

Flatwater News

April 2005

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

April 2005

April 4: Officer's Monthly Meeting (all members invited) Lincoln

April 9: Breakfast at Mahoney State Park with Poker Run afterwards. First car off at 11 a.m.!

April 14: Pub Night at Jackson's Pub, Hwy 6/31 Gretna, 6:30 P.M.

April 19: Cozmo's, 84th and Center Streets, Omaha, 7:00 P.M.

April 23: Vintage Racing at Mid America Motorway in Iowa.

April 29: Fish at Bo's Place in Nehawka, 6:30 or so (same location, different name)

Note: Greg Lemon's taking a break from editing this issue but he'll be back in May. *Barbara Rixstine*

Got an officer question?

Some officer names and responsibilities have changed since the election. We have a new interim treasurer, new interim secretary and new interim membership chair. Please check the current officer names and contact information on the back page to find out who's doing what with club activities.



Events Update

Poker Run and Mid-America Motorplex Run On Tap For April

By Dennis Stone

Five hearty members of Flatwater joined me to help out for the ENWICC Swap Meet on Sunday, March 13th.

Many thanks to Jim Danielson and Barbara Rixstine, Rich and Pam Brunke and Jane Stone for turning out at 2 am for what was a very cold night. The swap meet was a success this year with a record number of vendors. We should know by next month how much we earned for the club. Thanks to all the members who stopped by Flatwater's table to say hello to Jane and me, also.

We have planned two extra events for Flatwater for April. After our Breakfast at Mahoney on Saturday, April 9, we will hold our first Poker Run for the year. It is an approximately 30-mile drive with three stops either for optional exercise or bathroom breaks. We will end up at the Gretna Outlet Mall.

Lincoln members or others who approach from the west please note that Highway 66 east from Ashland to Mahoney will close on April 4th. The state is ruining another nice curvy road.

April's other event is a planned trip to Mid America Motorplex at Pacific Junction, Iowa to watch the racing on April 23rd. This will be the first SCCA regional race of the year and is part of the National IT tour. The activities start at 8:00 and finish around 4:00. Actually racing usually starts late morning after the time trials. Admission charge is \$10.00 a person. They are reworking the roads to Mid America and at newsletter time there still remains 1 1/2 miles of gravel road.

If you are interested in caravanning to Mid America, please contact me and I will give you details.



Cars & Parts 4 Sale/2 Buy

*** **For Sale:** 1970 MG Midget, GAN 5, for sale. Replaced the outer door skins, the inner and outer sill on both sides, the outer portion of the crossmember on both sides, the floor pan on both sides, the "A" posts and skins, and some patch work on the rear bulkhead. Mechanically: Replaced bearings in the transmission, replaced the clutch, main and rod bearings, pistons and rings (std.), deglazed the cylinders, the oil pump, rocker shaft, ground valves and seats, cam bearings. \$2200.00 invested. Asking \$1500 OBO. Car is in Henderson, NE. Randy Hiebner

randyhiebner@mainstaycomm.net

For Sale: Triumphs for sale 1963 tr4-original and complete surry top, brg,wires,o/d, burl walnut dash, nice driver. \$9400.00; 1973 gt6-excellent condition, multiple award winner, gold certificate at vtr \$5200.00; 1976 Spitfire-frame off resto, multiple award winner, better than new. \$5000.00; 402-488-0024, Bob Weddington, bljwedd@aol.com

Bob has run out of storage space and unfortunately must sell something.

Newsletter policy is that members get a free ad for three months; non-members once. Send ads by the 25th of each month to newsletter address

*** means last month for the ad ▶ means ad is new.

means non-member ad

Economy & Performance Has Moved!

Kevin Gilbert's Economy and Performance auto repair shop in Lincoln has moved to 16th and "O" in the old DuTeau Chevrolet building. Same phone number. Stop in and see the new place.

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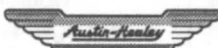
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Flatwater Treadmarks

By Jim Danielson, FAHC president

Another winter month has passed bringing us closer to spring – and driving season!

Caravanning is part of the fun of traveling, so read Terry Davis's story on page 4 to find out How It's Done The Flatwater Way.

Jane Goldsmith said yes to becoming Interim Secretary for the club, and that's great. FAHC is not a "boys' club" and I'm happy to see the first female club officer come aboard on my watch. Welcome, Jane and thanks!

Volunteers needed! Now that events season is upon us, I know Dennis Stone needs event volunteers. We have more than 100 club members, and seeing some different faces at the various volunteer posts would be good. Let Dennis know at which events you can help.

Dennis has thanked volunteers Pam and Rich Brunke, Jane Stone and Barbara Rixstine for directing traffic and staffing the FAHC booth at the ENWICC swap meet March 13, but I want to extend my thanks too. Although it wasn't as cold as other years, it was plenty brisk. We gave away several newsletters and membership forms at the booth and Dennis even sold his tires, so good work all around.

Don't forget that every event you attend – and at which you volunteer -- adds points to your Enthusiast of the Year position. These point totals should go up on the web soon, but don't stop coming to events until they do,

In other matters, the club bylaws committee met the 21st. The seven committee members have been looking over other car club bylaws in order to put together a new set for FAHC, on which all club members will vote later this year. After the bylaws are in place, we will hold an election for a permanent (until next election) treasurer and secretary. I thank both interim treasurer Don Petrick and Jane Goldsmith for their time and their commitment until the election can be held.

In other news, Jane Stone and Barbara Rixstine are our new "Sunshine Committee." Jane is taking the north half of the Platte and Barbara the south half.

Cinco De Mayo Art Dart May 7

By Barbara Rixstine

The date may be a little off, but we will make a Cinco de Mayo Art Dart on Saturday, May 7, about 3 p.m. to the Haydon Art Center at 335 North 8th in Lincoln's Haymarket. (It's very close to where Farmers' Market folks will be set up early in the day so we're waiting until mid-afternoon to let the parking places open up.) The Haydon's free exhibit features more than 80 folk art masks from Mexico that range from primitive carved wood human faces to fantastical creatures of paper mache, metal, fiber. After we're done at the exhibit, we'll wander over to Arturo's Restaurant (about a block away) for some nachos, tachas and plenty of margaritas.



HRMNP Making Iowa Trip

By Ben L. Anderson

Her Majesty's Royal Nebraska Patrol is on the roll again. Set aside the 24th, 25th and 26th of June for a trip to Perry, Iowa and the Hotel Pattee. This is no ordinary trip! The stay at the hotel is an experience in and of itself. I am told this by others, who know these things. By many others, by the way. So call the hotel at 888-424-4268 and make a reservation for the nights of the 24th and 25th, while they still have rooms. The cost is \$129 per night for the least expensive all the way to \$289 for the Louis Armstrong Suite. (You are in luck, I have not taken that one.) Call me at 488-4229 with questions.

British Car Swap Meet April 24

The Topeka British Car Club has announced a British Car Swap Meet at Hurst Import Service, Independence, Missouri, on Sunday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hurst Import Service is just a few blocks west of Nolan Road at 13208 D East 40 Hiway. If you've got questions, call Rob Camblin (816-795-9628) or Bill Davidson (913-677-0884).

Metros To Meet Here in 2006

The Midwest Mets chapter of the Metropolitan Owners Club Of North America will host a regional meet in Lincoln, July 20-23, 2006 at the Country Inn & Suites, at 5353 No. 27th Street in Lincoln. FAHC members are invited to participate in a joint showing of cars on Saturday July 22, 2006 at the host hotel from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. FAHC'ers are also welcome to visit any time during the meet. For further info contact FAHC members Brad Swiggart at brad_swiggart@yahoo.com or Tim Clark at iowatime@hotmail.com



The annual Heartland Regional MG Meet is set for St. Joseph, Missouri on the 10th, 11th and 12th of June, the *second* weekend of the month.

This is a very traditional excursion for FAHC members – and one of our favorite events -- so watch for details in a future issue. Typically FAHC members head to St. Joseph on Friday afternoon for the barbecue, stay through Saturday night for the awards ceremony and head back semi-early Sunday morning.

This year's website is now up so go to:

www.heartlandmg.com/

and make your reservations at the Drury Hotel, right off of I-80. The Drury's had some construction this year, and lots of parking places are gone, so probably better register and get there early!

-- Barbara Rixstine

Triumph Show June 23-26 Branson, Missouri

TRA National Convention, Branson, Missouri, June 23 through 26. The 2005 TRA is bigger, better and uncut, organizers say. Never before has the TRA been held west of the Mississippi, never has there been a participants' choice show, and all offered by the Texas Triumph Register, based in Houston.

Paddle-wheel riverboat ride, dinner, show, welcome dinner, awards banquet, poker run and rally, autorama, funkhana, winery drive and tour, breakfast run and rally – this has got it all. For more info, contact iwortsmansr@yahoo.com.

A Concise Guide to FAHC Caravanning *by Terry Davis*

Editor's note: Each year FAHC members have many chances to get their cars out on the road for day trips, overnights and some-times even longer. We often caravan on those trips and knowing what caravanning means improves the experience for everyone. Check out Terry Davis' tips on caravanning the FAHC way.

Car*a*van (kar***van) *n.* 1. A company of traders, pilgrims, or the like, traveling together, especially across deserts. 2. A number of vehicles traveling together. 3. A large, covered vehicle; a van. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* A covered wagon or house on wheels.

We certainly may feel at times like we fit definition 1 (particularly driving through parts of Northeastern Colorado), never definition 3 (LBC means "little British car," not "large British car"), and although some may have slept in their cars in younger days, not definition 4. We'll talk about definition 2 (although I do like the "pilgrim" part of number 1!).

When traveling to a car show, club event, or the like, it's often nice and common sense to travel in packs. In addition to helping ensure that at least some of the herd will survive predators ("break-down gremlins"), it also fosters greater camaraderie.

We typically have a couple of rendezvous points – the Southroads Mall parking lot for Omaha-area people and the Big Apple Bagel lot for Lincoln-area people. Depending on which way we're heading, the two groups meet at a convenient point and continue on. For example, if we're going to the St. Joseph or Kansas City car shows we'll meet at a point in Nebraska City.

From there, the rules are fairly simple.

The designated lead car driver, who (it is hoped) knows where we're going and how to get there, will be followed by the other cars in no particular order, except that it makes some sense to put the slower cars closer to the front so that they don't get left behind.

If you're driving an MGB with a V8, make sure you keep an occasional eye on your rearview mirror so that the 948 Bugeye behind you doesn't drop too far out of sight.

If the car behind you doesn't appear after awhile, pull over to let him/her catch up.

The point of this is that if someone breaks down, eventually all will stop so we can still be a "caravan."

It's helpful to have a pair of walkie-talkies, one in the lead car and one in the tail car, to advise of any breakdowns, etc. Trade cell phone numbers too. Stopping points (50 to 100 miles) should be discussed in advance so that we can get gas, use the bathroom, snack, and stretch.

What should you bring? I think that depends on trip length, but let me emphasize the two most important things you should always carry with you no matter how short the outing in your LBC – a cell phone and a AAA card.

This was illustrated after March's Jackson's Pub night when I was driving my newly acquired and reportedly sound '67 Sprite. I drove the car about 50 miles earlier in the day without a problem, but on the short drive home, about 10 miles, my accelerator cable broke.

Fortunately Joe Guinan saw my car sputter and die and escorted me as I limped to the Gretna Shell station using the choke. I called AAA and was at my garage within about an hour. Always carry a cell phone and an AAA card.

Caravanning greatly adds to the enjoyment and the safety of a road trip in your LBC. Just the sights and sounds of all those classic British cars traveling together make the experience worthwhile.

Terry's Top 10 Items To Take On Your Trip:

In addition to a cell phone and AAA card, these are the 10 things that I think are indispensable for a road trip in your British car:

1. Oil – 2 quarts
2. Coolant – premixed with water
3. Fire extinguisher
4. Fan belt
5. Spare tire or can of tire sealer
6. Jack and knock off / lug wrench
7. Tool kit
8. Flashlight
9. Duct tape
10. Electrical tape

More Caravan Cache-ing Suggestions from ...

Rich Brunke

- 2 cans of fix-a-flat
- Assorted screwdrivers & wrenches
- Small roll of tie wire - heavier than baling wire
- Rags
- Duct tape
- Extra quart of oil
- Extra gal of 50-50 antifreeze mix
- Flash light w/ spare batteries
- Condensed version of the American to British "Naughty Words" dictionary.

Tim Clark

On short trips I take tools, rags, ignition points and condenser, fuses, fan belt, brake fluid, oil, & antifreeze. On longer trips I throw in an extra fuel pump, thermostat, carburetor, gas can & generator.

A pet peeve of mine is getting separated in a caravan or parade. The lead car should hold back enough to keep the group bunched up. Walkie-talkies or cell phones are good tools for the first, middle and last car.

Michael Linn

AAA + card is better as it has 100 miles of towing...cell phone...gps...maps..duct tape

I carry flat and Philips screwdrivers, correct ratchet set, pliers, wrench, ...knife and/or razor blade. Complete set of belts and hoses....fuses...aluminum foil (for when you run out of fuses), a spare fuel pump, and a spare alternator.... electrical wire, wire ties, connectors, wire cutter and electrical tape..simple continuity tester...or power test... I also carry a spare timing belt. Shop manual, and electrical schematic if available...

Wire...as in baling (baling (sp) just to hold "things" together....1 or 2 quarts of oil ... pre-mixed antifreeze, paper towels and rags...plastic or work gloves, hat, car jack, lug wrench, matches.

Michael and wife Pat moved from Omaha to California last year with their Jensen-Healey. We wish them the best in their new home and are happy they chose to renew their membership with us.

Barbara Rixstine

Never leave home without a good book, a good map and comfortable shoes for walking to the service station.

The Tater Club

- Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work. They are called Speck Taters.
- Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work. They are called Comment Taters.
- Some people are always looking to cause problems. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. They are called Agie Taters.
- There are those who say they will help, but just never get around to actually doing the promised help. They are called Hezzi Taters.
- Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. They are called Emma Taters.
- Then there are those who care for others and are always prepared to stop and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. They are called Sweet Taters - They make a great club or organization!

Submitted by Joe Guinan a few years ago, from an old Triumph newsletter--Barbara

E- Bulletin Boards Available

The Austin-Healey Club of America has launched its own e-bulletin board. If you haven't checked it out yet, go to:

<http://www.serve.com/AHCA/> and then click on bulletin boards (on the right).

Seems like all marques are welcome and encouraged on the board and there's already a request for Bugeye wheels.

The FAHC website also has a bulletin board feature, but at press time it was discombobulated from the Internet administrator side. At press time, no messages could be sent or read. Ron's working on it though, so keep checking:

www.flatwater.org

and then click on message board.

Once it works again, this is where FAHC officers will post changes in event plans (e.g. rain canceling a show) and ask for parts and advice.

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club

Membership Form

The Flatwater Austin-Healey Club of Nebraska and Western Iowa welcomes all marques and enthusiasts.

We are a chapter of the national Austin-Healey Club of America and are dedicated to driving our cars, good friends, good food, and good times.

Find out more about us at www.flatwater.org

Date _____ Dues for calendar year _____

Name _____ Spouse/other _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Auto(s) _____
(year, make, model)

Dues

_____ Full year local Flatwater dues (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31) \$15.00

_____ Full year National Austin-Healey Club & Flatwater local dues \$50.00

Newsletter

_____ Please send me an e-mail when the newsletter is online.

_____ I'll read it there or print it out myself, to get the color version.

_____ Please mail me a hard copy of the newsletter.

Volunteer

_____ Yes, I'm interested in helping at car shows and events. Give me a call when you need help.

Questions?

Contact FAHC Membership Chair Joe Guinan, 751 Day Drive, Fremont, NE 68025
402-727-8011 -- joeg@neb.rr.com





All photos courtesy
Jim Danielson



**Got your reservations made yet for Elkhart Lake
and RoadAmerica Racing 2005?**

**Call John Ulrich, 402-421-9252 or e-mail him at
julrich@lps.org for more details!**

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club
1310 Idylwild Drive
Lincoln, NE 68503
A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America

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The *Flatwater News* is published monthly. Members are welcome and encouraged to contribute news and/or technical stories, but the editor reserves the right to edit all copy for content and length. Please send as electronic files on Microsoft Word, if possible.

Previous issues are available on the club website at www.flatwater.org

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Giving clear directions is a science and, as this photograph shows, FAHC members (left to right) Brian Goldsmith, Don Naimoli and Chuck Policky have the science down pat. The three traveled with photographer Jim Danielson to England and several British car shows in February.

Thank You Received

A thank you from my family for sending a sympathy card after my mother's death. It was a nice gesture on behalf of the club for thinking of me during this difficult time.

Jerry Tessin

We also received a thank you from Marty Klein, thanking us for our sympathy at the loss of his wife Marilyn.

Barbara