



Volume 37, Issue 1

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WHEEL SPIN

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Contacts:

NEWSLETTER

Ken Klemmer
kaklemmer1969@gmail.com

TREASURER

Kevin Livingston
60bugeye@earthlink.net

MEMBERSHIP

Kevin Livingston
60bugeye@earthlink.net

DELEGATE

Bruce Gearn
bgearns@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER

Ron Mitchell
healeyron@yahoo.com

'NEW'sletter

by Ken Klemmer, SEMAHC Editor



Welcome to the latest incarnation of the Southeast Michigan Austin Healey Club newsletter. When Kevin and Ron said at the beginning of the Annual Meeting that I was the new editor, I thought they were kidding. Well, they weren't. Maybe I was elected when I was busy helping myself to more of the host's (Jim and Mary Fleischauer) excellent home-made pizza.

The newsletter has been sporadically published to date, but my goal will be to publish a bi-monthly edition, helping to keep you up-to-date on the latest local Healey happenings. Of course, this involves YOU! In order to accomplish this goal, I need content, preferably lots of it. Got some good pictures of a Healey event, or your latest restoration project? An article, maybe only the makings of one? Send them along! If it's Healey or at least collector car related it will end up here at some point, maybe if it's only in our back page "Skid Marks" section.

Some of you may be asking, who is this new editor anyway? I would like to tell you that I was born in Warwick and was brought home from hospital on my bonny mother's lap in dad's Sprite, educated at the London School of Publishing and then moved onto a rewarding career as chief editor of Adventures in British Motorsports and Bodged Electrics. Alas, it is none of that. I'm just an English car enthusiast from Detroit, and have no other journalistic credentials other than this attempt you are currently reading.

I have entered the Austin Healey world only in 2011 and my wife Melody and I love driving and working on Mr. Powers, our 1962 frogeye Sprite* (see page 6).

Other past restoration projects have included a British-designed wood sailboat, a 1926 Model T depot hack, and many bicycles 1885-present. Melody and I are also the owners of a 1970 Lotus Europa.

I am proud to be named the SEMAHC editor and welcome any feedback you care to share. Until next issue, enjoy this somewhat drivable winter!

Ken

Fall 2011 Wind Up:

by Mary Ann Grabow, Ohio Valley Austin Healey Club

Friday, September 30

After optional breakfasts at nearby Perkins/Bob Evans, the Put-In-Bay-bound group met at 8:15 a.m. at the Tylersville Road Home Depot. Even with an autumnal tease (windy, brisk 50s and semi-threatening grey skies), Richard Pratt in his 1965 black over burgundy BJ8, Bernie and a less enthusiastic Mary Ann Grabow (but well-prepared, smartly attired in a weather buster British cap with decorative pin), in their 1966 blue over white BJ8, defied Mother Nature with "hoods" down. Our group also included Dale and Sandy Ballinger in their 1974 Jensen-Healey, Skip and Joan Jackson in their 1960 red Bugeye "HAPPY" Sprite, Jake and Joyce Jacobs in their 1960 light blue Bugeye Sprite, Gayle and Cindy Loos in their 1966 Healey blue BJ8, and Gary and Paulette Lownsdale in their 1963 deep blue BJ8. Gary and Paulette are from Cincinnati, now living in Loudon, Tennessee; formerly from Michigan, and remaining South East Michigan AHC members.

Seven British cars caravanned back road routes 42, 38, and 4 North, 2 West, and 53 North for a total distance of 200 miles. Skip provided everyone with a copy of PIB Highlights with facts of interest noted (or lack thereof) in 12 cities along our routes (i.e. Xenia, OH: Site of Shawnee Nation's largest settlement. Tecumseh, namesake of small gasoline engines, was born here. Catawba Point: Has nothing of significance except the ferry to PIB).

Dale led us off Rt. 42 for a side trip to a picturesque site crossing Massies Creek via an 1883 red-painted covered bridge, Charlton Mill, in Green County (check out ohio barns.com). Photo opportunity taken! Returning to Rt. 42, and at the mercy of his Garmin, Richard capably led our drive. Weather was consistently overcast, grey skies with intermittent mist-to-rain conditions. Perfect Brit-like weather that dampened no one's spirits!

One trip setback occurred, approximately 13 miles from Bucyrus OH, after a stop at Valero "mystery gas" station (always take a gas opportunity, especially on back roads!). To "be green" and maintain his rule to use the most expensive petrol, Jake selected the green-hosed nozzle, commencing to dispense 4 gallons of Valero's most expensive cheap gas into his 6.5 gallon capacity tank. Two miles down the road, and multiple puffs of smoke later, the Bugeye sputtered to a halt. Apparently green equals diesel; diesel equals trouble. Luckily his Bugeye was safely pushed to a "historic" schoolhouse with ample parking for everyone. The Lownsdales departed, as they needed to reach PIB to prepare for their planned Funkhana. Outhouses at the rear of the school were a promising opportunity due to lack of facilities/cheap-gas-only at Valero. Unfortunately, they were locked. A steady drizzle and crisp 52 degrees did not deter a short hike for those in need, to seek the privacy of trees! After an ad hoc tech session, the Bugeye's tank was drained, the line flushed, and the carburetor float bowls emptied. Meanwhile, Skip and Joan returned with 92 octane gas. After several start attempts, breaths held and fingers crossed, the Bugeye engine roared to life—always a sweet sound!

Made it to Port Clinton/Catawba Point without further incident, just missing the 2:30 p.m. Miller Ferry to South Bass Island. No time for a leisurely lunch as we needed to queue up in a lengthy line of ferry-bound vehicles, to "hurry up and wait". Thirty mile per hour winds with even stronger wind gusts required a tight hold to open car doors. "Sitting ducks" came to mind while watching from our cars, Lake Erie's angrier moods of extreme waves/white caps in blustery, rainy conditions. Promised us a rock 'n roll ferry ride. Just missed



the 3:30 ferry (too many cars headed to the same destination). While watching the departing ferry bob and dip in the turbulent water, it was difficult to dismiss thoughts of The Perfect Storm. Now first in line, we were positioned closer to the concrete sea walls and, like captives-in-wait, our cars were hammered with gushing geyser-like spray from the lake's 10-foot swells battering the sea wall. Even the drains on the dock could not keep up with this massive lake assault as 2-3 inches of the wet stuff laid on the surface. No surprise during our prolonged wait that no one ventured out of their cars.

Some of us had to resort to towels to reduce "lake effect". (Not a recommended technique to test for leaks!) Finally, after what seemed an eternity of entrapment, we slowly drove into the bowels of the ferry with instruction to set emergency brakes (typical practice) and maintain foot on brake pedals for the entire 25-minute trip (typical instruction only for higher risk conditions). Now trying to block the musical score from Titanic, while a window-like opening in front of us provided views of only the overcast sky rising then steeply falling away to the lake's grey choppy waters. Not for the weak of stomach.

Choosing the ferry over lunch was the right decision since ours was the last ferry that day due to conditions previously noted! Gratefully back on terra firma and heading to our host hotel, The Park, where we were warmly greeted, registered, and heading for the nearby restaurant in gale force winds and high 40s temps. The Boardwalk offered great harbor views (if you enjoy a raging, fierce-waved lake) and el fresco dining (not that day!).

The Friday evening Welcome Party was abuzz with about 60 fellow Healeyites and generous servings of a variety of pizzas and adult beverages. The Funkhana, masterminded by Gary and Paulette Lowndale, was entertainment in a tight space. Participants donned their choice of a box mock-up Big Healey or Sprite to "tour" the island with stops at the Heineman Winery to quaff a choice of wine samples, the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center to choose a possum or a moose for "trip company", a refreshing jello shot stop, followed by a recreational corn hole toss, along with several "roundabout" passes (simulated twirls). Lots of laughs. Best "tour" time wins. Our very own Mary Ann Grabow and Dale Ballinger partnered to take the "tour". Both were speedy enough to win second place and engraved pilsner glass awards. Congratulations for getting out there having fun, amusing others and winning!



Saturday, October 1

Looked forward to a real island tour after receiving instructions for the Fall Wind Up Road Regatta from the rally master, The Commodore. How could you possibly get lost on a 16-mile island? Turns out, not many lost, but bamboozled by crafty instructions in salty dog (nautical) lingo. Many rally participants repeated the course two, even three times. The final rally route was 9.27 miles recalculated to 8.1 nautical miles. Anyone recall the 1998 Boyne Mt. Conclave and the 100-mile plus rally designed by The Devil and The Angel? The Devil reincarnate was The Commodore in disguise! Close attention to rally instruction and detail to signage and mileage separated hardcore rallyists from the lightweights.

As the near gale force winds had not subsided, the judged car show was held in the more protected parking area behind The Park Hotel rather than the lakeside treed park.



After a day spent rallying, lunching, shopping (lots of tourist shops), bar "judging", car show/tire kicking, fishing (Dale and Bernie...ask them about the whoppers they caught), or mingling with lots of interesting folks, it was time to join the Wind and Cheese Party (a schedule typo of humor for Wine!). A fabulous, generous array of labeled cheeses, brie selections, shrimp, gourmet salami, and, for a sweet finish, truffles, along with wine choices for tastes or more, and always hop 'n grain brews were offered. An impressive, appetizing evening highlighted by awards entertainment and lots of applause. The South East Michigan club knows how to party!

Everyone left with a memento of the Fall Wind Up weekend whether an event award, 50/50 or door prize from an abundant amount offered. Bev Frazier, a Bluegrass Club member from Louisville, KY, displayed her usual brisk ticket sales skills! Every attendee received a special etched pilsner glass. Richard Pratt won one of the best door prizes: A large framed watercolor of Healey models with Gerry Coker and Healey family members' autographs. Bernie and Mary Ann Grabow won the top award, Best in Show for their class 1966 blue with white cove BJ8. Dale Ballinger, as Navigator and Bernie Grabow, Driver won the coveted 1st Place award for The Commodore's rally. From the usual large class of BJ8s, Richard Pratt won Second Place for his distinctive 1965 black with burgundy cove BJ8, followed by Gayle Loos with Third Place for his 1966 Healey blue BJ8. Along with Mary Ann Grabow and Dale Ballinger Second Place Funkhana win, Ohio Valley club members were a visible part of the awards spotlight!



The South East Michigan Club hosted a well-run event. At the request of many attendees, including Margaret Bell, who initiated the suggestion to the OV group, with consensus, to board the 8:00 ferry for an early Sunday morning departure/earlier arrival home; the Club changed their scheduled 50/50 and door prize awards from Sunday morning to Saturday evening to accommodate early departing travelers.

Sunday, October 2

Interestingly, all our vehicles queued up for the ferry by 7:30 a.m., with no Margaret or Marlene Bell in sight! (After boarding the ferry and leaving the dock, Marlene Bell's red Miata was spotted, from the upper deck, in line for the 9:00 ferry.) Returning to the mainland, our ride was an appreciated contrast from our island-bound trip. Sunny blue skies with white puff clouds, gentler winds, lake and crisp, but warmer, less-wind-chill temps in the 40s allowed us to leave our cars and enjoy panoramic views on the upper deck.

On the outskirts of Port Clinton, Dale's tip from a gas station attendant led the group to a delicious mom and pop restaurant packed with the town locals. Now we're recharged and ready to head south in vastly improved weather.

Hoods down for the more stalwart: Richard, Bernie and Mary Ann (once again donning that smart British cap, along with coat and hood), and Dale. Sandy chose a more conventional, warmer (top up) ride in Bev Frazier's Miata, and Bonnie Chreste (a Bluegrass Club member from Crestwood, KY and Bev's travel companion), apparently enjoyed the extra crispy autumn nip, riding in Dale's Jensen-Healey. With the exception of Richard and everyone else, Bernie and Dale's hoods

remained down for the entire ride. From South Bass Island to near home, we gained 20 degrees, for a balmy high of 64 degrees. We enjoyed different return routes on always scenic back roads and towns, taking Routes 53 South to 12 West to 68 South to 42 South. Some of our group continued homeward while others had a final group social at the Brazen-head Irish Pub in Mason for a weekend review of a memorable Fall Wind Up. Once again, our group adapted well to all circumstances, and, as always, had fun. Consider making your own memories in the future with an OVAHC caravan group. "It isn't the most exciting destination every time, but it's always an interesting journey!"

Angie's List: List Favorite Suppliers & Automotive Specialists

by Gary Feldman, AHCA, VP / Club Support vp_clubsupport@healeyclub.org



Austin-Healey Club members have a unique WIN/WIN opportunity in front of them. By taking a few moments to list their favorite classic sports car suppliers and mechanical consultants on Angie's List we'll all benefit.

Angie's List has created a "Classic Cars" section and is seeking input from clubs around the country that can recommend to those who subscribe to Angie's List for recommendations. Each verified report can earn \$5 for the Austin-Healey Club of America if you designate it as your charity. Those who already have done so, say it takes about 3-5 minutes to complete a report and receive verification that the charity they designated will receive \$5 per report. You may provide more than one report, and each one verified earns AHCA \$5. Here's how to do it:

1. Go to <https://www.angieslist.com/AngiesList/review/charitablereports.aspx>

It is very simple to submit a report. There are big buttons that say "continue" and lots of prompts if you leave anything out.

2. When you click on the link above, you'll be prompted to set up a profile, including a password. Angie's List does not accept anonymous reports and requires a valid email address as part of the reporting process.

3. Select or type in Austin Healey Club of America when it asks for a charitable organization and follow the instructions.

4. Next, you'll be asked for a provider name. It is very likely that your providers are not on the List yet, so you can click "add" to add a provider.

5. When you add a provider, you'll be asked for their contact information. There are a few required fields here...like the kind of information you'd find on a business card. You'll be asked to choose some categories for the service provider (i.e. alternators, painting, etc.)

6. You'll next be taken to the report page, where you're asked to give grades via radio buttons and you're able to write comments about your experience.

7. Click submit. This will prompt an email to be sent to the email address you entered before. Your report will not be submitted until you verify your email address.

Once you verify your address, the report will be submitted and you can leave another report. This may seem like a lot of steps, but it's pretty quick...and once you've submitted your first report, it's very easy to go back and do more!

Additionally, for doing just ONE report you'll get a FREE 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP to the "Classic Car" section of Angie's List. You'll get a special follow-up email with the details.

Thank you for your support, enjoy!

Calendar

The next few month's AH related events and happenings



Date	Time	Event	Contact	Notes
March 10	TBD	Tech Session-3461 E. Wilson Road, Clio, MI 48420	Jim Fleischauer Kevin Livingston	
March 14	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting-Duggans Irish Pub, Royal Oak, MI		
April TBD	TBD	Tech Session-9415 Henderson Rd, Goodrich, MI 48438	Ron Mitchell	
April 11	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting-Duggans Irish Pub, Royal Oak, MI		
April 22	9:30-3:00	Ancaster British Sportscar Flea Market Ancaster, Ontario, Canada		
May TBD	TBD	<u>Tech Session</u> -56050 8 Mile Rd, Northville, MI 48167	Roger Cotting	
May 25-27	TBD	Spring Fling	David Murphy	http://www.mgtoronto.com/pdf/SpringFling_2012.pdf
May 20 or June 2/3	TBD	MG Club Road Rally	Richard Eisele	Rally will end at George's Garage in Plymouth

South East Michigan Austin Healey Club Members meet at 7:00 PM the 2nd Wednesday of every month at "Duggan's Irish Pub". Weather permitting; we like to drive our cars for the pub patrons to appreciate since one can't really drive these little beauties anywhere without drawing a crowd. Duggan's is located in Royal Oak on the West Side of Woodward South of 14 Mile Rd. and of course North of 13 Mile Rd. We usually have a good turn-out of members to partake of food, beverage and casual conversation. Come join us.

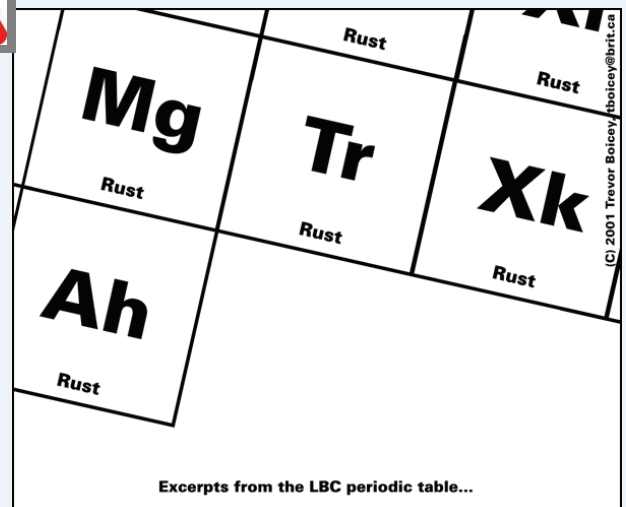


Skid Marks



A man was driving down a country road in the middle of dairy farm country when his car stalled inexplicably. He got out and raised the hood to see if he could find out what had happened. A brown and white cow slowly lumbered from the field she had been grazing in over to the car and stuck her head under the hood beside the man. After a moment the cow looked at the man and said, "Looks like a bad carburetor to me." Then she walked back into the field and began grazing again.

Amazed, the man walked back to the farmhouse he had just passed, where he met a farmer. "Hey, mister, is that your cow in the field?" he asked. The farmer replied, "The brown and white one? Yep, that's old Bessie." The man then said, "Well my car's broken down, and she just said, 'Looks like a bad carburetor to me.'" The farmer shook his head and said, "Don't mind old Bessie, son. She don't know a thing about cars."



Courtesy of Trevor Boicey

www.brit.ca/~tboicey/

* 1962 Frogeye Sprite: there is no such thing... Mr Powers is part mk1 and part mk2