



Overdrive

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President's Message Feb 2021

This COVID 19 is the virus that just won't go away. In December alone nationally there were over 80,000 deaths and here in Indiana over 2500 people succumbed to this epidemic. With this latest surge it is safe to say we won't be having a January meeting, and February is in jeopardy also. But you can take this downtime to renew your Healey membership. The deadline is January 15th (to get in the club directory). The preferred method is to renew on line at <https://healeyclub.org>, but you Luddites can send Mike Schneider a \$60 check and still be good to go for 2021.

Conclave at Big Bear, California is still accepting registrations. If the event is cancelled, you will get your registration monies returned minus a \$35 handling fee. Any regalia you ordered will be shipped to you.

Roy Bowman tried to register for the 2021 Southeastern Classic scheduled for April 22 – 25 in Florida and was notified the event has been postponed until October. Of a local concern-- I haven't seen any announcements about Springthing. I did review the Northern Indiana Healey club website and noticed they have the Lighthouse Tour rescheduled for June 11th through the 14th. The Baywatch Resort in Traverse City is the hotel of choice. No mention if Pamela Anderson will be in attendance. Mid Ohio will be hosting September Roundup again at Mohican State Park northeast of Columbus, Ohio. The dates are September 30 through October 3rd. This is a week later than the usual 3rd week of September, but, if we learned anything this past year, it is to be flexible.

Let's all social distance, mask up, and be as cautious as we can. We can reminisce about last year's parking lot meetings, various drives, and outdoor dining when such activities were deemed safe.

It will get better.

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 got a message from Scott Brown who had someone message out Ohio Valley Facebook site wanting to sell these Healey manuals.

I'm guessing the bottom two might be of interest to a collector and possibly the top two as well - if you know of someone interested, the Facebook contact name is Michael Moller Pederson or they can contact me and I'll provide their name to Michael from our FB site. Scott & Eileen Brown <brown8133@roadrunner.com>



If anyone needs Bugeye pieces for lifting the bonnet, I've switched mine to forward tilt, so I have hinges, hood stays, locking rod, bonnet latch, and 3 different hood seals (the one in the car when I got it, Moss, and McGregor). - Steve

Next Business Meeting:

We will continue in a holding pattern for our meetings, waiting for 1) Great weather for an outside meeting, or 2) for the virus to get under control.

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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>

Miscellaneous Meanderings

By Steve Halleck

Have you gotten or scheduled your vaccine shot yet? A majority of us are eligible for it now (or soon). We've got to get a sufficient percentage of folks their shots to allow us to get back to together safely for meeting and events.

The Southeastern Classic has been postponed to October. Hopefully most of our other events can occur on schedule this year, but we have to be flexible.

Last month I asked what you were doing with your Healeys during lockdown. I got only a few responses. I'm not sure if folks have put their cars away for the winter, still deciding what changes to make over the winter, or have an email rule that sends my emails to the spam folder. 😊

Doug Bruce is busy with his race cars and sent this update:

I can give a few updates for you.

Currently, I own two race cars, and neither are operational! About par for the course when one decides to race British cars! The 1972 Merlyn Formula Ford has a bad starter and I am currently searching for something that will replace the original starter. The old one has been sent away for a rebuild. I also am working out some wiring issues-SO as different of a car from an Austin Healey the Merlyn is, the similarities in the issues I find are striking!

The 1959 Bugeye is another story.

After racing it in August at Grattan Raceway in Michigan, where I ran up front all weekend; I even managed my first pole in the Spridget feature race against the best competition I have raced against-then I went on to lead every lap and claim the win, it now sits in my garage with a gearbox issue.

I went to Tulsa OK to race in October, a track (Hallett) that is the home base for the gentleman I bought the car from, I had promised him I would come out every few years. Well, Bill passed away this summer after a fall, so I wanted to come out and have a toast to him with his friends and celebrate a life well lived. As an aside, he owned a few street Healey's and his company is the company that prints the AH club yearly directory. I will miss him dearly.

So that race weekend, after the 11.5hour tow out there from Bloomington, started out really well. The weather was great, we were all masked up and distanced from each other when in the paddock. The car was running fast-we really have her tuned perfect and she just does whatever I ask, at whatever RPM range I need, (although I do try to limit my time above 7,000 rpm's, I run her sometimes to 7,600 RPM's!). In the next to last race of the weekend, on Saturday afternoon, I had an issue. I qualified third, behind another Bugeye and a very fast Porsche 914. (I don't know if you have ever raced against a Porsche, but those underpowered little devils can turn on rails!). So I made a great start, took the lead, into turn 1, but left room because as they say, you usually can't win a race on the first lap, but you can surely lose it on lap one. I ended back in 3rd place by the mid lap,

and settled in there, just working on where I was going to pass the other Bugeye, and I figured out where I could as he always had to take turn 2 very wide. On lap 8, going into turn 9, as I downshifted, I felt a bump or hop in the car, my eyebrows raised a bit..then as we approached turn 2, I downshifter, then on mid turn, as I applied throttle and upshifted...I had no drive! I was still going fast enough that I coasted uphill on exit towards turn3/4, and no matter how hard I tried, or what I tried, she had no gear engagement. I pulled to driver's left and waited for the hook of shame to take me back to the paddock area and my buddies who were going to make fun of my misery.

So the car sits now, in my garage. The fluids have been drained, most of the engine bits are unhooked, and I should have the engine/gearbox removed this Christmas weekend. I will then remove the side panel on the gearbox to see if I broke a main shaft. Eventually, I will box it up and send it off to a guy in Minnesota for a rebuild. No bits or anything colorful came out of the box when I drained it, so we shall see. My goals are to race it in June at Blackhawk Farms over Father's day, then the Merlyn a couple weeks later at Mid-Ohio. Fingers crossed that we can have spectators and that both cars will be ready.

I wish all of my Healey friends a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Doug Bruce

Note: Bruce found the transmission wasn't the issue in the Sprite. His differential broke!

Bob Haskell has kept busy on his MGB:

Jim/Steve,

I put an initial 2021 calendar on our website. Let me know if you have any additions/corrections/deletions.

The MGB starts. A couple of things to do on the interior and need to put the bonnet back on. Then a test drive - at least down the driveway to see if the brakes hold on a 'hill'.

Bought a new (to me) toy - an Ammco brake shoe grinder. The last couple of sets of brake shoes I've bought have too much lining material so they don't fit inside the drums. In the past I have used a file to shave them - not the best approach. Will see how this works.

Cheers,

Bob Haskell
Austin Healey 3000 BN7/BT7 registrar

Jim Bush was looking at a rack to store/move his Healey hardtop and decided to make his own using spare castors. It looks quite sturdy!



Jim Frakes is keeping busy!

Working on the Green BJ 8. It is stripped and at the pro strip shop waiting its turn. Jim Switzer has his Sprite Tub there before mine.

I am cleaning parts for running gear so I can be ready when it returns.

Due to COVID, I still have not started engine on the White BJ8. I wanted Bernie Lamp to be there but COVID has interfered. I may go ahead and do it but would feel better if I had HELP from knowledgeable engine people.

I am in ware house every day, 6 days week. If Black Durango is parked there, any one is welcome to knock on door.

BTW. sand Blaster is working good now if anyone needs small to Med size parts blasted.

Jim

When you touch the smallest amount of anti seize:



How tight should the oil plug be?
Asking for a friend



Event Calendar

If you know of any I've missed, please let me know! Check the web site (www.ciahc.org) for changes. Bob is doing a good job on keeping it up to date.

2021 Events

March:

Mar 16 – CIAHC business meeting, TBD

Mar 21 – 25th British Car Swap Meet and Autojumble, Wheaton, IL

April:

Apr 20 – CIAHC business meeting, TBD

Apr 22-25 – Southeastern Classic XXIV, Safety Harbor, FL – **postponed to October**

May:

14-15 – Carlisle Import and Performance Nationals, Carlisle, PA

16-21 – Conclave 2021, Big Bear Lake, CA

17 – CIAHC business meeting, TBD

June:

11-14 – Northern Indiana Austin-Healey Driving and Lighthouse Tour, Traverse City, MI

12-27 – Tire Squeal 2021, Southern Indiana drive

13 – Cincinnati Concours d'Elegance, Ault Park, Cincinnati, OH

15 – CIAHC business meeting, TBD

27 – 33rd Annual Michiana British Car Show, St Mary's College, South Bend, IN

July:

10-11 – Mad Dogs and Englishmen British Auto Fair XXX, Hickory Corners, MI

20 – CIAHC business meeting, TBD

August:

7 – 36th Annual Daytona British Car Day, Eastwood Metro Park, Dayton, OH

17 – CIAHC business meeting, TBD

28 – Carmel Artomobilia, Carmel, IN

September:

11-12 – Columbus Scottish Festival, Columbus, IN

19-23 Healeys @ Newport, Newport, RI

21 – CIAHC business meeting, TBD

30-10/2 -September Roundup, Mochican State Lodge, Perrysville, OH