

# Flatwater News

August 2008

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

#### August 2008 Calendar:

August 4 Monday Officer's Meeting 7 p.m. Kueper's in Papillion 914 Hickory Hill Rd.

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

August 14, Thursday Parker's Smoke House the new place Hwy 6/63 6:30 p.m. Pg. (5)

August 16-17 Sat-Sun Offutt Air Show and British car show 9-5 p.m.

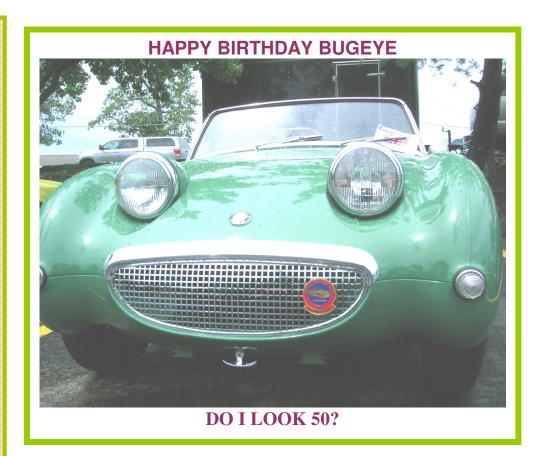
> August 17 Sun Autocross II Lincoln SW HS Pg. (2)

August 29, Friday Fish at Elsworth's Pub Mead NE 6:30 Pg. (3)

August 30-31, Sat-Sun KC All British Pg. (6)

> Dues due 1 September Pg 2

August News Deadline Tuesday 26th



August events Pg 2 & 3

**July Events Revisited Pg 5** 

FAHC ALL BRITISH WEEKEND Pg 6

**FAHC RACING CLASSIFICATIONS Pg 8-9** 

**VIEW FROM THE RIGHT SIDE Pg 10** 

#### **AUGUST EVENTS**

### OFFUTT AIR SHOW And British Car Display Aug 16-17 9-5 p.m.

Jerry Needham has organized a group of British car owners from HMRP and FAHC to put on a display at the air show of typical British cars brought home by military members after their tours in the 50's, 60's and 70's. The air show will culminate Air Force week and is expected to be one of the best that Offutt has produced in recent years. There will be many aircraft on static display, a variety of aerial demonstrations to include the Thunderbirds and much more. See the following web sites for parking locations with free shuttles and more details. <a href="http://www.offuttairshow.com/">http://www.offuttairshow.com/</a> for details on the show and

http://www.airforceweekintheheartland.com/ for information on Air Force Week.

# The Papillion Poker Rally Sunday 3 August

Bart Hamilton helped the Lions cub put this event together and invites FAHC members to join in the fun. It is a great way to enjoy a drive and raise money for a good charitable cause.

Registration starts at 1 PM and the first car is off at 1:30. The registration is \$10 (goes to charity) but 1<sup>st</sup> place wins is \$25, 2nd is \$15, and 3rd is \$10.

The run is a piece of cake to drive and less than 50 mile long. It starts from the American National Bank near Hiway 370 and 84th St. (across from McDonalds). Everybody has fun on this one.

# Autocross # 2 August 17, 2008 - Lincoln SW HS

Autocross II at Southwest High School 14<sup>th</sup> and Pine Lake Road in Lincoln. This is one of the official FAHC driving events for which participation points are earned. Show up to help setup at 9 am. Sign up and car inspections start at 11 a.m. We'll run when we are ready. Don't forget your helmet, sun screen and beverages (no alcohol) and snacks. Most folks run against their own time but if you are 'uber' competitive we are setting up classes. (See page 8-9 for a related article) This is a great event for everyone. If your car isn't running yet because you are in the perpetual restoration mode come anyway and bum a right seat ride along. Or, just be a spectator, laugh at the cone killers and get motivated. For questions contact Joe Guinan 402-727-8011, joeg@neb.rr.com

# **DUE\$\$\$\$\$ ARE DUE 1 SEPT \$15.00**

Mail dues to: Gary Lien, 11523 Ruggles Circle, Omaha, NE 68164 Include the following information:

- 1. Name, 2. Spouse name, 3. Mailing address, 4. Phone numbers,
- 5. Email address, 6. Car(s) make, model, year and condition (running, under restoration, still looking for???)

The club year goes from 1 October through 30 September. Get your dues and information in before the end of the month so we can include you on the club roster and you can be eligible to vote.

### **SIOUXLAND CRUISE August 22 – 24**

Howard & Kay Larson

Just a reminder there are only a few days left to make plans for the A discounted price of \$82 (plus taxes) has been arranged at The Marina Inn in South Sioux City. Make reservations by calling 402-494-4000 or 800-798-7980. Mention that you are with the Flatwater Austin Healey Club to qualify for the discounted rate. THEN drop me an email to let me know you are planning to attend. I need a count so I can complete the planning. I would like to have a final count by 8/15/08 ..... but if you decide to attend at the last minute that's okay too ... just let me know.

We have ordered sunny but cool weather for the weekend with no rain so we can have a nice drive. The Siouxland British Car Club is a new group trying to get started and will be holding a short Show 'n Shine in Vermillion that we will take part in while having lunch. Gary Munk (newer FAHC member) is organizing this event and looks forward to lots of LBC's in the lot next to his business for a couple of hours.

A couple have asked if it's okay to arrive later Friday night ... sure! Friday night we will gather at the Marina Inn and, like last year, take a short walk for a meal of fish, pizza and other choices and a nearby pub. Saturday we will again gather at The Marina Inn to start our drive to Ponca State Park. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the scenery before heading to Vermillion, SD on "The Cowboy Trail". In Vermillion we will park our cars for the Show 'n Shine, have lunch at a choice of several different restaurants (Gary Munk's restaurant is open until 2:00 for short order lunch's) and Gary is arranging for transportation for anyone wanting to visit a local winery or the national music museum. Following the Show 'n Shine we will head back to South Sioux before heading to historic 4th street in Sioux City for dinner. Sunday is open but Craig Hillinger at The Healey Werks has offered a tour of his NEW facility. He always has some interesting projects in process and cars in various stages of restoration from "piles of stuff" to "brand new" classics. Spread the word and call me. 402-494-2353 or beahusker@aol.com

# FISH FRIDAY AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup>

By Pam Brunke

Elworth's Pub II Downtown Mead, NE is our August destination. Mead is located on State Highway 92 between Yahoo on the West and Yutan on the East. Lincoln drivers can follow 77 North through Yahoo, and then East on 92. about 6 miles. Omaha drivers head West on Center street, Hiway 38 and 92 (they are all the same). Mead is about 6 miles West of Yutan. RSVP's are appreciated so we can give them an idea of how many will be there not later than 26 August.

Jim / Theresa Morgan jm93552@alltel.net

Dennis / Jane Stone janes\_54@msn.com 402 397-2385 Rich / Pam Brunke p\_brunke@yahoo.com 402 438-3330

# KC ALL BRITISH CAR & CYCLE SHOW August 30-31

This event has been a FAHC favorite for many years. If you are a new member or have never attended the event, this should be your year. Registration is Saturday along with a self guided 125 mile driving tour of area. Lotus is the featured marque and trophies are given out Sunday for 29 classes to include the ever popular diamond in the rough.

Enter your car for \$25 and no charge for vendors. Got something to sell? Check the web site: kcallbritish.com for more details. The KCI Airport Marriott is the host hotel with a special \$74 rate for reservations made by 10 August. 800-810-2771

#### PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

By Greg Lemon

"The Club Within the Club"

We've got enough club sponsored activities going on this summer to have my head spinning around like that girl in "the Exorcist", and the extent and variety of activities that we have going is one of the great benefits of being a member of the FAHC, most all of these are chronicled elsewhere in this issue, but today I would like to talk about some of the informal benefits of being a member, what I have begun to call the "club within the club". It is actually clubs plural within the club, but that just doesn't seem to flow as well.

In my neck of the woods there is a group of club members that informally swap tools, lend a hand pulling motors, lend advice, etc. on a regular basis. It is a great benefit in that it helps "garage hermits" like myself be more social, and also gives me access to knowledge and tools I don't myself possess. I am also aware of similar



goings on in Papillion and East of Council Bluffs, I am sure there are others. The club within in club certainly doesn't have to be limited by geographic area, but sometimes it tends to start with the invitation of an open garage with a greasy guy and an LBC inside, or a post to message board, or a conversation at Mahoney breakfast or fish.

As that paragon of Midwestern virtue, Larry the Cable Guy would say, it to helps "get 'er done" and you might even have a little fun and make some new friends in the process.

#### **PICTURES WANTED**

Kay Kasl is collecting events pictures all year long for the Christmas party slide show. Send your event pictures in throughout the year to: Kaykasl@gmail.com

# PITSTOP by Joe Kueper



My July trip through southern Missouri and northern Arkansas with Phil and Tracy Brauer was teriffic. The roads wind through woods, dip into vallys and climb ridges that offer long views. You can cruise easily along or power through the curves and make your own autocross. Our destination was Eureka Springs which is nesteled in a deep valley surrounded by steep wooded hills. Shady streets display beautiful victorian homes many of which are bed and breakfast lodgings. Linda gives the shopping a five star rating for diversity and selection due to the heavy influence of a resident artist colony. This area

is definately a desitination for many return visits. We highly recommend it as British car and driver friendly.

**SIX PACK:** August is a great month for driving and we have six nice events from which to choose. I for one expect to do them all.



Elections are coming up and you should consider running for an office. I want to be involved in organizing activites and membership development so that means giving up my editor job. If you think you are interested in working with me and doing the news letter, let me know what your favorite beverage is and we'll sit down and talk. I like to write so I can guarantee an article or two each month.



#### JULY EVENTS REVISITED

# The British Invasion of Eagle NE and Freemont days By Bill Redinger

The rain clouds parted and exposed a beautiful day for the annual "Eagle Days" festival and Fremont days. FAHC members attended both events. Their cars were a hit in the Eagle parade and trophy winners at Fremont.

North Division of Flatwaters car show group took home 2nd and 3rd place at the Fremont Days Car Show, John Ulrich's TR6 took second and Bob Shaw's Trusty MGA pulled a strong third place, beating out a perfectly restored Saab Sonnet. The Boy's and their tin headed to Thietje's for fun, food and a diner party, before heading home.

South Division of Flatwater at Eagle Days car show had a strong 10 car showing for the show and ride swapping along with Marty's newly acquired Berkeley, so cute you could just carry it home!



And the winners are .....

Photo: Bill Redinger



#### ON THE GREEN AT EAGLE PARK

Photo: Bill Redinger

Fish South of the Boarder Style was held on the veranda at Maria's Mexican Restaurant in Cedar Creek. The weather was great, and margaritas flowed freely encouraging conversation among the full tables. Management promised but did not deliver good service. Some enterprising members slipped across the street to eat barbeque and then returned to enjoy socializing with the more patient members. A good time was had by all but, Maria's has not earned a FAHC return engagement. On the other hand, the ribs across the street were ummm good!



Photo: Jim Morgan

#### **JACKSON'S OUT AND PARKER'S IN**

Parker's Smoke House just west of Ashland is the new meeting place for the second Thursday of the month meeting. Seems like the regular crowd got tired of the menu and venue of Jackson's Pub and decided to move down the road. Parkers is located at the intersection of Hiway 6 and 63. The Barbque is good.

### **UP AND COMING IN SEPTEMBER**

# **FAHC All British Weekend September 20-21**

by Greg Lemon

This is it, the really big show, the club event of the year, the one you owe it to yourself to be there for. Warm sun and cool air, a chance to see more British cars in one place than you will ever see in Nebraska. The fall show is the event that the FAHC started with and still our premier event of the year. Somewhere along the line it morphed from the all British Show to the All British Weekend, as we now have a full two days of events in store for you. This year the fall show will feature the Sprite, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, so bring us your Spridgets!

Some of the exact details are yet to be worked out, but for now mark your calendars and we will let you know as soon as we know.

#### **Saturday Afternoon Road Rally:**

We need a leader and plan, but what's new. If you liked the TSD rally last year rest assured we will have a similar driving event this year, with lots of fun and good natured competition. Anybody want to volunteer to lead this one?

#### **Saturday Evening FAHC BBQ**

Saturday after the driving event we will have a cookout at the Brunke's shop at 20<sup>th</sup> and Yolande, just South of 20<sup>th</sup> and Cornhusker Highway. We will have meat, tableware, condiments and beverages provided. You bring yourselves, side dishes, and beverages other than soft drinks if you want them. All members welcome and encouraged to attend.

#### **Sunday Early AM Drive**

Jim Danielson has agreed to organize an early AM drive before the show, a non-competitive tour in the cool of the morning, sounds like great fun.

#### The Show

The Show—bring yourself, your car if it is running, your car and a trailer if it is not. We are as always shooting for a record number of cars and attendees, bring us your Sprites and Midgets, we will have a special area for them to park. This year we will also have a "ride along" after noon or so to promote the hobby, you will be asked to participate at registration (purely optional) and if you do somewhere after lunch hour you can take other members and guests for some short jaunts in an LBC, we want to especially encourage the younger set to participate in this to keep the interest going in the next generation.

Please remember this is a very grass roots friendly show, all cars welcome, no "but mine's not a show car" or "mine isn't quite ready". I for one and many others like to see any and all British cars up close and personal whenever I can, regardless or pedigree or condition.

The show particulars:

Date: Sunday, October 7

Time: 10:00 AM to 3 P.M.

Location: LPS Administration Building 5901 O St., Lincoln

We will have a porta-potty and door prizes. We are across the street from dining and shopping at Gateway, and will have at least two ez-up shelters from the sun. Prizes for the usual stuff, peoples choice, biggest oil leak, diamond in the rough, farthest drive to get to the show.

# DeDe's First Autocross (Fun at any age)

By Bob Shaw

It is a pitiable soul who passes his addictions on to his grandchildren. I must confess, I am just such a soul. As some of you may remember I took my oldest grandson, Rowan, auto-crossing. It was about 4 years ago, in August, and Flatwater was running an event. I asked if Rowan could ride along, and the organizers said yes, we strapped Rowan's child seat into the MGA and commenced to set my fastest time of the day. As we were about to set off, I had a friend take a photo of Rowan and I both strapped into the car smiling large at the camera, and getting ready to "Tear it up!"

This is an age of equal opportunity and Kennedy, or DeDe for short, told me she was ready to go racin'. Sunday, June 8 was the first autocross staged by Flatwater, so we had



planned to run. Sadly, with the work schedule being what it was I was unable to finish assembling the MGA. Fortunately John Ulrich was willing to let us run the Bugeye Sprite, so DeDe's first race was on.

I had made my practice run and was in line to go when DeDe and her parents pulled up. My "Little Redhead" was more than ready to go. She had dressed in her brown leather jacket, and had on her little leather boots-she looked ready to go for a ride on the motorcycle-and leaving all semblance of cool aside she ran up to the car yelling "Is it time to go Grandpa?"

And so it was that DeDe, strapped into a borrowed car (thanks again John) wearing a borrowed helmet (thanks again Steve) strapped in, grabbed onto the assist bar and the door and braced herself for her first run in a solo race.

When we reached the end of the run, she looked up and said "Gee Grandpa, that was fun! When do we go again?" After my three runs, Martha was ready to take her turn, and DeDe was more than ready to ride along again. She is a bright little girl (I know, all Grandpas say that) and had taken care to note the line we had run. The first time through she coached Martha on the line she and I had taken. As they were about to begin the second run, she smiled at her Grandma and said, "O.K. Grandma, we know the fast way. Its time to beat Grandpa's butt!" The little Benedict Arnold.

DeDe has told me she can hardly wait until she is old enough to go solo racing on her own. She has begun encouraging her dad and I to get to work on the '63 MGB so she will have a car to drive when she is 16. In the mean time, solo racing has become a part of her life. She is ready to ride with her grandparents each chance she gets!

# **Racing Classifications and Car Modification Point System**

Terry Davis has led the effort to establish classes for our driving events that will provide a level the playing field of competition and promote participation. A lot of thought and discussion has gone into the classification in order to promote fair and spirited competition. The following is **Revision 3 – 7-21-08** which the Officers will consider for adoption at their next meeting 4 August. If you have any concerns or comments pass them to the officers before the meeting.

#### **Racing Classes:**

- Class 1: All Sprites, Midgets, Spitfires, original Minis, and MG-T series
- Class 2: All MGAs, MGBs, TR-2s, TR-3s, TR-4s, GT6s, and Sunbeam Alpines
- Class 3: All Big Healeys, Jensen-Healeys, MGCs, TR-6s, TR-250s, and TR-7s
- Class 4: All Jaguar XK-Es, Sunbeam Tigers, TR-8s, and forced-induction 4 cylinder cars
- Class 5: Open Class "Big Bore," Super Modified, and Competition cars

Examples: Cars with non-original type engines, forced-induction 6 and 8 cylinder cars, and race cars, e.g., Marty Klein's Frite, John Ulrich's MGB-GT, Terry Davis' Sprite race car, and cars with 13-17 points as calculated below.

- Class 6: Newer British (1982-present) New Minis, Lotus Elises, etc.
- Class 7: Non-British

#### **Car Modification Point System:**

For Classes 1 thru 4 there will be two Divisions – Stock and Modified. Points will be calculated according to the following system and cars will be placed in either the Stock or Modified Division within their Class.

#### Modification category:

#### Wheels/Tires/Brakes:

Wheels/tires wider than stock

Non-stock brakes (includes disc brake conversion, larger rotors/drums, and drilled/slotted rotors)

Each modification. Add 1 point

Race tires (includes DOT street legal competition tires)

Add 3 points.

#### Suspension:

Addition of or non-stock front anti-sway bar

Non-stock springs/lowering

Non-stock bushings

Addition of or non-stock rear anti-sway/tramp bar

Each modification Add 1 point

Limited slip differential Add 2 points.

#### (Racing Classification Continued from Pg.8)

#### Engine:

Aftermarket exhaust header/system

Non-stock cam

Non-stock valves/cylinder head (includes porting and polishing)

Modifications increasing engine compression ratio (e.g., milling head and racing/flat top pistons)

Add 1 point for each modification.

Non-stock carbs/fuel injection

Add 2 points

#### **Modification Divisions:**

Stock: 0-6 points

Modified: 7-12 points

Cars with 13-17 points are considered Super Modified and move up to Class 5.

#### Other:

In the interest of fairness and increasing competition, additional points may be added to a car's total at the discretion of the Competition Director or Event Coordinator for other modifications that significantly improve handling or enhance performance that are not listed above.

Also in the interest of fairness and increasing competition, if there are only 1 or 2 cars in a Class or Division at an event the Competition Director or Event Coordinator may, at his or her discretion, combine Classes or Divisions for that event.

#### Protests/Appeals:

If a driver wishes to protest his or her placement within a Class or Division at an event, he or she may appeal such placement to 3 other drivers at the event who are assigned to different Classes/Divisions from the protesting driver. The appeal will be decided by a majority of the other 3 drivers and their decision shall be final.

#### **Competition Driving Award points:**

Competition Driving Award points will be awarded for each Class and Division except Class 7 (Non-British). Points will be awarded as follows according to finishing order within each Class and Division:

 $1^{st} - 5$  points

 $2^{\text{nd}} - 4$  points

 $3^{rd} - 3$  points

 $4^{th} - 2$  points

 $5^{th} - 1$  point

# **The Passenger Seat**

#### By: Tracy Brauer

The Passenger Seat is a column written by, and for, the spouses and significant others of LBC enthusiasts discussing the love/hate relationship (with the car, not the owner).

Have you ever seen Multnomah Falls in the Columbia River Valley of Oregon? How about Smith Falls at Niobrara State Park? Would you believe the inside of our 1971 MGB, "Eddie" after a night of rain and taking a right or left turn? Depending on the turn, either the driver (Phil) or the passenger (Tracy) received a cold, waterfall-like soaking from under the dash and onto the legs. This was the first full day of our "B&K (Phil/Tracy Brauer and Joe/Linda Kueper) Road Trip" to the Spridget Show in Osage Beach, MO and beyond. Getting an early start after work, we spent the night in Maryville, MO, where the cars got soaked that evening



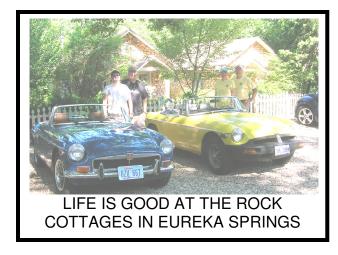
(and, subsequently, soaked us the following day). It's what we LBC Passengers like to call "an adventure".

OK, perhaps I started out on this trip a bit pessimistic(\*) about driving Eddie all the way to the Ozarks and back. It's just that... Eddie has issues. Truthfully, however, Eddie did great except for his "incontinence" problem. His virtues outweighed his issues.

The night we left for our trip was luminescent. We were dodging storms that produced spikes of lightening across the horizon as well as fireflies storming the tall grass in the ditches. This was just a taste of how enchanting this trip would be.

Phil and Joe helped with the Funkhana at the Spridget Show while Linda and I shopped antique stores and drank magical iced teas. After the show we spent a couple of days in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. This place is nirvana for LBC drivers; the town is built on the side of a mountain with lots of switchbacks and curves. Eureka is also mecca for us passengers with its wide variety of shops, restaurants, and music shows amid non-stop historic Victorian houses.

The way out of Eureka was a carnival ride of twisty turns, steep grades, and a few obstacles to keep our drivers alert (an occasional deer). We Passengers were like exhilarated kids raising our arms up to catch the wind on the rollercoaster. Gradually, the snaking roads transitioned into bright green



cornfields under a cloudless blue sky. I napped as we drove into town, my hat pulled down to escape the sun. It became really hot for the first time on our trip, and I thought how good that cold rainwater would feel on my feet now.

(\*)LBC Pessimist: Someone that, after a heavy rain, sees the car as "half-empty" instead of "half-full".



Ken Trinkle puts a Bugeye in the box at the Funkana FAHC ran for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ozark event as spectators get a birds eye view from the ridge.

# MILES PER GALLON By Joe Kueper

Car And Driver recently listed the following cars as the top ten most fuel efficient. I think it is ironic that the only American vehicle on the list, the Ford Escape gets their City to Hiway gas milage backwards. My 28 year old 1980 MGB gets 27 City and 31 Hiway. You can get a nice MG for \$5-6,000. It begs two questions. (1) Why have we not seen a more significant increase in gas efficiency in the last 28 years? (2) Why don't more of you guys use your Brit cars as daily drivers? When you analyze the owning cost of buying plus fueling at \$4.00 a gallon over 50,000 miles you find the Toyota Prius cost \$.52 a mile and the MG cost \$.26 a mile. So which is the most efficient to operate and which is the most fun to drive?

MODEL		CITY	HWY	COST
1. 08 Toyota Prius		48	45	22,160
2. 08 Honda Civic Hybrid		45	42	23,270
3.08	Smart For Two	41	36	12,235
4.08	Nissan Altima Hybrid	35	33	26,140
5.08	Toyota Camery Hybrid	33	34	25,860
6.09	VW Jetta TDI	30	41	22,640
7.09	Ford Escape	34	30	29,000
8.08	Toyota Yaris	29	36	12,210
9.08	Mini Cooper/Clubman	28	37	18,700
10.08	Honda Fit	28	34	14.620

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