



The Healey Enthusiast

Volume XXX No. III

April 2019



Warm & Sunny.....Top Down and Ready.....Let the Season Begin !

APRIL EVENTS

Wed.	APRIL 3	PIE Meeting
Sat.	APRIL 20	Adopt-a-Hwy. Clean-up

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GEOFF ROSSI
CLARENCE WESTBERG
GARY WETZEL

Minnesota Web Site **www.mnhealey.com**

National Web Site **www.healeyclub.org**

President's **I**nformal **E**vening

Date: Wednesday April 3rd
Time: 7:00 p.m. (or before)
Place: Joseph's Grill
140 So. Wabasha
St. Paul, MN 55107
651-222-2435

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

Thank YOU

To the members that submitted news, articles, and photos for this newsletter issue:

Kim Rixen	Steve Rixen
Daphne Walmer	Greg Lauser
Dave Herreid	Scott McQueen
Barb Ronning	Tom Hazen
Eileen Wetzel	Diane Rindt

Cover picture courtesy of A-H Club, Pacific Centre

Current and past newsletters:
<http://www.mnhealey.com/mnhealey/newsletter.htm>

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. 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 Kim Rixen

What's behind the garage door?

I know where the bodies are buried in my neighborhood. And by bodies, I mean the sports cars. There are the ones sequestered behind garage doors hibernating like bears during winter. And the ones that are in various states of rust or restoration--the teal blue Triumph TR8 that occasionally gets moved from one stall to the next, the brown Spitfire that's pushed into the driveway during garage cleaning, the Saab Sonett hiding behind moving boxes, and something with a wire wheel peeking out from under a brown plastic tarp.

Our house is no exception. As a long-time British car enthusiast and mechanic, Steve has inherited many excess parts over the years. Some are the remnants of restorations; others the casualties of lost motivation.

We have engines, transmissions, and all the body panels needed to build a Big Healey. So why not build a Big Healey? And why not build it for me? My requests: make it reliable, make it so my feet reach the pedals, and make it whatever color I want.

With that green light, Steve brought home a very fragile looking frame and began cutting off the good parts. A new frame to which the solid bulkhead will be attached arrived from England on a subzero day in January. Since it was a federal holiday, I went with him to pick it up and take it to the painter. We dropped it off as the wind picked up and the temperature started dropping. Several weeks later, it was back in the garage all nicely painted.

"This is going to be the car that Donald Healey wanted to build," Steve tells me. It's going to have power steering, power brakes, an automatic transmission, and an engine from a 1966 Mustang with a 289 block and 302 crank. I think that means it's going to be fast. He gets all excited when he talks about "my car."

My car? We'll see. In the meantime, stay tuned for updates about what's happening behind our garage door.



The Presidents Informal Evening

By Daphne Walmer

New member

President Kim Rixen introduced new member Bill Donald from Hamm Lake. He says he used to be a Corvette guy. His latest acquisition from California is a 1955 100. It's black with a 289 Ford 4-barrel in it. He's learning and "enjoying heck out of it." Bill has known Steve Rixen for many years, since Steve worked on Bill's Sprite. Bill joked that once Steve comes to your house, "he never shuts up." Bill is eager to get into the garage, and he hopes to have club members out for refreshments and assessments sometime this summer.

Acknowledgements

- Thanks to Greg and Nancy Lauser for hosting their borscht and chili feed, where we did more planning for Conclave.
- Thanks to Greg and Suzanne Willodson for coordinating our morning of volunteering at Second Harvest Heartland. The morning crew packed more than 8000 pounds of red potatoes. The club also made a \$300 donation to Second Harvest, and enjoyed lunch afterwards. This volunteering event is always a lot of fun.

Upcoming event

Scott McQueen is hosting his annual tech session on Saturday, March 16, starting around 10 a.m. until around 1:00 p.m. Some people come earlier, and some go to Elsie's for breakfast first; it's not far away. Steve Rixen will give a presentation and answer questions for about an hour, and folks will hang out, look at and talk about cars, dig through papers, magazines, and books, and enjoy the usual camaraderie. It's spring break, so at least 20 parking places should be available in the lot next door. Note that there is parking on only one side of the street, and the snow is supposed to pile up further this weekend. Feel free to bring friends and relatives. Scott's racecar won't be there, but other cars will be!

Membership

Jim Kriz reported through Kim that we have 59 paid members. Everyone who paid dues to the national Austin Healey Club of America joined in time to get into the membership book. We expect membership to rise when the snowbirds return.

Rendezvous

Kim asked for a show of hands on how many people plan to go to Rendezvous. The Minnesota MG Club sent a letter requesting that each club donate an item or two to the silent auction. Suzanne and others mentioned that in our experience the silent auction is stocked by the hosting club, and we need to stock the Conclave silent auction in September. Anyone interested in donating to Rendezvous should contact Elena Beissener at elen2b0916@comcast.net.

Continued....

Adopt a Highway

Dave Herreid has been notified that the club's 2-year commitment to Adopt-a-Highway is expiring. Sometimes only four people have been participating in the twice-a-year cleanup. It's a long drive to our section of highway near Red Wing. We discussed whether we want to continue this volunteer activity, and whether we want to request a section closer to the Twin Cities. The current location has beautiful scenery, and there is not too much garbage - versus what's on I94, for example. Some mentioned that it is a nice drive down there, and driving is why we have Healeys. With a show of hands, we decided to continue adopting a highway, probably in our current section near Red Wing. To see what else might be available Dave Herreid will ask about other potential sections of highway.

Conclave

Schedule and volunteers: Eileen Wetzel reported that as a result of a suggestion made at the chili feed, the Conclave team assembled a rough schedule. Gary Wetzel made them as excel sheets based on the times that the chili participants agreed that people are needed. Gary Wetzel also passed out signup sheets for different events, so that event leaders can rally their own teams. Some activities overlap; so be careful when volunteering, in case you want to do an activity that may be in the same time slot.

We expect to need the most volunteers on Friday, when attendees are checking in. However, quite a few registrants plan to come early on Wednesday or Thursday; so Friday might not be as big a rush as it would be otherwise. We had planned to station three volunteers at each of the trailer lots; if we put three volunteers at each lot we will need lots of volunteers. Gary laid out two-hour slots for volunteering. We may find out that we don't need so many people; but we are planning to be well staffed, especially for the first days, because we want to keep participants in a good mood for the rest of the time. This Conclave will be one of the bigger in years. We expect more than 500 people, as we have 250 registrations.

In general, we need everyone to come early to Conclave and drive around town, so that we get to know it and thus can help people from other clubs. The town is not a simple grid, and it has many one-way streets.

Sponsorships: Gary Wetzel reported that a couple of meetings on sponsorships were held this week. They are still ongoing.

Silent auction items: Gary Wetzel noted that anyone working on cars may be especially interested in the two Bilstein Shock Kits that have been donated for the silent auction, one for a Big Healey and one for a Sprite. Their retail value is \$1000 apiece. (Bilstein – sold by Putzke's Fahrspass - is a well known brand for shock absorber conversion kits.)

People can bring donations for the silent auctions as soon as the next PIE meeting April 3. The items can be stored until Conclave. Many people are taking trailers, so we can carry a lot of items to the Black Hills.

Waumandee

Tom Hazen announced that we are skipping a year for the Waumandee Hill Climb. It will be back in 2020. Suzanne Willodson said she will notify the Green Door, a B&B where many of us have stayed for that event. Some members may still go to the Green Door that weekend.

Continued....

Hot Wheels Report

Tom Hazen brought and set up the Hot-Wheels course once again for the **Fourteenth Annual Hot Wheels Gran Prix !**

As usual, there were many heated races with much (friendly) competition.



Winners, their hot-wheel cars, and their best times ended up as follows:

- Kate Westberg, Porsche 911: 2.95
- Eileen Wetzel, Rocketfire: 3.04
- Dick Leighninger, Tooligan: 3.25
- Dave Hatzung, Crescendo: 3.40
- Scott McQueen, Corvette Grand Sport: 3.41
- Steve Rixen, 40 something: 3.79
- Rich Stadther, Enzo: 4.93



The parking lot....!



Some of the Winners – Kate Westberg, Eileen Wetzel, Dick Leighninger, Dave Hatzung, and Maestro Tom Hazen .

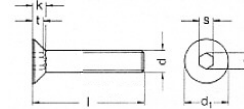
Meeting Attendees:

- Kim & Steve Rixen, Rich & Liz Stadther, Gary & Eileen Wetzel, Kate & Clarence Westberg, Dave Hatzung, Dick Leighninger, Dave Herreid & Daphne Walmer, Tom Politiski, Greg & Suzanne Willodson, Stefanie Dawson, Carl & Betty Stine, Scott McQueen, Nancy & Greg Lauser, Jane Schuler & Tom Hazen, and Bill Donald.

The Annual McQ TECH SESSION

By Scott McQueen

Friday started anew the thaw in my neighborhood, so the walks were a bit icy by Saturday morning for those who attended the annual tech session. Early arrivers got their pick of the Glam Doll donuts, and fresh brewed coffee from Caribou. Socialization was quite lively right from the start,\; and interestingly, this event annually attracts a few “regulars” that aren’t frequent attendees to the club’s monthly meetings. Must be the intriguing tech session topics.....



We started out with a mini tech session on how to rebuild your trafficator with 3D printed parts. Rick Kane shared his 3 trafficator prototypes, that are gradually inching towards success. Prototype #4 should be likely a functional winner and his Healey is likely to be on the road this summer. After some good feedback from the crowd, Steve gave him the hook and the main act was to begin.

Dr. Steve Rixen began his talk at 10:20 am. The lecture was titled “what I’ve seen...” , or I’d say Austin Healey tales of woe. The wise doctor gave us a survey course on amazing discoveries he’s seen over the years - chronicling inadequate replacement parts failures, incredible wear, some neglect, and some owner creativity. The lecture as always was filled with humor, great photographic examples, visual aids as hand outs, and the ability for the audience to chime in their personal experiences. After a robust two hours filled with lessons, the class adjourned and socializing began again. The students seemed to enjoy the class and once released, headed out to enjoy the balance of their day.

Notable guest Mark Brandow brought an apprentice from his shop - Rogelio Osornio - whose youth and enthusiasm was infectious. He loves these old Brit cars and is learning all about their quirkiness. He will be around again...

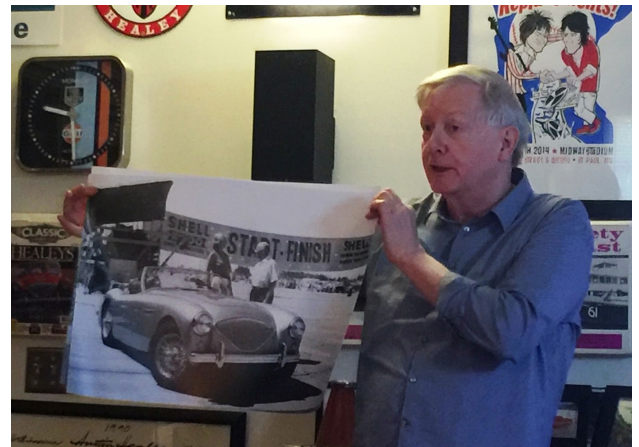
Thanks for all who come and make this event worth doing. I love to share my place and fill it with the energy that only a car club can provide. Let’s all look forward to the driving season that soon approaches.

Attendees: Spencer Angel, Rick Kane, Steve Hagen, Rich Stadther, Phil See, Chuck Norton, Drew and Bill Donald, Gary Oster, Rod Richert, Tom and June Moerke, Dan Powell, Greg Lauser, Gary and Eileen Wetzel, Steve and Kim Rixen, Scott McQueen, Mark Brandow, Rogelio Osornio, and Kevin Finn.

Continued.....

The Annual McQ TECH SESSION

Continued.....



**DOWNTOWN
OSSEO, MN**



**10AM-3PM
RAIN OR SHINE**

SPRING KICK-OFF

27TH ANNUAL VINTAGE FOREIGN CAR SHOW

FEATURED MARQUE | **MERCEDES**

**MAY 11
2019**



2019 VINTAGE FOREIGN CLUB SPONSORS

- Alfa Romeo Owners Club, Stella del Nord Chapter
- Citroën Club of MN • MN Austin-Healey Club
- Jaguar Club of MN • Lotus Owners Of the North (LOON)
- Mercedes-Benz Club of America: Twin Cities Section
- Metropolitans from MN • MN MG Group • MN Triumphs
- Vintage Sports Car Racing (VSCR) • North Coast Borgward Club

CRAFT SHOW IN BOERBOOM VETERANS PARK

This is a FREE* event open to 1999 OR OLDER, FOREIGN motorcars, motorcycles, scooters, and racers. FIRST COME FIRST PARKED. Placement starts at 9 am. Parking staff will be on hand to direct arrivals. Groups wishing to park together MUST ARRIVE EN-MASSE. *Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate. Visit InterMarque.org for a map + updates.

Girl Scouts Traveling Europe (GSTE) will be handling the voting to help raise funds for their trip to Europe.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
THE CITY OF OSSEO!**

Rendezvous 2019



Back to the '70s

The Minnesota MG Group invites you to
Rendezvous 2019!
June 6th - 9th



Experience Rendezvous in Wisconsin

It's time to get behind the wheel and see the breathtaking views! You'll drive on roads that twist and turn through the countryside with stunning scenery that's never ending including rolling hills, bluffs, streams, rivers and lakes.

Some of the Event Details:

- + Rally's to Excite the Driving Senses
- + Domestic Local Winery Tours
- + Tech. Sessions for the Guys and Gals
- + Wine and Cheese Tasting
- + Car Show on the Green
- + Funkanna Skilled Driving Event
- + Self-Guided Country Tours
- + Awards Banquet with Entertainment

Host Hotel: The Best Western Plus Conference Center
3340 Mondovi Rd, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
(715)838-9989 or 1(800)780-7234

Alternate Lodging: The Hampton Inn by Hilton

2622 Craig Rd, Eau Claire, Wisconsin (*It's just down the road from the Best Western*)

(715)833-0003 or make your reservations on line by visiting the MN MG Group website Rendezvous page.



For more Information and to
Register for this Event visit the
MN MG Group website
www.mn-mggroup.org

or

Contact Diane Rindt at:
(715) 379-6001
drindt4271@yahoo.com

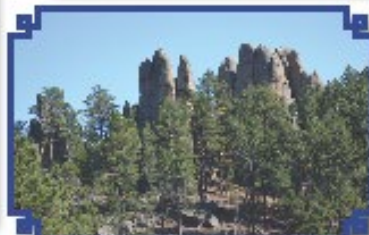
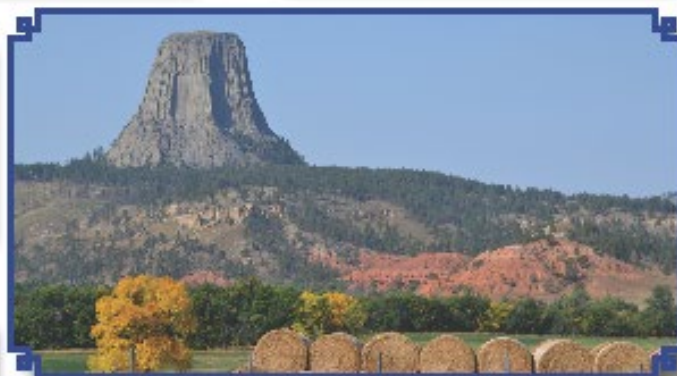
29th Annual
Vintage Sports Car Event,
Rendezvous



CONCLAVE 2019

September 6-11

OH, WHAT WONDERS YOU WILL SEE
ON ROADS AROUND DEADWOOD SD



From Top Left: Crazy Horse Monument . Mount Rushmore National Monument
Devils Tower National Monument . Wind Cave National Park
Custer State Park Needles Highway & Curious Burros . Badlands National Park

Register for Black Hills Conclave 2019 @ www.mnhealey.com/conclave2019

Zen and the Art of Getting in Gear

By Dave Herneid

Some of you may know I took a nasty fall this winter while doing something stupid; I won't bore you with details. However, after the fall, in a split second my thought process went like this:

- #!* this doesn't look good.
- Daphne is going to kill me... I didn't bring my phone!
- Will I be able to drive my Healey this summer?
- Possibly, if I can get to help.

My fall occurred because I got distracted, or as some have judged, I wasn't thinking. Once down I re-grouped and focused on survival, loved ones, and the up-coming Healey driving season.

So it is with interest that I recently read a *New York Times* Editorial:

"Forget Self-Driving Cars. Bring Back the Stick Shift" by Dr. Vatsal G. Thakkar.

Here is the link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/23/opinion/sunday/stick-shift-cars.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage>

In the article, Dr. Thakkar recounts an incident he had while driving his wife's car. In his own car he is in the habit of relying on an 'audible proximity alert' that warns the driver about an imminent collision. However, his wife's car doesn't have the device. He goes on to discuss the limitations of safety features; and notes that when drivers become reliant on the technology, they often become less vigilant and stop paying attention. *In other words, they forget to drive the car!*

He continues with more examples, and it's an interesting read. However, it is his conclusion that will warm many an MAHC member's heart. He opines about the value of a manual transmission! He notes "...there's one feature available on some cars today that can increase a driver's vigilance instead of diminishing it – *the manual transmission.*" Yes, he's talking about a bright future and the ultimate safety device. This is a device that requires all four appendages to work in harmony, a device that mutes the distractions that run rampant over our daily lives, a device that will bring focus to the moment. This glorious device makes smart phones, coffee mugs, cigarette lighters, (and in an Austin Healey—the radio), hard to use. It's no wonder why an LBC equipped with a manual transmission is a happy place indeed.

Hope to see you in a happy place too !

P.S. I am on the mend; however Daphne, our Vice President, caught my case of distraction and now is on crutches. And what about the Healey? The flat tire will be fixed this week. The Healey, and we, will be ready for summer.



CHANGE OF DATE – APRIL 20

Adopt-a-Highway Pick-up ~The Spring Fling Edition~

Come see and collect the treasures that winter has bestowed on our little section of highway heaven this year!

Saturday April 20 at 9 a.m.

We will meet just north of Lake City at the
Veterans Highway Roadside Park
U.S. Hwy 61

(From there we will go to north to our highway section)

- Gloves and vests will be provided.
- Water-proof boots and a hat are always a good idea.
 - Lunch at will be provided by MAHC.
- **Note: Let me know if you plan to attend via email.**
 - I will check the weather forecast on Friday, and if prudent will cancel and notify you by email
 - A rain date will be tentatively set at that time.

Questions? Contact Dave Herreid @ 651-334-3879 or email:
david.herreid@gmail.com



Events Schedule

- April 3** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 pm. See page 2.
- April 20***** **Adopt a Highway Clean-up – *NOTE DATE CHANGE *** (Sat) Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Veteran's Hwy. Roadside Park at milepost 80 on US Hwy. 61 – just above Lake City, MN for the Spring Adopt-a-Highway clean up. Arrangements by Dave Herreid. See page 13.
- May 1** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 pm. See page 2
- May 4** **Hatzung Party** – (Sat) – Details later.
- May 11** **InterMarque Spring Kick-Off** – (Sat) The InterMarque Council will again sponsor this well attended event in downtown Osseo, MN.
- May 17-19** **SVRA Spring Vintage Festival** – (Fri - Sun) This will be the first weekend for vintage races at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI.
- May 24-26** **Racing at Brainerd International Raceway** – (Fri – Sun) The SCCA will be heading up the regional racing on the Road Course.
- June 5** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2
- June 6-9** **Rendezvous 2019** – (Thur-Sun) The location this year is in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The Minnesota MG Group will be hosting this year. Should be a great time on the WI backroads!
- June 15** **Coulee Classic** – (Sat) Details later.
- June 19-23** **Back to the 50's Car Show** – (Fri-Sun) The MSRA will again arrange this huge annual show at the MN State Fairgrounds – 11,000 cars...or more??
- June 22** **Amery Competition Run** – (Sat) Excellent test running of your favorite Sports Car orchestrated by Greg Willodson at the Amery WI airport.
- June 23** **InterMarque Picnic** – (Sun) The first monthly InterMarque Picnic of the season. Join your fellow British enthusiasts for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul.

InterMarque Breakfasts

Elsie's Restaurant, Bar and Bowling Center is the breakfast destination every Saturday at 8:00 AM. The second Saturday of the month is Ladies' Day, though of course, they are welcome every week.

Location: 729 Marshall St. N.E.
Minneapolis.

Map at <http://elsies.com>.

InterMarque Newsletter

Check out InterMarque's multi-marque calendar in their latest newsletter for even more car events!

InterMarque.org



Events Schedule

- July 3** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meet at 7:00 p.m. See page 2 for details.
- July 5-7** **Racing at Brainerd International Raceway** – (Fri – Sun) The SCCA will be heading up regional racing on the Road Course.
- July 18-21** **WeatherTec International Challenge.** (Thur-Sun) The largest racing event of our area will be held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI this weekend. Lots of excitement.
- July 27** **Mexican Fiesta Party** – (Sat) Mike & Gloria Lynch will again host their annual Fiesta !
- July 28** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 p.m. Monthly gathering for a picnic will be held at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- August 7** **PIE Meeting** - (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. See page 2
- August 10** **The “New” Brit Fest** – (Sat) At Lakefront Park in Hudson, WI. Sponsored by the MN MG Group.
- August 17** **Amery Airport Run** – (Sat) Greg Willodson will hold a second run at Amery, WI.
- August 24** **Dawson Party** – (Sat) Phil & Stefanie Dawson are planning to have another party at their home in River Falls, WI.
- August 24-25** **Racing at Brainerd International Raceway** – (Fri – Sun) The SCCA will again be heading up the regional racing on the Road Course.
- August 25** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 p.m. Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- Sept. 4** **PIE Meeting** – There will be no PIE Meeting this month.
- Sept.. 6-11** **AHCA Conclave 2019** – (Fri – Wed) The Minnesota Austin Healey Club will be sponsoring the National AHCA Conclave in Deadwood, SD. All members of our club are encouraged to attend and assist at the event.
- Sept. 13-15** **Fall Vintage Race Festival** - (Fri-Sun) Held at RoadAmerica in Elkhart Lake, WI. A great opportunity to see vintage racing up close. Watch our members competing in their cars !
- Sept. 27-29** **Waumandee Hill Climb** – (Fri-Sun) The annual vintage car uphill slalom will be held under the direction of Tom Hazen. **CANCELLED FOR 2019**
- Sept. 29** **Intermarque Picnic** – (Sun) 1:00 p.m. Monthly gathering for a picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Bring your own food and refreshments.
- Oct. 2** **PIE Meeting** – (Wed) Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. See page 2.
- Oct. 5** **Adopt a Highway Clean-up** - (Sat) The second of our two clean-ups for the year is to be on this date. Arrangements by Dave Herreid.
- Oct 12** **MG Fall Color Tour** – (Sat) Enjoy touring for colors with our MG friends.
- Nov. 6** **PIE Meeting** – (Sat) Club meeting at 8:30 a.m. See page 2.
- Nov. 8-10** **AHCA Delegates Meeting** – Our club representatives will be attending this meeting.
- Nov. 16** **Annual Banquet / Business Meeting Party** – (Sat) The annual dinner, election of officers, and business meeting will occur on this evening.
- Dec. 7** **PIE/Planning Breakfast** – (Sat) The schedule of events for 2020 will be on the agenda for this meeting hosted by Daphne Walmer. A Board of Directors meeting will follow.

Please note that the 2019 Events Schedule is tentative and may be incomplete. Watch for announcements and changes as the year progresses.



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: One set of manifolds for the 6 cylinder Healey. They are meant for 3 Weber Carbs or 3 SU Carbs. Made out of Steel and have been porcelainized. Asking \$800.00/set. Contact Fred Ambli by email at fred@liftpro.com . (4/19)



For Sale: A set of four 72 spoke wheels with tires. The wheels are not pretty, but functional. I also have four used 60 spoke wheels. Two are mounted with tires. From an unfinished project started in 1992, 32 long, 64 short spokes and 96 nipples together with a spoke wrench (all new in the box). I would like to sell the whole kit and caboodle as a lot. Best offers. Email Barry Wahlberg at geo4bar@gctel.com (4/19)

For Sale: 1964 Austin Healey BJ7. 72 spoke chrome wires, factory overdrive, great driver and runs perfectly. \$37,500. Steve Walburg, 612-272-7069, swalburg13@gmail.com. (4/19)

