



# WingNotes

## MODEL CAR SHOW PROGRAM



Our March meeting will feature our second annual Miniature car Show. Bring in your favorite car model or toy to share with the rest of us. Popular voting will determine the prize winners in three categories: Best Healey, Best Non-Healey and Best Display.

The show is not limited to any specific or type of miniature car. We had a good time with this last year and this year's show should be even better.

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2011

**Neil's Ice Breaker:** Attendees were asked to volunteer stories about the recent 20" snow storm or a car project.

#### **Officer Reports**

1. Programs Director Bob Benisek reported that March program was devoted to Model Cars; April program was devoted to a presentation about the Targa Florio endurance race; the May program is scheduled to be a "ladies night".
2. Membership Director Price Lindsay reported through Neil Anderson that 80 members have renewed.
3. Driving Events Director Bill Cantrall reported that the club has reserved Black Hawks Track for Friday 8/11/11. Other driving events are being planned.
4. Treasurer Bill Kowalski reported that the club is solvent with over \$4400 in the bank.
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.

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.





*Minutes continued from page 1...*

### **Old Business**

During last Saturday's (2/5/11) tech session, club members attempted to install Bob Brown's new windshield. The rubber molding that was supposed to fit in the frame was too thick and could not be installed. It was decided that a professional installer should be consulted before proceeding.

Good thing the guys stopped trying to install the windshield. Turned out the rubber molding supplied was too thick which would have damaged the glass or frame if they continued.

Bill Cantrall referred Bob Brown to Commercial Car & Glass Company at 4330 Lacey Road in Downers Grove as providing excellent service in the past. Bob Brown confirmed that the firm supplied the correct molding and installed the windshield for \$50. *submitted by Pat McDonald, Vice Regional Director; Secretary*

I am not sure about you, but I am ready for winter to be over. I think we say this every year about this time. Although it was the same length as previous years, it seems like winter this year was one that was a little tougher. Maybe, it is just because I am a year older than last year. With record cold in December and record snowfall in February, this will be one that will be referred to in future years. We can't do too much about what "Mother Nature" throws at us, so I guess that is what makes us in this part of the country a little more resilient than folks who have more even weather patterns.

## *Road Trips*

**by Neil Anderson  
Regional Director**

What does all that weather talk have to do with the Healey club, you ask? Well, it does affect how we can drive our cars for much of the year. After a long cold winter, we in the Midwest, look forward to the warmer temperatures of spring when we can get the Healeys out and go for a cruise. The sound of the engine and the distinctive Healey exhaust can raise the spirits of anyone. Soon, the recent winter is just a few cold and snowy months that we made it through. Healey driving season is here! What is the next event on the schedule?

Even in the good weather of summer, a rain shower that does many good things, like nourishing the earth, can make a Healey driving event a little soggy. We all know every Healey leaks somewhere. But, if we planned every event on a spontaneous time frame based on what the weather will be for that week, we wouldn't get anyone to show up because you will have made other plans. Remember, these cars were born in England, and it rains a lot more over there. Sometimes, getting a little wet on a drive is all part of the journey. We are fortunate to have many wonderful days throughout the spring, summer, and fall. We will be doing many events this year and we hope you can join us, come rain or come shine, during this Healey driving season.

Traditionally, we start off the New Year with two events that have become conjoined on a single weekend in late February, the Winter Dinner and MG Swap meet. We had a very good turnout for the dinner this year, minus a few people who had seasonal flu or cold "bugs". We're sorry the Bowersocks and Beniseks couldn't attend because Jody and Silvia were ill. Mark Baker, also stayed home with a cold, but Kathy and son Jack joined us as our guests. Mark, we owe you a dinner. We had a lot of nice comments on the location, room setting, and food and beverages. The Roundhouse did a wonderful job making us feel welcome and provided a super buffet for us to enjoy. The food was plentiful and of very good variety. I could have eaten much more, and made myself somewhat miserable, but saved myself for dessert.

We had a lot of regulars at the dinner who support the club so well, and a few new faces to add to the mix. My friends Diana, and her daughter Kelly Evenson from Aurora joined us. Kelly, a new member is restoring her father's BN2 that she inherited a few years ago. Her dad, Bob, was a Midwest member for quite a few years, joining after much arm twisting by myself. Bob owned his Healey from new and he and Diana drove the Healey everywhere and did many events, including going to Road America, in the BN2. The family has



many wonderful memories of the Healey when it was being driven and now, Kelly continues the family ownership. Either this fall or next spring we will hopefully get to see a beautiful Healey Blue BN2 at some club events, with a smiling daughter and mother having a blast.



### Austin-Healey Drivers Education/Track Day For Vintage Sports Cars

**Friday August 5, 2011**

*Sponsored by The Midwest Region AHCA and hosted and run by Blackhawk Farms*

This is a day event for all levels of driver skill. Classroom instruction (mandatory!) will be provided. Bring your Austin-Healey or other vintage sports car. As long as the vehicle passes the Tech Inspection, you will be allowed to run. The minimum safety equipment required is: Helmet (loaners will be available at the track), Seat Belt, Long Sleeve Shirt, cotton or fire resistant fabric. Long Pants, cotton or fire resistant fabric. Most importantly, bring a good attitude. This is an educational event-not a race not a time trial.

The event at Blackhawk Farms will begin with a lunch served at 11 am. A brief (mandatory!) classroom driver instruction session will begin at noon and then from 12:30 to 4:30 pm we will have exclusive use of the track.

Blackhawk Farms has arranged a very special rate for **Amount to be announced**. This will include one lunch per car with additional lunches available for **TBA** each. Note, this is a per car price-more than one driver can drive a car for one registration fee.





*Blackhawk Farms Raceway is a beautiful 1.95 mile (3.14 km) private circuit racetrack located in south Beloit, Illinois, on a 219 acre (0.9 km<sup>2</sup>) farm on the border between Wisconsin and Illinois. It is within 90 miles of two major metropolitan areas, Chicago and Milwaukee, and is minutes from interstate 90*

## **Winter Dinner at the Roundhouse Complex in downtown Aurora**

This year's winter dinner was held in Aurora at Walter Payton's Roundhouse restaurant. Neil Anderson made all the arrangements and deserves all the credit for a wonderful evening. We had a private room overlooking the historic courtyard, a private bar, a fabulous buffet dinner and about 45 Healey enthusiasts in attendance.

When I arrived at the main entrance, there was a gentleman in front of me dressed in a nice suit asking the hostess question after question, and all I wanted to know was which way to go to the Healey Club banquet room. I waited politely, but this investment banker type went on and on with the hostess. Even his striking blond trophy wife was getting a little anxious about moving on, but he just kept asking questions. Finally, I had enough and made my move to get around him when I realized that this was no investment





*Winter Dinner continued...*

banker with a trophy wife, it was Neil Anderson with his “niece”. What a difference when he gets all the powder coating residue off his hands and puts a little Grecian formula in the hair.

In an effort to make the evening more accessible and enjoyable, the Club subsidized the cost of the event, keeping the cost low for the attendees. We put our club video projector to good use once again with over 1800 pictures from the long history of the Midwest Region streaming on the video screen throughout the evening.

After dinner, Neil lead us through numerous thank yous, introductions and announcements. Our VP of Driving Events announced the winner of the 2010 Drive of the Year, Carlos Cruz. Congratulations to Carlos. We then held our traditional “Baggie Raffle”. I always must recognize Bernie and Jody Bowersock for introducing this concept to the club, oh those many years ago. While we tried to make it clear that this year’s baggie raffle was to be about fun, not fund raising, we received a tremendous amount of contributions from the attendees, and we sold 1,100 tickets at the dinner (incredible!).

Baggie raffle donations included bottles of Amarula, Scotch Whiskey, wine, Healey items, lady’s items, fun items, jewelry, clothing, a huge basket of martini making supplies with the Belvedere vodka included and much much more. THANK YOU to everyone who outdid themselves by donated items for the raffle and for buying way more tickets than we expected to sell. Thanks to some Southern Comfort lubrication, I lead the festivities with my trusted assistant, Price Lindsay, and we had a great time capping off the evening with some levity and fund raising. *Ken Olendzki*

*Arlene and I scored a bottle of “Amarula” each in the baggie raffle. It is a liqueur made in South Africa and while it has a picture of an elephant on the label I don’t know if that is mean to be an indication of the taste we can expect. ...the editor*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of March 3rd, we have had a total of 86 members renew. Of those that were in the club last year, 27 have yet to renew. If you are one of those individuals, please send in your renewal form to me for processing. We are quite pleased to welcome 4 new members this year and hope to sign up a few more. In addition to conversations we have had with folks at various meetings last year, we were approached by several people at the annual BCU swap meet showing an interest in our Club. We hope to convert some of these leads into active members of AHCA. As I mentioned last month, we are planning a full schedule of events for the upcoming driving year and thank you for renewing your membership. I look forward to seeing you around at the club meetings and events. *Price Lindsay, Vice Regional Director Membership*

## THE SPRING CHECK UP

*(Lovingly paraphrased, copied, stolen from various publications over the years by the official club mechanic, Ken Olendzki)*

With the beginning of driving season teasing us on a daily basis, it is time to re-awaken your Healey, and these few pointers/reminders might come in handy: **The Overview:** Reacquaint yourself with your car. Open the bonnet and inspect your engine. Look for anything amiss, check your fluid levels and make sure that everything looks shipshape.



**Leakage:** Check for puddles, and poodles, under the car. Repair any issues before the car hits the road. Brake calipers and cylinders can leak onto the wheels themselves, so look carefully.



**Battery:** Clean the battery terminals and reconnect the wires after you make sure that it is fully charged. Consider a trickle charger for year round maintenance.

**Tires:** Check and set your tire pressures, and inspect the tires for damage and cracks that might need attention. Don't forget the spare.

**Prime the pump:** Unplug the coil wire and crank the engine for about 30 seconds. This will help lubricate and build pressure throughout the engine.

**Fuel:** Make sure that fuel is getting to the carburetor. Check for any fuel leaks and repair if necessary.

**Ignition:** Plug in the coil wire and start the engine (good luck). Allow it to idle at a fast 1500 to 2000 rpm for a minute or so. Go back around and under the car looking for new leaks or issues.

**Building pressure:** Give the brake and clutch pedals a push or two to make sure that they fell normal. Double-check for any leaks from the master cylinder, wheel cylinder and clutch cylinder after your footwork.

**Road test:** Go for a short drive around your neighborhood showing it off to your jealous neighbors, but return home after a few miles. Go back over the car and look for any new issues, leaks or problems.

**Almost there:** Now take it out and put on some miles. After a few drives, give the car another once-over. Make sure that everything is working correctly. Parts like the thermostats in the cooling system have a habit of getting sticky after a long nap. Finish up your spring cleaning by adjusting the carburetors and bleeding the brakes to make sure that everything is ready for a pleasant season of driving. If you are like me, and find issues that you cannot handle, bring yourself and/or your car to one of our monthly tech sessions on the first Saturday of the month at the Brown's garage in Warrenville. If more intense help is needed try our own club member technicians for help: Mark Baker at Sport & Specialty in Durand, IL, Craig Hillinger at the Healey Werks in Lawton, IA and John Schroeder in Chicago.

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