



New England News

*The newsletter for members in the New England Region of the
Austin Healey Club of America
NY, CT, MA, RI, VT, NH, ME & Northern NJ*

From the Editor

Peter Rafe Williams
rafewilliams@comcast.net

Got this in the E-mail last week:

Dear Mr. Williams,

As newsletter contact for the Austin Healey Club in your area, I wanted to let you know about our TVR Car Club North America's annual event, "Out of the Woodwork" which will be held this year on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at Round Valley Recreation Area.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the very first "Out of the Woodwork" event which, in addition to being the largest single gathering of TVRs anywhere in North America, also welcomes dozens of other marques, and Austin Healey has always been a participating marque from the very beginning.

I hope you will share the information on this year's event with your fellow club members and that many of you will be able to come join us for this year's special event.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Marshall Moore,
President, TVR Car Club North America, tvrcna@cox.net>

President's column

By Frank Motta

Greetings to you all!

Now that the "Healey Season" is in full swing, and many of us have been out and about driving around the countryside in our cars, it suddenly dawned on me that the way I use my Austin Healey has changed radically over the years. Having owned a Healey since 1967, my experience is not necessarily typical of all current owners, many of whom are new to our club and possibly to Austin-Healey ownership as well. It may be difficult for those of you who have lusted for years to acquire and own an example of this most beautiful of British sports cars, to understand that for some of us it was once our everyday car. We went to work in it, drove it to the supermarket, and parked it on a city street. In my case, it was the only vehicle I owned, and until I paid off the Bank and got clear title I had no choice but to drive it even in the rain and snow. Things have thankfully changed for me, as they have for other long time Healey owners, and there is no longer a necessity to drive our classic beauties on a year round daily basis.

However, those of us who still remember that experience tend to distort the reality. We are prone to embrace only our fond recollections, and the pleasant fun filled memories spend behind the wheel. Such a positive perspective is without question one that tends to be viewed through the lens of rose-colored glasses, and is certainly clouded by the passage of time. It fails to call to mind all the unpleasant occurrences that come with driving a Healey in our harsh New England winters, or the unexpected breakdowns that come with several years of constant use. We sometimes yearn for that time when summer season Healey driving was an everyday occurrence, and back in 70's and 80's such was often the practice among Healey owners. Getting behind the wheel of your Healey and running it through the gears was always the order of the day, and was a substantial part of the joy of Healey motoring. However, despite our own idealized version of the past, and our stubborn obsession to continue our ENDLESS SUMMER of hard driving in the open air, certain cold facts must be accepted.

To purchase an un-restored, original, strong running big Healey, in the current marketplace, will cost you anywhere between \$15,000 and \$40,000. This initial investment to purchase your dream car could be followed by the necessity to make further expenditures to correct un seen flaws that were undetected at the time at which you made your acquisition.

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Hyland Brewery Rally

July 10 Sturbridge, MA

Jon & Janet Kastberg

413-245-4618

How refreshing is a cold beer on a hot sunny afternoon? If you want to find out, join the Kastbergs and Hyland Orchard and Brewery for their annual Americanfest.

We'll start out at our place with a light breakfast and then spend some time driving the back roads with a stop at Hardwick Winery...not all of us drink beer. All roads lead back to Hyland's for the best beer you've ever tasted.

Food will be available at the brewery along with music; so don't forget your dancing shoes.

July 10 Sunday 9AM.....first car off at 10AM

Please RSVP by July 5...413-245-4618 or 413-427-3043 or jenhly74@aol.com

DIRECTIONS TO KASTBERGS

254 Brimfield Road

Holland, MA

413-245-4618

FROM EAST

Mass Pike to exit 9 Sturbridge. Take first exit after tollbooth, Route 20 west. Go straight through first set of lights. Go straight through next set of lights at Basketville. At next light take left onto Holland Road (route 148 will be to your right). Stay on this road for apx. 4 ½ miles. At flashing stop light take right onto Brimfield Road. We are apx. 2 miles on your right. Driveway is marked with 2 granite posts.

FROM WEST

Mass Pike to exit 8 Palmer. Take a right off exit. At next light take a left, Route 20 east. Follow Route 20 into Brimfield. You will pass by the common. Go straight through set of lights. Just past St. Christopher's Church bear right onto Holland Road. At fork bear left. Follow apx 2 ½ miles. We are on the left just past Poirier Construction. Driveway is marked with 2 granite posts.

FROM SOUTH

Route 84 to exit 74. Take left off ramp, over highway. At stop take right onto Mashapaug Road. Follow this road apx. 3 ½ miles to flashing light. Go straight thru flashing light, road becomes Brimfield Road. We are apx. 2 miles on your right. Driveway is marked with 2 granite posts.

Enjoy a weekend with friends on the "Coast of Maine"

As of now we have twenty cars and twice that many people coming for the weekend and the schooner holds forty-nine so there is still room if you have friends who would like to attend. Barb and I are planning a barbeque (hamburg's and chicken) on Friday night here at the house in Rockport so if you will be in Camden on Friday please drop me an e-mail at clocks@midcoast.com or call 207-236-3632 so we can plan the food and beer. If you get separated or have any questions during the weekend my cell number is 542-4025.

July – August 2005

Cont. page 1 - Pres Moreover, even the very last of big Healey BJ8 is at this writing 38 years old, and without question has been somewhat structurally weakened by both the tin worm and many years of hard driving. If the drive train is original, and most of the mechanical aspects of the car have not been renewed there will be significant wear in all areas of the car. If you drive an original car in the way that we did years ago you are asking for trouble. The undue stress caused by the type of intense sports car driving that Donald Healey intended for his car will certainly lead to unwanted repairs. We must accept the reality that our Healey's are no longer just English HOT RODS, but they have become expensive classics that cost a great deal to restore and maintain. Our classic Healey sports cars cannot realistically be used in the way that they once were even if money



is not an object of concern, for costly repairs usually take time to complete and the road to rectifying such maladies can often run the risk of putting the car out of service for a long period of time. Considering that the average age of Healey club membership is a good deal closer to retirement than it is to mid-life crisis, we can ill afford to miss even one Healey season behind the wheel. We want to be sure that we get to drive our beloved beauties while we still can, and enjoy the wonder and exhilaration that comes every time we hear that engine roar.

All that rational stuff having been said, the fact is that Healey ownership, in the first place, was never governed by practical thinking. A rational practical person, back in the day, would have purchased a VW bug. Healey ownership was from the outset fired by lust and passion, and is akin to a love affair. A love affair is really the only way to characterize the nature of Healey ownership, and though like any love relationship there are highs and lows, it doesn't matter. No doubt that the whole Healey driving experience is why we own these cars in the first place, and to contradict B.B. King the thrill is not gone. We still love driving these cars hard and often, but maybe just not quite as hard and quite as often. So drive em if you got em! Happy Motoring

Frank Motta

(Above picture is Jim Smith at *The Watkins Glen Challenge* taken by Charlie Baldwin)

SMOKIN' SUMMIT 2005

Aug. 25-28, 2005-05-25
St.-Sauveur, Canada

If you wish to drive your Healey due north and prefer to do so when there is something interesting going on, why not come as far as Montreal and continue north along Autoroute 15 until you reach St-Sauveur, a lovely little village filled with things to see and things to do. You'll love it.

And if you choose the right time of year, chances are you'll meet other Austin-Healeyists because the Quebec Austin-Healey Club is hosting Smokin' Summit August 25-28, 2005. See the schedule of events listed below and then log onto the NE Region Web site to download the Registration form – both US and Canadian versions. (<http://ahcane.tripod.com/eventscalendar.htm>)



We hope to see you there !!

The New England Region of AHCA. online at <http://ahcane.tripod.com/default.htm>

Calendar of Events 2005 Healey Season

July 10

Hyland Brewery Rally – Sturbridge, MA
Jon & Janet Kastberg
413-245-4618

July 16

Coast if Maine
James Lea 207-236-3632
See write up this issue

July 16

Show of Dreams
All British Car Show Portsmouth, NH www.BCNH.org

Aug 25-28

Summit 2005
ST-Sauveur, Canada
Steve Woloz
514-486-1898

Go to our Web site for the Registration forms
<http://ahcane.tripod.com/default.htm>

Sept. 1-4

Lime Rock Vintage Racers- Line Rock, CT

Sept. 17-18

British Invasion – Stowe, VT

Dec 3

New England Region - Christmas Party 05
Bob & Betty Bender,
413-684-3934

June 18-23 2006

Conclave 2006 – Akron, OH

Summit 2006 – Maine

June 24-29, 2007

Conclave 2007 – Burlington, Vermont

Ad Requirements

Members may submit classified ads to be run in the New England News free of charge for other than commercial business. Commercial ad rates are listed above. Send camera-ready artwork to: Peter Williams; c/o 149 Maple Street, Ellington Ct, 0602 or via email at rafewilliams@comcast.net. Ads will be run once unless specified.

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