

Flatwater Austin Healey Club Newsletter

Austin Healey CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

May 2000 Volume 4, No. 5

Editors: Bob Shaw & Martha Johnson



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lake Tour and Renaissance Fair

Lake Tour and Renaissance Fair May 20. Meet at Southeast Community College Parking Lot, 84th and O (Highway 34) at 10:20 A. M. and leave at 10:30. We will take a tour of area lakes and end at the James Arthur Winery near Raymond, where we will attend the Renaissance Fair. Cost is about \$15 per person, the amount varying according to what you eat, drink, or purchase.

FISH

FISH at Franks Tree House in Belleview, Friday, May 26 at 7:00. People wanting to caravan from Lincoln will meet at Southeast Community College at 5:50. We will leave for Belleview at 6:00.

Help Day

We are having our first help day on Saturday, May 27. Randy and Eliouse Hiatt's MGB has a broken rear spring, which needs to be changed. The Hiatt's acreage is at 8400 South 98th, which is north of the big barn at the edge of Chaney. Turn left from Highway 2 onto the Yankee Hill Road, and left from Yankee Hill Road onto 98th. Coffee, rolls, and bagels are available at 9:00 A.M.

HEARTLAND REGIONAL FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Lincoln group will meet at the south end of the Southeast Community College parking lot at 8:30 the morning of the 9th for the trip down Highway 34, 73-75, and 159 to Route 7. The Omaha group will meet at the Albertson's Parking lot, across the street from the Southroads Mall, on Highway 7 in Belleview at 9:00 A.M. and both groups will meet at about 10:30 at the Mall at the junction of Highways 2 and 73-75 in Nebraska City. We will stop for lunch in Brownville, and then forge on St. Jo where we will check in to the Ramada (or whichever other hostelry you have arranged). The reception for the Heartland runs from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

ANOTHER SHORT DRIVE

The Espelunds and the Marshalls are at it again. Steve is going to Sheridan, Wyoming for a leather worker's show. It is spring, and he and Deb along with Marvin and Sue Marshall have decided that now is the time to renew the touring tradition and take the scenic route through the Black Hills (Bob and Martha could not get away to go on this trip. You can tell this is true by watching them pout). With 2/3 of the group that took the tour to the coast able to clear schedules and make the trip, it goes without saying that the method of transport will be British Sports Car, complete with dropping tops, and overdrives. We wish the travelers well and look forward to stories and photos at fish.

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PROJECT REPORT

TITLE

John Ulrich's MGBGT V8 conversion is coming together nicely, as proven by a pile of checks to Absolute Body and Paint, along with a credit card and phone line to Moss Motors that are so hot from use that they are approaching the meltdown. The car is now a deep and rich BRG with a Ford 9" rear end, a Borg Warner T5 transmission, and Carrol Shelby eight spoke alloy wheels. The hope is that the car will be ready by the Kansas City All British.

Mike Cerney is building the new engine that is to be attached to the Datsun 5 speed transmission that is going into his MGB. The engine has the usual (for this group) over bore, balance, cam, and carburation that should make it a fairly strong performer. The car should be finished by the Heartland.

Mike's neighbor and our friend **Leo Thietje** have found seat backs and an overdrive transmission for his MGA 1800 Conversion. He is beginning to assemble the car, but we have no target completion date at present.

Steve Esplelund is setting the "Purple Porsche Eater" aside for the time being, and is beginning work on frame of the '61 MGA. Plans, at present, call for an 1800 engine, a fully synchronized MGB transmission, and a '77 B rear-end.

Marvin Marshall is still working on the house, but Susan Marshall is nearing readiness to begin work on her '59 Bugeye Sprite. If only she can get Marvin to quit working on the House long enough to begin work on the car!

Bob Shaw is making some noises about doing some head work on the engine of the A, but is most likely going to be working on the house, garage and yard. However Martha Johnson has begun work on the restoration of her MGBGT. The crank has been turned, and the new cam has been procured. Yet to come are the new pistons, lifters and cam bearings. The kingpin bushings need to be replaced, the overdrive transmission needs to be checked out, the body needs to be painted and the interior refurbished. But the '74 GT is on the way back. Their son, J. J. King, is beginning work on a '71 MG Midget. The car is being disassembled. An SK Sidedraft carb has been obtained, and a Datsun transmission for the conversion is being ordered. A 1275 engine is being sought out, and then the process of refreshing the old girl begins. J. hopes the Midget will be at least as capable as John Ulrich's Bugeye, but that is a pretty high mark to aim for.

Dave Barnes is beginning work on his big Healey. He has investigated shops to do the frame repair, and many of us have encouraged him to get a bid from Absolute Body and Paint. This is a neat car and many of us await his finished project.

Tom Turner has finished his TD and will take it to the Heartland, **Jim Stork** continues to whittle away at his 100-6 and his Bugeye, **Ryan Reis** continues the driving restoration of his MGB, **Fred Meier** is nearly finished with his Bugeye and **Frank Grover** has set aside his Austin 7 Cooper for the racing season.

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If you have any projects, please let us know how they are coming along. We are all happy to help, encourage, or sympathize as is appropriate.

Oh yes! While working on those projects, please remember that Moss Motors has been quite supportive of the club over the years. Please consider Moss or one of their discount carriers when ordering supplies for your next project.

HUMOR FOR THE MONTH

Bears in Bars

A bear walks into a bar in Billings, Montana and sits down. He bangs on the bar with his paw and demands a beer. The bartender approaches and says, "We don't serve beer to bears in bars in Billings."

The bear, becoming angry, demands again that he be served a beer. The bartender tells him again, more forcefully, "We don't serve beer to belligerent bears in bars in Billings."

The bear, very angry now, says, "If you don't serve me a beer, I'm going to eat that lady sitting at the end of the bar." The bartender says, "Sorry, we don't serve beer to belligerent, bully bears in bars in Billings."

The bear goes to the end of the bar, and as promised, eats the woman. He comes back to his seat and again demands a beer. The bartender states, "Sorry, we don't serve beer to belligerent, bully bears in bars in Billings who are on drugs."

The bear says, "I'm not on drugs."

The bartender says, "You are now. That was a barbitchyoute."

A Mountain Lion and a Moral.

There was a crafty old mountain lion who used to hang around this ranch looking for stray cattle. One day he saw a bull off by himself and managed to kill it after a mighty battle. The bull was too heavy to drag off, so the mountain lion decided to just eat as much as he could hold. He ate and ate until he just couldn't eat any more. This made him feel really good, so he let out a big roar. That made him feel even better so he roared again. He kept it up until the rancher came by and shot him.

Moral: When you are full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

Not So Fast !!

A speeding motorist was caught by radar from a police helicopter in the sky. An officer pulled him over and began to issue a traffic ticket. "How did you know I was speeding?" the frustrated driver asked.

The police officer pointed somberly toward the sky. "You mean," asked the motorist, "that even He is against me?"

Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep...

A father put his three year old daughter to bed, told her a story and listened to her prayers - which she ended by saying "God bless mommy, God bless daddy, God bless grandma, and good-bye grandpa."

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The father said, "Why did you say good-bye grandpa?" The little girl said "I don't know daddy, it just seemed like the thing to do."

The next day grandpa died. Father thought it was a strange coincidence.

A few months later the father put the girl to bed and listened to her prayers, which went like this - "God bless mommy, God bless daddy and good-bye grandma. Next day the grandmother died.

My gosh, thought the father, this kid is in contact with the other side.

Several weeks later when the girl was going to bed the dad heard her say "God bless mommy and good-bye daddy."

He practically went into shock. Couldn't sleep all night and got up at the crack of dawn to go to his office. He was nervous as a cat all day, had lunch sent in and watched the clock. He figured if he could get by until midnight he would be OK. He felt safe in the office, so instead of going home at the end of the day he stayed there, drinking coffee, looking at his watch and jumping at every sound. Finally

midnight arrived; he breathed a sigh of relief and went home.

When he got home his wife said, "I've never seen you work so late, what's the matter?" He said "I don't want to talk about it, I've just spent the worst day of my life."

She said "You think you had a bad day, you'll never believe what happened to me. This morning the mailman dropped dead on our porch."

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.

