



Overdrive

October, 2010 Official Newsletter of the Central Indiana Austin-Healey Club Vol2010 Issue 9

From the President

By Jim Frakes

What a strange September; starting with a very cool Labor Day weekend, although it was a really nice day at the Auburn Auction. The next weekend at Lemon Creek Winery in SW Michigan, we had monsoons until late afternoon, reducing the annual British car show to less than 35 stalwart registrations. Fortunately, our September Round-Up in Middletown, Ohio was a tremendous success.

Let's start with Auburn. Since Kruse went bankrupt, it was doubtful there would even be a Labor Day Auburn Auction. RM Auctions of Canada came to the rescue, bought the rights and property, made some great property improvements, and overall seemed to be having a very successful auction with lots of great cars. No, I did not buy anything.

Melanie and Bob Haskell, Karen and Jim Frakes drove up to South Bend Friday evening to have a pizza and beer with a group of Northern Indiana AHC people at Rita and John Eslinger's home, before traveling on to Stevensville, MI for the night. Rain was pretty evident from the start of the day, but as we had come this far, we headed to the winery for the car show. Since it is Northern Indiana AHC's event, there were plenty of Healeys on hand. Bruce Gilham and Bruce Watson came up Saturday AM in Gilham's car. The rain kept all but a few die hard Brits away, making it a much lighter show than usual. Bruce won an Award of Excellence for the BJ8. By about 2:00, the rain subsided and the band began to play.

CIAHC couples, Frakes, Gilhams, Burck, Manns and Roy Bowman met in New Palestine and caravaned down US 52 to Metamora. From there, we took some nice back roads to Middletown and the historic

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Next Events

October 16th is the Rush County Covered Bridge Tour. Meet at the Hoosier Gym in Knightstown at 9 AM.

There will not be a regular business meeting in October. The business meeting will be held during the Halloween Party ...

A big ol' Halloween party

At the Bushs' barn

Which is more air-tight than last year

Saturday

October 30

Business meeting at 5:00

Party 6:00 to ???

Hot dogs, condiments, plates, glasses, etc. will be provided. Bring a side dish and your best campfire tale.

Dress for the weather!

Costumes optional

If you need a map, e-mail us at buffie@indy.net.

If you are more of an oral learner, call 317-835-7827.

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2010 CIAHCA Officers and Contacts

President

Jim Frakes
944 Laurel Lane
Noblesville, IN 46062
(317) 773-8676

jimf@frakes-eng.com

Vice President

Melanie Haskell
1570 Saylor Street
Zionsville, IN 46077
(317) 873-0841

mmhaskell@earthlink.net

Treasurer/Membership

Craig Rice
4245 Roland Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228
(317) 291-6881

craigsuerice@iquest.net

National Delegate

Jim Switzer
10392 Connaught Drive
Carmel, IN 46032
(317) 802-9264

jimswitzer@earthlink.net

Secretary/Overdrive/Web

Bob Haskell
1570 Saylor Street
Zionsville, IN 46077
(317) 873-0841

rchaskell@earthlink.net

Mr. Healey's Neighborhood

Central Indiana AHC

<http://www.ciahc.org>

Bluegrass AHC

<http://www.bluegrassclub.com>

Northern Indiana AHC

<http://members.aol.com/midwestah/club/>

Ohio Valley AHC

<http://members.aol.com/ovaustinhealey/>

Indiana British Car Union

<http://www.ibcu.org>

Marque Matters Blog

<http://www.marquematters.blogs.com/>

AH Club of America

<http://www.healeyclub.org/>

From the editor

The October business meeting will be at the Bushs'. We will be making nominations for next year's officers with the elections to follow at the November business meeting.

Don't forget the Bruces' covered bridge tour on the 16th, starting in Knightstown.

Thanks again to Doug Bruce who provided an article about his vintage racing – this time at Gratten, which is just north of Grand Rapids Michigan. Melanie, Tim, and I have been there a few times for the August vintage event as part of the University Motors' (MG) Summer Party. It's a neat club racing track to spectate at and one could hitch a ride for a couple of laps in a race car during the lunch break.

Next month's issue will have a write-up and pictures from the British Fall Out event at Winona Lake. Wasn't quite so cold, but wetter than last year.

I would like to publish the newsletter by the first of the month. Articles or photos for the newsletter are welcome and appreciated. Please get them to me by the 25th so I can include them in the next issue.

Bob

A Sad Image from September Round-up



Hey Ron, want to reconsider installing a front bumper on your 100? What a dog can do to aluminum ...

Photo by Jim Frakes

September 2010 Business Meeting Minutes

By Bob Haskell

Jim Frakes called the meeting to order - 9 September 2010 Logan's Road House.

Attending the meeting were Randy Belden, Steve Beryni, Roy Bowman, David Broyles, Pat Bruce, Dick and Ruth Buis, Jim and Sandy Burck, Jim and Beverly Bush, Jim and Karen Frakes, Bruce Gilham, Bob and Melanie Haskell, John and Kathi Mann, Craig and Sue Rice, Norm and Suzy Schoppenhertz, Dick Storrs, Jim and Jo Switzer, and Bruce and Barbara Watson.

July business minutes accepted as published in August/September issue of Overdrive.

Treasurer/Membership Report - 59 members.

Past Events

Conclave – Roy Bowman(1st popularity BJ8), Rice (funkhana). Edie Anderson attendance award. Jim won the Frederic Constant Healey watch/car raffle. The Popularity show location was the best since Zionsville in 2000.

Encounter - Simone Car museum was great – next to the Philly Airport.

Indy Motor Days: There were 18 cars, including Tim Mahensmith from South Bend, Charlie Warner from Dayton and a couple of folks from IL. Jim and Bev Bush won an award of excellence. Ron Francis also won an award of excellence. Craig and Sue Rice received a 1st place award.

Coffee and Cars – is an every Saturday event at 96th and Meridian from 10 AM - noon. Jim and Doug Frakes went with a Healey and Doug's 2011 Shelby Mustang. There were about 30 cars.

Upcoming Events

Lemon Creek Winery is this weekend. Frakes and Haskells are going up on Friday. Bruce Watson and Bruce Gilham are driving up Saturday.

September 17th - 19th : September Round-up: For folks wanting to travel together, meet at the Marsh on Mount Comfort road and SR-52 at 1 PM (Jim Frakes will send directions). Bring auction items. Club sponsoring schniders.

September 25th: Tech Session at Paul Imel – to work on the Bugeye's electrical systems.

October 2nd : Winona Lake

October 14th: Business meeting is postponed to the Halloween party.

October 16th: Rush County covered bridge tour.

October 30th: Halloween party at the Bushs. Business meeting at 5pm.

December 4th: Xmas party at same place.



Santa Claus

President's Letter continued

Manchester Inn, site of our event. Rice's, Haskell's, Watson's, Storrs's, Wright –Monies, Bush's and Switzer's drove separately due to other commitments. Ron Francis had traveled on Wednesday to Charlie Warner's to join him at Red's game on Thursday, then they both traveled on down to the event.

September Round-up can be wrapped up in one word: **Success beyond our wildest dreams!** About 68 registrations, included Healeys from Tennessee, North Carolina, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Ontario (several Bugeyes!) and, of course, Mid-Ohio, Miami Valley and our hosts, Ohio Valley. OHV did a fabulous job beginning with Registration and an extra great and plentiful Hospitality. Reportedly, we went through most of three kegs and who knows how much wine. Friday also found a tire changing funkhana (by Miami Valley) in the back lot. The car show on Saturday morning in the Government Plaza presented good photo ops and a good, easy, fun rallye followed in the afternoon. Charlie Lownsdale hosted a Pinewood Derby for all ages in the Hospitality room. Dinner was very good but slow, due to a wedding party downstairs. Before the entrée, the Groom asked if anyone had a red/white Healey the wedding party could take pictures with. Charlie Warner volunteered his 100, even though it was already put up for the night. Several really great pictures with the couple were followed by a kiss for Charlie from the bride! Awards host, Don Klein, ably presented. Silent auction results capped off the event. Auction proceeds, from a whopping 115 items, are being forwarded to Miami Valley for seed money for next year's event.

Awards: Rice's won Best of show with their always popular Spruce Green 100, Burck's won the Best in Class award for their Beautiful Black 100 (newly shined by Sandy). Bowman and Gilham won awards of Excellence. A very special donation in Honor of Mary Ann Warner was awarded to the Rice's who promptly donated this to Dayton Hospice in the name of Mary Ann Warner. The team of Watson and Rice won an award for their Funkhana placement. Sue Rice won the adult pinewood derby!

Up Next: Northern Indiana Lakes British Motor Club (NILBMC) is holding their Brit Car Show on Oct 2nd, Saturday. It is usually a nice, but cool, early morning ride to Warsaw. The show is on the canal connecting the two lake sections and along the park. Several gift shops line the canal and a park behind is always a nice serene walk. If you are interested in joining for the drive, please call Bob or me.

Jim



A billboard along I-465 near Zionsville Rd

VSCDA Summer Party: Otherwise Known as the 2010 Edition of Au Grattan

By Doug Bruce, Group 2--Bugeye #71

This is another article in my series documenting the fun at the tracks that I get the pleasure at running. It seems that no one has stepped forward to complain about my strange sense of humor, so I get to continue to share my inside-the-seat view with club members.

Here's a link to the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmolOf17sBg>

I still consider myself new to the sport of vintage racing. With that being said, Grattan became race number 19 in my third year of participating as a driver, and I still have so much to learn! I have learned that you really need to arrive early to each track to get through registration and tech inspections, your gear unpacked, and the beer on ice. So I arrived at Grattan Thursday evening to a full paddock of Team Thicko Sprite cars all parked and well, strangely enough, ready to race! Ah, to race like a trouble-free Formula Vee for a change! Friday practice sessions for Group 2 included Sprites, Triumphs, Lotus S7's, a Sunbeam, a Tornado, an Elva and one or two really fast blurs of a car that looked to be a Porsche 356C. As a driver it is enough to give you goose bumps every time you pass or get passed by someone!

As I discovered on Friday, Grattan has a pool. Now it wasn't exactly Indiana summer bathwater warm, but after a day in the three-layer nomex suit, it was a welcome cool that erased all memories of baking in the sun while parked on the false grid. I also discovered (along with a few other drivers) that just around the corner from the track is a wonderful pub with karaoke. They love drivers and crew, and I love their cold beer!

Saturday began with a wet track and some standing water, not that it stopped numerous cars from testing the limits of adhesion. It added about 15 seconds to the lap time the cars would normally run under dry conditions. Fourteen of the 26 Group 2 cars took advantage of the session to play in the rain! Later, after most of us in the Team Thicko HQ all agreed that when Gary Kropf is happy, the whole paddock is more relaxed, we pitched in to help Gary rebuild the suspension for the second time on the yellow #68 Bugeye! One cannot write about the cars at the track without mentioning the Bugeye raced by Stan Mason. This green period-correct car is running a 948 engine and spoke wheels on original width tires and is driven expertly apex to apex; it is a real treat to watch--well done Stan!

The Spridget racing gang (5 in all), were all under the same canopy and really showed how vintage racing is a sport for all, including pitch-in breakfast and lunches, plenty of guests, sleeves rolled up for creating speed (yeah right, these are Spridgets...we don't have any speed!), and a sharing of beers from points far and wide. We even manage to enjoy the track time together, dicing during practice sessions and all taking turns playing lead then follow. It has made us all better drivers. Tucker Madawick and his Elva were sidelined with crankshaft damper issues and the always fast Jim Donato missed the fun after an oil fitting came loose and rust-proofed most of his car, so we were missing two Group 2 cars early, but they all stayed to enjoy the paddock with friends.

There was a Saturday Enduro, and Mal Fay, Gary and his son John and plenty of Group 2 drivers took advantage...but not me. I have a strange theory that a Bugeye Sprite is barely able to manage completing a 30-minute sprint race, let alone an hour of continuous racing, but I do enjoy watching the enduro race as a spectator! Later, the last race of the day was the Sprint race. It began with Bob Colaizzi on pole in his fast Lotus S7 at 1:32.8, Rick Cook alongside in another Super 7, and 18 other cars on the grid. The race had 19 of 20 cars finishing and 8 cars on the lead lap. I managed to catch a break on a good start and took my white Bugeye from 6th to 4th and as the natural selection played out, I ended up finishing 6th. Geoffrey Harris has taken well to his new 1974 BMW 2002Ti and finished 3rd with a 1:32.6. Bob Colaizzi led the way to the checkered flag, Dave Burton in a 1964 Porsche 356 was 2nd and the Mazda RX3 of Tim Parvin and Maxda

RX2 of JP Van Raalte finished 4th and 5th.

After reliving lap after lap, drivers of all groups, crew, and tired corner workers all made their way to the giant tent for great food and free beer! Our race weekend sponsors from DPS were thanked and recognized, and drivers were seen either thanking corner workers or bribing them. My personal experience is that they know a great deal about the track and our cars and are a wealth of speed secrets. Sometimes they even black flag you to discuss why your driver's side door is opening and shutting...while lapping the track! There was another fantastic sunset at the track with a little rain falling over at the tent party and dry over in the paddock, until, that is, I needed to return to the paddock. At that point, like all things that say Lucas, I was left out in the dark so to speak in a horrendous downpour!

Some of the "Team Thicko" gang couldn't get enough of the local flavor, and once again we found ourselves visiting a couple of the watering holes. Why is it that vintage racers seem to remember that their car was faster and the driving was perfect as more and more ales are poured and shared?

Sunday morning and yet somehow VSCDA found a way for more racing and track time! Six-lap morning races, what a treat! Yeah, right. It was great idea and enjoyed by all except for the guy in the white Bugeye (me) who had his first off-track excursion in 19 races right towards the fixed object (tires) in turn one! Lucky for me I had moved up and was running 2nd at the time, so I could have something else to feel bad about! Lucky for me I hit the kitty litter hard and stopped 5 feet short of the tire wall (and broke a rear rod end suspension piece!). Lucky for Stan Mason that I had just passed him, and while he had no popcorn, he did have a heck of a front row seat! So the race ended as most did that weekend, Dave Burton drove his Porsche 356 superbly for 1st, Rick Cook wasted no time working from the back to finish 2nd in his Lotus S7, Geoffrey Harris and his 1974 BMW 2002Ti finished with another 3rd, JP Van Raalte in a nice looking Mazda Rx2 was 4th, 5th was Phil Kubik in a very nice 1965 Porsche 356, 6th was John Van Raalte in his 1972 Mazda RX2, Mal Fay was 7th in his very well prepared 1972 MG Midget, and 8th was Tim Covert in a nice 1960 Lotus Elite, The always present on the track Bill Dentinger was 8th in his 1956 triumph TR3. My favorite ride of the weekend was David Anderson in his 1963 Sunbeam Alpine. Charles Hall, who never misses a grid, drove his 1958 Bugeye to 11th followed closely by Gary Kropf in his 948 powered 1959 Bugeye, 13th was Mike Fisher in a great 1960 Austin Healey 3000, then myself and Stan Mason in his 948 Bugeye. My hats off to all who avoided any sort of a brain fade like me in turn one and ran an incident-free race!

That finishes another report from a "new" racer, as I had a six-hour tow ahead of me and needed to miss the final grid of the weekend. Over the weekend, I learned that you want to keep the fluids in the car; that one can get to the grid without a starter on your car; that if a Lotus S7 comes up behind you, "objects in mirror" are truly closer than they appear; and, finally, I realized why Grattan is a must-do race and my favorite track! See you at the ELVF!

Tech Sessions / Progress

Had a good turn out at Paul Imel's Bugeye tech session, including Jim Gifford's and Jim Bush's Bugeyes. A few things got installed and hooked-up, some things got re-routed and a list of needed parts was generated.

Bob Haskell got the cleaned tri-cab block back from the machine shop. Measuring the depths of the water jackets of the cleaned block and the one in the car shows that there may be about a 1/4" of crud in the one in the car – ignoring casting variations. So no plans to tear the engine down any farther.

Images from September Round-up



*Charlie Warner's 100 in the wedding photos.
Photo by Jim Frakes*



*Dave and Vicki Robert's 1961 3000 Mk1. Photo
by Jim Frakes*



Joan Wright, Ron Francis and Jon Monies



So that's why it's a big Healey ...



*Bruce Watson and Craig Rice changing a flat
tire during the funkhana. Photo by Jim Frakes*



John and Kathi Mann, and Jim and Sanda Burck

January 2010							February 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	B	15	16	B	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28						
31													
March 2010							April 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	B	12	13	4	5	6	7	B	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
May 2010							June 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	B	7	8	6	7	8	9	B	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												
July 2010							August 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	B	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				
September 2010							October 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4						1	2
5	6	7	8	B	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						
November 2010							December 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	B	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

- January
 - 14th Business Meeting
- February
 - 14th Daytona Party / Business Mtg
 - 28nd Chicago British Swap Meet
- March
 - 11th Business Meeting
- April
 - 8th Business Meeting
 - 10th Clean Up at the Haskells
 - 24th Oliver Winery Tour
- May
 - 1st NIAHC Spring Tune-Up
 - 6th Business Meeting
 - 15th - 16th SpringThing 2009
 - 21st - 23rd Carlisle Import Car Show
 - 30th Indy 500 Party
- June
 - 5th British Bash (Louisville)
 - 5th - 6th Champagne, IL British Car
 - 10th Business Meeting
 - 19th Live Steam Trains
- July
 - 8th Business Meeting
 - 11th - 16th Conclave
- August
 - 11th - 15th Encounter, Blue Bell, PA
 - 21st - Ice Cream Social
 - 29th Indy British Motor Days
- September
 - 9th Business Meeting
 - 11th Lemon Creek
 - 17th - 19th September Round Up
- October
 - 2nd British Fall Out, Winona Lake
 - 16th Rushville Covered Bridge Tour
 - 30th Business Meeting and Halloween Party
- November
 - 11th Business Meeting
- December
 - 4th Christmas Party