



Flatwater News

March
2007

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

March 2007 Calendar:

March 5: Monday

Officers Meeting 7p.m.

At Goldsmiths East of Council Bluffs, Iowa I-80 to Hwy 6, East 7 miles to 290th Street, South to second house.

March 8: Thursday

Jackson's Pub, Gretna, Hwy 6/31 6:30 p.m. or so

March 10: Saturday

Breakfast at Mahoney State Park, 9 a.m. or so

March 30: Friday

Fish at Leshara The Long Branch Bar & Café 6:30 p.m. Early is better. (See page 3)

March 31: Saturday

80 MGB Limited Edition Auction David City

MEMBERSHIP 07

130 Active FAHC
29 Registered National
16 dropped their membership from 2006

MEMBERS ONLY

Every member has a reason they own a British car. Tell us your story.

Send in your pictures, stories and newsletter ideas to:

Editorjoe@msn.com

Or call
402/582-3132



Last years TSD Rally Line up

Photo by Greg Lemon

New and Improved Events for 2007

Look close and you will see some new events on the FAHC calendar along with many favorites that return for another year. Additionally, the planners are making some changes to make good events even better. This years scheduled was drafted by 14 members who met for a Sunday planning session. (See page 3) New this year is a monthly rotating perpetual party (RPP) introduced by Greg Lemon at the request of several members such as Howard and Kay Larson and others who volunteered to host social events at their homes and other interesting locations. The improved events include the Scribner Airport Run and Fish.

The ever popular airport speed run has been moved to Sunday 3 June from it's Father's Day position to make it available to more members. Additionally, the event will be enhanced to promote more participation. First time drivers will be assisted with ride-along orientations plus they can compete in special categories. The driving competition event coordinator, Joe Guinan, will provide details on this event in the near future.

Pam Brunke and Theresa Morgan are taking us on a fishing expedition. These two ladies will arrange for us to sample several new locations on the last Friday of each month until we find a good spot for "Fish". Watch the calendar closely for updates and changes. Your attendance and comments will make the decision.

The planners have tried to ensure that major club programs don't conflict with other key events such as graduation season, holidays and Nebraska Home football games. However, with so many opportunities to have fun with our cars, some conflicts will be unavoidable. Isn't it great to have so many choices? As always, the calendar remains open for more events. Members are encouraged to plan events they would like to run for the club. Several rotating party dates are open for members to hosts. (See page 3) Contact the President to schedule your event or be a host.

**TAX
DEDUCTABLE
1980 MGB LIMITED
EDITION**

This classic has been restored by FHAC members Steve and Julie Reiter for the Gold Rush fund raiser auction to be held at Aquinas High School in David City NE on Saturday March 31

The MGB sports a new black paint job with autumn leaf interior. All systems have been gone through so this should be a solid car. Call Steve for details. (402) 562-1275 or 538-4435

The event starts at 7 pm. with a dinner and many other items for both a silent and live auction. Admission is \$35. Call Deb Svec at 402-367-3175 for tickets.

Because the auction proceeds go to a nonprofit, any amount paid for the car over its modest estimated value may qualify for a charitable tax deduction. What a deal.

Editor Note: This sounds like a good excuse for a ROAD TRIP. I'm going. How about you?

Presidential Ponderings

By Greg Lemon

The FAHC Event planning meeting went well and we have a great slate of events planned once again for this year. One of the things we talked about is the insurance we get through our affiliation as a local chapter of the national club. While I feel this club is for our mutual enjoyment and I usually keep things pretty light, if you read one thing in the newsletter this month take a look at Terry Davis's article on club insurance. In order to avoid getting too cumbersome as far as insurance requirements we want to take somewhat of an informed consent approach to our club insurance, but if you are not informed it won't work, so please take a look at Terry's article on page 3.

After more winter than it seems to me we have had in a long time, the really nice weather we are having gives me the sudden urge to drive a convertible again. I am sure many of you have the same feeling and like many of you I will need to get my car into running shape before I can do that. The days of more dependable warm weather and club driving events will be on us soon, so get out there and get that LBC ready. And please remember the club message board on our website is a great way to use the collective knowledge of the club in finding parts and trouble shooting.

Lastly I would like to talk about Fish. When I joined the club it was THE monthly event, and we need to get it back up and running. A number of members have done little exploratory "mini-fishes" over the last couple of months. But now we are going to step it up and have the real deal fish at a few different trial locations. Keeping with tradition, Fish will be last Friday of the month and we will post the location in the newsletter (see page 3) and send out an e-mail. I urge you to treat the trial restaurant to the full complement of FAHC members so we can will pick the best spot after trying all the realistic possibilities. This should be a good chance to expand our horizons and have some fun for the benefit of the club all at the same time.

PITSTOP

Newsletter Editor, Joe Kueper

How do you cure those winter blues? Things are just all wrong. The newsletter is not coming together, the real job is a hassle, I have a cold and my garage projects are all off schedule. How do you spell relief? I'll give you a hint – ROAD TRIP!!!! That's right, leave it all behind and head to Chicago for the Eleventh Annual All British Swap Meet and Auto Jumble with a few trouble making friends. Al Nelson and I hooked up with Jim Danielson, Rich Brunke, Dennis Stone and Brian Goldsmith. We chased each other across Iowa on Saturday in one of the worst storms of the season. We had rain, sleet, ice, snow and a hundred off road cars and trucks that made us wonder how they end up that way. We even did a British car repair fixing Jim's Land Rover wipers.

We "helped" with the set up that night and got an early peak at the goodies. We returned for the real thing on Sunday. After several hours of hard-core shopping we loaded up and went to the VOLO Auto Museum. We saw a full range of cars (many for sale) from classic muscle cars and early vintage models to one-of-a kind originals like The General from the Dukes of Hazzard and the time traveling DeLorean from Back to the Future. Each evening we had "team meetings" to discuss and solve car problems. It was a weekend of guy stuff.

Now the blues are cured. The newsletter is done, I didn't get fired and the garage projects are –what ever. Things are good. Aaaaah Road Trip. It's good for what ails you.

Read and enjoy. I'm heading back to the garage.

FISH FRIDAY

The Long Branch Bar and Café in Leshara will be the first stop in our search for a Fish Friday location.

Pam Brunke and Theresa Morgan report that the Long Branch at 212 Main Street seems to be a fun place with a nice variety of good food. A keyboard player provides the entertainment and seems to be a favorite of the locals.

Call Pam 402-438-3330 or Theresa at 402-944-2526 with your head count so they can give the owners notice of a big turn out.

Leshara is about 8 miles south of Fremont. Lincoln drivers can take Hwy 77 through Wahoo and then go West on 64 South of Fremont. Omaha and Iowa drivers can follow Maple Street, which is Hwy 64, West through Elkhorn. Follow 64 as it turns left outside Valley and watch for signs to Leshara on the right.

If you know of a location that might make a good "Fish Friday" place call Pam or Theresa so we can try it.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

Sell your stuff here, make money and make your spouse happy.

***Call your ad into
Editor Joe***

WANTED

Copies of historical British car events, documentaries races etc. VCR or disc format
Call Editor Joe



Roadster Productions, Inc produced the award-winning video INSIDE THE OCTAGON, M.G.: 1921 – 1945 in 1995. This was to be part one of a two part definitive post-war MG video history but, part two was never completed due to funding shortages.

Now new plans are afoot to complete the project and details are posted at www.insidetheoctagon.net

INSIDE THE OCTAGON 2 has been accepted by the Southwest Alternate Media

Project (SWAMP) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. (www.swamp.org) Tax deductible contributions can be made to SWAMP to support the completion of the video. An estimated \$100,000 is required to complete the project.

People, who donate at least \$50 to the production, will receive the first edition of the DVD. A donor giving \$100 or more will also be listed in the end credits of the film. The DVD will also have a photo album featurette. Anyone who donates \$250 or more and provides a digital photo of themselves and their MG will be included in the photo album

For more information contact: Gary Watson gary@roadsterproductions.com

What the Heck is the FAHC RPP?

By Greg lemon

Last year we started what was known as the "Lincoln Event" on the third Friday of the month, where we either met at the ice cream parlor or at someone's home for a bit of socialization. Most everyone agreed that the events that took place at club member's houses were the best. There has also been talk of having a similar event somewhere other than Lincoln, perhaps the Omaha area. The FAHC RPP has come out of last year's experience as hopefully a new and better event.

The RPP of FAHC RPP stands for "Rotating Perpetual Party", rotating because it will move from house to house, perpetual because we won't consider it to be ending, we will just take a break and move it to the next location the next month. We will have these RPPs all over Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa, if we have enough interested hosts we may even have them in a couple of places at once (Lincoln/Omaha, Council Bluffs/Fremont, you get the idea). If fewer are interested in hosting we will rotate around the region, in any event there should be a few RPPs coming to a location near you this year.

If you are interested in hosting an event there are few rules. Its your party, you can supply as much or as little as you want, full dinner, a bag of Doritos and salsa, or pot luck, same with beverages, you can buy the beer, or serve hot tea, or let the members know it is bring your own. I would say we averaged about 20 members for this event last year. If you want to host let me know (glemon@neb.rr.com), and we will try to set up the calendar for the year, although we will give preference to those that simply ask first, we will also want to move the party around to different cities from month to month. Third Friday of every month, be there for the FAHC RPP.

FLATWATER AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB 2007 EVENTS CALENDAR

January

8 Officers Meeting
11 Jackson's Pub
13 Breakfast at Mahoney
27 Holiday Party

February

8 Jackson's Pub
10 Breakfast at Mahoney
11 Event planning/officers meeting
23 Fish

March

5 Officers Meeting
8 Jackson's Pub
10 Breakfast at Mahoney
30 Fish

April

2 Officers Meeting
12 Jackson's Pub
14 Breakfast at Mahoney
20 FAHC RPP
21* Elkhorn Museum
27 Fish

May

7 Officers Meeting
10 Jackson's Pub
12 Breakfast at Mahoney
19 Funkhana/Party
25 Fish

June

3 Scribner Airport Run
4 Officers Meeting
9 Heartland MG Regional Overland Park
14 Jackson's Pub
15 FAHC RPP
16 Breakfast at Mahoney
24-29 AH Conclave
29 Fish

**Tentative Dates, Subject to Change*

July

9 Officers Meeting
12 Jackson's Pub
14 Breakfast at Mahoney
20 FAHC RPP
27 Fish

August

6 Officers Meeting
9 Jackson's Pub
11 Breakfast at Mahoney
?? Autocross
17 FAHC RPP
31 Fish

September

1-2 KC All British
3 Officers Meeting
8 Breakfast at Mahoney
13 Jackson's Pub
21 FAHC RPP
28 Fish

October

1 Officers meeting
6 TSD Rally BBQ
7 FAHC All British Show Lincoln
11 Jacksons Pub
13 Breakfast at Mahoney
14* Loess Hills
19 FAHC RPP
26 Fish

November

5 Officers Meeting
8 Jackson's Pub
10 Breakfast at Mahoney
11* Garage Tour

December

3 Officers Meeting
7 Fish
8 Mahoney
13 Jackson's Pub

WANTED: Organizers to sponsor the following events. Here is your chance to run an event for your fellow members and have fun.

- Host a FAHC RPP (see page 3)
- Key Exchange: Experience driving different cars. Do this at Mahoney or with an RPP.
- Monster Garage Swap Meet (visit member garages swap stories & sell parts)
- Tour the Black Hills for fun and bragging rights. This year or next.

Liability Insurance for Club Events

By Terry Davis, AHCA Delegate

Several questions have arisen as a result of policies concerning liability insurance coverage for Flatwater club events. These policies have been adopted by the Austin-Healey Club of America, our national organization and the procurer of our club's liability insurance policy. In an attempt to demystify these issues I talked recently with Fred Dabney, AHCA Insurance Coordinator. The following is what I learned.

We are covered by liability insurance for club events, but to be considered a "club event" the activity must be "sanctioned" by Flatwater and it is **strongly recommended** that an AHCA national member be participating in the event. To be sanctioned, an activity merely needs to be approved by the Officers, listed on our yearly Events Calendar, and designated as a "sanctioned club event." Activities that are **not** sanctioned club events are **not** covered by the AHCA liability insurance policy, but a member's own insurance policy would of course provide coverage in case of an "incident."

There are two forms that have been adopted by the AHCA that are to be used to notify Mr. Dabney of certain types of club events under certain circumstances. The first is a "Certificate of Insurance Request." This form is to be used whenever a club event is held at a facility or on premises where the owner requests a copy of the Club's insurance certificate. The Request is to be sent or emailed to Mr. Dabney, preferably 60 days before the event, listing the date, type of event, location, and premises owner's name. The owner of the premises **will** be listed as an additional insured on the certificate and that will serve as proof of insurance to the owner.

The second form is called a "Notification of Club Event," listing essentially the same information. This form is to be used when there is a club event and the owner of the premises does **not** request proof of insurance. It is **not** required for routine meetings or events, such as Fish, Jackson's Pub, Breakfast at Mahoney, etc. Mr. Dabney and I discussed some specific examples of when this form might be required. He gave the example of someone holding an autocross driving instructional event. The instructor might not request a copy of the club's insurance certificate, but since it is something of a speed event, the Notification form should be sent to AHCA.

For actual competition events, such as autocross, funkhana, etc., either the Request or Notification form should be submitted, depending on whether or not the premises owner requests proof of insurance. These forms basically serve two functions. They provide the premises owner with proof of insurance and also give AHCA a "heads up" for any event that may possibly create a greater risk of a liability claim should an incident occur. We also need to have all participants and spectators sign a Release and Waiver of Liability form for any competition events.

I asked Mr. Dabney about other types of driving in conjunction with club activities, such as the "key exchange" after our Mahoney breakfast, where drivers exchange cars for a recreational drive. Such an activity would not require either form, but should have an AHCA member participating. He said that we basically need to use common sense and if the event involves an activity that is somewhat "out of the ordinary" or involves competition, we should submit a Notification or Request form.

I hope that this clarifies some of the questions that have been raised about our liability insurance coverage. If anyone has additional questions, please contact me and I will try to answer them or find someone who can.

GARAGE TALK

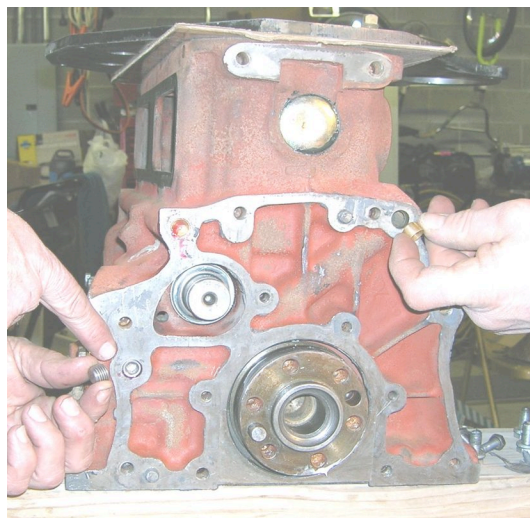
By Joe Kueper

This column dedicated to anyone who has a scant interest in how our British cars run and how to keep them that way so they can enjoy driving them. Your contributions of questions, answers or other information are required. Share your experience. Send it to the editor.

Al Nelson is in the process of rebuilding the engine from his 79 MGB LE and while the process is straight forward, a couple of things are worth special note.

Gasket Maker – This gooey stuff comes in tubes and is either used on gaskets or used instead of gaskets. I have watched guys put huge amounts of blue silicone on valve cover edges and watched it squeeze out the sides as they tightened them down. It also squeezed inside and some times fouled oil passages. A thin film is all you should need and too much is trouble. I bought two tubes of Permatex, one hardening and one non-hardening, a couple of years ago and figured I had all I needed. However, during the rebuild Bill McKay taught me something new.

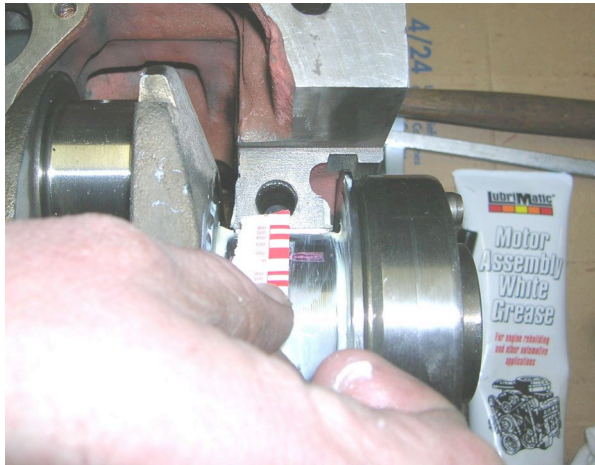
Gasket maker is either aerobic which means it dries using air or anaerobic which means it dries in the absence of air. Silicone products are aerobic. Products like thread-lock are anaerobic and work where close tolerances don't permit contact with air. The best to avoid contamination from blobs of gasket maker floating through your system is to use anaerobic products which dilute and are removed by filters or fluid changes. Anaerobic gasket maker is perfect for transmissions and other applications where internal contamination need to be prevented.



Casting Plugs – Most of us are familiar with casting plugs which are sometimes called freeze plugs are usually found on the side of an engine block. Typically they are about the size and thickness of a silver dollar and knocked out by the machinist when cleaning an engine to be rebuilt. MGB engines have more casting holes than a block of Swiss cheese and many of them are small brass plugs ranging from 1/2 to 1/4 inch in diameter and a 1/2 inch deep. A few are threaded steel plugs that screw in. Some machinist drill them out for cleaning and some don't. If you make sure you have all your plugs and use an anaerobic gasket sealer when installing them. Do it right and you might end up with a car that doesn't mark it's territory.

Balancing the Engine – When Al decided to have the machinist balance his engine here is what happened. The crankshaft was balanced by drilling or grinding metal off the counter weights until it doesn't roll in any position. Next the fly wheel is attached to the crank shaft and balanced by removing metal. Then the clutch is mounted and balanced by adding weight through welding. This was the size of a wad of chewing gum on Al's new clutch. Can you imagine the amount of vibration that eliminated? The parts are all marked so they can be taken apart and reassembled when installed in the engine. Finally the pistons with their connecting rods are weighed to find which one is lightest. Metal is then ground off the bottom of the connecting rods on the others until they all weigh the same. Balancing in this way eliminates engine vibration, increases horsepower and extends the operating life of the engine.

(continued page 7)



Plastic Gage – This cheap simple little product can measure tolerances when you don't have an expensive set of micrometers or don't have access with a feeler gage. This stuff looks like heavy fishing line and has the color and consistency of red licorice. It comes in various size ranges in a strip of paper printed with a scale for measuring. To use it just tear off a piece and lay it on the crankshaft journal. Install and torque down the bearing cap and then remove it. The red plastic line will have compressed and spread across the surface. Compare the scale on the paper to the squashed plastic to judge if the tolerance is acceptable. Scrape the plastic gage off with your finger nail and reassemble. Don't scratch the journal with a metal scraper.

Haynes Manual translations...

Haynes: Rotate anticlockwise.

Translation: Clamp with Vise Grips then beat repeatedly ...anticlockwise.

Haynes: This is a snug fit.

Translation: You will skin your knuckles! ...on both hands.

Haynes: Pry...

Translation: Hammer a screwdriver into...

Haynes: Compress...

Translation: Squeeze with all your might, jump up and down on, swear at, throw at the garage wall, then search in the dark corner of the garage for whilst muttering "bugger" repeatedly under your breath.

Haynes: Inspect...

Translation: Squint at really hard and pretend you know what you are looking at, then declare in a loud knowing voice to your wife "Yep, as I thought, it's going to need a new one"!

Haynes: Carefully...

Translation: You are about to cut yourself!

Haynes: Retaining nut...

Translation: Yes, that's it, that big spherical blob of rust.

Haynes: Get an assistant...

Translation: Prepare to humiliate yourself in front of someone that you know.

Haynes: Pry away plastic locating pegs...

Translation: Snap off...

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club

A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America

914 Hickory Hill Road

Papillion, NE 68046

FAHC CLUB OFFICERS 2006

President: Greg Lemon

3030 Williamsburg Drive

Lincoln, NE 68516

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

Vice President: (To be determined)

Secretary: Jane Goldsmith

23939 McPherson Avenue

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-566-2400/ gold@stratomain.com

Treasurer: Brent Kasl

6818 South 34th Street

Lincoln, NE 68516

402-423-4471

AHCA National Delegate: Terry Davis

16205 Capitol Avenue

Omaha, NE 68118

402-637-0101

Officer-At-Large: Brian Goldsmith

23939 McPherson Avenue

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-566-2400 / brianjaneg@cox.net

Officer-At-Large: Gary Pence

707 Forrest Avenue

Crete, NE 68333

402-826-5629

.....
Webmaster:

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

Membership Chair:

Gary Lien, 11523 Ruggles Circle

Omaha, NE 68164

402-496-8827 / gslien@tconl.com

Newsletter Editor:

Joe Kueper, 914 Hickory Hill Drive

Papillion, Nebraska 68046

402-592-3132 / editorjoe@msn.com

Newsletter Co-Editor:

Joe Guinan, 751 Day Drive

Fremont, NE 68025

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

NEXT MONTH

More 2007 British Car events information local and national.

Tag Along- members going to places and non -FAHC events and you can go with them.

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