



# OVERDRIVE

Feb, 2007

Official Newsletter of the  
Central Indiana Austin Healey Club

Vol2007 Iss1



**On the cover:** The well-traveled competition Healey, TON 792, in its current trim. For more on its unusual history, see page 5.

## What's Coming Up

**Next Meeting:** Tues, Feb 20, 6:30 pm. Santorini's Greek Kitchen, 1417 Prospect St, 917-1117

**2007 Renewal Dues:** No increase for 2007. Send payment to Craig Rice by Feb 15

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**January Meeting Minutes**

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**Mr. Healey's Neighborhood**

**Central IN AHC**

<http://home.earthlink.net/~ciahc/>

**Bluegrass AHC**

[www.bluegrassclub.com](http://www.bluegrassclub.com)

**Midwest Region AHC**

[http://members.aol.com/  
midwestah/club/](http://members.aol.com/midwestah/club/)

**Ohio Valley AHC**

[http://members.aol.com/  
ovaustinhealey/](http://members.aol.com/ovaustinhealey/)

**IN British Car Union**

[www.ibcu.org](http://www.ibcu.org)

**Marque Matters Blog**

[www.marquematters.blogs.com/](http://www.marquematters.blogs.com/)

**AH Club of America**

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

**Attendees:** Jimmy Alderson, Roy Bowman, David Broyles, Ruth & Dick Buis, Jim Burck, Jim & Karen Frakes, Bruce Gilham, Paul Imel, Bob & Melanie Haskell, John Mann, Brent & Robyn Porter, Craig Rice, Jo Switzer, Dick Storrs

After a social hour and dinner, Jim Frakes called the meeting to order at 7:40.

**Nov Meeting Minutes** – were approved as published in OVERDRIVE.

**Treasurer/Membership** – Craig Rice reported on our funds balance and that membership had increased to 65. Renewal dues 2007 are due Feb 15th.

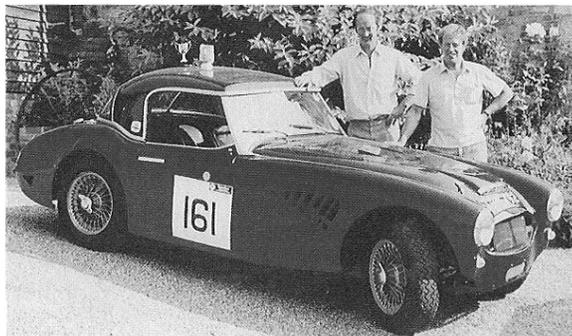
**2007 Calendar** – Jim Frakes led us thru a discussion of our monthly schedule. Jim offered possible changes that we could sometimes meet on days other than the 3rd Tues of the month, and that we might conduct business only at certain meetings rather than each month, making the non-business monthly meetings social or fun in nature. He also encouraged us to propose or support events which would emphasize the driving our cars together in 2007.

Jim asked for a volunteer host for a Feb 18th Daytona 500 party or a chili cook-off in March. Porters will look into arrangements for a March duckpin bowling night at Fountain Square. Haskells will host a spring Tech Inspection event on Apr 28th. Jim asked whether there was interest in having our club organize the Jul 14 IBCU's London to Brighton Run rallye this year. In recent years, our club has rarely had participants entered in his event. It typically ends in SE Indiana which facilitates attendance at the Cincinnati British car show on the next day. Several members present indicated they could volunteer to help our IBCU rep Brent Porter stage this.

**Other Matters** - Discussion turned to possible ideas to restore our declining funds balance. Jo Switzer offered the idea of creating a CIAHCA club cookbook for sale. Brent Porter made an appeal on behalf of a family friend for O+ blood donors to the Central IN Blood Center. Bruce Gilham and Paul Imel wish to have Tech Sessions soon. Jim Frakes, in the absence of any CIAHCA bylaws, plans to look into those of other clubs.

We adjourned at 9:00 pm. Next meeting is Tue, Feb 20, 6:30 pm, at Santorini's Greek Kitchen.

*Everywhere .... continued from page 5*



**Top left:** Jim Story, (right) after completing a restoration which converted Ton 792 back to rallye trim for competing in occasional retro rallyes, hill climbs and sprint trial events, is pictured here in 1982 with his awards after the Brighton Speed Trials.

Later, it joined the other eleven remaining original ex-works Healeys for the reunion at the historic French race circuit at Montlhery for several laps around the famed banks.



**Bottom left:** In 1985, Tim Rodgers bought TON 792 in order to compete in historic rallyes and took a class win in the 1985 RAC Historic. Shown here is the car on a special stage in the 1991 RAC Historic. From 1994-2000, it was inactive, but was brought back again for important vintage racing events. In recent years, it has competed in the 2004 and 2006 Le Mans Classics for vintage cars.

See the cover page for how it appears today.

*page 3*

**In Reverse**  
**An interview of Charlene & Bruce Gilham**  
by Robyn and Brent Porter



**When did you join the Central Indiana chapter of the Austin Healey Club of America?** We bought our BJ8 on March 22, 2003 and joined the club in April.

**How many annual Conclave events have you attended?** Winston-Salem and Akron.

**Favorite Conclave ?** Akron.

**Have you held a club office? If so, which offices?** No, not yet . . . Bruce was nominated for an office this year.

**What do you enjoy most about membership?** The people are friendly, interesting and have a genuine desire to help members improve their cars.

**What is your favorite Healey moment?** Bruce: When we were first married we lived on Long Island and owned a 1964 BRG BJ8. One fall weekend we drove it to New England for the winding/hilly roads and the beautiful scenery. We didn't understand that everyone else from the East Coast would be there as well, and there were no hotel rooms to be had. We ended up in a small cabin with no insulation and a kerosene stove. The stove had one speed, HIGH, and the temperature in the cabin was either blazing hot or freezing cold. I was up multiple times that night to turn on/off the stove while we tried to stay comfortable. We were just glad to have a room and now, years later, we laugh about it. Both: In the summer of 2004, Brent was rebuilding the engine. It was finished and installed in the car just a week before our daughter's wedding. Our fondest memory is Julie and her new husband, Adam, driving away from the wedding reception in the Healey with cans trailing behind. The sound of the engine was music to our ears! (See image on next page.)

**What is your favorite recurring car event, in Indiana or other?** Both: SeptemberFest, even though we have only been to one.

**What car have you owned previously, that you wished you owned now OR what is your all-time favorite automobile?** Our all time favorite car was the '64 Healey, which was eventually stolen. We also had a sweet 1957 Chevy Bel-Air two-door hardtop - pale yellow with a white top.

**Current car project?** We held a tech session in January to prepare the BJ8 for the upcoming summer season. The wheels are now in North Carolina to be tuned, the seats are in Speedway for repair and the carburetors are in Oklahoma to be rebuilt.

**How did the two of you meet?** We were introduced by friends. It was a blind date that went well!

**How many years together?** We dated after being introduced, but Charlene moved to California to teach and Bruce moved to Long Island to work for Grumman Aerospace. We reunited after Charlene moved back to Indiana and Bruce visited his family for the holidays. We've been married for 37 years.

**How many children, grandchildren?** We have two sons and a daughter. Elliott and his wife, Sara, have two girls, Isabelle and Madeline, as well as Samuel who was born the day before Thanksgiving last year. Eric lives in Denmark and really likes it; he is especially attracted to one special Swedish young lady! Julia and Adam live in Lexington and have a whacky Boxer, Bella.

**Give us a fun fact about yourself, something not everyone knows.** Charlene: I challenge myself by pursuing new interests. I've recently taken two writing courses and a quilt class. I made a baby quilt for new grandson, Samuel. Bruce: I worked at Grumman on the F-14 Tomcat project. Next door to my plant, NASA was simulating lunar landings and spacewalks using a Lunar Module mockup. I was privileged to sign a document that was microfilmed and sent to the moon and back on Apollo 11 with Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. After the successful mission, the signatures were printed on a commemorative poster, and I have a framed copy in my office.

**Where did you attend High School?** Both: In Indiana. Bruce: Danville High School. Charlene: Southport High School.

**Additional schooling or training?** We are both Purdue graduates but never met even though we were on campus at the same time. Charlene earned a Masters in Education from Hofstra University while we lived on Long Island.

*continued on p 4*

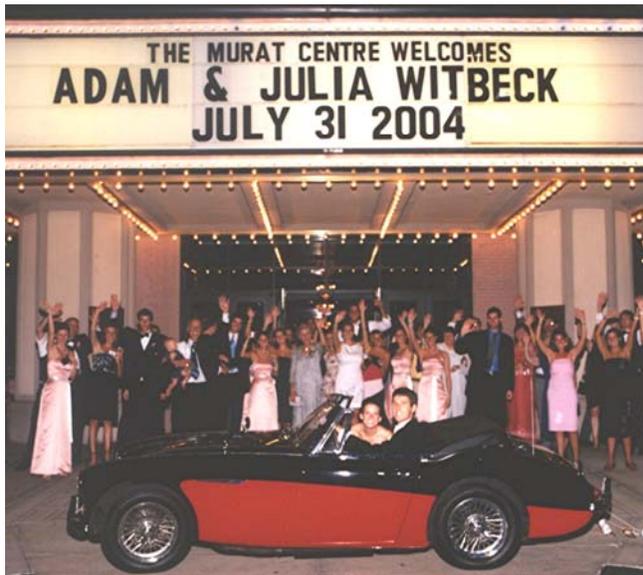
**Other clubs, associations or affiliations?** Charlene: I'm completing the Master Gardener program at the Purdue Extension Office in Hamilton County. I'm at the stage where I need to volunteer for a community project. No, working in **your** yard this spring doesn't count as volunteer hours!

**Are there interesting or significant professional accomplishments you'd like to mention?**

Charlene started a nursery school at the Plainfield United Methodist Church that is still in operation 28 years later.

**World travel outside the US?** Yes, we love to travel! We've been to many sites in Canada, Mexico and Europe. We love Hawaii and have vacationed there five times. We visited our daughter, Julie, when she was studying in London. Last year Charlene visited Eric in Denmark with side trips to Sweden and Norway.

**Other Hobbies?** We love to be surrounded by the rugged beauty of nature, which is why we try to visit national parks as much as possible.



The saga of TON 792

***I've Been Everywhere*** (chorus)

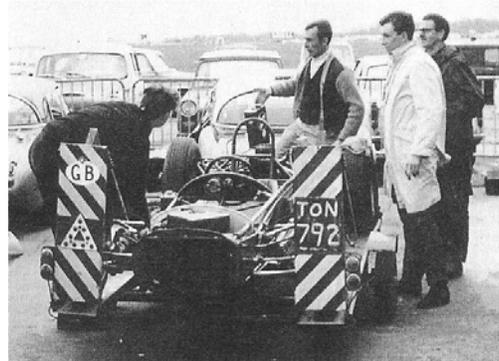
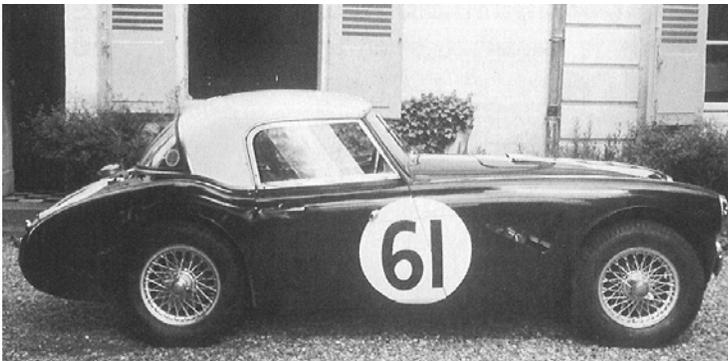
I've been everywhere man  
I've been everywhere man  
Crossed the deserts bare man  
I've breathed the mountain air man  
Of travel I've had my share man  
I've been everywhere

In telling the story of 100-6 TON 792, the song *I've Been Everywhere*, written by Geoff "Tangle Tongue" Mack, comes to mind. Mack, from Australia, originally included long lists of Australian place names in the verses, but shortly after rewrote it to include North American places. It then was recorded by and became a 1962 #1 Country hit for Hank Snow. This car has one of the richest and most widely varied careers of any Big Healey.



**Top left:** Originally, the personal car of BMC Vice-Chairman George Harriman, TON 792 (2nd from the right) was pressed into service as part of the five-car BMC Healey works team for the 1958 Alpine Rallye. Nancy Mitchell and Gillian Willton-Clark finished 12th overall and 6th in class, but a navigational error cost them a coveted Alpine Cup (penalty free run).

**Top right:** After competing in the 1958 Liege-Rome-Liege Rallye, the car was sold to John Clarke, shown racing it at the 1959 Easter BRSCC event at Brands Hatch.



**Mid-Left:** Clarke, after an extensive rebuild, entered the car in the 1961 Le Mans as a privateer and, at race-time, found himself positioned at the rear of the the field as 1st alternate. However, they were not able to advance further up the order to make the race.  
**Mid-right:** After it was passed to a couple of other owners, TON 792 was owned by F3 and Healey Motor Company contract driver Clive Baker for a few months in 1964. Racing it in a couple of Club events, he is shown here using it as a tow vehicle at the front of his F3 trailer!  
**Bottom-left:** On the grid at Snetterton in 1971 under the ownership of Dick Slaughter, Ton 792 had previously been converted into and raced as a Modsports race car with 10-in. wheels. In 1980, he sold it to Jim Story, the managing director of a Sussex motor and machine shop.

**Jan 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	X	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Feb 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	X	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

**Mar 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	X	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Apr 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	X	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**May 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	X	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Jun 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	X	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**Jul 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	X	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Jul 14 IBCU's London to Brighton Run

**Aug 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	X	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**Sept 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	X	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sept 8 NIAHCA's Lemon Creek Field Day

Sept 14-15 SeptemberFest 2007

Sept 23 IBCU's Indy Brit Car Days Show

**Oct 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	X	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Nov 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	X	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 18-20 Springthing

May 18-20 MOTRAH 2007, Road America

**Dec 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	20	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 24-29 Intl Conclave, Vermont

Dec 1 XMAS Party (tentative)