



Overdrive

JANUARY 2014

Official Newsletter of the Central Indiana Austin-Healey Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our members and friends a Very Happy New Year! This has been a rough winter for those of us who have chosen to rough it out here in Central Indiana. So it was good to get together at the Fireside Brewhouse, and talk Austin Healeys, and look forward to spring.

We have another full year of events on the calendar which you will find on the CIAHC web site. The first of these on February 22, is the open house at The Korner Garage. Rick Smith hosts the event at his British Car restoration shop in Avon. It is a great opportunity to see Austin Healeys, Jags and other British and non-British cars in various stages of restoration. This is another great opportunity to get questions answered about your cars. We may even see Craig Rice's behemoth 1990's Buick Roadmaster Wagon in the process of being restored. Word has it that Craig is doing some pre-planning for his funeral, and that he will be buried in the Buick.

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Secretary Report, on behalf of Jim Bush, by Bruce Gilham:

The regularly scheduled members meeting was called to order by president Bruce Watson at 7:05 pm on January 14, at the Fireside Brewhouse on County Line Road.

Attending were: Roy Bowman, David Broyles, Dick and Ruth Buis, Jim and Sandy Burck, Jim Frakes, Bruce and Charlene Gilham, Steve Halleck, Bob Haskell, Paul Imel, Jon Monies and Joan Wright, Tom Pearson, Rick Smith and Sandy Dodson, Dick and Sherry Storrs, Craig Rice, Jim and Jo Switzer, and Bruce and Barbara Watson.

Bruce began by announcing that Bev Bush's father, Buck, had passed away on the 13th.

The first order of business was an update of member's restoration projects:

Per Rick Smith (The Korner Garage) Jim Bush's BJ8 is now complete .

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NEXT MEETING

FEBRUARY 23, 2014

MEET AT :

BRUCE & BARBARA WATSON HOME

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LINKS



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://ohiovalleyahc.com>

Indiana British Car Union

<http://www.ibcu.org>

Marque Matters Blog

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

AH Club of America

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

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Next, is our traditional Daytona 500 party at our home in Westfield, on Feb. 23. We are still looking for three members to become contestants in the chili cook-off. Please contact Barbara or me to RSVP (317-443-3101 or 317-777-1528), and to let us know who will be bringing the chili. We have all the drinks and party ware. Just bring an hors d'oeuvre to share if you are not bringing chili. To make the race more personal and exciting, we will again have a race pool, in which you could win "big bucks!"

One of the things I would like to see this year, is more of our members getting involved in the club's events. Even if you have not been very active in recent years, you are welcome to share in the camaraderie with a fun group of like-minded people. Who knows, you might even learn something new about your Healey, or get a tip on how to fix that nagging problem. It is more fun doing things together with our Healeys than it is going it alone.

As you look over the calendar of upcoming events, you will notice that we still need someone to volunteer to organize our National Ice Cream Social. This can include a drive, a rally, or some other fun activity using our cars. Of course, it must wind up somewhere to enjoy some ice cream together. We also need a volunteer to host a Halloween Party, as the Bush's are taking a break after 10+ years.

Another really unique event, will be a drive to Anderson sometime this summer, to experience Tether Car racing. New member, Tom Pearson, participates in this very unusual sport. Anderson has one of only 3 Tether Car tracks in this country. The sport is also very popular in Eastern Europe. These hand-made cars reach speeds of 150 mph, at which speed, they become a blur! See more detail in the calendar of events. More to come on plans for this event.

The National Austin Healey Conclave will be taking place in Hot Springs, VA this year, June 15 – 20, at the Homestead Resort in the mountains of Western VA. Dick Storrs and I are planning a two day scenic drive, minimizing our time on the interstates. A show of hands at the Jan. meeting, indicated 8 -10 cars with their members will be making the trip. Much more to come on this event.

I look forward to seeing you all at many of our CIAHC events this year.

Happy Healying!

Bruce Watson – President 2014

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Rick also reported that David Morrison's car is nearing completion (electrical finalized, paint done) and should be ready for a test run by no later than spring.

Bruce W. stated that Michael Goldenberg's car was complete and should be back at his home when the weather improves.

Tom Pearson says he needs some help with the top bows for his Nasty Boy.

Dick Buis has lost reverse!!

Our treasurer/membership chairman, Craig Rice, reported we have a positive bank balance and approximately 48 members had either paid their 2014 dues or had promised to do so soon. Craig commented we have more running cars now than when we had 66 members. Two "former" members, Mike Kaiser and Jim Stringfield, have sold their Healeys are not renewing their memberships.

Under new business, Jim Frakes announced that former renowned club member Grover Knight is engaged – no date is yet set for the marriage!

Roy Bowman made a short presentation extolling the advantages of a random orbital polisher and suggested that for our May 3rd event we try to arrange a detailing tech session at Griot's Garage in Plainfield. As a "door prize" for the evening, Roy offered a bottle of Griot's Speed Shine along with a micro-fiber towel that was won in a random drawing by Jo Switzer.

Bruce Watson then began a month-by-month review of a proposed 2014 calendar of events:

February:

22 – the Korner Garage Tech Session 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

1681 Expo Lane, Suite E, Indianapolis

Rich Smith 317-437-6088 and Kyle Young 317-289-4452

23 - Daytona 500 Party and Chili Cook-Off hosted by the Watsons. Barbara asked attendees to bring either chili for the competition, or a side dish or dessert to share. The meal will begin at 12:00 noon, with a brief business meeting followed by viewing the race (optional games/activities in the basement for the non-race partakers).

Please RSVP!

March:

11 – Members Meeting. Dinner 6:30-7:30 with business meeting following. Location to be announced.

April

8 - Members Meeting

May:

3 – Proposed auto detailing tech session at Griot's Garage in Plainfield

13 – Members Meeting

16 -18 – Carlisle Import and Kit Car Nationals, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

?? – Bluegrass AHC SpringThing? We have not heard if SpringThing will occur this year, and the Bluegrass web-

site is not active.

25 – Annual Indy 500 Race Party hosted by Jon Monies and Joan Wright at their charming Columbus retreat, featuring a live TV race broadcast from Louisville.

31 through June 8 - British Car Week, an annual awareness week intended for owners of Classic British Cars to get their cars out of the garage and drive them. While doing so, all who are involved will help create awareness of the classic British car hobby in local communities wherever there is participation.

June:

6-7 British Bash, Louisville, Kentucky hosed by British Sports Car Club.

10 – Members Meeting

15-20 - Homestead Conclave 2014 in Hot Springs, Virginia. Bruce Watson and Dick Storrs will work on planning a pleasant and leisurely driving route. We will depart Indy on June 14 and start our return on June 20.

28 – London to Brighton Run sponsored by the Indiana British Car Union

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

29 – Michiana British Car Show at St. Mary's College in South Bend.

July:

TBA - Tom Pearson suggested we journey to Anderson for the American Miniature Car Racing Association's Tether Car Competition held on one of three tracks in the U.S. Check out their impressive website, truly amazing <http://amrca.com/>.

An excerpt: "By the late 1940s, the cars — by then with 5 horsepower — attained speeds of more than 150 miles per hour, greater than their larger counterparts in midget racing or even Indianapolis 500 racecars. As the little cars sped faster around the track, the hobby again approached its earlier frenzy. By 1949, there were more than 500 organized tether-car clubs, the American Miniature Race Car Association had some 10,000 members and tether and rail tracks were scattered across America"

Sounds like a lot of fun!! Perhaps we could combine with the Northern Indiana AHC for a joint event.

August:

2 – British Motor Days at Lions Park in Zionsville

16?? – Annual National Ice Cream Social - Drive Your Healey for Ice Cream adventure. **We need volunteers to host this once yearly fun event.**

3 – Annual Dayton British Car Day, Dayton, Ohio

12 – Members Meeting

23 – Carmel Artmomobilia, Carmel, Indiana (for an AH coral, we need a minimum of nine cars registered).

September:

9 – Members Meeting

11-14 September Roundup, Hamilton Ohio, hosted by the Ohio Valley AHC.

14 – Annual Columbus Scottish Festival, Bartholomew County Fairgrounds, Columbus, Indiana

18-20 – Southeastern Classic in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. Hosted by the Triad AHC.

October:

3-5 – Newport Hill Climb, Newport, Indiana Note: Class H-6 (1943 to 1955) is the only "all" non-U.S. or foreign class. Vehicles that do not fall into the "H-6 Class" are registered in the class they qualify for the same as U.S. made vehicles.

4 – Fall Out in Winona Lake, Indiana hosted by the Northern Indiana Little British Motor Club.

It is with great sorrow that we heard of the illness and passing of Kathi Mann. She and John have been members of the club since 1999. Below is her obituary and on the following page is a reprint of the 2006 interview conducted by Robin and Brent Porter for OVERDRIVE.

Kathi was such a low key individual, never got excited, talking with that slight twinge of a southern accent. She and John used to go pick up persimmons, make pudding. That's a down-home girl for you. She will be missed.

Katherine "Kathi" Mann, 67, of Indianapolis, passed away December 14, 2013. She was born July 3, 1946 in Tacoma, Virginia to the late William and Juanita Gilbert. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother whose greatest joy was spending time with her family. She also enjoyed traveling and fundraising for St Jude's Children's Hospital with her quilting group. She worked as a RN for Beech Grove OB/GYN before retiring in 2001. Kathi was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Survivors include her husband, John; son John (Tina); son Chad (Michelle); granddaughters Macey, Megan, Meredith and Katherine, sisters Frankie (Joe) Taylor, Patricia (Denny) Conry and Tammy (Andy) Baker. She was preceded in death by her brother Danny Gilbert.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Youth Program at the Church of Jesus Christ Latter –Day Saints.

When did you join the Central Indiana chapter of the Austin Healey Club of America? We bought the car on October 17, 1999 and joined the club on November 11.
How many annual Conclave events have you attended? Indianapolis and Tahoe.

Have you held a club office? No, not yet . . .

What do you enjoy most about membership? The people we have met are so nice and enjoy the same interest in autos. Our club members are very smart and bring a wide variety of skills and abilities. John: I really enjoy the tech sessions and hope to see more learning sessions where we focus on specific topics such as gauges or brakes.



What is your favorite Healey moment? My favorite Healey moment (so far) was when the engine fired up and ran well on a test stand ! However, it's funny that my worse Healey moment occurred trying to get the engine to run. We had a Tech Session to start and test the engine on Brent's test stand. At first it started and ran fine, but then it stopped and wouldn't turn over. After inspection, it had swallowed a stray nut. Just to be safe we removed the head and had it checked at an engine shop. Later, it fired right up and just purred! What an exciting moment after all these years! We called my nephew in Arizona to let him listen on the phone.

What is your favorite recurring car event, in Indiana or other? The Labor Day auction in Auburn, the Louisville Hot Rod Nationals and the spring swap meet in Cleveland/Youngstown each May.

What car have you owned previously, that you wished you owned now OR what is your all-time favorite automobile? Kathi: My all time favorite car is a white Corvette, any year between 1979 and 1982. John: My first nice, decent car was a 1956 Ford Crown Vic. I'd like to have that again.

Current car project? A 1956 Austin Healey 100/6BN Longbridge. It was acquired in Scottsdale, Arizona. My nephew lives there and found it. I shipped it to Indiana. This is a ground-up restoration, and it's ready for carpet and interior.

How did the two of you meet? John: I knew Kathi's father; he introduced us.

How many years together? Married 40 years.

How many children, grandchildren? We have two sons. John is a police sergeant on the Indianapolis south side, as well as a member of the IPD scuba team. He and his wife Tina have four daughters. Chad is a 7th grade math teacher in Beech Grove. He and wife Michelle have been married four years. Our family is very close, as Brent can attest after a few Saturdays at our house!

Give us a fun fact about yourself, something not everyone knows. John: Although neither one of us consider ourselves strong swimmers, Kathi has her open water scuba certification. When she took the test she backstroked the required laps in the pool ! Kathi: We both have our motorcycle licenses and had enjoyed riding our own bikes on trips!

Additional schooling or training? Kathi: Following Tech High School in Indianapolis, I trained to become an RN and worked in the medical field for 35 years. John attended Washington High School and then earned a BS from IU in Police Administration with a concentration in math and chemistry. Also, he completed many specialized courses at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Other clubs, associations or affiliations? John: I'm a member of the Blue Knights, who are a policemen's motorcycle group, AARP and AAA (laughter) as well as the American Academy of Forensic Science. Kathi: I'm a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority; we raise funds for Camp Riley and are also the second largest annual contributor to St Jude's Hospital for Children.

Are there interesting or significant professional accomplishments you'd like to mention? Kathi: John had a long successful career in police administration and forensic science long before the TV show CSI !

Professional Travel? Kathi: I attended an OBGYN Nursing Seminar in the Soviet Union in 1989. John accompanied me and many of my souvenirs have price tags that read "Soviet Union". John: I've been to Riyadh, the capitol of Saudi Arabia and Jetta, also in Saudi Arabia. Jetta was the only city open to non-Muslims during the religious holiday Ramadan.

Personal Travel? We've traveled extensively inside and outside the USA. In Europe we visited England, Wales, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France and Italy. In the Far East we've been to China, Thailand, Hong Kong, and a small island off Hong Kong called Macaw. We've been to the Caribbean, Panama, through the canal, Cozumel, Mexico as well as the South Pacific and Tahiti. We've been to Alaska and Hawaii twice!

Other Hobbies? Kathi enjoys quilting, and John enjoys motorcycle trips with his sons and the Blue Knights. John has been to Sault Ste Marie and Nova Scotia on motorcycle trips. As a couple, they like evenings out with friends and good conversation.

**The Annual
“TKG” – The Korner Garage**

1681 Expo Lane Suite E, Indianapolis, IN. 46214

Tech Session

Saturday February 22nd, 2014 at 10 am until 2 pm



This year's menu will include Jeannine's Famous basted hams.

Macaroni and cheese, Baked beans, and salad.

Allergies will be accommodated with an RSVP to

ricksmith@comcast.net

Since we are here for you, and this is your shop get away, we have decided to entertain your suggestions as to what we will be demonstrating this year. Please send your requests to the above e-mail address with your RSVP.

Again, all clubs and members are welcome. Please RSVP.

Rick Smith...317-437-6088 and Kyle Young...317-289-4452