



BONNEVILLE BANTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Bonneville Austin-Healey Club



October, 2011

www.bonnevillehealeyclub.org

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Presidents Message:

The September trip to Colorado was fantastic. Participating were Don and Marian Colman, Jim and Susan Revel, and Doug Lewis and I. There were some construction interruptions; Roosevelt, Utah had all the roads in town torn up, that slowed us down some. We had lunch in Vernal then onto Douglas Pass in Colorado. We ran into a brief, blinding rainstorm prior to the Pass; fortunately it stopped before we went onto the Pass.



The accommodations in Grand Junction at the Holiday Inn Express were nice including an expanded Continental Breakfast. That evening we had dinner at the Rock Slide Brew Pub, it was very tasty. Now keep in mind we each had our "Garmin" GPS with us. We each entered the address of the Brew Pub into our GPS and promptly went in all directions. This will now be referred to as **the trip of "U" turns**. Each one of us took turns trying to lead to the restaurant, but we each ended up having to "U" turn and backtrack. Grand Junction has its share of blind alleys that appear to be legitimate streets. (Well that's how they appear in the dark of night). And to add to this, it was the weekend of the Colorado Mountain Winefest.

In the morning we checked out the Colorado National Monument via Rim Rock Road. It was spectacular, making some of us feel a little uneasy on the narrow and twisting road thousands of feet above the valley floor. Then we went on to Tammy Allen's Unique Auto Museum (still in Grand Junction), where we saw a wonderful collection of classic cars. Then lunch and on to Grand Mesa.

The Grand Mesa is the largest flat-topped mountain in the world, covered in pines and aspen, and has over 300 lakes for boating and fishing or just sitting and taking in the scenery as we did at Thunder Lodge's Roscoe's Bar and Restaurant where we stopped for a "cool" drink. We were at an elevation of just under 11,000 feet and we certainly could tell the difference in our breathing ability. The Grand Mesa has breathtaking views from all angles. Coming up from I-70 on the north side of the Mesa the view encompasses the western and northern views that seem to go on for miles and miles; the same can be said of the south side of the Mesa, only the views are of the eastern and southern areas.

We spent that night in Cedaredge at the Cedaredge Lodge which is always entertaining. Then onto impressive and magnificent scenery to Gateway, to La Sal Junction, to a brewpub in Moab for lunch and on to Green River for dinner and the night. The River Terrace Inn in Green River was a great place to stay. It's nicely landscaped and right on the Green River. Our large rooms all had river views and patios where we sat and had our cocktails and conversations before going to the restaurant for dinner.

The River Terrace Inn had an expanded Continental Breakfast which included made to order eggs, omelets, waffles, pancakes and French toast. After breakfast we all headed for home, some via Mom's Café in Salina for an early lunch.

All in all, this was a great trip and we really got to know our fellow travelers and their great sense of humor through the absurdity. Maybe next time we can have more of you along to join in the frivolity.

Keep 'em rolling,
Ann

FROM THE EDITOR:

Looks like the club should hire a new editor. Either that or maybe more people need to read the newsletter more thoroughly. For the year I have listed the October meeting as being on the 12th. No, we still hold meetings on the second Tuesday, which is October 11th. Sorry.



In this month's edition you will find a couple of articles and photos sent by members. See what a little bit of help does for the Bonneville Banter. Many thanks to both Don and Craig.

Sandy and I are sorry to have missed out on the Cedaredge trip. Sounds like they had a great time. Instead I had a wonderful time at the World of Speed. The Bonneville Salt Flats are still one of my favorite places to see automotive genius at work. Plus the wonderful aroma of the cars running in the fuel classes.

I hope we all can get the Healeys out a time or two in the great fall weather, and enjoy some "FFC" (fantastic fall colors).

I will be going to the Delegates meeting in November, If you have any questions for the AHCA officers, get in touch with me.

I am changing my Email address to sanddmax@gmail.com. I will keep both addresses until I feel everyone has my new one. Happy Healeying, Dave

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Bonneville Austin-Healey Club

2011 Activities Schedule

OCTOBER

Oct. 11, Meeting @ Red Robin

NOVEMBER

Nov. 8, Nominations Meeting @ Joe Morley's
Tech Session TBA

DECEMBER

Dec. 3, Christmas Party, TBA.

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**Steve McQueen, Austin Healey
Factory Driver**

Most of us remember Steve McQueen as the "King of Cool" from such movies as "Magnificent Seven", "Bullitt", "Great Escape", and many others. We know of his off-road and motorcycle racing from "On Any Sunday" and of his interest in endurance racing from "LeMans" but did you know that McQueen was actually a BMC-Austin Healey factory team driver at Sebring, Florida in 1962?

In March of 1962, McQueen was invited to join BMC Factory Team for his first professional drive in the endurance races at Sebring. The team included Stirling Moss, Pedro Rodriguez and Innes Ireland among others. They would drive MK II Sprites with light alloy panel bodies and 998cc engines for the three-hour GT race and a 1098cc Sprite coupe in the 12-hour main event.

The field for the GT three-hour race was twenty-nine cars with thirteen Abarths and ten Sprites. McQueen drove a smooth race in the rain and finished ninth. The race was won by Bruce McLaren in an Abarth, followed by Walt Hansgen in another Abarth. Moss finished third, Rodriguez was sixth and Ireland finished seventh.

For the twelve hour race, McQueen teamed with John Colgate. At five hours, McQueen was leading his class by a lap when the main bearing cap broke and the car was retired. Geoff Healey reported for the official record sheet that the cause was a bird through the radiator. They didn't complete enough laps to be considered a finisher but ended up forty sixth overall out of sixty five starters.

Geoff Healey, in his book "More Healeys-Frog-eyes, Sprites and Midgets", wrote: "DMH and I had doubts about the wisdom of choosing a film star driver, but Ian Patterson of BMC Canada assured us that they had checked him out. In the event, Steve McQueen proved a very competent driver, well able to hold his place in the team and, contrary to his screen image, very well behaved."

Sadly, with his film commitments, McQueen was not able to drive for Healey in any more races. He did finish second overall to Mario Andretti in the 1970 Twelve Hours of Sebring in a Porsche 908.



Submitted by: Craig Mossberg

Minutes

Of the
September 13th

Bonneville Austin Healey Club

Members present:

Jon Hanson, Bob Riemenschneider, Doug & Ann Lewis, Don & Marian Colman, Joe Morley, Jim Revel, Sandy Maxwell, Carol Mossberg, Jim Thornton, Allan Brown and Merlin Judkins.

A special screening of the movie "The Boys of Bonneville" began at 6:00 PM.

Thank you to Joe Morley

Meeting brought to order by President Ann Lewis at 7:30 PM.

Treasurer reported \$6,066.07 currently on hand.

Membership stated no new members at this time.

The Jackson Hole trip was cancelled due to no participation.

A day trip to Brighton with lunch at Silver Fork is a possibility for Oct.

The Grand Mesa, Cedaredge trip was still scheduled for 9/16 through 9/19

The November meeting will include nominations for next year's officers.

The [Christmas](#) banquet will be at Faustino's, 454 E 3rd So. It was decided to charge \$20.00 per person with the club picking up the tab for the difference.

Jon Hanson is the "current" custodian of the BAHC historical artifacts.

Don Colman has some of the clubs' tools & has donated a 2 ton engine hoist and a 1250 lb. engine stand. Those 2 items will, tentatively, be located at Sec Ten Specialties. Any member in need of special tools should attend a meeting to see what is available.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Editors note:

The Holiday Dinner has two prices for the event menu. The club will be picking up \$17.00 of each person's meal. The pricing on the menu later in the newsletter reflects that price break.

Bonneville Austin Healey Club member Don McEligot sends us this article that he found in *The Guardian*, an English newspaper.

Don included a comment in the margin. The Question is, how many BAHC members will arrive at the same conclusion that Don did?

THE WINNER IS ... STORY COMPETITION

Earlier in the summer we challenged budding young authors to write a thrilling story of no more than 247 words with the title, *The Guardian*. Thank you to all who entered. The quality of entries was extremely high, and we are pleased to reveal our winners today, as chosen by a panel including Neil Gaiman.

Ethan Gibbons, 10, wowed the judges with his exceptional entry, printed right, and has won a Kindle, where perhaps one day he will read his published work.

The runners-up are Will Moorfoot, 14, Jonathan Neary, 10, Olivia Crow, 8, Ethan Wild, 8, and Amelia Dowling, 12, who all receive a signed copy of *The Graveyard Book*. You can read their entries, and the exclusive story by Neil Gaiman that kicked off the competition, online at guardian.co.uk/childrensbooks

The Guardian by Ethan Gibbons

Recently, standing here has given me a good chance to look back over the years.

I remember my first day on the job. It was a sunny afternoon in 1960. I had just bought myself a new bright red Austin Healey which turned out to be the same colour as my new uniform. A scarlet tunic with gold embroidery, white ruff, and my tall, heavy, pointy partizan in my hand.

Although I had already served our queen for 22 years that was the first time I had actually met her face to face. What I remember most of all about our meeting was the softness of her beautiful white glove.

How do we choose which memories we keep?

It was a brief meeting, she wished me well in my new role, and moved onto the next person.

Now here I am, still standing here 25 years later, in my last few days wearing this beautiful scarlet outfit. It hasn't been the most fun of all jobs but it was well worth it. I'm relieved that I have been able to keep the crown jewels safe in the time I have been here at the Tower of London. But now at the approach to my 70th birthday my back is sore and my feet are aching and the first thing I am going to do is take out the old, dusty, Austin Healey for a drive around the country ... even maybe over to France.



Holiday Party

December 3, 2011, 6:30 PM

Faustina
454 East 300 South
Salt Lake City

Menu

House Salad

butter lettuce • mixed greens • sherry vinaigrette • beet chips
Or

Butternut Squash Soup with Candied Pecans

Choice of one of four entrees

\$20 or \$28 including tax & gratuity

\$20

Salmon

whipped potatoes • vegetable medley • smoked shallot sauce

Chicken Breast

Spinach * bell pepper * feta cheese * soft polenta*
Asparagus * chorizo broth

Lasagna

Italian sausage • salami • grilled zucchini • roasted onion • spinach • asiago • ricotta • cheddar • bell pepper puree • balsamic reduction

\$28

Stuffed Beef Tenderloin Medallions

Asparagus * creamy peppercorn sauce * roasted fingerling potatoes * cipollini onions * shiitake chips

Dessert

Molten Chocolate Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream

**Cost \$20 or \$28 per person including tax & gratuity
No Corkage charge for wine**

The prices shown are the members net cost for each meal. The Bonneville Austin Healey Club will be adding \$17.00 to the price shown.

Parking on the street and in their parking lot, enter on the East Side

Make your reservation by November 10th by sending your check to:

**Jim Revel
2040 Mahre Drive
Park City, UT 84098**

Please make your check payable to BAHC and include your meal choice

2011 World of Speed

I had a great week on the Bonneville Salt Flats this year. Fellow BAHC member Craig Mossberg and I shared the duty of Staging Lane Stewards. What a great job if you are volunteering on the flats.

This year had a very interesting twist of sorts. Rick Vesco, Streamliner# 444, and Seth Hammond, Lakester #77, had their daughters driving on the salt. Both ladies not only acquired their "unlimited" licenses, but they both set class records. 310.9815 for Rhonnie Vesco, and 294.3825 for Tegan Hammond.

Congratulations ladies.

The Vesco "liner" is pictured on this page, and the Seth Hammond Lakester is on the mailer page.

Dave





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