

The FLASH



APRIL 2024 | ISSUE 546



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTIN HEALEY SPORTS & TOURING CLUB

APRIL • 2024

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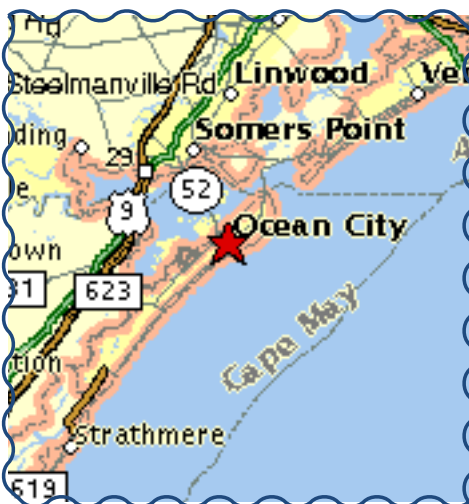
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Contributions

AHSTC encourages the submission of articles to the Editor for publication. There is no restriction on content, other than it should be of interest to the readership and Healey related.

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The AHSTC is a non-profit, Pennsylvania corporation dedicated to the preservation of the Austin Healey marque. Contact Rick Brodeur or a region president to inquire on membership

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Send Ad and/or information to Tom Mulligan

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AHSTC Events webpage;

<https://austin-healey-stc.org/calendar.html>

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ON THE COVER

Bob & Judy Weaver with their 1963 Austin Healey 3000 MKIII.

What's In The Flash

By Tom Mulligan

ENCOUNTER – Encounter 2024 Registration is open. The Philadelphia Region will host this year in Ocean City NJ. See the enclosed flyer, registration form, and more information about the event from the Encounter Chairs. Registration is also available on-line.

<https://www.austin-healey-stc.org/show.html>

CONTEST – The new contest is underway and the answer to the March question and those who got it correct are in this month's issue. Check out the new question and engage the whole family.

TECH ARTICLE – Dave Siwa has contributed an interesting article, and story, about the clutch replacement on his Bugeye. Check it out. Thank Dave.

AUCTION REPORT – This month it's about the ubiquitous BJ8. We look at 2 recent offerings on Bring a Trailer. Both appear to be very nice cars. One sells well and the other is a no-sale. Find out why in the Auction Report. Check out the links, read the comments and see if you agree with the outcomes.

AHSTC AND BRITISH CAR EVENTS – A new link to The AHSTC British Car Event Calendar has been included on page 2 and will appear in all future *Flash* issues.





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PRESIDENTIAL RUMINATIONS

Steve Feld AHSTC President

The passing of Harrisburg member Joe Spear in March is a true loss for AHSTC. Joe was President of that region for 13 years, an ardent supporter of the club and a bright presence at Encounters with his constant, welcoming smile. See the Harrisburg Region reports for more on the life of our good friend. Rest in peace Joe!

Spring has officially sprung and with it comes the first drives of 2024 for our Healeys. Congratulations to those of you who enjoy winter drives or early spring drives, but my Healey hibernation location makes such drives problematic if I want to keep my regular vehicle out of winter weather. However, now is the time to enjoy the defining character traits of our Healey or other LBC. With that in mind here are a few thoughts about SPRING.

- S** SUV – switch from your SUV to the Healey for an occasional errand
Scenic Route – Take the scenic route as often as you can.
Speedbumps – The bane of our Healeys
- P** PSI – check your tire pressures before the first drive
Potholes – can't they fix these sooner than Fall?
PHEV – isn't this about the same as a trickle charger?
- R** Ride – contact a AHSTC friend to go for a Healey ride
Roadholding – a new Corolla might match us, but a Healey is lots more fun.
Rain – There are plenty of days without April showers.
- I** Ignition – some say that most carburetor problems are ignition issues
Insurance – when did you last check the agreed value amount in your policy?
Impromptu - A drive doesn't have to be scheduled. Spur of the moment action can be very rewarding.
- N** NVH – Noise-Vibration-Harshness - Healeys had these in abundance even before the acronym was created.
Nostalgia – For many, the reason behind our purchase in the first place. It may be harder now to get in and out, but both driver and car are better when exercised.
- G** Garage – Get your Healey out of this place! It looks much better on the road.
Ground Clearance - Healeys did not have this in abundance.
Guilt – Alleviate the guilt of not driving your Healey by just doing it!



HARRISBURG

REGION

Pam Frazier

Mtg at Hillside Cafe—3/19/2024—Ten members in attendance—Pam Preston, Del Border, Pam Frazier, Fred and Donna Sherk, Skip and Linda Hardy, Dave and Priscilla Hooper and George Wagman III.

President Pam Preston handed out of schedule of AHSTC Harrisburg Region 2024 Events, as follows:

SAT, APRIL 6 - CARS & CONVERSATION at Burger King in Columbia 10:00 a.m., with LANCO MG Club.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 - HARRISBURG REGION MEETING at the Hillside Cafe, 6:30 p.m.

SAT, MAY 4 - COFFEE, CARS & CONVERSATION at Burger King in Columbia 10:00 a.m., with LANCO MG Club.

FRI. & SAT., MAY 10-11 - CARLISLE IMPORT & PERFORMANCE—Sharing a large tent on the show field with two other car clubs—LANCO MG Club and Keystone British Car Club. Register online by Mar. 26, for 10% discount. Bring a chair. Lunch on your own.

TUES, MAY 21 - HARRISBURG REGION MEETING at the Hillside Cafe, 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 26, - COVERED BRIDGE DRIVE, 1:00 p.m. start with LANCO MG Club.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 - MOVIE NIGHT AT THE PRESTON'S—Details soon.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 10:00 A.M. - COFFEE, CARS & CONVERSATION hosted by Rob Shingle and Jim Keener at their garage car collection. A don't miss event!

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 11:00 A.M., JOINT CLUB PICNIC WITH LANCO MG and Central PA Triumph Club, Rocky Ridge Park, "Pheasant Pavilion", 3699 Deininger Rd, York, PA. Bring your own lunch and a dessert to share.



On Saturday, March 23, 2024, a Memorial Mass was held for Joe Spear at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Palmyra, PA. Several AHSTC members attended the visitation and/or Memorial Mass: Bob and Pam Preston, Pam Frazier, Jim and Linda Cox, Fred and Donna Sherk, Rod and Susan (Nalley) Roderick, Del Border, Ray Donovan and Dave and Priscilla Hooper.



JOSEPH L. "JOE" SPEAR

1941 - 2024

We in the Harrisburg Region of the AHSTC were saddened to learn that Joe Spear, the longest serving President in Harrisburg Region history, and one of nicest people you could ever know, passed away on March 12 after a battle with cancer. Joe was an integral part of the fabric of AHSTC Harrisburg for many years. He was organized, welcoming, humorous, generous, and always pleasant. We are all in Joe's debt for the leadership and friendship he showed to every one of us over the years. To say he will be missed is a gigantic understatement. It won't be the same without him.

Joe was multitalented and pursued numerous interests including woodworking, golfing, sailing, and of course, classic cars. He was a devout parishioner of The Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Palmyra, PA and that faith and dedication led him to be involved with the prison ministry at Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary and Trenton State Prison.

Of course, there was no Joe without the great Barb. They were married for over 50 years. We learned that they marked their anniversary on the 25th of EVERY month of the year by seeing who would wish the other happy anniversary first! It's a mark of how much they meant to each other, and to the AHSTC Harrisburg family. We almost always said "Joe and Barb" when referring to either of them.

Joe served enthusiastically as president of the Harrisburg Region for 13 years, making him the longest serving president in our history. Many of the things and ideas that Joe instituted over the years remain part of our regular activities. He left a legacy that we will enjoy for years to come.

A beautiful, and very fitting, Memorial Mass and visitation was held on March 23rd at Holy Spirit. AHSTC members attending were Bob and Pam Preston, Pam Frazier, Jim and Linda Cox, Fred and Donna Sherk, Rod and Susan (Nalley) Roderick, Del Border, Dave and Priscilla Hooper, and Ray Donovan and Steve and Geri Kirlin from Philadelphia Region. Barb and the family were very appreciative of the support from our AHSTC family.

This has been a tough few months for the Harrisburg Region with the loss of Liz Brockman and, now, Joe. However, we can take some solace in the knowledge that they were in our lives and were the reason for so many great memories over the years. Please keep Barb and all the Spear family in your thoughts and prayers.

Condolences may be sent to Joe's wife, as follows: Barbara Spear, 118 Lexington Dr, Annville, PA 17003



PHILADELPHIA REGION

It looks like temperatures are finally more conducive to Healey driving. I hope your cars have been serviced over the winter and are ready to hit the road.

I was unable to attend the monthly meeting on March 18 because Marlyn was recovering from surgery, but Leo Kob informed me about the meeting. Ocean City has formally approved our plans for the Boardwalk Popular Car Show. Sunday night will include a Healey movie and a trivia night. Come prepared with little-known tidbits of information. Our next meeting will be at the Metropolitan on Monday, April 15, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Dave Siwa and I have approached the Philadelphia MG Club and the Delaware Valley Triumph Club about the possibility of doing joint retiree driving events over the next months. We plan to have Tours of about an hour, ending with lunch at a brewhouse. More details to follow.

Treasured Motorcar Services, located in New Freedom, PA, is holding their 2024 spring open house and car show on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will try to put together a caravan for those who are interested.

The British Cars of Bucks County and Morrisville Business Association are holding a vintage car show on Bridge Street in Morrisville, PA, on Saturday, May 11, beginning at 4:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

The Triumph Rescue Shakedown car show will be held on Saturday, May 18, in Bechtelsville, PA, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

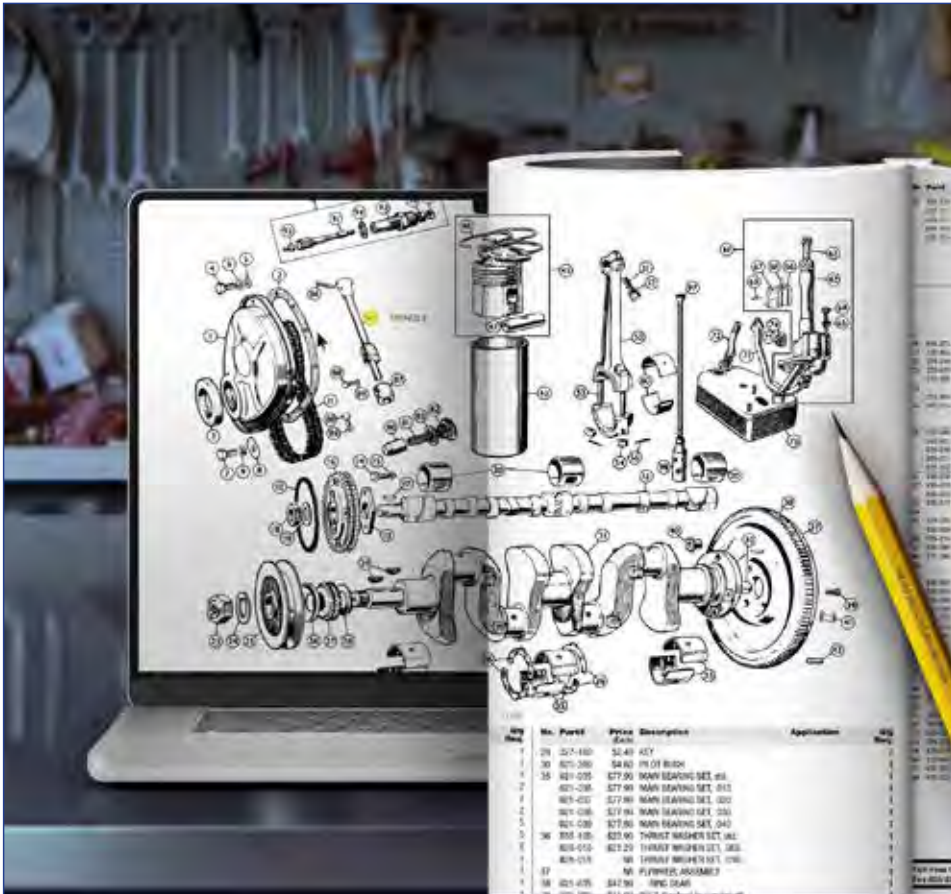
On Sunday, May 19, the Ambler, PA, car show will be held on the streets of Ambler, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

On Saturday, June 1, (rain date June 2) the Red Mill car show hosted by AHSTC New Jersey, will be held in Clinton, NJ.

Try to come out to some of these events.



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North Jersey

By George Crombie

And here we are on the cusp of April, and I am once again flirting with the self-imposed deadline of 10 pm on the 25th (of March, this time). I mention “self-imposed” because I don’t want to wait until midnight (which is still technically under the wire) to get this off to Tom so he, in turn, doesn’t miss his deadline. Oh! The pressures of punctuality! I had every intention of starting this month’s article a few days early; Saturday the 23rd was a nasty cold and rainy day with the winds howling and rattling our trash and recycling barrels like a regular Nor’easter. It would have been an ideal day to spend growling at this computer, but a few household chores got in the way.

We had 22 members attend our Regional monthly meeting on March 12th in the upstairs meeting room at The Vintage Tavern in Gillette. Attending were Bob Rudolph (TVR), Steve & Lynn Jekogian, Patrick Venezia, Jim Vollmuth (BJ8), Barb & Rudy Hyzer, John Moore (BJ7), Theo Padavano, Richard Ippoliti, Larry Gersten, Steve & Ann Feld, Ian Kessen, Ralph Scarfogliero, Allen Rosenberg, Bob Jankowitz (100-6), Vickie Hurst, Tom Mulligan, and Denise, Sarah, and George Crombie. Topics covered were wide and varied, and included the Regional monthly club meeting on Tuesday, April 9th at The Vintage Tavern in Gillette, as well as other upcoming events such as a drive out to South Fallsburg, NY to view Nachman Kanovsky’s collection of vehicles, scheduled for Sunday, April 14th (stay tuned for more info and a possible caravan out and back, with lunch “on your own” at a local restaurant). Also on tap is the annual Swap Meet and Open House hosted by Ken & Cindi Beck at K&T Vintage Cars in Bethlehem, PA on Saturday, April 27th from 9:30 until 2 pm. R.S.V.P. if you’re planning to attend.

May events announced were this year’s British Challenge Cup Rallye on May 4th and sponsored by the NJ Triumph Association (I’m going to stick my neck out here and throw Allen under the bus as he is also a member of the NJTA and should have the information you need to partake). The following weekend, Friday & Saturday, May 10th & 11th, the annual Carlisle Imports & Performance Nationals will be held at the Carlisle, PA Fairgrounds. A few members are planning to carpool and/or caravan out: some on Friday, some maybe on Saturday. Reach out if you might be interested (or come to the next monthly meeting). The area Habitat for Humanity is having a fundraiser over the weekend of May 11 & 12th. There is a multi-marque car show in Ringwood, NJ on Saturday, May 18th. From May 25th through June 2nd is “Drive your British car week”; if you’ve got one, drive it (assuming you can...). If you’ve got two, drive them both!

June 1st is our annual Red Mill British Car Day, with a rain date of Sunday the 2nd. I hope you are registered! A Touch of England at the Hermitage National Historic Site in Hohokus, NJ is on June 8th, and the British Motorcar Gathering is on Sunday, June 9th in Hellertown, PA. The monthly meeting will be on Tuesday June 11th at The Vintage Tavern in Gillette, NJ.

Add to this Ralph’s Cars & Crumpets at the Dunkin’ in Morris Plains every other Sunday beginning in May and starting on May 26th. That ought to keep most of you guys busy for the next couple of months.

Just a couple of other bits of news to pass along to get y’all caught up. Sarah and I had the BN2 out for drives about half a dozen times during the month of March, putting on a bit over 120 miles during our various runs before the annoying brake problems presented themselves again. I finally put the pen to a check and registered for this year’s Encounter this coming



September on the Boardwalk in Ocean City, NJ. I even mailed it off today! Have the rest of you folks gotten your registrations in yet? If not, why not??

Last but not least, on March 30th the family of one of the Region’s preeminent members celebrated his 90th birthday with a surprise party at the Brownstone in Paterson NJ. Art Herkomer was delighted by the turnout of about 100 guests that included a wide variety of friends and family. The North Jersey Region was well represented as the below photo illustrates. Art’s daughter and son-in-law, Kris and Nick VanNess are also AHSTC members. Congratulations Art! 

Long Island REGION

By Paul Parfrey

*"SHOWER THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE WITH LOVE,
SHOW THEM THE WAY THAT YOU FEEL..."*

That James Taylor song is a reminder to us all. That was brought home to me when we lost our dear friend, Barbara Maichin, on March 11 after a long battle with Parkinson's. The visitation was on Saint Patrick's Day from 5 to 9. Mary Ann Sekelsky, Tedd Krummeck, Susan and I were able to attend. It was great to see Bob and have a good talk with him as, due to Barbara's illness, the two of them had been unable to come to events of late. We only wish the circumstances of our getting together had been for other reasons.



Bob and Barbara first met in 1963. They married a few years later and were then together for the next 56 years. They joined the Long Island Region in 1985 which is when I first met them. They were an active couple: skiing, lots of traveling (Cuba with its old cars was a high point!), and going to the Indianapolis 500 every year, to mention a few of their interests. Although I was never able to persuade them to come to Encounter, they attended our Long Island events faithfully: the beach runs, the Scottish Games/British Car Show, the fall foliage tours, the holiday parties, and other gatherings. Bob was always ready to talk cars, and Barbara, as a fellow teacher, was good to talk shop with. In fact, she and my wife taught in the same Queens district.

We are hoping to get a group of Long Island members together to go out to lunch or dinner in the near future. Bob welcomes the idea, but we have yet to set a date. Right now, his voice mail is overflowing, and we will have to wait until things calm down a bit.

†

In March we were also saddened to hear of the passing of Joe Spear of Harrisburg. If you ever came to Encounter, you would know Joe by his super smile, and his friendly and ready-to-help-you manner. He was one of the first people I would look for when I got to Encounter each year. He certainly helped me by borrowing a wheelchair for me to use at the Harrisburg Encounter. And the two of us had a great time doing a gymkhana run, one year or two, with Joe racing around the cones in his scooter, and me being pushed in my wheelchair by the team of Mike Haran and Steve Jekogian. I'm not sure it was so much fun for the pushers! Joe and his wife, Barbara, also agreed to put me up, provide transportation, and good company when I was in Harrisburg once for the WWII fighter planes. As I said before, Joe was friendly, helpful, full of fun, and a great president for the Harrisburg Region for many years (the longest serving Harrisburg President in history!). He is greatly missed.

I am reprinting the scheduled events we have so far (last month's list had March listed erroneously, instead of April, for a few) AND ADDING A FEW MORE:

- APRIL 13 - SUNY MARITIME CAR SHOW, THE BRONX
- APRIL 28 - AACA GREATER NY REGION LI MOTOR PARKWAY CLASSIC CAR SHOW, Williston Park
- APRIL 28 - TOWN OF OYSTER BAY BEACH CLASSIC CAR SHOW, Massapequa
- MAY 19 - BAYPORT AERODROME SOCIETY WINGS AND WHEELS
- MAY 19 - THE US MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY AUTO SHOW, Kings Point
- JUNE 2 - AACA GREATER NY REGION SPRING MEET, Old Westbury Gardens
- JUNE 22 - KEELS AND WHEELS BY THE BAY, West Sayville
- JUNE 29 - AHEPA PORT JEFFERSON CAR SHOW
- OCT. 13 - VANDERBILT CONCOURS, Centerport

If you have anything to add to this list, please get back to me. Emails with further info will be sent out as the dates get closer. If you attend an event, please send me pictures and any commentary.

ANY NEWS OR ANY SUBMISSIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.



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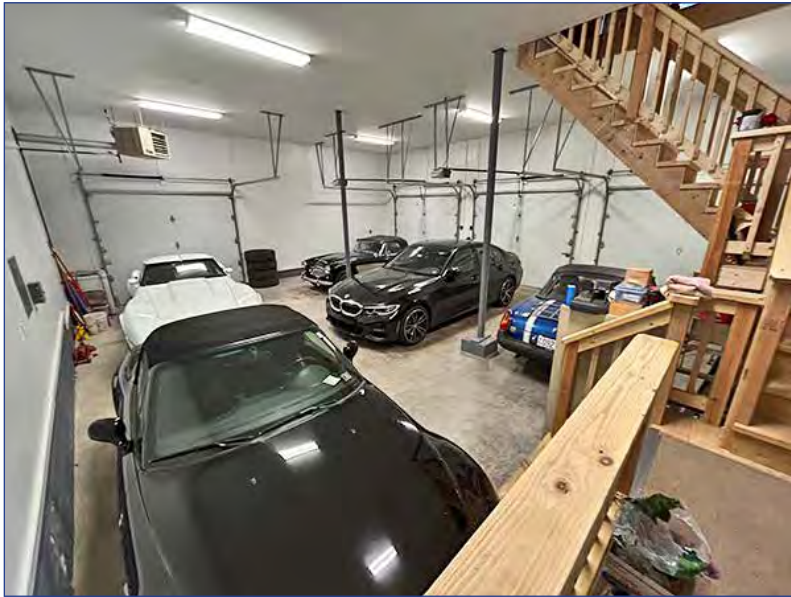
Garage Envy?



As Healey owners, we sometimes exhibit shallowness of character when seeking to buy a new family home, or even when dropping by the home of old friends. Healey owners tend to immediately size up the garage. If by such first impressions we garner feelings of claustrophobic spaces too constricted to house a prized Healey collection, real or imagined, then we move on. Oh, wouldn't a car lift be lovely? Where others see a house to live in, Healey owners see potential for a live-in car palace.

Garage Envy I call it, a malady all Healey owners suffer to some degree or another. In my opinion, dream accommodations range from huge, red-colored barns housing dozens of rusting classic automotive relics, to multi-million-dollar, environment controlled, checkerboard floored, Jay Leno-like enclosures, as only proper real estate to rest Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance four-wheeled pieces of rolling art.

So you can imagine my anticipation and possible trepidation as I stood in the rain recently envying the 3-bay garage pictured here; arguably the most impressive wing to an equally beautiful home owned by Lehigh Region members Donald and Karen Struckle of Cresco, PA. The Stuckles are both semi-retired from their long-standing business of owning and operating a small-town cinema. Over cups of delicious French-pressed coffee, we discussed garages, Healeys, the demise of a local movie house, and our children, both theirs and mine.



**Donald and Karen Struckle
with their 1963 Healey 3000 Mark II**

The Struckles lived in their Cresco home for 14 years, but it didn't always look like this. Soon after purchasing, Donald explained that they renovated the garage to meet their ever-growing automotive needs. (Doesn't everyone?) It's even more impressive on the inside than these pictures suggest. Space for seven cars tucked in close. There's also a full attic for storage and another overhead bay door around the back. Nice.

My garage envy was in full display. Another malady of mine, I view the automotive world as a dichotomy. It's black and white as I lump cars into two categories: Austin Healeys and Not Healeys. It was along this vein that I was invited to inspect the Struckle's car collection, six vehicles by my count, not all Healeys but nevertheless, all in beautiful condition and immensely drivable.

My top priority was to ogle and envy Donald's prized 1963 Austin Healey 3000 Mark II, four-seater with a Tri-Carburetor setup. The car was bought in 2003. Our old friend and Lehigh Regional President, Ken Beck found this particular car and arranged for Donald to buy it, but not before being nicely refurbished in Ken's shop. Its new two-tone color is a gorgeous BMW iridescent green paired with a smooth Olde English White side color, truly a beautiful example of this relatively rare model.

The second car of note was bought by Karen as a gift for Don to commemorate his 40th birthday. (I point this out as a hint to wives everywhere.) It is a rich, dark blue 1977 MGB convertible equipped with an overdrive transmission. While of course an MG is not a Healey, by my loose Healey/not Healey taxonomy methodology, this cute looking and fun driving MGB comes close.

Also found hidden away in the Struckle's garage are two jet black BMW's, the first, a 2001 Z-3 hard top convertible, and the second, a 2022 BMW Model 330. Don explained that the Z-3 was bought in 2006 after he spotted it on the roadside with a For Sale



1977 MGB Convertible



2001 BMW Z-3

sign. With over 110,000 miles under its belt, the Z-3 is hardly young, but according to Karen it still runs beautifully and is her favorite car to drive among her corral. Even so, Karen traded in her old 2007 Chevy Impala for the BMW Model 330, and that has become her daily driver. In my humble opinion, while both of their BMW's are prime examples of the legendary BMW marquis, each exhibiting fine German craftsmanship, superb engineering and styling, they are decidedly not Healeys. Enough said.



1979 C3 Corvette

Next, found hidden away in the Struckle garage is an understated 1979 Corvette, painted off-white and in very good condition. Don says he bought the car locally from "a friend of a friend." Karen says she likes the car because of its long hood. I couldn't agree more. This particular Corvette model's hood seems to extend from here to Denver. While clearly not a Healey, I find Corvettes would make worthy stable mates in my dream Healey collection.

Donald's daily driver is also not a Healey but instead, is a 2012 Ford F-250 pick-up truck. The F-250 is always parked in the driveway and could be in deference to Don's rural neighbors, who perhaps are more comfortable seeing this well-known American-made automotive icon, while diverting attention away from Don's garage and its bevy of imported wonders.

I enjoyed seeing all five of Don and Karen's cars in their seven-car garage. By my count, this presents them with an enviable opportunity to expand the fleet. Might I suggest an Austin Healey Bug-Eye Sprite or say, a Triumph TR-3 as either would nicely fill their available garage space to round out an already impressive collection?

Thank you, Don and Karen, for a wonderful visit.

Other Region Activities:

APRIL 20, 2024 - TRIP TO CELLAR BEAST WINE HOUSE - COORDINATED BY JOE MCGAVIN

APRIL 27, 2024, 9:30 - 2PM. SWAP MEET AND OPEN HOUSE,
K&T VINTAGE SPORTS CARS, COLONY DRIVE INDUSTRIAL PARK, 6584 RUCH RD, BETHLEHEM, PA



Brandywine

Ernie Leser

REGION

Our annual "Pizza at Pete's" was held on Saturday, March 16th at Pete Robert's home in Downingtown. Gorgeous weather for a change brought out a good number of members for this very popular event. Attending were Dave and Ann Ehret; Tom, Katie, Lia, and Claire Coletti; Chuck and Sue Ott; Pete Roberts and Dee Caffrey; Nigel and Edy Smart; Jeff and Lisa Lanno; Buzz Marshall; John Montague; Ray Slavinski and Bonnie Gebhart; Ernie and Joan Leser.

Chef Dee Caffrey baked a wide variety of pies which were enjoyed by all. Pete supplied the libations. The guests brought an assortment of salads and desserts to compliment the main menu.

Chuck Ott held a short business meeting relating to club happenings. Membership is generally steady, and our financial status is good.

Pete then gave the group a tour of his collection of beautiful Healeys: a BJ8; a 100; and the Nasty Boy Buick Healey. Very impressive.

Thank you, Pete, and Dee, for a very enjoyable event!



Pete's Buick Healey

FUTURE EVENTS

April, Sat. 13th, 1 pm. Tech Session at Chuck Ott's Taj Garage, 109 Airmont Dr., Middletown, DE.

May, Sat. 11th. Carlisle Import Show. Remember to register with AHSTC if you plan to attend. Contact is Chuck Ott (302-378-7287).

June, Sat. 15th. Maryland Eastern Shore tour and lunch. David Maule is contact (302-945-2952).



The Ehret family.



Porch gathering.



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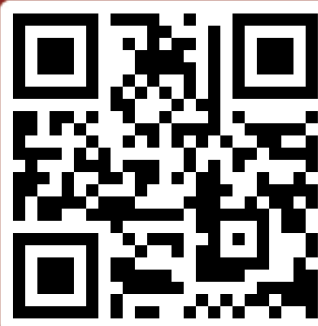


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MEMBERS CORNER

By Rick Brodeur

We have 1 new and 1 returning member this month.

Philadelphia - returning
David and Jessica Smith
Palm, PA
'56 BN2

Brandywine
Alfred and Janice Keating
West Chester, PA
'67 BJ8

Please note:

Second membership renewal reminders were sent out at the end of March. If you are due for a renewal of your membership and haven't sent in your dues, this will be the last Flash issue you will receive. Please send in your dues if you have received a 2nd notice, save me some paperwork.

A reminder: the Member's Only area of the website is available to members. Initial passwords are set up and you'll be prompted to change it when you log in.

If you have a problem receiving the Flash, please contact me at membership@austin-healey-stc.org

Our member lists are available to any member just for the asking. Each Region President has a copy that can be distributed, or I can send out a copy to any member who requests one.

My email address for the Club is membership@austin-healey-stc.org. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact me. Contacting me is the quickest way to solve a membership problem.

My phone number and email address are on the inside front page of the *Flash* and on the web site.

Regalia Online Store

The AHSTC club has started a new way to get Bling. We have set up with a vendor who has all our logos.

Click on the link ahstc.qbstores.com/ and Buy, Buy, Buy

Questions/concerns contact: Ken Beck • Email: kenbeck@rcn.com



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Tech Tips & Clips

INTO THE RABBIT HOLE AND OUT AGAIN

Article and images provided by **Dave Siwa**

My 1960 Bugeye recently had paint and body work performed to rectify a bone-headed error I had made in over-filling the fuel tank and storing the car in a hot trailer for a few days in August (Quick Tip: Don't do this!). The fuel expanded as it warmed and eventually flowed out of the filler tube/gas cap and onto the back deck of the car. By the time I discovered what had happened, the gas had burned through the paint all the way down to the primer beneath.

With the car partially disassembled for painting, it seemed like a good opportunity to install the Datsun 5-spd transmission I had been hoarding in my storage unit. I purchased a Rivergate kit (specifically intended for a 948 engine), pulled the drive train and dove in.

The process is relatively straight-forward. The good folks at Rivergate (aka: Will Perry and co.) have been putting these kits out for some time and have pretty much worked out most of the kinks involved with the mod. Notice I said MOST of the kinks...

In addition to the well-written instructions provided by Rivergate, I happened to find a thread on the MG Experience web site by a Midget owner who had recently installed the kit and provided excellent step-by-step instructions (with plenty of pictures (great for me!)). I won't bore everyone with the minutiae of the install, but instead, will drone on incessantly about one particular issue that I encountered.

The Rivergate 5-spd kit is most commonly installed on a 1275 engine. Combining the two is a common upgrade on Sprites/Midgets. As is so often the case, I elected to buck that trend and stay with the original 948 engine. This presented an interesting conundrum in clutch selection/installation.

The Bugeye Sprite/948 engine is equipped with a "coil spring" type pressure plate (see photo):

While the 1275 engine is equipped with a more "modern" diaphragm-type pressure plate:



The installation instructions tell you to remove "the contact pad on the rear (of the pressure plate) for the carbon throw-out bearing originally fitted to these cars. It is no longer needed as you will be installing a ball (bearing)-type throw-out bearing."

When you do this, your 1275 pressure plate looks something like this:



← When you remove the contact pad on the 948 clutch, you end up with this:

Look closely at the center of the 948 cover (where the three "arms" come together). These are intended to be the contact points for the new throw-out bearing. Roller bearing or not, to my eye, this seemed like a sketchy plan! Clearly, removing the contact pad on the 1275 diaphragm-type clutch results in a more



“secure” contact point (12 metal “fingers”) compared to the 948 (6 very small contact points).

I emailed Will at Rivergate and inquired as to whether this was, in fact, the installation plan for the 948 kit. His response was “Yes.” Inquiries were made to club members who had previously installed the kit. None of this allayed my concerns/confidence in using the original 948 clutch...

Then I started searching the internet (also known as the “rabbit hole” or as I call it “knuckle-head-ville”). My goal was to see if anyone produced a diaphragm-type clutch for a 948 engine. Seemed like a pretty straight-forward thought.

After what seemed like days of searching/reading/searching some more, I happened on a thread that suggested either re-drilling the 948 flywheel to accommodate the 1275 clutch, or use the clutch from a Hillman Imp...

Apparently, the Hillman Imp clutch bolts right up to the 948 flywheel (no modification required! Once again, perfect for me!), and is a diaphragm-type clutch. This seemed perfect! Find a Hillman Imp clutch, install it, and away we go! How hard could it be to find a Hillman Imp clutch? I emerged from the rabbit hole with a plan!

In typical fashion, instead of taking the obvious path (using the 1275 clutch (readily available, plenty beefy, etc...)) I elected to begin searching for a Hillman Imp clutch. Surprisingly, there were a few hits for these on the internet. A couple were parts suppliers, one was a Hillman Imp owners club in the UK. NOT surprisingly, pretty much no one actually HAD a Hillman Imp clutch available (the owners club had re-conditioned units available, but only for members to purchase. Though they did offer to let me join for that purpose...). A common response was - We don’t get many calls for these. We’ll need to update the web site.



My favorite was a parts supply website based in the Netherlands. They stated very specifically that “If we show a part as available, IT IS IN STOCK”. Right... They did list Hillman Imp clutches as available on the web site, so I attempted to reach out to them (email, phone) to see if they would ship to the US. When I finally received a response from a fellow called Pieter, he initially said they were out of stock. Then he contacted me again and said that he had been rummaging through his “stash” and discovered a Hillman Imp clutch! Unfortunately, he wasn’t interested in shipping it to the US, but said I could pick it up directly in Rotterdam at his place (apparently, he lives directly above the storage unit where he keeps his “stash”).

Despite the inconvenience of having to travel to Rotterdam in the Netherlands to pick up the part, he did offer to be available “24/7” for my convenience...

I should offer, as clarification, that I was going to be on a layover in Cologne, Germany for 4 days, so traveling to Rotterdam wasn’t as nutty as it may seem at first thought.

I actually considered taking the 3-hour high-speed train ride to Rotterdam to meet up with Pieter at his “stash place” to purchase the clutch, and then I heard from Ed Sweeney...

For the unaware, Ed Sweeney is the proprietor of Proper Noise in Mt. Penn, PA. He’s a long-time LBC mechanic and has a deep reservoir of knowledge/experience with such things. I asked him his opinion on whether to try and travel to Rotterdam to grab a Hillman Imp clutch fresh from Pieter’s “stash” or modify the 948 to accommodate the 1275 clutch. His answer: “We’ve done these in the past. You’ll have a better clutch with readily available parts with the 1275...”

“Can I drop it off tomorrow?” “Absolutely!”

So here I sit in Cologne for 4 days. My big adventure of traveling to Rotterdam purchase a Hillman Imp clutch quashed by the unassailable logic of Ed Sweeney. Now to find something to occupy my time... Perhaps an internet search...



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ENCOUNTER 2024

Back to the Boardwalk

Ocean City, New Jersey
September 15-18, 2024



Scene from the Encounter 2019 show
on the Ocean City, N.J., Boardwalk

ENCOUNTER
RETURNS to the
Historic Flanders Hotel
SITE OF ENCOUNTER 2019

- Enjoy condo stay with kitchen
- Easy stroll to the Boardwalk
- Driving events down the block
- Tours to seaside attractions

SHOW YOUR HEALEY ON THE BOARDWALK!

Austin-Healey Sports & Touring Club • ahstc.org



ENCOUNTER 2024 CHARITY AUCTION

Trish Woglom

Get your auction bidder paddles ready! As we have done in the past, festivities at Encounter 2024 will include a charity auction. The recipient of this year's auction proceeds will be **Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of the Philadelphia Region**. Ronald McDonald House Charities supports families on their children's medical journeys with a community of comfort and hope. This gives families the opportunity to focus on their child's health and well-being. We are sure you will agree it is a charity worthy of our support and the auction is always a fun night, not to be missed.

Auction items will be interesting and varied with something for everyone. There is sure to be lots of Healey and automotive memorabilia, a number of Ocean City local items, and lots of other special gifts from around the club regions. Auction item donations are most welcome and are accepted. Please contact Charlene Donovan by e-mail at donovansix@verizon.net if you plan to bring a donation to Encounter. Our committee is in serious negotiation with Alex Tricarb's agent. His auctioneer style cannot be described any other way than "unique" and is sure to keep everyone laughing! Complimentary Wine & Cheese continues the gala tradition.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Encounter 2024 and at the Charity Auction on Monday, September 16 at 7 PM at the Flanders Hotel in Ocean City, NJ. And come ready to raise those bidder paddles!



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION – RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES of Philadelphia Region

VALUES:

COMPASSION:

We serve our families and community with compassion, dignity, and respect.

INCLUSION:

We embrace the diversity of our staff, volunteers, and the families we serve.

COLLABORATION:

We create innovative solutions for our families in collaboration with our healthcare, corporate, public, and community partners.

LEGACY:

We honor our founders and build upon their legacy by offering exemplary family-centered support.

BEGINNINGS OF RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

Working as a pediatric oncologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the 1970s, Dr. Audrey E. Evans saw families spend night after night in the hospital while their children received life-saving medical treatment. She knew there had to be a better way and envisioned a house where families could stay during these stressful and uncertain times.

At the same time, the Philadelphia Eagles were raising funds in support of player Fred Hill, whose daughter, Kim, was in treatment for leukemia at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. When Eagles' General Manager Jimmy Murray approached St. Christopher's about making a donation, Dr. Lawrence Naiman suggested there was an even greater need for funds resting with Dr. Evans. Mr. Murray met Dr. Evans and became a champion for her cause. He approached Don Tuckerman and Stanley Elkman of Elkman Advertising, which represented McDonald's, with the idea that the company could offer the proceeds from their Shamrock Shake sales to benefit this new house. McDonald's agreed, and the first Ronald McDonald House was born in Philadelphia on October 15, 1974.

Thanks to the generosity of dedicated donors, the Ronald McDonald House has grown from a single idea to the model for over 375 Houses worldwide. The Chestnut Street House is in a historic mansion which was expanded in 1995 and again in 2019 with the addition of the Jill and Alan B. Miller Tower which more than doubled its capacity. This House accommodates 127 families each night. Our second House opened in 2008 at the corner of Front Street

EVENTS | ENCOUNTER

and Erie Avenue and accommodates 20 families each night. Beyond the walls of our Houses, we serve children and families through three Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, and Ronald McDonald Camp which began offering an integrated camp experience for children with cancer and their siblings in 1986.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Encounter of the Boardwalk runs from September 15-19, 2024. Registration forms are included in this month's FLASH. Be sure to answer the Healey trivia questions to enter to win some cash. Condominium reservations are being taken by the Flanders. Call them on 609-399-1000. You must provide your Encounter registration number at the time of reserving your rooms. Ask for the special AHSTC rate. There are only 60 condos available, so don't procrastinate! Consider extending your stay and take advantage of numerous excursions that will be included in your registration packet.

Note that complimentary wine & beer are included in all meal prices listed on the Encounter reservation form.

Hope to see you 'down the shore!!'



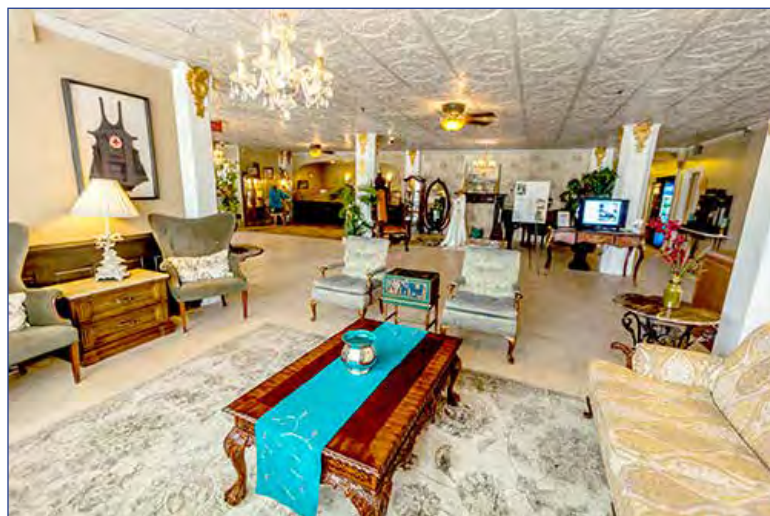
Encounter 2021 line up.

WHAT TO EXPECT UPON ARRIVAL IN OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Article By Trish Woglom & Leo Kob, co-chairs

Follow your GPS directions to 11th and the Boardwalk and you will find yourself in the small parking lot and portico of The Flanders Hotel. Unpack your car and head into the Lobby of the grand hotel. Have your driver move your vehicle over to the lot across from the Hotel reserved for Healey parking.

Upon arrival at the lobby's registration desk, you can speak with the Hotel staff and inquire if your suite is ready. Head over to the MAP room (left hand corner of the lobby) to check in with the Encounter 2024 folks and pick up your Registration Packet along with any pre-purchased Regalia items. Meet up with a few old friends (not the age of the friends, but the length of time that you have known them) to catch up on what's going on in their lives and to share what you have been up to.



Flanders Lobby

Make your way to your hotel suite, unpack, and relax. Each room is equipped with a kitchenette, so don't forget to bring your snacks, refreshments, and possibly breakfast items.

After freshening up from your travels, head out to the beach, smell the salt air, take in the beauty of nature, and then head over to Emily's Restaurant for an early dinner. The Flanders has made special arrangements for Emily's Restaurant to be open to accommodate our group.

After dinner, find your way upstairs to the Boardroom for some light refreshments and a bit of Movie watching and some fun camaraderie as we test your knowledge on all things Healey related, aka Healey Trivia.

Retire early so you are fully rested and ready for Monday morning's Rallye School and Rallye.

This year we will also feature a number of self-directed tours. The Funkhana will be more skills-oriented rather than a timed event. However, Tom and Tim Walker will have a very challenging Gymkhana ready for Tuesday.

If you haven't registered yet, don't hesitate. Send in your Registration Form and check to Trish Woglom, to receive your personalized confirmation letter and Registration #, which is needed to make your Flanders Hotel reservation. There are only 60 suites available at the special discounted rate of \$179.25 (not including taxes and fees), so don't delay. Reservations are now being made by our Encounter 2024 Registrants, so don't delay – Make your plans now -

September 15-19, 2024

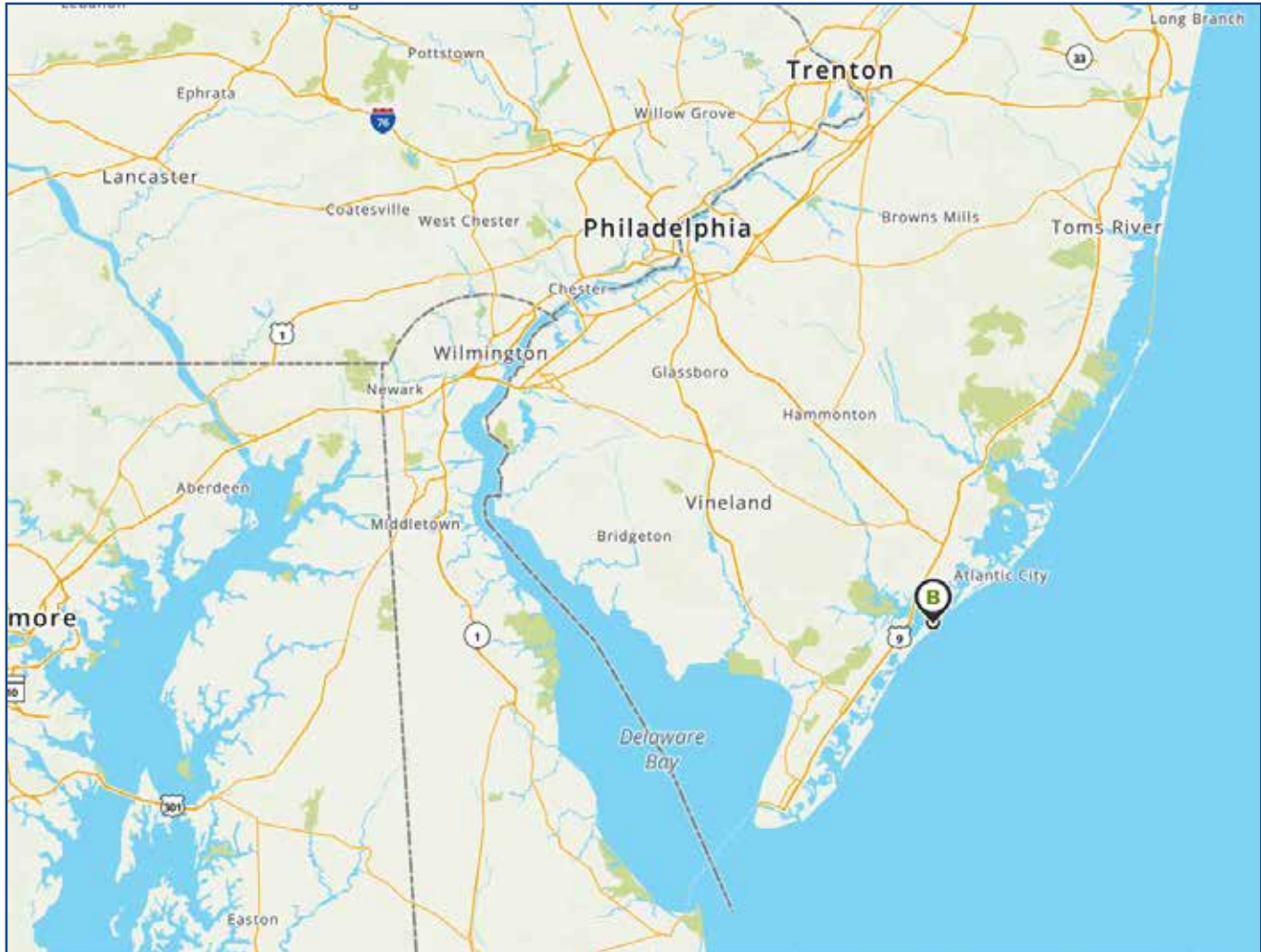
And don't forget, all club-sponsored meals include complimentary beer and wine.

SEE YOU ALL 'DOWN THE SHORE!!!!

As you can see, there are many ways to get to Ocean City, NJ. If you are traveling in your Healey and want to avoid highways and toll roads, there are many back roads to get you to the shore. If you are driving a BJ9 and want to make time, the AC Expressway and/or Garden State Parkway are the quickest and most direct routes. If you are lucky enough to be traveling from the south, consider the Cape May – Lewes Ferry – an enjoyable ride to get you there.



ROUTES TO ENCOUNTER 2024



NEW JERSEY'S Ocean City

America's Greatest Family Resort™



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Airport
- 2 Bayside Center, 520 Bay Avenue
- 3 Boardwalk
- 4 Boat Ramp, Tennessee Avenue
- 5 City Hall Annex, 901 Asbury Avenue
- 6 City Hall, 861 Asbury Avenue
- 7 Cultural-Aquatic & Fitness Center, 1701 Simpson Library, Art Center, Historical Museum
- 8 Golf Course, 2600 Bay Avenue
- 9 Humane Society, 1 Shelter Rd
- 10 Information Centers
 - a. Rt. 52 Causeway
 - b. Music Pier
 - c. 34th & Bay Ave. (Acme)
- 11 Recreation Sport Complex - 6th Street & Boardwalk, Skateboard Park, Volleyball, Track, Football & Basketball
- 12 Shops at Asbury Avenue
- 13 Music Pier, 811 Boardwalk
- 14 Shuffleboard Courts, 5th Street
- 15 Carey Memorial Field, 6th & Atlantic Avenue
- 16 Transportation Center, 9th & Haven Avenue
- 17 Veterans Memorial Park, 5th & Wesley Avenue
- 18 Corson's Inlet State Park
- 19 Park/Nature Area, 4th & Wesley Ave.
- 21 Howard Stainton Wildlife Area
- 22 Recycling Drop Off-Center

PARKING LOTS

Metered Lots

- 23 Longport Bridge
- 24 7th & Central Avenue
- 25 8th & Central Avenue
- 26 9th & Central Avenue
- 27 12th & Asbury Avenue
- 28 14th & Ocean Avenue
- 29 59th Street

Municipal Lots (Pay When Entering)

- 30 9th & Boardwalk (South Side)
- 31 9th & Boardwalk (North Side)
- 31 Atlantic Avenue (Between 8th & 9th Street)
- 32 Moorlyn Terrace & Boardwalk
- 33 8th Street (Near Boardwalk)
- 34 5th Street & Boardwalk

Free Lots

- 35 5th & Asbury Avenue (next to firehouse)
- 36 9th & Haven Avenue (Transportation Center)

FIRE STATIONS

- 37 Fire HQ, Station #1, Code Enforcement
- 38 Station #2, 2901 West Avenue
- 39 Station #3, 4508-44 West Avenue

PLAYGROUNDS

- 40 North Street & Haven Avenue
- 41 1st Street
- 42 6th Street & Simpson
- 43 8th Street Recreation Complex
- 44 29th Street
- 45 34th Street
- 46 52nd Street Reese Hopson Memorial

SOCCKER FIELDS

- 47 15th & Haven Avenue
- 48 Tennessee Avenue

BASEBALL FIELDS

- 49 5th & Haven
- 50 35th & Simpson

BASKETBALL COURTS

Basketball Courts at all Playgrounds

- 51 34th & Asbury Avenue

TENNIS COURTS

- 52a 31th & West Avenue
- 52b 18th Street & Haven Avenue
- 52c 6th & Atlantic Avenue

BEACH TAG SALES

- 53 Information Center
- 54 Music Pier
- 55 8th Boardwalk
- 56 5th
- 57 8th
- 58 10th
- 59 12th
- 60 14th
- 61 34th
- 62 36th
- 63 46th

POLICE STATION

Municipal Court

- 64 821-37 Central Avenue

BEACH PATROL

- 65 1st Street Headquarters, 100 Boardwalk
- 66 Beach Patrol Station 1245 Boardwalk
- 67 Beach Patrol Station 34th & Beach
- 68 Beach Patrol Station 58th & Beach

RESTROOMS

- 69 1st Street
- 70 5th Street Baseball Field
- 71 6th Street & Boardwalks
- 72 Music Pier
- 73 City Hall
- 74 Transportation Center
- 75 12th Street Comfort Station
- 76 34th Street Comfort Station
- 77 59th Street & Beach
- 78 Stainton Sq., Asbury Ave. (8th & 9th)

POST OFFICE

- 79 9th & Ocean Avenue
- 80 46th Street & West Avenue

PAVILIONS

- 81 58th & Central
- 82 12th & Boardwalk
- 83 17th & Boardwalk
- 84 20th & Boardwalk

SAILING BEACHES

- 85 23rd
- 86 29th
- 87 41st
- 88 57th

SURFING BEACH (ONLY)

- 89 7th Street & Boardwalk

FISHING AREAS

- 90 5th Street & Boardwalk, Fishing Jetty
- 91 Corson Inlet
- 92 North End of the island at the Longport Beach



Austin Healey Sports & Touring Club ENCOUNTER 2024

September 15-19 • Ocean City, NJ • www.ahstc.org

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ Is this your 1st Encounter? (Y / N)

Region/Club Affiliation _____ Email _____

Car(s) you are bringing to the event – “**Back to the Boardwalk in Ocean City, NJ**”

1. Model _____ Year _____ 2. Model _____ Year _____ 3. Model _____ Year _____

Registration Instructions

Or register online: ahstc.org/registration.html

Registration fee Includes:

- One show car, 2 adults, and all children under 21 (Additional cars/adults on a single registration are extra)
- Free access to our Hospitality Room daily
- Sunday's Welcome Movie & Trivia Night (*space limited*)
- Monday's Wine & Cheese Social/Charity Auction
- Free admission to all tech sessions and driving events

Make check payable to “AHSTC Encounter”

Mail check **with completed registration form** to:

Encounter 2024
Trish Woglom
212 Lower Valley Road
North Wales, PA 19454

Questions? 610-310-2037 or pwoglom@comcast.net

Hotel Information

The Flanders Hotel

419 East 11th St., Ocean City, N.J.

theflandershotel.com • 609-399-1000

Legacy 1920s hotel located just a stroll from the boardwalk's most popular section. Privately-owned condominium units with full kitchen, living room and eating area. *Only 60 are available for our event, so book early.*

Our special rate of \$179.25 + resort fee and taxes per room per night is guaranteed only through **August 1, 2024.**

Rate includes secured adjacent Healey parking for one car. (Additional cars \$10/day).

Condos cannot be reserved before obtaining your Encounter registration number.

To reserve, call 609-399-1000 and mention “Austin Healey Club.” Provide your Encounter registration number to receive the special event condo rate.

CIRCLE your expected arrival date: 9/15 9/16 9/17 9/18

Will you need flea market space? Yes / No

Will you need regalia space? Yes / No

Will you need trailer parking? Yes / No

Registration Fees

\$79 postmarked by 6-1-24 \$ _____

\$99 postmarked after 6-1-24 \$ _____

Additional cars same household @ \$20 each \$ _____

Additional adults same household \$29 each \$ _____

Sunday 9/15 — FREE Welcome Event: Movie and Trivia Night at The Flanders Hotel with light refreshments.

_____ No. of adults attending (*Free, but space limited to 100*)

Tuesday 9/17 Buffet BBQ Dinner (Valve Cover Races) **

_____ No. of adults @ \$47 each \$ _____

Wednesday 9/18 Awards Banquet **

_____ No. of adults @ \$60 each \$ _____

Meals: Chicken _____ Beef _____ Fish _____ Veg _____

Mon 9:30am – Rallye Yes _____ No _____

Tues 1pm – Ladies Lunch Yes _____ No _____
[order/ pay at restaurant]

Tues 8am – Gymkhana Yes _____ No _____

Wed 7am – Funkhane Yes _____ No _____

Wed 11:30 am – Car Show Yes _____ No _____

Tricky Tray Auction Tickets – 7 for \$5 \$ _____

Concours Judging Fee @ 250/car

NOTE: Must be preapproved for Concours \$ _____

EVENT LOGO GOLF SHIRTS (Blue)

@ \$35 S-M-L-XL / \$36 for 2XL / \$38 for 3XL \$ _____

MEN'S: _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL

WOMEN'S: _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL

EVENT LOGO CAPS (Tan) @ \$20 each \$ _____

TOTAL REMITTANCE (U.S.) \$ _____

**** Complimentary beer & wine at all club-sponsored meals held at The Flanders Hotel**

NO REFUNDS AFTER AUGUST 1

THE FLASH ENCOUNTER 2024 CONTEST

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE SOME FUN AND WIN \$100 CASH? WHO WOULDN'T?

This year's Contest theme will be *"Celebrities Who Have Owned a Healey."*

Starting with the January 2024 issue of The Flash, each month's issue through July, leading up to Encounter 2024, will feature a clue

The clue will be published on this page each month. Click the link to the AHSTC website beneath the clue and provide your guess on that web page*. The answer and the names of those members who guessed the correct celebrity will also be published here in subsequent months, along with a new clue for the following month.

AHSTC members in good standing, who correctly guess the celebrity will be entered into a drawing to determine the cash prize winner. The more months you enter the correct answer, the greater your chances of winning.

So, open each issue of *The Flash*, share the question with your family, and join the fun.

This month's Clue: ***As a young actor he totaled a 55 Chevy.***

www.austin-healey-stc.org/contest.html

**The answers for each month's question must be entered by the 25th of the month in which the Flash is published. There is only one correct answer for each clue.*

Directors and Officers of AHSTC are not eligible to win.

Last month's clue: Her husband is known for his own food brand!

Answer: **Joanne Woodward, wife of Paul Newman who owns "Newman's Own" food line**



CONTEST WINNERS MARCH

[Steve Kirlin](#)
[Bob Haskell](#)
[Richard Miot](#)
[Gerald Spurlock](#)
[Ray Slavinski](#)
[Randy Alkins](#)
[Ernie Leser](#)
[Nicholas Ludovic](#)

[Stephen Feld](#)
[Patrick Venezia](#)
[Bruce Gearn](#)
[Charlene Donovan](#)
[Ira Udasin](#)
[Gary Hartzell](#)
[Dee Richie-Caffrey](#)



AUCTION REPORT

By Tom Mulligan



BJ8's are one of the most popular Healeys and many were built, relatively speaking. They come up often at auctions and their prices have been falling a bit in recent years. That said the best cars still do well. Here we look at 2 recent offerings on Bring a Trailer (BaT). One sold well and the other was a reserve not met (RNM).

The first 1966 BJ8 has been owned by the seller for 42 years. Long-term ownership always seems to add value and desirability. The car has an older restoration (about 25 years from what I can tell) and is not finished in its original color combination. It appears to have been well maintained with expected, minor cosmetic issues and presents very well. The car sold for \$65,100 including the buyer's premium (BP). Follow the link below to the auction site and check out the conversation.

As an aside, notice that this BJ8 is wearing tires in the size 195/75/15. I don't think I have ever seen one using that size tire. I like the look if they clear all the body panels! I suspect this size might be difficult to find today.

[42-Years-Owned 1966 Austin-Healey 3000 BJ8 Mk III for sale on BaT Auctions - sold for \\$62,000 on January 23, 2024 \(Lot #134,292\) | Bring a Trailer](#)



AUCTION REPORT

By Tom Mulligan



This next 1966 BJ8 has been owned by the seller since 2020 and underwent a “mechanical and cosmetic refurbishment approximately 14 years ago”. It presents very well, albeit showing a little more wear than the previous car, particularly on the interior. It was not originally a 2-tone car, although it was black over a red interior.

This car was RNM at \$41,250. So why did this car bid to ~\$20k less than the previous car? Some of the wear issues may have played a role, but I think this auction illustrates the importance of understanding the venue and being well prepared. By his own admission the seller was new to the BaT marketplace. His photos were sparse and did not show critical areas of the car most prone to rust. A good BaT submission usually includes >100 photos and videos with many having several hundred. There were other comments about certain details of the car that perhaps could have been answered better. Follow the conversation yourself at the link below.

Since I mentioned the tires on the previous car, this car offers an interesting, and quite coincidental, comparison. It wears 195/65/15 tires. You can see how the 75 aspect ratio tires fill out the wheel wells vs the shorter tires of equal width.

[1966 Austin-Healey 3000 BJ8 Mk III for sale on BaT Auctions - closed on March 13, 2024 \(Lot #139,451\) | Bring a Trailer](#)





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