



# Overdrive

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## *From the President*

By Jim Frakes

As expected, July was a busy month for the Frakes' with wedding showers, rehearsal dinner, and a grand wedding for my granddaughter Claire and her Husband Klint Dougherty. After several rainy days and a downpour while trying to get to the rehearsal dinner at Trader's Point Creamery, the weather broke nicely for the July 8<sup>th</sup> ceremony.

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, we arrived in WACO, after a delay in DFW while a storm passed thru WACO. Yes it was hot, but we quickly learned to stay in shade, any shade, anytime. David Verrill drove our Durango and pulled the trailer with his car inside and had an air conditioned and safe ride.

Conclave WACO had a small crowd of 91 registrations but a very lively crew with help from three Texas clubs made it a good time. Hospitality included a very talented guest speaker from the local McLennan Community College. His knowledge of the history, excellent speaking skills and enthusiasm for his hometown was overwhelmingly received. His description of the single-span, 450 foot long, suspension bridge crossing the Brazos River WACO made it more interesting as the Bridge and park were right across from our host hotel. It opened in 1870 specifically to carry cattle across the bridge at a princely sum of 5 cents per head. The location of WACO along the Chisholm Trail made it ideal for a crossing in place of a ferry which took much longer and certainly more dangerous for the cattle. The Bridge became the focal point of our **car show** on University Street and later, a **party on the bridge**. It is a traditional party place in WACO for many events.

**Monday's** car show was light on cars but long on great looking cars including an unusual amount of very nice Bugeyes. In fact, for the first time in my memory, a beautiful black Bugeye took **Best of Show**.

The Party on the bridge in the evening was a hit as it was more like the major social event of Conclave, just talking to people you may have not met before and seeing old friends.

**Tuesday's** Gymkhana and speed run were held at a local military airport that is still in operation. In fact, we were not allowed to take pictures if the background included a certain area building. Of course, it was hot in the sun and not many airports have trees, but tents provided enough shade. The course, as I understand, was exceedingly long and difficult, according to drivers who got very lost on the Gymkhana. The speed run was too far out for me to walk in that heat and no shade, so pictures are few.

Lunch was downtown in the Hippodrome theater followed by a viewing of some old Healey Movies, thanks to Ben Moore, ably assisted by Tadd Roberts.

Tuesday was also the scene of Racing Paddock Day, in the South Parking lot. A very special group of racing Sprite's were on display, the last racing Healeys to be built by the factory. Interestingly, they were formerly owned by a gentleman named Scott Helmsley (?sp)\_ who passed on a few years ago and the cars were purchased from his estate. A third car in that estate was a red Square Body Spec Sprite race car that I had purchased (and still have) some ten years ago from his widow who had a home in both Houston and Noblesville. I was able to talk to another gentleman there, Roger Williams, who had helped Scott build the car and told me its history and the features (and expense) that went into the car. 1275 engine with special pistons, 276 cam and a host of chassis improvements.



Yes, we did go to Magnolia Markets, just after standing in line to get into the bakery. Since we arrived early there was no line for the bakery but by afternoon it could be a 30-45 minute wait there. The market took about 10 minutes to see..... What gives with that place? Looks like a copy of Pier One.

More interesting was the WACO Mammoth National Monument. Between 1978 and 1990, the fossil remains of 16 Columbian mammoths were discovered. Their efforts uncovered a nursery herd that appears to have died together in a single natural event. Between 1990 and 1997, six additional mammoths were excavated, including a large male (bull). Crews also uncovered the remains of a Western camel, dwarf antelope, American

alligator, giant tortoise, and the tooth of a juvenile saber-toothed cat, which was found next to an unidentified animal.



**Wednesday** was a more relaxed day with the lively Pinewood Derby and Valve Cover racing. The valve cover racing will be back in 2018 and we have the equipment brought back from WACO. The Racing Sprites display continued in the AM with tech sessions in the PM.

Thursday traditionally is a Rally and WACO did not disappoint. Although we did not participate, a large group of the 91 registrations did go by as a member took pictures of each. It was a very short rally, which was merciful in the heat, especially in a Healey.



Thursday evening awards went off well. I can't remember who won what but winners will be posted in Healey Marque. Midwest club took the honors of the DMH award, and an auction completed the event.

Overall, it was a good Conclave, hot, but no one seemed to complain much. Just stay out of the heat.



The usual Friday AM goodbye's included loading the trailer with lots of stuff from 2017 to use in 2018. Car Show posts describing each class, the displacement, how many were built, etc. were on a post outside each class. We brought them back!

Sue and I then headed out to Oklahoma City where we had dinner with her granddaughter, Chelsea and Fiance' Sam, and his parents . They are getting married in November so we will be back there then for a few days. They escorted us to the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial, a very sad place with all of the glass and metal chairs indicating where the victims sat in the building. Most sad is the number of children's chairs placed near their parents. We spent some time there before heading on downtown to see the City.

On to Stillwater, the next day for a Sue's Great Grandson Nathan's third birthday party. Staying two nights there, we traveled on to St. Louis area to visit with Sue's daughter and family, leaving the next AM for Indy and HOME!

Overall, very good time, saw a lot of country but always good to be back home.

We re-scheduled the August meeting until the 15<sup>th</sup> as both David and Jim will be out of town. (again)

The Conclave Committee will have a report at the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.



## ***Tech Sessions***

None scheduled that I am aware of. Please contact me if assistance is needed. 317-697-6441.

## ***CARS/PARTS FOR SALE or WANTED TO BUY***

(Please send Jim Frakes or Steve Halleck any news of cars/parts that are for sale.)

Nothing this month.

## ***Next Business Meeting: NOTE DATE CHANGE!!***

No meeting in July. Aug Business Meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug 15 at Squealers



5515 W. 86th Street, Indianapolis  
(just east of 86th and Zionsville Rd)

(317) 871-7427

Dinner 6:30 & Meeting 7:30

## 2017 CIAHC Officers and Contacts

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### *Mr. Healey's Neighborhood*

**Central Indiana AHC**  
<http://www.ciahc.org>

**Bluegrass AHC**  
<http://www.bluegrassclub.com>

**Miami Valley AHC**  
<http://sites.google.com/miamivalleyahccom>

**Mid Ohio AHC**  
<https://sites.google.com/site/midohioahc/>

**Northern Indiana AHC**  
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthernIndianaAustinHealeyClub>

**Ohio Valley AHC**  
<http://ohiovalleyahc.com>

**Indiana British Car Union**  
<http://www.ibcu.org>

**Austin Healey Club of America**  
<http://www.healeyclub.org>

## ***CIAHC Business Meeting-***

No July meeting due to Conclave

## ***Miscellaneous Meanderings***

***By Steve Halleck***

Please continue to keep Dick and Ruth in your prayers.

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The Cincinnati British Car Show this year seemed to be down on attendees in spite of good weather. There were only about a half dozen Healeys and 4 Sprites. The Triumphs were there in force. There were still plenty of nice cars to view, and it's fun to talk with the owners about what they have done to their vehicles. Harbin Park is a great location. The MG T's got the best vantage point in the park!



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IBCU's London to Brighton drive also got great weather this year. It was cool in the morning, warming to normal temps in the afternoon. Bruce and Bev were there in their S2000 and were kind enough to let me follow them since I didn't have a navigator. We started at the Moral Township Community Center (at London Road). The course was challenging and required close attention – only a few cars completed the full course. After getting off course for the third or fourth time, we ended up on IN 45 headed towards Bloomington. It was a great road, so instead of backtracking, we picked our own course down to French Lick. Almost everyone packed into the German Café for a late lunch and rally awards (we didn't get any awards) before starting for home. It was a long day (driving around 300 miles in total), but the drive was very enjoyable.





The Sprite was cutting out towards the end of the trip down, but it turned out to just be a loose low tension lead connection.

When I get a free day, I want to use the directions and try to figure out where we should have gone. There were lots of good roads that would make a nice drive down to French Lick.

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Anyone familiar with any fun roads to Danville? Kathy and I had supper at the Mayberry Café. It would be a good destination for a drive.

## ***Event Calendar***

Please let me know of any addition/changes!

### **Ongoing Indy Cars & Coffee Events:**

- 1st & 3rd Saturdays at Gator Motorsport – 3353 W. 96th Street – 8:30 AM to Noon
- 2nd Saturdays at IMS Hall of Fame Museum – 4790 W. 16th Street – 8:30 AM to Noon
  - o These dates are currently confirmed for 8/12/17, and 9/9/17 – October pending
- 4th Saturday at Gateway Classic Cars – 4400 W. 96th Street – 8:30 AM – Noon

### **Regular Cruise-Ins:**

- Danville, IN Square – First Friday of each Month, May to October – 5:00 to 9:00 PM
- Noblesville, IN Square – Every Saturday, May to October (earlier/later, if weather allows) – 4:30 to 8:30 PM or later
- Fortville, IN Main Street – Every Wednesday – 5:00 PM until dark
- More around the state: <http://www.oldcarsonly.com/page/page/187576.htm>

Aug. 5-Dayton British Car Show-Eastwood MetroPark, Dayton, OH

Aug. 9-12-Encounter 40-The Austin Healey Sports & Touring Club-Princeton, NJ

Aug. 12-IBCU Indy British Motor Days-Zionsville, IN

**Aug 15** – CIAHC Business Meeting, Squealers

Aug. 26-Carmel Artomobilia-Carmel Arts & Design District (*one of the top shows in Indiana*)

Sept. 9 & 10-26th Annual Scottish Festival-Columbus, IN

Sept. 11-15-Monterey International Healey Week, Monterey, CA

Sept. 12- CIAHC Business Meeting, Location TBD

Sept. 14-17-September Round-Up, Mohican State Lodge, Perrysville, Ohio

Oct. 10- CIAHC Business Meeting, Location TBD

Oct. 12-15-SouthEastern Classic 27-Lake Guntersville, Alabama

Oct. 28-Holoween Party at Bush Barn

Nov. 10-12-Fall Delegates' Meeting

Nov. 14- CIAHC Business Meeting, Location TBD

## 2018 Events

### July

15th - 20th

Conclave 2018

French Lick, Indiana

hosted by [Central Indiana AHC](#)