

# The Flatwater News

*A newsletter by and for the members of the Flatwater Austin-Healey Club of Nebraska*

June 2003

## See you at Heartland! June Event -- MG Show in MO



### June 2003

6, 7, 8 –Heartland MG Meet  
11 – Gearjammers Get-together  
14 –Breakfast at Mahoney Park  
15 – North Omaha Run (see story page 3)  
17 – Cozmo's, 7 p.m.  
27 – Fish at Nehawka

### July 2003

9 – Gearjammers Get-together  
12 – Breakfast at Mahoney  
15 – Cozmo's, 7 p.m.  
25 – Fish at Nehawka

Events have elastic starting and ending times. Fish is 6:30 or so; Breakfast is 9:00 or so.

*By John Ulrich, FAHC treasurer*

After stories in previous issues of *The Flatwater News* about Heartland Regional, the event is finally upon us.

Everyone from the rank and file member to the president, (Marvin, not George), has declared this to be one of the year's best events. Please indulge me as I refute your arguments for not attending.

No, you don't need to own or drive an MG. There's an "Open Class" for all non-MG British cars, and this year the "guest

marque" is Austin-Healey. I drove the Bugeye and the TR-6 to several Heartlands before I even owned an MG.

No, you won't go hungry. The Friday night parking lot cook out is dogs, burgers, beers and sodas. The banquet is at the Riverfront Casino, and I give it a rating of 3 Lipator for quality, and 4 Lipator for quantity.

No, you don't need a show car to be welcome. Bugs and rock chips are badges of honor.

(continued on page 6)

If you're going...

### Lincoln members:

Rendezvous at Big Apple Bagel, 61<sup>st</sup> and "O" Sts., 1 p.m. departure;

**FAHC members outside of Lincoln:** Rendezvous at the Vanity Fair outlet in Nebraska City at approximately 2:00 p.m. We'll caravan together from there.

**Questions?** E-mail or call Gary Rockel, John Ulrich or Jim Danielson (phone numbers and e-mails on back page)



*By Marvin Marshall*

## From the Presidential Garage

What a perfect British day to be sitting at the old keyboard. The rain keeps me out of the yard and out of driving my LBC.

Not that I could drive it anyway. I still need to fix that starter so we can take it down to the Heartland Regional on June 6. My starter stopped starting right after the North Omaha Fun Run last year and I've got to stop procrastinating so much.

Used to be someone in the usual band of suspects would feel sorry for me and offer to fix it by now. They must be getting wise or my habits have rubbed off on them. Sue says only some of the bad ones. What does she know? Have you ever known anyone who had a 'bad' habit? I mean, if you're going to do something repeatedly, wouldn't you do something that's 'good' for you? She needs to go back into the kitchen and finish fixing my breakfast and let me pontificate.

Now, where was I? Oh, yes, Heartland Regional. This grand event is less than a week away so I hope you all got your reservations in and are planning to join us in St. Joseph.

This year's MG Event features the Austin-Healey guest marque. We have some really nice ones in our group of friends and I hope to see all of them down there. The parties are excellent and the show is quite nice on Saturday. Bring your significant other and when you are done looking at the cars and voting take a stroll into downtown. Sue and I sometimes wander off to one of the little cafes or listen to the music festival that's just down the street from the show.

Russ DeVoe has asked Flatwater to sponsor the North Omaha Airport Run again this year. Your officers responded with YES! It will be held Father's Day, June 15. Full details are in this

*Continued on page 2*

newsletter. We had a great time last year. John Ulrich had the most exciting trip. And I beat Martha Johnson in her MGA!

This is the one time you get to legally race up and down the runways with your car as fast as you can. This event is open to licensed drivers with road-legal cars only. Bring a helmet and seatbelt and take all that loose crap out of your LBC and have some fun.

Looks like everybody healed up so I don't have a sick list this month. GOOD! Last month was bad enough. You people need to start taking better care of yourself or I won't have anyone left to irritate except the little lady.

That about wraps it up for me this month. Don't forget about Fish at the Windmill or Burgers and Ice Cream at Gearjammers. Try to make it out to Mahoney Park for Breakfast some month. See you around some time. Have fun.

Marvin



## GOT A STOPWATCH? WANT TO HELP?

Flatwater is sponsoring the North Omaha Run on Sunday, June 15 (see story, page 3) and we need both stopwatches and volunteers.

If you have a stopwatch you can loan or bring, and can offer some time, please let Marvin Marshall or John Ulrich know right away. Thanks!

# Cars and Parts 4 Sale

**FOR SALE:** Dave Ciaccio's cleaning out his garage and is offering the following for sale: 2 MGB seat frames in good condition (no headrests); 5 wire wheels newly repainted with Tnemec paint system. Silver. Very good condition; 2 axles with rear hubs for wire wheels. Brand new and still in pkg; Set of front wheel bearings with shims, and set of rear wheel bearings, brand new and still in pkg; 4 brand new

chrome conversion hubs for converting steel wheel cars to wires without changing the axles. Used chrome "knock-offs" to go with them. Front bumper from '74 MGB. Slight crease where bumper guards meet. Also, 4 rubber-bumper guards (large over-rider type).

Contact Dave at [djc53052@msn.com](mailto:djc53052@msn.com).

**FOR SALE:** 4-speed transmission – Triumph – may work on some MGs. Brake master cylinder, complete assembly. Virgil Neu 402-571-7564.

**FOR SALE:** Four painted wheels for MGB. Nice shape. \$80.00. Contact FAHC member Tim Smith at [tsmithone@tconl.com](mailto:tsmithone@tconl.com) or call him at 402-334-8141.

**GARAGE SALE:** East Campus is having their annual garage sale on August 16 and 17, yes, the second day is the same date as the Auto-cross.

Jim Danielson and Barbara Rixstine participate, so if you've got items you want to put out at the sale, price them and bring them to 1310 Idylwild Drive by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are also needed to sit in a nice shady spot, drink home-brewed iced tea and help sell. Call Barbara at 402-464-3733 if you're interested.

## Heartland Meet, cont'd from page 1

No, women don't hate it. It is a short show, with enough antiques, mansions, arts and crafts, and shade trees to be just right.

Yes, your car is fast enough. Ever caravan behind a box stock TF? Enough said.

Leaving from Lincoln? Big Apple Bagels at 61st and "O" is the place, 1:00 p.m. is the time. We will pick up any non-Lincolniters at the outlet mall in Nebraska City at 2:00 p.m.

Jim Danielson has a new route planned going down, and we will take the old route coming back.

I'll see you there. I get to teach until 3:00 (molding young minds and all that stuff), so I'll be a green blur on I-29. Just hope there isn't a white blur with flashing lights behind me!



## KANSAS CITY ALL-BRITISH COMING UP!

We're back to the old venue – the KCI Airport Marriott – with a new schedule:

**Saturday:** 12 noon - registration, field set-up, evening - Road Rallye

**Sunday:** 8 a.m. – meet opens, clinic by McPherson College Auto Restoration program, p.m. – awards presentation

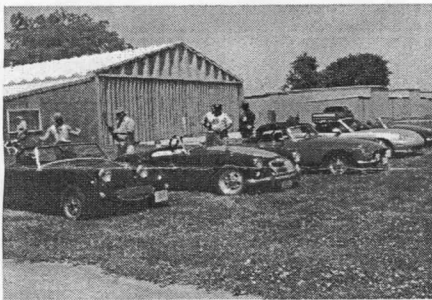
Printable registration form available at <http://kcallbritish.tripod.com>

# North Omaha Airport Show and Go Sunday, June 15

By FAHC Treasurer John Ulrich

So, you take this picturesque little private airport, eat a nice picnic lunch, and the go drive your LBC like something out of "America's Wildest Police Videos." But, and this is the good part, you can't get arrested!

Thanks to the efforts of Russ DeVoe, we will again get to experience all this at the North Omaha Airport on Sunday, June 15. Russ arranges to close the airport for an hour or two, and we get to scoot around a more-or-less-figure-8 course as stinkin' fast as you dare. No wheel-to-wheel racing -- just you, your car, a stop watch, and all the adrenaline you care to muster. Many folks had never driven their cars in such an undignified manner, and the grins on their faces after the runs answered the question "was it fun?"



*Cars on exhibit at last year's Airport Run*

*Russ says:*

"Major construction at the Airport is planned but will not be a factor for our group.

Starting time is 10 a.m. for timed events, display. Area open at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch prepared by Whit Bonifant, will be available starting at 12:00 noon. Charge will be \$5.00 per person for full meal.

The event is sponsored by the Flatwater Austin-Healey Club and is open to all British car owners and guests. No entry fee.

We will need a food count so advise me prior to Friday, June 13, as to how many plan to buy lunch. Bring lunch from home if so desired.

I can use some help in setting up the course. Those who can help can call me at 402-393-3798. Signs will be posted along the route to assist in locating the airport which is located at Bennington Road (Highway 136) and 72<sup>nd</sup> St."

## Airport Run Tech Checklist:

All cars running in the North Omaha event will have to pass a safety/tech inspection checklist on the following items:

### Wheels/tires/brakes:

Tread depth, proper inflation, cuts or cracks in sidewalls, loose or broken spokes, knock-offs/lugs tight; brake fluid leaks and good brake pedal.

### Engine:

Throttle returns to idle, fuel leaks, oil leaks, water leaks, clutch/brake fluid leaks.

### Body/Chassis:

Doors latch, bonnet latches, boot lid latches, boot empty, battery tied down, seat belts, loose items in cockpit, muffler, suspension, full windshield or goggles.

Questions? Call Jim Danielson at 402/464-3733.

## 2003 Events Taking Shape

by FAHC Events Coordinator Gary Rockel

Nice weather is finally here and the events are starting to take shape. After what seems like a long dry spell of getting our LBCs out, it's time to get the cars back on the road. With the additions of monthly meets at Gearjammers, Cosmo nights, and the standard Fish at Nehawka and Breakfast at Mahoney, we have some fun events coming up. We try to structure our events to be a fun time for all and give everyone quite a few chances to get your cars out for people to see.

The first one of June is the Heartland MG meet. I'm pretty excited about this one because I've heard great things about it. Three days of fun and hopefully sun.

At the time of this column, we are working on on the North Omaha Run on June 15th, which is a great time to get the cobwebs out and see what your little cars will do. From what I understand, the classes will be broken down by engine size to give everyone a chance to have a good run.

We are also looking at an upcoming Jazz in June in Lincoln for a possible dinner and great music. Stay tuned!

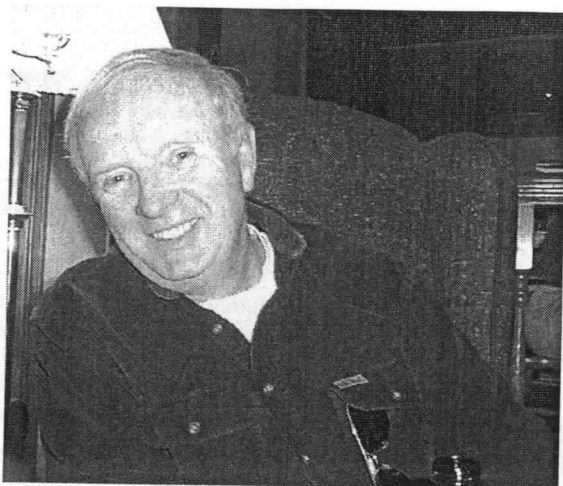
July brings us John C. Fremont Days in Fremont, RoadAmerica Racing at Elkhart Lake and a possible show and shine in Crete. There is also a meet in Carthage, MO on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July for those wanting to take a 6-hour drive.

August has our Founders Autocross and the All British Meet in K.C. The Autocross is a first this year being put on by Jim Danielson and Tim Creger. It will be held at the SCC campus in Lincoln on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The Boy Scouts will be on hand to help and serve refreshments. It should be a great time.

Don't forget to mark your calendars on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September for our FAHC All British Show. We had close to 70 cars last year and it would be great to break that number this year. In October, we are hoping to get in another Loess Hills run.

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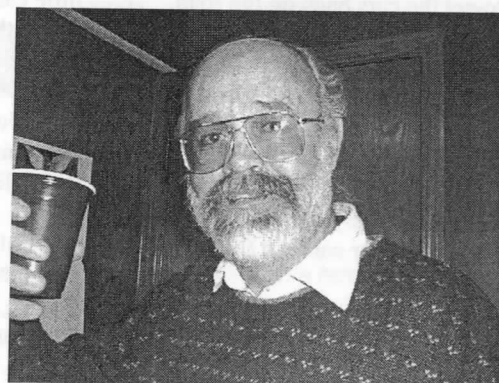
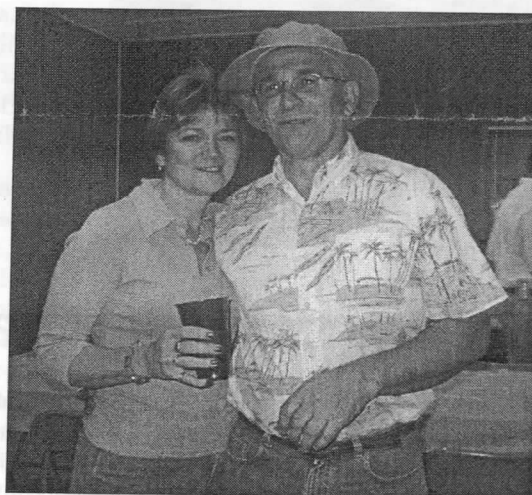
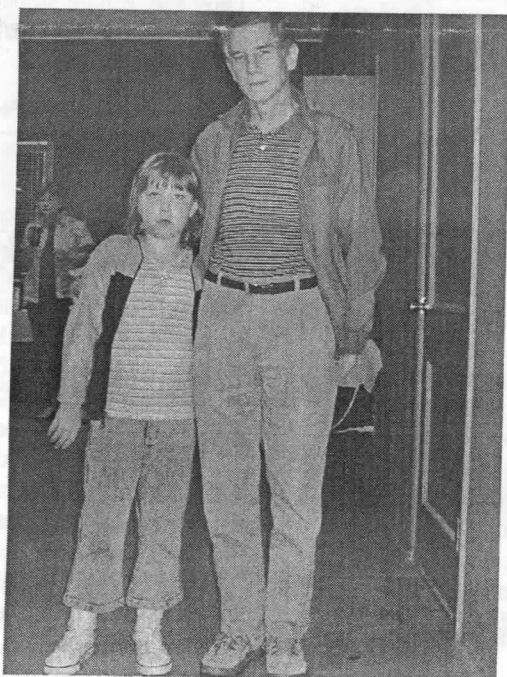


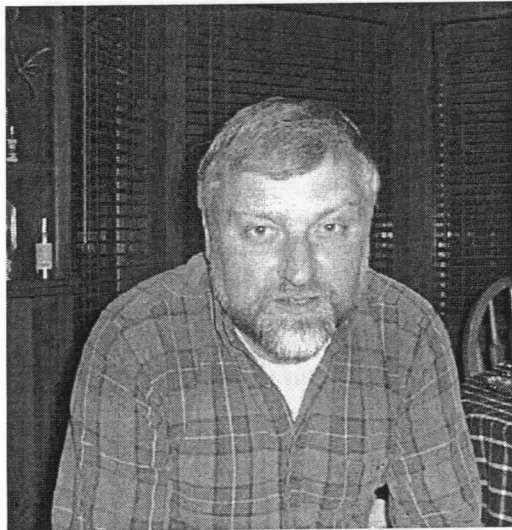


# Photo Gallery 2003

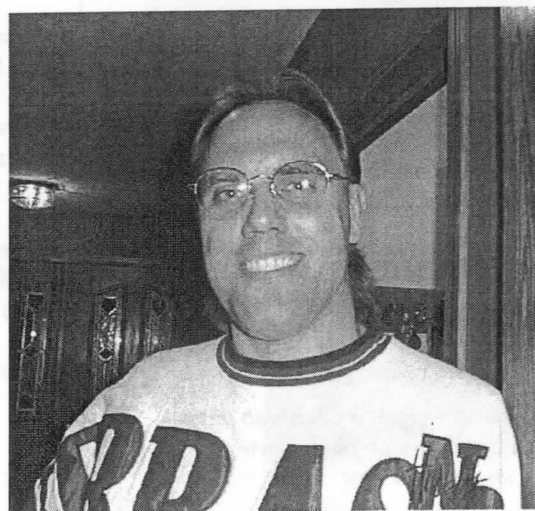
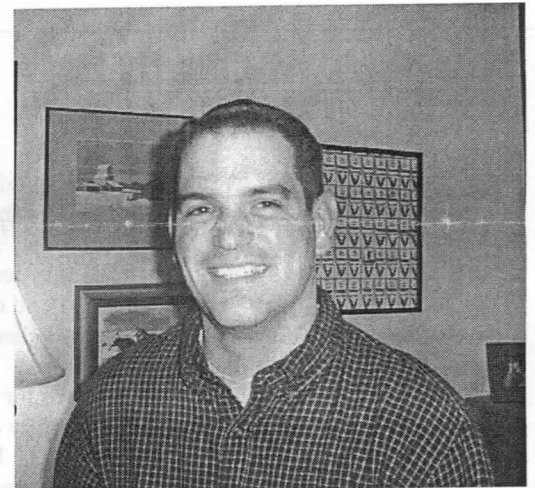
Our president, Marvin Marshall, has his name and photo on the front page, but matching faces and names to the rest of us may not be so easy. Here's some familiar faces with the names attached for those new to the club:

*(Clockwise from upper left: Jerry Needham; Susan Marshall; Elaine and Mike Cerny; Bob Shaw; Bruce Cratty and granddaughter Lisa.*





(Clockwise from top left: club secretary Terry Buchholz; Judy Cratty; Ryan Reis; Steve Espelund; Nancy Needham; picnickers <from left> Don Petrick, Marilyn Michel, Marty Klein, Ron Bonnstetter, and Carla Petrick (back to camera).





## Cozmo's with a Z Suits Club to a T

Offer it and they will come. Or something like that. Anyway, several of the FAHC faithful came out for the initial meeting at Cozmo's (with a z, the editor learned) Ice Cream, 84<sup>th</sup> and Center in Omaha.

Several cars lined up in the parking lot, including those of hosts Dennis and Jane Stone; attending were Mike and Pat Barnes, Joe and Susie Johnson (and their daughter), Mike Nelson, Joe Guinan and Jerry and Linda Tessin. We also met some new folks interested in little British cars, whom we invited to come back.

Next meeting is the third Tuesday in June or June 17 for the calendar-challenged. Stop by and say hello!

## The Kiss of Death to Frozen Parts

Not too long ago I had to remove the rotten wooden railings from my doors, and the car seat sliders from the wooden floorboards in my MGA. Not too surprisingly, nearly every one of the bolts snapped in half with the first crank. Then a mechanic friend of mine recommended a General Motors spray called "General Purpose Penetrant and Heat Valve Lubricant" (GM part #1052627) which retails for about \$5. He made some claims about the ability of this stuff to loosen up the tightest nuts and bolts. He gave me a few shakes of what was left in his spray can, and low and behold - this stuff is a miracle! I sprayed a few frozen parts and left them overnight; and the next morning they came off just as nice as if they were greased on. I read the can (something I always save for last), and noticed it said "after just a few minutes" they could be taken off quite easily. I doubted it, but tried some other equally frozen nuts and bolts after just three minutes, and it worked equally as well.

This is a must for every household, let alone if you're a car restorer. It's the kiss of death for all frozen parts!

*Courtesy the Chicagoland MG Club web page, accessible from our club web page, [www.flatwater.org](http://www.flatwater.org), under Tech Tips.*

## From DeSoto to Jazz

*By FAHC treasurer John Ulrich*

Lest we appear to be all about our cars, I'd like to remind the non-LBC world that we got as much class as da next bum.

Yes, the run to DeSoto Bend was a great drive, but those in attendance were greatly impressed with the Wildlife Refuge, the artifacts from the sunken Bertrand, and the outstanding architecture of the Museum building. Lunch at the Cottonwood wasn't bad either.

In a never-ending quest to introduce folks to something new, I would recommend a look at the "Jazz in June" series.

Held in Lincoln on each Tuesday night in the month the name suggests, the series has been Lincoln's introduction to some wonderful performers, and a reunion with some old favorites. The concerts begin at 7:00 P.M. and are free, but they pass the hat at intermission. Get a list of acts at [www.jazzinjune.com](http://www.jazzinjune.com).

Concerts are held on the west side of the Sheldon Art Gallery. Come early and picnic if you wish. Bring your own food, or visit the variety of vendors. (Wow, alliteration!)

If you want to eat and visit, you need to sit below the terrace! If you want to use your concert manners and listen, sit above the terrace! **This is important!** Blankets, lawn chairs and coolers are also great, but no booze on University property. (Unless you have a skybox, that is.) If this trips your trigger, call or e-mail me for more details.



Check out the club website:

***[www.flatwater.org](http://www.flatwater.org)***

for more tech tips!



# Sprite Spree '03 In Review

By FAHC National Delegate Jim Danielson



Two long days from Lincoln to Hershey, Pennsylvania brought us to the once-every-five-year gathering of Austin-Healey Sprites (and their MG Midget cousins) put on by Sprite Spree organizer Rick Moses.

Approximately 50 cars and their owners showed up, one having been driven from as far as Florida. One person trailered his in from the state of Oregon, several Aussies from Australia as well as a few true Brits intermingled with us Yanks and we had several owners/drivers from the Hershey area.

Two featured speakers were at the conference: John Sprinzel, a Sprite and British car racer in the 60s and 70s, author of "The Spritely Years" and Daniel Stapleton, a superb mechanic and technical book writer from Across The Pond.

Events included a simple funkhana in the hotel parking lot, a three-hour rally through the hills of Pennsylvania, an autocross, breakfast and dinner drives to a variety of Lancaster County restaurants and a dress-up dinner with awards and an auction.

(I ended up as auctioneer, with hastily-whispered instructions to Barbara about what to bid on and how high to go.)

I had the chance to attend several tech tip workshops and chat with lots of other Sprite owners about their cars. For example, Peter Caldwell's session on rebuilding shocks. Pete's refurbishing shop is in Madison, Wisconsin and those of us going to the Elkheart Lake Vintage Races in July plan to stop and get an eyeful on our way there.

It was also a chance to renew old friendships with folks such as Tony Bennetto who owns a garage in Melbourne called The Bugeye Barn.

Tony was the only one there that said "more beer" with a word that sounds like hire only beginning with the letter "b". And music teacher friend Steve Bell (see the May issue of "Healey Marque") whose Ford truck broke down, but not his Sprite.

And thanks to Bill Thompson who loaned us the little bar that keeps the front of the top on the car so that Barbara and I didn't have to run the rally open to the rain.

Yes, it rained everyday, going and coming, and while we were there. How did we do in the events? There were two race-prepared Sprites in the autocross that ran about 1:03 while I was running 1:24. But I wasn't last.

The rally was exactly three hours long. Several long uphill runs. One almost two miles and never out of second gear. We missed 3 out of 58 items and were less than 1 minute off in time and DID NOT place in the top six. Real good rallying. However, our Sprite was selected as the Best Modified Sprite at the meet.

Next Sprite meet "08".



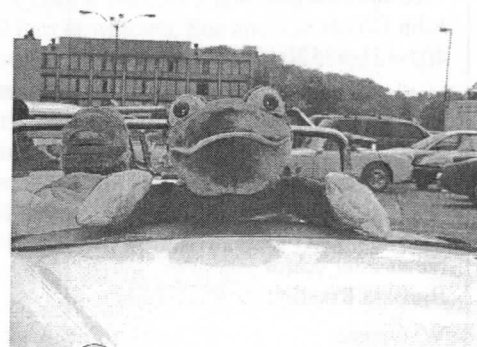
Barbara Rixstine says –

It was a great trip, even if we did get up at o'dark hundred a couple of days to get there and back in time.

The Pennsylvania countryside was exceptionally pretty, even in the rain, and I really enjoyed being passenger/navigator in the rally.

Other highlights included a visit to a terrific outlet mall in Hershey and the Spree-ers trip to Hershey's "Chocolate World," a place you can get fat by breathing the air. There are also **plenty** of chocolates to go around in Hershey.

No question -- if you get the chance to go in 2008, take it!



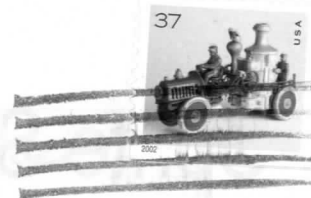
**Flatwater Austin-Healey Club of Nebraska**  
1310 Idylwild Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68503-2040  
*an affiliate of the national Austin-Healey Club of America*

**INSIDE:**

Heartland MG Regional  
2003 Sprite Spree  
North Omaha Run  
Events Wrap-Up



Jeff & Liz Lemon  
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816-520-2433  
Joe - white TR6

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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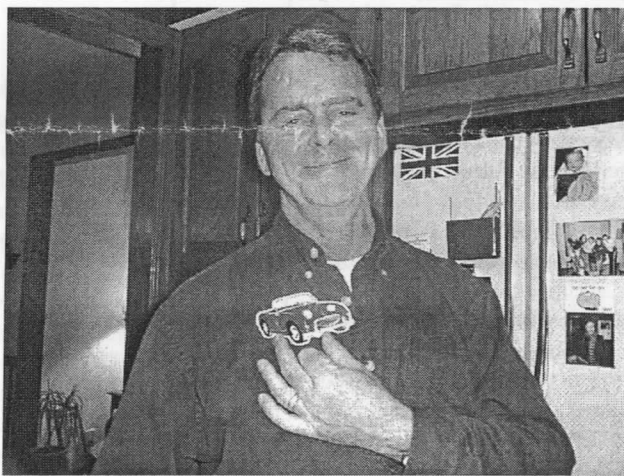
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The *Flatwater News* is published for members like:

Fred Meier, shown here at the Winter Party held at the Ulrichs. Fred and wife Marilyn own a red 1959 AN-5, and have been associated with the club since almost the beginning.

We haven't seen the Meiers at many events this year, but hope that will change in the coming months.

Thanks for being members, Fred and Marilyn!

**ORDER YOUR**

**FLATWATER**

**REGALIA TODAY**

Shirts? Did we hear someone say he wanted shirts? If you're interested, here's your choices:

**T-shirts:** Mike Nelson's the guy with Flatwater Austin-Healey Club t-shirts. Gray with black FAHC lettering, Mike's got some XL and XXL sizes left for \$15. Send him an e-mail at mike@spitfireguy.com or call him at 402-498-4320.

**Polo shirts:** Nicolette Bonnstetter has ordered three-button polo shirts in dusty blue with the logo over the left chest. Cost is about \$30 (shirt cost plus share of setup fee). They'll be here in early June. Send Nicolette an e-mail at nkb@unlserve.unl.edu or call her at 402-423-9136.