



August 2012

Official Newsletter of the Central Indiana Austin-Healey Club

# Overdrive

## **From the President:**

*By Jim Frakes*

A wonderful reprieve from the summer heat brought out a record number of LBC's for the Indiana British Car Union's annual London to Brighton run. The **London to Brighton Veteran Car Run** is the longest-running motoring event in the world. The first run was in 1896, and has taken place most years since then. The IBCU annually celebrates the L to B by our own local version. Forty three (43) cars and Seventy Three (73) drivers and / or Navigators braved the downright chilly early morning. It was sweatshirt weather for the first two hours. Cars included Healeys, Triumph's, Jags, MG's, a Corvair, and a Metropolitan

After a very nice breakfast consisting of juice, coffee, casserole and Donuts, excellently prepared by Mike Roe of the IBCU committee, it was time for Rally Master Dick Storrs. His well prepared, 85 mile, multiple question rally, and even more detailed Rally instruction sheet, seemed to overwhelm many of the participants.

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## **Coming Events:**

The July business meeting will be the 12th at George's Neighborhood Grill at 6935 Lake Plaza (71<sup>st</sup> and Bindford Avenue) on the northeast corner of Indianapolis. 317-577-1600

**GEORGE'S**  
NEIGHBORHOOD GRILL

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## Reminders:

1. Registration deadline for the hotel for the September Roundup is August 15
2. Indiana British Car Union presents the 24<sup>th</sup> annual **Indy British Motor Days**, Saturday, August 11 at the Lyons Park in Zionsville – featuring the Triumph Spitfire

**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://ohiovalleyahc.com>

**Indiana British Car Union**

<http://www.ibcu.org>

**Marque Matters Blog**

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

**AH Club of America**

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

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But, all seemed ready to proceed with the drive. Healey club participants included Bruce and Barb Watson, BT7, Pat Bruce in the Bugeye special, Rick Schmidt's driving Dewey Poskon's BJ8, while Dewey drove his E-Type. Columbus members, Becky and Doug Bell, drove their Triumph also. Dick Storrs drove his BN7 ahead to the finish line.

The IBCU London to Brighton run always starts at the same place, London, (Indiana, that is). As such, you must expect to drive many of the same scenic roads from the previous year. However, a Storrs rally makes it more interesting with his twisty questions. Shortly, the sun was also making its mark, just as the route started heading north from the creeks, streams and bridges along with the withered cornfields, to more urban civilization (and traffic).

After traveling thru Greenfield, Fortville, Geist and downtown Carmel, we ended at Brighton Street in NW Carmel. Late lunch was at the Brockway, and Irish Pub on Old Meridian across from Meyer. Brockway is a great place for a good lunch and an excellent selection of beers on tap and even better selection of Irish Spirits.

Rally Master Storrs then presented trophies starting with 20<sup>th</sup> place and working down. Second place went to Pat Bruce, interestingly, with no navigator! Congrats Pat.

We had many cheerful competitors and nearly zero complaints. Only one came my way; "too many round-about's. Great job Dick Storrs, a job well done.

The Healey driving season is coming very soon. Are you ready? Have you registered for the events you want to attend? Have you made your hotel arrangements? Is the car ready? Do you need help on the Car? Time for assistance is limited. In this issue, a schedule of upcoming events provides a lot of choices.

Ron Francis is home and doing very well. He did not have a defibrillator or a pacemaker installed. He was only in rehab for a couple days. A remarkable story of life saving efforts by the first responders and their supervisor, assistant Fire Chief Rick Russell. Thanks also to the excellent Heart Center at Riverview Hospital in Noblesville and later, The Heart Center at Community North. Remember my new slogan; "Take a friend to a car show".

Jim

**July 12, 2012 Business Meeting at Dimitri's Restaurant**  
**By Bob Haskell, secretary**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Frakes (President)

Attending the meeting were Martha and Steve Beryni, David Broyles, Pat Bruce, Sandy and Jim Burck, Ruth and Dick Buis, Jim and Bev Bush, Jim Frakes, Bruce Gilham, Bob and Melanie Haskell, Paul Imel, Brent Porter, Craig and Sue Rice, Norman and Suzy Schoppenhorst, Dick Storrs, Jim and Jo Switzer, and Barb and Bruce Watson

The June Business Meeting minutes were accepted as published in the July issue of Overdrive with the following corrections:

- In the President's Letter, the Storrs' car was listed as a BJ7, not a BN7.
- The calendar lists Dick Storrs as Jim Storrs for the IBCU rally.

**Membership:**

Richard Kurth is a new member, from Danville, IL. He works in the VA hospital in Indy and is co-owner of a minor league baseball team in Danville.

Ron Francis update: Ron was moved to Community North Heart Hospital and will be moved to Community East for rehabilitation. Plans are to be fitted for a vest monitor to determine if he needs a pacemaker and/or defibrillator. Ron and Karen's granddaughter Sophie had a bone marrow transplant and is holding her own.

**Upcoming Events:**

July 21st - IBCU rally - would like to have some Healeys participating. Finishing close to Indy. Starts at Triton High School off London Road off of I-74.

August 11th - the IBCU car show in Zionsville  
August 25th - ice cream social, hosted by Switzers  
August 26th - Carmel AutoArt

Sept 8th – Round Barn in Michigan (Northern Indiana)  
Sept 7th - 11th Bonneville - the streamliner will be returning.

## Sept 13 - 16th - September Round-up

- 6 registrations so far
- Bruce Watson discussed the status of the car show - have lost the Farmer's Market location - not enough space. The lot on the other the COB is off by itself. So it's back to the hotel. There is a good parking lot on the west side. An Oldsmobile club held an event at the hotel a few weeks ago with 60 cars. The parking lot worked out well. Ought to bring the club's tent. Jim Frakes will see what kind of shape it's in. Bob Haskell volunteered to bring car wash supplies.

Roy has sent out information packets to other local clubs and will mail out some more to national officers.

Bruce asked if we want to purchase a September Round-up banner that we can pass from event to event. (10' by 27" banner \$125).

- Regalia - Jo Switzer talked to Jan this afternoon - need to select one of two blankets. Prices have remained the same. Need to order by the first of August. The group decided on 48 blankets at \$12.50 each and 144 wine glasses at \$1.79 each (plus set up, shipping and taxes).

- Trophies - Bruce Gilham is looking into a trophy - wire wheel with knockoff laser etched in wood that a friend made for him.

- Hospitality - Ruth Buis - For Thursday, Joan Wright suggested something warm - barbeque or sloppy Joes(Sam's Club), baked beans, salad, etc. The hotel has previously okayed light food - snacks, sandwiches, and subs. Jo will check with hotel about 'heavier' food. There is no kitchen to use at the hotel. Will have to buy the beer (keg) from the hotel. The club can bring in soft drinks , wine, Schniders. four coolers - water, diet, regular and wine. Do we need to provide ice?

- The Cincinnati club is doing the goody bag. Jim Frakes has Victoria British placards for the car show.

- Need items for the auction on Saturday. Bring something or David will remove items from your car...

- Banquet (Jo) will do a buffet for that number of people. Looking at herb crusted pork, chicken picatta or chicken Minerva (?), pasta primavera

or a meatless lasagna. Cost will be \$30/person vs \$32 charged.  
W agreed on the menu.

- Funkhana - Paul Imel is doing. He would like to use the club tent.  
Switzers' may have access to extra tent.

- Rally - the roads are still there. As the time approaches, John  
will review and adjust as necessary. The rally ends in Nashville  
(shopping). There will be a tour route to get back to the hotel, or  
one can just take 46. (Friday)

- Please make hotel reservations by the 15th of August.

September 28-30th - Fall Windup in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The SE Michigan club sent Jim Frakes some information on this event.

October 6th - British car show at Winona Lakes.

October 27th - Halloween Party - Bev wants to see costumes.

November 9th - 11th - The delegates meeting in Plainfield.

December 1st - Christmas party

- Melanie is talking to an English caterer (Tina Jesson). We needed  
to set a budget and/or menu. Thinking of doing roast beef and ?.  
Tina's specialty is deserts. Club members could handle the drinks  
and appetizers.

John and Grace

Jo Switzer and Jim Frakes have talked to John Nikas about coming to  
Zionsville for the IBCU British Motor Day on August 11th. The 11th  
is also National Drive Away Cancer Day. We would like to generate  
some media coverage for the two. John mentioned in his after-  
dinner talk at Conclave that he would like everyone with a Healey to  
take a child for a drive. Could we do something with Riley? Jo  
to find a contact at Riley (via Karen Francis?). Jim Frakes will  
discuss at ICBU meeting next week. Our club would handle John's and  
his support person's lodging. We agreed to make a \$500 donation to  
John and Grace.

Next month's meeting is at George's.

## Calendar

### August:

- 9<sup>th</sup> – Business meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> – IBCU British Car Motor Days in Zionsville. Feature car is Triumph Spitfire (50<sup>th</sup> Year).
- 25<sup>th</sup>:- Carmel Artmobile
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Annual Ice Cream Social. Jim and Jo Switzer to put together ice cream competition or progressive ice cream event?

### September

- 8<sup>th</sup> – Northern Indiana AHC British Car Open Field Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> – September Roundup in Columbus, Indiana – hosted by CIAHC. Jim Switzer is going to invite the Illini club to September Roundup.
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Northern Indiana Lakes British Motor Club “Fall Out 2012” at Winona Lake
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Halloween Party and business meeting

### November:

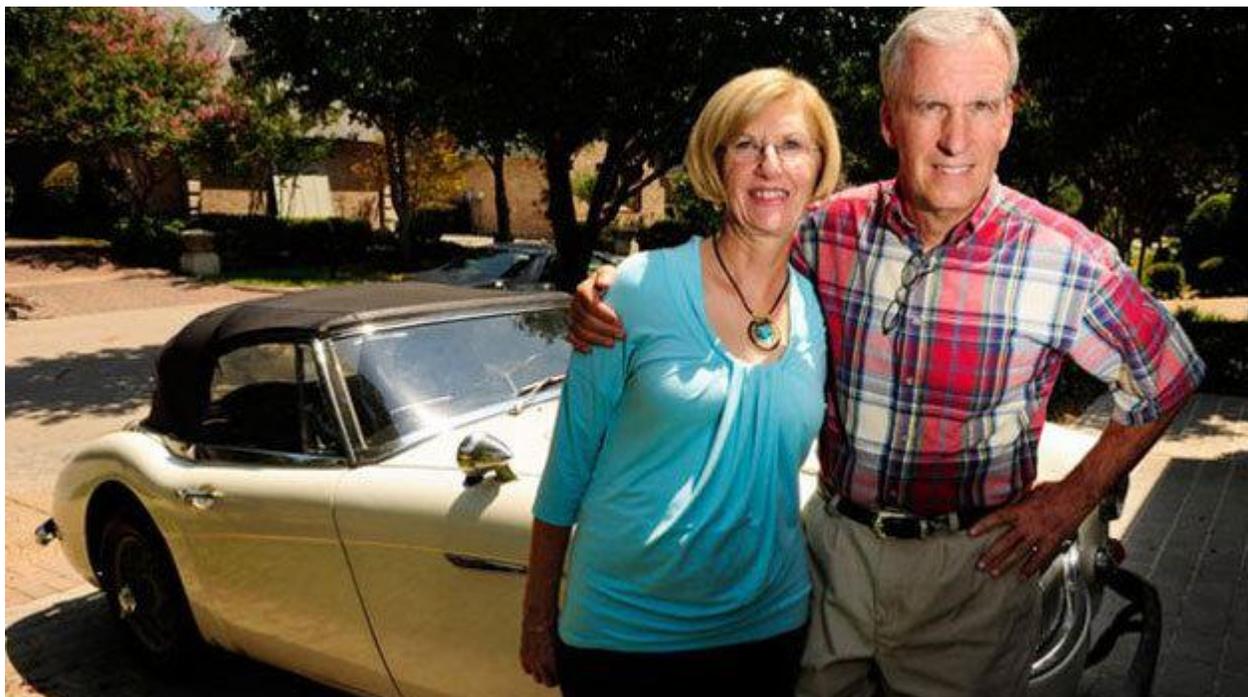
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Business meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> – AHC of America’s delegates meeting to be held at Cambria Suites in Plainfield. The hotel will provide an airport shuttle and meals. Jo doesn’t need help, but invited club members to attend, but notify her first. Auction items are needed.

### December:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Christmas Party in Noblesville

# Texas Man Finds Stolen Car 42 Years Later

abcNEWS By ALON HARISH | ABC News – Wed, Jul 11, 2012



Bob Russell could not be blamed for losing hope that he would reunite with his 1967 Austin-Healey. Stolen outside his Philadelphia apartment 42 years ago, the British roadster seemed a lost cause.

But thanks to the Internet and some creative police work, Russell has his pride and joy back.

When Russell, then a graduate student at Temple University, returned home the morning after a date with his future wife, his car was nowhere to be found. For decades since, he searched for his beloved ride in vain. On a trip to Washington, D.C., he stared at a parked Austin-Healey for half an hour in hopes of finding a distinctive marking, to no avail.

On a recent eBay session, though, his luck changed: the cream-colored car was listed for auction by a Los Angeles car dealer, with a final bid of \$19,700. Russell, who now lives near Dallas, knew the car was his because its vehicle identification number (VIN) matched the one on the title he kept since the theft.

"I'm not trying to sound indelicate, but you're selling my car," Russell told the dealer.

After Los Angeles police told Russell they could not recover it because it was not listed as an active stolen car, Russell called the Philadelphia Police Department,

which, luckily for him, had a few tricks up its sleeve.

Deborah Sanborn, in the department's information-systems division, dug up a Teletype report about the theft in an archive. In order for Philadelphia police to communicate with police in Los Angeles, the case needed to be active in the FBI's information system, which it had not been for about 35 years, said Walt Bielski, a detective in the Philadelphia Police Department's major crimes division.

There seemed to be no way to fix that problem without creating a new one — re-entering the case would cause it to be counted incorrectly in 2012 crime statistics.

But Lt. Fred McQuiggan devised a clever solution: create a new category, "re-entered stolen vehicle," which would allow the theft to be activated without adding to the city's current crime tally.

After Bielski filed the report, the LAPD impounded Russell's car and said the retired sales manager could pick it up whenever — though not without paying \$600 in towing fees.

Russell said he did not mind paying the fees at all when he picked up his Austin in Los Angeles on June 18. He was just happy he did not have to fight for the car in court and amazed at the odds he had beaten.

"The chances of it being it one piece were slim to none. The chances of me finding it were slim to none. Fifty coincidences had to coincide to have this happen," Russell said. "I should have bought some lottery tickets."

The Austin-Healey 3000, discontinued in 1967, is not in the shape it was in the day it was stolen, but Russell said he plans to restore it to its former glory. The interior needs work, the paint needs a new coat and the top needs to be replaced, he said.

Bielski said the car is the oldest stolen car in his department's records.

"I think it'll probably stay that way for a long time," he said.