

*A publication by and for the members of the
Flatwater Austin-Healey Club of Nebraska and Western Iowa*

April 2009 Calendar:

6 Monday

Officers Meeting
Parker's Smoke House
Hwy 6/63, 7 p.m.

9 Thursday

Pub Night
Parker's Smoke House
the new place
Hwy 6/63 6:30 p.m.

18 Saturday

Breakfast at Mahoney
State Park 9 a.m. or so.

18 Saturday

KFC Run Olpe, Kansas
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24 Friday

FISH 6:30
Memphis NE
Don't forget to RSVP
Page 2

26 Sunday

Scribner Driving Skills
Event Page 2

**FAHC
Racing
Memorabilia
Page 9**

April Newsletter
Deadline
Friday April 24th



ARE YOU READY FOR SPRING DRIVING?

April Events Pg 2 – 3



DRIVERS START YOUR ENGINES

Plan Ahead and Act Now - May, June and July Pg 3- 6

Fumes – 2009 Racing Schedule Pg 6-7

Mazda Spawn of MG Pg 7-8

APRIL EVENTS

KFC Kansas Fried Chicken Run at Olpe Saturday April 18

Reported by Barb Rixstine

If you're really anxious to get your little British car out, and the middle of April looks good, consider going on the Olpe, Kansas Chicken Run led and organized by the British Car Club of Wichita, KS. Olpe is a little south of Emporia, KS so it's a bit of a drive from Lincoln, unless you overnight in KC or somewhere south. Anyway, here's what the organizers have to say:

"Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Olpe Chicken Run on April 18, one week after Easter, to caravan to THE CHICKEN HOUSE. The menu for this year is same as last year: Fried Chicken, Brisket, Potatoes, Corn, Rolls, Salas, and coffee or tea for \$9.25 as it stands now. This may vary a little, depending on the 2009 economy, but should be very close. This also includes an ice cream cup for dessert.

Last year, British Car Enthusiasts from 4 states attended this gathering and we look for more to attend this year. We will need a count from each club so as time gets closer, please e-mail Sharolyn with your count. The Kansas City Club has agreed to be in charge of a short driving challenge for this year, so come prepared to test your skills. Spread the word - April 18th!!"

The (Kansas City) Midwest MGA club is also going, but no details yet on when and/or where we're meeting or other details. If you'd like to go, contact Barbara Rixstine at rixstine@yahoo.com or 402-464-3733. I'll e-mail Sharolyn with a final count.

FISH FRIDAY the 24th at MEMPHIS

This month we go to Don's Bar at 207 Cairo Street in Memphis.

Be there by 6:30.

Call in your RSVPs to Gary Pence 402-580-4236 or E-Mail jpence@neb.rr.com

March Oops!

Looks like FAHC members thought more about Elsworth's Pub in Mead than the locals did since it closed due to lack of economic stimulus. This subsequently closed out the March fish.

SPRING PERFORMANCE RUNS SUNDAY APRIL 26TH



Sunday, April 26th is the date for FAHC members to test their metal and their mettle on a challenging "Top Speed" course at the Scribner Airbase.

We are planning a course similar to those of years before – starting out with a 4/10^{ths} of a mile "Drag Race" to a 180 degree turnaround and then back through some slalom gates. We believe a new laser beam timing system will be used, and it is possible we will have a laser speed measuring gun at the event. We typically offer a practice run or two and then up to 5 "official" timed runs. There is often time to make some "fun runs" at the end of the event as well.

We encourage any and all members to give this event a try. If you want to drive slowly to see how your car handles the turns, no one will complain or find it humorous. The event is designed to be fun, and to help members learn how their cars handle different maneuvers. Experienced FAHC members will be available for assistance and coaching if you would like some guidance.

Protecting the safety of all participants is “Rule #1” for all of our competition events. We design our courses with the goal of keeping everyone safe, and the layout of the course provides for ample run off room in the event that a driver loses control. All drivers and passengers must be members for insurance purposes. Membership applications will be available for anyone wanting to join the club and the fun. Proper racing helmets and safety belts are required for the driver and any passengers on all runs. Loaner helmets will be available. Vehicles will be required to pass a stringent safety inspection.

Plan to arrive between 10 and 11 a.m. to get your vehicle inspected. Some people will show up early to start setting up. It’s not a problem if you can’t arrive until later, just show up! The runs will start as soon as setup is complete – usually around 11:30 or so. We try to give everyone at least 5 runs. We set up out on the runway where there are no trees for shade. We recommend you bring sun screen, water, food and possibly a sun shade canopy. The event usually ends around 4 p.m. It could be cold this year, since the date is so early. Watch the weather and be prepared!

To get to the Airbase, follow Hwy 275 (which is also 77 and 91) north out of Fremont. Stay on Highway 275 as it turns west and passes south of Hooper. Look for the small, white signs that say “FAHC” and follow the arrows. Turn left (West) on County Road “J”. Stay on that gravel road for less than 2 miles, and you will drive straight into the airfield. Use this link to MapQuest (Choose “aerial map”, then zoom in a bit and scroll west until you find a triangle of pavement out in the farm fields) - <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Hooper&state=NE>

Watch the club bulletin board for updates. Call or Email Joe Guinan for car inspection forms or for any other needed information. (402) 720-4374, joeg@neb.rr.com

PLAN AHEAD – ACT NOW FOR MAY

TULIP TOUR AND FESTIVAL 15-17 MAY

Reservations are going fast due to two colleges in the area having graduation the same weekend. If the reserved rooms fill up you will have to find other accommodations in the area. Tour highlights include a drive through the Loess Hills, a tour of the Healey Works, a Saturday full of Tulip Festival activities and a stop at the Blue Bunny ice cream museum. (See the festival web site www.octulipfestival.com for a full list of Saturday activities.)

We have a block of 10 rooms held in Sioux Center at the Colonial Inn 7 miles from Orange City. These rooms cost \$55 per night plus tax and are held but not reserved. They are going fast due to two college graduations that same weekend. Reserve your own rooms by calling 712-722-2614. Then contact Joe Kueper – editorjoe@msn.com or 402-592-3132 to let him know you are going so he can keep you up to date on the planned events.

Miscellaneous Events

On Armed Forces Day, May 16th, there will be a car show at Mahoney State Park to benefit the military. There will be room for 125 cars and the registration will cost about \$10.00 to \$20.00. The park entry fee is waived for show cars. More details later.

-- The 2009 Orphan Car Show, sponsored by the Studebaker Drivers Club, will be held May 17th at Ralston. The featured car will be the Hudson with all cars welcome.

-- May 29 through 31, 2009, 30th Annual O'Reilly Auto Parts Hot Rod Super Nationals at the Nebraska State Fair Park. Registration is \$35.00. Visit www.familyevents.com or call Ron Carlson at (317) 236-6515, ext 4668 for more information.

YOUTH EVENTS

We often discuss how the fascination and interest in British marques will continue. The next generation of enthusiasts will only be there to carry the torch if we pass it to them. Here is a chance to just that. Attend one or all of these high school car shows let them see and hear why our cars are so special.

MAY 8 Friday evening Papillion: - Papillion – La Vista South High School Skills USA Show and Shine Fundraiser. Plenty of food, plaques and prizes. FREE registration 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and peoples choice voting in 9 classes. PLV South Stadium, one block south of the light at 108th Street and Hwy. 370. Contact: Roger Campbell, 402-829-4600

May 9 Saturday Lincoln: Lincoln Northeast High School will be having its 2nd Annual Rocket Car Show on Saturday with registration starting at 9 a.m., judging at noon and trophies at 3 p.m. Register early for \$10 or on the day for \$15. Classes will be added as we feel necessary based on early registration counts. If we get a bunch of early registrations from the Flatwater club, we will try to set aside a section exclusively for the British cars, so we encourage early registration. If you have any further questions, feel free to call me 402-326-0867 or send e-mail akoeste@lps.org

May 17 Sunday Lincoln: The Lincoln Southeast High School Car Show starts reservations at at 9 a.m., with judging at noon, and awards at 3:30 p.m. Contact Tommy Bender, 402-553-6705 or Gary Hall 571-3201.

May 30 Saturday afternoon-evening Bellevue: The Cougar Classic Car Show at Gross Catholic High School, 770 S. 43rd St. starts with registration from 3-5 p.m. Early fee is \$15 and on the day it is \$20. Two awards will be given per class at 7p.m. Call 734-2000 or www.grosscatholic.org

ATTENTION! DATE CHANGE

**Heartland MG Show, Overland Park, Kansas
Now Friday and Saturday 5-6 June**

Don't forget that the Parking Lot Performance Runs will be held in Lincoln at the South West High School on Sunday June 7th

GOING OUT OF TOWN?

57th Annual Rallye Glenwood Springs, June 12-14, 2009

<http://mgcc.org> for more details

or

AHCA Conclave – Kingston, Ontario June 21-26

MARK THESE DATES FOR JUNE

Council Bluffs Fun Run – Sunday June 28th 2 P.M.

By Chrissy Conant

Gerry and I want to invite you to a Sunday drive in and around Council Bluffs. This will include a stop for feasting at CB's most popular icecream shop, Christy Cream. They also have burgers, tenderloins and FABULOUS fries and onion rings, you know, the really healthy kinds of food. Save the date and check the June News letter for more details.

Fremont Days – Barbecue and No Show

Leo Thietje Reports

I am sorry to say the John C. Fremont Days auto show has been canceled. Many of us in the club wanted to see it continue however, we just could not get enough help. We are still planning on having the BBQ at our place, and all are welcome. Fremont Days will still have the vendors etc just not the car show. Editors Note: We will update you with details as plans firm up.

Sunbeam International – Rapid City, South Dakota 21-27 June

By Bart Hamilton

This event only happens every five years.

Alpine events in the Black Hills. It's true that 2009 is the centenary of Morgan and the golden anniversary of the Mini, but Sunbeam fans will be busy with celebrations of their own, marking five decades since the launch of the Alpine. For members of the Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club of America, the big event promises to be Invasion VIII, which takes place as part of the Sunbeams United National International (or SUNI) 5, scheduled for June 21-27 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

SUNIs are national gatherings of all Rootes-related car clubs, and take place once every five years. The Rootes Group, founded in 1932, was once one of Britain's largest car producers, incorporating Hillman, Humber, Singer and Sunbeam, as well as Commer and Karrier trucks. Chrysler took over the company in 1967, which is how the Hillman Avenger came to be marketed in the U.S. as the Plymouth Cricket. Chrysler sold its U.K. operations to Peugeot in 1978.

SUNI 5 includes a concours, convoys to Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse memorial, autocrosses and vendor sales, as well as a full schedule of social events where there promises to be lots of Rootes-related talk in the air. Organizers are hoping for a record gathering of Rootes vehicles in North America, while Alpine enthusiasts are hoping for a strong showing of their favorite roadster. More information about Invasion VIII and SUNI 5 is available at the Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club of America Web site.

<http://sunbeamalpine.org/>

Editor's note: Brent Kasl has attended the last four Sunbeam events and is an excellent source of information for those thinking about heading north to the event.

TEC TIP from Brian Goldsmith

Brian, like many of us, really hates trying to read those skinny black line wire diagrams found in the Chilton and Haynes manuals when trying to fix his wiring problems. However, thanks to the modern miracle of internet he found easy to read color coded diagrams from Auto-Wire at www.advanceautowire.com. Auto wire wants to sell you their state of the art aftermarket wire harnesses with solenoids that take the smoke out of the wires and chase the Lucas spirits away. The bonus is that for taking the time to look at their stuff you can be downloaded and print their neat diagrams for free. They have a whole series of MG and triumph diagrams and are adding more all the time. Great tip Brian.

ROAD AMERICA - ELKHART LAKE 2009 - July 16-19

By John Ulrich

If you are thinking about going, you better act fast to get a room. Here's the deal. There are 8 rooms at our usual hotel. "Americas Best Value Inn" in Sheboygan. They are held in a block under the "Flatwater Race Team". These rooms ARE NOT RESERVED. You will need to reserve one for your self and they are being held until June 16. You can cancel your reservation up to July 13. After July 13, one night will be charged to your credit card if you are a no show. The rates are Thursday, July 16 @ \$73.39. Friday & Saturday, July 17 & 18 @ \$125.99 Call 920-458-8080 to make your reservation.

See last month's newsletter for other trip details and call John for questions at 402-421-9252.

FUMES

Vintage Racing News from Team Flatwater Racing

2009 Racing Schedule

By Terry Davis

Below is a list of our club's driving events as well as a schedule of vintage races and DE track weekends in the area. Hope to see you at the track, either as a spectator or preferably driving in our speed run and autocrosses, or driving at a DE weekend.

| <u>Dates</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|--------------|--|--|
| March 28-29 | CVAR vintage race | Hallett Motor Racing Circuit Jennings, OK |
| April 17-19 | RMVR Spring Race and Driver's School | La Junta Raceway La Junta, CO |
| April 26 | Flatwater Speed Run | Scribner Airport Scribner, NE |
| May 16-17 | RMVR Inaugural Race | High Plains Raceway Byers, CO |
| May 30 | Flatwater Funkhana | Lincoln? |
| May 30-31 | Porsche Club Driver's Ed | Motorsports Park Hastings Hastings, NE |
| June 7 | Flatwater Autocross I | Lincoln SW High School |
| June 13-14 | RMVR Trans-Am Invitational | Pueblo Motorsports Park Pueblo, CO |
| July 11-12 | RMVR Summer Race | High Plains Raceway |
| July 16-19 | SVRA/Kohler International Challenge with Brian Redman (The Big One!) | Road America Elkhart Lake, WI |

| | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| July 25-26 | Porsche Club Driver's Ed | Mid America Motorplex Pacific Junction, IA |
| August 16 | Flatwater Autocross II | Lincoln SW High School |
| September 5-6 | RMVR Showboat Grand Prix (The Close One!) | Motorsports Park Hastings |
| September 8-12 | SCCA Solo Championships | Lincoln |
| October 3-4 | RMVR Enduro | High Plains Raceway |
| October 17-18 | CVAR Thunder on the Cimarron VIII | Hallett Motor Racing Circuit |

For more information or to find out how to get involved, contact:

Terry Davis
Phone: 402-637-0101
Email: tadavis1@cox.net

Joe Guinan
Phone: 402-727-8011
Email: joeg@neb.rr.com

MAZDA spawn of Morris Garage? or Who put the Zoom in ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM?

By Joe Kueper

A long time ago in a New York advertising agency late at night a young idea man sipped the last warm ounces of liquid from his Coke can. He was tired and as he glanced at the clock that was closing in on 11:30 and he wished he was home in bed or outside in the fresh air away from the stale air of the workroom. The pressure was on for his group to produce a slogan for a big client's ad campaign for a new car. What could be said that hadn't been said before? Cars were made just to take you from point A to B. More power? More miles per gallon? More luxury? They are all no big deal he thought. Nothing special.

Lost in frustration he announced to the group. "My dad had this old car. It was little convertible he picked up after the war. He was always tinkering with it and had a hard time finding parts because it was British but he loved that car. He would take me for a ride on this one very winding road and sing out as we powered through each curve zoom – zoom – zoom...." and the rest as they say is history. Did it really happen that way? Well, it could have.

Mazda has a tag line that people hum even when they are not driving a Mazda. My wife comes home after a hard day at work and wants to know if we are going zooming – in our MGB. So, is Mazda a unique or a MGB knock-off? Some purist, both MGB and Mazda would be highly incensed by the suggestion that there are any shared genetics between the two. I for one would espouse heresy with my position that Mazda is the next generation MGB. To me, a simple comparison supports my position.

Lets start with the obvious. Both share the basic sports car formula. Small two-seat convertible with a small bore engine, standard transmission and rear wheel drive. Yea but Mazda has electronic ignition, fuel injection, a five speed, power windows, cruise control and air conditioning. Well thanks to Victoria British and Moss motors many MGB owners have added these features plus a supercharger, rear wheel disk brakes, up rated cams, roller rocker arms, heated seats electric door locks, remote start, daytime running lights, courtesy lights and intermittent windshield wipers.



Yeah but MGB's are not so high tech and easier to work on. Really? I met a man at the Colorado Conclave who converted his B to a throttle body fuel injection fuel delivery system because he could not understand how to tune his SU carburetors. My point here is that the difficulty of working on cars is relative to your interest in working on cars and your willingness to invest the time to learn. Probably most MG and Mazda owners just want to put the key in the ignition and enjoy the drive. Everyone wants reliability and both marques are reliable when well maintained. The B is reliable when compared to automotive standards of the 60's and 70's and Mazda when compared to the automotive technology of the 90's and into 2000. Guys who like

to wrench will work on what they are familiar with and learn those things old and new that interest them or present a challenge.

Mazda's size and body style more closely resembles the MGB than any other sports car in today's market. And speaking of market, the biggest draw for both MGB and Mazda has been their price. Both have been very affordable which make them available to the average driver with less than deep pockets.

Are there big differences? Well, MGB's mark their territory and Mazda's don't. And after all MGB's are British and have a heritage and Mazda's are new and oriental and well they are just not British. True, but then British Leyland is no longer British either and the MG mark is now owned by China. So even if a new MG hits the market its heritage will be marked by intermarriage. Strongest common denominator between the two is the driver. This is a person who carries the spirit and soul of MG. We find strong evidence of this in FAHC where we have many mixed marriages of different sports car marques. These owners have a commonality that transcends allegiance to a particular marque so is it unreasonable to think that the MGB legacy can be passed to a car from a different family origin. With nowhere else to go I say pass the torch to Mazda.



MG put the zoom in Zoom Zoom Zoom but, Mazda will carry Zoomers into the next century.

FAHC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations Greg Lemon and Bill Redinger for literally making news. Both had articles they wrote recently published in national newsletters.

Greg wrote a very informative article on the process of obtaining non-profit status for a club for the Austin Healey national newsletter. We are fortunate to have Greg, our past President, sharing his knowledge and experience to ensure Flatwater operates well and enjoys the benefits of being a non-profit organization.

Bill's piece which was published in the TVR Triumph Vintage Register included a collage' of photos and report on the 2008 SCCA run offs. We were lucky to get a preview of his work which was featured in the November 2008 Flatwater Newsletter.

Thanks guys for all you do in the scene as well as behind the scene.

Team Flatwater Racing Gear



Dress for the Season

Show your Spirit

We have some exciting new club regalia to offer you. We will be placing an order for regalia featuring the Team Flatwater Racing logo as shown above. The following apparel is available:

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Sizes available</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| T-Shirts | \$15 | small – 5x |
| Long-sleeve T-shirt | \$20 | small – 5x |
| Sweatshirt | \$25 | small – 3x |
| Hooded Sweatshirt | \$35 | small – 3x |
| Cap | \$15 | one size fits all |

The t-shirts are pre-shrunk 90% cotton/10% polyester blend. The sweatshirts are heavyweight 50% cotton/50% polyester blend. Both are custom printed with the Team Flatwater Racing logo and come in grey only. The caps are 100% brushed cotton twill with embroidered logo, cloth strap and brass buckle closure. The caps come in black only.

If you are interested in ordering any of these items or have any questions about this please contact Lee Pedersen at Lpedersen@cox.net, or phone 402-575-5558 days, or 402-596-1313 evenings.

By ordering in quantity we will get a discount that basically offsets our shipping cost. Production and shipping generally take 3-4 weeks, so please submit your orders as soon as possible. We would like to place an order by March 20th. We will collect payment when we deliver your items to you.



Flatwater Austin-Healey Club

A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America

C /o Newsletter Editor: Joe Kueper

914 Hickory Hill Road

Papillion, NE 68046

402-592-3132/ editorjoe@msn.com

FAHC CLUB OFFICERS 2008

President: Gary Pence

707 Forest Avenue

Crete, NE 68333

402-580-4236/ jpence@neb.rr.com

Vice President: Jim Danielson

1310 Idylwild, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-464-3733 jdanielson2003@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sheryl Pedersen

16561 Rosewood St.

Omaha, NE 68136

402-596-1313 lpedersen@cox.net

Treasurer: Lee Pedersen

16561 Rosewood St.

Omaha, NE 68136

402-596-1313 lpedersen@cox.net

AHCA National Delegate:

Barb Rixstine

1310 Idylwild, Lincoln, NE 68503

402-464-3733 jdanielson2003@yahoo.com

Officer At-Large: Phil Brauer

8910 Raven Oaks Drive

Omaha, NE 68152

402-571-7578 ptbrauer@cox.net

Officer At-Large: Michael Gregg

2808 Woodsdale Blvd.

Lincoln, NE 68502

402-423-3236 tobarcooran@aol.com

Membership Chairs Pam & Rich Brunke

Lincoln 402-438-0375

Jane & Dennis Stone,

Omaha 402-397-2385

Driving Event Chair: Joe Guinan

75 Day Drive

Fremont, NE 68025

402-727-8011/ joeg@neb.rr.com

WEB SITE: www.flatwater.org - **Webmaster:** Ron Bonnstetter 402-423-9138/ rjb@unl.edu