



WingNotes

MIDWEST REGION.... jinxed by the weather? I think so.



AT MEADOWDALE RACEWAY WOODS From left to right: Bob Brown, Barb & Ken Olendzki, Sylvia & Bob Benisek and Jeff Kelly.

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

We have a new way to enhance the club treasury. We plan to do a mass mailing to all farmers in northern Illinois offering our new club service. In return for a moderate cash contribution, we will plan a Midwest Region driving event at their farm on the day of their choice. The benefit to the farmer will be a guarantee of a nice steady cool rain.

The plan for our April meeting was to be outside Russell's showing off the upgrades that we made to our Healeys over the winter. The outdoors portion was, of course, cancelled due to a

steady cold rain. The second annual spring mini-tour which was scheduled for April 26th was actually run this year. We tried to do this tour last year, but nobody came for the drive because of the 35 degree rainy weather. This year it was a balmy 43 degrees and the rain didn't actually start until almost exactly the 9 am start time for the tour. The rain never stopped until, you guessed it, we said our goodbyes after lunch. Not only did it rain, but it rraaiinneedd! Through blinding downpours, four cars bravely ran the tour. The Kellys were in their hardtop enclosed bugeye, Bob Brown hydroplaned his way along the route in his big Healey, Sylvia and

*Ken's Chatter from page 1.....*

Bob Benisek braved the weather in the comfort of Sylvia's MINI convertible (surprisingly with the top up) and Barb and I plodded along in our BJ-9 (as I'm sure many of you expected anyway) We plan to run this tour again one of these weekends. Rather than plan a rainy day, we will watch the weather forecast and send out a last minute email on a Thursday or Friday announcing a Sunday tour. Watch your inbox. Even those that ran the tour last week will enjoy running it again, as next time they will actually be able to see the sights instead of wipers splashing across their windshields.

April Meeting Recap... Even though the weather was poor and the fact that it was Good Friday, we had a nice turnout for the meeting. The attendance raffle resulted in everyone in attendance going home with a free gift. Helping facilitate this were a few members that brought several items to be given away. The ice breaker topic was, "What out of the ordinary thing do I plan to do with my Austin-Healey?" Well, here are some of the things that will happen:

.Gale and Nancy Fabish plan to drive their BJ-8 to Conclave in Kingston, Ontario after some engine work.

.Roger Rhodes is replacing his seats. He showed off his home designed mock up seat frame which looked quite slick.

.John Schroeder plans to wash his BJ-8 this year.

.Barb Olendzki actually plans to drive her bugeye this summer.

.Pat McDonald is installing a forward tilt bonnet on his bugeye. (No more bashing his neck)

.Bill Cantrall is installing a set of rear drum brakes from a Wolseley 1500 on his bugeye.

The 20 questions quiz was all about famous Healeys, some of which had to do with the cars. Neil Anderson was the winner with Jim Gruber second and Gale Fabish third. How many of you knew the most popular Austin-Healey based on sales volume was the square body Sprite. More than 77,000 of them were sold compared to less than 43,000 Austin-Healey 3000's. All-in-all Sprite production exceeded big Healey production by

almost 2 to 1. It's time for you big Healey owners to give us Sprite people some more respect.

We also had a lively discussion about charging your battery and whether if it matters if your car is positive or negative ground. After everyone expressed their opinion, I still decided to remove the battery from my car and hook the charger up on my work bench.

Up Coming Events... Our next event will be the monthly meeting on Friday May 8th at Russell's BBQ in Rolling Meadows. In addition to the usual activities we hop to see the unveiling of a members newly restored car. Bill Cantrall will be leading an informative session on, "How to optimize your gymkhana/autocross performance." After the meeting we plan to take a short drive for some ice cream.

Cabin fever has really set-in with our membership regarding our inability to get out and drive our cars. This is best shown by the large number of members planning to attend the Bluegrass Healey club's "SpringThing" in Louisville Kentucky starting on May 14th. It look like we may have as many as 10 cars heading down. Come to the meeting if you are interested in joining a group to drive down.

If you are interested in observing the Lotus Corps Driver Education Day on Monday, May 18, come out to Blackhawk Farms. As long as we are polite, I think that they will let us tour the track at lunch time for no additional charge. There may be a charge to get into the track but it should be minimal. I usually get in by telling them I am a volunteer corner worker.

Make it a point to come out to the Midwest Regions first gymkhana of the year on May 31. It is in Warrenville, at the AMC 30 Canterra Theater parking lot. Exit I-88 at Winfield Road and the course is just south of the tollway.

Square Body Sprite for Sale

1965 Sprite, 1275, Judson supercharger, Datsun 5-speed, wire wheels, new top, many other parts. Car stored winter, driven summers. Body red with black interior. Twenty + years of fun driving and working on car. \$7500. jgronberg@sbcglobal.net

John Gronberg 630-232-2567



Conclave 2009 Kingston Ontario

Registrations for Conclave in Kingston are arriving daily. There are currently almost 200 registered and the Ambassador Hotel only has 250 rooms. There are other hotels close by (a Comfort Inn 2 blocks away and a Best Western 6 blocks away). If you want to stay at the host hotel, please register soon.

We are looking forward to three distinguished Healey guests joining us from overseas.

John Sprinzel is synonymous with the great Sebring Sprite racing cars and was a BMC race and rally driver in the 1960's. He is the founder of Speedwell Racing Equipment and former owner of John Sprinzel Racing Limited that sold many works Healeys. John has written a book called "Spritely Years" and is an entertaining guest speaker.

Ann Riley (Wisdom) is of the most successful big Healey navigators ever. Debuting with her father Tommy in the Italian Sestriere Rally with the first 6 cylinder rally car UOC 741, Ann was the successful navigator to Pat Moss, the sister of Stirling, in international rallying. Ann and Pat won many trophies including outright victory in the 1960 Liege event and a class win in the 1960 Alpine Rally.

Peter Riley is a former BMC works rally and test driver. Peter chalked up the 3000's first International Class victory in the 1960 Liege-Rome-Liege Rally and drove UJB 143 (now DD300) with Jack Sears in the 1960 LeMans. He currently owns a 100-6 works car VOK 490.

Copies of the new John Baggott book, "Big Healeys' in Competition" with foreword by Peter Riley will be available for sale and signing by our guests.

Based on experience from previous Conclaves, this year, a repair facility will be available on-site in the parking lot of the host hotel. Autofarm Limited, the well known Healey parts, repair and restoration facility will be available to assist you with any problems you may encounter with your Healey, during your stay at Conclave. A technician will be on duty during the day, every day for your convenience and at other times by appointment.

A full range of parts along with tires and tubes will be available.

Champagne British Car Festival

The Champagne British Car Festival is scheduled over the Memorial Day weekend and this year should be very special

The Ian Fleming Foundation has agreed to bring two James Bond movie vehicles to the 2009 show. The first is the Jaguar XKR that was featured in a car battle scene against the villain's Aston-Martin DBS in "Die Another Day" (2002). Among its many features is a Gatling gun mounted behind the seats. The other vehicle will be the jet-powered Q-Boat that was in "The World is Not Enough" (1999). The Q-Boat was also the subject of a special program on the History Channel recently. Both vehicles will be on display for the entire weekend.

For additional information about The Champagne British Car Festival, please visit the web site <http://www.champagnebritishcarfestival.com/information.html>

Laws for Getting Things Done

MURPHY'S LAW: Nothing is as easy as it looks. It will take longer than you think. If anything can go wrong, it will.

WEILER'S LAW: Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.

CHISHOLM'S LAW: Anytime things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something.

Mad Dogs & Englishmen

British Auto Fair

British car owners and enthusiasts will want to reserve July 11th and 12 on their calendars for the 19th Mad Dogs and Englishmen British Auto Fair.

This weekend event is one of the premiere British auto shows in the midwest. The setting is the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan. This year the featured marque is the big Healey, and the rare gem is the lovable "Micro Cars" class.



Mad Dogs & Englishmen continued...

Saturday there is a rally in the afternoon and banquet in the evening. Sunday is an all-day family event open to all British-made vehicles. Featuring cars for sale, a parts swap area and over 350 cars on the field. Enjoy people's choice judging, car games, rides in the museum's Austin London Taxi or Double-Decker Bus, tea time and bag pipers. If you don't have a British car, join over 1000 spectators who tour the cars and museum.

Show registration applications will be available in the clubs web site at www.maddogsandenglishmen.org or call 296-344-5555.

Questions about the weekend, lodging, or banquet, contact Ed Boyer at 268-668-7612

HealeyFest 2009 ... A Reminder

With all of the great events packed into our all too short driving season be sure to set aside the weekend for our own Midwest Region HealeyFest.

Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena, Illinois will again be our gathering place for HealeyFest 2009. As this is also the site of Conclave 2010, and we are the host club, our AHC chapter intends to take advantage of the opportunity to become more familiar with the beautiful Galena Territory. So to those of you who attended last year- please return for a fun filled weekend and an opportunity to help plan for Conclave 2010. A special invitation is extended to all new members and to those who were not able to attend HealeyFest 2008, last year.

HealeyFest 2009 will begin on Friday July 31st and end on Sunday August 2nd. Twenty (20) rooms are reserved for these two nights and rates remain the same as last year-\$120 per night. Reservation information will be sent in the future.

Our tentative schedule includes, Friday registration, a Saturday Rallye from 9-11 and an informal car show in the afternoon. Saturday evening cocktails before dinner and time for planning/discussion of next years big event. Bill Cantrall has agreed to set the rallye course. Ken Olendzki will be our master-of-ceremonies. We will probably have time for a "baggie raffle" too, if I know Ken.

Special parking lot space lot space will be reserved for our cars, as well as facilities for washing and cleaning cars after the drives. Just as the event last year HealeyFest 2009 will be a time to see old friends and meet new ones, and enjoy the beautiful cars.

Our drives together were wonderful, as was the rest stop at Galena Cellars Winery. Plan to join your fellow Austin-Healey enthusiasts this year for HealeyFest 2009! Any questions can be addressed "<mailto:edwkeuer@comcast.net>" edwkeuer@comcast.net

CONCLAVE 2010

AHCA HERITAGE 1975-2010

We are 14 months away from hosting Conclave 2010 at Eagle Ridge. Our registrations will begin in late June at the conclusion of Conclave 2009 in Kingston. Midwest members are encouraged to register early! Early registration will accomplish several things: your choice of accommodations, choose from an inn room, 2 or 3 bedroom villas or a 3-4 bedroom distinctive home. Your early registration also will enable our planning committee to have a working balance in our account to facilitate payment of the many costs involved in this event.

We have made great progress in the design of the event logo. It will be outstanding. The current plan is for customized logos on shirts, with different models and colors to match your own car! Those of you attending Conclave 09 in Kingston should order a 2010 shirt to wear at the awards banquet when we introduce our event to the rest of the Austin-Healey Club of America. Ken Olendzki will have details available soon.

If you have not yet contacted our committee chairs to volunteer your help (and much is needed), review the list below and contact the appropriate committee chair to volunteer your help

- Chairman**-Bob Brown
- Treasurer**-Bill Kowalski
- Facilities**- Neil Anderson
- Registration**-Price Lindsay
- Purchasing**-Ken Olendzki
- Driving Events**-Bill Cantrall



SPRING GYMKHANA

It's that time of year again! Time to don your helmets and see what you can do at our Annual Spring Gymkhana. What is a gymkhana you ask? Also known as an Autocross, a gymkhana is defined as a "short, low speed, precision-driving event designed to test your ability to negotiate a compact autocross course."

Fun for all ages! (You do need to be a licensed driver to participate.) See fine machinery in action! Compete for valuable prizes! Watch as your friends send cones (Yellow and orange cones define the autocross course.) flying or get completely lost in a sea of orange markers. Revel in the discussion of

the morning's hilarious events over a fine lunch!

Seriously, please do come out and participate or just spectate. Everyone is welcome to drive and learn the course at your own speed. No speed is too slow. There is no need to tax yourself or your car. See you there.

Date: Sunday, May 31, 2009

Time: First car off @ 9am

Awards: 11 or 11:30

Location: AMC 30 Cantarra Theater parking lot, 28250 Deihl Rd, Warrenville, IL (I-88 & Winfield Rd., 14 miles West of I-294)

Cost: \$5/driver (member), \$10/driver (nonmember)

Calendar

May 8

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

May 14-17

SpringThing, AHCA Bluegrass, KY

May 31

MidWest Region gymkhana, Warrenville

June 6

Tech Session, Browns Garage, Warrenville, 8 'til noon

June 12

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

AHCA, Midwest Region
c/o J. Gruber
220 Columbia
Park Ridge, IL 60068

ADDRESS