

AHCA Chapter Delegates Meeting Report – November 12-13, 2011
Jack White, Delegate – Capital Area Austin Healey Club

The Austin Healey Club of America (“AHCA”) uses a delegate structure to formulate all major policy decisions and directions for the national club. The delegates meet twice a year at Conclave, very briefly, and at a two-day plenary session in selected cities. As your delegate, I attended the Atlanta meeting in 2010 and the recent 2011 meeting in Louisville.

Membership

The AHCA currently has 3062 individual members and trending a slow decline in the membership count year-over-year. Key reasons for the downturn are membership aging and lack of awareness about classic British sports cars in middle age sectors of the U.S. population. Nothing can be done about aging but the national club has an expansive program, called Future 50, to showcase the Healey marque. Delegates at the Louisville meeting endorsed fresh ideas to publicize the club especially among new Healey owners attending regional British car shows. The AHCA offers free first-year membership, including the monthly Healey Marque magazine, to car owners who show an interest in the club. I have a supply of these free membership promotion cards if you know a Healey owner who might like to join our local and national club.

Dues

All delegates deliver a brief verbal report to the assembly. I reported our current membership as 130 down from 139 at this time last year. The Capital Area Austin Healey Club in one of six AHCA chapters with more than 100 members among a total of 47 chapters. Our biggest events in 2011 were the holiday party in January and the fall foliage drive in early November. I reported our sound financial position with just over \$9,000 in available funds and breakeven in 2011 revenue versus expenses. Our local annual club dues are \$10.00 and the AHCA dues are \$50.00. The delegates this year approved a 2012 AHCA operating expense budget matched with available revenue from dues and advertising that did not require a dues increase for 2012.

Directory

On the fiscal topic, delegates debated whether to print the membership directory on an alternate year basis rather than annual publication as is the current practice. Membership directory printing and mailing costs are one of the national club’s greatest expenses. A study committee was formed to analyze the cost savings from such a move. However, the 2012 membership directory will be distributed as customary in the month of May.

AHCA Website

Tied into the membership directory question is better functionality of the AHCA website: www.healeyclub.org Underway for more than a year is a major redesign of the website to include a “Members-Only” section that will be password-protected. A website designer has been selected and funding approved for this project in 2012. Access to a real time members-only internet database could greatly reduce the need for printed information which is often outdated a few months after the directory is mailed. The

national AHCA officers have asked all delegates to seek input on the bi-annual directory publication proposal. Please contact me if you want to express an opinion or make a comment.

Healey Marque Index

Work continues on an internet-accessible compilation of technical articles from the monthly magazine for more than the past 10 years. The work has taken longer than expected but should debut in 2012 along with the website redesign. When completed the index will provide convenient PDF access to multiple, expert-written stories for fault diagnosis and typical repairs and improvements for Healey automobiles.

Angie's List

As reported last year, the AHCA wants members to join the Classic Car section of Angie's List. Members can get on Angie's List for no annual fee. The free membership encourages submission of evaluations on services and products purchased for classic cars. The AHCA receives a modest fee for each submitted report. The only distraction for joining Angie's List is a periodic e-mail advertising discount services in the metro Washington, D.C. area that have nothing to do with classic cars. Go to www.angieslist.com/classic-cars to get involved.

Louisville Conclave – June 17-21, 2012

The delegates heard an upbeat report from the Bluegrass Austin Healey Club about their exciting schedule for the 2012 national Conclave. Featured events include Sunday afternoon luncheon and racing on Millionaire's Row at Churchill Downs and dinner at Huber's Orchard and Winery, a perennial favorite among visitors to Louisville. Throughout the week are gymkhana, funkhana, time/speed/distance rally and popular car show events. Based on the central destination of Louisville, organizers are expecting more than 250 cars to register. The host hotel (Crowne Plaza) will sell-out its rooms by late spring, if not before. Register before February 29, 2012 and you will receive an elegant bourbon cake upon arrival at Conclave. For complete details see: www.austinhealeyconclave.com

Election of National Officers

The delegates received the report of the Nominating Committee to re-elect all the national officers for the 2012 club year. President Gary Brierton will serve his third year in 2012 as the club's top officer. As your delegate, I applaud the dedication of Gary and the other elected officers for their hours and hours of service to the club every month of the year.

Conclusion

I welcome your input on forging a near-term observation to the national officers or longer-term to the next delegate meeting in the Chicago area in the second week of November 2012. Please contact me if you have any questions about this current report at: white.esq@gmail.com