# Flatwater Austin Healey Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 4, NUMBER 11** 

EDITORS: BOB SHAW & MARTHA JOHNSON



## **Upcoming Events**

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Fish for Friday, September 28, at the Windmill Inn in Nehawka NE. We start around 7:00 P.M.

Flatwater Car Show is the 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 A.M. to about 3:00 P.M. As always, there is no entry fee. Drive on out and have a ball.

#### **OCTOBER**

Breakfast at about 9:30 A.M. at Mahoney State Park the 13<sup>th</sup>. Keep an eye on this location. We may be moving after October.

Ice Cream with the Patrol the 11<sup>th</sup> at Baskin Robbins, 70<sup>th</sup> and Pioneers at about 7:30 P.M.

Fish for will be Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Come in costume if you like. (Rumor has it that Ben is dressing as a retired barrister.)

## Air Force Museum Car Display

by Jerry Needham

Our Flatwater and HMRNP clubs have an incredible opportunity to display some of our vehicles at the Air Force Strategic Air & Space Museum (formerly SAC Museum). As noted in a short statement in the last newsletter, we received a special invitation by museum management to exhibit sports cars of "display quality", adjacent to each of the military airplanes throughout the museum. The purpose is to attract visitors during a low attendance time of the year to see an exhibit of truly unique sports cars

similar to what General Curtis LeMay, famed Air Force leader and founder of the Strategic Air Command, used while organizing races on Offutt AFB runways in the 1950s.

Period: 13 Oct - 9 Dec, but we can exchange vehicles at any time during the exhibit if the owners desire a shorter period. The cars will be cordoned off with ropes, chains or similar barriers (bring your own, if desired) and under continual museum staff monitoring to protect them. The museum will also provide insurance on them during the exhibition period. In case of inclement weather, the museum will store the cars for a reasonable period, until conditions allow their safe removal and transport home.

They require at least 17 and as many as 27 vehicles for display in a secure, safe environment. They did a similar show last winter with Ferraris, from the local area and as far away as Chicago, that went very well. I emphasize that both of our clubs have many vehicles suitable for exhibition that are not necessarily show or concourse quality, but are presentable for this type of exhibit. If you think your vehicle qualifies and you are interested, please contact me via phone or email. We have six members who have already signed up. We'll make initial selections on a firstcome basis, with emphasis on a variety of different marques. The museum reserved the right to final vehicle selections and with which aircraft, so recent photos of your cars are highly desireable. The museum also plans to place signage near cars for owner recognition and will probably allow us to set up our club display that we use each year at the Lincoln Swap Meet to attract new members.

Since our cars are probably put up for the winter anyway, this is an excellent opportunity for your car to be displayed in a very public setting, where it will attract museum visitors and be viewed by many. As happened last year, cars on display will certainly be photographed for local newspaper articles and TV news features. Please strongly consider this opportunity and if you are interested, contact me at 402-291-7122, email at bugeye@radiks.net, or mail at 3728 Schuemann Dr. Bellevue, NE 68123, letting me know your desires and what car you want to display.

With your help and participation, this promises to be an absolutely terrific and fun filled event. We would place signage near cars for owner recognition. This would be similar to our presentation of the same information during the Ferrari exhibit.

## In Memorium -Jay Hyde

We have just learned of the passing of Jay Hyde. We met Jay a couple of years ago when he responded to a card left on his car. Jay was not exceptionally active in the club, but he occasionally showed up at breakfast, ice cream, and always at the annual Car Show. He was quick with a joke, had a ready smile, and an easy manner that made him quite likeable. His blue Spitfire was one of the nicest around, and he enjoyed driving it immensely.

Jay left this life September 11<sup>th</sup> in Rochester Minnesota, at the Mayo Clinic. We are uncertain of the cause of his death. We are certain that at 66 he died far too young.



We offer Barbara our condolences and wish her and their family God's peace.

## From the President's Garage

Good Gosh, where did the summer go? Just the other day, I couldn't wait for the snow to melt so I could bring Sue's Sprite into the garage. Now I have to wait for the weeds to die down so I can find it out in the Presidential Alley. Just the

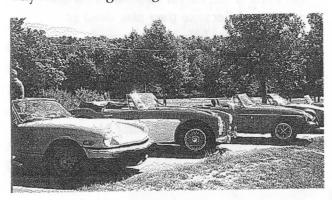


other weekend, we celebrated Labor Day in our usual fashion by scurring off to the All-British down at the Marriott near KCI. I thought attendance was down a bit from last year. Nevertheless, I think all us Iowa and Nebraska fans had a swell time. Winners included Leo Thietje's B, Brian Goldsmith's A, and Bob Weddington's Spitfire. Steve Esplund took a nice Second Place for his 1966 MGB. The first went to a 1964 Texas car. It was absolutely concorse and was driven to the show. I am amazed that there were no bugs, rocks, or other debris on the highway between The Lone Star and Show-Me States. Jim Stork's Sprite earned a Third Place. As usual, Flatwater and HMRNP took more than a fair share of awards. And we all actually DROVE ours down roads that weren't swept in advance. Those unswept roads through Rulo are sure fun to drive. But they usually cause us grief on the way home. Over the years, Jim Stork lost a generator, Ben Anderson lost out to jay-walking animals, Chuck Henry's Lotus broke, and broke, and broke, and Leo Theije lost some smoke through a



hole in a bit of wiring. Dr. Bob lost a drain plug, but that was the day after driving Route 7. But nothing compares to John Ulrich's axle problem on his MGB-GT. The males in this club who have seen John's car will readly admit among themselves that if this car could cook, we would have married it. So it is quite a shock to hear that the Ford differential expired. On the plus side though, I hear that Little John Rued and Jerry & Nancy Needham are enroled in a Body Shop class down at the college. Jerry has already schmoussed up to the teach and got a whole bunch of "tricks-of-the-trade". Some are pretty neat, be sure to ask him. Well, I could go on and on but I suppose it would look better if I was doing something other than British car stuff when Sue gets home from work. See you all at the events. Remember Halloween is only two months away. Get your costumes out. And give Jerry Needham a call about putting your car in the SAC Muesum. (I know they changed the name, but it's still SAC.)

In closing: Neurotics build air castles. Psychotics live in them. Psychologists collect the rent. So why is Dr. Bob grinning?



### All In A Days Work

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about six years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, "Are you a cop?" "Yes," I answered and continued writing the

report. "My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?" "Yes, that's right," I told her. "Well, then," she said as she extended her foot toward me, "would you please tie my shoe?"

#### Believe It

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers, and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

## COOL CARS AND HOT MUSIC

by John Ulrich

Several months ago some of the members of Flatwater and Her Majesty's were made an offer they couldn't refuse. Every year the Lincoln Municipal Band gives a nine concert summer season in the park, the last concert of the year titled "Cool Cars and Hot Music." Local car clubs have provided the cars on the park grounds before and after the concert. Past clubs have included Corvettes, Mustangs, street rods, old iron, and muscle cars, to name a few. When we were asked if we would show British cars this year the answer was, of course, YES! There was, however, a catch. We needed 20 cars representing MG, Triumph, Austin-Healey, Jaguar, and anything else we could find, but with no duplications. Many phone calls and e-mails later, we had our entry list. On Sunday, August 26, we assembled in Antelope Park with an outstanding group, both in quality and variety. From the MG ranks we started with a TF, and marched through time with an MGA, MGB, MGB-GT, and MGB LE.



Triumphs ran through the TR series with 3, 4, 6, 7 represented, and a Spitfire for good measure. We were fortunate to have three Jags, an Etype, a MK IX sedan, and a XJS. It would have been nice to have the XK series represented. We really need a 120, 140 or

150 in the club. (Hints for Christmas perhaps?) The Austin-Healey Marque was in full glory with a 100-4 and a pair of great 3000s. An excellent Bugeye, and Dr. Danielson's "mystery" MK 1-2-4 completed the Healeys. We were also happy to have a Ford 302 powered TVR, and one of Marty and Marilyn's Minis in attendance. The audience obviously enjoyed the cars very much, and we spoke with lots of people who started the conversation "I had one of those when..." People and cars of note were the Greg and Greg show. It seems that the Mr. Greg Hier owns the TR-4 which belonged to the Mr. Greg Lemon before he bought his 100-4. There was an owner in between so it was gratifying for the two Gregs to meet and know that one's pride and joy is in good hands. It was also wonderful to see Fred Holbert behind the wheel of his 3000 after a nasty bit of ill health. Bill Zabel graced us with the first club appearance



of his TR-3, and as previously mentioned, Marcus Tooze brought his wicked and fast TVR V8. (Author's note: I had a ride in this car in 6 cyl. form. DO NOT get in this car for a thrill ride without a bottle of tranquilizers and a note from your mother). As is always the case, good friends, good food, and driving our cars was the order of the day. That night, however, we added good music and a great bit of community PR to the formula. It sure works for me!

It's Football Season Again and ...

- I) What does the average A&M player get on his SATs? Drool.
- (2) What do you get when you put 32 Oklahoma cheerleaders in one room? A full set of teeth.
- (3) How do you get a Nebraska cheerleader into your dorm room? Grease her hips and push like hell.
- (4) How do you get a Texas Tech graduate off your porch? Pay him for the pizza.
- (5) Why do the Iowa State cheerleaders wear bibs? To keep the tobacco juice off their uniforms.
- (6) Why is the Baylor football team like a possum? Because they play dead at home, and get killed on the road.
- (7) What are the longest three years of a K-State football player's life? His freshman year.
- (8) How many Colorado freshmen does it take to change a light bulb? None . . . That's a sophomore course at Colorado.
- (9) Where was O.J. headed in the white Bronco? Lawrence, Kansas. . . He knew that the police would never look there for a Heisman Trophy winner.

  AND FINALLY (10) Why did Oklahoma State choose orange as their team color? You can wear it to the game on Saturday, hunting on Sunday, and picking up trash along the highways the rest of the week.

## **August Poker Run**

By John Ulrich

An absolutely beautiful day greeted the drivers and passengers of fifteen LBCs as they departed from the monthly breakfast on the August poker run. Led by Bob the "Dealing Doctor" Shaw, the group ran one of the club's favorite routes around Mahoney, Two Rivers, and Schramm State Parks. These are some of the most scenic roads in the area, with curves, trees, and water along most of the way.

Several of our newer members made the trip, giving a nice representation of Triumphs, MG



Midgets, and MGBs, but the stars of the show had to be John and Terri O'Brien in their excellent Austin-Healey 3000. If you have not

seen this car yet, you are in for a treat. It is red and white two tone paint, with a red interior. The O'Briens bought it in the Pacific Northwest, and had it shipped to Omaha. After a period of sorting out, it seems to be in top running and cosmetic condition. I'm sure the smile on John's face at breakfast wasn't due to the charming hostess in the lodge—another story—but for the prospect of some quality miles in a "Big Healey."

After drawing four cards on the route, we drew the fifth back at Mahoney. Steve Espelund fortunately had the good sense to bring along his daughter Alicia, who drew a pair



of aces to win a free breakfast next month. All things considered, it was only your typical Flatwater event. Good food, good friends, gorgeous weather, and of course our beloved cars.



Our thanks to brother Shaw for organizing this event.

For Sale

Steve Harris is selling his '79 B (parts of it are pictured on the poker run. If you are looking for a rubber bumper B this car is worth a look. If interested, call Steve at 402-235-2225. Steve lives in Murray, NE.

#### **FISH & CHIPS**

Lost on a rainy night, a nun stumbled across a monastery and requested shelter there. Fortunately, she was just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips she had ever tasted. After dinner, she went into the kitchen to thank the chefs. She was met by two of the Brothers.

The first one said, "Hello, I am brother Michael, and this is Brother Charles." "I'm very pleased to meet you," replied the nun. "I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever had. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?"

Brother Charles replied, "Well, I'm the fish friar."

She turned to the other Brother and said, "Then you must be....?"

"Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk."

### Some Further Reflections on the Week's Events

by Bob Shaw

I live in Lincoln, Nebraska. We have long been a center of immigration. In the last fifteen years we have received large numbers of immigrants from Iraq, Vietnam, and Russia. We now have more Nguyens than Smiths in the phone book (I know, I was curious and I counted).

Most came because they had to. Most are hard working, have gone about the business of business, and have become an asset to Lincoln. Most would, in the best of all worlds, have stayed in their home country, but survival meant that they had to leave. Many cannot return under penalty of death. Those I know tell me they are grateful for a place of freedom where it is good to have a family and a chance to make their way.

Their reasons are not that different than those of my own family. They still honor the traditions and culture of their country of origin—so do my wife's family and my own. All of this not withstanding, it would be terrible not to be able to go home. Bill Evans has told me it would be very difficult to not be able to return to your home base. I personally cannot bear the thought of never seeing the Little Blue Valley in south central Nebraska again. The courage of such immigrants, even in the face of "the great evil" is not to diminished in any way.

During the events of last week, friends who are from the Middle East have told me "the great evil" has followed them here. We must not allow this. Lady Liberty has been there, a beacon of freedom for all of the world, for about half of our history as a nation. From where she stands, one could see pile of rubble where the World Trade Center once was. What a pity it would be if we allowed the actions of a few, made insane by hatred, to put our history of tolerance and assimilation on the

same pile of debris. "The great evil" would win. We must not allow this to happen.

## Congratulations Mike and Elaine Cerny

I would like to share a picture of Elaine's and my new grandson. Elaine is leaving Friday to see him. I will be able to travel in October. Hope to see you all in Lincoln



at the All British at the end of the month. God Bless and take care

Mike and Elaine Cerny

{Ed. - Congratulations Mike and Elaine. We think Aidan has grandpa's quiet (maybe just a little sly) smile.}

## "ART DART" PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 14

Plans are underway for an LBC "Art Dart" to Sioux City, IA the weekend of October 13 to view the traveling Impressionist exhibit at the Sioux City Art Center. The exhibit, which is sponsored by Vassar College, features works by Mary Cassatt, Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh and Pierre August Renoir from Oct. 9 through Dec. 9.

Plans include casino-stopping for food and non-art-related entertainment. Please contact either Bob Shaw or Barbara Rixstine, 402-464-3733, email: rixstine@yahoo.com, if you're interested in going. The date isn't set in stone, and all the details still have to be worked out, so if an alternate date would work better for you, please let one of us know. The Sioux City Art Center is located at 225 Nebraska St. just off the interstate.

### America: The Good Neighbour

Partially as a response to the tragic events of the past week, this editorial by Gordon Sinclair has found new life. It has been sent via e-mail from some Canadian friends to some of us in the States, as a message of support and condolence. The piece was written in the '70s, and Mr. Sinclair passed on in 1984.

"This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth.

Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, war-mongering Americans.

I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas DC10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the International lines except Russia fly American Planes?

Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles.

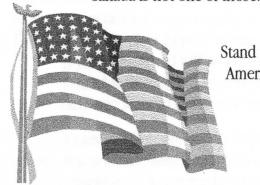
You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon—not once, but several times—and safely home again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to spend here.

When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name you 5000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake.

Our neighbours have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. I hope Canada is not one of those."



Stand proud, America!

### AAADD

I have recently been diagnosed with AAADD—Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it goes: I decide to do work on the car, start to the garage and notice the mail on the table. OK, I'm going to work on the car ... BUT FIRST I'm going to go through the mail. Lay car keys down on desk. After discarding the junk mail, I notice the trash can is full. OK, I'll just put the bills on my desk . . . BUT FIRST I'll take the trash out, but since I'm going to be near the mailbox, I'll address a few bills. ... Yes, now where is the checkbook? Oops, there's only one check left. Where did I put the extra checks? Oh, there is my empty plastic cup from last night on my desk. I'm going to look for those checks . . . BUT FIRST I need to put the cup back in the kitchen. I head for the kitchen, look out the window, notice the flowers need a drink

of water, I put the cup on the counter and there's my extra pair of glasses on the kitchen counter. What are they doing here? I'll just put them away . . . BUT FIRST I need to water those plants. I head for the door and . . . Aaaagh! Someone left the TV remote on the wrong spot! Okay, I'll put the remote away and water the plants . . . BUT FIRST I need to find those checks. END OF DAY: Oil in car not changed, bills still unpaid, cup still in the sink, checkbook still has only one check left, lost my car keys, and when I try to figure out how come nothing got done today, I'm baffled! I KNOW I WAS BUSY ALL DAY! I realize this condition is serious. I'd get help . . . BUT FIRST I think I'll check my e-mail.

## September's Photos

All images in this issue are by and courtesy of John Ulrich and taken at the August Poker Run.

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