

# OUTSPOKEN

The publication of the Northern Indiana Austin Healey Club of America  
February 2010 Jeff Freers – Editor

---

## A Message from Our New President:

It is a pleasure and an honor to have been voted in as your new President (co-President with John as my sidekick).

Having been a member of this club now for nearly 30 years, I must tell you that these are the best friends we have had with a common desire to enjoy the Healeys, the camaraderie, and most of the time the good weather.

In the New Year, we are looking forward to doing some new things along with the tried and true that we always enjoy. As has been said many times before, this is your club so if you want try something we haven't tried before by all means send suggestions our way so we can put these events on the calendar. They don't have to be big events and they don't have to be long weekend type events. We all live close enough to each other that we can meet and enjoy the day and the company. One of the things that seemed to pop up several times in the Annual Meeting was places to get good ice cream and I am all in favor of that! So if you know such a place, please inform us so we can use that as an excuse to meet and eat.

There is a calendar of planned events in this newsletter and, as you can see, many open spaces in the months ahead to get together and "drive and dine"! These daily events are not a lot of planning and can be very spontaneous, which, of course, makes them even more fun.

John and I look forward to serving you and making this year a fun Healey season and beyond with little to no car trouble for everyone.

Rita

**Rita Eslinger – President**  
**Bob Yager – Membership/Treasurer**  
**Al Malin – Website Coordinator**

**Lou Hoekstra- Vice President**  
**Jon Needler – Secretary**  
**Jeff Freers - Delegate**

## EVENTS

**Christmas Party** - The Annual Christmas party began with dinner at the Trolley Bar Restaurant in Ft. Wayne on the evening of December 5. This was the third year for the club at this venue, and once again everyone left pleased and ready for the evening's festivities. As has become customary, the "party" was held at the warm and comfortable home of Ann and Bob Yager, whose Holiday hospitality at these gatherings has become legendary. Because of the likely time involved with an Annual Meeting that included a change of officers, it was decided to postpone the meeting until January, when a dedicated Annual Meeting could be held. The account of that meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Once again, our thanks go out to Ann and Bob for so graciously opening their home for this most popular of events. It was a notable evening, and the gift exchange can best be described by the following account: *(Editor's note: I wrote this poem for the "Outspoken" eight years ago and it was published in the issue before I became Newsletter editor. Until now, I have never republished something, but since this is my last edition, it somehow seems appropriate)*

### **The Gift Exchange**

**T**was the night of the gift exchange, and all through the home,  
Not a gift had been opened, not a single one.

The numbered trees were cut and laminated neat,  
So everyone would know when to open their treat.

The ladies in their sweaters and the men with their beer,  
Had just settled in for an evening of good Christmas cheer.

When from the back of the room there arose such a commotion,  
those who had been here before soon had a notion.

It was time to draw numbers, the opening would be started.  
And soon we all know this was not for the faint hearted.

High numbers only-it quickly became known.  
Low numbers were only met with a groan.

The first gifts were opened, with no hopes of ownin.  
For everyone knew- the good ones soon would be stolen.

The blankets were sat on and the Baileys hidden at depth,  
in the vain attempt that they might be kept.

Some tried to be funny, others were cute.  
All to no avail, they even found the Absolute!

So the trading went on seemingly forever.  
The battle cry was, "I won't quit...not now-not ever".

While some tried to trade for a gift they could keep,  
others thought we might be there 'til next week.

When it finally ended, it was in fact the same date.  
Everyone just suddenly accepted their' fate.

So the greetings were passed and the gifts finally loaded.  
No feelings were hurt, it should be noted.

But as the losers exclaimed as they left for the night,

WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR-I WON'T GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!!

## **NEWS**

ANNUAL MEETING -

NIAHC Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2010

The meeting, held at the Boathouse Restaurant in Warsaw, was called to order by President Kurt Anderson Sunday afternoon at 1:45. In attendance were the following club members: Kurt and Vella Anderson, Bob and Ann Yager, Renee Mahnensmith and her Mom, Annie, John and Rita Eslinger, Jack Overley, Jack and Nancy Summers, Trisha Danielowicz and her fiancé, Chuck Kuemin, Fred and Connie Fribley and their grandson, and Jon and Andy Needler.

Discussion was held on the Lemon Creek event, and some changes were suggested to help ensure a better event in 2010, including formulating a letter of intent to be presented to the Lemon family prior to the meet. In addition, it was decided that we would not utilize the food vendor we had in 2009. We will also try to become affiliated with a charity so that some of the funds can be donated to it. This may help us to generate more raffle donations from interested companies.

Jan Freers gave her Delegate's Report which was well received. Overall membership is down somewhat (about 11%), and the club is trying to think of ways to get younger people involved. Conclaves will continue, at least through 2012, although the event in 2011, in Colorado, will be run by the national club with help from the local club. A group of us will be going to Galena, IL in July for this year's Conclave, and it will be held in Louisville again in 2012.

Club elections were also held. Originally, we were going to propose a slate of officers and hold the vote via email, but since none of the posts were contested it was decided to hold the election right then as a quorum was present. The results of the election were: President: Rita Eslinger; Vice-President: Lou Hoekstra; Secretary: Jon Needler; Treasurer: Bob Yager; Delegate: Jeff Freers; Webmaster: Al Malin; Newsletter: Trisha Danielowicz. Heartfelt thanks were given to the old officers for a job very well done; they will be a hard act to follow.

Upcoming events were discussed, and it looks from this vantage point as if we will have another fun-filled year coming up, starting with Tune-up at Mahnensmith's in May and ending again with the Christmas Party in early December.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jon Needler, Secretary

## **MORE NEWS**

-ITS OFFICIAL - In case you missed it in the Annual Meeting Notes, Trish Danielowicz announced her engagement to Chuck Kuemin. Welcome to the NIAHCA, Chuck and best wishes to the happy couple!

-FLASH!!! - Ed Needler has left the ranks of the "Healeyless" and is now the proud owner of a 1967 Sprite. According to Ed, it is going to need some serious work, but he is anxious to get started turning wrenches again. Congratulations Ed!

-NANCY SUMMERS reports that her knee surgery went well, she is recuperating nicely and due to begin physical therapy soon. Congratulations and Godspeed, Nancy.

-ONE MORE note from the Delegates Meeting - For those Clubs that host invitational Healey related events (events that have the public or other Healey clubs participate), the AHCA will provide a one year membership per event that can be used as a door prize or raffle item. In order to make this happen the local club can produce a nice certificate to be presented to the winning person. This person should then send the certificate to the AHCA membership director and also one of the Healey people that have a position of authority in the event should also notify the membership director. That's all you have to do.

## **A LITTLE HISTORY**

– For those of you who are curious as to the origins of the Austin Healey Club of America, past President Carl Brown put together a brief history of the first (aborted) attempt and the later successful formation of the club. The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding will be celebrated at the 2010 Conclave in Galena, IL. The history follows:

A group of Austin Healey owners banded together to form a club in the Washington DC area on Nov 24 1959. They contacted the Healey Drivers Club about forming a national club and the BMC factory authorized the formation of the national Austin-Healey Club of America, Inc. An application to register the title was filed with the patent Office and the nonprofit incorporation was obtained in Maryland.

This occurred a few months after the local group met to form their club. It probably happened sometime in early 1960. In Jan 1961 the Midwest group joined as the Midwest Region.

On October 28, 1963, a letter was received by the Midwest region stating that the National club was going inactive for an indefinite time. They also stated that it could be revived at any future date with a minimum of effort.

The national club was revived in 1975 when Walt Blank headed up the reorganization and the Midwest Region became the head of the Austin-Healey Club Of America, Inc. They did not reactivate the Maryland nonprofit corporation but incorporated in Illinois. Therefore I think that we should recognize the 1975 date as the date of the formation of AHCA and not the 1961 as stated in our magazine. The theme of Conclave 2010 is: Healey Heritage 1975 -2010. Our Presidents Dinner on Monday July 12th will celebrate the past Presidents (and spouses) of our Past AHCA Presidents.

Carl Brown

## **THE FINAL TURN**

By your Editor

Back in 1972, a group of us college students were sitting around talking one evening when the topic turned to our ideas of what would be the perfect job. Going around the room, most, including me, just simply recited something in their already chosen career field. I'm not sure exactly what I said, but since I then still harbored ambitions of Law School, it probably included some kind of law practice. When the turn came to Jan's then roommate, she quickly said: "I want to be a traveling reporter for Gourmet Magazine on an expense account". Contemplating that prospect with the thought "nice work if you can get it", I added something to the effect: "Well if we're talking dream jobs, then I want to be a traveling reporter for Road and Track on an expense account".

I know I have relayed that story to a few of you over the years, and I repeat it now just to illustrate the enjoyment that I have gotten from being the Outspoken Editor for the past eight years. No, I was not paid, so it wasn't really a job, and of course there was no expense account, but being able to write about cars and other topics automotive for those years, I came as close as I'm likely to come to holding that "dream job".

Yes, I can hear the chorus begging the question: "If you like it that much, why are you quitting?" For that, we need to go back a couple of years prior to that evening in '72. When I was a sophomore at IU, I had developed an acquaintance with a journalism student and reporter for the Indiana Dailey Student, the highly regarded IU campus daily paper. Knowing that I had done some writing, he encouraged me to become a reporter, which I did seriously consider. In fact I considered a career in Journalism for quite a while. But I had also just been elected to the Student Senate, and even at that tender age, I recognized the potential issues of reporting that which I was involved in. It was a cardinal rule back then (and still should be today) that the press should never, ever be the story. With that in mind and after a lot of soul searching, I made the career decision that I wanted to be a "doer" not a "reporter". I politely declined the offer and never looked back...until eight years ago.

When the opportunity to become the Outspoken Editor presented itself, that whole thought process flashed before me, and the doer v. reporter question once again was front and center. This time however, my passion to write won, and I just hoped that it didn't get in the way of my enjoyment of the club and cars in general. From your comments, I guess I was pretty successful at it (although I never did get comfortable reporting things that I had done) and will always be grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with writing. In the end, it was the doer v. reporter conflict that actually won. When I began to want to avoid club events and car activities because writing about them was a chore, I knew it was time to stop. I was risking not only losing my passion to write, but also my passion for cars. It was not worth it to me, and ultimately to the club either.

The good thing is that I did stop in time. The other night I got a call from an excited Ed Needler, who had just become the proud owner of a '67 Sprite. In the course of our conversation, Ed's enthusiasm took hold of me and I was happy to be talking about cars again and looking forward to getting under the hood of that Sprite. The passion, if it was waning, came back with a fury.

As you saw in the Annual Meeting Notes, Trish Danielowicz is going to be the new Outspoken Editor and I'm sure that she will bring her own thoughts and imitative to the position. I hope she takes my previous comment to heart and makes whatever form the Outspoken takes, sustainable. While every position in the club is something of a chore, none of them should be an ordeal. I'm sure that she will find that balance.

As for me, many of you know that at the end of last year I acquired a Round-Arch Midget (For you who just gasped, relax, it will be fitted with a Sprite grill) with the intent of building a vintage race car. Vintage racing is something that I have wanted to do for a while, and at least for now, Jan is humoring me. It is going to be a project, but I am enjoying the work, and the new adventure.

For better or for worse, the NIAHCA has not heard the last of me. In my new position as Delegate, part of my job will be to communicate to the local membership the issues of the national club and I intend to do just that. I'm also sure that there will be times that Trish will need a hand and I'll be happy to help in any way that I can.

Finally, you may have noticed that I changed the name of my column to "The Final Turn" from its previous "In the Rear View Mirror", for this last issue. Regardless of how long the race, it always has a final turn, and after that there is really no point to a rear view mirror. What happens next is going to be in front of you...and that is exactly where I am looking.

See you on the road.

Jeff

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

MAY 1 – Spring Tune Up - Mahnensmith's

MAY 13 -16 - Spring Thing / Kentucky Bourbon Tours

JUNE 27 - Michiana Brits Car Show -Annual Michiana British Car Show  
St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN

JULY 11 – 16 - CONCLAVE 2010. AHCA Heritage 1975-2010. Eagle Ridge Resort,  
Galena. IL

JULY - TBA - Mag Dogs and Englishmen – Hickory Corners, MI

JULY 25 - 18th Annual Tea at the Vicarage Howe Military Academy, Howe, IN

AUGUST - TBA - Ice Cream Social/Cook Out - Kurt and Vella Anderson

SEPTEMBER 11 - AHCA Lemon Creek Open British Car Field Day Lemon Creek  
Baroda, MI

SEPTEMBER 17-19 - September Round Up - Middleton, OH

OCTOBER - TBA - Halloween Party - Eslinger's

DECEMBER 4 – TBA Christmas Party -Yager's