



Overdrive

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President's Message Nov 2024

October was a good month for the Healey faithful. We started the month on the 5th with 11 British cars out for a drive to see Jim and Sandy Burck. And we ended the month with 20 members for our traditional Halloween gathering at the big red barn.

A tradition of the October meeting is the election of officers. Since no candidate was available to fill the President position we proceeded to transition to a Board of Directors. Our Board for 2025 consists of

Jan Freers	Jeff Freers
Bob Haskell	Steve Halleck
Randy Belden	Ed Barnett
Jo Switzer	

I like the makeup of the Board. We are wedding some fresh members with seasoned veterans. Jo Switzer was added to create an odd number for tie breaking. Let's give them time to hit their stride.

November is also a busy month. The Board has their first meeting on November 6th. On November 9th we will celebrate Veteran's Day with a drive to a Revolutionary War veteran's grave in the Edinburgh area. The next weekend is the Delegate's Meeting. A tour of Bruce Litton's Museum and Ray Skillman's extensive car collection are planned for our Healey visitors from afar. And that's just the first half of the month.

PARTS FOR SALE or WANTED TO BUY

(Please send me any news of cars/parts that are needed or for sale.- evetshalleck@yahoo.com)

Brandon and I are tearing down a rusty 68 Sprite for the drivetrain and a few other parts. If there's anything you need before we scrap the rest, let us know.

Next Gathering: Dec 7 Charbonos Restaurant in Avon from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.



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Mr. Healey's Neighborhood

Central Indiana AHC

<http://www.ciahc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/CentralIndianaAustinHealeyClub>

Bluegrass AHC

[?????](#)

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>

CIAHCA Oct Business Meeting Minutes

Oct 26th, Bush Barn

Attendees: Bev and Jim Bush, Jo and Jim Switzer, Kris and Skip Taylor, Leanne and Ed Barnett, Kathy and Steve Halleck, Sherry and Dick Storrs, Melanie and Bob Haskell, Janet and Randy Belden, Jan and Jeff Freers, Brandon Halleck, Ruth Buis, and Martha Berinyi.

Jim Bush started the meeting talking about the great participation of the drive to see the Burcks.

The groups who put on the September Roundups met Sept 5th. The event will now be called Mid America Classic. The Ohio Valley club will design a new logo for the event. Rotation for the events will stay the same. Next year's event is being planned for Hocking Hills, Ohio and may occur during the week to avoid weekend hotel issues.

The Bluegrass club may not end up participating. Cincy will be making a presentation at the Delegate's Meeting to host the 2026 Conclave, which would mean we'd need to pick up their rotation for the Mid America Classic for that year.

Jim Switzer reported on the Delegate's Meeting tour. It will begin with a tour of Bruce Litton's Dragster Museum, lunch at City BBQ, then go to Ray Skillman's car collection. The Delegate's Meeting is at the Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport.

The group approved \$200 for the Delegate's party supplies.

The Healey Museum has asked AHCA to help support the museum in the coming years with a yearly donation from each of the clubs of \$300, \$500, or \$1000 per year for 5 years. The group approved making the donation at the \$300 level but making it in a one-time payment of \$1500.

The Christmas party will cost of \$20 per person. Send the money to Jan by Nov 15th. Jo went over the entre choices and the group chose Salmon or Tuscan Chicken. There will not be a white elephant exchange. Someone needs to take over the games at the party.

We have no candidates for Pres or VP and the group approved going to a board leadership. The other positions will remain with the same people for 2025. The board will be comprised of the elected positions and at large members. The board will initially be comprised of Jan Freers, Jo Switzer, Bob Haskell, Steve Halleck, Jeff Freers, Randy Belden, and Ed Barnett. The board will meet Nov 6th.

CIAHCA Board Meeting Highlights

Jan Freers, Jeff Freers, Bob Haskell, Steve Halleck, Randy Belden, Ed Barnett, and Jo Switzer (along with Melanie Haskell and Jim Switzer) met on Nov 6th for an initial meeting.

Without a president, the group decided we needed a board contact person for people who would normally contact the president. Jeff Freers will assume the position of board chairman in that role.

Jan and Ed will work on a listing of the club members to distribute to the members. We want that to include information on the members and their cars (and pictures). We will begin gathering info at the Christmas party.

Prior to the meeting, Bonnie Stahlecker expressed interest in joining the board. The board agreed that she is a good addition. Steve will let Bonnie know.

We'd like to make tech sessions a part of the club again and are looking for a location where those can occur.

We're going to solicit ideas for drives or gatherings from the club members for next year. Ed will have a January tech session and gathering at his home in January. He and Leanne will work out details.

The board will meet on the second Wednesday of the month January through March at the Green Street Pub and Eatery in Brownsburg for the meetings.

Conclave Report

1,237 miles, 37.746 gallons of fuel, 1.5 quarts of oil, 48.576 miles on the racetrack, approximately 125 miles of interstate (or near interstate), 9 days of fun – that was Conclave for Brandon and me.

We had 14 members participating this year: Jan and Jeff Freers, Bonnie Stahlacker and David Morrison, Melanie and Bob Haskell, Leanne and Ed Barnett, Debbie and Pat Bruce, Sherry and Dick Storrs, Brandon & Steve Halleck made the trip up there. Officially we had 15, as Anna Adams was there with her father. She is still a member of our club this year, even though she has moved to Michigan.

Our small group travelling together included our Sprite, David's 3000, Bonnie driving their BJ9, and Melanie and Bob in the MINI. We split the trip each way into two days, swinging west of Chicago traffic (or most of it). Our overnight on the way up was planned for Woodstock, Illinois, NW of Chicago. The decision to stay there turned out to be lucky. David's resonator on his Healey split about 60 miles south of Woodstock and his car was extremely loud. Arriving at 4:30, we found there were 5 muffler shops close by the hotel. David and Bonnie took off to see if they could get the resonator patched. The first shop said they couldn't do it. The second was a foreign car shop that had just closed when they got there, but the person inside sent them to another muffler shop next door. That shop didn't think they could get the Healey on the lift, but David convinced them that putting a 2x4 at the edge of the lift would work. Once they got it up, they were looking at options of patching with JB Weld but didn't think it would hold. David noticed they made/sold resonators there and asked if they could put one of those on. The folks at the shop thought that was a good idea. The next morning when the shop opened, they got it put together, and we were on our way.

At the vintage races on Saturday, Jan and Jeff were in registration to get us signed in. There was a special Corral for the Healeys near start/finish line at the track that drew a lot of attention. There were two beautiful Silverstone Healeys there. The owners met and found out the cars were consecutive builds (#17 and #18).



One of the Silverstone Healeys at Road America

During the racing lunch break, the Healeys from the Coral went out to tour the track, doing 5 laps around the 4+ mile circuit. Later that afternoon, there was a tour of most of the original Road America racecourse on the streets around Elkhart Lake with a police escort. It's fascinating to think of the cars racing on the narrow streets and through downtown Elkhart Lake.

The racing Healeys got a LOT of track time Saturday and Sunday with racing not only in their classes, but also a special Healey only race each day. It was fun to watch the Sprites and big Healeys battling it out on the track. Another session of track laps for the street Healeys was held Sunday. My Sprite has made more laps of Road America than I was able to do in my race car in the 70s (although at a lower speed). Leanne and Ed, who drove up earlier, got to do laps on the track on Friday at a little more speed than the Saturday and Sunday laps.

Doug Bruce brought his Merlin Formula Ford to the races but was having overheating issues.

Our club's events at Conclave went well. Folks enjoyed our Funkhana. David, Bonnie, and Pat designed a fun event. Participants had to wear a cheese hat during their runs (after all, it is Wisconsin), throw beanbags at cornhole targets, then at huge mousetraps Pat made. At the final stop, they exchanged their clean cheese hats for a couple of dirty ones to toss to try to get them to land in hula hoops. Triangular cheese hats bounce funny, making it difficult! On the way out, each participant got a bag of Cheez-Its. In case a tie breaker was needed, Bonnie brought a huge container of Cheese Puffs. Participants guessed the number in the container.



Brandon demonstrates how to run the course with only one person in the car wearing 2 cheese hats.



Our crew at Funkhana
Bonnie Stahlecker photos

We had less participants than expected at the Funkhana due to the Gymkhana going on at the same time. That gave us time to play on the course. After closing the course, we took the equipment back to the hotel. The cornhole boards and the cheese hats were sold at the auction events to recoup some of the expenses for the Wisconsin club. We had planned on taking any remaining bags of Cheez-Its to the hospitality area, but the host hotel wouldn't allow it.

Following the Funkhana/Gymkhana events and around 100 Healeys lapping the track, the cars gathered for a group picture.



This wasn't all the Conclave Healeys, but it's a good Where's Waldo shot of a good number of them.

The mini golf went smoothly. Fearing a possible tie, Bonnie re-used her container of Cheese Puffs once again. Participation was sparse until a group of 12 arrived just before quitting time. They were having fun and rushed through the course to finish on time.



Pat, Debbie, and Bonnie help mini-golf participants while Steve 'adjusts' the cheeze ball count.
Photo from Bonnie Stahlecker, not sure who took it. David?

We also showed up at the tech sessions in case the presenters needed assistance, which they never did.

The car show at Conclave was on the streets of Elkhart Lake on some of the streets that were part of the original road racing course and in front of Siebken's Stop-Inn Tavern, a favorite watering hole for Road America racers through the years.



Leanne and Ed matched their car's color and '57 style for the car show.

Bonnie Stahlecker photo

There were a few issues with our cars during the trip. Aside from the resonator split, David's 3000 only needed a slight idle adjustment. Ed & Leanne's car was running very rough, and there was a lot of head scratching over what the issue was. It turned out to be a dirty fuel filter. We had a wire come loose on one of the Sprite's taillights, so we had to empty the car in the hotel parking lot so I could climb in the boot and fix it. I was sore for the next couple days afterward from laying at a weird angle to reach the wires. The starter locked up on the Sprite at the hotel the next day. Trying to push start it broke it loose though, and it worked fine since. (Ron, have you re-tried your starter?)

Pat gets the tough guy award. Going to Green Bay on Thursday, his brakes went to the floor. after our tour of Lambeau, there was a large puddle of brake fluid coming out of the rear wheel. Pulling the wheel/drum in the parking lot, he found the wheel cylinder had come apart. While Brandon and I went to a nearby auto parts store for a bleeder kit, Pat found he didn't have a spare wheel cylinder in the car, so he plugged off the brake line and ran with one rear brake back to the hotel – and on the 11-hour drive home by himself!



Pat does emergency repairs at Lambeau Field

Brandon Halleck photo

Our group did well at the awards. The fun rally had one perfect score on the questions. That was Leanne and Ed. David took the fan favorite vote on his valve cover racer after making it to the final race. His cheese Healey drawing won in the arts and crafts competition, and his Healey was voted the best in class for the 3000 MK3 car show. Sherry Storrs had the winning score on the mini golf (so we didn't need the tie breaker).

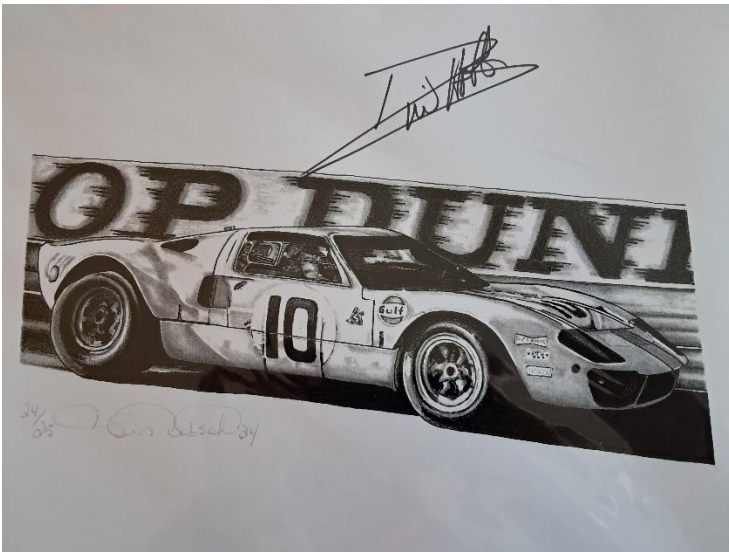


David lines up his valve cover racer for the final race.



David at the awards banquet.

The big draw for me to go to Conclave this year was Road America. It's been my favorite track since the '70s. Additionally, finding out that David Hobbs was speaking was a big plus for me. I enjoyed watching him racing over the years and thought he did great as color commentator for CBS Sports covering all types of racing. Tuesday, after our events at the track, Melanie, Bob, Brandon, and I went into Elkhart Lake for lunch at the Lake Street Café. Bob noticed Mr. Hobbs sitting with two men at one of the tables. I went over and spoke with him for a minute as he was getting ready to leave. A few minutes later, one of the men he was sitting with stopped by and handed me a print of an autographed drawing he had done of the cover photo on David's book! I thanked the artist but forgot to get his name. Thursday after Mr. Hobbs spoke at the Conclave tailgate, I asked him for the artist's name. He couldn't remember the last name but gave me his email and followed up with Artist Brian Tritsch's name and contact information.



My artwork from Brian Tritsch.



Speaking with Mr. Hobbs at Blue Harbor
Brandon Halleck photo

Miscellaneous Meanderings

By Steve Halleck

Bob, Brandon, and I met at Ron's house on Labor Day to head to the Red Bridge Car Show in Cicero. Unfortunately, Ron's starter decided it didn't want to work, so we pushed his 100 back into the garage and he hitched a ride with Brandon to the show.

The weather was fantastic, and the show had the biggest crowd it's ever had. It's a beautiful location on the reservoir, with a bald eagle soaring overhead. Bob's MGB took an award from the judges.

Roy Bowman's 3000 only went to \$29,250 on Bring a Trailer so it didn't sell.

Artomobilia this year had amazing weather and had a HUGE crowd looking at the cars. We had lots of people stop by to look at the Sprites and ask about it. One of the people stopping by told me he had a 'pile' of Healeys. It was Bill Emerson, author of The Healey Book. He flew in from Florida to drive one of the Nash Healeys to the event.

Someone stopped by early in the day to tell us they had a Sprite for sale. Brandon got their info, then a few hours later a couple stopped by. The wife loved our car and said she HAD have a Sprite. Brandon passed on the info for them to possibly find their Sprite. We spoke to several other people about the club. Maybe we can pick up a new member or two. It would have helped to have business cards for the club.

Brandon managed to score a 1275 engine while talking to one of the other entrants.

One of the entrants parked near us was Heather Perdue, who has a beautiful '47 MG TD (she was at the Zionsville show also). Heather asked about Roy Bowman. She wasn't aware of his passing and was upset to hear about it. She said when she went to her first Artomobilia, she was nervous and didn't want to get her car judged. Roy encouraged her and gave her the confidence to enjoy showing her car.

Doug Bruce raced his Sprite at Put-In-Bay the weekend after the races at Elkhart Lake, scoring the win in his Bugeye.

Long-time club members Jim and Sandy Burke have had some health problems and have not been able to drive their Healey for some time. When Jim Bush went to visit them, the Burke's

son Tom came up with an idea to cheer them up. A few members of the club stopped by to help Tom get Jim's car ready to drive again. The following Saturday Tom met us in Jim's 100 to drive together to the center where Jim and Sandy are staying. Our club came out in force and surprised them with 11 LBCs arriving together. Jim was very surprised and happy to see the club and the cars again.



Club members and the Burck family behind Ron's 100.

Afterwards, the group travelled down the road to Upland Brewery for a surprise birthday party for Bonnie Stahlacker.

Were you able to see the northern lights this month? The solar flares brought out some beautiful light shows in Indiana. I'm also convinced it fried some batteries. Thursday, I helped my neighbor change his car's battery. Saturday, Brandon's Sprite battery was almost dead, so we used the jump box to start it. Our old truck was in the driveway between the garage and the street. When I tried to move it, that battery was dead, so Brandon drove around it in the grass. We replaced both batteries, but when Brandon tried to start the Sprite again, we found the new battery was bad also. Trip 3 for a battery. The following weekend, we were discussing the failed batteries and the very short warranty the batteries have. I mentioned that the battery in my Sprite was several years old and working fine. After stopping, the battery failed, and I had to get a jump to continue. Trip 4 for a battery. I tried unsuccessfully to get a group discount on #4.

The only Cars and Gravy for the year was October 12. We tried to get IBCU members to come to it. Bob Haskell, Dick Storrs, and Mark Smith (E Jag) met Brandon and I to drive to the event together. Michael Goldenberg met us at the event.

Walking out to the garage last month, I noticed one of the turn signal bulbs was knocked off. Those sometimes go on easily, and other times can be a real pain. I use a slightly bent small, rounded screwdriver to work the rubber boot over the chrome rim. A trick to prevent the screwdriver from slipping and hitting the paint is to use a plastic lid to fit behind the rubber boot.



Randy mentioned it would be helpful to send out steps for winterizing the Healeys for their slumber. There are lots of writeups with differing ideas. The one from AHSpares is at <https://www.ahspares.co.uk/blog/its-cold-outside-how-to-protect-your-healey-over-winter.aspx>.

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 great job of keeping it up to date.

November

15th – AHCA Delegate's Tour

16th-17th Fall Delegate's Meeting, Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport

December

7th – Healey club Christmas Party, 2:00 – 5:00, Charbonas in Avon. \$20 per person, no gift exchange.