



# *Overdrive*

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## ***President's Message Feb 2020***

Can you believe it is 2020? Seems like it was only yesterday and we were worrying about the year 2000 Y2K global collapse. Well we survived that year and 19 others, no worse for the wear. Now the CIAHC is poised to put another great year in the history books.

In starting my inaugural President's Message I would be remiss if I failed to single out Jim Frakes for his leadership as President for the last several years. His openness in sharing his time, knowledge and Castleway facilities with club members is greatly appreciated. If I have any issues this year you know I have his number on speed dial.

Kudos also go out to Randy and Janet Belden for putting together the Christmas party at the Glossbrenner mansion on North Meridian. What a lovely venue, good food provided by Black Plate Catering and a nice touch with the Christmas music.

There will be numerous opportunities to get out and drive this year. We have the old favorites – Round Barn Winery, Rolling Into Roanoke, Artmobilia – plus a couple of new experiences. The Northern Indiana Austin-Healey Club is planning a Lake Michigan lighthouse tour June 12 – 15. At least 9 CIAHC members expressed interest. Our club is planning a Crown Hill Cemetery drive in early October and to complete the macabre Halloween theme Rick and Sandy Smith from The

Korner Garage will host the Halloween Party on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Oh, and don't forget our club is hosting September Roundup. Look for more details in the OVERDRIVE calendar of events.

Two changes were announced last night. Grindstone Charleys at 5383 W. Rockville Road will be the club monthly meeting venue until further notice. The second item is that we are suspending the 50/50 drawing each month for the benevolent fund. We have \$500 earmarked for that purpose and will monitor the balance throughout the year to determine if we need to reinstate that activity.

See you in February on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Grindstone Charleys.

Jim Bush

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

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

-Jim Frakes supercharged Bugeye.

***Next Business Meeting:***

**The February meeting will be held Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at Grindstone Charley's 5383 W  
Rockville Rd, Indianapolis  
Dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30 PM.**



**We will continue to use Grindstone Charlie's for meetings going forward.**

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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 January Business Meeting,***

**Date: January 14, 2020**

**Place: Grindstone Charley's  
5383 W Rockville Rd, Indianapolis**

Attendees: Roy Bowman, David Broyles, Ruth Buis, Jim & Sandy Burck, Jim Bush, Jim & Sue Frakes, Steve & Kathy Halleck, Bob & Melanie Haskell, David Morrison & Bonnie Stahlecker, Dick Storrs, Craig Rice, Rick & Sandy Smith, Jim & Jo Switzer

Chapter President Jim Bush called our meeting to order at 7:32 pm

He called on Jim Frakes to talk about the very successful Black Hills Conclave held in September, 2019 and the very enjoyable December Christmas Party co-chaired by Randy and Janet Belden.

The November business meeting minutes were unchanged as published in Overdrive.

Craig Rice Treasurer/Membership reported a current membership count at 50. The Chapter members present voted to maintain our Benevolence Fund at a level of \$300 to \$500 to handle various charitable and other miscellaneous requests.

Jim next directed our attention to our 2020 event calendar:

- Dick Storrs is planning a tech session at his home on Jan 21 or 28 to replace the generator.
- The Switzers are hosting our Daytona/Chili Cookoff Party on Feb 16
- Rick Smith & Sandy Dodson are having an open house/tech session at their Korner Garage to demonstrate some new technology and introduce recent additions to their staff on Feb 29. A delicious lunch will be provided.
- Rick will contact the IMS Museum about providing a car club group tour of the exhibit *From the Vault* which closes Apr 20.

Of particular importance, Jim reminded us that we are the host Chapter for the 2020 September Roundup scheduled for Sep 17 – 20. He will be developing a proposed Budget, needed Committees, and volunteers or assignments for discussion at our next business meeting.

We adjourned at 9:35 pm

**Next meeting: Tues, Feb 11, 6:30 pm, Grindstone Charley's 5383 W Rockville Rd**

## *Miscellaneous Meanderings*

*By Steve Halleck*

Early December, Bob Haskell sent out a request for some muscle to move his MGB from the garage to the workshop and on the lift so he could finish the wiring and get it back on the road. Jim Frakes, Jim Bush, Dave Verrill, Jeff Ford, Peter VanHorn, John Mann, Craig Rice, Ron Francis, Dick Storrs and I showed up to assist in what could have been the shortest 'tech session' in history, as we had enough manpower to probably carry the car over. After the two minutes to move the car, we of course stood around chatting and eventually looked into the clutch issue the B was experiencing. We were less than successful with the clutch, but it was a good time.

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A big thanks to Janet and Randy Belden for hosting the Holiday Gathering at the Glossbrenner Mansion. It's a beautiful building built around 1910. In addition to an excellent location, the food provided was delicious!

Jim Bush presented outgoing president Jim Frakes with an album of photos and memories from the club members. The gift exchange was orchestrated by another entertaining Bush story, this time about the Galena Conclave.







Jim Frakes was surprised when Jim Bush presented him an album thanking him for his leadership of the club.



As Jim tells the Galena story, everyone is mesmerized trying to decide which way to pass their gift. I think Bev has heard the story before.

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Last month I mentioned that Dick Storrs had some interesting articles from the Delegate's Meeting. He brought those to the Holiday Gathering. I've attached an article about the first Healey Conclave in 1976 at the end of the Overdrive.

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## ***Event Calendar***

Please let me know of any addition/changes!

### **2020 Events**

#### **February:**

Feb 11 – CIAHC business meeting, Grindstone Charlie's, Indy

Feb 16 – Daytona 500 Party and Chili Cookoff, Switzer's Home, Avon, IN

Feb 29 – Korner Garage Tech Session, TKG, Indy

#### **March:**

Mar 10 – CIAHC business meeting, Grindstone Charlie's Indy

Mar 15 – 24<sup>th</sup> British Car Swap Meet and Autojumble, Wheaton, IL

#### **April:**

Apr 14 – CIAHC business meeting, Grindstone Charlie's, Indy

Apr 17-19 – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Texas Roundup, Granbury, TX

Apr 18 – Tech Session- Spring Tuneup, Frake's Garage, Castleton, IN

#### **May:**

May 12 – CIAHC business meeting, Grindstone Charlie's, Indy

May 15-17 – Carlisle Import & Performance Nationals, Carlisle, Pa

May 17-21 – 45th Healey Rendezvous, Montebellu Resort South Lake Tahoe

May 17-21 – Conclave 2020, Crystal River, FL

May 23-31 – British Car Week, Planet Earth

May 24 – Indy 500 Party, Monie's/Wright Home, Bloomington, IN

May 31 – Champagne British Car Show, Champagne, IL.

#### **June:**

June 7 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual British Return to Ft. Meigs British Car & Bike Show, Perrysburg, OH

June 9 - CIAHC business meeting, Grindstone Charlie's, Indy

June 12-15 – W. Michigan Lighthouse Tour, TBD

June 14 – Cincinnati Concours d'Elegance, Ault Park, Cincinnati, OH

June 17-21 – 2020 Brickyard Vintage Racing Invitational, IMS, Indianapolis, IN

June 20-28 - Tire Squeal (Schweinfeltring), Southern IN

June 28 – Michiana British Car Show, Notre Dame, IN

#### **July:**

July 11 – Mad Dogs and Englishmen, Kalamazoo, MI

July 12 – British Car Day, Cincinnati, OH

July 14 - CIAHC business meeting, Grindstone Charlie's, Indy

July 25 – Rolling Into Roanoke, Roanoke, IN



**August:**

Aug 1 – British Car Day, Dayton, OH

Aug 8 – British Motor Day, Zionsville, In

Aug 11 - CIAHC business meeting, Grindstone Charlie's, Indy

Aug 21-23 – Artomobilia Events, Artomobilia Car Show Aug 22, Carmel, IN

**September:**

Sept 8 - CIAHC business meeting, Grindstone Charlie's, Indy

Sept 12/13 – Columbus Scottish Festival / European Car Show, Columbus, IN

Sept 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> – September Roundup, Springhill Suites, Plainfield, IN

Sept 19 – SIRBrit Motor Cars Show, Newberg, IN

**October:**

Oct 2-4 – Newport Antique Auto Hill Climb, Newport, IN

Oct 10 – Crown Hill Cemetery Drive and Lunch, Indy

Oct 15-18 – Southeastern Classic XXIV, Lake Lanier, GA

Oct 24 – Halloween Party, The Korner Garage, Indy

**November:**

Nov 6-8 – AHCA Fall Delegates Meeting, Plainfield, IN

Nov 10 – CIAHC business meeting, Grindstone Charlie's, Indy

**December:**

Dec ?? – CIAHC Christmas Part, TBD

# Seventy-six Healeys, 200 Registrants, Marked First Conclave in '76 in Indiana

## Cars from across North America flocked to inaugural meet



by Walt Blanck

Midwest (Chicago Area) AHC

Seventy-six Healeys and 200 registrants made up the coincidental magical numbers at the first AHCA Conclave ever held—in July, '76—the 200th anniversary of our country. That hugely successful first Conclave has led to many others; this year's Conclave in Asheville, NC, marks the 20th anniversary of that first meet in Bloomington, IN. Chicagoans Walt and Jeanette Blanck and Chuck and Edie Anderson, virtual founders of the Austin-Healey Club of America, were the ones who made sure it all happened. Walt tells the story:



Early in 1975 I had just been elected regional director of the Midwest Region and had also taken on the responsibility as *CHATTER* editor. I started to get big ideas regarding the future of the AHCA: Might there be pockets of A-H owners who would like to become associated with a national organization with common goals and benefits? Why not

meet, with different locations every year, to allow many people to enjoy their Healey hobby with others?

I posed both ideas in a *CHATTER* survey questionnaire and received positive responses. But when local club members gave a cool reception to the thought of conducting a national meet, Jeanette and the Andersons and I decided to do it anyway, with or without additional help.

After a long weekend driving trip through Ohio and Kentucky in the fall of 1975, to find a suitable location for something which was only a dream, Jeanette and I were getting discouraged; we were not impressed with the facilities or perceived cooperation of the people operating the state parks we visited. Then, on the way back to Chicago from western Kentucky, we passed a place called "Inn of the Four Winds" just east of Bloomington, IN, on Lake Monroe.

We stopped in, explained our mission to the management, and were welcomed warmly. They even invited us to dinner to sample the food (it was delicious). They were thrilled with the concept of a sports car meet and pledged to do everything they could to help us with the planning and implementation.

On our return to Chicago, we spread the good news and started to work. With no patterns to follow—and not even a name for the event—we had a lot of conversations with the Andersons. I suggested calling the event "Conclave," since as a boy scout our gatherings were called conclaves. The name seems to have caught on!

In February, 1976, we returned with the Andersons to the inn to lay out the rally and a funkhana. Over the ensuing months, *CHATTER* presented the details to the readership, and the reservations came rolling in from across the country and Canada, the heavy fee of \$10 per entrant not a deterrent. As the time approached, our excitement grew as more and more calls came in from enthusiastic Healey owners desiring to be part of the big party.

We were becoming a national club in a big hurry, for this interim period saw the formation of a new area club (Indianapolis), a new look to *CHATTER*, and a new national logo.

Finally it was time to go to the meet. We caravanned with the Andersons, Chuck's van loaded with refreshments for the hospitality suite (the stuff was less expensive in Chicago).





By Friday night, July 16, over 40 Healeys and 150 people had driven in from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Texas, Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and of course, Indiana. More were to come, from Canada, Colorado, and Washington state, all to enjoy the first of what has become standard: friendships old and new (mostly new—90% of these folks had never met before), Healey talk, food and refreshments, and the roar of Healey driving activities.

On Saturday morning the Healeys were still coming in from all over. It was very thrilling to see our dreams finally materializing. Meeting and greeting people we hadn't met before but who were destined to become friends for many years to come was truly a fantastic experience.

The event was under way. Folks registered in the morning and then drove the rally, which took them through the picturesque back roads of southern Indiana and even past an automobile graveyard with a rusting Healey sitting there. Jeanette manned the checkpoint with a Polaroid camera; she was assisted by Dudley Campbell, the designer of the new national logo. As each car came through the checkpoint, Jeanette snapped a picture, which then had to be shown at the end to Ernie and Gail Ryssso as proof of having gone through the checkpoint. (The Rysssos were members of the original 1960 Midwest Region.)

Hospitality, a BBQ banquet, awards, and the funkhana rounded out the event. As the event drew to a close, we called everyone together on the parking lot. We had developed a questionnaire to get opinions on our efforts and to find out whether Conclave should be done again, and where.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, with some good ideas for the future. We had succeeded!

This first Conclave brought together folks who loved their cars and who wanted to meet others who shared their enthusiasm. Most of the cars were not shiny bright as they were at subsequent Conclaves—for this was 20 years ago, and the cars were then road-worn "beaters" with up to 22 years of driving; but they came anyway. Looking back at the condition of the Healeys coming to later meets, we realize we had indeed fostered the "preservation of the marque."

As a result of the meet, a number of new area clubs were formed, and a spirit of camaraderie developed that exists to this day. We feel a great deal of satisfaction when we attend AHCA activities, knowing that the concepts we initiated are still going strong.

*Photos are from the August, 1976, CHATTER and from the archives of Chuck and Edie Anderson. In spite of the leisure suits, polyester shirts, and long hair, some people are still recognizable!*

