



The *Healey Enthusiast*

Volume XXI No. 12

December 2010



Past Presidents of the MAHC

Seated left to right – J. Johnk, E. Wetzel, G. Ronning, M. Manser, C. Carlson.

Standing left to right – G. Lauser, T. Politiski, D. Mathews, J. Lumbard, R. Richert, G. Rossi, T. Moerke, S. Rixen.

DECEMBER EVENTS

WED. DEC. 1
SAT. DEC. 4

PIE MEETING
ANNUAL PLANNING BREAKFAST

Happy Holidays to All!

MAHC STAFF

President	EILEEN WETZEL 763-541-9571 wtzl@aol.com
Vice President	GEOFF ROSSI 612-822-7069 casadirossi@hotmail.com
Treasurer	JIM KLEIN 763-559-1607 abmake@citilink.com
Membership	JIM KRIZ 612-374-2666 jkriz1@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	GARY RONNING 1019 Ridge Haven Circle Buffalo, MN 55313 763-684-4041 gtronning@aol.com
Video Librarian	JIM WOJCIK 651-653-4523 jvwojcik@comcast.net
WebMaster	JOHN SNYDER 952-929-4792 jvs@consistentc.com
Email Broadcaster	DAVE LEE 651-489-3157 dlee@usfamily.net
Name Tags	TOM HAZEN myliberty@comcast.net
National Delegate	GREG LAUSER 715-262-9813 glauser@presenter.com
Intermarque Delegate	STEVE RIXEN 612-877-1938 scrixen@gmail.com
Regalia	GARY RONNING 763-684-4041 gtronning@aol.com
Technical Resources	
Sprite	CHUCK NORTON 651-483-0836
100	CURTIS CARLSON 612-721-8667
3000 & Modified	JEFF JOHNK 952-461-2720
Jensen Healey	TOM POLITISKI 218-367-2168
Board of Directors	TOM MOERKE GARY RONNING WAYNE SODERBECK, Chmn. JACK STEIN GARY WETZEL
Minnesota Web Site	www.mnhealey.com
National Web Site	www.healeyclub.org

PIE**(PRESIDENT'S INFORMAL EVENING)****Date: Wednesday December 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.

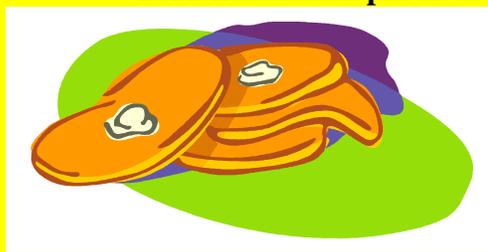
Come and enjoy refreshments and/or food with the friendly club members, catch up on news & events, and discuss cars & restorations.

Breakfast at the Peg

Come to this casual event (most) every Saturday morning about 8:00 a.m. for great food, reasonable prices, & lots of Intermarque car enthusiasts. It's a fun way to start off your weekend !

Bring your appetite !

The location: **The Square Peg Diner**
2021 East Hennepin Ave.

**THE HEALEY ENTHUSIAST**

The official publication of the Minnesota Austin Healey Club, a Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation. 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 Inc. is operating as a Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation and is affiliated with the Austin Healey Club of America, Inc.

Presidential Ponderings

By EILEEN WETZEL

Here we go again, folks!

The year seemed to have gained momentum as time went on, and our club year culminated with the Annual Banquet. One of the best parts of this year was making new friends. I was happy to see everyone that attended the banquet, but also disappointed that not everyone could make it. So, if you weren't there, know that you were missed!

I hope everyone had a good time. I would like to give special thanks to Jan Huston for her fun game and her help with prizes, to Barb Ronning for the table decorations, and Gary and Barb Ronning as well as Wayne Soderbeck for staffing the greeting table. I'd also like to thank Geoff Rossi and Barb Ronning for the pictures to share, to my husband for funding a large number of the door prizes, and to all of you that contributed white elephants, door prizes, and silent auction items - as well as purchasing these items! Thanks to the "Amazin' Hazen" for performing as my descriptive emcee. I'd like to thank all of you for the beautiful AH wine glasses too.

My experience with elections has been limited, so I'm sorry for any confusion in that department. Thanks to all the officers and volunteers that served this past year, and to all who have agreed to stay on for another term. I am also very excited to have Geoff Rossi as the new Vice President. Thank you for stepping up to the challenge, Geoff!

So, here we are, back to where we started from last year. Saturday, December 4, is slated for our Breakfast Planning Meeting. I can't stress enough how important this gathering is. This is where "the rubber meets the road". I did not realize until experiencing this meeting how the rest of the year falls into place. I feel even as an observer it is an important meeting to attend. Hopefully you all make every effort to be there. Let's plan another great year!! "Put the pedal down" and I'll see you in St. Paul!



THE PRESIDENTS INFORMAL EVENING

BY EILEEN WETZEL

Attendance: Tom and June Moerke, Carl and Betty Stine, Dick Mathews, Britt and Spook Johns, Jack Stein, Jeff Johnk, Mike Martin, Jeff Lombard, Steve and Kim Rixen, Patty and Jim Manion, Curt Carlson, Greg and Nancy Lauser, Jim Kriz, Scott McQueen, Wayne Soderbeck, Jan Huston, Gary and Barb Ronning, John Snyder, Steve Fosdick, Roanne Sroka, Mike Manser, Dan Powell, and Gary and Eileen Wetzel.

November PIE had a very good turnout. There was discussion about the remaining upcoming events. The charity event, Feed My Starving Children, brought up considerable discussion regarding the monetary contribution that we would donate. It was confirmed that we would offer approximately three percent of our assets. A check for one dollar over the Jaguar Club's contribution will be presented.

The banquet was the next topic discussed. Reminders were given to RSVP, bring donations for the silent auction or door prizes, and for each person to bring a white elephant gift.

The final event of the year is the Breakfast Planning Meeting on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010. All members were encouraged to attend this fun action filled morning, as we all plan next year's events.

Steve Rixen brought us up to speed on the status of the Intermarque Council. Andy Lindberg has stepped up to help in the interim while volunteers are found to fill the shoes of Phyllis Galberth. It may take many to do this.

Greg Lauser filled us in on his journey to Colorado Springs to help plan next year's Conclave. It is sounding like "an event not to be missed!" Register early! Greg, as a National Delegate, encouraged all to voice any concerns that may need to be addressed at the national level.

See you all at the planning meeting!!



Feed My Starving Children Event

By Eileen Wetzel

Our first winter storm welcomed us as the brave made their way to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) for our annual charity event. MAHC members: Dave and Cheryl Rademacher, Steve Rixen, Dale and Barb Martin, Mike and Gloria Lynch, Steve and Kay Shogren and Gary and Eileen Wetzel, as well as family members, gathered to work together to label, fill, and box pouches of food.

FMSC food formula is designed to meet the needs of severely malnourished children. Packaged in small pouches, the highly nutritious ingredients also improve the health, growth, and physical well-being of children who are no longer in immediate danger of starvation. A single pouch of food-which provides meals for six children-costs around \$1.15 to produce, and 94 percent of all donations to FMSC, goes directly toward the food program.

The Jaguar Club and the Minnesota Austin Healey Club donated checks of \$300 and \$301 respectively. Together, our donation towards food would be 2973 meals -that would feed eight children for a year, or one child for eight years. That is something to be proud of!! As well as having a lot of fun, our shift packed 101 cases of food ready to be shipped. The average for our size shift, which included some Girl Scout troops, is 76 cases. The 101 cases will provide 21816 meals, or feed sixty children for one year.

What a nice way to spend a Saturday morning-helping hungry helpless children. Please consider encouraging other groups or family to participate in this worthwhile activity!



InterMarque Newsletter

Are you getting the news about all the car club activities nearby?

You may be surprised at how much is going on in our area.

To read the InterMarque Newsletters, just go to the following website:

<http://intermarque.org/imm.newsletters.html> .

Click on any issue you would like to read, and bingo it's there!

MINNESOTA AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB ANNUAL BANQUET/BUSINESS MEETING 2010

BY GEOFF ROSSI

The annual club banquet on the evening of November 20 proved to be entertaining in many ways – from the chatty social hour, the always-anticipated election of officers, and a version of The Price is Right. But what may have made the evening most memorable was the freezing rain that was coating the parking lot and roads with a greasy film as we were leaving. This was a night in which over 300 accidents would be reported, and presented some challenging driving skills to reach home.

During the social hour, members had the opportunity to view video of photos taken by Barb and Gary Ronning - including Conclave in Galena, Rendezvous in Thunder Bay, and other events of this year. Another slideshow of historic shots going back to the mid 80s compiled by Geoff Rossi was watched as well.

A beautiful Buffet Dinner was announced and enjoyed, and led into the evening's business of electing new officers. Most of those in current positions agreed to continue - including our driver, Eileen Wetzel, as President. She has done a fantastic job for the club this past year. Geoff Rossi was overwhelmingly supported as new vice president, and the two new Board of Directors members were approved – Jack Stein and Gary Wetzel. Jim Klein read the Treasurer's Report, and it was accepted. Greg Lauser read his AHCA Delegates Report regarding the finances and dues of the national club. There were many "thanks" extended to all of those who had helped make the year active by planning, hosting, and assisting at various club functions. The past year was then proclaimed to have been exactly what it should be – a great success and great fun.

Tom Hazen then emceed a somewhat skewed version of The Price is Right, as Eileen assisted with item presentation and cost verification. That was a big hit ! There was an ongoing drawing for some very nice door prizes and MAHC Regalia.

White elephant gifts were brought by members. After all were given out, Jan Huston read a story during which those gifts were moved around amidst the crowd. Much raucousness !

A Silent Auction for several nice items was set up for the evening. Because Tom Politiski was present, it turned in to a Live Auction! He worked the bidders, so many of the items sold for more. All proceeds went to the club treasury, so it was a worthwhile endeavor.

Desserts and coffee, plus other beverages, were enjoyed until the very end; and, as has been said after each and every one of these gatherings, "A pleasant time was guaranteed to all."

There were 50 members at this gala event:

Steve & Kim Rixen, Curt Carlson & Teresa Boyer, Jeff & Carol Johnk, Gary & Barb Ronning, Jeff & Betsy Lumbard, Mike and Stacy Manser, Jim & Patty Manion, Carl & Betty Stine, Jeff & Karen Sartell, Gary & Eileen Wetzel, Tom Politiski, Geoff & Diane Rossi, Herb & Marsha Miller, Greg & Nancy Lauser, Wayne Soderbeck & Jan Huston, Dick Mathews, Tom & June Moerke, Spook & Britt Johns, Mike & Chris Martin, Dave & Cheryl Rademacher, Jim & Rose Klein, Paul & Dawn Sjoland, Dale & Barb Martin, Steve & Lisa Fosdick, Andy Lindberg, Dave Knowles, Tom Hazen, and Rod Richert.

Thank you all for coming and for bringing gifts and prizes !

A
N
N
U
A
L



B
A
N
Q
U
E
T



Shock Absorber Tech

By Steve Rixen

When winter approaches the Minnesota Healey owner can count on 5 months or more of forced immobility. The owner should do fall service. Shock attachment bolts should be checked for security/torque; shocks should be checked for leaks and filled. Rubber or neoprene bushings on the linkage are checked for deterioration or cracking.

If your shocks are leaking or do not pass a "bounce test" when full, it is time to replace them. Healey shock absorbers can be purchased from various sources, but Peter Caldwell of World Wide Auto Parts (<http://www.nosimport.com/> 608-223-9400) of Madison, Wisconsin is a major rebuilder/supplier of the Lever type shocks used on all our British cars. They supply rebuilt shocks for many popular parts suppliers.

The shocks arrive at World Wide as used cores. Upon arrival they are initially cleaned, disassembled, re-cleaned as parts, then assessed / measured for damage. The shocks which meet specifications are then **modified**.

The aluminum shock body is machined to accept a modern double lip seal where the lever arm shaft enters the body. The rotating shaft which attaches to the lever arm is measured; and if it has been worn where the seal rides, it is machined and has a new wear sleeve pressed onto it. The pistons are re-ringed. Stock valves are installed (up-rated valves are available for an additional cost), and the shocks are reassembled and painted.

If desired, World Wide will rebuild your original shocks and return them to you. Concours judges check the build dates stamped onto the bodies (MM/YY); so if you are working toward concours judging, you will need to have appropriate dates.

After installing your rebuilt shocks, you should service them with shock oil (Moss # 220-304). HINT: The stock AH has no expansion chamber and will pressurize the shock when fully filled and capped. When servicing your shocks, it is difficult to know when the shock is full. When it is full to the top, suck a little of the shock fluid out of the shock creating a ¼ to ½ inch air pocket for expansion.

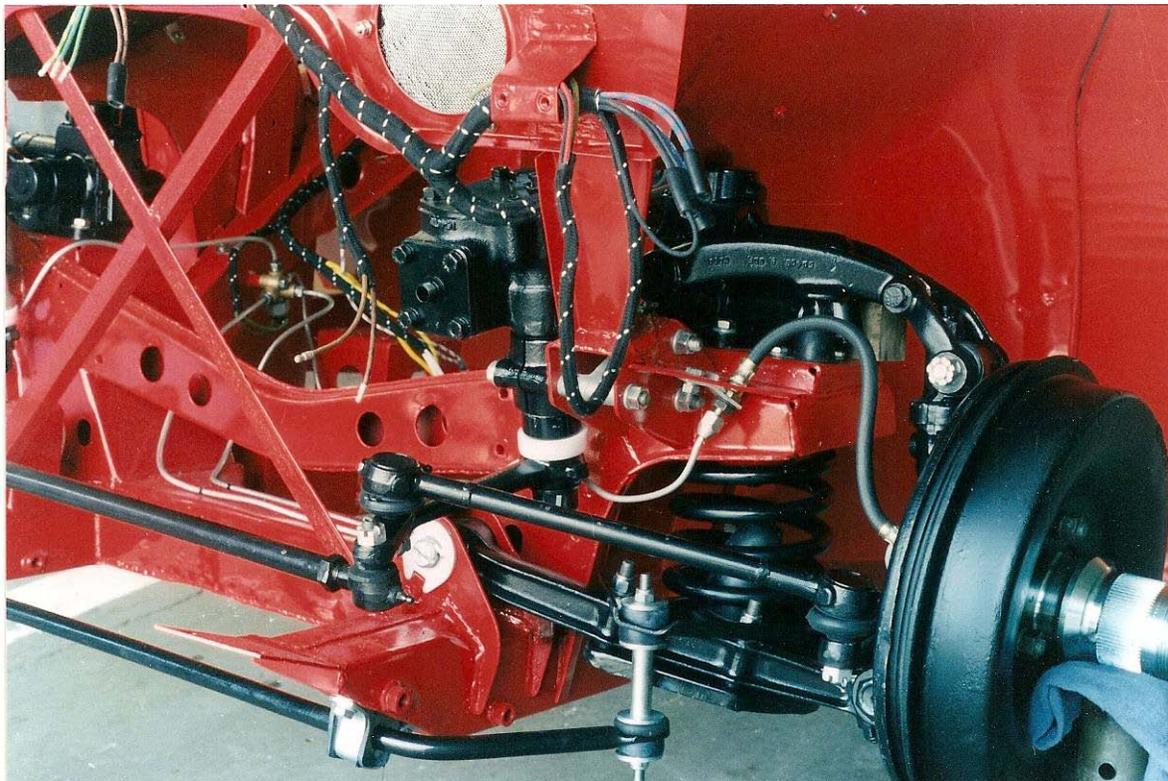
Performance Options for the Big Healey include installing modified heavy duty / competition valves for a small additional charge (Moss # 655-060). I find the front shocks need the additional resistance of the up-rated valve, but the rear shocks do not.

Another option I would urge you to consider is trading in your stock AH front shocks for MGB front shocks. The MGB front shock has a similar body with the same pistons and valve assembly. The real upgrade comes with the shorter MGB shock arms. These angle the kingpins, resulting in a negative three degrees of camber at the wheel, rather than the stock positive two degrees of camber. Not only is this closer to modern automotive engineering practice, it makes a real difference in the handling of the car.

The MGB shock also has an air pocket above its fill plug. This air pocket reduces the pressure on the seals when the shock fluid heats up in use. (Shock oil expands when it heats during driving. Remembering our high school studies - pressure creates heat, heat creates expansion. Liquids are incompressible, so fluid will blow out through the seal.)

If you do install the MGB shocks with the air chambers, the sheet metal of the inner fender will need to be trimmed about ¼ inch for clearance.

Performance Options for the Sprite include installing up-rated valves as above (Moss # 264-027). The Sprite front shock mount points on the frame are at an angle. Installing spacers (washers or fabricated plates) - effectively moving the shock upward and inward - will angle the kingpin giving more negative camber. Polyurethane offset bushings (Moss # 282-308) are available which can move the camber toward negative.



Delegates Approve Increase in Austin-Healey Club of America Dues

By Greg Lauser, MAHC Delegate

After 11 years of holding the line, delegates approved a \$10 dues increase – the first since 1999. Before that it was seven years without an increase; and another seven years before that increase. So, in 25 years national dues have gone from \$30 to \$50, or an average annual increase of less than a dollar. In addition to all other benefits, national membership dues provide our club - and all other AHCA-affiliated clubs - liability insurance for our club officers, regular club events, plus airport speed runs and vertical slaloms like the Afton Alps Hillclimb, which are our club's biggest revenue generators. That's one reason other sports car owners attend our events – their clubs do not have that benefit. I hope Healey owners will keep those factors in mind when they decide to renew AHCA membership this winter.

All vintage car clubs are fighting two trends: decreasing membership and increasing costs. National membership was 3,193 in early November 2010. This was down 35 from 3228 last year at the same time and down 205 from November 2008.

Regarding increasing costs, AHCA has been operating a planned budget deficit for the past six years. In addition to generally increasing prices for everything, there were four increases in paper costs for printing the Healey Marque during 2010. Postage for mailing it is expected to increase during 2011. Also, due to the ages of most Healey owners, AHCA has spent added funds on member recruitment through PR and Future 50 efforts.

As one way to hold dues steady, delegates approved listing AHCA on a classic car initiative being started by Angie's List. If you want to recommend a parts or services supplier, go to <https://www.angieslist.com/AngiesList/review/charitablereports.aspx> and enter Austin-Healey Club of America as the charity. Angie's List will donate \$5 to AHCA for each valid report. You'll be asked for your own and the supplier's contact information, like you would find on a business card.

National officers remain the same. AHCA is looking for a new webmaster. For anyone interested, here is a brief summary of what qualifications it is seeking in the person selected. It is anticipated that the new webmaster will spend 2-3 hours weekly on those responsibilities, and there is a budgeted increase in expenses for paying someone.

The Conclave 2010 group reported a slight profit of \$1,138, with \$569 of that contributed to AHCA. Conclave 2011 is July 3-8 in Colorado Springs, CO. Conclave 2012 is slated for Louisville, KY. Conclave 2013 will be set at Charlevoix, a northeastern Quebec resort about 5 hours northeast of Montreal and two hours north of Quebec City.

For those headed to Colorado Springs in July: you may register at the Crowne Plaza Hotel before registering for Conclave by going to www.conclave2011.com or calling 888-233-9527. The group identity is Austin-Healey Club. The Conclave brochure and registration form were printed in the November issue of the Healey Marque.

Events Schedule

- Dec. 1**** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
Dec. 4 ** **Planning Breakfast** – (Sat.) The schedule of events for 2011 will be on the agenda for this meeting. See below.

2011

- June 16 - 19** **Rendezvous on the Red** – (Thurs.–Sun.) Hilton Garden Inn at Fargo, ND
July 3 - 8 **Conclave 2011** – (Sun.–Thurs.) The Crown Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO.

** - Denotes an official MAHC club activity

Planning Breakfast !

Date: Saturday December 4th

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Place: Capitol View Restaurant

637 Smith Ave. So.

St. Paul, MN 55107

Phone: 651-290-0218

**(just across the Smith Ave. bridge
 South of downtown St. Paul)**



Come help schedule the club events for 2011 !

Board of Directors Meeting

Time: 11:00 am (approximately)

Place: Capitol View Grill

Purposes: To Elect a Board Chairman

To approve of the Schedule of Events for 2011.

To discuss By-laws changes in regards to “Corporation” wording.

To discuss any other old/new business.

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

First Class Postage



MARKETPLACE

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 - Parts for a non-overdrive BN6. Differential, 3.90, \$200. Speedometer(poor condition), SN6105/08, \$50. Tachometer, RN2351/03, \$100. Fuel Gauge(2), FG2530/03, \$50(both). Water Temperature/Oil Pressure, GD1502/05, \$100. Call Tom Wolters at 651 307 3298 or email at tjwolter@redwing.net (9/10)

FOR SALE - MK1 /Sprite/Midget radiator. \$75.00 Call Dwight at 763-754-7111 or email dwight@bmcautos.com . (9/10)

FOR SALE – Bugeye Sprite Race Car. Black, Flairs, RHD. Regional & National H.P. winner. Currently set up for Vintage. Car Show Winner – LOL – SCCA. Best Prepared Car “Event Winner”. Built and owned by Paul Gau for 40 years. Never crashed or trashed. Complete history available. Asking \$15,000.
Call Paul at 952-933-7277 or email Two_Peas@comcast.net . (9/10)

Steve Rixen is...

 **Strictly British** 

Parts, Service & Consultation



Email: scrixen@gmail.com
Cell: 612-877-1938

729 Paul Burch Drive Hudson WI 54016