

HEALEY HIGH ROADS

The Newsletter of the Capital
Area Austin-Healey Club
March-April, 2004 Priceless

TECH SESSION AT VINTAGE RESTORATIONS A GREAT SUCCESS

On Saturday, March 13th approximately 30 members and guests of the CAAHC met at Vintage Restorations in Mount Airy, MD where they were hosted by proprietor John Tokar for a tech session on body restoration. Over the course of the morning John and his friendly crew demonstrated the various techniques used in restoring a classic car to show--or better--quality, including sheet metal forming, various kinds of welding and metal cutting, proper use of body fillers, and dent removal. After John and his crew taught the proper and safe use of various tools several CAAHC members were able to get actual hands-on experience with such appliances as both MIG and gas welders, a plasma cutter and a bending brake. Aside from several pieces of scrap metal nothing and no one was seriously injured. Herman Farrer who served as coordinator for the event, brought donuts and fresh fruit and club hats should go off to him for a job well done. And speaking of hats, **and perhaps**

because of our new Participation Awards Program, many members were seen appropriately dressed in CAAHC regalia, thus earning extra credit. The following is a non-definitive list of members present, and if anyone's name is omitted it is entirely unintentional and should be brought to the attention of Fred McConville so that records may be corrected:

Dan Healey, Pete Groh, Nick Zimmerman, Tom Delaney, Dean and Sue Turner, Don Margeson, Bob McKenna, Matt Siegel, Tom Whippo, Herman Farrer, Biff Jones, Steve Rafferty, Eric Parlet (sp?), Bill Nalley, Randy Stahel(sp?), Roger Fowes, Frank Jacquette, Joe Maestri, George Phillips, Maurice Maxwell, Gene Overton, Anil and Shanthy Fatterpaker, Fred McConville and Michael Oritt.

visit VINTAGE RESTORATIONS, LIMITED's website at:

<http://vintagerestorationsltd.com/>

CAAHC MEMBERS AND GUESTS VISIT ALL-SPORTS GRAND PRIX CART TRACK

Fred McConville

Walter Mitty Lives and Drives A Go-Kart!

On March 28, six members and six guests, plus assorted spouses and other guests as spectators, met at All Sports Gran Prix indoor Go-kart track, donned jumpsuits, helmets and gloves (no white scarf's were in evidence), and proceeded to have an afternoon of great fun.

Those present included: Dean and Sue Turner and their guests, Faye and Art Guntree; Tom Whippo and a guest; Ariel and Shanthi Fatterpaker and their guest Ram Adige; Ralf Berthiez; Jack White and his guests (and sons-in-law) Jay Miller, Mike Waisley and Randy Sluss; and Fred McConville and his guests Mark McConville (son), Wade Spray (son-in-law), Alison Spray (daughter), and the hit of the afternoon, Cooper Spray (grandson).

After an excellent orientation on track rules of conduct, Jack White, Tom Whippo, Dean Turner, Ralph Berthiez and Fred McConville, together with 6 guest drivers had the track to themselves for 10 minutes of practice/qualifying runs. After one tentative run around the 300 meter course (which includes high- and low-speed turns and a set of esses) the adrenalin began to flow in earnest and all pedals went to the metal! When the dust settled, there was a break of about 15 minutes for refreshments and war stories), and then the drivers were gridded up for the start of a 15 minute, 11 car race. Mike Waisley,

Randy Sluss and Jay Miller were the top-three qualifiers.

The race brought more than one pseudo Sterling Moss out of the closet as all applied the lessons learned during qualifying, took a deep breath and then it was – literally – off to the races! Barrelling into turns, a little drift – pour on the power, swerve around another car – touch the brakes – a little shoving in the corners from time-to-time. It was all out there and you could feel it in here!

Regrettably, the race ended under a caution flag so we did not have a full speed run to the wire. Nevertheless, the computer-generated results showed Jack's sons-in-law Randy Sluss and Mike Waisley in 3rd and 2nd place, respectively, with our own Tom Whippo in the winner's slot. Fred McConville ran the fastest lap of the race.

After that it was back-slapping and socializing with our spouses and guests. There will be some pictures on the website. All in all, about 20 folks were in attendance and all contributed to a pleasant afternoon of great sport, great company and great fun. We plan to do it again!

**SHENANDOAH DRIVE
AND MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 18TH**

Details of the event and minutes of the meeting were unavailable at press-time but the following members were in attendance:

**Jack and Pam White
Dean and Sue Turner
Fred and Anne Hufnagle
Don Margeson and Kathi's Mother
Ralf Berthiez & Guest
Anil & Shanthi Fatterpaker
Eric Parlet
Biff Jones
Joe and Joanne Maestri
Allen and Marian Feldman
George and Jane Phillips
Herman Farrer & Guest**

Minutes of the meeting will be posted to the Club's website as soon as available.

**BRITISH CAR WEEK
RALLYE/PICNIC SET
FOR MAY 30 IN
SAINT LEONARD, MD**

Michael Oritt

Mary and I invite CAAHC members and their guests and families—as well as drivers of all other British Cars, no matter what marque or vintage—to attend the Third Annual British Car Week Rallye/picnic at our farm in Saint Leonard, MD on Sunday, May 30th. Details and driving information can be found at: www.chesapeake.net/~oritt/

As those of you who have attended in past years know, the picnic is a free-form event and please bring whatever consumables you may wish to consume! We provide the venue, portable toilets and cold water! We've given up trying to guess the weather: Year one we baked in the Sun so last year we set up tents and tables that were blown down the morning of the event. This year we're back to nothing, so keep an eye on the weather and plan accordingly.

For those who drove in 2003's rallye, this year the course will again start from the intersection of routes 4 and 301 but the route will be entirely different, but equally scenic. I'll throw in the usual inscrutable questions and clues to tease your brains. If the rallye is not of interest you can skip it and come direct to the picnic.

We're again seeking to raise funds for Calvert Hospice and will be giving away free T-shirts with the BRITISH CAR WEEK logo to the first 100 contributors.

Seeya then!!!

**CAAHC MEMBERS ATTEND
"BRITAIN ON THE
GREEN" SHOW**

Biff Jones

The BOG show was held on the grounds of the historic Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism this past Sunday, April 26th. The weather was gray and questionable all day but without rain.

Austin Healeys were moved to a 'new' field by the registration tent which was much flatter than the previous site. CAAHC cars dominated the Healey show field with only 3 non member cars present. Accordingly, CAAHC members/cars took all the Healey Awards, 6 total.

The only distractions to the day was the 10K run scheduled that morning that had the George Washington Parkway completely closed and the pollen and other objects falling from the trees. However, thanks to the speedy runners in the 10K the entrance to Collingwood was opened earlier than had been anticipated and the show was kept on schedule

for the remainder of the day.

The Club had a nice quarter page ad in the BOG Show Program advertising the upcoming 'Capital Classic' thanks to all the CAAHC members who preregistered for the show.

And the winners were:

100 Class: 2 Awards

1st Place - Tim Flaherty

2nd Place - Ralph Berthiez

3000 Class: 3 Awards

1st Place - Fred McConville

2nd Place - Jack White

3rd Place - George Phillips

Sprite: 1 Award

1st Place - Biff Jones

One other CAAHC member, Sara Rosenfeld, took 1st Place in the early Jaguar Sedan Class.

Notable absentees that had preregistered were: Michael Oritt, Mary Oritt, Mac & Linda Holt, Matt Siegel, Joe Lapici, Don & Kathi Margeson, and Jeff & Sue Ade.

TECHNICAL TIP: MAINTAINING CONTACT

Herman Farrer

Background: While returning home from a short Sunday drive, my overdrive began to cut out as I was accelerating on to Interstate 270. Since I had trouble with the overdrive switch on the transmission earlier in the year, I assumed that it again was the problem. Unfortunately, this was just the first symptom. As I proceeded down 270 I began to notice that the engine was losing power. I began to worry as I merged onto the Beltway and hit a wall of traffic. Expecting the car to shut down at any moment, I took the first available exit so as not to be trapped on the highway.

In less than a mile the car stopped running and there I was in the left lane on Connecticut Avenue. The battery appeared to be totally dead; turning the key wouldn't even make the solenoid click. At least it wasn't raining and I did have my cell phone.

After a few minutes, a county police officer pulled up behind me. He was too young to have had a Healey so we didn't have to have "that discussion." Unfortunately, like me, he didn't have jumper cables. He was kind enough, however, to call another officer with cables who arrived shortly and got me going. Never letting the RPMs fall to low, I made it home and set out to find the problem.

The Solution: After thinking about it a while, I decided that the problem was caused by a dirty fuse box. With over 30 years of dirt and corrosion and possibly the original fuses, I set about cleaning the box and the wires connected to it. I removed the box and scrubbed off the heavy dirt and grease with a toothbrush. To make sure that the contacts were very clean I immersed the box in an ultrasonic jewelry cleaner. The jewelry cleaner is a great way to clean small parts. (No, I didn't use my wife's. I bought one for about \$20.00 at Target to keep in my shop.)

After cleaning all of the connectors that go on to the

fuse box, I reinstalled the box. Before attaching the wires, I placed a small dab of *dielectric grease* made by CRC on each terminal. Available in auto part stores, dielectric grease prevents corrosion and promotes the free flow of electrons. Lastly, I replaced the old tarnished fuses with two new ones.

The Conclusion: After a few drives, including one of over 200 miles to Luray with the Club, the car runs great. I plan on cleaning other critical electrical connections under the bonnet, taking care to coat each one with my new friend, dielectric grease.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Final details on Capital Classic (June 4-6) was not available at press-time. Updated information on this and other club events can be found on our website: www.capitalhealeys.org

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**HEALEY HIGH ROADS IS THE OFFICIAL
NEWLETTER OF THE CAPITAL AREA
AUSTIN-HEALEY CLUB.**

Visit our website at:

www.capitalhealeys.org

