

Flatwater Austin Healey Club Newsletter

Austin Healey CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

January 2000 Volume 4, No. 1

Editors: Bob Shaw & Martha Johnson



JANUARY EVENTS

Breakfast

Breakfast January 9 at **Mahoney State Park**.

Ice Cream

Ice Cream with HRMNP at Baskin Robbins, 1 block south of 70th and Pioneers in Lincoln January 13.

Fish

Fish at Ricky Sue's in Union, NE, January 28.

CALLING ALL LEAD-FOOTS

The gauntlet is thrown down. Who is really the best (fastest) driver in the club? There have been several of us who have toured together, often at speeds that are, shall we say, vigorous. However, even the most brazen of us are always aware that we are on public roads and must consider the uncontrolled variables; we drive quickly, not dangerously. In recent years, only Jim Danielson has won any sanctioned driving awards, that when he won the autocross at the Kansas city all British. We all know how long it has been since that event was run.

It is time for all of us to stop with the bluster and determine, once and for all (or at least for this winter), who is fastest. Hence, for all who are interested, we are placing in consideration the date of Saturday, February 19, 2000 for the first of what we hope will become an annual event - The Flatwater AHC Indoor Grand Prix. If enough people are interested we will meet in Lincoln at the indoor go-cart facility. For a cost of \$19.00 we will get 10 practice laps, one qualifying lap and a 30 lap race with either a LeMans start or a rolling start behind a pace car, our choice. If you are interested in such an event, and are willing to commit, call Bob Shaw (402) 435-4905 or events chair Fred Meier (402) 475-1302 before February 1 so we may schedule the event.



But be forewarned. Martha Johnson is bringing her brick.

WINTER PROJECTS

There are several club



members working on winter projects. Frank Grover has entertained us with the continuing saga of his Austin 7 Cooper. We all know that Jim Danielson, Jim Stork, Jerry Needham and Dave Barnes have at least one Bugeye and a couple of big Healey's as ongoing projects. There are a couple of projects that are nearing completion. However, there are other projects that are show great promise of being on the road in time for the Heartland Regional.



TC had captured the hearts of many young men in the years just after World War II. Perhaps most important the TC was a car that a young man could afford to purchase and to operate.

The MG TC is often credited as being the sports car that "America Loved First." With its rakish styling and sprightly performance the

One of our newer members, Tom Turner, has an excellent example of that model MG, the restoration of which is underway. Tom is

down to the last little bit of his TC. The engine, rebuilt by John Twist at University Motors, is in place and the car was being driven when Tom determined that the rear end was a bit more worn than was acceptable. Hence it is currently being rebuilt by Steve Espelund, and is soon to go into the car. A few minor touches and the car will



be road worthy, at which point your editors will be faced with the pleasant dilemma of how to convince Tom that he should let us have some seat time in this

wonderful vehicle. Congratulations, Tom, on a worthwhile project nearing completion. It will be great to see that TC on the road again. In the early 1970's Ken Costello combined what, to him, appeared to be a magical and necessary combination-the Rover (late GM) 3.5 liter V8 and the MGBGT. It was fast, dependable and handled like an MGBGT should; many believe the BGT to be among those sports cars with the sweetest road manners. Sadly, the GTV8 was never officially imported to the U.S. The E type coupe of that era had become less than its former self because of the modifications necessary to meet the new emissions standards, and the BGT readily outperformed it. British Leyland feared that the Jaguar market would evaporate if a significantly less costly car readily bested the E type's performance.

Flatwater Austin Healey Club Newsletter

Austin Healey CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

January 2000 Volume 4, No. 1

Page 3

If we wanted to have such performance in the states, we would just have to build such a vehicle for ourselves. John Ulrich has set about doing just that and his '69 GT V8 conversion is well underway. The body is being refurbished, and in some situations being appropriately modified at Absolute Body and Paint. The Ford 8.5" narrowed rear end is in place, and the front end will soon be rebuilt. The Rover V8 will soon be mated to a Borg Warner T5 five speed transmission fitted, and the drive train located in the chassis. John has located some Millilite look alikes, made by Carrol Shelby, on which he is mounting proper Dunlap 205 60 high performance tires. He will soon be back to the wiring, engineering a proper heating and air-conditioning and heating unit, refurbishing the interior and doing the last bit of tweeking necessary in the final preparation of the car. I believe it safe to say that all of us are eagerly awaiting the completion of this formidable machine.



rear clip on the rest of the good car and for a relatively small financial commitment he would have a very nice example of an early B roadster. Many of us have stopped by Brian Goldsmith's shop from time to time over the past year to view the progress of Devon's project. We were particularly impressed with the p'ecision fit of the panels and the quality of his welds. This car has been painted a beautiful red and is now nearing completion. It will be a joy to see this car on the road. It will be equally joyous to hear Devon's well earned pride in the quality of this particular project. There are other wonderful projects being undertaken by other group members. Some we know of, and others have not yet been brought to our attention. If you have a project you would like to let us know about, please contact us with the particulars. We would be most eager to learn of your newest challenge.



Devon Runyan is in the painting stages of his MGB. When Devon

purchased his B it looked rather like it had been featured in the Jeep advertisement where the mechanical elephant sits on the vehicle. In the case of Devon's B the beast rested on the back. Being an enterprising sort, he had also obtained a rather sad Rubber bumper B which had a good rear clip. All he had to do was to graft the good

HELPFUL TIPS FOR SONIC How to be Sensational at the Drive-in Show & Shine

Stand close to the speaker and yell your order, using colorful expletives in ways which would embarrass the patrons inside.

After ordering, cover the speaker and mic with transparent tape. Watch as customers and order-takers are unable to hear each other and, thus, each raises his/her volume.

Speak a foreign language (make one up if you have to). When the manager comes to the mic, speak English and inquire as to why the order taker had such difficulty understanding you.

Flatwater Austin Healey Club Newsletter

Austin Healey CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

January 2000 Volume 4, No. 1

Page 4

Attempt to take the order-takers order ("Hi, may I take your order?") before they get a chance to take yours.

Order confusing items, i.e., "Hi, I'll have a large orange Coke and a small medium fries, please".

In a crowded drive-thru line, place a HUGE order, then slip out of line and watch the fun as the person behind you is handed 40 bags of food.

When you arrive at the window to pick up your food, hand them several bags of garbage & ask if they'll dispose of it for you. Make sure it smells.

Drive through with a carload of naked people.

Speak in such a garbled fashion that the order-taker will think there is a problem with the speaker and ask you to order at the window. When you arrive at the window, speak in the same garbled, incomprehensible fashion.

Drive through with someone on the hood to accept the food.

Bring along a Mr. Microphone. When the order-taker speaks, aim the mic at their speaker but do so while aiming the Mr. Microphone speaker at the mic to produce excruciating feedback of their own voice.

Have a friend hide in the trunk. When you approach the window to pickup your order, have him start yelling and banging his fists on the trunk.

If you are a male, have a female friend place the order by speaking VERY seductively and suggestively into the speaker. When she finishes, have her hide and pull up to accept your order. See how many of the order-takers fellow employees have been called over to the window to "check out the babe".

All of the above work very well when done at the late night pick up window.

POWER POLITICS

From Frank Grover -

On a recent Vatican visit to the United Kingdom the Rover Group provided the Pope's entourage a courtesy stretch limo version of the new Mini Cooper S. When the Pope got wind of this he immediately wanted to go for a ride. When they got out to a rather remote portion of the country side the Pope asked the driver to pull over. The Pope went on to explain that it had been a dream of his for over thirty years to drive a Cooper S. As it had happened his friend of many years, Enzo Ferrari, owned a Mini and had spoken of what a thrill they were to maneuver, especially in the mountains. So following a brief conversation the chauffeur moved to the rear seat and the Pope took the wheel. As it had been quite a spell since the Pope had driven and his skills were quite rusty, erratic, and lacking it was not long before he was pulled over by the local constable. It didn't take the constable long to get on his radio to consult with his superior. "Boss," he explained, "I have a really big one here!" " Well, just what do you mean?" inquired the superior, asking if the the person detained was a member of Parliament. "Well, no" responded the constable. "Is it a member of the Royal family?" fired back the superior. "Well, no" responded the constable. "Well, just tell me who it is" barked the superior. "I am not sure" responded the constable. "I was too nervous to ask the big guy in the back seat who he was but I can tell you this - the Pope was the guy at the wheel!"

RACE CARS FOR SALE

Many of our readers may remember the rally which Jim Danielson organized in July of '97, won by a young fellow by the name of Mitch Martin in a neat red chrome bumpered midget which he had refurbished himself. In early '98 Mitch moved to the Twin Cities in Minnesota. His father is currently in the process of relocating and has the following Formula V race cars for sale: two Beach Formula V race cars for sale for the price \$5000 each. There is also a Kellison Mk. I Formula V, one of fewer than 10 built for sale for \$8000. There is also a double decker open trailer which will go if one were to buy two cars, and a single trailer which may be purchased for \$200. If you are interest you may call Dave Martin at (402) 477-9685 or e-mail him at DMMartin@Pordigy.net. Lets help these fine old race cars find a good home.

MARK YOUR CALENDER!

The Heartland MG Regional is on June 9 and 10 in Saint Joseph Missouri this year. It is our hope that the Flatwater Austin Healey Club will have the largest contengent of any club there. Keep your eye on the newsletter for further information.

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.



A few words from the visionary Steven Wright

All those who believe in telekinesis, raise my hand.

I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.

OK, so what's the speed of dark?

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.

Shin: a device for finding furniture in the dark.

Many people quit looking for work when they find a job.

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

Address

City State Zip

Auto(s) Phone

- 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-6ãSterling ãJaguar XK-6ãMGC SpitfireãJensen HealeyãTriumph TR-4ãMGC-GTãJaguar MK IXãSterlingãTriumph GT-6 ãJaguar MK-II ãSprite MK-III ãMGA MK-IIãTriumph TR-4ãMorganãJaguar E-TypeãJaguar 420