

December 2003

# Flatwater News



*A publication by and for the members of the Flatwater Austin Healey Club of Nebraska and western Iowa*

## Calendar:

Dec. 10 – Gearjammers  
Dec. 13 – Breakfast at Mahoney State Park  
Dec. 19 – Chanukah begins at sundown  
Dec. 25 – Christmas  
Jan. 1 – Happy 2004!  
Jan. 10 – Breakfast at Mahoney State Park  
Jan. 17 – Holiday party (details next issue)

Events have elastic start and end times. Breakfast at Mahoney starts about 9, Gearjammers and Fish begin at about 6:30.

Watch for a 2004 Calendar of Events in the January issue!

## Holiday Party To Be Jan. 17

The FAHC holiday party is set for Saturday, Jan. 17 at John Ulrich's home in Lincoln.

Put this date on your calendar now and watch for more details in the January newsletter.

## AHCA Delegation Report

By Jim Danielson

Every Austin-Healey Club of America (AHCA) chapter has a delegate who is the main contact between Local and National.

Delegates elect the national officers and are asked to serve on national committees that oversee the national organization's events and actions, such as Conclave.

Being the FAHC delegate means that, although you pay for the trip and lodging, you go to a nice city, meet some great people and learn a lot. In

2003, I was your delegate to the national meeting in Atlanta.

This trip to National was my first in several years. When our club started and there were only ten or so members, I represented us for the first few years.

Then, as my workload got heavier, former FAHC president Jerry Needham took over and attended several meetings.

Last year Jerry asked to step down and I returned to the position.

About 30 of the 45 chapters were represented in Atlanta early in November. Each chapter gives a status report on their finances and activities for the year.

Not surprisingly, we are one of the most event-filled chapters.

We are also the third smallest national chapter; we had only 22 paid (national) members in 2003. So big kudos to us for doing a lot with a little.

*(continued on page 3)*

## 2003 in Review

By John Ulrich

As I sit at my iBook, trying to type on miniature keys, my mind wanders through the year's activities searching for some focus to this article.

The first thing that comes to mind is our club keeps growing, and we have long since lost the ability to know everyone by name or face. The upside of a large membership base is our capability to offer a large number and variety of events. So with that in mind, here's my humble review of the year.

For those of us who like to go sideways with our hair on fire, there was the Founder's Autocross, and and the North Omaha speed run. Both excellent events, and priced to please. Be assured

that there are more "go fast" events in the works for next year.

For those who like their speed hardcore, the pilgrimage to Elkhart Lake for the Historic Races was enjoyed by about 14 members. The bratwurst was excellent, and we got a chance to see Flatwater's own Doug Buchanan campaign his real live GT-6 race car.

Heartland and KC All-British were a real mixed bag this year. You just had to feel for folks like Terry Davis, Jesse Wubbles, Ryan Reis, and others who did "big time" work on their cars just to get caught in the KC monsoon. At

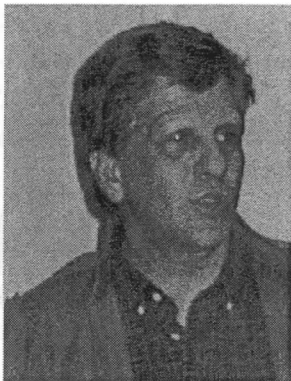
least we had a heck of a Husker football party, and a chance to go out with the Grants.

Heartland was much better, as the weather, trophy count, and food were tip-top, and trips down and back didn't involve windshield wipers.

Our own Flatwater All-British Meet was well attended by the "usual suspects," and brought out several great cars owned by folks we'd never seen before.

Happily, we didn't scare them too badly, because most became members on the spot.

*Continued, page 3*



## From the Presidential Garage

By Marvin Marshall

flkgkdx, (How in the heck do you gals type with those big fingernails, anyway?)

O.K., O.K., the party's over. Well, at least until next year when we will once again embarrass ourselves silly down at the Windmill Tavern.

If you can't tell, Sue and I like costume parties. Every year we seem to get a couple more people to dress up. Even Ben Anderson came disguised as an old used-car salesman.

I know it is that time of year when we all get busy with Christmas and such but I really need you to put a pen to some stuff for the ol' newsletter.

Barbara says we have four pages and if I know her, she'll fill the rest up with recipes. Or worse; pictures.

There are three important things I'd like to tell you about before I and several of the Usual Band of Suspects set sail for Maryland. (My one-and-only sweet sister has invited us to come over for Thanksgiving.)

First off, your officers met and made a good dent in next year's calendar of events. It's gonna be GREAT! If you haven't submitted an event or happening, it's not too late yet. Send them to Gary.

Secondly, the annual Officer's election is coming up January 17. We will have a short meeting and then a party to follow for everyone.

One of your Club Trustees has volunteered his home in Lincoln for the festivities. He even offered to be a French Maid and help the Missus clean house. (Perhaps I've opened Pandora's box a little too far this year.)

Details will be posted when they are available right here in your newsletter. Let's overflow their house!

Third and last; this has been a banner year for your club. I've been overwhelmed at times with the

intensity and desires this club radiates.

Our Club Delegate, Jim Danielson, tells me most clubs at the national meeting get up and tell about one or two events they do a year. Jim gets up to speak and can go on for hours about Flatwater.

We do more charity work than most. We do more events than anyone else; and our show is FREE! We have a premier website. We have a larger variety of LBCs than anyone else around. We have the biggest age spread and the most diverse personalities probably anywhere in the country. What a group!

Thank you. Thank you to each and everyone I've met with this year and for all your club support. It's not easy being the biggest AND the best but with everyone's help we will be even better next year.

Hope your Thanksgiving was good. Merry Christmas if I don't see you at Fish or elsewhere beforehand. Now go fill out your membership and send it in. Santa's watching!



Our own club president, Marvin Marshall (left), as "Nurse Betty," examining a rubber chicken with Crusty the Clown, a/k/a/ Tim Clark at the 2004 Halloween meeting. (Marvin says the chicken died.) More Halloween pictures available on the FAHC web site.

## Danielson named to nat'l speed committee

Jim Danielson was appointed to the Austin-Healey Club of America Safety and Competition Committee at their conference this fall.

This 10-member group is responsible for setting rules and regulating the racing classes and safety standards of speed events. Danielson will be working primarily with classifying modifications to Sprites and inspecting individual cars for modifications and safety equipment.

Vice President of Safety and Competition Bill Naretta asked Jim to fill the committee vacancy partly due to Jim's AN7 having been selected as the Best Modified Sprite at the national Sprite meeting at Hershey, PA last spring.

## Dues are DUE!

You'll find a yellow FAHC membership form inserted into this newsletter.

Instructions for its return to membership guru John Ulrich are on the back of the form.

Please forward your dues and filled-out form to John at your earliest convenience.

## FAHC Invited to HRMNP Party

FAHC club members are invited to Her Majesty's Royal Nebraska Patrol holiday party on Sat., Jan. 24 at the Knolls Country Club in Lincoln. More info and RSVPs -- Bill or Ferne Evans at 402-488-9660 or [billefansmgb@msn.com](mailto:billefansmgb@msn.com).

(delegate, cont. from pg 1)

A number of routine committee reports followed the financial/event report, as did a lengthy discussion of the role of the Healey Marque.

Most noted about the Marque were the positive trends toward better representation of all Healeys and the subject matter of the articles published in the national Austin-Healey magazine. Several delegates drive Jensen-Healeys and even the National editor owns a Sprite.

Of most interest to our club may have been the topic of insurance. Currently, all FAHC events and officers are covered by a policy generated through the AHCA. This coverage is one of the most expensive items in the national budget. In 2003, we were able to maintain the premium for 2004 insurance premiums, but that is unlikely to be the case in 2005.

The projected increase in premium is also tied to a 200-member drop in national membership. This impacts most on smaller chapters with fewer resources.

With the rise in insurance cost and declining membership, we will face either an across-the-board national dues increase or the cost of insurance may be passed on the individual chapters, which may be reflected in your local dues.

We can expect an opinion after the 2004 dues are counted. So, national members, send John your dues. National members should have received their dues notice around December 1.

The clubs sponsoring the 2004 Conclave in San Antonio are very proud of the event we will have next summer. Everyone should consider making the trip. I had not originally planned to attend but their enthusiasm was catching and besides they are going to have a great place to autocross.

*The Year in Review. continued from page 1*

Fremont Days always has a show that's hot as Hades, followed by a wonderful picnic at the Thietjes.

This year was no exception and the plastic MGTD body on a Volkswagen chassis which took 2nd place in the "stock" sports car class gave us days of laughter!

Several members made some longer trips. Danielsons to Sprite Spree in Hershey, PA, and Rockels to Carthage, MO. The Carthage show is reported to be a great one, and the club is planning a major assault on them next summer.

In addition to great scenery, historic locations, and good friends, I believe I even heard the words "free beer" at the Friday night social.

A major addition to our club has been an official website. Thanks to Ron Bonnsetter, it's up and running. Send Ron a picture of you and your car so he can post it on the members page. It would be nice to have everyone up there so people will know who you are. If you are in the Federal Witness Protection Program, you may disregard the previous request.

Another new twist was added when Marilyn Michel volunteered to look for business sponsors for the club. This was a great idea, and will allow us to offer more events to the members at little or no cost.

This year the "It's too Cold to Work on My Car" party was a total flop! It was so warm that 75 or so members enjoyed the patio and deck the whole evening long.

Some even wore shorts and sandals, and we have the pictures to prove it. Maybe that makes up for all the times we froze our rear ends off at the ENWICC Swap Meet.

Other social events like "Art Darts," Gearjammers, Cozmos, Fish, and Breakfast all added to the enjoyment of the members. To the organizers, we owe our thanks.

And speaking of thanks, how about the Loess Hills tour? Joe Guinan, Chrissy and Gerry Conant did a bang-up job.

If I stop before mentioning something or someone, please consider it like the Oscars where the winner thanks everyone he/she forgot to thank.

The best clubs are driven by the membership, and everyone who stepped up to the plate is appreciated. We had a good year, but we're not perfect. (Yet.) Give your club a boost and get involved in the events. I'd like to write about 2004 with even more glowing praise and enthusiasm for the future.

Don Petrick has 4 Minilite wheels for sale. \$455. Contact Don at 402-253-2232 or at donpetrick@charter.net.

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With this issue, we'd like to welcome Victoria British to our stable of sponsors. Please patronize our other sponsors - Economy and Performance, Absolute Body and Paint and Big Apple Bagel - in Lincoln and tell them thank you for supporting the Flatwater Austin-Healey Club of Nebraska.



*Flatwater Austin-Healey Club of Nebraska  
A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America  
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**May you and your loved ones  
have a happy and safe holiday.  
See you in 2004!**

Jeff & Liz Lemon  
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The Flatwater News is published monthly. Members are welcome and encouraged to contribute items to: fahcmailbag@yahoo.com. All submissions may be edited for length and information.

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**The Flatwater News is published for members like:**



**Gary and Vicki Rockel**, shown here with their 1960 Bugeye Sprite earlier this year. (Thanks for having a car the right color for the holiday newsletter, guys.)

Gary is our vice-president and events guru. He and Vicki live in Lincoln and have both the Sprite and an MGB. They joined the club at the 2002 FAHC All-British Show.

Thanks for being members, Gary and Vicki!

**British Car Quiz Answers**

Questions were from last issue. Answers are from the St. Louis MG newsletter.

Actor Nicholas Cage's first car was a British sports car. Which one of these was it?

**Triumph Spitfire**

How many standard colors do you have to select from if you're on the waiting list for a new Morgan? Extra points: Can you name two or more?

**5 - Royal Ivory, Corsa Red, Indigo Blue, Black and Connauaght Green**

Speaking of Morgans, we all know that they are made with a wooden frame and a steel chassis. What type of wood is used in the frame? **Ash**

Who was the first British car manufacturer to adopt the moving assembly line for production of automobiles? **Morris Motors**

In what model year did the MGB first change to an 80 MPH speedometer? **1980**

In MG slang, what is known as the "Abingdon Pillow?" **Mark II MGB padded dash** (Jim Danielson says the Abingdon Pillows were also forced on Midgets and MGCs.)