

*A publication by and for the members of the
Flatwater Austin-Healey Club of Nebraska and Western Iowa*

May 2009 Calendar:

4 Monday

Officers Meeting
Parker's Smoke House
Hwy 6/63, 7 p.m.

14 Thursday

Pub Night
Parker's Smoke House
the new place
Hwy 6/63 6:30 p.m.

16 Saturday

Breakfast at Mahoney
State Park 9 a.m. or so.

29 Friday

FISH 6:30
Murdock NE
Don't forget to RSVP
Page 2

30 Sunday

**British Car Week
Begins**

**DRIVE
DRIVE-DRIVE**

**MEMBER
PROFILES**

PAGE 9

**TRIUMPH
TRANS-AMERICAN
CHARITY RUN
PAGE 7**

Scribner Performance Runs



Ooooh Yea!!!!!!!!!!!!



God loves British Cars. It rained everywhere except at Scribner. A dozen rain or shine drivers enjoyed a day of screaming down the runway and occasionally swapping ends in the chicanes (tricky turns in the cones).

LAST NEWSLETTER ISSUE PAGE 2

**June 7th Saturday
Lincoln Parking Lot Performance Runs Event Page 3**

Events you should attend - May, June and July Pg 3- 6

Fumes – Going South for the Winter Pg 8

LAST NEWSLETTER ISSUE

I regret to inform you that this will be the last issue of the newsletter that I am able to produce. I have enjoyed newsletter editor for over two years. It has given me great pleasure and the opportunity to get to know many more members. I take away some great friendships. Unfortunately the demands of my work and personal life don't allow me the time I want to do the newsletter and I must give it up.

Perhaps there is a member reading this that has an interest in doing a newsletter. If that is you, please know that I would be happy to support you with articles as I love to write about our hobby and will continue to do so. In the mean time watch the web site for club information and I know that the officers will send out e-mails on critical and time sensitive issues.

I want to thank all of my contributing editors, the people who have run club events and kept me informed, and you the members who have allowed me to expose your successes and failures for the enjoyment of the membership.

I want to single out Terry Davis for special recognition. Terry has consistently provided "Fumes" racing articles that inform, entertain and inspire us on all levels from the armchair racers to the Scribner wanabe's. Thanks Terry.

If you wish to contact me, I will continue to monitor the editorjoe@msn.com e-mail address. The alternative is to set out some bait. Raise your hood at a club event, lean in over the engine and go Hummm? That will bring me in like ducks to a set of decoys.

Thank you all very much. I'm heading to the garage. Joe Kueper

FISH FRIDAY the May 29th at MURDOCK

The Bulldog's Bar and Grill at 301 Nebraska Street in Murdock, NE is your destination for May.

From Omaha head south on Hwy 50 and catch Hwy 1 going west about 6 miles where you will turn north taking the road into Murdock.

From Lincoln take Hwy 34 east to Hwy 1 and take it north through Elmwood. Just after the road bends to the east turn north onto the road into Murdock.

The fun usually starts at 6:30 P.M. and sooner is better than later.

Be there by 6:30.

Call in your RSVPs to Gary Pence 402-580-4236 or E-Mail jpence@neb.rr.com

TULIP TOUR AND FESTIVAL 15-17 MAY

Reservations are gone due to two colleges in the area having graduation the same weekend. If you can score a room some place or want to hook up with the group for a day call Joe Kueper 402-592-3132. Tour highlights include a Friday drive through the Loess Hills and tour of the Healey Werks restoration center, a Saturday full of Tulip Festival activities and a stop at the Blue Bunny ice cream museum. (See the festival web site www.octulipfestival.com for a full list of Saturday activities.)

We will headquarter at the Colonial Inn (712-722-2614) 7 miles from Orange City.

Miscellaneous Events

On Armed Forces Day, May 16th, there will be a car show at Mahoney State Park to benefit the military. There will be room for 125 cars and the registration will cost about \$10.00 to \$20.00. The park entry fee is waived for show cars. More details later.

-- The 2009 Orphan Car Show, sponsored by the Studebaker Drivers Club, will be held May 17th at Ralston. The featured car will be the Hudson with all cars welcome.

-- May 29 through 31, 2009, 30th Annual O'Reilly Auto Parts Hot Rod Super Nationals at the Nebraska State Fair Park. Registration is \$35.00. Visit www.familyevents.com or call Ron Carlson at (317) 236-6515, ext 4668 for more information.

YOUTH EVENTS

We often discuss how the fascination and interest in British marques will continue. The next generation of enthusiasts will only be there to carry the torch if we pass it to them. Here is a chance to just that. Attend one or all of these high school car shows let them see and hear why our cars are so special.

MAY 8 Friday evening Papillion: - Papillion – La Vista South High School Skills USA Show and Shine Fundraiser. Plenty of food, plaques and prizes. FREE registration 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and peoples choice voting in 9 classes. PLV South Stadium, one block south of the light at 108th Street and Hwy. 370. Contact: Roger Campbell, 402-829-4600

May 9 Saturday Lincoln: Lincoln Northeast High School will be having its 2nd Annual Rocket Car Show on Saturday with registration starting at 9 a.m., judging at noon and trophies at 3 p.m. Register early for \$10 or on the day for \$15. Classes will be added as we feel necessary based on early registration counts. If we get a bunch of early registrations from the Flatwater club, we will try to set aside a section exclusively for the British cars, so we encourage early registration. If you have any further questions, feel free to call me 402-326-0867 or send e-mail akoeste@lps.org

May 17 Sunday Lincoln: The Lincoln Southeast High School Car Show starts reservations at at 9 a.m., with judging at noon, and awards at 3:30 p.m. Contact Tommy Bender, 402-553-6705 or Gary Hall 571-3201.

May 30 Saturday afternoon-evening Bellevue: The Cougar Classic Car Show at Gross Catholic High School, 770 S. 43rd St. starts with registration from 3-5 p.m. Early fee is \$15 and on the day it is \$20. Two awards will be given per class at 7p.m. Call 734-2000 or www.grosscatholic.org

JUNE EVENTS

Heartland MG Show, Overland Park, Kansas **Date change - Now Friday and Saturday 5-6 June**

Don't forget to complete your Registration Form for the 20th Annual Heartland MG Regional Car Show June 5-6th. As a proud Sponsor of this, our 20th consecutive year... we need a big turnout. Last year we had a great time and Midwest MGA swept the A categories... let's do it again!

We're back in the same great location in Santa Fe Commons Park, right in our own back yard. Friday night we're sponsoring the Tailgate party at EconoLodge on Shawnee Mission Parkway and all the eats and drinks are free. Sat AM we'll have more delicious pancakes to start the day and fun throughout the day. As a special treat, we'll have the Project Warrior MGB for all to see... and more.

Remember, for early Registration, you will receive a free T-shirt and a free breakfast... a \$17 value and the 2008 show prices were not increased... a real bargain! This year's profits go to the VFW's Unmet Needs Program for the families of our servicemen & women all over the globe. To take advantage of this offer, go to WWW.Heartlandmgregional.com

Parking Lot Performance Runs Sunday June 7th **Lincoln Southwest High School**

Take a scene out of The Fast and the Furious and combine it with a scene in Gone in 60 Seconds and you have a visual idea of the fun and action you can enjoy at the Parking Lot Performance Runs. Test your driving skills while winding through a serpentine course of orange construction cones and never leave 2nd gear. It is a very exciting event that lasts around 60 seconds per run. We usually have enough time to give everyone 3-4 runs. This is a timed event so you can lay down a base line and try to improve on your performance with each run.

Course setup and car safety inspections start at 9-10 A. M. The runs begin when we are set up and ready and continue into the afternoon. Volunteers man this event so when you are not driving you will be cone spotting or helping in some way.

If you are new and or have never done this event, we will give you an orientation, ride alongs and assistance. Helmets are required so bring one and some loaners will be available if you don't have one.

Vehicle operation and safety inspections are required and conducted. Key items include: Good tires, seatbelts, batteries fastened down, brakes that stop the vehicle in a straight line and accelerators that don't bind.

Food, beverages and restrooms are available in local establishments within walking distance.

For more information or questions contact: Joe Guinan Phone: 402-727-8011 Email: joeg@neb.rr.com.

Gerry Conant 712-322-5821 / trseven4@cox.net Greg Lemon 402-310-5950 / gilemon@neb.rr.com

If rain becomes an issue call Joe Sunday after 8 A.M. 402- 660-2502 for event status.

GOING OUT OF TOWN?

57th Annual Rallye Glenwood Springs, Friday - Sunday June 12-14, 2009

Ride the Rockies and have a ball.

<http://mgcc.org> for more details

Hotel contact – Chris Schutte 303-994-8882

Registrar – Dick Fuller 303-277-1878 or dckfillr@aol.com

AHCA Conclave – Kingston, Ontario June 21-26

Council Bluffs Fun Run – Sunday June 28th 2 P.M.

By Chrissy Conant

Gerry and I want to invite you to a Sunday drive in and around Council Bluffs. This will include a stop for feasting at CB's most popular icecream shop, Christy Cream. They also have burgers, tenderloins and FABULOUS fries and onion rings, you know, the really healthy kinds of food. Save the date and check the Web site for more details or callus at (712) 322-5821

Fremont Days – Barbecue and No Show

Leo Thietje Reports

John C. Fremont Days auto show has been canceled however, we are still planning on having the BBQ at our place, and all are welcome. Fremont Days will still have the vendors etc just not the car show. Watch the Club Web site for details or call me at (402) 721-8585

Sunbeam International – Rapid City, South Dakota 21-27 June

By Bart Hamilton

Alpine events in the Black Hills. It's true that 2009 is the centenary of Morgan and the golden anniversary of the Mini, but Sunbeam fans will be busy with celebrations of their own, marking five decades since the launch of the Alpine. For members of the Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club of America, the big event promises to be Invasion VIII, which takes place as part of the Sunbeams United National International (or SUNI) 5, scheduled for June 21-27 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

SUNI 5 includes a concours, convoys to Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse memorial, autocrosses and vendor sales, as well as a full schedule of social events. More information about Invasion VIII and SUNI 5 is available at the Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club of America Web site. <http://sunbeamalpine.org/>

Editor's note: Brent Kasl has attended the last four Sunbeam events and is an excellent source of information for those thinking about heading north to the event.

ROAD AMERICA - ELKHART LAKE 2009 - July 16-19

By John Ulrich

One last time. If you are thinking about going, you better act fast to get a room. Here's the deal. There are 8 rooms at our usual hotel. "Americas Best Value Inn" in Sheboygan. They are held in a block under the "Flatwater Race Team". These rooms ARE NOT RESERVED. You will need to reserve one for your self and they are being held until June 16. You can cancel your reservation up to July 13. After July 13, one night will be charged to your credit card if you are a no show. The rates are Thursday, July 16 @ \$73.39. Friday & Saturday, July 17 & 18 @ \$125.99 Call 920-458-8080 to make your reservation.

See the March newsletter trip details and call John Ulrich for questions at 402-421-9252.

Okoboji Event August 7-9

Lee and Sheryl Pedersen are trying to organize a trip to the Okoboji area in August to coincide with an event put on by a Spencer area car club. The event includes get-togethers at the Clay County Fairgrounds on Friday & Saturday nights and Sunday morning, as well as a car show on the green space next to Arnold's Park on Saturday. See below for more info. It sounds like a fun event and there'll be time for shopping and sightseeing in the Okoboji area as well. If anyone is interested in going or helping out please contact Lee or Sheryl at lpedersen@cox.net or 402-596-1313. We are trying to gauge participation so we can get a block of rooms in Spencer.

Old Iron Company's 31st Annual Micro Mini Nats

August 7, 8, & 9, 2009 Spencer, Iowa

Clay County Fairgrounds

OPEN RUN FOR STREET RODS, CUSTOMS, CLASSICS & MUSCLE CARS!

Registration:

Friday 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Clay County Fairgrounds

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Arnold's Park Greenspace

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

FOR PAID PARTICIPANTS

- Hotdogs, popcorn, nachos (Friday PM) Children & Adult games (Fri & Sat)
- Poker Run/Walk (Saturday PM) **Show and Shine** (Sat starting at 9 AM)
- Supper (Saturday PM) Live band/dance (Saturday PM)
- Rolls, juice & coffee (Sunday AM) Lots of fun!

Pre-registration fee \$30.00 if postmarked by August 1, 2009

\$35.00 fee if postmarked after August 1, 2009

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jerry and Nancy Magorian, Scott and Jennifer Churilla,
Jim and Helen Hardin, Joel and Jenny Brunke
Paul Null, Jim Forehead

Remember that when you are at an event and see someone you don't know, go up to them and say:

“Hi, are you new or did you just come out of storage?”

triumph trans-ameriCa charity drive 2009

An event for ALL British Car Enthusiasts

This **Triumph Trans-AmeriCa Charity Drive 2009**, to give it the full name, is for ALL British cars – not just Triumphs so, as I go from State to Province – and back, THREE times – I want to see lots of happy faces in caravans coming with me for as long as they can stretch the mileage. The last I heard was that a number of stalwarts from Red River Triumphs in Texas plan to join me for the rest of the Drive from Dallas to San Luis Obispo via Winnipeg and Vancouver!!!!

C'mon guys, don't just talk about it – DO IT! You know you can!

Unless you've visited the event website at www.triumphtransamerica.org.uk you won't know



the general outline route – so here it is.

Not quite “a quiet run in the country” but then we'll be covering that route to raise money for three non-profits. They are **The Anxiety Disorders Association of Canada** based in Montréal, **Assist Trauma Care** of Rugby in the UK and **The Sidran Institute** of Baltimore.

All of these organizations are actively involved in many different ways in the treatment of a range of anxiety disorders. Specifically, we'll be drawing attention to and fundraising for one of these conditions, known as P.T.S.D. - or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Bill Redinger will be tracking the route and we will investigate setting up a special event for the trip through Lincoln and Omaha. Watch the Club web site for more information.

Fumes -The La Junta Race Report

By Terry Davis

Having been snowed out of Hallett in March – 8” of the white stuff with temps in the 30’s was just too much for me and the Sprite to handle – I was “Jonesin” pretty bad for some track time by mid-April when the La Junta race came around. La Junta is not my favorite track – it’s basically part of the old La Junta airport (think Scribner with derelict buildings and desert instead of cornfields). It’s 1.6 miles long with 7 turns at an elevation of 4238 feet. Elevation change is zero, it is after all part of an airport, but at least it’s a racetrack.

I got to La Junta on Thursday, April 16, got my annual tech inspection done at the track that afternoon, and then settled into my motel room to get ready for “Test and Tune” on Friday. Unfortunately, the weather didn’t look very promising. That was the weekend of the blizzard that hit Denver and points west, but at least in La Junta it was rain and not snow! (Note to self for next year – Spring apparently doesn’t arrive in Colorado until sometime after May 1.) Anyway, I got up Friday morning and since it wasn’t actually raining at the time went ahead and drove to the track. Of course once I got there it did start to rain fairly heavily so the track schedule got delayed a bit.

The La Junta race weekend is also the weekend of the annual RMVR Driver’s School and there were 20 students enrolled. Vintage British cars included two MGBs and a TR3. There were also several Porsches (new and old), a Lotus Elise, several Formula Vees and Super Vees, and a Honda Civic. After some initial classroom instruction the students did a “follow me” track session with their instructors. It had stopped raining, but since the track was still wet they were told that they could go out in street cars if they wanted to. I wish I had my camera to take a picture of the pickup trucks and SUVs sharing the track with MGBs and Porsches – it was quite a sight!

By 11:00 it was starting to clear and the track was drying out so I decided to venture out to see how the Sprite would run, using my rain tires just in case there was still any standing water on the track. I had the track completely to myself and it felt great to be back behind the wheel again. I was out for about 20 minutes when the car started to blow some smoke, so I pulled into the paddock to see what was going on. After a call to Terry Worick and disconnecting a vent hose I had no more smoke and the car was running well.

The sky was continuing to clear and so after lunch I went out onto the track again, this time with my regular track tires on (Yokohama A032s). I was sharing the track with a red MGB-GT, a Miller Sports Racer, and a couple of Super Vees, but still had much of the track to myself for the 30 minutes or so that I was out. The car ran well but was oversteering a bit and I remembered that I had forgotten to adjust my tire pressures when changing to the Yokohamas. After returning to the paddock I adjusted the pressures and found that the engine was leaking a bit more oil than usual. I decided to venture out once again for more “test and tune.” The car was running and cornering well for about 2 laps when it started losing power. I limped around for another lap to make it to the track exit and headed to my spot in the paddock. I was still losing some oil and also being down on power I decided to call it quits for the weekend rather than risk damaging the engine.

It was time to load up and head home. Whatever was wrong, I couldn’t diagnose and fix it at the track, even with Terry W’s help via cell phone. Oh well, that’s life and racing. At least I got in most of a track day to satisfy my “racing Jones” until mid-May and the first race at High Plains, the new track east of Denver. Like Arnold the Governator said, “I’ll be back!”

MEMBER PROFILE - JIM FOREHEAD



Jim has a real passion for British Sports cars. His hobby got carried away to the point that he opened his own repair shop in Papillion called Mr. Sports Car. To say Jim has a thing for the extreme is an understatement as evidenced by his little MGB with NOS which is rumored to be a real screamer.

Jim is always good for a story so catch him at a club event or drop by his shop off 84th Street at 719 West 6th Street in Papillion just west of Home Depot. Jim is always buying, selling and fixing so call him if you have a car need.

MEMBER PROFILE - TERRY WORRICK

When he is not hanging out with members Terry runs Absolute Body and Paint in Eagle just East of Lincoln. You will usually find Terry with his head under the hood of Terry Davis' little blue Sprite as he serves as the chief mechanic and pit crew enabling Terry Davis to hit the race track. The team of T n T is a dynamite combination. Terry recently conducted a class for the club members on how diagnose and correct electrical problems. Any enemy of Lucas is a friend of British car owners. If you need work done on your car contact Terry at 402-464-6100 or E-mail: absolutebodyandpaint.com



Wet ~N~ Wild Scribner, 2009

by Joe Guinan

It was typical British weather for the Airport Speed Runs at Scribner Air Field this year. The weathermen had this one predicted almost perfectly. We were told that the rain would lighten through the morning and then come back in mid-afternoon. That's exactly what happened. We set up in a light mist, but by the time we were ready to start the actual timed runs the rain had dissipated. We finished the runs about 3:00 pm and by 3:15 we had a full fledged thunderstorm on top of us. I heard John Ulrich say, "God must drive a British car."

The track never quite dried out, so we had to be careful with braking distances and we found smooth applications of turning forces and judicious applications of brake and throttle pedals to be necessary. The wet track leveled the playing field to a great extent. Big V8 engine cars like Rich Brunke's and John Ulrich's MGB-GT V8's usually have a strong advantage on this type of course that rewards cars with the ability to reach high speeds quickly. Add water, and those cars just can't get that big horsepower to the ground.

Highlights of the day include Dennis Stone's wild spin into the grass (nearly into the unplanted cornfield), and Jay Shaw's world record distance on cone relocation. Other highlights would be the near perfect functioning of the laser beam timing system designed and built by Gerry Conant. By my count, 15 cars made 78 "official" timed runs. I didn't count the practice runs, but would guess we added another 30 or more of those. That's a lot of high speed driving! The one lowlight was that Terry Davis and Terry Worrick were never quite able to get the intermittent engine misfire problem solved on the racing Sprite. I'd like to have seen what that little beastie could do on this course.

Best time of the day went to John Ulrich in his MGB at 1.05.03. Following that was Dennis Stone in his Jensen-Healey at 1.05.84. It looks like Joel Brunke clicked off one really quick run in Rich's nasty MGB-GT V8 with a time of 1.05.97. His other runs were all at 1.10.16 or under, not bad for a beginner in a car that could be a handful on a wet track. Good job, Joel! Gerry Conant took 4th and 5th place – 4th in Dennis's Jensen at 1.06.13 and 5th with his own TR7 at 1.06.65. Gerry was just fast enough to knock your humble author out of the top 5, having a best run of only 1.96.75 in Dennis's Jensen. (Thanks for the ride, Dennis!)

We had a lot of fun and managed to stay somewhat warm and somewhat dry for the entire event. I enjoyed seeing people trying out each other's rides and seeing how the other cars handled in the wet conditions. I think we learned as much as we ever do about how our cars handle at the limits, and that is one of the goals of the event.

FLATWATER AUSTIN-HEALEY CLUB			4/26/2009
RUN #	DRIVER	CAR	Best
6 of 6	John Ulrich	MGB-GT V8	1.05.03
5 of 5	Dennis Stone	Jensen-Healey	1.05.84
6 of 6	Joel Brunke	MGB-GT V8	1.05.97
2 of 2	Gerry Conant	Jensen-Healey (Stone)	1.06.13
5 of 5	Gerry Conant	TR7	1.06.65
4 of 4	Joe Guinan	Jensen-Healey (Stone)	1.06.75
2 of 3	Rich Brunke	Jensen-Healey (Brunke)	1.07.22
1 of 1	Rich Brunke	MGB-GT V8 (Ulrich)	1.08.81
4 of 6	Rich Brunke	MGB-GT V8	1.08.97
4 of 5	Skip Charette	Mini Cooper	1.09.31
1 of 1	Ron Null	Jensen-Healey (Brunke)	1.10.22
1 of 1	Dennis Stone	TR7 (Conant)	1.11.56
1 of 1	Gerry Conant	MGB-GT V8 (Brunke)	1.11.91
2 of 3	Bob Shaw	MGA	1.12.63
4 of 5	Ron Null	MGB-V6 (Brunke)	1.12.88
1 of 1	Dennis Stone	MGB-GT V8 (Brunke)	1.13.85
4 of 5	Brian Goldsmith	MGB-GT	1.14.41
1 of 3	Jay Shaw	MGA	1.14.84
3 of 4	Joe Kueper	MGB	1.16.03
4 of 4	Jerry Petet	MGB	1.19.35
5 of 5	Larry Underwood	MGB-GT (Goldsmith)	1.17.72
2 of 2	Terry Davis	Austin-Healey Sprite (Competition)	1.22.18

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club

A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America

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Dick Schaff checks the springs on Pederson's Spitfire while Lee (under the dash) tries to find a Lucas gremlin

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