



# Overdrive

May, 2010

Official Newsletter of the Central Indiana Austin-Healey Club Vol2010 Issue 5

## **From the President:**

The weather we have waited for through a long Winter is finally here. Let's get the cars out and exercise them! Even if it just a trip to the local impromptu car show event on a weekend night, let's drive them.

Haskell's car cleanup was successful with several cars getting a chance on the lift for at least a check-up. Jon Monies did a very good job of washing and detailing Joan's Jaguar. Dick Buis wanted a check of his overdrive. Jim Frakes and Jim Switzer took it for a five mile ride and declared it working great. A plug change on my BJ8 and a general torque check of everyone's front shock bolts was made. Mel took the ladies to town shopping and returned to serve lunch refreshments.

Jo and Jim Switzer informed us at the last meeting that Danville Square is reserving three sides of the square for Friday evening car shows, starting in June. I think Jo and Jim would like to plan at least a few Friday night CIAHC gatherings this summer.

May 1 is Northern Indiana's annual Spring Tune-up at the Mahnensmith's in Ft Wayne. Several members plan to go up. Bob Haskell seems to be coordinating the trip, so check in on Bob's plans.

Dick Storrs is planning another drive. Put this on your calendar for June. Dick promises the tour, the trains, the winery, and especially the food, will be worth it. This will be the trip to the Live Steam Trains - Ertel Winery Tour (6/19/2010). Check it out at <http://www.ertelcellarswinery.com/winery.html>. The live steam trains web site is <http://www.railsusa.com/cgi-bin/links/go.cgi?id=4656>.

Jim

## **New Members**

Welcome to new members Don & Joyce Yost, owners of a Sprite MkIII.

Address: 3814 E 400 N, Windfall, IN 46076-9424.

Phone: 765-945-7014.

email: [dearsir@netscape.com](mailto:dearsir@netscape.com)

## **Next Meeting**

Note that this meeting is a week early as SpringThing starts on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thursday, May 6th at Battery Park Salon, 201 North Illinois St., Indianapolis (317) 237-3388.

Times: 6:30 pm - dinner

7:30 pm - meeting

## **Contents**

Thank-you from Sharing Hearts.....	3
Spring Drive 2010 Report .....	3
Spring Clean Up .....	4
Just Another Garage Tour .....	5
From the President .....	1
Officers and Contacts .....	2
From the Editor .....	2
Business Meeting Minutes .....	2
Tech Sessions .....	4
Progress .....	4
Calendar .....	7

## 2010 CIAHCA Officers and Contacts

### President

Jim Frakes  
944 Laurel Lane  
Noblesville, IN 46062  
(317) 773-8676  
[jimf@frakes-eng.com](mailto:jimf@frakes-eng.com)

### Vice President

Melanie Haskell  
1570 Saylor Street  
Zionsville, IN 46077  
(317) 873-0841  
[mmhaskell@earthlink.net](mailto:mmhaskell@earthlink.net)

### Treasurer/Membership

Craig Rice  
4245 Roland Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46228  
(317) 291-6881  
[craigsuerice@iquest.net](mailto:craigsuerice@iquest.net)

### National Delegate

Jim Switzer  
10392 Connaught Drive  
Carmel, IN 46032  
(317) 802-9264  
[jimswitzer@earthlink.net](mailto:jimswitzer@earthlink.net)

### Secretary/Overdrive/Web

Bob Haskell  
1570 Saylor Street  
Zionsville, IN 46077  
(317) 873-0841  
[rchaskell@earthlink.net](mailto:rchaskell@earthlink.net)

### Mr. Healey's Neighborhood

#### Central Indiana AHC

<http://www.ciahc.org>

#### Bluegrass AHC

<http://www.bluegrassclub.com>

#### Northern Indiana AHC

<http://members.aol.com/midwestah/club/>

#### Ohio Valley AHC

<http://members.aol.com/ovaustinhealey/>

#### Indiana British Car Union

<http://www.ibcu.org>

#### Marque Matters Blog

<http://www.marquematters.blogs.com/>

#### AH Club of America

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

## ***From the editor***

Well, the 07 Mini Cooper S is back in the body shop. Someone decided to turn right from the center lane and we were in the right lane. That leaves the passenger side and the roof unscathed (so far).

Had a nice drive to a junk yard in Ambros, IN to get a used rim for the VW. Drove back through Windfall where our newest member, Don Yost, hails from. Drove past an interesting collection of old cars sitting outside a business in Windfall. Will have to stop next time and see what the story is.

I would like to publish the newsletter by the first of the month. One of these times. Articles or photos for the newsletter are welcome. Please get them to me by the 25th so I can include them in the next issue.

Bob

## ***April 2010 Meeting Minutes***

By Bob Haskell

8 April 2010 at Oaken Barrel Pub.

Jim Frakes called the meeting to order.

Attending were David Broyles, Ruth and Dick Buis, Jim and Bev Bush, Jim Frakes, Bob and Melanie Haskell, Paul Imel, John Mann, Jon Monies, Craig Rice, Dick Storrs, Bruce and Barbara Watson, and Don Yost.

Membership: Welcome to Don Yost (Windfall, IN) who came to the meeting as a guest and left as a member. Don recently purchased a '66 square body Sprite that needs a bit of a tune-up. Seems to idle, but stumbles when trying to accelerate. Don also owns a '58 Nash Metropolitan and a '64 Covair convertible.

The club has 58 members (plus Don) on the roster. Not renewing this year are the Brownings, Dentons, Francis, the Hemmerleys, and Fykes.

Happy Birthday to Bruce Gilham (today) and to Jim Frakes (yesterday).

David Broyles gave a little more info on Lizard Skin – a spray-on ceramic insulation. It's featured on episode 902 of Two Guys

Continued on page 3.

## ***Business Meeting Minutes cont'd***

Continued from page 2.

Garage on Speed April 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The web site has some video:

[http://www.twoguysgarage.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=94:episode-902-factory-five-build-part-2-the-body&catid=39:season-9&Itemid=37](http://www.twoguysgarage.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=94:episode-902-factory-five-build-part-2-the-body&catid=39:season-9&Itemid=37). The local rep is in Toledo, OH and he would be willing to do a demo.

Thank-you: The Gilhams received a thank-you note from Sharing Hearts (see page ??).

Events:

April 10<sup>th</sup> – clean up at the Haskells

April 17<sup>th</sup> – tech session at Paul Imel's to work on the wiring.

April 24<sup>th</sup> – Oliver Winery tour. Leave from the Kroger parking lot on the east side of Danville at 9:45am. The winery doesn't have a restaurant; but there are deli items (bread, cheese, meats, etc) that can be purchased. Can bring your own food.

May 1<sup>st</sup> – NIAHC's Spring TuneUp at the Mahnensmith's.

May 8<sup>th</sup> – tech session at John Monies – any time after 9am.

---

## ***Thank-You***

Dear Bruce, Charelene, and the Austin-Healey Club,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to Sharing Hearts. The patient assistance fund offers help to transplant families with financial needs that are unable to be met by other resources. This often makes all the difference to a patient in a difficult situation. We truly appreciate your gift.

Jan Hart

---

## ***Spring Drive 2010 report***

By Jim Frakes

A 60% showers forecast, an early morning slight drizzle, and a mostly overcast start, turned into a great Healey drive for the small group defying the weather on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Dick Storrs put together another of his fabulous routes for the hearty souls. Bruce Gilham and Navigator Terry Lynch, Jim Frakes, Jo and Jim Switzer met at Bob Haskell's house to start the first leg of the drive to Danville. Jim and Jo in the BJ9 lead  
*continued on page 4*



## **Spring Drive 2010 report continued**

*Continued from page 3.*

us through some interesting roads, a tour of the Danville Park, and a lap around the Square before meeting Dick Storrs at the Danville McDonald's.

Jim Switzer's dad, Don Switzer, met us there for a brief intro and conversation. He had some flyers for the Vintage Tractor Pull and Show on June 4 - 6 in Danville, and invited us to attend to watch Jim compete behind another form of motivation, their vintage tractor. Route master Storrs planned a route from there, mostly down IN 39 and IN 67 to Paragon then off on a great back road. I was too busy driving to get its name! Just as the Golden Globe broke through the sky, we joined IN 37 for the short drive to Oliver Winery, where Jim and Sandy Burck had already arrived.

It had been many years since I stopped in to Oliver's. I was surprised at the wonderful flowering gardens, rippling small stream and waterfall, and the vast picnic area they have created. The huge selection of wine for tasting along with the very competent staff, led all of us to a favored selection. A picnic of cheeses, meats and crackers from Oliver's Deli selection, was shared among the group, while overlooking Oliver's nicely kept grounds and pond. Naturally, most conversation among the group centered on family, other members, and Healeys. Incidentally, Terry Lynch graduated from Danville HS with Bruce and was also a friend of Jim and Jo. I also found out he was a nephew of my Shop Teacher, Don Lynch (deceased) who was very influential in my high school years.



*Jim Frakes, Bob Haskell, Jim and Jo Switzer, Sandy and Jim Burck, Dick Storrs, Bruce Gilham and Terry Lance*

## **Progress**

The engine and gearbox are back in Jim and Jo Switzer's MGB. Jim had Quinlins go through the cylinder head and Jim replaced the input and output seals on the gearbox. Jim Frakes, Steve Martin, Ron Francis and Bob Haskell helped put things back together. Ron also finished up the carpet installation in the boot. A couple of gaskets have been ordered to take care of the steering rack leak. Not much left to do – radiator, hoses, coolant and hook the battery up. Hope to have it ready for the run to Mahnensmiths.

Car report: We fired up the 100 last weekend for the first time, but an oil leak from the temporary gage installation prevented a first drive. All interior and the tonneau cover are now completed, thanks to Ron Francis. As usual, there are still details to be done. Installing the hood (top) is the next challenge.

## ***Tech Sessions***

May 8<sup>th</sup> – John Monies, 1008 Nelson Ridge Rd, Columbus, IN (suburb of Gnawbone). After 9 am. Plan to work on the Bugeye.

---

## ***Spring Clean Up***

A couple of photos from the Haskells



*Jon Monies*



*Craig Rice, Jim Frakes and Jim Burck*



## ***Just another Garage Tour – Ok Maybe not!***

By Dick Storrs

April 16, found me on a tour of a car collection. It all began ..... well, it really all began in 1955. My folks had relocated from the Chicago suburbs to the small village of Bridgewater, Connecticut, two years earlier - to be near family and where they had grown up. We lived two doors (that would be rural country doors) from an older guy, who was an illustrator. I was 10 years old at the time, and initially more interested in his granddaughter - a lithe blond young lady. Through this interest I was introduced to his car. At 10 it was a toss-up as to what interested me more cars or girls, as it turns out this tug of war never resolves it-self, but this tale revolves around the car.

The vehicle in question was a classic car, a 1916 Crane-Simplex, Model 5; owned by Melbourne Brindle (who illustrated a book recounting the Rolls Royce Silver Ghosts of the past). It formed an immediate and lasting impression on me that drew me into automotive preservation and restoration. This has resulted in my ownership of a 1933 Packard Model 1007, a 1961 Jaguar XK150 S, and the continuing ownership of my 1960 BN-7 Austin-Healey 3000.



This Crane-Simplex was unique, in that the coach work replicated a yacht of the 1900 – 1920 era. The passenger tub is bowed like the hull of a boat; flat windshield panels tilt out from the top, as you would find in a boat; the air scoops resemble the air funnels on a ship; there are even two port holes; and the spare tires at the rear are held in position by a metal propeller. Surrounding the passenger tub are teak gunnels and the interior sports dark wood that you would find in a yacht. In fact the car was nick-named “The Land Yacht”.

On Monday, April 12, I was showing a guy at work the sales catalog for the Houston Classic Auction, and I described the Crane-Simplex to him. With my memory at its limit, I decided to Google information about the car. I found Mel Brindle; his illustrations of the car; how he won most “expensive automobile” (\$33,000) in the first New York City Classic Automobile Show(1948); it had been driven in the 1954 Glidden Tour; and finally a picture of the car at Pebble Beach – with the new owner.



The current owner lived in Los Angeles and I was going to be in LA, the next weekend - April 15-18 - for a wedding. Hey maybe I could just get a short look at the car. So I began a two day effort to contact this owner. First was his agent, then the secretary, and finally a phone call (on Wednesday . Sherry did not believe at first that Jay Leno actually talked to me, but he was a regular guy – another car guy, and he said I could visit the garage on Friday. Sure, that would work - gee, thanks Jay.

*Continued on page 7.*

## Just another Garage Tour – Ok Maybe not!

Continued from page 6.

By Friday I had been joined by my brothers, our wives, and my son. Bob Sales is Jay's guide for visits to his garage and what I had thought would be a few minutes, connecting with an automotive focal point from my youth, turned into a two and a half hour tour of Jay Leno's collection of 100 motorcycles and 100+ cars. The collection is composed of a wide variety of cars – most are fast, some are just odd. Noticeably absent was an Austin-Healey (maybe it is a work in progress). Since no cameras are allowed you will just have to take my word for it – and the picture of my brothers and me with Bob and the Crane-Simplex. Among the blur of cars we saw were Jay's first car, the Buick he bought when he first came to California –then later modified with a huge Corvette engine, a ~1960 SAAB 93, the twin-turbo Toronado that twisted the drive shaft at 140 mph+, after the GM engineers (riding in the car during the test drive – checking their computers) declared the car to be working properly and said to the driver "OK, punch it". There also the 1930s classic cars: Cord, Duesenberg, Packard, Bugatti; and the steam cars: Stanley, White, and Doble. Even in two and a half hours it now seems too short a time to take in all that he has collected. My letter of thanks to Bob Sales sited his generosity of time and how the narratives he provided, added to all that we saw.

The great thing about Jay's collection is that he employs a staff of seven to keep all of them running and licensed so that he can drive them at any time, which he does daily. He is a credit to all of us who care about automotive preservation and restoration, because he also keeps the cars on the road, where the next generation of kids can be inspired to join us in our passion for these examples of styling and performance excellence – or just plain odd-ball inventiveness.

My wife Sherry related our garage tour to our son, who lives here in Indianapolis. She commented, "You should have seen Dad talking to Jay – just like any other person." He said, " Why are you surprised Mom? They're both a couple of car nuts." To which I said, "Yep – that's right!" Jay obviously has more resources than us, but – hey! – HE'S A CAR GUY!



**Know your assets:**

Would you let this great deal pass you by?  
How about another valuable opportunity...

If you haven't reached the government HSA limit for 2009, you can still contribute and save on your 2009 taxes!

Take time to learn how you can manage your most important assets.

Take stock in yourself.

An ad from Rolls-Royce North America about Health Spending Accounts

January 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	<b>B</b>	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	<b>B</b>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	<b>B</b>	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	<b>B</b>	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	<b>B</b>	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	<b>B</b>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

February 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>B</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

April 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	<b>B</b>	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	<b>B</b>	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

August 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	<b>B</b>	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	<b>14</b>	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 2010						
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	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January  
14<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting

February  
14<sup>th</sup> Daytona Party / Business Mtg  
28<sup>nd</sup> Chicago British Swap Meet

March  
11<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting

April  
8<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting  
10<sup>th</sup> Clean Up at the Haskells  
24<sup>th</sup> Oliver Winery Tour

May  
1<sup>st</sup> NIAHC Spring Tune-Up  
6<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting  
15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> SpringThing 2009  
21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> Carlisle Import Car Show  
30<sup>th</sup> Indy 500 Party

June  
5<sup>th</sup> British Bash (Louisville)  
5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Champagne, IL British Car  
10<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting  
19<sup>th</sup> Live Steam Trains

July  
8<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting  
11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Conclave

August  
12<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> Indy British Motor Days

September  
9<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting  
11<sup>th</sup> Lemon Creek  
17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> September Round Up

October  
14<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting

November  
11<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting