

May 2005



AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB

Flatwater News

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

May 2005

May 2: Officer's Monthly Meeting
(all members invited) Omaha

May 7: Art Dart, Lincoln, see story
page 2, this issue

May 12: Pub Night at Jackson's
Pub, Hwy 6/31 Gretna, 6:30 P.M.

May 14: Breakfast at Mahoney State
Park/Garden Tour, regulars roll in
between 9:00 and 9:30 A.M. No
meeting, just breakfast. Garden
Tour to follow (details this page)

May 17: Cozmo's, 84th and Center
Streets, Omaha, 7:00 P.M.

May 22: Funkhana, Lincoln, story
page 7, this issue

May 27: Fish at Bo's Place in
Nehawka, 6:30 or so (same
location, different name)

Heartland Regional In St. Joseph, MO. June 10-11

by Greg Lemon

This year will mark the 15th annual MG regional in St. Joseph, MO. The FAHC always sends a large contingent to this event, and we usually come away with a few trophies as well, so mark your calendars.

More information on the website: <http://www.heartlandmg.com/> and further details on caravanning will follow via e-mail and in this publication

Bluebird Nursery Garden Tour May 14th

By Joe Guinan

We have two events scheduled for May 14th, our regular "Breakfast at Mahoney State Park", followed by a "Garden Tour" to Clarkson, Nebraska where we will visit Bluebird Nursery. If you plan to attend both, you will need to leave from Mahoney by about 11:00 for the approximately 55 mile drive to Hooper, Nebraska. (That's pronounced more like "Hupper" for those of you not from the area.)

Some FAHC members may elect to skip breakfast and will just link up with everyone else at Hooper. Wherever you choose to start, we'll all gather at about noon for lunch at "The Office" on the main drag in Hooper. We'll plan to leave Hooper at about 1:30 p.m. for the approximate 33 mile drive to Clarkson.

The Bluebird Nursery is a "Commercial" enterprise, serving as a producer of plants for many retail plant stores throughout the country. However, their display and production gardens make the nursery worth seeing if you have any interest in flower gardens. We will arrange for a short guided tour of the Nursery. The nursery closes at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and we will let you arrange your own trip home.

From the Bluebird Nursery Web Site – (<http://www.bluebirdnursery.com/>)

"Bluebird Nursery, Inc. maintains nearly two acres of Trial and Display Gardens for testing and educational purposes." "Thousands of varieties, including annuals, perennials, ground covers, grasses and wildflowers are on exhibit. Bluebird is an official *All America Proving Ground* and *AAS Display Garden*. You will enjoy the *Living Arch* and a grass garden presided over by 'Buford', the buffalo grass buffalo. The new *Fountain Garden* at our office/shipping complex showcases many plants that are yet being evaluated and must be seen to be appreciated. Many thousands of spring flowering bulbs add to the show." "The entire community of Clarkson is a City-Wide Arboretum, displaying a wide diversity of plant material. *The Bohemian National Garden* located near Main Street, a lovely city park, and extensive plantings in business and residential areas make a visit to Clarkson an adventurous treat." "Please come, bring your friends and your camera and enjoy a truly unique small town! You'll return at your first opportunity!"

Flatwater Treadmarks

By Jim Danielson,
President



At last! The warm weather is on its way! Time to take the tops off those cars and get 'em out on the road.

As Dennis says elsewhere in the newsletter, we have plenty to do for those itching to put miles on their odometer. There's an Art Dart the 7th, the garden tour to Clarkson via Hooper (pronounced "Hupper" by the literati, I understand) on the 13th, a funkhana on the 22nd and plenty of regular events in-between. Lots of choices, so pick out at least one and put it on the calendar.

Speaking of top-down, I was a little worried in checking out the new homepage for members Phil and Tracy Brauer. When I saw the caption of "Tracy topless," I thought I'd have to talk with Phil about triple-X postings, but it only meant Tracy in the car when the car's top wasn't on. Whew!

If you haven't checked out the Brauers' home page on our site - and other members' sites - please do. Just go to www.flatwater.org and then click on homepages.

Ron Bonnstetter has gone to a lot of work to add pictures and pages for our members, but he's always willing to update and add. I know he and Nicolette have some travel time planned mid-month but contact him in late May with more info for your page.

Alas, the club message board is still down and with finals et al, Ron simply hasn't found a new resource for that page. But don't worry, it hasn't been forgotten.

In the meantime, if you have a communication for the club, send it to Dennis Stone (djstone@glx.net) or me (jdanielson2003@yahoo.com) and we'll see about relaying it on.

I'm glad to see some of the new/old faces that have been showing up at events. All club members are welcome at all events, whether you're driving an LBC or not. If it's a problem other club members can help fix, we'll sure try.

More events are coming up in June, including the annual Heartland MG show in St. Jo the second weekend in June. Ron's got the link to that page up on our site, so don't hesitate to go in and register or just see what the plan is. We'll have more info on the caravan, which will include a just-for-fun photo run, in the next issue.

I've got an APB out on our blue club polo shirts, last seen last fall. Have you seen them? Do you have them? Let Dennis Stone or I know if you've got any clues on their whereabouts; we'd like to sell them and enrich the club treasury.

See you on the road!

REMINDER: Art Dart May 7 by Barbara Rixstine

Plan to meet at Lincoln's Haydon Art Center, 335 North 8th St. (Haymarket) at 3 p.m for the May 7, Art Dart. Lincoln's Farmers' Market (if it's on) should have cleared out by then, but there are a number of lots and metered parking in the area for visitors.

We'll check out the Mexican Masks exhibit and then head over to Arturo's afterward.

Look forward to seeing you there.

How Many Were There? This Month TVR by Greg Lemon

TVR was started by Trevor Wilkinson who built his first special in 1949 using Morris mechanicals and a Ford engine. Like many of the low production British marques TVR started off by producing "specials" based on off the shelf components and specialist bodies and frames.

Ironically once considered a cottage industry TVR became the biggest car manufacturer in England as the Germans and Asians bought out all of the other British makes. There was a Griffith (American V8 power in a car designed for a little British 4 cylinder) in my neighborhood when I was growing up. It was always sticking out of the back of a local gas station/garage. Those wide rear tires on that little fiberglass body always made my heart go all aflutter when I drove by.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Total Built*</u>
Grantura	58-67	796
Vixen	67-73	746
Griffith	63-66	310
Tuscan	67-71	174
1300/2500	71-72	400
1600M/2500M3000M	72-79	1,649
3000M,S/Taimar Turbos	75-79	63
Taimar	76--79	395
3000S Conv.	78-79	258
Tasmin Series	80-90	???

Cars And Parts 4 Sale/2 Buy

► For Sale: 1950 MGTD, disassembled and restoration started, complete and running when disassembled. Needs new project staff, as Widow would like to sell her husbands 30 year project to someone that will complete it! Needs wood and metal work plus assembly. Contact Bill Redinger for more details 496-2006.

►# For Sale: 1967 Triumph Spitfire MK3, Frame off Restoration for all the details visit: http://members.cox.net/fire137/1967_spitfire_mk3.html. If you have questions about anything you can email me, James Adams at gr85z@hotmail.com I live in Bellevue and am taking offers I need to sell the car because of little one coming in May.

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

Needs to be filled in with something

make a

Letters From the Editor

by Greg Lemon

Despite the somewhat Marchish weather we have had these first few days of May, rumor has it that we are heading right into the heart of driving/wrenching/car event season. It must be so, even the President makes mention of it in his column. Having started off on the Spring subject I will now take it in an entirely different and somewhat more irreverent direction than the businesslike and staid *Flatwater Treadmarks* Officers Column (lest you begin to think you are reading the *Wall Street Journal*)

Springtime is, of course, time to get the wrenches out and work on the car, or at least change the oil (you think they have a canister filter in stock for your old MG at Quicky Lube???) and check the air in the tires before you head out on those great open road adventures. Perhaps it would be wise to read this column before you start, for what follows are stories of my reckless youth when I had very little money and perhaps even less sense, but this was counterbalanced by a strong belief in my own indestructibility and infallibility.

One day while following my then girlfriend home in my trusty Sprite the brakes seemed a bit mushy. Not to worry I thought "I will drive carefully and take a look when I get home and fix whatever the problem is". The mushiness did not get better as I drove along and in fact it seemed to be getting worse, until at last I pulled into the garage and the pedal went to the floor with no discernible effect. Upon inspection the brake pipe had broken at the rear brake union which was supposed to be mounted firmly on the axle. However, when Mr. Indestructible had worked on the brakes some weeks ago he had neglected to reattach said union because it was "kind of hard to reach and seemed to be held in place fairly well by the brake lines anyway". Had I been studying engineering rather than the liberal arts I may have gotten to the chapter on metal fatigue and the ability of small stresses over a period of time to cause metal to weaken and crack.

Another of the things that seemed somewhat amusing at the time but I would really have to advise against trying was using a pile of bricks as a jackstand. A large concrete construction block or two was certainly preferable, but anything that would not crush under the weight of the car, didn't cost any money, and was readily accessible at the workplace (wherever the car broke down) would do in a pinch.

My fondest memories of block and brick jackstands involve rusted on nuts and the entire car rocking over me. I thought to myself "If she starts to let go I can probably get out from underneath fast enough to escape harm. If not the Sprite is really a smallish car and I should be able to survive a crushing if I yell loud enough and help arrives in a timely manner."

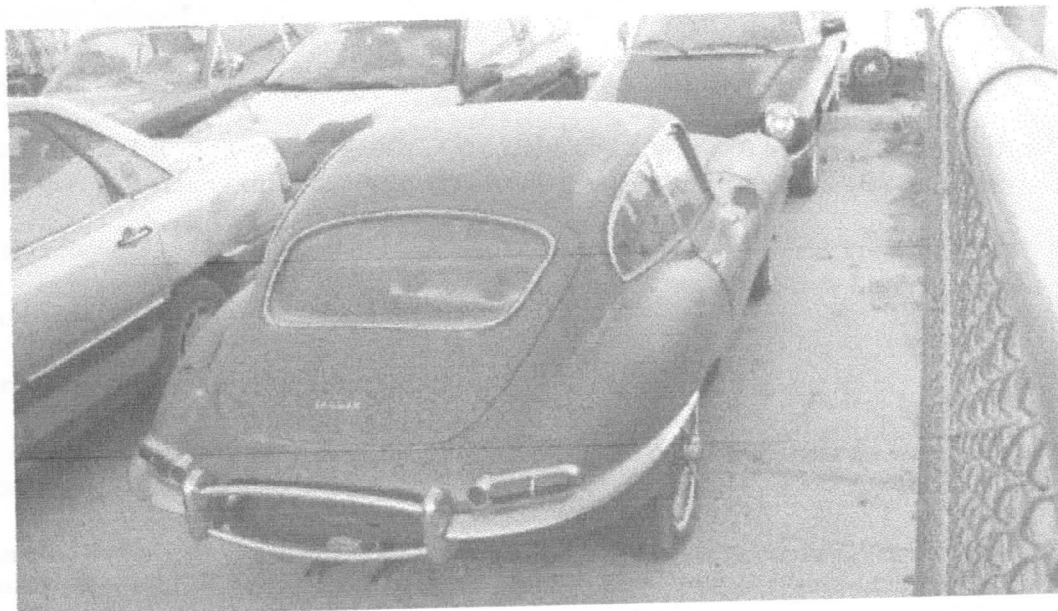
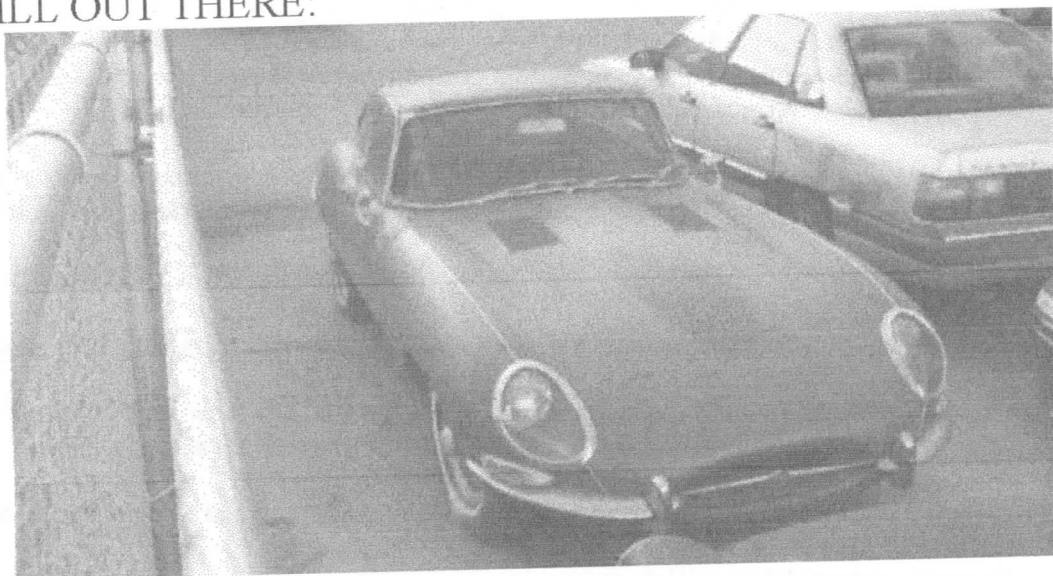
There are certainly more tales to tell than we have room for. While the more gifted and educated wordsmiths might quote Chaucer or Dickens, I think it would be best to wrap it up by quoting television (I am working on my first novel, which will, of course, be a bestseller, entitled *All I Need to Know I Learned from Popular Culture*) "Be careful out there"

Cold Weather Greets Club Members for the SCCA Races at Mid America Motorplex

by Dennis Stone

It was a cold April day for watching the races at Mid-America Motorplex Race Track but there was still four members of Flatwater who went down to watch the races. Joe Guinan, Matt Gelvin, Eric Gregory and Dennis Stone were seen checking out the cars in the Paddock area. There were several British cars out racing at the Motorplex including one MGA, three MGBs and four MG Midgets and/or Austin Healey Sprites. Frank Grover an old but not a present member of Flatwater won his class in his Sprite. One of the MGB's won its class but the sole MGA broke and did not make it out for the start of his race. For those in the club who have or just like to see Mazda Miata's there were several of them to watch also. I think the cold weather kept most of our members home, but I think everyone that went had a good time. I didn't know this before hand but SCCA doesn't charge to watch their events so that is something to remember for future races.

STILL OUT THERE:



Photos by Greg Lemon

This lovely Series One Jaguar E-type Coupe looks like it is just waiting for a good home doesn't it?

Okoboji car trip and show Set for July 29-31

by Ron and Nic Bonnstetter & John and Carol LeFebre

Ron & Nic Bonnstetter and John and Carol LeFebre have planned a weekend outing to Lake Okoboji for July 29, 30 and 31. Here's the schedule:

Friday the 29th We will start our weekend car adventure at Big Apple Bagel ("O" Street and Lyncrest) in Lincoln at 9 a.m..

We will have a leisurely drive through Nebraska and Iowa and have lunch at a standard Iowa restaurant in Denison, Iowa (home of Donna Reed, the actress).

After lunch we will drive to Odebolt, Iowa and visit **Prairie Peddlers**, a farm that has plant mazes you can get lost in and a huge flowering garden. The owner sells dried and real plants and this passion has grown into a national business. There is also a gift shop on the property.

Our next leg of the trip is what Ron has wanted to do since he bought his MGB... drive through the **300 windmills** that generate power for part of Iowa. It is a sight not to be missed!

On to Spirit Lake. Iowa

Friday afternoon antiquing for those interested... swimming... or see other options (next page).

Friday night a dinner at one of the oldest places on the lake... Little Millers Bays Restaurant... simple fare but a historical place for the lakes people.

After dinner we will travel by water to get a **special Lakes dessert** ... you will not want to miss!

Sat morning there is time for shopping for those interested. Wonderful specialty shops all in a row, plus many other options*.

Sat lunch 12:00... at Bob's Beach House which has a great lake view!

Sat. afternoon 2:00-4:00 we are guests of the Criss Craft Wooden Boat and Victory Motorcycle show. The cars will be on exhibition near Arnold's Park. (Shopping also in walking distance!)

Sat late afternoon (4:30) We will discover one of the wonders of the world, known as a **fen**... you will have to come to find out more, an experience you will not forget, near Silver Lake, Iowa a short scenic drive away.

Saturday night... dinner at Whisky Dick's

After dinner you might want to go to the free concert on the green space near the water or some of the other options*

Sunday morning... our journey home will begin at 9 a.m. ... we head west but before going too far we make a stop at the **University of Okobodji 3 Sons store**. Another lake tradition

Other Options for the Okoboji Trip

The Summer Theatre has wonderful plays

This theatre one of the leading undergraduate theatre programs in the country, and 25-30 advance students are joined by professional staff to produce nine plays and musicals each summer.

The show that will be there when we are is:

DA

by Hugh Leonard
July 27 - August 1

Addison Myers is back at OST in a wonderful play about father-son relationships. It would be enough to offer this play because it won the Tony Award, the Drama Desk Award, and the N.Y. Drama Critic's Circle Award. But when you combine that excellence with the most beloved actor in OST's history, it becomes the most special of nights. You'll just have to see it to understand.

Ticket Policies All seats are reserved. Reservations are accepted by telephone (712-332-7773) after June 14 and by mail. The box office opens June 14. Hours are Mondays from 10 am. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

To hold tickets until you arrive, send discount booklet vouchers, a check or a Visa/Mastercard number to: Okoboji Summer Theatre, Box 341, Spirit Lake, IA 51360.

Tickets are \$14 for musicals and \$12 for non-musicals. Discounts are outlined below. Exchanges will be made only on regular price tickets up to one day in advance of the performance. Unpaid reservations will be held only until the day before the performance! There are no cash refunds.

Curtain Times: Please arrive 15 minutes before curtain.

Tuesday - Saturday evenings 8:00 p.m.
Saturday matinees 4:30 p.m.
Sunday evenings 6:00 p.m.

Clay County trains will open for us (Ron's brother runs this huge Clay county fair highlight)

The \$ museum
Treasure Village
Miniature Golf
Water Park
Amusement park..(small)
Lakes Art Museum
See Boys Town summer location
Para sailing is available
Jet skiing is available
the Spirit Lake fish hatchery has a tour
A ride on the famous Queen paddle boat around the lake

We hope this has peaked your interest... the Lefebbers and the Bonnsetters... trip organizers

Flatwater's First FUNKHANA May 22nd

Hosted by Rich and Pam Brunke & Dennis and Jane Stone
by Dennis Stone

The first of Flatwater's 4 driving events takes place on Sunday, May 22. The event will be a Funkhana. Points earned from this event will go toward your total score in the new Flatwater Driver of the Year Award. The Funkhana is not a speed event, but a driving skills event. How well do you know your car and how good are your skills at driving it?

There will be six stations plus a bonus to judge your skills at maneuvering your car. Each driver will get three runs. It is estimated that each run will take approximately 4 minutes. The runs will be timed with penalties of time added for mistakes. If time allows we will have more play runs but only the first three runs will count toward your score.

The event will all take place at Rich & Pam Brunke's business parking lot in Lincoln. Their address is 2827 North 20 St. One half block off of Cornhusker Highway. If you are coming from Omaha, take the 27th Street exit from Interstate 80, go south on 27 Street to Cornhusker (Highway 6). Turn right (west) onto Cornhusker and merge to the left lane and turn left (South) at 20th Street.

The Brunke's have also generously offered to provide a lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers with liquid refreshments after the event ends around 2:00. We do ask that you RSVP to Pam Brunke in Lincoln at 438-3330 or email at r_brunke850@yahoo.com , or Jane Stone in Omaha at 397-2385 or janes@glx.net

Funkhana's do require volunteers. We will need approximately 9 to 10 volunteers. Volunteering at a station for a short period of time will give you drivers a good idea of how to get thru each station's maneuvers quickly and without penalties.

If you don't want to drive, come on down and watch the fun. Join us for lunch and some good socializing. Please do RSVP, though, for the food count. We want to have plenty of food for all to enjoy.

Member's Cars



Jay and Liz Fluehr's 1967 Lotus Elan 1600 Twin Cam (from the Flatwater website)

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club of Nebraska

A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America

3030 Williamsburg Drive

Lincoln, NE 68516

TO:

Plenty to read inside...

Flatwater Treadmarks	2
Art Dart	2
Cars & Parts 4 Sale	3
Okoboji Trip	5-6
Funkana	7

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

Club officers:

President:

Jim Danielson

402-464-3733/jdanielson2003@yahoo.com

Vice President/Events Chairman:

Dennis Stone

402-397-2385/djstone@glx.net

(Interim) Treasurer:

Don Petrick

402-4253-2232/donpetrick@charter.net

Secretary:

Terry Buchholz

402-438-0466/TerryDrafting@aol.com

AHCA National Delegate:

Terry Davis

402-330-0321/tadavis1@cox.net

Officers At Large:

Joe Guinan, Interim Membership Chair

402-727-8011/joeg@neb.rr.com

Jerry Needham

712-256-7787/bugeyel@cox.net

Webmaster:

Ron Bonnstetter

402-423-9138/rjb@unl.edu

Newsletter Editor:

Greg Lemon

402-421-1623/glemon@neb.rr.com

GT4 On Shelves Now

by Greg Lemon

The latest version of the Playstation Two gaming system, GT4, is now available and has been out since February. If you haven't tried it or the earlier versions let me fill you in.

This is a racing game with two modes, arcade, which is fun because you can play two player, and simulation mode where you can have a racing career. You start out with a limited amount of money to buy a car, you need to win or place in the races to win money and buy goodies to make your car go faster, engine mods, suspension mods, even aerodynamic and weight reduction options are available. As you win money you can get more and faster cars and better modifications.

The cars handle like they should, powerful rear drive cars oversteer and front wheel driver's understeer, it takes a while to learn to handle the car without seat of the pants feel you get in a real vehicle. However, once you get the hang of it you can drift and induce oversteer just like Mario Andretti.

There are a wide variety of cars available, it is kind of heavy on newer Japanese stuff. However there are also historic vehicles available including the 427 AC Cobra, Triumph Spitfire, Jaguar E-type, and Lotus Elan and Europa, as well as Alfas and oddball stuff like Citroen 2CVs. Licensing folks at Ferrari and Porsche have kept these makes off the list, but tuner Porsches from RUF are available.

The newest version also has a wide variety of courses you can race on, many of them based on real tracks. Some of them have fanciful names I suppose because of licensing issues again. Tracks such Laguna Seca, LeMans, and the Nurburgring are available. A fun diversion if you have the time.