



WingNotes



Keep the faith... good weather is coming...just look at that beautiful blue sky.... Picture taken at last years British Car Festival.

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.

KEN'S CHATTER

Well, March in the Midwest once again has tossed us a mixed bag of weather. We got spring fever early and snow late. That is all GUARANTEED to change for April. Tom Skilling of WGN News is already predicting that the weather on Friday night April 10 will be perfect for driving your Healey to the monthly club meeting. We are SOOOO confident of good weather that we are planning to hold the business meeting portion of the night OUTSIDE amongst the cars. The meeting will be held at Russell's BBQ on Algonquin Road in Rolling Meadows with the business meeting starting promptly at 7:15. Come early for dinner inside the restaurant, but then be prepared to head outside for the meeting. If Tommy is wrong and the weather disappoints us, the meeting will be held inside as usual. Be aware that this meeting date is also Good Friday. The general consensus of the club in January was to not reschedule the meeting since our club is appropriately non-denominational.

KENS'S CHATTER...*continued from page 1*

The agenda for the April meeting will include our attendance raffle where anyone that has arrived at the meeting in an Austin-Healey will receive a second raffle ticket and two chances to win valuable prizes. We will have our 20 questions quiz which will feature questions about famous Healey's (remember that I can be quite devious with what these questions may entail). With the expected great weather, we then plan to head out to the rear parking lot to see the latest modifications, improvements and/or disappointments that members have had with the cars that they brought to the Meeting. **The introduction ice breaker will be "what out of the ordinary thing I plan to do this year, with or in my Austin-Healey?"**

Looking back at our March meeting, we virtually filled the room with members. It was our best attended meeting this winter. The weather kept the Healeys away (for the last time this season). John Schroeder led a fun and interesting dual tech session on battery maintenance and carburetor tuning. Some of the highlights included the following:

BATTERY MAINTENANCE:

- . Get yourself a new one.
- . If you choose not to take the first advise than get a good steel brush and clean the posts and the inside of the connectors..Install a battery cutoff switch and use it.
- . Check the fluid levels and keep in mind that overcharging the battery uses up fluids. This could be a signal that you have a voltage regulator problem.

Use distilled water to avoid minerals reacting and causing a film to form.

- . Always be careful to avoid coming into contact with battery acid on your hands and did you ever wonder where those little holes come from in your favorite Healey shirt that you leave in the trunk (boot). Carry your battery in a plastic bag or with straps to be extra careful.
- . Remove your battery in the winter if your car is stored in a cold or damp garage.

CARBURETOR TUNING

- . Many people confuse other symptoms with poorly tuned carburetors.
- . You must have your ignition timing set correctly before you tune the carburetors.
- . Check the ground wires in the distributor as they can cause a lot of unexpected problems.
- . SU carburetors do a great job of mixing air and gas while driving your car. They do not do as good a job when you want to start your car. Don't be discouraged.
- . The rest of John's comments were too technical for your mechanical midget Regional Director to accurately represent in this little ditty. Come on out to future meetings for the full benefit of tech presentations.

Our March meeting ice breaker topic was to share a spring time snippet about your Austin-Healey, and many members shared funny stories. I was challenged by Pat McDonald if the word "snippet" was an appropriate word to use in seeking funny stories from out attendees. Upon further review, I believe that I was spot-on correct to use the term which is defined as "a bit, a scrap, or morsel, or a small scrap or fragment". The intent of the ice breakers are for each member in attendance to share something fun or interesting about themselves or their car without taking too much time. Future word use challenges are more than welcome Pat.

Other highlights from the meeting included that we should increase our space rental at the MG swap meet in 2010 to facilitate more members and to allow us to spread out our wares a little better. Bill Cantrall volunteered to lead a discussion on how to improve your gymkhana performance at our May meeting, which is only a few weeks before our first gymkhana scheduled for Sunday May 31.

KENS' CHATTER...*continued from page 2*

Jim Gruber presented several ideas (posting on internet British car sites and an article in the local MG club newsletter) on how we can try to increase attendance at the upcoming gymkhana. Please invite your friends to join us.

Price Lindsay lead a useful session in which he handed out sample registration forms for Conclave 2010. He asked each attendee to fill it out. This exercise helped him identify areas for improvement to streamline the actual registration efforts next year.

We had multiple raffle winners at the meeting. There were three happy attendance raffle winners, three winners from the 20 questions quiz and a fourth winner picked at random from the group of quiz participants. Out of all the quiz players, none of them knew that former British rugby star "Austin Healey" was the 13th contestant voted off the current English version of "Dancing with the Stars". Many of our members did not know that there were three Austin-Healey 4000's built using a Rolls Royce engine and that two of them had automatic transmissions. More than a few knew that the "S" in 100S stands for "Sebring", but no one knew that the "3000" name came to be by accident. The car was going to be called the "Mille Miglia".

Last month we posted a reminder that anyone going to Conclave 2009 in Kingston, Ontario, Canada will need a passport as well as special insurance card for their Healey, tow vehicle and/or trailer. Pat Brown also pointed out that we all need to make sure we have a handle on our health insurance status when out of the country. While Canada has national health coverage for their citizens, we are not sure how Medicare participants are covered in Canada, or how each American insurance company covers us there. Please make sure that you know your status before you go.

As always, if you have any ideas for meetings or events in 2009 please drop me a note at oilonfloor@aol.com or give me a call at 847-394-9215...*Ken Olendzki*

APRIL 26-SUNDAY MORNING AUSTIN-HEALEY CLUB CRUISE

This event represents the first of two day drives that we have planned for the 2009 driving season. These drives will be mini tours that will allow us to parade our Austin-Healeys (or BJ9's if need be) for a few hours followed by lunch. We will start this cruise in Barrington and end up at Raceway Woods, the former location of the historic Meadowdale Raceway. We will meet between 8:30 and 9:00 am at Citizen's Park at 511 Lake Zurich Road in Barrington, IL. Citizen's Park is located on the grounds of the old Jewel Tea Company property and it is easy to find. Use Mapquest or Google the Barrington Park District. The property is just off of Northwest Highway (route 14) and on the bend between Lake Cook Road to the south and route 59 (Barrington Road/Hough St.) to the west.

From Citizen's Park we will tour the area's back roads, make an interesting stop along the way and lend up at Raceway Woods around lunch time. **BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC LUNCH.** While we are not allowed to take our cars onto the remnants of the race track, there are hiking trails and informational displays that will allow us to really get the flavor of the importance of this track back in the day.

Please RSVP for this drive to Barb Olendzki at oilonfloor@aol.com or 847-394-9215. We will leave from Citizen's Park promptly at 9:00 am. If you are running late or have car trouble that morning, Barb's cell phone is 312-560-8974.

LOTUS CORPS DRIVER EDUCATION DAY AT BLACKHAWK FARMS- MAY 18

I believe that this will be the seventh year that the Chicago area Lotus club will be hosting a driver education track day at Blackhawk Farms north of Rockford. It is being held on Monday, May 18th. These

**BLACKHAWK FARMS...continued from page 3**

controlled track days are the best organized car events that I have been to (except the Midwest Region events, of course). They break everyone down by experience from novice to expert. Every driver is assigned to a personal track advisor. They have classroom sessions followed by a lot of supervised track time. No horror stories here with out of control unsupervised loose cannons flying around the track; the organizers keep everyone in check. I talked to many participants after the event from first time track drivers to experienced racers, and they all complimented the Lotus Corps and thoroughly enjoyed the day. While most of the cars are Lotus, they had a wide variety of marques in attendance. If you are interested visit the Lotus Corps web site at <http://lotuscorps.org>

CHI-TOWN STA-BIL KRUZE (without the car show)

Several months ago, we received an announcement that the Chi-Town Sta-Bil Kruze was not being held in 2009 presumably due to sponsorship issues as a result of the downturn in the economy. Suddenly on March 26, an email was blasted out to all past participants informing us that the Kruze is back on, but there will be no car show this year.

The 2009 Kruze will be held on Saturday, June 6th from 8am to noon. The cars will follow Columbus Drive south to Roosevelt Road, over to Michigan Avenue to Randolph Street, and then back to Columbus Drive. Cars are encouraged to make multiple loops and park along the route if desired. The cruise route includes many of Chicago's most cherished attractions including the Art Institute, Millennium Park and beautiful Grant Park. While there is no fee involved in driving the Kruze route, participants are encouraged to make a donation to the Ronald McDonald House charities at <http://firstgiving.com/chitownkruze>. If you want more information, contact the organizers at info@chitownkruze.com or call 847-997-8624 or visit their website at <http://www.chitownkruze.com/>

Here is a quote for all of you do-it-yourself auto repairers...

Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.-- Will Rogers

CONCLAVE 2009

Conclave 2009 in beautiful Kingston, Ontario, Canada will be the Healey event of the year. They are well on the way to having over 300 registrations and the Ambassador Hotel is already 60% booked. Information is on the web at <http://www.austinhealeyconclave.com/>

Early registration of just \$120 Canadian (currently \$96 US to our friends south of the border) ends April 15th. Please join us in Kingston June 21 to 25 for a week of Healey fun.

You can email the registration form:

http://www.bob.byethehost12.com/PDF%20Files/Registration_Form_Rev_2f.pdf

To: Bobgergley@hotmail.com



SpringThing 2009..back to the bluegrass! May 14-17

SpringThing 2009 takes you and your Healey back to the bluegrass. The exciting new format that allows you to tour more of the beauty that is Kentucky returns for a second year. As the signature event of the Bluegrass Club, SpringThing 2009 promises the best of Bluegrass country along with familiar friends and new comrades. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the 3000 and join us for an exciting adventure in the heart of the Bluegrass.

Louisville will serve as the SpringThing paddock on Thursday and Friday with plenty of big town culture and amenities without all the big town hassle. On Saturday we'll gallop off into horse country and enjoy a relaxing cruise to our next location. On Friday we set out for Millionaire's Row at historic Churchill Downs. Come experience the Downs in the comfort of the row with a full buffet and special parking. The Kentucky Horse

Park, will provide the venue for our banquet. Included in your banquet fee is admission and VIP tours, including a hay ride at the horse park.

Upon receiving your registration you will be sent a packet of information regarding hotel reservations. Please note the hotel costs: Night 1&2: \$72, Night 3: \$80.

Join us May 14-17

Calendar

April 4

Tech Session, Brown's Garage, 28W577 Forestview Dr, S,Warrenville, IL 8am-noon, 630-393-1413

April 10

Monthly Meeting, Russell's BBQ, 2885 Algonquin Rd, Rolling Meadows, IL

April 26

Spring day drive from Barrington to Raceway Wood (old Meadowdale Raceway) ending in picnic lunch.

May 2

Tech session, Brown's Garage, 28W577 Forestview Dr, S,Warrenville, IL 8am to noon, 630-393-1413

May 8 Monthly Meeting, Russell's BBQ, 2885 Algonquin Rd, Rolling Meadows, IL

AHCA/MidWest Region
c/o Jim Gruber
220 Columbia
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Addressee Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State 54321