

HEALEY HIGH ROADS

VOLUME 2-ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2003

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 26th IN ANNANDALE

The October meeting of the Capital Area Austin-Healey Club will be held at *Squire Rockwell's Restaurant*, 8700 Little River Turnpike at 5:00 PM on Sunday, October 26th. (*This date was picked in lieu of the normal "third Sunday" in deference to those members who are planning to attend the Hunt Country Classic on Sunday,*

October 19th.) Several important items of "Old Business" that were presented at the September meeting will be discussed, including a final financial report from the Conclave Co-chairmen, a proposed set of By-laws, and a decision on whether or not future newsletters will

be furnished to members in electronic format only in lieu of paper copies that are presently sent by mail to all members as well as electronically to those who subscribe to the CAAHC email list. (See related articles on page 2). PLEASE ATTEND this important meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hunt Country Classic
October 19th at Middleburg, VA
(See story on page 4)

CAAHC October Meeting
October 26th at 5:00 PM
Squire Rockwell's Restaurant
(See story on page 1)

CAAHC November Meeting
November 16th at 5:00 PM
Squire Rockwell's Restaurant

CAAHC Annual General Meeting
January ____, 2004
Details to be announced

CAAHC Donates to MADD From Conclave Proceeds

On September 24th the CAAHC presented a check for \$1000.00 to the Maryland Chapter of "Mothers Against Drunk Driving", the goal of which is to "Stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking." The donation

was made from proceeds of Conclave 2003 in keeping with a decision of CAAHC members. Present were CAAHC members: Michael Oritt, President, Allen Feldman, Conclave 2003 Cochairman, Herman Farrer, Delegate and members

Dean and Sue Turner. MADD State Executive Director Stacy Kumot accepted the check at the organization's office in Annapolis, Maryland. (See Herman's photo on the CAAHC website, and visit MADD's website at: www.madd.org/md.)

New Bylaws for CAAHC under consideration

A set of proposed Corporate Bylaws for the CAAHC was presented at the September monthly meeting by Board Member Fred McConville after it was recognized that the “old” bylaws preceded the Club’s incorporation and had not been formally adopted, making the Club “Bylawless”! At the same time, McConville, a prominent DC attorney, saw a number of deficiencies in the old Bylaws and drafted a new set. In response to several suggestions made by members both at and since the September meeting, McConville has redrafted the Bylaws and will present them again for discussion and possible adoption at the October meeting.

While the proposed Bylaws are too voluminous to set forth in this newsletter, any CAAHC member who would like to receive a copy of them prior to the October meeting may do by emailing Club President Michael Oritt (awgertoo@aol.com) who will send them via email. Many of the changes deal with the election and appointment of Officers and Directors along with their duties and powers, and it is the goal of Club Officials to have Bylaws adopted and disseminated so that they will be in force in time for the Annual Club Meeting in January when a new slate of candidates will be presented. Please be present to give your input.

Electronic-Only Newsletter Format Proposed

It was proposed at the September meeting that future copies of “Healey High Roads” no longer be published in paper format, but instead be circulated to both CAAHC members and other AHCA Club Newsletter Editors and Officers via email. *HHR* editor Michael Oritt reported that printing and mailing costs for a four-page newsletter such as this amount to \$.75 per member per issue, whereas sending it electronically via the existing CAAHC emailer list is free. “Given 160 members (plus another 30-40 Chapter Newsletter Editors and AHCA Officers and Directors to whom copies have in the past been sent), the projected savings would be \$150 per issue, and also an electronic newsletter could be published with greater frequency and with more and better content (including photographs)” than the budget presently permits” he stated. Herman Farrer, (CAAHC webmaster and email list administrator, estimates that approximately 60 members currently subscribe to the email list, and of course all members are invited to subscribe.) It was decided to give all members notice of this proposal via this possibly-final paper copy of *HHR*, and this matter will be brought up for further consideration at the October meeting. Again, all members’ input is welcome at the meeting. Go to our website (www.capitalhealeys.org) for information on the e-list.)

“Take a Short Drive & Call Me In the Morning”

By Bill Eggert, CAAHC Activities Director

Owning and restoring a classic car is not just my hobby, not only an activity to which I contribute the majority of my “extra spending money,” but for me an elixir of good health. There seems to be something almost medicinal about the process of motoring blissfully along my county’s beautiful, winding, country roads.

All of us can no doubt remember *when* we purchased our first antique vehicle, but I wonder how many can explain *why* it was so important to make that very large expenditure. Some probably grew up in a family where ownership of a classic car was no more than “just what one does.” However, for others like myself, the purchase of that first Healey, MG or Triumph wasn’t attainable until I was working and established.

My opportunity to acquire a beautiful British classic came about through my recent marriage to my wonderful wife. Not only did she exclaim one day not long into our new life together, “If you’ve always wanted an Austin Healey, just get one,” but her present house had a garage! The ’67 BJ8 and Nancy of course, were the prescription to my much happier life.

As income tax time nears each year, I wonder why we classic car owners cannot claim our vehicles as a tax deduction. Schedule A – Itemized Deductions: lines 1 through 10 – Medical Expenses, of our

friendly Internal Revenue Service instructions, informs the American citizen that we can legally deduct “medical aides...and the cost of maintaining them.” I have no doubt that these Washington D.C. Bureaucrats were referring to my beloved Healey, and its at times expensive upkeep. The pamphlet only mentions devices such as hearing aides and wheelchairs, probably due to lack of space.....

My motoring continues to keep me both emotionally and physically in shape. To borrow loosely (alright, greatly) from a recreational brochure published in 1888, “To the brain workers of our large cities, a spin along the road offers a form of diversion which is probably unequaled.” This high school assistant principal, working daily with sometimes-recalcitrant youth, is most assuredly in agreement. An afternoon’s scenic tour with my wonderful wife beside me does more for my blood pressure and outlook on life than any physician’s ministrations or prescription. The correlation between classic car ownership and good health seems to indeed be medical reality.

Enough supposition... It couldn’t do any harm to ring up the local IRS office and attempt to convince them of my theory. Maybe I’ll be fortunate to reach a harassed tax auditor who is himself a well-adjusted antique car owner.

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The Newsletter of the Capital
Area Austin-Healey Club
Visit our Website at:
www.capitalhealeys.org

2003 OFFICERS

President/Newsletter Editor:

Michael Oritt
(410) 586-9521
Awgertoo@aol.com

Vice-President:

Howard Gilson
(301) 493-9652
Hgilson@bigplanet.com

Secretary:

Don Margeson
(540) 338-3568
Dmargeson@bechtel.com

Treasurer/Membership Chairperson:

Frank Pirhalla
(703) 524-8431
Frank.pirhalla@faa.gov

Activities Chairperson:

Bill Eggert
(410) 956-9153
COPPIFAN@aol.com

National Delegate/Webmaster:

Herman Farrer
(301) 588-1216
Herman@healeys.org

Board Members:

Kathi Margeson
(540) 338-3568
koko@earthlink.net

Fred McConville
(703) 830-6136
mconvil@HughesHubbard.com

Dean Turner
(540) 347-2091
dht@erols.com

The contents of this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinion or recommendations of the Club nor its officers and/or members, and they shall not be held responsible for any losses or misunderstandings resulting from any opinions, information, articles or advertisements contained herein.

Newsletter of the Capital Area
Austin Healey Club, AHCA
Michael Oritt, Editor
2455 Garrity Road
Saint Leonard, MD. 20685

HUNT COUNTRY CLASSIC SET FOR OCTOBER 19TH IN MIDDLEBURG

This year's *Hunt Country Classic*, sponsored by the MG Car Club, Washington DC Center, will be held at Bill Scott's *Svea Farm* in Middleburg, VA. On Sunday, September 19th. Traditionally, Austin-Healeys are well-represented and Club members are encouraged to attend and support this event: It was the MGCCWDCC that generously loaned us its signs and hardware for our Conclave Car Show, and Scott was most supportive in connection with our Conclave Speed events which were held at Summit Point Raceway, which he owns. In deference to the many club members who expressed the intention to attend this event, the October CAAHC meeting (normally held on the third Sunday of each month) was rescheduled to October 26th. For complete information on *Hunt Country Classic* contact George Marshall at 703-913-7550 or go the Club's website at: www.mgcarclubdc.com

Seeya there!