



WingNotes

Road Trips

Neil Anderson
Midwest - Regional Director

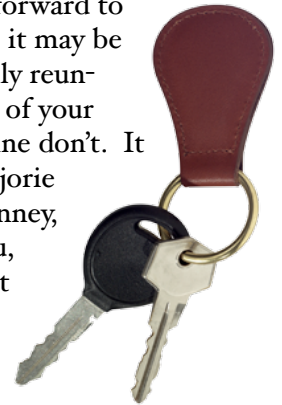
With cooler temperatures now part of daily life; the 2010 Healey driving season is getting shorter by the day. The eastern US got hit with a freak fall snow storm that left millions without power for a week. We know that similar type weather will soon be upon us and for quite a few of the months that follow. Hopefully, we won't experience the power outages. We don't need that!

What are your plans for your Healey for the winter? Do you have parts to replace or rebuild, or maybe have a new interior to install? Do you plan to do an engine rebuild or possibly repair of some body of chassis areas? Maybe you have some tidying up of your car from this past driving season, or just have your regular maintenance service that you do every late fall. Whatever your upcoming plans for your car might be, we hope you had a chance to enjoy your Healey this year and are possibly already looking at next year's calendar to see what Healey or other car events you plan to attend.

Our annual regional event had about thirty participants that gathered in south central Wisconsin the last weekend of September to enjoy the roads, scenery, and good Healey fellowship with our friends. They traveled from the Chicago area,

from the Quad City area in the west, from the north, near Rockford, and other points in between to Spring Green to celebrate the twenty-fifth version of HealeyFest. We are happy to report that our event was a success and very fun weekend, at least that is what I heard from those in attendance.

After arriving at the Round Barn Lodge on Friday afternoon, the co-hosts, Mike and Pat Arndt and I headed off to buy snacks, veggies, and beverages to stock the hospitality suite for the soon-to-be-arriving participants. What seemed to be a large enough suite, soon filled with Healey club members, travelling from different Midwest areas. A five or six car tour led by Dwain and Jenny Plymale arrived from Rockford. No matter who attends, getting together with club members is always like having a big family reunion, spent with people you enjoy being with and look forward to seeing again. In some respects, it may be more enjoyable than some family reunions. I don't imagine too many of your family drive Austin-Healeys, mine don't. It was good to see Roger and Marjorie Rhoads, Milt and Gloria McKinney, and to meet Ron and Janet Mau, who all journeyed to HealeyFest from the western Netherlands of our region.



After sampling all the munchies and quenching our thirsts from the "road dust" (road dust?, the horses were under the bonnets, not under saddles), the group split into two and headed off in different directions to partake in a Wisconsin tradition, the Friday night fish fry. One of the highlights of the afternoon hospitality was the photo "memory board" that Roger Rhoads put together. He had found an old Healey club "Chatter" magazine from 1987 in his shop and assembled a collage of blown up B/W photos from HealeyFest III. What a hoot seeing that was! HealeyFest that year was held in Galesburg, IL at a Holidome with a colorful Hawaiian theme. We did a lot more activities at events "way back when" because we were all a lot younger. Your Regional Director looks to be all of "sixteen" in the pics. Oh,... the years have not been kind! Thank you, Roger for your outstanding effort, and for providing some great enter-



tainment. And, “thanks” for reminding us how fast the time has flown by. We will have the memory board at the next club meeting to again see the photos of another great HealeyFest, from 24 years ago. Hospitality was open again after dinner to a packed room to socialize and view one of Ken’s now famous slide shows, this one mostly of older, nostalgic, and sometimes embarrassing photos of club members from events of past years. There was a lot of laughter, kidding and the occasional comment of something like, “I will pay you to remove that photo from your computer”.

After a Saturday morning breakfast in the lodge, we assembled in the car park with cool temps and somewhat dark clouds overhead that exhibited signs of that “four letter word”, RAIN. For the most part, jackets were on, soft top hoods were erected, side screens rolled up, and side curtains were put in. Mike’s “Healeys in the Hills Tour” was on the agenda for the day with five big Healeys, two Sprites, one Jensen-Healey, and a scattering of BJ9s, consisting of a Lotus Esprit, a Corvette, two BMWs, and the Rhoads alternate-Sprite were all queued up with a GMC SUV bringing up the rear.

About half-way to our first destination, the Wollersheim Winery, the clouds started to break up to reveal bright blue skies and a bright sun lighting the way through the hilly, twisty roads of the countryside. The fall color change had barely begun, so it was mostly shades of green with small tinges of warmer colors wherever you looked. After lining up some of the Healeys in the winery courtyard for a photo-op, we went into the original 1840s winery stone building for the scheduled wine tasting. The group seemed to treat the tasting with all seriousness, trying to savor the differences of the red, white, and blush wines sampled. There was enough time to wander through the retail store to pick up that bottle of wine that had most pleased the palate during the tasting. The group wandered about the grounds enjoying the now warm temps and bright sun with the setting possibly reminiscent of an old European winery. With some creative packing, Bill and Marie Naretta managed to get two cases of Wollersheim red wine into the boot of their Corvette. The Healey owners didn’t try that

trick, although Gale and Nancy Fabisch had a case of wine riding in the jump seats the rest of the day.

We got back onto the rolling scenic roads with lunch the next scheduled stop, but we did take a little break at a cheese making factory to stretch our legs, get a quick soft drink and buy some local Wisconsin cheese. After a very nice luncheon buffet at a country tavern, we travelled the short distance to Oakwood Fruit Farm, where they grow, sell, and ship over twenty varieties of apples each year. After losing their crop and main building to a fire last November, we were part of a large group of visitors to mingle in their new larger more modern retail outlet and fruit packing facility. The Healey group got a tour of the large apple storage cooler rooms and the state of the art computerized sorting and packing area. They were in the midst of their harvest with an amazing 7 million apples grown on their grounds each year. We all walked around sampling many of the varieties of apples, and I think many of us left with bags of apples, boxes of apple cider doughnuts and other goodies. With Mike’s excellent and detailed route directions in hand, we left in smaller groups to more scenic twisty “Healey roads” on the way back to the motel. We got to pick up the pace, spread out the interval distance between cars and have some fun driving the Healeys as we really enjoy doing. There were a lot of smiles, thumbs up, and thank you’s to Mike and Pat for the time spent setting up a fun day traveling the scenic roads of Wisconsin, enjoyed with some interesting stops along the way. It was a great day of touring.

Our evening dinner was held at the Wisconsin Riverside Resort, amazingly on the banks of the Wisconsin River. Mike talked the owner into letting us have our pre-dinner car show on the lawn between the restaurant-lodge and the banks of the river and we had some local restaurant guests join us to view our “not your average” type car show. The sun was just setting. It was nice evening and great location to put the cars on display. Walk around cocktails with car voting and chatting was a nice appetizer before dinner. The group was seated at three long tables with the prime rib special the menu



item of choice. Good conversation with Healey friends being the highlight of the dinner.

Hospitality, awards, and Ken's interesting Healey photos, gleaned from the internet, slide show finished off a long fun-filled day and weekend. Thanks so much to Ken and Barb for bringing all the items for the "Baggie Raffle". We had some very lively participation and a lot of fun in another session of Ken and Barb trying to reduce the inventory of Healey stuff they continue to house. The proceeds of \$200 were donated to our own Mac's Pack team of the ALS Foundation. Thank you to all who participated.

Car show awards for HealeyFest XXV:

- Best Interior: Denny and Beverly Juul – BJ8
- Best Paint and Chrome: Larry and Elaine Wysocki – BN6
- Best Engine Bay: Larry and Elaine Wysocki – BN6
- Best Contemporary Modification: Bill Cantrall- Bugeye Sprite
- Best Period Accessory: Dwain and Jenny Plymale – BJ8 (with Jenny being voted as "Best Period Accessory, she is English, you know)
- Most Popular BJ9: Ken and Barb Olendzki - Lotus Esprit
- Most Popular Healey: Denny and Beverly Juul - BJ8

After breakfast and under rain threatening skies, our HealeyFest participants, in small groups or individually, left the Round Barn Lodge to head home. Bill Cantrall, Greg Baum, John Schroeder, and I stopped for a short time in New Glarus, which was having their Oktoberfest celebration. After a "Spotted Cow", a bratwurst and listening to some music, we hit the road again, only to run into some hail just outside of Monroe. Bill had a hail stone somehow enter the Sprite cockpit and hit him in the face. I had driven my truck to the HealeyFest to haul all of the stuff I took

along and was glad, in this instance, that I was not driving my BT7 with the aluminum shrouds when we ran into the hail (we had no damage to either vehicle). But, despite this one small thing it was a great weekend.

I want to thank again my co-hosts Mike and Pat for all of their work to help make our event a success. The Arndts have been great friends ever since the very first HealeyFest and continues to the latest. It is the cars, but really it is the people who make being members of the Healey club so enjoyable. Thank you all.

Here is the link to Marty Thomas's HealeyFest photo album.

<http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/sharing/shareRedirectSwitchBoard.jsp?token=8547608630103%03A501908319%0Asourceld=533754321cmmmc=share-personal- -Email- -Share- -Top>

Here is a link to my HealeyFest Picassa photo album.

<http://picassaweb.google.com/112346952332199551145/HealeyFest252011?authkey=Gv1sRgCPSdgLLo-4DjuAE#>

Two business items before I finish my "Road Trips" for this month. You have been informed through our Yahoo group page that Russell's has closed their restaurant where we have held our monthly meetings for quite a few years. We are in the search process to find a new meeting location, which should be in place starting in January. John Mrock compiled a list of where other local car clubs hold their meetings in the suburban areas. We will be looking at these restaurants to find another good location. It is nice to be able to grab a quick bite to eat before our meetings start. We will keep you informed as we progress.

Our temporary meeting location for November will be the Brown's home in Warrenville. We will order some pizzas to have something to eat before the meeting starts. Come early



to partake. The program set up by Bob Benisek has been postponed until the first part of the new year. It would have required our presenter to travel a lot further distance than going to Russell's.

My account of our road trip the South East Classic, held in NE Alabama a few weeks ago, will be published in the December "Wing-Notes". Thank you hanging in there on this extended HealeyFest report.

Kind regards,

Neil

HOW DO YOU LIVE YOUR DASH?

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He told of the dates on his tombstone
From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came his date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears.
But said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time
That he spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved him
Know what that small line is worth.

It matters not how much we own,
The cars, the house, the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know what time is left,
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way that people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more,
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

We could treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile,
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.
So when your eulogy's being read
With your life's actions to rehash
Will you be proud of the things they said
About how you spent your dash?

Mark A. Baker **1956 - 2011**

Many of us were at the SE Classic Healey event when we learned the shocking and deeply saddening news about the loss of our club member and friend, Mark. We soon spread the word to the Midwest Healey community about this unbelievable occurrence. The astonished replies from many of you were followed by questions of how or why from all of us. How this happened has possibly been answered, but I don't think the "why" ever will be. We all have many reason to live life to its fullest, but when we lose a friend or loved one, seemingly before one's time, and before all that is hoped to be accomplished in one's life, we have to question the reasoning.

I certainly did not know Mark as well as his family, his workers, his customers, associates, or other close friends. He had a large number of people who came in and out of his life depending on where he directed his energy for that day, hour or



whatever time period. I knew him as my customer. He trusted my work to be good enough to be included on his cars and customer cars. I knew him, as me being his customer for work on my Healey. And, I knew him as a Healey club member, who I worked with to set up details of some of his generous sponsorship for our Conclave. I considered him to be a good friend.

In all these things, Mark was meticulous about details and how things had to be done just one way, the best he could do, which was to the highest level. Things may have not always gone his way, but he worked around and solved problems to still maintain his high standards. He had the qualities of an artist, of an accomplished craftsman, and of an innovative engineer with a good business sense all rolled into one person. Talking to other club members, he was described as being charismatic, “a personal quality of leadership arousing popular loyalty or enthusiasm”.

Mark was quite a soft-spoken guy, but he could still get angry about something, only slightly raising his tone, throwing up his hands while expressing his disgust, raising his eyebrows and exclaiming “Oh, well” at things he could rarely not control. When I talked to him in person and most always on the phone, I had to listen quite carefully to things Mark would say, because much of the time it would be something important. It may have been his way to draw people in.

All of us who knew him have our own personal things that we have lost with Mark’s passing. We may not fully realize this until one day when we cannot ask him something, seeking his counsel. I have already had one of those moments. When we look at the time that Mark lived and we see his “dash” between those years, it is a dash that we only see from the end. His dash is the start of a long and winding road that stretches out of sight. It is a road that is filled with people he loved, people that

loved him, his beloved cars, hard work, caring about his community and things too numerous to mention. He will be missed by the many, many people he met along that road.

With respect,
Neil Anderson