Antique Stores and Orchards enroute.

We will end at Paddy Ryan's Irish Pub near US Highway 12 and I-94 (WI exit 4) about 4 PM. Paddy's is a very nice Pub in an unlikely location, but I have sampled many of the dishes and libations and find it excellent and reasonably priced with charming and competent staff.

Steve Rixen 612-877-1938

## **TECH TIPS:** *by Ernie West*

### Head Gaskets To be more specific, how to not have a blown head gasket.

As simple as it sounds (just bolt the head to the block) it's more than that. And the more sophisticated the engine, the more critical small details become. I recently became the victim of a blown head gasket with my 907 Lotus engine, 230 miles from home naturally. Like in most cases there was no one obvious cause. In my case I'll admit to ignorance. I didn't know specs like the latest torq figures, the latest torq sequence, the correct tool (a torq angle gauge), and the fact that on this engine you DON'T retorque the head after 1,000 miles.

So in summary let me emphasis that you bone up on all of the latest factory specs for your engine. For instance if your factory manual is twenty years old, the factory may have changed its mind (they call it up-dating) several times already. That plus as time goes along head gasket materials change and the old recommendation to retorque the head after a specific time might actually be detrimental. Also using a torq angle gauge is getting to be more and more accepted as the preferred method of tightening head nuts or bolts. Of course the old standard rules of having head bolt holes clean so the bolts don't bottom against rust and having all of the threads clean and properly lubricated (or not) still apply, along with the obvious, that the head and block surfaces must be flat or within factory specs for warp.

And one last thing. If your head has washers under the stud nuts or bolts make sure they all fit and are the correct thickness. I had one oddball washer on one stud right where the gasket blew. Yep, I still don't know for sure why it blew.

### Windshield Wiper Blades

Many collector cars have very unique or one of a kind wiper blades. And although maybe hardly or never used, the ravages of sun and time still bring their life to an end. When the thin wiping edge starts to flatten out or worse yet starts to separate, it can allow the metal part to start to rub the windshield. Sometimes as little as one pass back and forth can scratch the glass.

Next, where do you find new blades for, such a relic (your neighbors opinion)? If you do find a set, and the bank agrees to float a loan, for something as valuable (the seller's opinion) as they are; they might be 40 to 60 years old, and brittle as glass and ready to self-destruct at first use.

Here's what I've been able to do many times on cars I work on. Take the blade to the local parts supply place. If you look at their choice of refills you'll see that there are several widths and groove styles to choose from as well as lengths. I almost always can pick one long refill and cut it to get two shorter refills for my short wiper blades. The cost seems to be the same for a 24" as a 12" refill. If the retaining clips can't be reused, most times a suitable method is accomplished by melting a little burr on the refill support end using a soldering gun, or if the support is metal I'll glue the end piece or opening with black silicon gasket glue. If there are a dozen different types, there should be a dozen ways also to hold the rubber part in place.

Safe Motoring Dead Lake Motors

## Event Schedule 2008

- October 1 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 PM. See page 3.
- October 11\*\*** **Fall Colour Tour-** (Sat.) The final drive of the year to enjoy the Fall tree colors. Meet at Birkmose Park in Hudson, WI. Steve Rixen coordinating. See page 6 for details.
- October 25 \*\*** **Adopt A Highway Clean-up** (Sat.) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to take place on this date. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Veterans Hwy Roadside Park at mile post 80 on US Hwy. 61 - just above Lake City, MN for the Fall Adopt-A-Highway clean up. Arrangements by Rod Richert 651-439-4028
- November 5 \*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 PM. See page 3.
- November 8 \*\*** **Charity Event** – (Sat) Dale Martin will schedule our club for taking part in a repeat food packaging charitable exercise. See page 8.
- November 15 \*\*** **Annual Business Meeting Party** – (Sat.) The annual business meeting, election of officers, and dinner banquet will occur on this evening at the Ft Snelling Officer's Club. Details later.
- December 3\*\*** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Meet at 7:00 PM. See page 3.
- December 6\*\*** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2009 will be on the agenda for this meeting. Rod Richert will select the site.

\*\* - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

## Event Schedule 2009

- June 11-14\*\*** **Rendezvous 2009**  
**AmericInn in Ashland, WI**  
**Hosted by MAHC**



## Community Service Project Sat. 11- 8 - 08

The Austin Healey Club will be packaging food to be sent to needy children around the world. This is a unique opportunity to help children who are less fortunate than us.

This year we have an added challenge from the Jaguar Club. They will be there with us, to see who can do the best job of packing for the kids  
In 2007 nearly 185,000 volunteers visited Feed My Starving Children to manually assemble 43 million meals for hungry children in orphanages, schools and clinics around the world.

Feed My Starving Children's powerful program, involving America's adults and youth, working together to help heal the world of hunger.

When: Saturday, November 8, 9 –11AM

Where: Feed My Starving Children Eagan

990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 160 Eagan, MN 651-379-2775

We will meet at their Eagan facility at 8:45AM.

We are hoping to have 25 volunteers. Make it a family event (unfortunately, minimum age is 8 years old).

So that we can give them a headcount, please contact Dale Martin,

[Dale.martin5@comcast.net](mailto:Dale.martin5@comcast.net) or (651) 436-5902, to let us know if you are coming.

For more information and directions go to [www.FMSC.org](http://www.FMSC.org).





# ANNOUNCING

## Rally in the Valley 2009

August 6 - 9, 2009

**What is the definition of "Rally"?**  
(A gathering of people intended to arouse enthusiasm!)

"Rally in the Valley" is a European InterMarque sports car event.

Sponsored by: The Minnesota MG Group.

Hosted by: Steve and Diane Rindt

**2009 Theme, "Those were the Days"**

**All New Location:**

The Eau Claire Travel and Business Center  
Sleep Inn and Suites / 29 Pines

**Beautiful Wisconsin Roads for the scenic drives:**

These Rallies are not for the serious rallier. They are fun with easy directions & questions, "Spouse friendly"

**Tentative Schedule:**

- Thursday – Registration & Natter – N - Noggin
- Friday – Rally (part 1) / Lunch / Rally (part 2).
- Saturday - Car Show, Funkhanna (w/cars), Awards Dinner / Ceremony.
- Farewell breakfast.

The registration form and more information will be posted on the MMGG web site. [www.mmgg.org](http://www.mmgg.org) in the upcoming weeks.

For questions please contact Diane Rindt (715) 832-8316 or email [drindt5953@hotmail.com](mailto:drindt5953@hotmail.com)

**Make your reservations at: Sleep Inn & Suites Conference Center / (715)874-2900.  
Mention "Rally in the Valley 2009" for a special rate.**



# Healey – Morgan Picnic



.....with Many Thanks to Herb & Marsha for their Hospitality and Refreshments !



( Sun will shine for 2009 ! )

# 'Mc Cullough's Fall Shop Open Doors'

Saturday, October 18th, 2008 12 to 5 pm.

Brian and Jennifer Mc Cullough invite our friends and British Car Club Members- Former, Present and Future up to a nice outdoor fall time fire and inside our shop for food, pop, treats, coffee, hot apple cider, bench racing, 'back then' stories, stories of events attended by various members, and some Classic factory propoganda on the movie screen. (No, the fire will not be held in the engine bay of a Leyland era vehicle but we are considering a Ford) If you are daring and courageous, or just stubborn like us, bring your LBC. We will have a small self driving and 'late' fall Colour tour map with a few of our scenic areas round the side of town you may not have visited before. Paved roads and low traffic as much as possible. Its always fun moving along with the leaves blowing upwards!

Forecast: Dress warm. If you're used to driving your British Roadster in Bitters of early spring or the crisp of late fall, then You can dress as you would normally!

We will have a few interesting projects in and outside the doors at that time. Everything from Jaguars, Triumphs, MGs, Healeys, Minis, Complete Restorations, driveline re-powered whatnots to who knows what will be in and what will be out by this time! There's always something interesting.

**Please RSVP by 10/11/08**

Tele: 651.462.0145

Email: [brian@bmcautos.com](mailto:brian@bmcautos.com)

Cost: None.

Address: 6810 225<sup>th</sup> Ave NE • Linwood, MN 55079-4200

## Directions:

A beautiful drive approximately 45 minutes from Minneapolis

From Minneapolis/St. Paul, take 35W or 35E North

35W/E merges back into I35 near Forest Lake- almost there!

Take the Wyoming Exit 135 and head WEST (Co Rd 22).

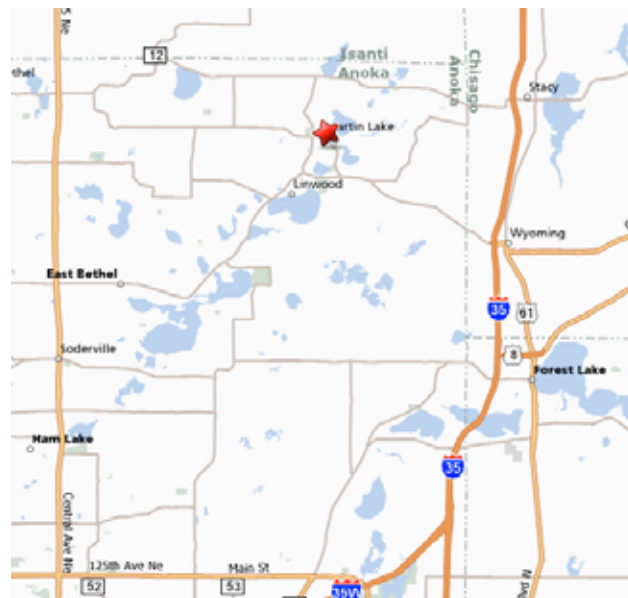
Go approximately 4.5 miles to Martin Lake Road and head north. (right)

(3.4 miles on your un-calibrated Jaeger or Smiths odometer)

\*Approximately ½ mile down the road, turn left onto 225<sup>th</sup> Avenue which is the first left you can take at Martin Lake Picnic Area.

We are the very last home in the cul-de-sac on the left hand side. You can't miss it, there is always a few Classic LBCs sitting in one or both of our driveways!

Don't want to take the freeway to get here? Not a problem- take the scenic and historic hwy 61 North to Co Rd 22 West. From Elk River, west of here, take County Rd 22 (Viking Blvd) East to Martin Lake Road.



Minnesota Austin Healey Club  
Larry Nimmerfroh, Editor  
6554 Kingfisher Lane  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

### First Class Postage

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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.

FOR SALE The late Paul Weidner's Bugeye Speedwell Sprite. Completely running and set up to Autocross or road

Race. Enhancements as listed. \$12,500.

Contact Curt Carlson [mnhealey@gmail.com](mailto:mnhealey@gmail.com) or 612.721.8667

FOR SALE 1961 Bugeye Sprite, British Racing Green, 948 engine, 600 miles from restoration, fiberglass hard top, Asking \$11,000.00 John Morrison 763 757 2424 1008 109<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Blaine, MN 55434

FOR SALE: 1953 Austin-Healey BN1 Well known in the local club, made better by many. Seriously nice driver. \$33,000 George Arthur [garthur1660@comcast.net](mailto:garthur1660@comcast.net)

FOR SALE: Set of five Dunlop Road Speed RS5 Classic Range 6.70H15 tires, almost new.\$500  
George Arthur [garthur1660@comcast.net](mailto:garthur1660@comcast.net)

WANTED: 1966 Cylinder Head Austin-Healey 3000 late BJ8. Call Paul 612-306-0608

FOR SALE: '61 Bugeye spare parts (sold car 2 years ago). it came to me with a bunch of used parts, engine block,

transmission case, radiator, 2 carbs w/ air cleaner housings, fly wheel, clutch plate,etc. They can be had for the taking.Call me at 763/427-8334. Dwight Pollard