



Overdrive

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President's Message March 2021

I was sad to hear of the passing of Frank Wicker in late January. He was a very talented restorer of Austin-Healeys. Within the Central Indiana club I know for sure he did Jim Burck's 100, numerous cars for Jim Frakes and completed minor work on my BJ7 for the previous owner Don Goodrich. He might have done the restoration for Craig Rice's 100 also. Frank opened his shop in 1984 and developed quite a reputation for quality work. I first met Frank in 2000 when CIAHC hosted Conclave and he brought a "Wickerized" Healey with a paint job that appeared greenish from one angle and appeared in a bluish tint from another angle. It was nice.

Last year I drove one or both of our Healeys each month. Well that streak has ended. I couldn't muster the courage to double bag my body in thermal and venture out in January. As the Chicago Cub fans say – way til next year.

At this time Conclave is still a go. Let's hope it does happen this year. They, Austin-Healey Association of Southern California, have put together a fun filled event including a tour of Joshua Tree National Park and Paddlewheel Boat excursion on Big Bear Lake, plus all the normal events we have come to expect at Conclave and some off the charts. Worst British accent? We all can be finalist in that contest.

Bev and I got our 2nd COVID shots and are now street legal. The number of cases and deaths are declining now and hopefully we can soon meet again. I will be finalizing details for Deb Bruce's wildflower hike at Mary Grey Bird Sanctuary in early Spring as well as Dick Storr's site survey

contest around the state. In the mean time you have time to think of what tour or cruise you would like to do this year.

Stay safe.

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.)

I'm looking for parts to convert the Sprite from drum to front disk brakes. Anyone have front suspension parts for a later Sprite/Midget? Looking for swivel axle, steering knuckle arm, hub (for disc wheel), backing plate, calipers, fork to hold the brake line. If you know of a wrecked Sprite/Midget or one that's been dis-assembled, please let me know. (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

The IBCU will not hold a London to Brighton Rally this spring. It may be moved to a fall event. The Zionsville British Car Day is still a go in August. Hopefully, the cancellations will decrease.

Most of this group is in the categories to have gotten their vaccine. I hope everyone has taken advantage of it or will as soon as they can. Kathy and I get our second round in about a week. We need to beat this virus and get life back to normal!

Dick Storrs sent a note asking if we could get a small group of folks together to participate in this year's Schwienefiletring (The Tire Squeal) in July. It would be a great all-day (or multiple day) event for the club and a chance to drive some of the nicest roads in Southern Indiana.

The Tire Squeal is a 175-mile drive that goes through Bloomington, Nashville, Bedford and many small towns. There are 10 points of interest along the way where you stop and take a picture of your car at the POI for event points. You get additional points for driving the whole route, for answering riddles, donating to Gleaners, and for enjoying food at several participating restaurants (with bonus points for pork tenderloins). The drive is open for two weeks and can be done over multiple days (or you can do multiple complete drives).

The drive is a benefit for Gleaners Food Bank, with this year's goal of \$15,000 raised.

The MINI club has done the drive the last two years. It's one of our favorite drives with the club taking first and second place in the team standings.

Please let me know your interest in participating this year and if you think we should make it a one or two-day drive. I'll have the whole course laid out on my Garmin so we can stay on track without getting lost.

For more details, check out their web site - <https://schweinefiletring.com/home>.

The weather this month has been terrible. I've refused to give up driving the bugeye this winter and was able to get it out to stretch it's legs in December and early January when we had some 30+ degree days and saltless streets. Since then, it's been miserable with cold and snow each week. It's been hard to even go out to the garage. The forecast indicates we should be warming up, and hopefully I can hang up the snow shovel for the year, but it will be a sloppy mess for quite a while as the snow melts.

With my first Sprite, I drove in the snow all the time. In the '60s and '70s, these were cheap cars that you didn't worry about – even though they were only a few years old. The Sprite was

my daily driver year-round. Driving my car in the winter was a challenge, as the hood didn't fit the side curtains so there was a gap at the top. I can remember snow blowing sidewise through the interior as I drove.



Nope! Not with this one.



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 – on hold

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

14 – British Car Day, Zionsville, IN

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