

Flatwater Austin Healey Club Newsletter

Austin Healey CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

Volume 2, No. 3

Mar 1999

Editors: Bob Shaw & Martha Johnson



MARCH EVENTS

Breakfast at Mahoney State Park, March 13th at 9:30 A.M.

Ice Cream with Her Majesty's Royal Nebraska Patrol at I Can't Believe Its Really Yogurt, 70th and Van Dorn in Lincoln Thursday, March 11th at 7:30 P.M.

Fish at the Union Bar Friday, March 26th, 1999 at 7:30 P.M.

AN EVENT UPCOMING

FWAHC's major moneymaking activity, the Rocky Manginelli Memorial Swap Meet is being held Sunday, March 14. Our task this year is to direct traffic while those manic souls from other clubs, who did our job the past few years as we tried in vain to hold them back, park cars.

We will be setting the booth up at 3:00. If you are brave, thrive on very little sleep, and/or have some extras in the garage that you would like to place in the booth for sale, call Bob Shaw, Jerry Needham, John Ulrich or Marvin Marshall.

DUES ARE DUE



The national organization has informed John Ulrich that they wanted their money by February 15. To that end, they have employed certain persons, each possessing colorful costumes from the Amazon region of South America, and each having belts decorated with something resembling small human heads, to encourage John to send their portion of the dues. While there was some mention of adding John's head to the collection, we are not overly worried about John's head. One quick start in the Bugeye leaving all of us in the dust would more than

compensate for any shrinkage. However, the smell of the "decorations" is really getting to Bev. Please help Bev save her house from the odors most foul! Send your dues to John Ulrich, 6845 S. 44th, Lincoln, NE 68516. National dues are \$50. Local dues are \$15.

Also, if we did not receive your dues by March 1, March will be the last month you receive your newsletter until we receive payment.

WE ARE WHAT WE DRIVE

John Ulrich, Membership Chair

As the 1999 membership renewal period comes to a close, I think it is only fitting to do a thumbnail sketch of our Flatwater club. Please don't feel you have "missed the boat" on your membership if you have yet to pay your dues, but I would hate to use "deadbeat" and "slacker" to describe any owner of a fine British Motor Car.

At present, we have about 60 memberships, with the majority of those listing some kind of significant other or spouse type unit. Our members account for at least nine different British marques, including Austin-Healey, Jensen-Healey, MG, Jaguar, Mini, Lotus, Rover, Sterling, Triumph and whatever else Ben and Frank own today. Within those marques, are over 30 models and Series I, II etc. breakdowns (no pun intended). There are also some pure race cars in the fold. Although we have Austin-Healey in our name, we take pride in being a club which accepts and appreciates all LBCs (with the possible exception of a certain late but not lamented Lotus). The MG occupies the number one spot in member ownership with better than 35 various examples reported. Austin-Healeys of assorted size are a distant second, and the others are distributed in fairly even numbers as one would expect given production volume. Special note should be made of the loyal souls who use one of the Queen's finest for their daily driver.

Many of our members are multi Marque owners. Heck, everyone should have at least one MG! In my humble opinion, that is a significant factor in the strength of Flatwater.

Instead of spending energy expounding on the superiority of a zillion dollar whoopee mobile, we are way too busy driving our cars, eating fish, joining our friends in HMRNP for ice cream and tours, having breakfast, and spending jolly good times together. So here's to us! Three Hip - Hips, a Castrol toast! And a little puff of blue smoke as we run to the red line and catch a perfect second gear.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

Contact the following people for membership information: In Lincoln call John Ulrich at 421-9252 or Bob Shaw at 435-4905. In Omaha, call Jerry Needham at 291-7122 or Marvin Marshall at 733-6868.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

February 1999

So many car projects to do and so many winter nights to do them in, but where did the time go? Hopefully, some of you fared much better than I with your intended winter sports car work over the last few months. My dilemma is usually many things to do with some time available to do them, but a lack of funds to purchase the necessary parts. Nancy has some sort of fixation that paying bills and house, appliance and primary car repairs have a higher priority demand on available income than Bugeye wheels, carpets and rebuild kits for master cylinders and carburetors. I don't know if her condition is curable, but I have been attempting to correct it for many years with very little success. Anyway, this year my car repair problem is reversed. Since I've been working more, I have had some extra cash to purchase those all-important parts. The trouble is, due to long hours, weekends in the office and many business trips, the parts sit idle awaiting installation. And as the weather starts to warm, my anxiety becomes all the more acute. There's an especially troubling matter of a clutch and a leaky master cylinder that I absolutely must attend to before any Bugeye rubber hits the road. Does any of this have a familiar ring to anyone out there?

Speaking of rubber on the road, we normally have a mid-winter meeting-party to socialize and plan the next year's club events. Due to schedule conflicts, we canceled the January event and now plan a

Flatwater get together at our house in Bellevue. As with the party we held last year, we're again billing it as a St. Patrick's Day Recovery Party since it will be on March 20, the Saturday following St. Pat's Day. We promise lots fun, surprises, great food and beverages, but it will also serve a much more important function. We intend to plan our club calendar and hold club officer elections for the last year of the millennium. We have lots of ideas for events, but we want your inputs to do the things that will bring all of you out to share and enjoy the wonderful cars that we all own. We intentionally keep our monthly breakfast club meetings as informal as possible, and the business segment during the upcoming party will follow that same guidance. However, this is your club and our calendar and elections are most important since their outcome determines club activities for the coming year. Here are the details:

- What? Flatwater Austin-Healey Club St. Patrick's Day Recovery Party
- When? Saturday, March 20, 1999, 7 PM to whenever (overnight accommodations are available if distance, late hour or conditions require it)
- Where? - Jerry & Nancy Needham's home, 3728 Schuemann Dr., Bellevue, NE 68123 (291-7122)

- Provisions? This will be a heavy hors d'oeuvres event, so bring your appetites, a dish to share and any special beverage needs (we'll provide plenty of beer, wine, pop and coffee).
- Directions?

From the north, west or south, take I-80 to Hwy 370 (exit 439). Go east for 10 miles (6 traffic lights) to 36th St. Look for a MacDonald's and an Albertson's on the left and a church on the right. Turn right (south) and go 1 mile and turn right into Falcon Forest on Leawood Dr (this is the first street after the stop sign at Capehart Rd). Turn left at the stop sign at the top of the hill onto 38th St. Go five blocks and turn left onto Schuemann Dr. Our house is 3728, the sixth one on the left.

From the east and north, take Hwy 75, the Kennedy Freeway, south to Hwy 370. Exit right and go two miles to 36th St (3rd light, MacDonald's on far right). Turn left and follow above directions from 1 _ miles point onward.

Please call the above number if you have any questions. Do come out and join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie

and help jump start our minds to get us all going in the right direction for what promises to be a great British sports car year.

Yours truly,
Jerry Needham

To V8 Or Not To V8

John Ulrich

As some of you know, I joined the ranks of the MG owner for the specific purpose of building a Rover V8 powered MGB-GT. Buy "building" I mean assembling parts, doing the easy stuff, and watching in helpless awe as Bud at Road and Track does everything I can't do. I wasn't sure what I wanted for a while. I knew it had to have a fixed top, be a three season driver, have A/C, and be able to get out of it's own way. Jags, Stags, Rover 3500s, and Sterlings all had their virtues, but in the end the desire to own an MG to go with my Healey and Triumph was a significant factor in my choice. After seeing a few V8 conversions at Heartland and All-British, I was hooked.

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After finding a great 69 GT, (thanks Bruce, Bob and Jim) I began research. I found that the book on *How To Give Your MGB V8 Power* would make a good boat anchor if only it weighed more, and the best source is the *MG V8 Newsletter*, and the conversations with the people who write it.

To date I have purchased a 4.0 Rover V-8, a new Borg Warner T-5 tranny, a bell housing, clutch kit, flywheel, hydraulic throw out bearing, and 4 eight spoke alloy wheels. Big expenses to come are a Ford/MG rear end, and all the air conditioning components. Paint and body work depend on how far the car must be modified to make everything fit.

Several things have become very clear to me at this point. First: This is not going to be cheap! (Duh!)

Second: When I'm done it will be a fundamentally different car. It isn't just going to be a fast B-GT. Third: When everything is put together I will love this car. Great acceleration, no real weight penalty (except the driver), fantastic 5th gear high speed cruising. Fourth: No one sells a "kit". You are on your own to find pieces-parts Sonny Boy.

I now have all the parts needed to "dry fit" the engine and trans, so out goes the old engine starting this week. I'll keep everyone informed (editor willing), and by the way, does anyone want to buy a good four banger?

LIKE TO BUY A STERLING

Jim Wood at Specialty Auto has 2 for sale. One is an 825S with a 5 speed,

and the other is an 825 SL with an automatic. Negotiations start at \$3500. Phone (402) 432-1153.

COMING NEXT MONTH

We plan on running some photos sent us by Frank Grover. While Frank was in London over the Holidays, He took some photos (or more accurately David took them, as Frank is in them) of new Mini's and the MGF. Maybe Frank will give us an update on the Lazarus Mini (subtle hint, Frank).

Bob Shaw is planning a story on the updates of his MGA, complete with an MGB full synchro transmission with overdrive.

John Ulrich will give us an update on the GT V8.

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