



Flatwater News

July 2006



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

JULY CALENDAR:

No business meeting in July

July 8: Breakfast at Mahoney, 9 a.m. or so; ride-along afterwards. (See story from Tim Creger, page 1.)

July 13: Jackson's Pub, Gretna, 6:30 or so.

July 21: Lincoln Get-Together, Randy & Eloise Hiatt's, 7 p.m. Story this issue. All welcome.

July 28: Fish at Elma's Place, Nehawka, 6:30 or so.

July 24: FAHC All-Brit Show Planning mtg, 6:30 p.m. Danielson's, 1310 Idylwild Drive, Lincoln.

Got A Question?

Club officer contact info is listed in the back page of the newsletter.

Got something to sell? Your ad should go to Ron for the "For Sale" section of the website, to Barbara for the newsletter and maybe to the appropriate site on the website's message board.

If you prefer to go online, you can find the same information on our website, www.flatwater.org, under Contacts.

Got a website question? Contact Ron Bonnstetter at rjb@unl.edu.



July 8 "Key Exchange" Drive Set

by Tim Creger

For those of you who have swooned over that smooth looking Big Healey, the sporty Sprite, or a racy Triumph, now is your chance to experience the cars of your dreams first-hand. I can't promise you'll get to drive the exact car of your dreams, but the Driver/Rider Swap Run to be held July 8th should allow you the chance to either drive or ride in a variety of British cars. It will also allow you to visit five of eastern Nebraska's out-of-the-way hamlets. (OK, maybe Wahoo doesn't qualify for this classification.)

We will start at approximately 10:30 a.m. at the main lodge at Mahoney State Park. The regular FAHC club breakfast starts between 9:00 and 9:30 for those who would like to start their day with one of better breakfast buffets. There will be cars that allow drivers to swap, and cars that allow riders to swap (there might even be cars with both drivers and riders swapping). At each stop participants will randomly select a different car in which to make the next leg of the run. A total of 6 stops should allow plenty of opportunity to experience a variety of cars. Regular FAHC caravan rules will prevail (moderate pace with drivers keeping an eye out for the car behind).

The first leg will be Mahoney State Park to Memphis State Recreation Area, which is adjacent to the village of Memphis. After swapping cars, the second leg will run from Memphis to the village of Ithaca (driving past the UNL livestock research feedlots will present a first-hand experience of rural America!). A quick car swap at Ithaca and we head to Wahoo, hopefully visiting one of the last Zesto's still in operation. We swap cars again and travel south to Ceresco. No time to shop at Ernie's, but we'll swap cars and head west, then south, then back east to Davey. Regrouping and swapping cars in Davey, we hit the road for our last leg to Waverly, where we will terminate at the Gas 'N Shop for any needs before heading our separate ways home.

The drive will be around 60 miles total, a lot of recently paved open road (no gravel except for the parking area at Memphis SRA), and the chance to visit with club members you might not normally get to. If you need additional details, please contact Tim Creger at 466-3968.

Cars & Parts 4 Sale

For Sale: odds and ends from many years of British car ownership. I guess if I have had it for over 20 years and haven't used it I can let it go. Here is some but by no means all of what I have:

- TR2-4 short block, turns, no head
- TR2-4 tranny, unknown condition
- 4 48-spoke 15" wire wheels with Dunlop Road-speed bias ply tires, look good and hold air, but spokes and splines bad, can be used for original look for show car or to push your project around on while you source new wheels, fits MGA TR2-4 AH Morgan, etc.;
- Some TR4 and MG sheetmetal including a B door;
- TR4 trim pieces, bumper overrides, 4A grill in nice shape, etc.

Inquire if interested, no reasonable offer refused, pennies on the dollar, need the space, etc. Greg Lemon g Lemon@neb.rr.com Lincoln, NE

➔ means the ad is new

☒ means last time in newsletter.

✍ means one-time ad

All FAHC members may run a British-car related ad for three months; non-members may only run an ad one month.

Heartland Results

FAHC walked away with seven awards from Heartland:

Phil Brauer got a 3rd for his photo of British cars in Antarctica;
Rich Brunke got a 3rd for his MGB;
Jim Danielson got a 1st for his MGC and a 1st for his photo of four homeless MGAs;
Brian Goldsmith got a 1st for his MGA;
Leo Thietje got a 1st for his MGB; and
John Ulrich got a 1st for his MGB-GT.

In addition, Bill Evans, of Her Majesty's Royal Nebraska Patrol, got a 3rd for his MGB and Rich Brunke got the winning bid for an MG clock, which was his wife Pam's birthday present. What a guy!

From the Vice Prez

By Greg Lemon, Vice President

Time flies is an overused cliché if there ever was one, but it seems like only a few weeks ago we were planning the year's events and now we are halfway through the year. We are in the thick of the club events season with something going on nearly every weekend and sometimes multiple somethings every weekend.

The weekend of June 17th saw the Scribner Speed Run, Austin-Healey Club National Conclave in Ohio and the MG Show in Gatlinburg, Tennessee (and no, I have not forgotten you Triumph folks that have your VTR meet in July), I think we had members at all of them.

I was at the Airport Run and want to thank Joe Guinan and all the others (see Joe's article in this issue) who helped make this event great fun and a success.

In addition to the regular club events like Fish, we also had the relocated MG show in Kansas City (used to be St. Joseph) and a nice turnout at the Erickson's home for the Lincoln Event this month, and I want to thank them for hosting.

July looks to be every bit as busy as June, we have the Key/Swap Ride Along on the 8th at Mahoney, I was disappointed with the numbers for our first ride along in May, but had great fun and got to drive an MGA and a Mini for the first time, this is a great way to meet members and get to ride or drive in cars you have always wanted to experience.

We also have volunteered to help with the National Metro owners club meet this month and will have several members (but it is looking less and less like yours truly being one of them, unfortunately) going to Elkhart Lake for the vintage races there, as well as the aforementioned VTR meet in Texas.

We still have many club shirts to hand out and will continue to bring them to events so you can pick them up.

Hope to see you soon—Greg Lemon FAHC VP

Lincoln Get-Together July 21

Randy and Eloise Hiatt invite club members to their home at 8400 S. 98th St. in Lincoln to enjoy ice cream and friendship. Bring a favorite ice cream topping and lawn chairs if you like. Show your car on our south lawn. There will be games to participate in if you would like to.

Directions: East on Highway 2 (past Walmart and Menard's) to the road crossing Highway 2 at the town of Cheney. The road is marked "98th St. and Yankee Hill Road." Turn left off Highway 2 and then make a sharp left turn onto 98th. First house on the right. There is one block of gravel. Drive in and follow arrows to parking area. Hope to see you.

Notes from the Gatlinburg MG Meet in June

Taking the Tail of the Dragon

by Jane Goldsmith

We went, we drove, we enjoyed.

Flatwater members Bruce and Judy Cratty, Mike and Mary Seiler, John and Bev Ulrich, Larry and Diane Underwood, Brian and I drove about 1,000 miles of scenic highways to Gatlinburg, TN for the MG fest June 21 through 25.

We followed a back-roads route -- compliments of the Midwest MGA Club -- south and east across Missouri, into Kentucky, through Nashville and on to our destination.

Our six MGs kept together via battery operated radios. We touched the interstate only when necessary. Ken Grant joined us in Kansas City, as did Jim Danielson, who took the interstate.

Have you heard of Tennessee's "Tail of the Dragon?" It's 318 turns in 11 miles. Not only did we drive up, we turned around in North Carolina and drove back down. The "Tail" times 2 is about all the exhilaration one can muster. Drivers varied on whether up or down was more of a thrill. You can view our cars at killboy.com.

Four cars left on Saturday; Sunday the Crattys and Goldsmiths (with no car, see story below) joined Bill Evans in his van on a new route through Illinois.

Bruce and Judy Cratty's car ran afoul of a deer, but no one was hurt, the car suffering a dented front driver's fender and a cracked windshield.

You will have to talk with the Saturday group about motel stories in Missouri. Otherwise, what happens in Gatlinburg stays in Gatlinburg!

Dragon Times Two, Part Deux

by Barbara Rixstine

I didn't travel with the group, preferring to fly in and out of the nearest airport in Knoxville, but was around for most of the every-five-year MG conclave in Gatlinburg this June.

No official count, but we heard more than a thousand registrations were received, which gives you some idea of the car #s. Everything was represented, I think, from Midgettes to MGCs and in-between.

Jim and I were lucky enough to find two long-time friends attending and spent a good deal of time with them catching up on old times and, as usual with any car group, eating and driving.

Like Jane's group, we too took the Tail of the Dragon on a beautiful summer day -- couldn't ask for better weather on the way down.

On the way back, however, those 318 turns in 11 miles were a little more harrowing -- we hadn't expected to take the route in pouring rain, without a driver's side windshield wiper (it blew off when the rain started) and with the top down. NO place to stop and put the top up on that route, but as soon as we could, we put it up, only to find those little leaks that every LBC has.

Once covered, we discovered how beautiful the Smoky Mountains can be, even in the rain.

Prizes? Yes! Jim took a third with his "MGC", Brian Goldsmith took a first with his "A" and Judy Cratty took a third with her photo. Hurray and congrats to all!

We Sold the Car - Twice *by Jane Goldsmith*

A large shady tree provided respite for MG enthusiasts admiring our dark cherry "A" with a for-sale sign at MG 2006. I watched an older gent pacing, ducking, bobbing and weaving around the car and sauntered over to get Powerade from the door, in order to give him the opportunity to rave about finding his desired color combination. Beside his MG PA/B, Mr. West Palm Beach (George) and Brian shook hands within five minutes. Meanwhile, I had scoped out another potential buyer- an urbane Virginia couple and invited the lady (Liz) to sit in the car. Liz was smitten. Brian returned, delivering the devastating news that it was sold; her hand shook as she wrote her name and hotel on a card.

The next day, a bright Saturday morning, Brian met in our hotel parking lot with George to talk about the car. George took one look and about hyperventilated. "This is not the color I want!" So at 10:00, Liz and Bill's entire car club gathered to inspect our car in their parking lot- NAMGAR's Mike Ash among them. They found everything and informed Brian the oil was half down. But what a relief dealing with NAMGAR members who love their MG's! Liz still wanted the car. Even before we had dissolved the agreement with George, the car was dubbed Marshall's Root Beer of Iowa. And they wanted to keep the Iowa plates temporarily to play a joke on a member at their Ool Party- no "p" in our pool. There's more to the story, but suffice it to say that Liz is thrilled with the sale and so are we.

Scribner Airport Run

by Joe Guinan

Fun day! 16 drivers and about 40-45 people overall. We even had two people fly in to watch and visit. EVERYONE seemed to pitch in and help, so the day went pretty smoothly.

Gerry Conant gave a new Porsche 911 and a VW Golf GTi a run for their money on a course where those cars should have had an advantage.

A couple of ladies ran quite well: Kat Anderson (niece of Joe Kueper and ex-student of mine) ran faster and faster in her Mini Cooper S and took 4th overall for the day, and Susanne Hinkley started cautiously but steadily got faster - ending up posting the 5th fastest time of the day in a V8 powered Sunbeam Tiger.

I would like to have the opportunity to include some "public" thanks to several people that were of major assistance to me.

- Russ Devoe donated the use of his traffic cones and the tables we used in the timing tent.
- Rich and Pam Brunke couldn't make it, but made sure I had plenty of traffic cones.
- Brian Goldsmith also couldn't attend but made sure that the tent was available.
- Gerry Conant was one of the first to arrive, and one of the last to leave and really had the most sensible input on how the course was designed.
- Joe Kueper was very helpful in making the end of the course safe for everyone involved and also brought several cars and other drivers along for the event.
- Deb Lampe loaded all the cones and tables into her car and delivered them to Fremont for me so I wouldn't have to make two runs to Fremont and back at the end of the day.
- Jim and Theresa Morgan worked wherever they could.
- Paul and Harlene Garnhart came up just to help out and watch, and Paul ran the starting line for several rounds.

Without the many helping hands, the event would not have been near as much fun.

I think I'm the overall winner, because I had the most fun! I did 9 timed runs and a bunch of practice runs. My Spit felt strong and sounded good. I really enjoyed giving a couple of young boys rides, and I think they had fun too.

Thanks everyone!



Photos from the Scribner Run. All photos credited to Greg Lemon.

Results on Club Web Site

The results by run, by person, by time and other categories are all up on the club website: www.flatwater.org.

Founders Day Autocross Set for Sunday, August 6

This will be the third year of the Founders Autocross, so by now you should have heard what fun and what craziness it can be. Racers are expected to volunteer for half the autocross time and race the rest of the time, so please call Jim Danielson at 402-464-3733 to volunteer.

Okoboji Trip Cancelled

It seems there were no takers for this year's Okoboji trip. Last year Nic Bonnstetter and Carol LeFebre got lucky with hotel rates of \$99. No such luck this year, and with the added cost of gas last year's caravanners decided to pass.

Thanks go to Matt Gelvin for persevering and maybe we can "get lucky" with this great trip another year.

FAHC Elections On Horizon

Club elections will be held in October. If you're interested in helping the club grow and have fun, please consider taking any of the club officer positions available, including the non-officer role of newsletter editor. If you're interested, please forward your name to any current officer.

KC All-British Event Set for Labor Day

It's the other main show of the year – the Kansas City All-British Show at the Kansas City Airport Marriott over the Labor Day weekend. Lots and lots of marques show up, there's a nice walk around the lake and the restaurant's pretty good.

We usually motor down Friday night or Saturday morning and motor back Sunday afternoon. Some folks just come down for the Saturday show, so lots of caravan options available.

This year FAHC is hosting a funkhana at the show and would appreciate the help of anyone attending the show on Saturday.

More caravan information will be in the August newsletter.

FAHC All-Brit Show Planning Meeting July 24

If you've got ideas or just want to help with the two-day All-British Car Show FAHC puts on each year, there'll be a planning meeting on Monday, July 31, 7 p.m. Danielson's house, as listed in this newsletter's calendar. Please show up with ideas and enthusiasm!

Got a story to tell? Send it to flatwatermailbag@yahoo.com

FREE Parts & Accessories Catalogs

Choose From These Catalogs:

- Austin Healey
- MGA
- MGB & MGC
- AH Sprite & MG Midget
- Sunbeam Alpine & Tiger
- TR2 TR3 TR4 TR4A TR250
- TR6
- TR7 & TR8
- Spitfire & GT6

Order Toll Free
7 Days A Week
1-800-255-0088



Order Catalogs & Parts Online at
www.VictoriaBritish.com

Address Change?

If you've changed your address, phone number and/or e-mail address, please let membership director Gary Lien know, so he can adjust the club records.

Lien can be reached at gslien@cox.net or at the number listed for him on the back of the newsletter.

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club

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

Plenty To Read Inside:

July 8 "car swap" run	pg 1
Letter from the Vice Prez	pg 3
Gatlinburg MG Show	pg 3
Scribner Results & Pics	pg 4

FAHC CLUB OFFICERS 2006

President: Jim Danielson

1310 Idylwild Drive

Lincoln, NE 68503

402-464-3733/jdanielson2003@yahoo.com

Vice President: Greg Lemon

3030 Williamsburg Drive

Lincoln, NE 68516

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

Secretary: Jane Goldsmith

23939 McPherson Avenue

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-566-2400/brianjaneg@cox.net

Treasurer: Don Petrick

Springfield, NE

402-453-2232/donpetrick@cox.net

AHCA National Delegate: Barbara Rixstine

1310 Idylwild Drive

Lincoln, NE 68503

402-464-3733/Rixstine@yahoo.com

Officer-At-Large: Joe Guinan

751 Day Drive

Fremont, NE

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

Officer-At-Large: Brian Goldsmith

23939 McPherson Avenue

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-566-2400/brianjaneg@cox.net

.....
Webmaster:

Ron Bonnstetter, 402-423-9138/ rjb@unl.edu

Membership Chair:

Gary Lien, 402-496-8827 / gslie@cox.net

Interim Newsletter Editor:

Barbara Rixstine, 402-464-3733

flatwatermailbag@yahoo.com

Volunteers Needed for Midwest Metro Show in July

FAHC members Tim Clark and Brad Swiggart are helping to organize this year's 2006 Regional Meet of Metropolitans and could use some volunteers. Here's what Brad says:

"Midwest Mets will be hosting the 2006 Lincoln Regional July 20 to 23 at the Country Inn and Suites, 5353 North 27th. All Flatwater members are invited to our car show on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We need help for our "Tour d' Lincoln" on Friday afternoon (July 21) beginning at 3:30 p.m. and concluding at Culver's on south 70th at about 5:15 p.m.

If you could help, please call Brad Swiggart at 402-430-6380 or e-mail him at brad_swiggart@yahoo.com.

Come join in the fun!

FAHC All-British Event Needs Volunteers

Our annual All-British car show is just three short months away.

This two-day event depends heavily on volunteers, so if you're interested in volunteering to do registration, help direct cars, provide assistance at event, round up sponsorships, want to know more about the event or have some ideas on the show itself, please talk to any club officer. Volunteers at all events are appreciated! Barbara

