

May 2005



Flatwater News

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

June 2005

June 5: Heartland Raceway Run
Topeka

June 6: ^{NO} Officer's Monthly
Meeting ~~(all members invited)~~
~~Lincoln~~

June 9: Pub Night at Jackson's
Pub, Hwy 6/31 Gretna, 6:30
P.M.

June 10-12: Heartland MG Show,
St. Joseph, MO (see details
page 7)

June 11: Breakfast at Mahoney
State Park/Garden Tour,
regulars roll in between 9:00
and 9:30 A.M. No meeting, just
breakfast.

June 19: Speed Event Scribner
AFB (see story this page)

June 21: Cozmo's, 84th and
Center Streets, Omaha, 7:00
P.M.

June 24: Fish at Bo's Place in
Nehawka, 6:30 or so (same
location, different name)

June 25: Run to Des Moines Car
Show, see story this issue.

June 26: Time Speed Distance
Rally (more via E-mail later)

Veni, Vici, Velociti... Revisited (The New Father's day airport run)

By Joe Guinan

Ladies and Gentlemen... Start your Engines!!!

Flatwater will once again hold the "Annual Father's Day Airport Speed Run"; however the venue has been changed. Runways modifications underway at the North Omaha Airport caused us to lose the use of that facility. We almost gave up after searching high and low for a substitute air field or satisfactory substitute and finding nothing available. It seems that FAA regulations (or "fraidy cat" airport management...) make it almost impossible to find an active airfield that can be used. Since that was the case, I decided to look into the possibility of using the old Scribner Air Base north west of Fremont. After making a few phone calls and leaving messages, I received an answer from the custodian of the Air Base. He put me in touch with his boss. After another couple of phone calls, I heard back from an even higher level of management. When I heard him say "I own a TR6..." I knew we were going to be approved. I faxed over a copy of our insurance policy, and permission was granted.

As before, I'll need MANY helping hands to get this event organized and managed. Everyone who is participating is expected to shoulder some of the load for an event like this. I'd really appreciate it if you would contact me and let me know that you want to help and what you would like to do. That way I won't have to chase people down and badger them into taking on part of the load. We need people to help design and set up the course, timers, starters, record keepers, course workers, and tech inspectors. Several of these jobs will "rotate" through the day, so you won't have to be on duty for the entire time. We need stop watches, a bunch of traffic cones, some sort of loudspeaker system, and a few shade structures as well as a table and some chairs. Of course, it will also be very important for us to clean up the site before we leave.

Scribner is located about 21 miles north and west of Fremont on Highway 275. That makes it about 60 miles from Omaha, and about 90 miles from Lincoln. The Air Base is located about 2 miles East of Scribner in the hills on the South side of the road. I'll have signs or British Flags up to mark the location. Warning - you will need to travel about 2 miles of well maintained gravel road between the highway and the Airbase. We will begin inspecting cars as they arrive, and hope that all participating cars will have arrived by 10:00 a.m. There will be some meeting and

instructional time used, but we hope to begin timed runs by 10:30. We will run until everyone has had at least 3 timed runs (or fewer if you want, of course). You can certainly show up or leave at any time you desire, but if you want to get several runs in, get there early and help us keep everything rolling through the day. (continued page 3)



Volunteers make the event happen. If you can volunteer, as these ladies did last year, please give Joe a call.



Flatwater Treadmarks

By Jim Danielson,
President, FAHC

If you're like me, sometimes the monthly calendar in the kitchen doesn't get flipped over for a day or so. When it did this month, I was delighted to see all the great events coming up.

Before I talk about them though, I want to compliment both Dennis and Jane Stone and Rich and Pam Brunke for exemplary excellence in the first-ever Funkhana on May 22. They did a lot of work to be ready for the event, along with helpers Steve Bryant and Marty Klein. Greg Copeland got some great photos, Flatwater members did some fancy driving and I think A Good Time Was Had By All. This was one of the top events of all time and I hope it becomes an annual must-do.

Okay, now for June. As I hope everyone knows, we're going to St. Jo on Friday, June 10. Barbara wrote the Heartland MG Show story for this issue, so I hope you'll read it and remember where to be when. The Stones, along with Don and Carla Petrick, are leaving after 5 that day; meet them at the Fireman's Union Hall at 60th and Grover about 5:45 if you want to join them.

This year offers a photo run on the way to St. Jo. We all look forward to this show every year and try to beat those Missourians out of every award we can. And if you're not going, breakfast at Mahoney is still on.

On Sunday, June 15 (Father's Day), it's off to the Scribner Airport for the annual Airport Run. Alas, the north Omaha airport was unavailable but Joe scouted around and found this venue for Flatwater members who want to race down a different runway. We hope to see several of you there. Contact either Dennis Stone or me if you want caravan information.

And speaking of caravans, anyone up for a Des Moines, Iowa caravan on Saturday, June 25? We have been invited to that area's all-European car club show from 1 to 4 p.m. that day, so we would have an easy day over and back in the daylight. Again, please let Dennis or me know if you plan to attend and we will make driving arrangements.

The next day -- Sunday, June 26 to be exact -- I'm planning another Time/Speed/Distance rally. You and your copilot get a set of instructions with directions (e.g. what's the billboard sign on your right advertise?) and the person to answer the most correct questions in the correct time is the winner. We have Rally Divorce Certificates for spouses driving this together, if needed.

Joe Kueper's added another event to the July calendar -- an Omaha garden walk complete with refreshments at their house afterwards. More next month, but put July 10 on your calendar.

By the way, even if you don't have a British car, or yours is temporarily out of driving ability, please come along on these events anyway. And bring your friends, the more the merrier. See you on the road.

Letter From the Editor

by Greg Lemon

I was driving along a few days ago on a beautiful sunny spring afternoon when I spotted something very bright and very red without a top. As it got closer I realized it was a new Mini convertible.

Alone in my car, I whooped and flayed my hands to express my excitement to no-one in particular. I may have even said a few words which may not be repeated in our gentle family oriented publication. It has been a long time since a new car has made me do that, and the new mini convertible really looks like a load of fun. Although the Flatwater Austin Healey Club is primarily made up of owner's of older British cars there, are certainly some newer vehicles in the group as well. I think club members have an appreciation for all things automotive and distinctive modern cars as well, especially British (?) ones.

Speaking of driving and nice spring days of which we have had many this year, of course my car is laid up. I finally decided to paint the thing and do a few more fixes while I am at it. I am going through withdrawals as I insert all the stories about the great events coming up. I can certainly still show up, but without the car it just isn't the same.

That being said things are progressing along and, although I hesitate to name a date, a repainted Healey Hundred should be ready by midsummer. I have borrowed a plasma cutter from a friend who has a pretty well equipped machine shop, which is the right kind of friend to have. I am told the cutter will slice through sheet metal or the frame of the car like a hot knife through butter. I am also told it will live a clean edge and cut as straight as my steady hand will allow.

I of course get a little skeptical when something sounds too good to be true. But by the time the next issue comes out I should have a full report.

I had a paragraph to fill and today's Indianapolis 500 gives me some fodder for the column. Seeing the 500 has risen back to some prominence as CART has declined and the IRL has gotten stronger. That coupled with a little 23 year old rookie that rolled the dice on pit strategy made the race seem important and exciting like it should be (I am a traditionalist and the Indy 500 should be the big American race event of the year). If you didn't see it you missed a good one.

Cars & 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 husband's 30 year project to someone that will complete it! Needs wood and metal work plus assembly. Contact Bill Redinger for more details (402) 496-2006.

For Sale: 1951 Triumph Renown. I was not able to get details from Bill Redinger, but he says the car is nice, contact him if interested (402) 496 2006.

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*

Welcome New Members

by Joe Guinan

Please make these new Flatwater members feel "at home" and encourage them to attend upcoming events so we can all get to know each other better.

Ken & Roberta Kramer, from Papillion, they have a 1963 Austin Healey 3000.

Howard & Kay Larson from South Sioux City who have a 1959 MGA.

Rex & Jennifer Miller have a 1978 MGB and are from Lincoln.

Bruce and Janet Roberts are from Eagle and are looking for a mint condition MGB.

Once again, thanks for joining Flatwater!

Veni, Vici, Velociti... Revisited (continued from page 1)

The Air Base is a HUGE facility, designed for use by World War II era bombers. There are three runways laid out in a triangular shape, and one of them will be closed to aircraft use that day. The runway is over 3600 feet long – almost 3/4ths of a mile. Even with the markers placed on the ends of the runway, we will have over a half-mile of track available to us. We will set up a course similar to those used before in that we will have a "slalom" section at each end to force drivers to slow down a bit before making the turns. We won't have the taxiway and the centrally located crossover like we had at the North Omaha Airport, so we lose the "Figure 8" design we have used before.

This event is a "High Speed Performance Competition", but not really a race, in that only one car will be allowed on the course at a time. Note – we will limit each car to only two different drivers in order to make it easier for our workers to keep the action going. Helmets will be required for all drivers and passengers, as will proper safety belts. (Loaner Helmets will be provided.)

A complete "technical inspection" will be performed on each and every vehicle that will be used for the competition. Speeds could reach 100 mph in the space we have, so we will be VERY serious about the safety inspections. Cars failing any part of the inspection will simply not compete. Good tires, properly functioning brakes, and a positive throttle return will be emphasized, but there are other requirements. Those that have participated in our autocross or airport runs in the past will be aware of what needs to be checked over. Anyone that wants a copy of the inspection form can call or email me and I'll send a copy to you.

Everyone in Flatwater is welcome to attend as either a participant or a spectator. Bring your own picnic lunch to the event, including EVERYTHING you need – food, drinks, serving utensils, paper products, etc. If you feel generous, you could bring a little extra salad or dessert to share with your friends. No alcohol. I'll make sure that a restroom will be available for our use.

Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions, and please volunteer to help. I'll see you on Fathers Day! Joe Guinan, 402-753-0333, joeg@neb.rr.com.

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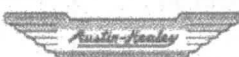
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Club Shirts Still MIA

We keep asking, but no one answers.

Last fall, John Ulrich handed off the club shirts to someone, ~~just before his surgery~~. This would have been sometime in August or September. He doesn't remember who he handed them to, but they haven't been seen since.

There aren't very many, but we'd still like to sell them. Check your car trunk, your attic and your basement to see if you can produce about five club polo shirts, deep blue, with the FAHC logo.

We'd like to see them come home.

Going to Conclave 2005?

By Terry Davis

If you're planning to go to the annual national Austin-Healey meet, Carolina Conclave, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, you've probably already registered and know what's planned. If you'd like to go but haven't registered, it's not too late! It's a great way to see a lot of beautiful Healey cars and meet a lot of Healey people. Carolina Conclave runs from Sunday, June 26 through Friday, July 1. The schedule of events includes the following:

Sunday, June 26 Welcome reception at the Adam's Mark, the host hotel. Meet old friends and make new ones.

Monday, June 27 Driving tours, autocross, Funkhana, view "Aussie Challenge" competition Healeys, concours judging, ladies' tea, tech sessions

Tuesday, June 28 Popularity car show at the Reynolda House, tour Reynolda House and Gardens, shopping at Reynolda Village, special Healey car display, tech sessions, Delegates' meeting

Wednesday, June 29 Time, speed, distance and gimmick rallies, tech sessions, pinewood derby, R/C car races, pig roast, and awards

Thursday, June 30 Driving tours and Awards Banquet

Friday, July Farewell and start of post-Conclave tour

Des Moines Brit/Euro Car Show June 25

by John Rued and Barbara Rixstine

Flatwater members are invited to an All-European Car Show on Sunday, June 25, in Beaverville, Iowa.

Beaverville is a pretty cool area--much like Dundee or Happy Hollow. Lots of good eclectic restaurants--including the exotic barbecue of The Flying Mango and the drive-in Chili King.

The event will occur June 25 (1:00pm to 4:30pm) at the corner of Urbandale and Beaverville Avenue,

Directions: Go north on I 80/I 35, exit to the right (east) onto Hickman road, go east to Beaver Avenue, turn left approx 3 blocks and you are there.

Go to this website for last year's car show pictures:- www.ric-johnson.com/briteuro.html. Jim Danielson will be leading a caravan of cars to the event. He'd like to promote our September show in case we can get Iowans to come west. If you're interested in going, please contact Jim Danielson at 402-464-3733 or Dennis Stone at djstone@glx.net.

GARDEN FUN RUN AND PICNIC SUNDAY JULY 10

by Joe Kueper

Enjoy a fun day visiting up to 7 personal gardens developed by members of the Audubon Society in and around Omaha, followed by a picnic and club social hosted by Joe and Linda Kueper. Combine a Sunday drive in your favorite car with some of Mother Nature's finest displays, good food and good fellowship. What a great way to spend a day.

Schedule:

- * Noon to 1 Meet at Kuepers to pick up your maps
- 1-5PM View the gardens and enjoy the drive
- 5-6:30 Return to Kuepers and socialize
- 7-? Eat drink and be merry

Food and beverages will be provided: Typical picnic fare of Hamburgers, hot dogs beans chips etc. Soft drinks and malt beverages will also be available. Participants are asked to bring a salad, desert or side dish to share. This can be dropped off when picking up the map if necessary.

PLEASE CALL IN FOR RESERVATIONS SO WE CAN PLAN FOR FOOD.

We are suggesting a \$5.00 per person donation to the Audubon Society. This can be made when picking up the map or when making a reservation.

Contacts: Joe and Linda Kueper 914 Hickory Hill Road. (402) 592-3132 or E-mail- joesbcgarage@msn.com

SCCA Regional/National Weekend June 4-5

by Greg Lemon

Heartland Park in Topeka will hold SCCA regional races June 4-5. The SCCA regionals are free to attend (at least they were at the Mid-America Motorplex in Iowa). The races usually feature a few British cars running in the production classes, and hopefully we will have a little better weather than we did for the Mid America SCCA event a couple of months ago.

A caravan is planned Sunday, June 5. If you're interested, contact Jim Danielson or Dennis Stone. We must RSVP to them by Thursday, June 2, so call ASAP.

More info at <http://www.hpt.com/index.cfm>

First FAHC Club Funkhana a Big Success

By Dennis Stone

On Sunday, May 22, Flatwater answered the question of what is a Funkhana. If you want to know what the fun in Funkhana stands for just ask any of the thirteen drivers who tried their skills that day.

This first event of the driving skills award was hosted by Pam and Rich Brunke on their business parking lot in Lincoln. The members tried out their driving skills on a course of six maneuvers plus a bonus.

The driving events this year included a slalom, driven both forwards and backwards, a parallel parking maneuver, a coasting event, a long straight back up and a event which had you drive into a box and turn yourself around and come out, and a Roundabout. Each driver was given three attempts with their best run their score for the day. The drivers were timed with penalties of time added for hitting cones or not completing a maneuver such as the coasting event which gave everyone trouble that day.

The fastest driver of the day was Terry Davis on his fourth run for the day at 2.31.75.

The other drivers and their time and cars are as follows:

Terry Worick at 2.37.25 Bugeye Sprite

Terry Davis at 2.47.87 Bugeye Sprite (Third Run)

Rich Brunke at 2.48.05 MGB

Joe Guinan at 2.48.78 Spitfire

Gerry Conant at 2.76.81 TR7

Jim Danielson at 3.15.91 Bugeye Sprite

Dennis Stone at 3.35.37 MGB

Steve Bryant at 3.43.57 MG Midget

Rex Miller at 5.38.75 MGB

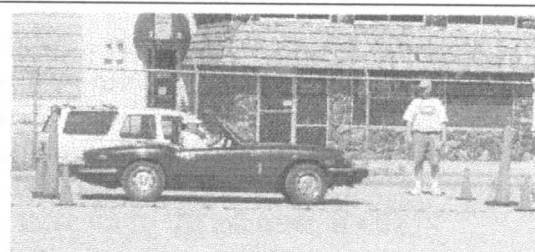
A few women of Flatwater gave the course a try also,
Their times are as follows:

Pam Brunke at 4.52.78 MGB

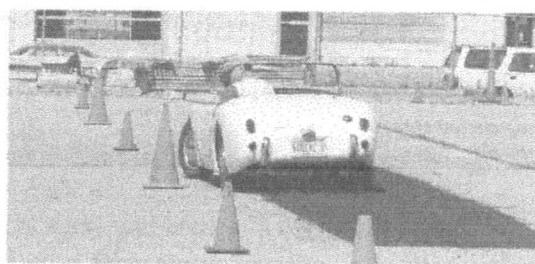
Jane Stone at 5.54.78 MGB

Deb Lampe at 6.70.23 Spitfire

Kathy Bryant at 7.06.15 MG Midget



Joe Guinan maneuvers his Spitfire



*Terry Davis gets the on the ball in his Sprite
Pictures by Dennis Stone*

After all the driving was over the Brunkes hosted all the drivers (and members who came by to watch) to a wonderful lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, fruit, relishes, salads, beans and chips and dips with a dessert of cookies and brownies. This hearty lunch was much appreciated as all the drivers and watchers got plenty of exercise in just following the cars through the stations. One member has nicknamed it the Flatwater Physical Fitness Event.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and new ideas for testing our driving skills could be heard in conversations floating around the room. Which made it sound to me like we would be having another Funkhana next year. I need to thank many people, most of all the Brunkes for their incredible hospitality of a parking lot and their scrumptious spread of food. Jim Danielson for cooking the meat, and Joe Guinan, Marty Klein, Gerry Conant and Rich Brunke for their help in laying out my ideas in the parking lot and Steve Bryant for proofreading my instructions and for set-up, Greg Copeland for taking photos, and for all the drivers and members who just grabbed a board and marked down a station as the cars came through. Funkhanas do take a lot of volunteers and each of you showed me again what makes Flatwater such a great club.

Heartland MG Show This June 10-12

Always a Favorite

By Barbara Rixstine

To everything, turn, turn, turn goes the song and each June many Flatwater Faithful turn their eyes to St. Joseph, Missouri for their Heartland MG Show.

"Why do I care," you say, scoffing handily at the idea. "I don't have an MG. And besides, isn't this the Flatwater Austin-Healey car club?"

'Tis of little matter what car you bring, Heartland newbie. Last year Flatwater members Rich Brunke, Jim Danielson, Terry Davis, Russ Devoe, Don Petrick, Ryan Reis, Bob Shaw, Dennis Stone, Leo Thietje and John Ulrich all brought home trophies. Dennis got one for his Jensen-Healey, Rich got his for his Sunbeam Alpine and both Jim and Terry won for their Sprites. It's a fun and relaxing trip where we get a warm – if competitive – reception.

Here's the plan: we arrive in St. Jo in time for the Friday evening barbecue. Saturday morning it's up and at 'em and down to the park around 9 or so. Choices include sitting in the nice shady park and visiting with old and new friends, finding the trolley to take you around St. Jo and/or shopping, or staying at the hotel pool and relaxing. Saturday evening we all go to the St. Jo Casino for the awards banquet and then Sunday morning (not too early) we head back to our home territories.

Our St. Jo destination is the Drury Inn at 3213 Frederick Blvd. (For those taking the interstate, it's the Frederick Avenue exit off I-29; take a left and you'll see it to your left once you pass over the interstate bridge.) To get the room rate of \$59, you needed to make your reservation by May 27, but if you haven't, there are other hotels close by. Give them a call at 816-364-3700 or check out the Heartland MG link from the front page of our own web site: www.flatwater.org.

So wash it off, dust it off, stash in some road emergency equipment, pump it full of fuel, bring your spouse or a friend and follow your fellow Flatwater Fellows to St. Jo.

Caravaning: Lincoln-area folks will meet up at the south end of the Wal-Mart parking lot on Highway 2 at 11:30 and then meet up with non-Lincolnites at the Big Apple service station/store just outside Nebraska City and very close to the I-29 – "get-on" for a 1 p.m. sharp departure. Omahans will meet at the service station across the street from the Rosenblatt parking lot at 11:30 a.m. and then reconnoiter with the Lincolnites in Nebraska City. (Those leaving from Omaha after 5 p.m. can travel with Dennis and Jane Stone and Don and Carla Petrick, departing from the Fireman's Union Hall at 60th and Grover at 5:45 p.m.)

Once on the road from Nebraska City, Jim Danielson has planned a photo rally along the "alphabet route" taken the last few years. This route brings us in through St. Jo's beautiful city park and is always a great way to end the run.

If you are planning to take the photo route with us, please RSVP to Jim by **Tuesday, June 7**, so he can have copies of rally photos ready to go on Friday. And speaking of photos, bring your best photos, framed, and up your chances of a St. Jo award for your mantle.

See you the 10th!



Plenty of green grass and plenty of British cars can be seen at the Heartland MG Show June 10–12.

If you go...

- ✓ Caravan with other Flatwater members. It's safer and more fun when there are others along on the trip.
- ✓ Make sure to pack supplies – fuses, etc. -- should your car run into trouble. There's a good list in the April newsletter, available online at our website.
- ✓ Bring chairs for sitting in the park and maybe a hat for the afternoon. You might want a thermos of coffee if the morning is chilly.
- ✓ The park is close to a trolley line, and there's usually an Art in the Park show. Boy Scouts sell food and drink on the premises.

Time/Speed/Distance Rally
Sunday, June 26

By Jim Danielson

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club of Nebraska

A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America

3030 Williamsburg Drive

Lincoln, NE 68516

TO:

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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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"Great Race" To Stop in Walnut, Iowa and Lincoln

by Bill Redinger

The Great Race will stop for a pit stop in Walnut, IA on Saturday, July 2 and around 9:50 AM, there will be a large car club gathering from NE and IA there to meet them. This is a fun gathering and great spectacle that only comes our way once in a while. They will lunch in Lincoln's Haymarket area about 1:00 PM.

If you're interested here's more info:

www.greatrace.com/race_info/general.php

Website To Watch

by Greg Lemon

I found this one recently and really enjoyed it, go to: <http://www.coldplugs.com/index.html> for some great pictures of sports car racing in the fifties. In addition to the expected racing pictures, there are also pictures of some of the interesting cars people drove to the races and a mystery machine page of unidentified cars. There is also an online quiz about classic car facts. Really a lot of neat stuff here.

Another very good webpage is <http://www.racingsportscars.com/> which covers more types and eras of racing than the Cold Plugs page. Check them out.

Club Minutes on Web

Club minutes are always available for members to read on our club website: www.flatwater.org.