



The FLATWATER NEWS

October 2002

October, 2002

- 6- Loess Hills run
- 6- P. O. Pears on the Lake, 5 p.m.
- 10- Ice cream at Baskin-Robbins, 70th & Pine Lake Road
- 12- Breakfast at Mahoney State Park
- 25- Fish at Nehawka

November, 2002

- 3- P. O. Pears on the Lake
- 14- Ice Cream at Baskin-Robbins
- 16- Breakfast at Mahoney State Park
- 28- Thanksgiving
- 29- NO Fish at Nehawka

Events have elastic starting and ending times. Ice cream is 7:30 or so; Fish is 6:30 or so; Breakfast is 9:30 or so.

Loess Hills Run Set for Oct. 6

Jane and Brian Goldsmith have planned a great run in Iowa's Loess Hills for Sunday, October 6.

We'll leave from the Pink Poodle restaurant in Crescent, Iowa, at about 10:30 a.m., and travel north up Highway 183 to Preparation Canyon near Moorhead, Iowa, with a stop at Small's Apple Orchard.

After that, we'll break for an outdoor picnic and return to Council Bluffs on the Orchard Loop and Beebeetown Road.



Lincolmites will caravan to the Pink Poodle but, once there, Jane will have maps for everyone for the rest of the trip.

Don't forget to bring your own lunch, utensils and beverage. We should be back in Council Bluffs by 4 or so. Call Brian or Jane at 712-566-2400 for more information.

Best way to Crescent is east from the I-680/Mormon Bridge in Omaha. Take the Crescent, Iowa exit. Those driving directly can find the Pink Poodle just off Highway 183 in Crescent. If you want to meet at Brian and Jane's, call them for directions.

Lincolmites meet at the 84th and Cornhusker "U-Stop" gas station no later than 8:30 a.m. We'll probably take Highway 6 to the Mormon Bridge exit.



By Marvin Marshall

From the Presidential Garage

Our annual Flatwater Show went off without a hitch Sunday the 29th. Maybe it was the 24th. I don't know, anyway, we all had a good time with the 70 LBCs and their drivers.

A sticky starter kept me out of the running for Diamond-in-the Rough.

I think I could have given Mr. Bredwell a little competition had I managed to get the car to the show. Bob won with his completely original Triumph TR2 long-door.

There is a story about the show inside so I am not

going to say much about it here other than we had three new members join at the show: Joyce Johnson, Bill and Anne Redinger, Rich and Pam Brunke. I also want to welcome returning members Jerry and Pat Trainer, Jerry and Bryce Weiberg and Steve and Kathleen Bryant.

The Loess Hills run is Sunday the 6th. This is a fun little drive in the country. Sort of like the winding two-lane off towards the Veteran's Bridge from our house I wrote about last month. Only longer. And prettier.

And without a sewer plant at the end of it.

This is about the last big trip of the year besides the Art Dart in December. We'll still have the usual Friday Fish at the Windmill, The Patrol's Ice Cream, and the Mahoney Breakfast, but the Loess Hills run can't be beat for a really nice country drive.

Coming up November 23rd is the annual Her Royal Majesty's Nebraska Patrol planning meeting. The Thietges in Fremont are hosting again this year. Bring a dish and help us plan next year's events.

Remember, we are all Motor Patrol members by association and we count on your ideas to keep our clubs exciting and fun.

Speaking of those two things, I want to give a really big thank-you to Eloise Hiatt for hosting the Ice Cream Night two months ago. We all had fun and got to tour a Native American Lodge.

The HRMNP Christmas Party is also coming. Bill Evans, the Grand Poobah of the Patrol said this is the first year we have to make reservations. Bill will be sending out info to all members who don't belong to Flatwater. The rest of us will get it right here in this column.

I see I have a new column to write now every month: Ask Uncle Marvin. As if I didn't have enough to do getting the little woman's Sprite ready for me to take out to Hershey next spring. Perhaps I could get her to be my secretary for all those questions I hope you'll send in.

I suppose I should finish up for this month and go help Sue. She found out about the Bizarre Bazaar garage sale and has been busily cleaning out my closet. If I don't stop her, I won't have anything left in the house that's mine. Hey, maybe that's what I'll be getting for Christmas - a new wardrobe!! What a gal!

See you all at the meeting at the Windmill. OH! And come in costume. It will be HALLOWEEN. I got mine picked out already.

Marvin

Cars and Parts 4 Sale

FOR SALE: Tim Creger has a Midget too far gone to restore and has many parts for sale. He's also looking for a 13" to 14" steering wheel to fit a Bugeye, can trade for original Bugeye wheel.

Contact Tim at 402-466-3968 in Lincoln.

FOR SALE: 1960 MGA red roadster. Black leather interior. Great driving car. Call Ken at 816-746-8490 or e-mail him at kenneth.grant@wellsfargo.com

FOR SALE: Midget tranny from 1973, \$100; driveshaft \$55; steering rack \$15; MG ribbed tranny with no shift lever \$100; windshield cloudy but not cracked and frame good \$20. Interested? Contact Gerald Tessin at jerlin22@cox.net.

FOR SALE: Chrome 60 spokes from MGB. \$600 for the four. Contact Doug Buchanan, Renze Display Company at 800-627-9131, in Omaha at 402-342-1111, ext. 11, on his mobile at 402-578-6040 or via dbuchanan@renze.com.

FOR SALE: TR6, as written about in last newsletter. 1969 with full rostyle wheel covers. Said to be better than 90% original. Midnight blue with black interior and a factory steel hardtop. Dash, gauges and interior are complete and correct. Asking \$8,000. John Ulrich thought it was a worthwhile look-see. Contact Craig Manke at 402-489-2485.

FOR SALE: 1973 MGB, being restored, new windshield, new top, lots of parts. Need to sell. \$600. Owner too ill to finish restoration. E-mail Charles Clowers in Omaha at clowers@cox.net



FOR SALE: 1972 MGB-GT parts car only. Has no engine or transmission. Good glass, disc brakes, chrome and most other parts. \$250. Call Dennis Stone at 402-397-2385 or e-mail him at djstone@glx.net.

FOR SALE: Miscellaneous MGB parts including two transmissions. \$150 takes the lot. Jim Crook, 477-3059 or jim.crook@telex.net

Please let the editor know if you sell your car or your parts so I can keep this section up-to-date.

THANKS!

Jazz@Art Dart on Friday, December 6

Interested club members can gather at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 6, for jazz by the Doug Talley Quartet from Kansas City. Joslyn is sponsoring jazz that evening from 5 until 9 p.m., so come anytime and enjoy art and jazz the same evening. We'll plan to go to dinner at a later point in the evening. More details next newsletter or drop the editor a note at: fahcmailbag@yahoo.com.

FAHC Bizarre Bazaar Set for April 26

Admit it. The house/garage/attic/basement is just bursting with stuff that either you think needs to go or your spouse thinks needs to go. Here's your chance: the Flatwater Austin-Healey Club's Bizarre Bazaar on Saturday, April 26, 2003. We'll find room at someone's house - the editor's most likely - and sell, sell, sell those unwanted, unneeded or unappreciated items you've been hanging onto. (No spouses, please.) Car parts welcome! If you'd like to help with planning, organizing or any part of this Bizaare Bazaar, let me know. *Barbara*



Photos by
Gary
Rockel

A Big Hand For The Little Lady at Sept. Poker

Martha Johnson was the big winner at the September poker run, well, not a big winner, exactly, but she does get a free breakfast next time we see her up that early at a Saturday Mahoney Park breakfast. Making the Poker Run were Matt Gelvin, Steve Espelund, Joe Guinan, Martha Johnson, Gary and Vicki Rockel, Bob Shaw, and Gerald and Linda Tessin.

Vintage Sports Car Racing at MAM October

The new road course, Mid America Motorplex (MAM) at Pacific Junction, Iowa, is hosting – for the first time ever – Vintage Sports Car racing the weekend of October 11 to 13.

This is a first for the track and this area. Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association is the sponsoring group and will put on a great show as always. They do many events each year, such as the one at Road America each fall.

MAM has asked British car folks to attend the activity, as most of the Vintage Sports Car drivers run British cars.

Practice will be all day Friday, with racing all day Saturday (12) and Sunday (13).

Friends of Triumph and Team Thicko (Sprite races, etc.) will be out in force.

Following the end of racing Saturday, Nebraska Triumph Drivers will host an informal dinner/barbecue for the above drivers, teams and local Triumph/British car people.

Please plan to spend the evening with us.

(Contact Bill for more information, like place, time, etc.)

More information about the MAM racing event is available at: www.midamericamotorplex.com and www.vscda.org.

This story was submitted by Bill Redinger of Nebraska Triumph Drivers. Bill is a new member of Flatwater as of 9/29.

You can contact Bill at 402-496-2006 or e-mail him at wredinger@oppd.com if you want more information about the event.

There will be a club breakfast at Mahoney the same day. If you're interested in going to the MAM racing after the club breakfast on the 12th, or would be interested in going with a group to the races, please let the editor know at: fahcmailbag@yahoo.com

Writers Wanted!

Tech and restoration stories wanted. Apply at fahcmailbag@yahoo.com

Sponsors needed

I'm walking on behalf of Tobacco-Free Lincoln in the 5-mile "Making Strides" Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, Oct. 18. Any sponsorship of \$1 and up is welcome as are other walkers. Let me know if you're interested in contributing to the Making Strides cause. Barbara

FAHC All-British A Success

by John Ulrich, Membership chair

The weather was summer-like. The burgers and dogs were juicy as ever. The variety of cars was excellent. The attending members and guests enthusiastically looked at cars and talked the common language of the LBC. All was well on "O" St.

We had about 70 cars ranging from truly outstanding, diamond in the rough, and everything else in-between. Some drove but a few blocks and Charles and Charlotte McGuire drove their beautiful TR3 all the way from Des Moines to win the distance award.

Several cars made "official" club debuts. Among notable first-timers were John Ruud's "Best of Show" Healey 100-4. Truly a beautiful automobile! Roger and Kris VanLaningham's original and unmolested MGB came out of deep sleep and graced the parking lot. Gary and Vicki Rockel presented their red Bugeye to the club, and Al and Carolyn Rometo drove their original owner Midget.

Although known to some who attend breakfast at Mahoney, Marty Klein's V8 Bugeye caused many a jaw to drop. I think Marilyn calls it the "Fright Sprite," and that may be on the conservative side. Tim Clark showed his Nash Metropolitan which is featured in a soon-to-be-aired episode of "My Classic Car." Check this out on the Speed Channel.

A good number of my old favorites were present too. I have to stop and stare at Bob Stock's MK IX Jag Sedan for at least a minute every time I see it. Dan Forehead's MGA is good as ever, and Greg Lemon's Healey 100-4 is splendid with its unrestored patina.

The "driven and loved" Triumph TR2s of Bill and Anne Redinger, and Bob Bredwell remind me of the rough-and-tumble image TRs project..

In general, there was a good representation of the cars in the club. (I think those Spitfires are starting to multiply!) Joe Johnson and Noel Koch held up the honor of the Healey 3000 with great examples of the marque, and there were plenty of MGBs to drool over. The Crattys gave us a close look at the new BMW, er.....new Mini, while Marilyn Michel showed her classic Mini, which started all the fuss. The TR-6 which is for sale and written up in last month's and this month's newsletter was there. I'd sure like to see this car go to a club member for TLC and vigorous driving.

We seemed to be a little shy on "T" series MGs this year, but Joe Mock's perfect 1939 MG-TB made up for quantity with quality. Tom Petch showed his MG-TD, and walked, or dripped rather, away with the largest fluid leak award.

So, from humble beginnings, we can put another successful show in the books. It's pretty amazing to host this event without any entry fees! So think about that when dues time rolls around. Thanks must go to the planning committee: The Rockels, Marshalls, Shaw-Johnson, Danielson-Rixstine and my lovely wife, Bev. Thanks also go to Tim Creger for his enthusiastic help the day of the event. Most of all, thanks to the participants for sharing their time and beloved LBCs with all of us. We had about one-half of the Flatwater members and cars in attendance. Mark your calendar now for the last Sunday in September 2003, and let's outdo ourselves with the turnout. Ok?

(Shaw Story cont. from page 5)

The original winner of the race, Bob Weber, was disqualified after his car failed post-race technical inspection.

I guess our old British Iron is not dead just yet. Maybe my A can take the Miatas in SCCA Solo II. Hmmm, lets see. New head, better intake manifold, stickier tires.....
#

Planning Mtgs Set for November

Planning for 2003 events begins in November, with an FAHC officers' get-together. Please forward ideas about where to go or things to do with the club for next year to the editor or an officer by Sat., November 16, so we can put a slate together before...

The annual Her Royal Majesty's Nebraska Patrol planning meeting on Saturday, November 23. If you're interested, bring a pot-luck dish. Starts about 4:30. Hosted by Leo and Joanne Thietje, at 1534 West Linden Ave. in Fremont. Questions? Call Joanne or Leo at 402-721-8585.

Now's the Time!

If you've got ideas for an event, a place to go, a rally, a run or just a meeting place, now's the time to suggest them! Send your ideas to fahcmailbag@yahoo.com and we'll make sure they're included in 2003 planning.



Ask Uncle Marvin

Recently, we've seen the demise of Ann Landers' column and a variety of upstarts taking her place. This is a shame, because we have our very own combination Ann Landers and Martha Stewart available to answer questions: our club president.

If you have general interest questions about your British car, when to wear plaids with stripes, who to call to start the divorce proceedings, whether to use a niblick or a wedge, or how to run with scissors, now there's "Ask Uncle Marvin."

Uncle Marvin: My British car leaks a lot of oil, is hard to start in the winter and doesn't always perform well on the highway. What should I do?

Signed, Lost in Lincoln

Dear Lost: You answered your question yourself. You have a British car. They're always going to be difficult, but we love them anyway. It's a lot like marriage, but that's another column topic.

Uncle Marvin: Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway? If 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, why are there locks on the doors? Why are a fat chance and a slim chance the same thing? Huh?

Signed, Confused in Cairo

Dear Confused: Have more Guinness. You'll feel better.

Uncle Marvin: Shaken or stirred?

Signed, Bonded in Beatrice

Dear Bonded: If you mean martinis, shaken. Stirring bruises the gin. If you mean your car, get thee to a mechanic. And have some Guinness with the guy with all the questions.

Uncle Marvin: How do you think the Japanese money market viabilities stack up against the long-term monetary debt structure of the Euro, particularly when you consider the yen's intermarket delivery ratio based on previous advances against the NASDAQ quarterly review lineage? Remember, revolving asset reorganization has pre-crimped loose-money averages against the SCC 457-b laws concerning margin and bounced velocity measures of inventory backflow.

Signed, Moneyed in Memphis

Dear Moneyed: You have way too much time on your hands. Go work on your car.

If you have questions for Ask Uncle Marvin, send them to the editor at: fahcmailbag@yahoo.com. Uncle Marvin does review all letters and chooses those he can best answer. Sadly, he cannot answer them all.

A Strange Thing Happened on the Way to the Wake

By Bob Shaw

Kent Prather and his MGA race car, "Babe," are familiar to many of us in Flatwater. A number of us were introduced to waterless car wash by Kent and our fellow member, Leo Thietje who buys the product from Kent and resells it to us. (It is a good product, by the way.)

A number of us who follow SCCA were also told that, as of last year, British Sports Cars were no longer competitive in SCCA. I personally was very depressed by the prospect of Miatas, Hondas and Toyotas having a lock on victory lane at the runoffs.

So it was with great joy that, while reading the results from Mid Ohio in whowon.com, I learned Kent Prather of Wakarusa, Kan., earned his fourth National Championship in G Production and his first since 1995, coming out on top of a fierce battle with Mark Dennis of Rochester, N.Y., late in the race.

Prather held on to a 0.692-second victory in his Prather Racing/Victoria Brits MGA.

"I was surprised at my power down the straight," said Prather after the race. "That let me get one, then another as the race went on. We spent a lot of money on the engine this year and it all paid off."

Also of interest to we Sprite fans was this item: The 2002 Runoffs also had its first winner crowned in the tech shed after the racing was over. Dan Collishaw, of Noblesville, Ind., was declared the winner of H Production in his Precision Peter's Fabrication Austin-Healey Sprite.

(cont. on page 4)

Newsletter New Again

This issue may look a little different to readers making a close inspection. For a variety of reasons, I changed production methods. It makes it easier to incorporate those great stories and photos that people keep sending – and take that as a hint to send more – and e-mail the final to those who've asked for it. Hope you like it. B.

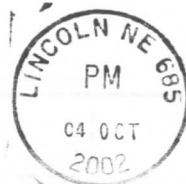
**Next
Flatwater
News
In
mid-
November!**



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Austin-Healey Club of America

Jeff & Liz Lemon
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Get ready for Sprite Spree '03!



By Jim Danielson, club founder

The largest gathering of Sprites in the world is orchestrated by Rick Moses, Dr. Sprite USA. Once every five years, for the past couple of decades or so, Rick and his lady, Cindy, have personally sponsored the gathering of more than 100 Sprites and Sprite enthusiasts.

Next year, Sprite Spree '03 is May 14-17 in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. This event is not part of any national organization. It is personal dedication.

Sprite events have included professional seminars, a car show, autocross, time-speed-distance rallies and a half-day tour to some beautiful location nearby.

I attended four years ago and although it rained a good deal of the time, everyone vowed to return in '03. I even learned some tidbits like the "old" style radiator is actually more efficient than the cross-flow.

Here's the plan: We'll leave Lincoln on Thursday (9) or Friday (10), picking up fellow travelers along the way.

We'll trailer the cars to New Cumberland for the event and perhaps some folks will want to stay after Sprite Spree '03 for the Import Auto Show at nearby Carlisle.

More details will be shared as they arrive. It's only once every five years, so it's another good reason to finish that Sprite this winter!

The Flatwater News is published monthly. Members are welcome and encouraged to contribute columns, tech tips, event information or other news items. These may be edited for space or other issues, however.

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