



# WingNotes

## Congratulations to Greg and Jennifer Brown




From left to right: Melissa Brown, Barb & Ken Olendzki, Pat & Bob Brown, Jennifer & Greg Brown, Jean & Bob McElwee and Marie & Bill Naretta

Under bright sunshine and in a beautiful park in Plantation Florida, Midwest Region member,

Greg Brown married Jennifer Hurt on October 18, 2008. Several AHCA friends joined in the

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 7:30 pm and the business meeting starts at 8 pm. Ample lighted parking at rear of building.

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



celebration.

### AHCA HERITAGE 1979-2010

Based on input received at our September club meeting we have chosen "AHCA Heritage 1979-2010" as our Conclave 2010 slogan. Our logo will be one of our next decisions. We hope to have a logo selected by early 2009.

Our executive committee is getting ready to select/appoint sub-committee chair persons. We have several people in mind for some of the positions but are open to volunteers. Next month in *WingNotes* we will provide a list of positions we are looking to fill. If there is a position that interests you, please contact the appropriate member of the executive committee to offer your services. In the unlikely event that positions remain open after we have received volunteers we will contact people that we would like to fill the remaining openings. *Bob Brown.*



## BARB'S BUZZ & KEN'S CHATTER ("THE COUPLE THAT WRITES TOGETHER...")

The election results are in! In case you missed it, nominations were open all last month, and amazingly, we had two people nominated for the two positions that needed to be filled. Rather than wait and hold a series of uncontested elections, the 2009 slate was installed by acclamation at the October meeting. The new Midwest Region leadership team for 2009 is:

Regional Director-Ken Olendzki

Vice Regional Director, Programs-  
John Schroeder

Vice Regional Director, Membership-  
Bob Brown

Vice Regional Director, Driving Events-  
Bill Cantrall

Treasurer- Bill Kowalski

Secretary & WingNotes Editor-Jim Gruber

National Delegate-Bob Brown

Many thanks to Dan Anderson for his service to the club as retiring Programs chair. (for now, Dan, it is never too early to start your campaign for higher office, you know!)

While the driving season is almost over, we still have a few more club events for 2008. Our monthly club meeting will be held at Russell's BBQ in Rolling Meadows on Friday November 14, 2008. We will have a final 2008 tech session at the Brown's garage in Warrenville on Saturday December 6, 2008. Finally, as has become a tradition, we **WILL NOT** have a December meeting at Russell's. Instead please plan to celebrate all the great times we had this year

on Sunday, December 14 for the Midwest Region holiday party. Dorothy, Ken's mom, will be making a special dessert as a thanks for all the support she and we received from the club earlier this year when we lost Ed. See the party announcement elsewhere in this WingNotes for all the details.

By the time you are reading this, you should have received the latest issue of the Healey Marque. Make sure that you read the two excellent articles contributed by Neil Anderson and Bill Cantrall about their trip across the pond earlier this year. Well done gents!! Bring your issue to the November meeting and get it signed by the authors.

At the October meeting, we held a 20 questions quiz about things Healey and about a few cross-pollination between Austin-Healey and Lotus vehicles. Out of a possible point total of 22, we had a tie for the winner. Scoring a lucky 13 each were Bob Benisek and Pat Brown. They both took home a valuable prize. By the way, did you know that famed Lotus race car driver, Jimmy Clark, drove an Austin-Healey 100 in the 1955 Scottish Rallye, and that the US imports of the Lotus Seven open wheel street car were fitted with 948 cc Austin-Healey Sprite engines? We will have another quiz at the November meeting. If you want to study before the meeting, this quiz will address some of the common history of Austin-Healey and Triumph vehicles. again, we will have valuable prizes for the winners. Last word-If you are looking for a unique gift for the holidays, check out [www.zazzle.com](http://www.zazzle.com) and type in "Healey" in their search box. You will find Ked's shoes, ties and more, with images of Austin-Healeys' on them. Kind of expensive but interesting to see. *Barb & Ken Olendzki*

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### IS SANITY RETURNING TO AUSTIN-HEALEY VALUES?



My alternate title for this little ditty was "Oh #%&\*@, I should have sold my Healey last year as I might be able to buy two for the same money now." Well, maybe not, but the global economic crisis has appeared to have had a tempering effect on classic car values. In the last few years, nicely re-

stored or resto-moded Austin-Healeys were selling for seemingly silly money at the big auctions. It was not uncommon for big Healeys to sell in the \$100 to \$150 thousand range.

This trend made a lot of money for a lot of people, especially the big auction houses. To some, these



high prices for Healeys seemed sane when you consider that a GM display bus sold for over \$4 million, a Hemi 'Cuda sold for \$2 million and, seemingly, to me most generic muscle cars were selling for \$500,000 or more. Well the tide may be turning. Last month was the first Barrett-Jackson auction in Las Vegas. They had hoped that this auction would become become their premium event replacing Scottsdale. While they didn't go home hungry, and cars were still selling at prices that our grandparents could not comprehend, if you look through the results you will see that not all the

people were smiling all the way to their collapsed banks.

They did not break the \$100,000 mark on any vehicle until the 257th lot. No lot was bid higher than \$300,000 and only five were bid above \$200,000. Here's a rundown on the Healeys that sold (you need to add the buyers premium to the final bid amount, but remember that the seller also has to pay a commission, freight and on-site detailing and logistic charges.)

Lot 228--1967 BJ8 in Healey blue with some restoration work--\$40,000

Lot 462--1961 BT7 in Healey blue, concours rotisserie restoration--\$68,000

Lot 473--1963 BJ7 in white, a Kurt Tanner restoration--\$62,000

Lot 474--1960 BT7 in red over white, concours restored--\$58,000

Lot 762--1962 MkII in BRG restored by Healey Lane--\$49,000

Lot 784--1964 BJ8 in red, a Kurt Tanner restoration--\$70,000

Lot 415--1958 Sprite that was restored by a group of high school girls--\$18,000 (this one sold last year at the January RM auction for \$23,100.) *Ken Olendzki*

### 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

an early reminder, AHCA will be sending membership renewals in early December. As in the past renewals can be made either by mail or electronically. To pay by mail, send a check for \$50 to the address on the renewal form (along with the renewal form). Electronically use the AHCA website <http://www.healeyclub.org> Click on renew and follow the directions. *Bob Brown.*

### ILLINOIS LICENSE PLATES AND YOUR AUSTIN-HEALEY

At our October club meeting, we had a presentation about Illinois license plates for your Austin-Healey. Much to the surprise of our presenter, the audience actually found the presentation to be interesting and helpful. Here is a summary of what you should know. Illinois currently offers 154 types of license plates, more than any other state in the union. Actually they offer an unlimited amount of plates, because if you can provide them with a commitment for at least 1500 sets, they will offer your own design subject to certain rules of political correctness.

This article only addresses passenger and antique plate rules. You have six choices for plates for your Austin-Healey: Passenger or Antique, then random numbers, Vanity or Personalized plates. The cost ranges from \$6 per year for a random number antique plate to \$178 in the first year for a vanity passenger plate. (\$91 per year thereafter).

If they are so cheap, why don't we all have antique plates on our Austin-Healeys? Well, antique plates have stated driving use restrictions and you can't be quite as expressive on antique or personalized plates. Maybe you just like to pay more money to help the state budget, and I thank you. You might notice as you read forward, it is the opinion of the author that we should all have antique plates on our cars. Now for his case.

Many people are afraid of tickets for violating the driving use restrictions for antique plates. However, many of these asme people use classic car insurance. You are running a bigger risk on the insurance side with a potential catastrophic coverage denial vs. a municipal ticket for a slightly less expensive license plate.

The rules for antique plates are as follows:



- 1.) Five year plates are issued for any motor vehicle more than 25 years old.
- 2.) Vehicles displaying antique plates “may only be driven to and from an antique auto show, or exhibition, service station or demonstration.
- 3.) The mechanical and physical condition of the vehicle, including brakes, lights, glass and appearance, must be the same or as safe as originally equipped.
- 4.) An antique may be a bona fide replica as long as it is an exact copy of the original in design, frame and mechanical operation. Facsimiles (close, but not exact reproductions) DO NOT qualify for antique plates.

Those are the rules. What are the risks? The driving restrictions seem very tight, however there are over 25,000 cars in Illinois with antique plates today. For everyone to be completely legal in driving his or her cars, we need a heck of a lot more car shows. “Service Station” and “Demonstration” are not defined terms in the statute, so get gas every time you take the car out and carry the receipt for your trip to the “Service Station”. I do this anyway since my gas gauge does not work. The word demonstration could be interpreted very broadly. Showing off your cool Healey at every stoplight along Ogden Avenue sure seems like a demonstration to me. Going to tech sessions, club events, cruise nights and meetings would certainly qualify.

We will not find any discussion of violation penalties in the Illinois government web pages, or any internet discussion board banter about anyone being pulled over in Illinois of the antique license plate laws. From a practical matter, fines should not exceed the cost of a passenger plate anyway since the concept of an antique plate is really just a cost reduction maneuver for the citizen and a work reduction maneuver for the state of Illinois. From a risk standpoint, the rules requiring brakes, lights, glass and appearance are far more risky for your Healey as they apply to passenger plates and not just to antique plates. Removing your front bumper bar on a big Healey could be a violation. Brooklands windscreens?? Uh oh! Is your restoration an exact copy or a facsimile? You could discuss all these points forever, but let's keep perspective; we are talking about an antique license plate that costs \$6 vs. a passenger plate that costs \$78. Given today's issues, violations of these rules are not a priority.

NOW FOR THE FUN PART OF THE ILLINOIS ANTIQUE LICENSE PLATE LAW- The real reason that we wanted to talk Illinois license plates is “Historical License Plate” clause. If you purchase antique license plates for your car in Illinois, you can legally display a historic license plate, representing the model year of your Healey ON your Healey. In other words, if you have a 1966 BJ8, you can legally display any actual 1966 license plate that you have from the old days or buy at a flea market or antique shop. You are required to maintain your current antique plates and registration ID in the vehicle at all times. The rules do not specifically state that the plate needs to be from Illinois, or even from the United States.

These rules are not a Secretary of State policy. They are codified in the Illinois Compiled Statutes under Chapter 625-Vehicles, Paragraph 5-Illinois Vehicle Code, Chapter 3, Article 8, Section 3-804. Not all cops are aware of these rules, so you are strongly encouraged to keep a copy of the Statute in your car antique plate and registration ID card. This rule is also printed in the “Antique License Plate” pamphlet published by the Secretary of State.

Other things you should know about Illinois passenger and antique license plates include the following. Front plates are required in Illinois. There have been court cases, which stated that the law is not valid, but the statute has never been changed, and tickets continue to be issued. The general consensus is police will not pull you over for a front plate violation, but will add the ticket if you are pulled over for a different violation. The City of Chicago is aggressive in ticketing parked cars for lack of a front license plate at \$60 for each ticket.

All Illinois antique license plates are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2009. If you buy one in 2008 or 2009 you are charged a prorated fee based upon \$6 per year. The January 1, 2010 will be \$30 for a new 5-year plate or sticker. Random number plates cost \$78 for passenger and \$6 for antique per year. Personalized passenger plates have 1 to 5 letters plus 1 or 2 numbers OR 6 letters and 1 number. Personalized antique plates have 1 to 3 numbers plus 1 to 3 letters OZR 1 or 2 numbers plus 4 letters OR 1 number plus 5 letters.



Personalized plates require a fee in addition to the basic plate fee; \$47 in the first year and \$7 each renewal period (not year).

Vanity passenger and antique plates are numbers only up to 999 OR 1 to 7 letters with no numbers. If you use all seven letters on a vanity antique plate, then you cannot insert any spaces (this is new, they used to only allow up to six letters). Vanity plates also require a fee in addition to the basic plate fee: \$94 in the first year and \$13 each renewal period (not year).

On all plates, there has to be a space between letters and numbers. Finally, you can transfer plates between people in Illinois by having both parties sign a form. This is how Bernie Bowersock got "Healey 62", from Denny Juul when he bought Denny's car. *Ken Olendzki*

## HealeyFest 2009

Thanks to Ed & Chris Keuer we have secured Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa as our host site for HealeyFest 2009. Mark your calendar for July 31st to August 2nd to be sure you keep the dates available.



## 2008 HOLIDAY PARTY



Sunday December 14, 2008,  
Cocktails 5:00 pm, Dinner 6:00  
pm, Gift Exchange 7:30 pm.

Hosted by Barb, Ken and  
Dorothy Olendzki. 1213 E.  
Brookwood Dr., Arlington  
Heights, IL. 60004. For directions  
use Mapquest or email Barb.  
Please RSVP to 847-394-9215 or

[oilonfloor@aol.com](mailto:oilonfloor@aol.com)

Appetizers, dinner and  
beverages will be provided by the  
club. Dessert will be an old  
fashioned cookie exchange. If you  
want to help (don't feel obligated)  
bring your favorite homemade or  
bakery-made cookies. Costco will  
fill-in any shortfalls. No promises  
that any cookies will be left over  
to take home with our group, but  
if you bring some, hopefully you  
will get some to take home.

To participate in the  
Australian Pursuit gift exchange,  
bring a wrapped gift for each  
participant valued at around \$15 to  
\$20. Rules will be explained (or  
made up) at the party.

### Calendar

#### **November 14**

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

#### **December 6**

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

#### **December 14**

Holiday party, 6:00 pm Olendzki home  
1213 E Brookwood Drive, Arlington  
Heights, IL 847-394-9215,  
[oilonfloor@aol.com](mailto:oilonfloor@aol.com)

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