

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

Events for January 2013

1/9/13 Wednesday, 6:30
Officer's Meeting
Honey Creek Restaurant
Waverly, NE

1/10/13 Thursday, 6:30 pm
Pub Night
Sean O'Casey's Pub
10730 Q St
Omaha, NE

1/17/13, Wednesday, 12 pm,
Lincoln Lunch
The Steakhouse
3441 Adams St
Lincoln, NE

1/19/13 Saturday, 9:00 am
Breakfast
D&K Restaurant
20596 Hwy 370
Gretna, NE

1/20/13 Sunday, 12:30 pm
FAHC Holiday Party
See information on page 3

No FISH this month due to the
Holiday Party.



Howard & Kay Larson's award-winning 1959 MGA

This Month's Features

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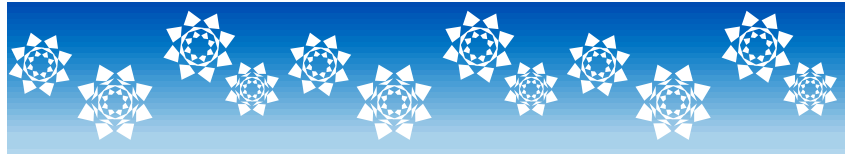
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From The Editor... Chrissy Conant



Happy *News* Year to everyone!

Do any of you have car-related resolutions? Mine is that Gerry continues to NOT work on the car and keep working on my house! We are rennovating a family home built in 1900 so it is an on-going project. Please share your resolutions or other stories about your cars throughout the year. Also send in pictures for the front page. Thank you Larsens for this month's pictures. There is more information about Howard & Kay's car on the last page. This newsletter is more interesting when it contains your personal tales about British car life.

Welcome to our new officers for 2013! I look forward to working with you. Please read more about them on page 5.

The Holiday Party is quickly approaching. Cost is \$25.00 per person to be collected at the door. Please remember to RSVP by January 13 to me at
cigi@cox.net
Text or call 712-322-5821.

Flatwater Austin-Healey Club

A chapter of the Austin-Healey Club of America

C/o Newsletter Editor:

Chrissy Conant
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Council Bluffs, IA 51503
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WEB SITE: www.flatwater.org



The Flatwater Austin Healey Club officers
Invite you to join us for the

FAHC

Annual Holiday Banquet

Sunday January 20, 2013

At the

Hillcrest Country Club

8800 O Street

Lincoln, NE

Doors open at 12:30

Dinner served at 1:30

The buffet dinner will feature your choice of prime rib or chicken cordon bleu.

Cost is \$25.00 per person.

Please RSVP

By January 13, 2013

To

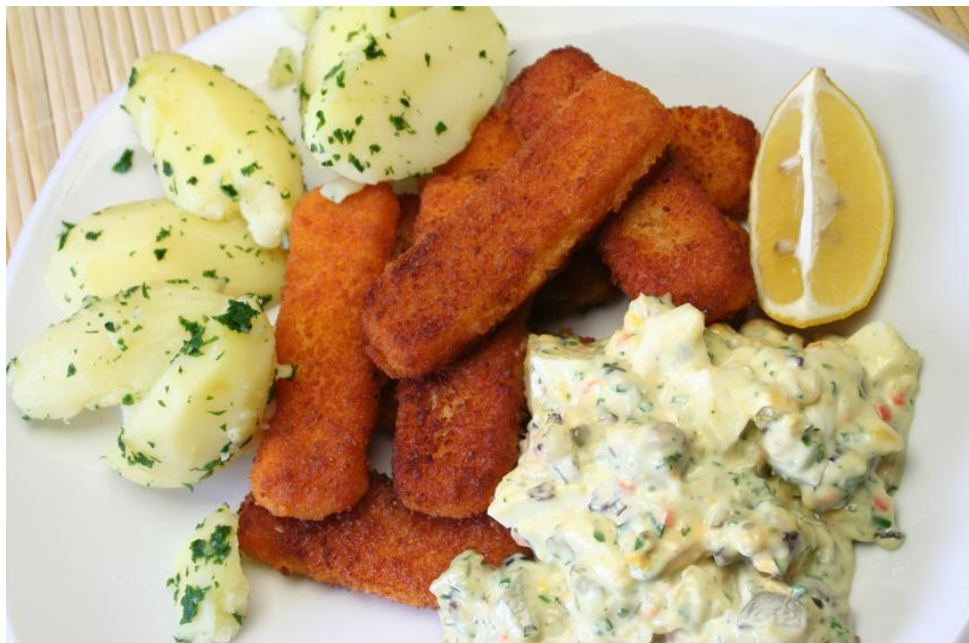
Chrissy Conant

Email cigi@cox.net

Telephone or text 712-322-5821

2013 Fish Schedule

Nebraska Brewing Co, Papillion	22-Feb
Brewsky's, 27th and Cornhusker, Lincoln	29-Mar
Bull Dog's in Murdock	26-Apr
Don's, Memphis	31-May
Cedar Creek Inn,	28-Jun
Long Branch, Le Shara,	26-Jul
Ponderosa Saloon in Weston	30-Aug
Mahoney	27-Sep
One Eyed Dog Saloon, Eagle,	25-Oct
La Mesa, Bellevue	6-Dec



Your FAHC officers for 2013

By Pam Brunke

In December Flatwater members voted in officers for the year. When you have the opportunity congratulate them on their election and thank them for their willingness to service. We look forward to another great year of Flatwater events. Here is a little information on the new officers.

President: Michael Gregg



I was born and grew up near Belfast, in Northern Ireland. I was a student at the Queen's University in Belfast. I was the University Motor Club Competition Secretary. We organized and competed in rallies, autotests, sprints and hill climbs. The cars of choice being whatever we could build, (I built 3) borrow, or buy, mostly Morris Minors, Sprites, Minis, VW Beetles, Ford Anglias and Cortinas. MG B's and TR's were too big and expensive.

In 1965 I met Freda and we got married in 1966. Our car was a very light GT I had built for racing. I worked for an engineering company in Belfast and then got a job with Goodyear working on power transmission belts, Overhead Cam drives in particular.

We have four daughters all born in Belfast. In 1983 Goodyear closed the plant in N. Ireland and we were moved to Akron, Ohio, the company headquarters. Our eldest daughter was 16 and our youngest 5. In 1986 I was offered a transfer to Lincoln and came to Nebraska.

I am now semi-retired working half-time on an R&D Project for Goodyear Engineered Products(Veyance). I have a 1966 MGB and a 1960 Bugeye in the course of reconstruction. Freda and I enjoy Flatwater events in particular "Fish", autocrosses and touring events.

As President of the Club, I would like to encourage social interaction throughout the club so everybody gets to know everybody. I would also like to see us pool skills and technical resources to help members repair or restore their cars.

VicePresident: Tony Koester

I am Tony Koester, Vice President of your club. I was born and raised in Lincoln, now living in Gretna with my wife Michelle and our 3 cats. I have been a car enthusiast as long as I can remember. I got involved with the Flatwater club through its driving events, which are the best! I have been involved with the SCCA in Solo and Rallycross for nearly 15 years and their events have nothing on what this club puts together. This could be the passion our club members have for driving and getting the most out of their cars. I always appreciate our members' willingness to share their cars at these events.

I have a 1925 Ford Model T, 1969 Datsun 510 which I Rallycross, 1953 Morris Oxford (future project) and beginning a build of a TR6 which will be powered by a Ford SHO V6. Eventually I will be driving a proper British car. I look forward to working with your club again. I appreciate the variety of activities that exist to appeal to our diverse interests in all things automobile.

Secretary: **Mike Tiesi**



Mike with his first MG.

I was bitten by the British car bug back in 1975 when I saw, and had to buy, a 1971 blue MG midget. I must have been quite persuasive to receive my parents approval, being only 17 at the time. So I purchased the car for \$1,300 and had a great deal of fun with the car for several years. I had to let it go because the cost of insurance for a 17/18 year old was near eight dollars per year and I could not afford to keep the car. It was not until the fall of 2007 when talking with my wife and commenting it would be fun to have a MG again and she said, "Why don't you?" That was all it took and I was in the hunt for a MG B. Since then I have owned three B's a 1976 that I restored and sold, because only two would fit in the garage. The others are a 1972 MG B and a 1967 MG B GT.

I have been a member of FAHC since 2009 and my wife and I really enjoy the club activities and sharing stories with the other members of our club.

Treasurer: **Ann Trinkle**



Ann is a retired school administrator and a full time house frau, grandma, and car club supporter. That means she listens to explanations about engines that she does not understand, pumps brakes in cars on blocks, holds upholstery in place while it dries, loves to take road trips, and loves talking with other women at club events and car shows. She disavows any knowledge about cars, but is good with numbers and is a willing club treasurer. She thanks her husband, Ken, for the nomination for this position. She also thanks him for lots of good times in the garage and helping them meet some wonderful friends through the Flatwater club.

Member-at-Large: Dave Ciaccio

My wife, Cathy, and I have been members of Flatwater since about 2000, when I bought my current 1974 MGB. I have refurbished three MGBs to varying degrees as well as the 1973 Jensen Healey. My favorite event is the Loess Hills Run in October. My hope is that I can lend a few new ideas to the club in 2013. One thing I'd like to do is organize a trip to eastern Iowa and drive the great Mississippi River scenic highway!

Member-at-Large: Vince Ryan



I've been with the club "officially" for two years but have been going to events for about 3 1/2 years or so. I was introduced to British cars by Brad Swiggart and Keith Bouwens. After driving Brad's 1957 MGA on the Loess Hills Fall Run in 2009, I knew it was the beginning of a great passion.

I bought my first car, a 1974 MG Midget and had a blast with it. I sold the Midget after two years of fun and purchased a 1961 Austin Healey Sprite. I recently began restoring a 1962 MGA MK II.

I ran for office because the people are great, fun to talk to, and I have fun at all the events. I would also like to learn more about these cars and I think being more involved in the club will help me fulfill that goal. I think it is safe to say that I'm one of the youngest members of the club; I would like spread the word and get more people from my generation involved to keep the club and these cars going strong.

AHCA National Delegate: Jim Danielson



Jim Danielson was one of the original organizers of the Flatwater Austin Healey club. Jim and his wife Barbara Rixstine have been active members since the beginning and each has held a variety of offices throughout the years. Jim has held the National Delegate position several times previously so he is very familiar with the duties of the office and with working with the Austin Healey Club of America. Jim enjoys visiting with other club members about their cars and puts a lot of miles on his cars traveling to British car shows.



Healey Rendezvous

South Lake Tahoe, CA

June 24 – 28, 2013

The Golden Gate Austin Healey Club is pleased to host Healey Rendezvous 2013 at South Lake Tahoe. This is one of the finest locations in the United States for a car club event, known for magnificent scenery, fabulous roads for Healey driving, plus many indoor and outdoor activities. The GGAHC hosted the international Austin Healey event known as Open Roads here in 2002 at which over 700 Healeys were present.

Our host hotel is the Montbleu Resort, Casino & Spa, pictured at right. This luxury hotel is available to Rendezvous attendees at the concessional price of \$120/night, which is extraordinarily low for Lake Tahoe during the summer. The hotel web site is:

<http://www.montbleuresort.com/>

Event highlights

- ♦ Reception on Monday, June 24th, with dinner and entertainment. Famed **comedy hypnotist Chris Cady** will be on hand to really add some dazzle to the evening.
- ♦ Car show at Heavenly Village—an easy walk from the Montbleu. The Village is an upscale area of shops and condos, plus the terminus of the gondola ride up to the ski trails of Heavenly Ski Resort with a magnificent view of Lake Tahoe.
- ♦ Dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe (Tuesday, June 25th) on the paddlewheeler Dixie 2—the largest boat on Lake Tahoe. Wear your boogie shoes; we will have a fabulous live band by the name of **Yasgur's Farm** which plays favorites by the Eagles, Mamas & Papas, Crosby, Stills & Nash, and more. This is tie-dye night, so wear your wildest outfit.
- ♦ Technical sessions and not-so technical sessions on a variety of topics including photography, wine tasting, vintage racing, and even a Healey technical session for women only conducted by Steve Day.
- ♦ Driving tours in the sierras around the Lake.
- ♦ Funkhana—a driver and passenger skill competition set up in a parking lot with lots of fun activities.
- ♦ Remote control car races with a championship contest between the sexes.
- ♦ Photography and craft competition; bring your items for display.
- ♦ Awards dinner with fine food and fun.

For more information, prices and registration forms see the Rendezvous web site:

www.rendezvous2013.com

The registration cutoff date to obtain promotional prices is April 30.



New Year's is a time to look back at the past year and reflect on what you've done, and a time to look ahead and make plans for the next 12 months. What was 2012 like in vintage racing and what's in store for 2013? From my perspective, I was able to achieve some of the goals that I set early last year – race on at least one new track, enter more races overall, and improve some specific driving skills. Here's how the racing went:

The First One – The year started at the Heartland Vintage Racing May Daze race at Heartland Park Topeka on May 5-6. The race was put on jointly by HVR and the Kaw Valley Region of the SCCA. We had just one vintage group with all closed wheel cars except for a lone Formula Vee. There was a wide disparity in the power of the cars and the skills of the drivers, but everyone found someone to race with and it was a good weekend. I really like Topeka, it's the first race track I ever drove on and was the "home track" for the Great Plains Region Porsche Club for the first couple of years that I was doing driver's ed weekends with them. It has some modest elevation changes and tricky corners that make it an always interesting track.

FUMES

Year in Review

By Terry Davis



The Favorite One – Next was the Rocky Mountain Vintage Racing Spring Race at High Plains Raceway on May 12-13. High Plains continues to be one of my favorite, if not my absolute favorite, race track. I love the setting and I love the track. Lots of elevation change, blind hillcrests going into a couple of the turns, a fast downhill ess – it's a great track! I also seem to race pretty well there. I had podium finishes in class in all 5 races with 2nd, 3rd, 2nd, and 2nd places in class in the first 4 races and a class win in the feature race. I tried a couple of different techniques that weekend – holding a higher gear through some of the corners, braking deeper into the corners, trying a little different line in a couple of places with a later turn in – all of which I think helped me drive better.

The New One – The third race weekend of the year was at Blackhawk Farms in Illinois on June 16-17. The race is put on by the Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association and this was my new track for the year. Our run group was BIG! – 48 cars – on a rather short track (1.95 miles), and a little intimidating seeing as I was a newbie. But it helps to keep things fresh mentally to go to a new track, try to learn your way around it, and race with new cars and drivers. I was a little disappointed in the condition of the track surface, but the setting was very nice. Due to a very busy schedule I may not go back this year. There are other places I want to race.

The Big One – July 13-15 – Road America at Elkhart Lake. This was the biggest race of the year and the highlight of the year! There are always several hundred cars and thousands of spectators. If High Plains is my favorite track, Road America is rapidly becoming my next favorite. Although 2012 was only the second year I've raced here, I've become much more comfortable on the track, have learned some good passing spots, and

was able to pull off a couple of good late-braking passes in the races last year. I can't wait till this July's races! A number of our Flatwater members go to Elkhart each year and if you've never been, make this the year you come – you will love it!

The Hot One – Back to High Plains with RMVR on July 21-22. Man, it was hot! The asphalt in the paddock was a measured 148 degrees! Despite nearly melting, I had a good time at my favorite track. The race is a benefit for the Morgan Adams Foundation – the Race Against Kids' Cancer – and it's a nice race for spectators to attend. We get lots of entries for the racing, there is usually a car club that brings out several cars (in 2011 it was Ferraris and in 2012 it was Morgans), and there are track rides over the Noon hour on both race days. If you want to come to a lower-key event than Elkhart that is still a lot of fun for spectators, try High Plains in July. Hopefully it will be cooler this year!

The "Different" One – What would Labor Day weekend be without a race at Hastings? RMVR decided to go to Pueblo in 2012, so HVR partnered with NASA to race at Motorsports Park Hastings. It was a small turnout for vintage cars, and we only had two run groups – closed wheel and open wheel – but I had some good races with 3 of the other small bore cars and that's what counts. This year it will be back to "normal" as RMVR is coming back to Hastings to hold a joint race with HVR on Labor Day weekend – plan to be there, it's the closest vintage race you'll find.

So what's ahead for 2013? Here's a schedule of some of the vintage races in the area:



April 19-21 – Corinthian Vintage Auto Racing (CVAR) 6th Annual Mike Stephens Classic, Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett, OK – Formula Vee Feature Weekend

May 18-19 – RMVR Spring Race, High Plains Raceway, Byers, CO

June 1-2 (tentative) – HVR vintage race, Heartland Park Topeka, Topeka, KS

June 1-2 – RMVR Challenge Weekend, Pueblo Motorsports Park, Pueblo, CO

June 14-16 – Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association (VSCDA) Blackhawk Vintage Classic XXI, Blackhawk Farms, South Beloit, IL

July 18-21 – The Hawk with Brian Redman – the **BIG** one and not to be missed – Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI

July 27-28 – RMVR Race Against Kids’ Cancer, High Plains Raceway, Byers, CO

August 16-18 – VSCDA Vintage Grand Prix Au Grattan XXVII, Grattan Raceway Park, Grattan, MI

August 31-September 1 – RMVR and HVR Showboat Grand Prix, Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings, NE – Yippee! We’re back at Hastings!

September 6-8 – VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival XXVII, Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI – Triumph Kastner Cup Race and 50th Anniversary of the Formula Vee

October 5-6 – RMVR Enduro, High Plains Raceway, Byers, CO

October 11-13 – CVAR Thunder on the Cimarron XII, Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett, OK – Formula Ford Feature Weekend

Heartland Vintage Racing (HVR) may try to add another race or two as well, possibly at Gateway Motorsports Park in St. Louis or at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City – stay tuned for more details!

So what are my personal goals for 2013? I made it to 6 race weekends last year and I want to make it to at least that many this year – maybe as many as 8 or 9. I haven’t been back to Hallett since April of 2011 and I want to get back there this year for sure. I’m thinking about Grattan for my “new track” this year. The VSCDA fall race at Road America would also be nice.

As far as driving goes, obviously getting a little faster and a little better – driving a little closer to “the limit.” I need to work on my consistency – driving the proper line through each corner each time – and, of course, increasing smoothness. I improved my starting skills last year, getting a good jump when the green flag drops. I want to continue working on that. Also, I want to learn some new passing spots on the tracks I’m familiar with and try more trail-braking.

I’m really looking forward to a couple of things: This is the year to buy new tires. I’m getting a new set of Hoosier R6’s for the RMVR races and I’m going to try a set of Toyo Proxes R888’s for those races that require treaded tires. Also, Terry Worick and I will be rebuilding the engine this winter. With new tires and a fresh engine my lap times should drop and I should be able to finish higher.

What are your goals for 2013? How about coming to watch a vintage race? Join us in Elkhart this year. Or as a good alternative, come to one of the smaller, more laid-back races in the area to get a real up close and personal look at vintage racing. Even better, come to one of our club track days or autocrosses and get out there yourself. Whatever you do, you’ll have a great time! See you in the paddock.



FOR SALE: 1960 MGA (BARN FIND) NO TITLE PARTS CAR

THIS CAR WAS ABANDONED AT A STORAGE FACILITY NEAR MY HOUSE IN PAPILLION

- IT WOULD MAKE A GREAT CANDIDATE FOR RESTORATION OR USE AS A PARTS CAR
- CAR DOES NOT RUN
- CAR CURRENTLY HAS AN EARLY 1500 BUT I THINK IT SHOULD BE A 1600
- ENGINE WAS FROZEN AND WILL NEED BLOCK SLEEVED OR REPLACED
- MOST OF THE PARTS ARE THERE MINUS FRONT BUMPER AND VALANCE
- BODY HAS USUAL MGA RUST
- FRAME IS SOLID WITH ONLY SOME SMALL AREAS OF RUST NEAR THE FLOOR BOARDS
- IN DRIVER SIDE FOOTWELL
- I DO NOT HAVE A TITLE FOR THIS CAR
- ASKING \$2200.00 OR BEST OFFER OR TRADE

TODD FOKKEN 402-740-2827 OR todd.fokken@cox.net



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.

British Car Parts

For over 20 years I have been collecting British car parts and now it is time for them to go. There are hundreds of parts worth thousands of dollars. They are 90% Sprite/Midget and include practically everything that can be removed from the car...doors, fenders, hoods, windshields, heaters, top bows, seats, carbs, some running gear parts, motors (948 and 1100), etc. While I will continue to sell individual parts, I would like to find a home for the entire collection. **Jim Danielson, Lincoln, 402-464-3733.**

Miata Seats FOR SALE

\$100 for the pair

Contact Mike Nelson, Mikenelson1@cox.net, 402-651-3621cell

FAHC REGALIA

Pam Brunke has a limited quantity of 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. Please allow 2 weeks for your item to be embroidered.

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

COVER PHOTO



Howard & Kay Larson and our 1959 MGA. We are members of FAHC who live in South Sioux City. Because of the distance we don't get to participate in many of the club's activities. This car was a bank repo I purchased over Ebay about 7 years ago. I have little history on it (I did try to contact the former owner listed on the title but got no reply). I had the car hauled home because the right rear tire was locked up. The batteries (it had the two 6-volts in it) were shot. When I did get it running it was a spook to drive as hitting a bump meant moving a foot or two one way or the other with no clue which way that was going to be. After much work it is now a nice driver. We added the chrome rims about 5 years ago and the wide whitewalls this past year.