



# WingNotes

## The Ultimate Instrument Panel For a Sprite

*An April Fool photo from David Leib*



### Event Updates

Conclave 2011 has a couple of minor changes to the schedule that may be of interest to those planning to attend. First, the Popularity Car Show scheduled for Monday on the grounds of the Air Force Academy will be moved to Old Colorado City. Think back to the car show at Galena and Zionsville. It is

an old timey portion of the city and they are blocking off a city park and to use for the car show. It will be very picturesque. Secondly, the advertised visit to Conclave by Steve Pike and his Healey Streamliner replica has been canceled. The economy being what it is it is not practical for Steve to ship the car to the US from Australia and spend 2-3 months here.

Continuing on the Streamliner theme, the attempt at 200MPH at Bonneville in September is also canceled due to the same reasons as stated above. Anyone planning to observe the 200 MPH attempt now has time to squeeze in an alternative event. Suggestions are either the Tri-Healey event (MO, KS, & OK clubs) in late September or the South East Classic in northern AL hosted by the Atlanta Club.

*National Delegate, Bob Brown*

The Monthly meeting is held on the second Friday of the month at Russell's BBQ, 2885 Algonquin Road (Rt. 62), Rolling Meadows, IL. (1 mile East of Rt. 53), Telephone 847-259-5710. Social meeting starts at 6:15 pm and the business meeting starts at 7:15 pm. Ample lighted parking at rear of building.

The newsletter *WingNotes* is published one week before the monthly meeting date.



**Eric's River Run SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2011**

Eric's River run is a 250+ mile, all-day driving tour using some of Ohio's most interesting and challenging roads. This year we'll go toward Zanesville and then south on SR 555 to Marietta on the way back we will use some of Eric's favorite roads and return to Zanesville to finish at Tom's Ice Cream Bowl.

Cars leave the Bob Evans, 1780 Hill Rd N in Pickerington, one block south of I-70 on SR 256, between 8 and 9 am. We should be at the Ohio River around Noon and finish by 6 pm., depending on the time spent sightseeing. There is no fixed schedule, nor any as-signed speeds, other than posted speed limits. This is a tour rather than a rally.

Hosted in conjunction with The North American MGB Register, the Buckeye Miata Club, and the Central Ohio British Car Club Council; the clubs invite all driving enthusiasts, regardless of vehicle make, model, or type, to join us on Eric's River run 2011. Check out the roads at: <http://tinyurl.com/4huxe8r>

You may reserve your spot after April 1st. Contact Susan Logan at [slogan.osu@gmail.com](mailto:slogan.osu@gmail.com) or (740) 363-2203 for more details and to reserve your spot. There is a \$10.00 fee to cover organizational expenses.

All profit will be donated in Eric Jones' memory to:

The James Cancer Hospital for Mesothelioma Research Fund..... *Bob Brown*

**April Meeting to Feature Noted Artist**

If you attended Conclave last year you received a commemorative poster depicting Healeys on Galena's Main Street. Maybe you purchased a T-shirt on the riverboat cruise with a "Healey Rollin' on the River" design. Both of these were created by our own Jim Gruber. Jim's artwork isn't confined to Healeys. His subjects range from pre-war Alfas and Bugattis to more modern machinery but they all reflect Jim's interest in things mechanical. At our April meeting Jim will discuss how he goes about creating his artwork and show several examples. He'll also bring a partially completed work to demonstrate his technique. Don't miss it!

**Minutes for the March AH Club Meeting**

**Neil's Ice Breaker:** Attendees were asked to volunteer stories about upcoming car projects.

**Officer Reports**

1. Programs Director Bob Benisek reported that March program was devoted to Model Cars and plans for next month's program had not been finalized as yet. The May program is scheduled to be a "ladies night".
2. Membership Director Price Lindsay reported that the club has 86 members including 4 new ones.
3. Driving Events Director Bill Cantrall reported that the club must sign the Black Hawk Track Day contract scheduled for Friday 8/11/11, by 3/15/11. Other driving events are being planned.
4. Treasurer Bill Kowalski reported through President Neil Anderson that the club currently has a \$286 profit.
5. Newsletter Editor Jim Gruber requests pictures and stories for the Wing Notes.
6. Secretary Pat McDonald had nothing to report.
7. Club Delegate Bob Brown had nothing to report.

**Old Business**

President Neil Anderson reported that the Club's annual winter dinner held at the Roundhouse Restaurant in Aurora on 2/26/11 was a great success with 41 club members in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the location, food, baggy raffle and of course, the fellowship.

The MG Club Swap Meet occurred on 2/27/11. Due to the large number of club members in attendance, a discussion about securing a larger space for next year needs to be considered.

During last Saturday's (3/5/11) tech session, Price Lindsay's brake lines were the topic of the day.

*submitted by Pat McDonald, Secretary*



### Parts For Sale

A full set of Roadster Gauges (100-6 and 3000) are being sold by Bob Lauer, (773) 573 6007  
The gauges were removed from a car many years ago and have not been used since. The set includes Fuel, Safety (Oil/Temp) Tachometer and Speedometer.

### From the Ken Olendzki Joke Book.....

If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him  
“he has the right to remain silent?”

Why do they put Braille on drive through  
bank machines?

Can an atheist get insurance against  
“Acts of God?”

If you try to fail, and you succeed,  
which have you done?

### On The Tube....

BBC has produced an hour long documentary on the life of World Champion Driver, Graham Hill. It is broken into 6 parts but it does run continuously 1 thru 6. All Six parts are well worth the time.

Go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LezOYKS3kXc&playnext=1&list=PLA97403073AB0F6E1>

### ROAD TRIPS By Neil Anderson, Regional Director

OK. I admit it. I AM A PROCRASTINATOR. Sometimes when I have a deadline, especially when it comes time to writing this monthly column, I delay getting started as long as possible. Our intrepid editor, Jim Gruber, even sent me a gentle reminder early in the week saying that it was almost time to publish the April edition of WingNotes. He knows I live out in the “boonies”, but he must think I don’t even own a calendar. Yeah, we mark time by scratching lines in the dirt to mark the days and till time by using a sun dial. I suppose Jim could be less subtle by counting down the days, 5-4-3-2-1, and then telling me that, “you are late”! But, our well mannered editor puts up with my tardiness, at least so far. Is it too late for a New Year’s resolution? I will try to do better Jim, really I will!

I do have a good excuse for getting a late start this month. I had a serious case of writers block. I talked about our February events last month. Well, about half of them. The last two pages of March’s Road Trips took a wrong turn in cyberspace and didn’t make it to the editors mailbox. You only missed a portion of the winter dinner and the swap meet reports. If we didn’t see you at one or the other, you missed them anyway. With our early season non-driving events over and our “get your Healeys out for real driving events” yet to officially start, I couldn’t really come up with anything to write about and waste some band width. I hope you took some time away for a spring break. Ah, memories of being a student!

The idea I had today is really related to how most of you receive this car club newsletter, via the internet. After a little light bulb went off over my head (will that be a drawing of a CLF in all the cartoons now?) Just



wondering? I thought about how much the internet affects our lives and more specifically how it affects our car hobby interests In some ways, the internet can be a journey, a trip down the cyber highway.

Please believe me, I am no computer techie, nerd geek or any of those people who grew up in the computer age. First of all, I am too old. We learned to do math in school with an abacus. Well, not really, it was flash cards. The calculator wasn't even invented until was out of college, so we had to learn it the proper way, multiplication tables and long division. But, for being an old Phart, I get around my laptop pretty well, and like my brain, using about 25% of its potential and capacity. But, that's OK, smart people who design the programs we use have made it pretty easy to navigate through tasks. I used to have to write everything out in long hand even if I was going to put it on the computer. Now, I can actually think and then type it out. Small steps forward.

I think about how computers and the internet have changed the way we live and how we communicate. I am on two Healey email lists, the autox list for big Healeys and the one for Spridgets. We have people from all over the world ask and answer questions and discuss a lot of relevant Healey or car topics. It is usually people helping others who share a common interest, and for the most part, done in a quite dcivil manner and tone. Yes, there are exceptions, and people get off on tangents, but this level of shared communication was unthinkable 20 or so years ago. I can sit at my computer and write to people in Australia, England, or anyplace else that can read my english text. And, they get it very quickly. No going to the post office and waiting for days or more for them to receive it. If I could get on a Skype link, I could actually see them on my computer as we verbally talk. That is almost "Twilight Zone" stuff. The internet has really shrunk the ability to communicate. If I have question about a Healey part, I can take a picture of it, download to my computer, send the high-res image through an email to my buddy Pete Farmer in England, have him look at it, and call him to discuss it almost immediately, or just wait for his reply. To me that is utterly amazing.

I guess one of the other neat things about the internet is hugh amount of information that is available at the ends of our fingertips. If I want the manufacturers paint code for the Iris Blue color to paint my Sprite I can find it. If I need information for Whitworth fasteners, it is only a few milliseconds away for my computer screen. If I have a question about almost anything Healey, British Car or vintage racing related, it is just a few mouse clicks away. The old Britannica encyclopedias we had at home sure didn't have that information.

March is Sebring month, the greatest

**1.2.3 IN CLASS**

**Sebring proves Austin-Healey Sprite superiority!**

Again the Austin-Healey Sprite proves itself in the world's toughest test of sports car stamina—the Sebring 12-hour Grand Prix of Endurance! **Sprites finished first, second, third in their class!**

This is a genuine sports car at a really low price. It features twin carb performance, sensitive rack-and-pinion steering, big braking power. The Austin-Healey Sprite . . . more performance per dollar than any other sports car . . . the real sports car anyone can afford!

Test-Drive an Austin-Healey Sprite . . . today!

THE **Austin**  
MOTOR COMPANY (CANADA) LIMITED  
737 CHURCH STREET, TORONTO, ONTARIO



event of endurance racing in America (NASCAR fans would dispute that statement). While I was putting off getting this article started, I was looking for information on the 1961 Sebring race (the 50th anniversary a few weeks ago) when Stirling Moss, Pat Moss and John Sprinzel drove Sprites in the 4-hour race. I had seen a lot of this info on my friend Martin Ingall's website [www.sebringsprite.com](http://www.sebringsprite.com), but found some additional history on [www.racingsportscars.com](http://www.racingsportscars.com). Through the magic of the internet I have recently looked at actual vintage race film coverage where Stirling Moss drove for Maserati and three extended nose Healey 100S special race cars competed. I have also viewed coverage of the 1965 Sebring 12-hour race where an orange prototype Healey Sprite and a pair of Jacobs MG Midgets competed against the big boys of Ferrari, Porsche, Chaparral, Corvette and Shelby Cobra in a race where 5" of rain slowed the fast cars down, but the Sprites and Midgets plowed right through the flooded track and finished in good standing. This was all film footage I had not seen previously, but very cool to view on my computer.

The ability to be able to order goods and materials over the internet has had many positive effects, but also many negative ones, especially on brick and mortar stores that depend on people walking through the door and buying something. This has been evident in the recent closing of many Borders book stores due to declining in-store book sales. Internet and book downloads have also contributed to this realization.

As for relating this to Healeys, most all of the parts I have needed for my Sprite project, I have purchased over the internet on ebay and from established Healey and British car parts suppliers, nationally and internationally. Fortunately, this hasn't taken away much business from local stores. I don't think NAPA carries many Sprite suspension parts, brake parts, or that wiring harness I will need. I have found that ebay is the ultimate flea market or autojumble for many of the rare parts I have wanted. I would have never found many of these items if it was necessary to visit actual flea markets here or abroad., not counting the time and expense of just getting there. I can look, bid, hopefully win the auction, and pay for it, all from my computer screen. The world is now the marketplace in which we can shop for certain things. The internet will hopefully never fully take over from our ability to go to a store, buy what we need or want and take it home that very day. The internet and computers are tools that we have become accustomed to, and in many ways essential in our daily lives to help make some things easier. Hopefully, we can still manage our tools.

When you need to hear from one of your Healey Club officers for announcement of an upcoming event, it will probably happen through our Midwest Healey Club Yahoo page or by email. That's the way things have kind of evolved. Driving season is almost here. We hope to see you out for a road trip real soon.

Excuse me, I need to turn off the computer and go to work on the Sprite ●

*Neil*