

# HEALEY HIGH ROADS

The Newsletter of the Capital Area Austin-Healey Club  
An Area Club of the Austin-Healey Club of America  
Serving the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia  
December, 2007



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/ HOLIDAY PARTY ANNOUNCED

### Upcoming Events:

- Board of Director's planning meeting December 16th (see article below).
- Annual General Meeting January 6, 2008—12:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Allen and Marian Feldman's house (see article this page)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLANNING MEETING

The Board of Directors will meet on December 16th. Among other things we will plan the 2008 budget and the club's events calendar for the coming year.

We need volunteers to serve as Event Coordinators (See the website for job description). Member willing to serve are invited to step forward and take their pick of events now.

Your input is solicited—please contact any Board member with any thoughts, suggestions or concerns.

Be sure to attend the Annual General Meeting-Holiday Party on Sunday January 6th, 2008 from 12:00 noon till 5:00 PM at Allen and Marian Feldman's house.

While this is primarily a social event we will conduct a few items of business: Officers/Directors for 2008 will be confirmed and Participation and Mileage Driven awards will be presented.

As in the past the Club will provide the main dish and beverages. Members with last

names beginning with letters A-M are asked to bring side dishes while those with N-Z should bring desserts. This is a family event and children are invited. A nominal charge of \$5.00 per adult will be made at the door.

The Feldmans' address is 14616 Boat House Way, North Potomac, MD. 20878 and phone number is: 301-251-1156.

Please RSVP directly to Allen and Marian at: 67austinhealey@comcast.net by December 23rd.

*Seeya there*

### Driving directions are:

From I-270 exit I-370 (Sam Eig Highway) westbound; turn right/north at Great Seneca Highway and get into the left lane; turn left at first traffic light onto Muddy Branch Road; cross MD Rt. 28 and turn left onto Stone Bridge View; turn right onto Rolling Green Way and after 6 or 7 blocks turn left onto Lake Breeze, then make the first possible right onto Boat House Way. 14616 will be six houses from the corner on the right.

## CLUB'S "MILES-DRIVEN" COMPETITION EXTENDS WITH MILD WINTER WEATHER

The White House calls it "climate change"—others term it Global Warming. In any case we have had mild weather into December and many

of us are keeping our Healeys on the road so the "Miles Driven" contest continues through December 31st. For those who submit-

ted odometer readings at the beginning of the year send your 2007 mileage totals by January 3, 2008 to: awgerto@aol.com

# PRESIDENTIAL PONDERING

**Allen Feldman, CAAHC President**

I want to thank both Isabelle Bunch for her past services as our newsletter editor and Michael Oritt for volunteering to do this job for the coming year. Michael is no stranger to our club having served in just about every capacity for our club in the past. I am sure many of you have seen Michael's writing in the past, especially going back to 2002 when Michael wrote a beautiful log of driving experiences going west to Lake Tahoe for the worldwide Healey gathering that year.

By now all of you should have received your membership renewal notices to the Austin Healey Club of America (AHCA), our parent organization. You may have noticed that there is the option to renew online. ***Our treasurer, Ralf Berthiez, prefers that you not do that, that you renew as in the past by sending your check directly to Ralf at the address stated on the form, in West McLean VA.***

When a members renews on line we do not have any knowledge of that renewal until several months later when we receive a portion of that renewal money back to our club. For Ralf it is a bookkeeping nightmare and since he is doing this job on a volunteer basis please abide by his wishes. Of course, if you must, you can renew on line and

we will eventually find out about your renewal.

Incidentally, of the total \$50 renewal fee our local club only receives \$10; the remainder goes for AHCA expenses, primarily the "Healey Marque" magazine. In either case please renew as soon as possible to ensure that you do not miss any magazine issues and that your name appears in the Membership Directory for 2008.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter there will be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at our house on January 6, Sunday from 1 to 5 PM. There is a \$5.00 fee for each adult plus we ask that you bring a side dish or a desert. The club will provide the main course. Please RSVP as soon as possible and in any case by December 23rd. We may contact you as to the desert/side dish assignments because in the past we have ended up with too many deserts—if there is such a thing!

This Annual General Meeting is really more of a party than anything else. It is a great time eat, drink, relax, and talk to your fellow members. Maybe you are having a problem with you car and some one else has a solution etc.

There will be a short business session: we will present next

years officers and discuss our coming events for the year etc. Among other things, we are hoping to announce a little outing, without our cars, to some places that you just might find interesting. We will have more on that at our meeting.

In this regard your Capital Area Austin Healey Club Directors Board meets once or twice a year to discuss club business. While these meetings are open to everyone, our membership also has the opportunity to send us via email or telephone call suggestions for coming events or comments on how we operate. This club is for everyone's enjoyment and we do not want to make decisions in a vacuum.

If you as a member have a comment, please do not keep it to yourself, tell someone. Of course, your comments can also be relayed at one of our general club monthly meetings. The point of all this is that we want to hear what you have to say.

Have a happy and healthy new year. Hope to see you at the AGM/party and please remember to RSVP!

# A Message From the Editor

I'm pleased to be back as editor of "Healey High Roads" and look forward to serving the club in the coming year.

"Healey High Roads" is intended to both inform and entertain—to spread the word about what the club is doing and what you and your fellow members are doing with their Healeys and each other. Its quality and content is largely a reflection of our club's vitality.

Yes, I can find "stock" articles online about how to make your Lucas ignition better. But I'd rather report on what really counts: What we in the Capital Area are doing that is special and interesting. My title is that of editor—I can't make up the news, but I sure can report what you give me and will be happy to do so.

I have some ideas for new features—one being a col-

umn featuring a member and his or her car. The first such profile is to be found on page 5 and I've reserved the space below for YOUR article next month!

Bottomline, our club is what we make it. The more you and other members share the more we will all receive.

Help me make "Healey High Roads" interesting and vibrant—please contribute your thoughts and experiences.

## Member Profile: (Your Name Goes Here)

*Let me tell the club about you, your car, your exploits, awards, challenges, etc. etc.*

*How did you come to own your Healey? What challenges have you overcome in its ownership? What trips have you taken or dream about? What modifications have you made to your Healey that make it more dependable and enjoyable?*

*If you don't think you have writing skills I will be happy to edit your article for you—just send me the facts (500 to 1000 words or so and a few pictures that you would like to see in print.*

*Be a star!*



*Editor's note—This Healey was driven by a father and son team (seen above) in the 2007 Targa Newfoundland. Unfortunately it crashed and was totalled but neither driver nor navigator was injured.*

# AHCA DELEGATE MEETING REPORT

On Friday, November 9, 2007 I attended the Austin-Healey Club of America's Delegates meeting in Louisville, KY on behalf of the Capital Area AHC. The fall meeting is a two-day work session over Saturday and Sunday during which the bulk of the club's business is conducted. (Though Delegates meetings are also held at Conclaves they are usually only a couple of hours' duration and do not allow enough time to deal with substantive matters, etc.)

A bullet-point version of the meeting's proceedings will be issued by AHCA within the next 30 days and posted on its website and full minutes should be posted within an additional 60 days. Therefore I will keep this report brief and merely cover highlights.

30 Delegates (and four chapters by proxy) of the 44 Area Clubs were in attendance. The first order of business was chapter reports, and I talked primarily about our recent Rallye/fundraiser. Some of the other good ideas I heard included running Spring Tune-up sessions, giving free memberships to local newspaper auto columnists, and tracking non-renewing members to find out why they did not rejoin.

Officer reports consumed the balance of the morning and the first half of the afternoon, the highlights of which are as follows:

Conclave: 2007 broke even. 2008 San Diego--Hotel space is filling up and it is recommended that reservations be made now. 2009 will be held in Southern Ontario. 2010 will be held at Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena, (Western) Illinois.

Insurance has been increased to \$1million general liability with a \$4million umbrella.

Website: The new Webmaster is Cole Getzler and he seems to be very energetic and have great ideas. A separate report on member access will be issued.

There will not be any dues increase for 2008—ten years at present amount.

There will be a new publisher for "Healey Marque" at the same or slightly lower charge to AHCA due to Reid's assuming a greater role in the publishing process.

Beginning midafternoon we had two workgroup discussions.

The first dealt with revisions to AHCA Bylaws. At last year's Delegates Meeting I and several other Officers and Delegates were appointed to serve on a committee to consider revisions to the AHCA Bylaws. Though the initial intention was for us to simply deal with matters of form (Misspellings, inconsistencies, arcane jargon, etc.) it soon became clear to the committee members that substantive revisions were in order as well, and over the ensuing twelve months we worked on two sets of recommended changes, the first dealing with matters of form and the second dealing with matters of substance. During Saturday's workgroup we went over the formal changes and because of the many questions and suggestions we spent the balance of the session on these matters. As a result there was not time to discuss substantive matters and this discussion was tabled until the 2008 meeting.

The second workgroup dealt with two matters: increasing participation of inactive Area Clubs, including their attendance at Delegates Meetings, and; utilizing the AHCA website to disseminate information to members and increase AHCA's transparency, etc.

Saturday's session ended around 6:00 PM and following dinner we had an auction of items donated by members and chapters to raise money for AHCA. Our six lid-latches went for about \$10 total.

We resumed meeting on Sunday and turned to consideration of the Bylaws changes (form only) which passed first reading and will be voted on at the Conclave meeting. Regarding chapter participation it was decided that chapters which did not submit annual reports could not cast votes via proxy.

The meeting concluded at around 12:30 PM and next year's Fall meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO. I'll keep the club posted on any further developments and reports—thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve our club.

Respectfully submitted—Michael Oritt, Delegate

## MEMBER PROFILE: Mike Gillette and “Schatzi”

This car was ordered at RAF Brize Norton in the UK by her soon-to-be owner, who was a 2d lieutenant in the US Army and stationed in England. The car was collected at the Healey works in Warwick and driven for the first time to its early abode along the A40—the screams of delight at her distinctive backdown burble could be heard all over the English countryside! (Acceleration and smooth transition into overdrive were very exciting too, and still are.)

Schatzi in German means “sweetheart” or “dearest”. This marvelous automobile spent her first summer in Germany and Russia, the former because her owner was teaching in a Bavarian Volksschule and was surrounded by people who loved the Healey (and perhaps had fond feelings for its owner/driver) and the latter because her owner had, against all odds, secured a visa not only to go to the Soviet Union but also to do it with his own vehicle.

Over an increasingly narrow and muddy road from Helsinki in Finland east, Schatzi finally made it to the Soviet frontier. She was greeted by indifferent border police and immediately picked up by an armored car once through customs and on her way to Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg once again). She was followed by a searchlight (aboard the armored car) all the way to the suburbs of Leningrad. Once in the city, the trip to the Intourist Hotel in the center was without drama.

We are in 1960, in May of which Francis Gary Powers, CIA employee and pilot of a U-2 spyplane, was brought down by a Soviet missile over Sverdlovsk, thereby terminating any possibility of a summit between Nikita Khrushchev and Dwight Eisenhower. Schatzi arrived in Moscow in August of 1960, just at the moment when Powers was being tried for espionage. Her owner was accosted by a Soviet citizen on the Garden Ring in Moscow, the Russian pointing to a convoy of dark limousines and saying: “there goes the American spy”. Schatzi’s owner replied saying: “I am an American”, and the Russian replied with a warm handshake-- seriously!

To this day, nobody really understands why Nikita Krushchev, first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, declared that all westerners who desired could drive themselves into the Soviet Union in their own vehicles. I now know that the KGB followed Schatzi wherever she went, and I now understand why there were constables at literally every road junction between Leningrad and Moscow and back to the Polish frontier to prevent our taking any detours.

Wherever she drove, Schatzi was greeted by mobs of Russians anxious to test the strength of her springs and wanting to know

how much “benzin” she consumed per 100 kilometers. To a man (there were no women) she was pronounced “ochin krasivaya” (very beautiful).

Post the Russian experience, Schatzi traversed the North American continent accompanied by her owner and his new bride, Felicity. Schatzi manifested her only failing on that trip with her temperature gauge passing the limit in West Virginia—a simple hose replacement at the next available gas station lasted until Washington State where she became well recognized at Fort Lewis. When her owner was assigned by the US Army to Fort Bragg, NC, she made the second transcontinental journey with the same original team plus, in utero, a third member of the owner family, daughter Laura. She spent a year in Maine while I was in Vietnam.



Fast forward to Washington, DC, to which Schatzi came in 1966. She, along with a real lemon Buick, formed the means of transport for the family. Schatzi, because she never let anybody down, long survived the Buick. She came to reside in Great Falls, Virginia in 1977. She has been the only occupant of the garage there ever since and has been seen many times in the neighborhood and on occasional outings with the Capital Area Austin Healey Club.

When she arrived in Great Falls, Schatzi was British Racing Green, a tilt towards her country of origin which she wore for 10 years. She was physically restored by Bruce Phillips of “Healey Surgeons” in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1985. Post the body work by Bruce, she went to Centerville, Virginia for repainting in her original black and for red interior refitting by a classy Italian named Vic Pulizzi. One of Vic’s pals installed a four-speaker radio and tape player with a receding antenna—from then on it has been possible to hear good music when rolling at 70mph with the top down to boot!

Schatzi has 105 k miles on her clock, most of these ticked off during her first ten years of life. I seriously doubt that more than 1000 have been added since she came to the garage in Great Falls. I have never touched her engine other than points, plugs, belts and hoses; Bruce did rebuild the carburetors in 1985 as they were full of varnish.

*Editor’s Note: Mike Gillette informs me that due to his impending relocation he reluctantly must part with his Healey. Mike can be contacted at: (703) 759-3935 or by email at: [mj\\_gillette@yahoo.com](mailto:mj_gillette@yahoo.com).*



**Officers and Directors:**

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Webmaster: Herman Farrer herman@capitalhealeys.org

**The Capital Area Austin-Healey Club is an area club of the Austin-Healey Club of America and serves the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland.**

**Our club meets monthly at various locations around the DC Metropolitan area and has functions at various venues in the area we serve.**

**For further information on meetings and events visit our website at: [www.capitalhealeys.org](http://www.capitalhealeys.org)**

## **In next month's "Healey High Roads".....**

In January we'll have full coverage of the Annual General Meeting including lots of photos.

I'll be printing the first of two articles on the September 2007 running of the Targa Newfoundland in which I served as navigator for Michael Salter in his 1953 !00. See the photo below for a taste of things to come.



**Targa Newfoundland action—AHX 12 in the trees**

Also there will be lots of news about the 2008 Schedule of Events and I'll be pounding on members to come forward and serve as Coordinators for these activities.

In the meantime feel free to contact me with any information you would like to donate for this and future issues.

Best—Michael Oritt, Editor