

Flatwater News

April
2012

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

Events for April 2012

No officer's meeting this month,
we will meet briefly at the car
show.

Apr 12, Thursday, 6:30 pm
Pub Night
Sean O'Casey's Pub
10730 Q Street
Omaha, NE

Apr 18, Wednesday, 12 pm,
Lincoln Lunch
The Steakhouse
3441 Adams St
Lincoln, NE

Apr 21, Saturday, 9:00 am
Breakfast
D&K Gretna Cafe
104 E Glenmore St
Gretna, NE

Apr 22, Sunday
Driving Skills Event
Scribner Airport
9:00 am Setup
11:00 am Event Begins
(See article on page 3)

Apr 27, Friday, 6:30 pm
Fish
Cedar Creek Inn
Cedar Creek, NE

Apr 29, Sunday
Spring Car Show
Shadow Lake Mall, Papillion
9:00 am registration
10:00-3:00 show
(See article on page 3)



Future Team Flatwater Member!

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REMINDER!

Please submit your mileage as of October 1, 2011 for the 2012 Driving Award! Only 4 members have signed up so far. You can't win if you don't play.

Send an email or call Joe Kueper

Joesbcgarage@msn.com

402-592-3132

From your editor...

Chrissy Conant

Wow! Updating the events calendar and 90 degree weather makes me feel like spring is officially here! The Scribner Airport Run and the Spring Car Show are this month so driving season is underway. Details for both events are further back in the newsletter.

A new feature in this month's newsletter is the *Area Events* column on the last page. You will find information about non-club car events in the area. Please send details of any events you know of in which other club members might be interested.

Get the car out and enjoy the weather! A good opportunity would be an event Greg Lemon is organizing for all classic cars in Lincoln, see the flyer on page 6.

I hope to see you at one of the upcoming events.

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club

A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America

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Flatwater Austin Healey Club

1st Annual Spring Car Show

Sunday April 29
Shadow Lake Mall
72nd Street and Highway 370
Papillion, NE

Registration begins at 9:00 am
Show hours 10:00 am to 3:00 pm



A participation placard will be awarded to each car entered.

Scribner Airport Run

Drive fast & have fun!

Sunday April 22
Setup 9:00 am
Racing starts at 11:00 am



The airport is located at 1574 County Rd J, 3 miles SE of Scribner.

Some miscellaneous topics this month:

First, Heartland Vintage Racing (HVR) will be a co-sponsor of the May Daze race at Heartland Park Topeka on May 4-6. The other co-sponsor is the Kaw Valley Race Group of the SCCA from Kansas City. As I write this not all of the details of the event have been announced, but plans are to combine both SCCA racing and vintage racing into one weekend. There will be race groups for the SCCA cars and two vintage groups, one for open wheel cars and one for production cars. Friday will be a practice day and there will be racing on both Saturday and Sunday.

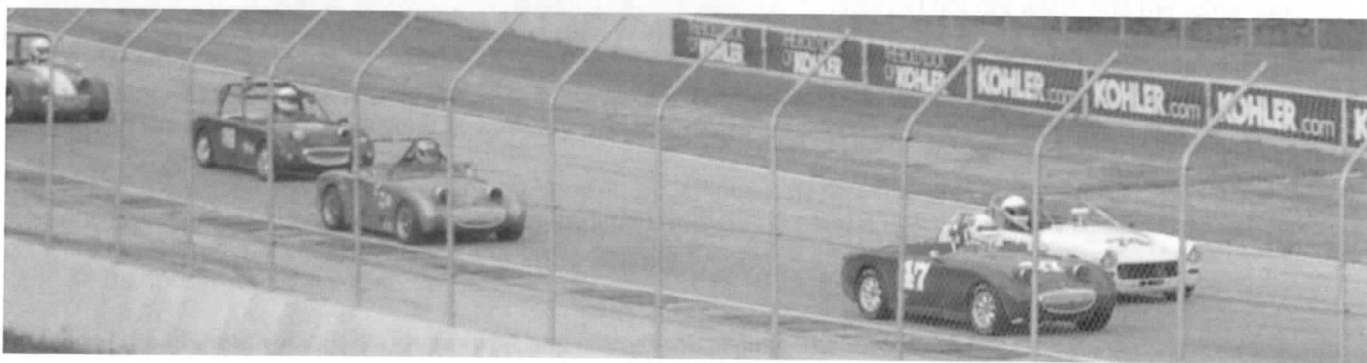
In addition to the weekend's racing there will be a driver's school on Friday. Details on the school are still a bit sketchy, but it appears that this will primarily be an SCCA driving school. If there are some drivers of vintage sports cars who want to get some instruction in performance driving, there will be a special group for them. A Snell approved SA2005 helmet is required and, I believe, a roll bar for an open car. I'll send out more details as they become available.

Next, speaking of sports cars and race cars, have you ever wondered where the next Colin Chapman, Donald Healey, or Kas Kastner will come from? Maybe from something called Formula SAE. The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) has developed a program called Formula SAE, where teams of college engineering students literally from around the world design, build, and then race a car according to rules specified in the formula. The basic concept is that a fictional manufacturing company has contracted a student design team to develop a small Formula-style race car. The prototype car is evaluated for its potential as a production race car for non-professional weekend autocrossers and racers. Problem-solving and on-track safety are two of the goals of the program.

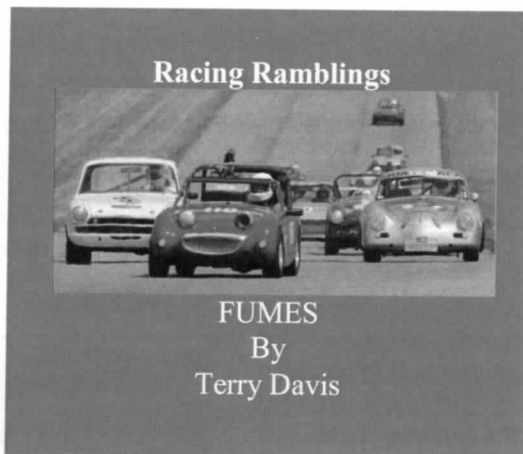
The rules include using a 4-stroke engine with a maximum displacement of 610 cc. Most teams use 4-cylinder 600 cc sport bike motors. Horsepower is usually about 100 h.p., with cars weighing about 500 pounds. Maximum speeds during racing are about 60 miles per hour on the autocross course.

So what does all of this have to do with us Flatwater members? The Formula SAE Collegiate Challenge is coming to Lincoln Air Park June 20-23! Not only will you be able to see the cars and watch the racing, judges and other volunteers are needed for the student competition. Help is needed for tech inspections, judging of student presentations on design, cost, and sales, and working the actual driving competition. The driving events consist of acceleration and brake testing, skid pad, a regular autocross, and a 22 lap endurance autocross.

In addition to U.S. college teams, there will be teams from Canada, Mexico, Japan, Brazil, and India participating at the Lincoln event. To learn more about Formula SAE you can watch a short video on YouTube, just search for "Jayhawk Motorsports" and check out the "Assembly & Competition" video. If you would like to volunteer (and I checked, no engineering or technical experience is needed), send me an email at tadavis50@gmail.com and I'll forward the volunteer form to you. You can also go to www.sae.org, then search for "Lincoln volunteer registration" and click on "SAE International – Volunteer information" to find out more about the event and what volunteers are needed. Who knows, you may get to meet the next Chapman, Healey, or Kastner.



Lastly, have you set any personal driving skill goals for this season? By that I mean ways to improve your driving skills at speed or in a competition event? Come to one of our autocrosses or track days to learn and practice your car-control skills in a safe and controlled environment. I've set a few specific goals for the racing season: **Brake and turn in later when approaching a corner.** No (or at least less) engine braking and coasting. **Better rev matching on double-clutch downshifts.** Hold a higher gear through some of the faster corners to **better maintain momentum.** That's something I love about racing, there are always things you can learn and ways you can improve your driving skills. See you in the paddock!



Smoke Signals

By Joe Kueper

A little smoke out the tail pipe is usually not a sign of a big problem. Black smoke and soot buildup in the tail pipe is a sure sign that your engine is burning rich. A puff of blue when you shift probably means your valve guides are wearing out, letting a little oil slide down the stem and burn as it gets sucked into the top of the cylinder. A steady stream of blue is a sign of more serious wear to your piston rings and bearings, so plan for a rebuild. Then there is the grey smoke that you see on startup which comes from the moisture made from condensation in your exhaust system. This smoke stops when the moisture is burned off as your car warms up.

So there I was cashing a check at the bank drive through. The just as a huge plume of white smoke belched out of the tail enveloping the little blue Sunbeam. With concern in her voice the intercom, "Is everything all right?" "Apparently not" was quickly drove three blocks home and parked it in the driveway. dry day when I thought I'd treat myself by driving British to the 1966 Sunbeam, nick named Blue SUU, for my carefree filled adventure caused me to ponder the possibilities. What

After three weeks I finally got a warm day on the driveway things out on old Blue SUU. I had mentally checked out a over and over in my mind. Maybe an oil ring got stuck and broke from rust that built up from three years of outside storage. I might be lucky and have a stuck PVC valve that is allowing oil to be sucked into the manifold. But now it was time to run methodical checks and then diagnose from facts not guesses.



teller looked out at me pipe and drifted forward the teller asked through all I could reply and I It was a very cold but work. I had selected ride. Now my smoke could be wrong?

and was able to check hundred possibilities



I first pulled the plugs and all looked great except #4 which was black and wet. Aha! This is the scene of the crime but what happened? Next I did a compression check and all cylinders read 150 +/- 3 lbs. I oiled them and there was about a 5lb increase on a retest which should be a good sign that the compression and oil rings are in good shape. A big increase would mean that the pistons and rings were wearing out.

I remembered that when I drove the car home the engine ran smooth and made no noise. It just smoked so I decided it was ok to start it up. When I started it up and observed that the top hose did not get warm and the temp gage only read in the 60-70 ranged. However, the bottom hose was hot and the water pump began to

squeak. To my surprise there was no smoke until the engine got hot and then I got a lot of smoke. The smoke was grey but on the day it started smoking it was very cold so I guess it looked more white than grey.

I turned off the engine and I pulled out the thermostat. Apparently it worked fine until some chunks of crystalline substance (probably old coolant interacting with oxidation from the aluminum head) clogged it causing the heat and pressure to build up and cause the coolant to break through the gasket on number 4 cylinder causing the smoke. So this lousy \$4 thermostat was the culprit.

I replaced the housing without the thermostat and started the engine. The motor ran fine and did not smoke because there was no pressure on the system. I took off the radiator cap and observed bubbles in the coolant when I raised the RPMs. I also noticed trace amounts of oil. I suspect the compression from operating is pushing past the gasket at the weak spot into the coolant system causing the bubbles. Conversely when the pressure in the cooling system built up because the thermostat did not open then the coolant was forced past the gasket into the cylinder.

I think I can cure the smoke for under \$50 with a \$30 head gasket and some miscellaneous parts as soon as I have another nice warm day on the drive way.



Coffee Cruise Lincoln

58th & Pine Lake Rd. Lincoln
(Scooters Coffee Parking Lot)

2nd and 4th Saturday of the Month

First Event April 28th 8:00-10:00 AM

This is an informal gathering of car enthusiasts and their cars. All cars of interest welcome. Muscle Cars, Classics, Sports Cars, Hot Rods, Exotics, Sports Sedans, American, British, German, Italian, Japanese, Swedish, even French (Mon Dieu!). Just a time to relax on Saturday morning, swap stories and gawk at cool cars.

2012 Dates: April 28, May 12, 26, June 9, 23, July 14, 28, Aug 11, 25,
Sept 8, 22, Oct 13



The Rules: This is an informal Gathering Not officially sanctioned by any Club or Individual. Be Polite And Responsible, respect the neighborhood and OBEY ALL TRAFFIC and NOISE ordinances.

.CLASSIFIED ADS

Many British Cars Needing Good Homes

Club member Ken Trinkle purchased a '61 Bugeye Sprite last October. In his quest to find a Sprite or Midget with a 1275 cc engine for a parts car to upgrade the Bugeye he ran a want ad in the OWH Car Classics section the weekends of March 3 and 10th. Ken was not expecting much of a response, if any, so was quite surprised with the results and thought some of our members might be interested in what turned up.

1959 Nash Metropolitan engine and transmission in Honey Creek, IA, Danny Petters, 712-545-3322. He does want to clear out his garage and may be priced accordingly. He got the engine as a result of working years ago at the old Rosen Novak dealership. When the dealership went out of business it was given to him by one of the owners or managers at the dealership.

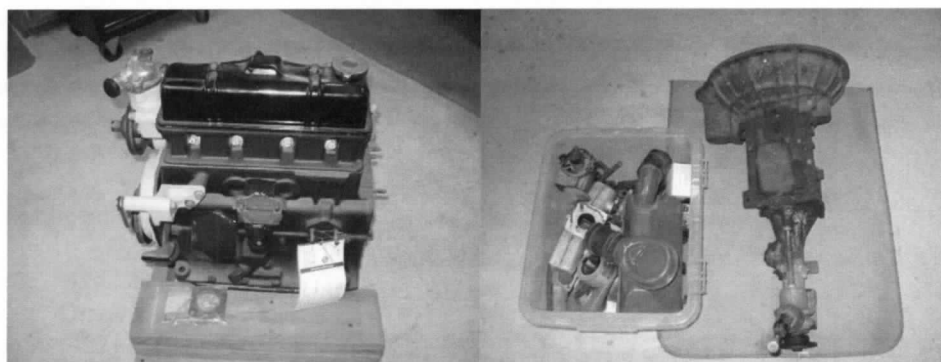
Bugeye with 1275 engine and set up for racing at some point in its life. Gary Gooding, 402-475-8429 in Lincoln. Car in rough shape and wanted more than Ken wanted to pay. \$3000

'64 Sprite in Freemont. Spencer Wedberg, 402-721-3488. Ken did not look at this one.

'66 Midget for sale by Jim Smith, 724-832-0420. He wants \$1800 and the car is based in Pittsburg, PA. He also has a '69 Volvo SL with about 65000-80000 miles on it, also in Pittsburg. He is an engineer working on a project in Council Bluffs for a period of time.

'68 Ssprite based in Irvington, NE along with about 52 World War II vehicles of all kinds in his front and back yard. In Ken's opinion, he doesn't really want to sell the Sprite as much as he likes to talk about the other vehicles. Ken said, "The car was just what I was looking for but he didn't like my offer and I wasn't about to give him an offer he couldn't refuse." He's maybe just a car hoarder but anyway a nice guy and interesting to talk with. If someone wants his name and number either call Ken or email ktrinkle2@cox.net, 402-733-3185.

Rebuilt 1500 Triumph motor, with tranny and other engine parts for sale. Price for all \$750.00 Call Jerry at 402-991-2723 or 402-670-4476 to get all information about engine specs.



Cars Wanted

Jaguar, XK-XKE, MGT series, MGA Triumph TR-2 3-4-250, Mercedes 190,220,230,250,280SL, Porsche 356,911,914, Austin Healey, Riley, Alfa-Romeo, Singer, Mustang 1964-1967 Model T, A Also other interesting European and American made cars. Steve's British Connection 630-553-9023 email sbcinc@aol.com Actively buying cars for over 17 years, any condition, fast payment and pick-up. Generous finder's fees.

REGALIA

Pam Brunke has a nice selection of the official Flatwater Austin Healey Club hats available for members to purchase. Cost is \$15.00 each. For more information, or to request your favorite color, call Pam at (402) 438-3330, or by email at P_brunke@yahoo.com



Pam will bring your hat(s) to you at the next club event. Limited quantities remain, not all colors available.

Also available in limited quantities are blue polo shirts with the club logo in sizes M, L, XL, for \$30 and XXL for \$32.



Many of our members have requested the Flatwater logo be made available to be applied to their garments of choice. We have made arrangements with Art F/X in both their Lincoln and Omaha locations to embroider the Flatwater logo onto your articles for a fee of \$8.00.

Their locations and phone numbers are:

7400 Cross Lake Lane	4142 South 144 th St
Lincoln, NE 68516	Omaha, NE 68137
(402) 421-2611	(402) 330-4488

ARTICLES PLEASE

The newsletter is an excellent way to share information with the club. Send me details of your event, current project, or other club related activities. Send pictures

if you have them. Thank you very much for your participation!

cigi@cox.net

FRONT PAGE PHOTOS

Please send photos of yourself with your LBC. I would like to feature a different member and their car for the front page of each issue. cigi@cox.net

CLASSIFIED ADS

Find a home for that car, car part, or other car related merchandise. Classified ads are available at no charge to club members for club related items. Send your description and photos to your newsletter editor. cigi@cox.net

AREA EVENTS (NEW this month)

Lincoln Northeast Car Show. May 5, 2012, Lincoln Northeast High School, 2635 North 63rd Street, Lincoln

Lincoln Southeast Car Show, May 19, 2012, Lincoln Southeast High School, 2930 South 37th Street, Lincoln

Formula SAE competition, June 20-23 Lincoln Airpark, 3401 W Luke, Lincoln