

Flatwater News

January
2012

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

Events for Jan 2012:

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

14 Jan, Saturday, Breakfast, 9:00 am, D&K Gretna Café, 104 E Glenmore Street, Gretna, NE

21 Jan, Holiday Banquet, Lo Sole Mio Banquet Facility, 3020 South 32 Ave, Omaha, NE, Cocktails 6:00 pm, Dinner 7:00 pm (see article on page 4)

NO FISH THIS MONTH, next fish will be 24 February (article on page 4)



This Month's Features

President's End-of-Year Message	Page 3
Holiday Banquet	Page 4
Heartland MG Regional	Page 5
Fumes (Racing Column)	Page 6
Your New Officers	Page 8
Membership Dues	Page 10

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So, What Do I Do Now?

By Chrissy Conant

Come up with a better name for this column...

Thank John for his time as editor and his willingness to share his experience and wisdom as I am starting out.

Learn how to really use this editing software. I'm usually pretty good at new software but it does take a little while. Bear with me gang, it's a learning process.

Choose my word for the year. I read an article this past week by author Debbie Macomber in which she shares how she chooses a word of the year. Choose a word that, inspires, motivates, requires you to be a better person and apply it to the coming year. Don't be afraid of difficult words, they may be the ones that you learn from the most. What is your word Flatwater? I would love to hear and share your experiences with this challenge throughout 2012.

Happy New Year

Chrissy

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club

A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America

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PRESIDENT'S YEAR END MESSAGE

Well, how does a year go so fast? Seems like just a few days ago we were dodging bad weather for our annual banquet which was held here in Lincoln in January.

Speaking of banquets, preliminary arrangements are full speed ahead for our Annual Holiday get together which will be at one of Omaha's finest Italian restaurants, Lo Sole Mio, to be held Saturday evening, January 21, 2012. We certainly hope we can have a great get together with our Flatwater friends. Hope you plan to join Gail and me for this annual event.

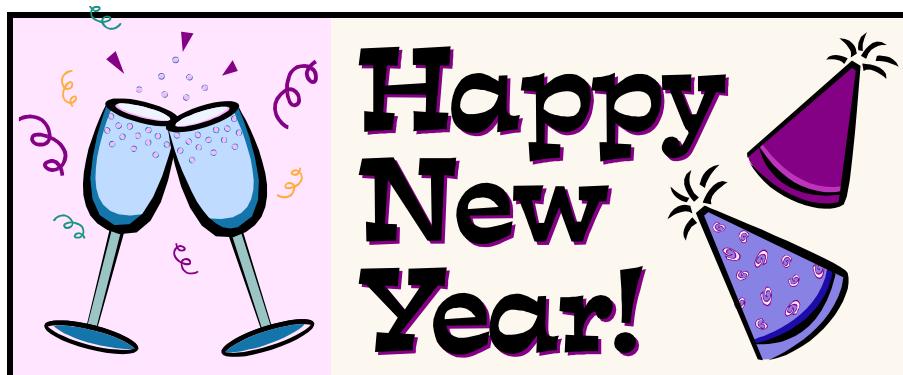
As 2011 comes to a close we have some changes in store for next year. We are pleased to announce that Chrissy Conant has agreed to be our Newsletter Editor. Chrissy has some exciting ideas which will include some changes for next year. Please join me in assisting her in any way we can as this is a monumental undertaking for anyone willing to do it. We are happy to have Chrissy and Gerry both involved in our club activities. With that we certainly want to thank our current editor, John Rued, for his efforts in this position for the last couple of years. Believe me; if you have never done something like this you can't imagine the trials and tribulations that accompany the responsibility.

We are also happy to announce that we have changed our Saturday morning breakfast location to D&K Gretna Café, 104 E Glenmore Street. Many of us did a trial run at D&K, located at the north end of Gretna, for November and the decision was unanimous to continue to meet there. Service was prompt, the food was good, and we will have our own meeting room starting in December. The third Wednesday event in Lincoln will be a permanent luncheon at the Steak House at 34th & Cornhusker. Be sure to mark your calendars to give both of these events a trial run along with our Omaha pub night and Friday night fish events. We can be proud that our club is one of the few in the nation with well attended monthly events.

One more quick thing in closing. We also have intentions of having a spring car show in the Omaha area as well continuing our fall show in Lincoln. This is also exciting.

Please remember as we do at the Swiggart household to reach out to others less fortunate than us. Giving back can be so satisfying in so many ways, not only for the needy recipient but for the donor. Between our Holiday party and our Fall car show Flatwater members donated nearly 200 pounds of food items, which was beneficial to both Lincoln and Omaha food pantries.

Best wishes to each of you and your families for a wonderful holiday season.



FLATWATER HOLIDAY PARTY

By Jane Stone

Flatwater's annual holiday party is planned for January 21, 2012. The party will be held in Omaha this year at the Lo Sole Mio Banquet Facility at 3020 South 32 Ave. Please note this address is a correction of the address on the web site. The restaurant is located across the street from the banquet rooms. They have asked us to use the banquet facility parking lot and not that of the restaurant. Doors will open at 6:00pm for cocktails from our cash bar. The meal is to be served at 7:00pm.

We will be dining on a buffet of Chicken Piccata, Baked Lasagna and Fettuccini Alfredo. The meal will also include a starter of their wonderful homemade bread, roasted garlic cloves, olive oil, and bruschetta. Tossed green salad, Italian green beans, dessert, iced tea, and coffee are included. Your cost will only be \$24.00 a person for a meal at one of Omaha's premier restaurants.

Reservations are required and should be directed to Jane Stone at 402-397-2385 or janes54@msn.com the space appearing between the s and 54 is meant to contain an underscore. It disappears in the software's underlining of the email address.

A special motel rate has been arranged at the Baymont Inn and Suites located at 3301 South 72 Street for our more distant members. Their rate will be \$69.00 plus Omaha's motel tax at .1816. This takes your rate to \$81.53 for the room which will be furnished with a king sized bed. This rate will be held in place only until January 7th. Call the motel directly at 402-391-8129 and mention Flatwater Austin. This will give our more distant members a chance for a whole weekend away to either shop or tour Omaha's museums or theaters.

We will also be accepting non-perishable food donations for the Food Bank of the Heartland in Omaha. Our local food banks are in desperate need of food donations for the more unfortunate, so please do try to remember to bring a food item.

Flatwater's 2011 officers are looking forward to seeing each and every one of our members at this event. Mark your calendars and plan to join us. Send either an email or a phone call to Jane to reserve your place.

February Fish

Bart Hamilton

February 24th we will have FISH at the Nebraska Brewing Co in Shadow Lake Mall. The mall is at the corner of Highway 370 and 72nd St in Papillion. We will have the whole upstairs section to ourselves. We have it from 6 pm until 830 or so. Right next door is a great wine place, Morning, Noon and Night (they also have great coffee and tea) and down the street is Stams with some killer chocolates and gelato!! There will be something for everybody. Shadow Lake offers great parking and is easy to get to even if it snows plus good food. This location will be a little bit farther for the Lincoln crowd but a lot shorter for the Iowa crowd.

HEARTLAND MG REGIONAL

We just received this from Joe Blackwood with Heartland Regional.

June 1st and 2nd, 2012 - Independence, Missouri. 23rd Annual Heartland MG Regional car show and swap

We have returned to the Historic Square in Independence, Missouri for a Saturday of MG excitement.

17 different classes for MG owners with a participant favorite best of show as well as a judged best of show. Additional classes for owners of any other type of British car with expanded classes for Triumph and Austin Healey owners.

Friday night cookout at the host hotel,
Quality Inn & Suites at 4200 Noland Road, in Independence.

Show starts at 9 am Saturday with trophies, t-shirts, posters, silent auction, & swap vendors.

For more information, please go to our web site,
www.heartlandmgregional.com or contact Joe Blackwood [816-520-2433](tel:816-520-2433).



Bob Shaw's MGA at Heartland Regional

2012 Resolutions



FUMES By Terry Davis

Another year in the books – 2011 is history. Time to start thinking about 2012. So, what will it be? Lose that extra 10 pounds you’ve been wanting to drop? Be a better husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter (choose one or more)? Go to church, the gym, the golf course, _____ (insert answer here) more often? Nahhh! I’m talking about serious stuff – car and driving resolutions – LBC-related activities. Here are some thoughts:

Finish that restoration, repair, or refurbishing project. If you’ve got a Sprite, Spitfire, MGB, or some other car that’s been sitting in the garage waiting to be made roadworthy, it won’t finish itself. Make this the year that you “git-r-done.” I know a few club members who have British cars (so they say), but haven’t had them on the road in years, if ever. Get that car done and start enjoying it!

Drive your car(s) more. Set a mileage goal. Try to drive each of your British cars at least 500 miles this year (well, maybe not a Sprite). If you have only one car, take it on a long trip – 1000 miles or more. Or drive your LBC to work (or somewhere) at least once a week. It will be good for the car and good for your soul.

Attend a club driving event. Our 2011 loess hills run / fall foliage tour was a great success with more cars than ever. Our driving / touring events are a great way to enjoy your LBC in a relaxed way with like-minded friends – old and new.

Come to a competition driving event. Our autocrosses are more fun than you can imagine. Driving a British sports car the way it was meant to be driven is a thrill no car guy (or gal) should miss. If you don’t want to drive, just come and watch or work the course. You will end up wanting to drive even if you didn’t think you would.

Come to a club track day. If you’ve done the autocrosses and airport run, take your driving to the next level – driving your car on a real race track under controlled conditions that let you learn advanced car control techniques in a safe environment with expert instruction. It will make you a better driver both on and off the street.

Attend a vintage race. You’ve always said you wanted to go to Elkhart Lake, make this the year you do it. We had more than 20 Flatwater members and associates make the annual trek to Elkhart in 2011 and a great time was had by all. This was my first time there as a racer and what an experience! The Friday evening race car parade into town, with a couple of thousand waving and cheering fans lining the route, was worth the trip by

itself. If you can't make it to Elkhart, attend one of the other vintage racing weekends that are within a day's drive of Lincoln or Omaha – there's a schedule below.

So what are my personal car-related resolutions? Consistent with the above, driving each of my LBCs at least 500 miles a year. Now that I've thinned the herd a little, that should be easier, although I'm still having some doubts about the white street Sprite – the car is great, but not really a highway cruiser!

I'd love to do another long-distance trip in the Big Healey. Something like my 4000 mile round trip to Maine and back a few years ago. The MGB-GT obviously would also make a great long-distance cruiser. Finding the time is the biggest obstacle.

Attend more vintage races and drive on some new tracks. A couple of years ago I wrote about my goal of driving on at least one new racetrack each year. In my 12 years of track driving I've done Topeka, MAM, Hastings, Second Creek, La Junta, Pueblo, High Plains, and Hallett (counterclockwise). In 2011 I added Hallett clockwise and Road America, for a total of 10. I'm still a couple behind, but catching up. In 2012 I plan to drive the newly redone Pueblo and hope to make it to Eagles Canyon and Blackhawk. Time, money, and race car durability will be the deciding factors.

So what is the 2012 vintage racing schedule for the Midwest? Mark your calendars and plan to attend – you **WILL** have a great time!

April 21-22 – Rocky Mountain Vintage Racing (RMVR) annual Competition Drivers' School and Precision Driving School, Pike's Peak International Raceway, Fountain, CO (No regular racing that weekend.)

April 20-22 – Corinthian Vintage Auto Racing (CVAR) 5th Annual Mike Stephens Classic, Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett, OK

May 4-6 – Heartland Vintage Racing (HVR) May Daze vintage race and drivers' school, Heartland Park, Topeka, KS

May 12-13 – RMVR Spring Race, High Plains Raceway, Byers, CO

May 18-20 – CVAR 21st Annual Marvelous May Races, Eagles Canyon Raceway, Slidell, TX

June 2-3 – RMVR Trans-Am Invitational, Pueblo Motorsports Park, Pueblo, CO

June 15-17 – Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association (VSCDA) Blackhawk Vintage Classic XX, Blackhawk Farms, South Beloit, IL

July 12-15 – The Hawk (formerly the Kohler International Challenge) with Brian Redman – the **BIG** one and not to be missed – Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI

July 21-22 – RMVR Race Against Kids' Cancer, High Plains Raceway, Byers, CO

September 1-2 – RMVR Labor Day Extravaganza, Pueblo Motorsports Park, Pueblo, CO (Rats! No Hastings race this year.)

September 7-9 – VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival XVII, Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI

September 29-30 – RMVR Enduro, High Plains Raceway, Byers, CO

October 12-14 – CVAR Thunder on the Cimarron XI, Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett, OK

So whatever your interest and level of participation get out and drive that British car. There are great roads and great adventures waiting for you. Oh, and about those “other” types of resolutions – such as the one about those extra 10 pounds – I’m going to try to remember what Colin Chapman said: “Adding power makes you faster on the straights. Subtracting weight makes you faster everywhere.” See you in the paddock!



GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW OFFICERS

TONY KOESTER – VICE PRESIDENT



Many in the Flatwater Austin Healey Club may not know me, but I have been a member for the last few years participating mostly in our driving events. Born and raised in Lincoln, I have always been a car enthusiast who loves *all* cars. I like muscle cars, but the only V8 I have ever owned is my F250 Diesel! I have always had a thing for small cars,

my Dad bought a new VW Beetle in 1963 and my “car seat” was the storage cubby behind the back seat. When taking the 2-hour road trip to visit my Grandparents in Falls City, I would ride silently, lulled to sleep by valve tappet noise. My first car was a 1965 Chevrolet Impala 4 door hardtop with a 230 6 cylinder. This was a perfect car for a young driver who would likely get in trouble with anything that had handling or power. After high school I purchased a Datsun 620 pickup from a family friend who said the clutch was bad. I wasn't too keen on foreign cars at the time, but the price was right and I brought it home, adjusted the clutch and it was good to go. I wrecked that truck and used the engine in my 1972 Datsun 510 project. Over the years I have owned 15 of them. I currently have a 1969 that I race in SCCA Rallycross and another I will call “under construction”.

Some of my friends who also had Datsuns were into British cars as well. It was then I learned that the Japanese were very good at copying and improving the designs of others. For example the J series Datsun engines were pretty much identical to the A-series BMC motors used in MGAs and Magnettes. The Japanese also used Hitachi carburetors modeled from the famed SU design. One of my buddies had a Morris Minor with the Datsun B210 drivetrain in it. It was peppy and fun, but the brakes were quite scary.

Now comes the question, “Does Tony own a British car?” The answer is yes. I ended up buying a 1953 Morris Oxford in the late 80's. For those not familiar with this car, I would describe it as a large Morris Minor. It used a 1500cc L-head 4 cylinder to produce a meager 40hp. The same body was also used for the Wolsley 4-60 and 6-80. There were not many of these cars sold in the US and this example has been in the Lincoln area pretty much its whole life. I have this car stored away until I feel I have the time to commit. You have heard that one before, haven't you?

Some of you know me from my work as the Automotive Technology instructor at Lincoln Northeast High School. I took a leave of absence from that position last May, which has proved to be a bittersweet experience. I really believe good things were happening, but schools have become externally controlled to a greater degree and not as focused on the real needs of students. We had a solid project-based program of real work for the students to make real world connections. We had regular volunteers participate in our lab activities and projects and clubs supported the program and participated in our Rocket Car Show. I didn't realize what a toll this was taking on my personal life, so I had to make that difficult decision. In doing so I feel I let a lot of people down.

I currently work for Estate Dispersal Services, a company that performs estate clear outs, selling the proceeds on a consignment basis at our store in Fremont. The store is open the second weekend of each month. We also operate Senior Moving Services, a company that helps seniors in realistic planning for moving and downsizing.

I have been involved in many car clubs over the years and they are an important part of the car hobby as a learning tool, a source of parts, ideas and kindred passion. Not often though, have I been part of the leadership of a club. Most recently I served as President of the Nebraskaland Model T and Antique Car Club. Oh, did I mention I was into Model T Fords too? I own a 1925 Huckster, a wooden bodied canopy truck. At last count I think I belong to 11 car clubs, local national and international.

My car hobby could not be complete without the immense understanding and support of my wife, Michelle who has been trying to figure out this car thing for some 30 years. All the nights and weekends I spend working in my shop, going to car shows, swap meets and races. I got her to autocross at one of the SCCA events and when she was done with the event, she said, “I did it, don't ask me to do it again.” I was pleased she tried it and really hustled the car around the course. Michelle works in Omaha as director of training for Right at Home, a company that franchises home health care agencies throughout the world.

When asked if I had any interest in this position with the Flatwater club, I was a bit hesitant; wanting to be sure I would be able to commit the time to the job, become more involved in more aspects of the club and not just driving events. I have been participating in SCCA events since 2000 and I must say I have never had more fun autocrossing than with the Flatwater club-ever! I am impressed with our club's diversity of people and activity; there is something for everyone.

Thanks for inviting me.

Your new VP,
Tony Koester

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW OFFICERS

MIKE TIESI - SECRETARY

I wanted to go west for pharmacy school when I was young and being from New York State, I guess Omaha and Creighton University will do for being west. I have been here ever since. I have a wonderful wife named Jeremy (her parents thought the name Jeremy would be cute for a girl) that supports my MG addiction. I have two daughters Sara and Paige, married or out of the house and my youngest is going to have a baby girl in February. My wife has a son named Andy, who is a master mechanic and helps me out when I get myself into trouble working on my cars. He has a son Nick who is 12 and helps me work on the cars, and is an excellent help when it comes to bleeding the brakes and clutch.

The MG bug bit me when I was 19 and at that time had a 1971 blue Midget and it was not until 2008 when I was talking with my wife and was dropping hints I would like to get another MG and she said to go for it. I bought a 1976 MGB that kept me busy restoring for several years and then needed another so purchased a 1972 MG B, currently getting paint and will be back soon to start the reassembly process. I then decided we need a GT in the family and recently bought a 1967 MG GT racing green, but only had room for two cars and recently sold the 76 B.

Best part of being in the FAHC, first meeting all the great folks and then the bonus is being able to see all of the incredible British cars.

Membership Dues

A friendly reminder from your membership committee: If you have not yet done so, please pay your yearly membership dues as soon as possible.

Thank you very much, Pam Brunke & Jane Stone

Club Hats - \$15.00 each

Pam Brunke has available a nice selection of the official Flatwater Austin Healey Club hats 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.



FLATWATER EMBROIDERY

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 for a fee of \$8.00 the Flatwater logo on your articles.

Their locations and phone numbers are:

7400 Cross lake Lane
Lincoln, NE 68516
(402) 421-2611

4142 South 144th Street
Omaha, NE 68137
(402) 330-4488

HOW TO BE A CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

By John Rued

I'm leaving John's note in here to encourage anyone interested to contribute.

You "doers"! Be sharers. Write me an article. Throw in some good pics for balance.

Don't worry about organization or format; just send me content. I'll take care of the rest.

Chrissy 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.