

Flatwater Austin Healey Club Newsletter

Austin Healey CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

February 2000 Volume 4, No. 2

Editors: Bob Shaw & Martha Johnson



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ice Cream with HRMNP at **Baskin Robbins**, One block south of Pioneers on the east side of 70th in Lincoln, Thursday, 2/11 at 7:30 P.M.

Breakfast at **Mahoney State Park**, Saturday 2/12 at 9:30.

The **Flatwater Austin Healey Club** racer's shoot out Saturday 2/19 at 4:00.

Fish at Ricky Sue's in Union Friday, 2/25 at 7:00.

THE GREAT DRIVERS SHOOTOUT

Events Chair, Fred Meier, states that the great race is on, so brush up on your swagger, practice your Clint Eastwood gunslinger's intimidating squint, wash your Dale Earnhart intimidator jacket or T-shirt and prepare several plausible excuses in the unlikely event that you are not the fastest driver in the club on this particular day.

We are to meet at 4:00 P.M. at **Speed Indoor Racing** (speedhq@aol.com) on February 19, 2000. If you are coming from the Omaha area take I80 to exit 399, the airport exit in Lincoln.

There is a stoplight at the bottom of the exit ramp that comes to the intersection of Cornhusker Highway and NW 12th street. Turn right on NW 12th and go two blocks north to West Commerce Street. Make a left onto West Commerce Street and follow it around the curve where it turns into NW 15th Street. Look to your left and you will see a very large building that has a checkered flag painted along the top. This is **Speed Indoor Racing**.

If you are coming from points south or west, take Highway 77, Salt Valley View bypass to I80 East. Get off at Exit 399, airport and Cornhusker Highway. Make a right at the light at the bottom of the exit ramp and follow Cornhusker Highway to the intersection of NW 12th and Cornhusker Highway (Cornhusker turns left to the airport at this light) and continue ahead for two blocks on NW 12th. After 2 blocks make a left onto West Commerce and follow it around the curve where it becomes NW 15th Street. Look to your left and you will see the racetrack.

The cost, including tax, is \$20 per person. That gives us a 10-lap practice and qualifying session on the big track, and a 30-lap race. The race is limited to 10 racers per session, so we may have to run heats. This is no problem, however, as the cars are electronically timed and scored by computer.

At present, the following people are planning to race: Fred Meier (we're working on Marilyn), Bob Shaw and Martha Johnson,

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PAGE 1 | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [Archives](#)

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Ryan Reese and Rene Drewell, Steve and Deb Espelund, Marvin and Sue Marshall, Bob and Syd Bredwell, Gary Higgins, Tom Turner, John Ulrich, Jerry and Nancy Needham, and Jim and Jo Stork. If you want to join us and have not yet called, please call Bob Shaw at (402) 435-4905 or Fred Meier, who is practicing frequently at the racetrack, at (402) 475-1302 by February 14th.

THE SMILEY HEALEY

Part 1.

It was not all that special the first time I saw it sitting in Road and Track Motors in Lincoln, Nebraska. Bud worked on a lot of different sports cars, including several of the "exotic" variety, and this was just an old yellow Austin Healey 100-6 4-passenger roadster. Oh, it was pretty straight and clean—it had obviously avoided the salt prevalent on the streets in the winter—but next to the '66 E type with the red paint that had a shine that looked like you needed a towel after walking past it and the Ferrari 308, and the Laborgini Jalpa, the old Healey looked a bit frayed around the edges.

I mentioned, with a grand gesture encompassing the shop, that the old Healey looked a little dull among all of those automotive jewels. Bud just chuckled a bit at my ignorance and replied that the old Healey was a very fast and rather special car. It is an old racecar, he said, and it used to belong to Gordon Smiley, the fellow who died in turn 4

1981 at Indianapolis after leading the race. His father, Gene, who owned a gas station in Omaha, had raced the car originally, and then Gordon had driven it in his early years as a racer. Before that Gordon would take his Mini on the track, but at 15 he was too young to race. So despite his being very good and quite fast they would chase him off of the track after a very short time.

The yellow Healey, a 1958 model, was typical for an old SCCA racecar from the early '60s. It had been prepared for racing by fitting it with 3 SU HS8 carburetors, disc brakes on the front and it ran Boranni wire wheels. There was one aspect of the car that surprised me. This particular Healey was equipped with a Leycock electric overdrive unit—a transmission which I had been told was not sturdy enough for racing. When I queried Bud on this point he replied Mr. Smiley had told him that brakes were cheaper than transmissions and clutches, and the car had proven to be quite durable. I began to realize that this car wore a patina that came from its being used in the manner for which it was designed. Donald Healey would have been proud!

The car, which belonged to Dave Anderson at the time, disappeared shortly after that and I did not hear of it again until about a year ago. FWAHC member Scott Kahler called on day and told me that there was a neat old Healey at Jerry's Automotive service that I should go check out. It was an old Healey that used to belong to Gordon Smiley and it was being restored before being run in the Carrera PanAmerica.

(To be continued)

HUMOR OF THE MONTH

I intend to live forever - so far, so good.
Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
24 hours in a day ... 24 beers in a case.....coincidence?
When I'm not in my right mind, my left mind gets pretty crowded.
What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.
I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.
If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.
No one is listening until you make a mistake.
Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view.
The colder the X-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
The hardness of the butter is [inversely] proportional to the softness of the bread.
The severity of the itch is [inversely] proportional to the reach.
To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism -- to steal from many is research.
[AMEN! Dr. Bob]
The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7th of our life.
The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

A fool and his money are soon parting.

Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

If you think nobody cares about you, try missing a couple of payments.

Drugs may lead to nowhere, but at least it's the scenic route.

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

Borrow money from pessimists-they don't expect it back.

Half the people you know are below average.

99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.

THANK YOU MOSS MOTORS

Once again this year, Moss Motors has been quite generous with their support of the Flatwater Austin Healey All British Show. Moss is also known for the quality of their parts as well as the quality of their service. Please consider this when next you need parts.



Print this page

FLATWATER AUSTIN-HEALEY CLUB

Membership Information

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club is the Nebraska and Western Iowa chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America. For non-Healey owners, it is a local British car club welcoming all marques and enthusiasts. We are dedicated to driving our cars, good food, good friends and good times.

Name	Spouse-/Other
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Address	City, State Zip
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Auto(s)	Phone
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1/2 year dues (Aug.1 to Jan.1) \$7.50 _____

Full year dues (Jan.1 to Dec. 31) \$15.00 _____

Please send information about a National Austin-Healey Membership _____

Questions to: John Ulrich
Flatwater Membership
6845 S. 44th St
Lincoln, NE. 68516
(402) 421-9252

Austin Healey 100-4ãMGAãMGBãMidget MK-IIãSprite Mk IIãMiniãBug EyeãLotus ElanãMorris MinorãJaguar E-TypeãAustin-Healey 100-6 ãMGB-GTãAustin Healey 3000 ãLand RoverãTriumph TR-6ãSterlingãJaguar XK-6ãMGCãSpitfireãJensen HealeyãTriumph TR-4ãMGC-GTãJaguar MK IXãSterlingãTriumph GT-6 ãJaguar MK-II ãSprite MK-III ãMGA MK-IIãTriumph TR-4ãMorganãJaguar E-TypeãJaguar 420

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PAGE [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [Archives](#)

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