



Volume 38, Issue 2

March 2013

WHEEL SPIN

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Notes from the Editor

by Ken Klemmer, SEMAHC Editor



March: in like a lion, out like a lamb. So we hope.

In Austin Healey world, spring means a chance to get out and roar, and roar we shall this season. At the annual meeting, held during the last weekend of February, your faithful Healey officers planned another season of fun. Check out the truncated version of the annual meeting minutes to see what fun/trouble you can get into this year.

We have been getting some good attendance at the monthly meetings at Dugan's. In fact, February's was *almost* nice enough to drive to. I predict March will be unlikely, but hope to be proven wrong.

In the Klemmer garage, projects are wrapping up. Mr. Powers is partially prepped for rear suspension bushings and shock links. Diana, the MG, is close to completion, just reassembly of the rear springs and shocks, and she's also due for some new shoes (tires). Sometimes we forget just how long we've had the same ones on. Most tire manufacturers (or at least their attorneys) recommend replacement of tires as soon as 6 years and certainly no more than 10, regardless of mileage. I could not even find a DOT date code on Diana's tires, some pretty nice looking Dunlops, hardly worn. An internet search for that tire model showed 1 result, being mentioned in a new car review from 1986. But when I had the wheels off and tried my "bounce test" (dropping the inflated tire from about 18") they landed with a thud. The reason they were hardly worn was probably because they had the durometer reading of a slab of granite.

I have found from past experience that nothing transforms the ride of an older car like new tires. Grippier, smoother and quieter, they may be the best suspension upgrade you can find. But the price tag sure hurts, and it seems like tire prices have gone up incredibly in just a few years, probably to help pay for all those attorneys. But for safety's sake, check yours out before the season begins, you may be glad you did!

Rolling along, Ken



Dan Frakes

1967 Healey 3000 Restoration– Part 2



Continued from January 2013 Wheelspin...

Then, when it came back to my garage, I wondered where to start first.

Usually I install the wiring harness, brake lines, suspension and any other key components that would be difficult if not impossible to install once the powertrain were are back in the vehicle. So this is another big moment installing the engine and transmission. I would suggest that you protect as many painted surfaces as you can and ask for help from more people that you think you will need. I would highly recommend that you pick people that understand vehicles, the importance of this moment, and that any slight error could result in paint/body repair. Another tip is to have the back of the car higher than the front if you are using a standard engine hoist. This results in not having to lift or tilt the engine and transmission at extremes. Parts secure, no issues, smiles all around..... Thank you everyone for this huge success!



Now that the bulk of the heavy lifting was complete, there were many details to get started on. My plan at this point was to get the car to a point where I could see if it ran. Completion of the engine bay, fuel system dash components and exhaust were key at this point. I would not recommend getting too far with interior or chrome parts until you know the car will run reasonably well. (You can fine tune it later.)

My good luck charm (Debbie) always starts any completed project for the first time. To this date she has a perfect recording going. Thanks Honey!



At this point we were on the final stretch and the finish line was well within sight. All that was left was the interior and convertible top. I purchased these from Heritage Upholstery and did the install myself. I decided that I would upgrade the interior to leather, knowing this was about the only item that was not originally the way the car was built. But since they sold leather in Europe I did not feel this was a stretch. I also commissioned a custom steering wheel for the car. I wanted an elegant wood wheel with "engine turning" on the spokes. The results were exactly like I had envisioned.



I also commissioned a custom steering wheel for the car. I wanted an elegant wood wheel with "engine turning" on the spokes. The results were exactly like I had envisioned.



My deadline was to have the car completed and shown at the Concours d'Elegance of America in July. Basically it was ready, and I was exhausted. The night before the show I was still bolting parts on the car and getting some of the details buttoned up. By the next morning with not a ton of sleep the Healey was standing tall and it purred like a small lion all the way to the show. It ended up being a beautiful day. We saw lots of friends from this wonderful hobby and created more memories for the record book.

Enjoy the drive!



2013 Annual Meeting

Hosted by: Jim and Mary Fleishhauer



SEMAHC 2013 Planning

Goal for 2013: Have one group activity each month.

Activities: Items in **blue** are Club Events

- February:
 - **Planning meeting**
 - Tentative Date: Saturday, Feb. 23^h
 - Elections, Minutes, Planning for FWU13
 - Positions and Elections:
 - Newsletter Editor: Ken Klemmer
 - Delegate: Bruce Gearns
 - Treasurer: Kevin Livingston
- March:
 - **Go Cart Racing** - JD Racing Indoor karts, Novi MI
 - Date: Saturday, ??
 - Time: TBD
 - Organizer/Host: Kevin
- April:
 - **Tech Session Memorial Drive**
 - Date: Saturday, ??
 - Time: TBD
 - Organizer/Host: Jamie
 - Project: TBD
- May:
 - Carlisle, PA. – Import and Kit Car Nationals May 16-19
 - **Spring Thing** - May 16-19
 - Note: If interested please contact Kevin
- June:
 - **Conclave:** Charlevoix -June 23rd – 28th



- o **Howell Balloon Festive**

- Date: Saturday June 29th
- Time: TBD
- Organizer/Host: Bruce Kearns

- July:

- o Rolling Sculpture – Ann Arbor

- o **Club Picnic**

- Date: TBD
- Organizer: ???

- o Waterford Hills-Vintage Racing

- Date: July 27 – 28th
- Gathering to follow at Klemmer house July 27, 5PM

- August:

- o Encounter

- o Cars in the Park??

- o **Woodward Dream Cruise**

- Date: August 17th
- Organizer: Kevin

- September:

- o **Battle of the Brits**

- Date: September 8th
- Note: Camp Dearborn 9:00-4:00
- Organizer:

- o **Fall Wind-Up – Tawas / Oscoda**

- Date: Sept 27th, 28th, & 29th
- Note:
- Organizer: Kevin

- October

- November:

- o **Delegates Meeting**

- December:

- o **Christmas Party**

- Date: TBD
- Hosts: Jamie and Melody will investigate



Calendar

The next few month's AH related events and happenings



Date	Time	Event	Contact	Notes
March 13	7:00	Monthly Meeting –Duggan's Pub		
April 10	7:00	Monthly Meeting –Duggan's Pub		
May 8	7:00	Monthly Meeting –Duggan's Pub		

REMINDER!

Yearly Dues are Due!! Please pay yours today; go to the new website and set up a membership account.

<https://healeyclub.org>

South East Michigan Austin Healey Club Members meet at 7:00 PM the 2nd Wednesday of every month at "Duggan's Irish Pub". Weather permitting; we like to drive our cars for the pub patrons to appreciate since one can't really drive these little beauties anywhere without drawing a crowd. Duggan's is located in Royal Oak on the West Side of Woodward South of 14 Mile Rd. and of course North of 13 Mile Rd. We usually have a good turn-out of members to partake of food, beverage and casual conversation. Come join us.



Skid Marks



Upon turning 60 years of age, a successful Gynecologist took stock of his life. He decided he was tired of all the hassle from hospital administrators, HMO bureaucrats, surly nurses and occasionally difficult patients. So he decided to retire and - since he's always loved to work on cars ever since he was a kid - to become a certified auto mechanic.

He chooses a local school and throws himself into his studies, the way he did going through medical school. He eventually takes his final exam and feels he did well on it. But just to make sure, he stops by the school a few days later to visit with the senior instructor.

When he asks him if he passed, the instructor says, "Oh, yes sir, you passed alright! In fact, I gave you 150% on your final exam."

The ex-gynecologist is taken aback, saying, "Well I'm glad I passed - but how can you give me a 150%?!"

"Well", the old instructor says, "in the 1st half of the exam, you took apart the engine, cleaning, repairing and/or replacing all the components as called for in the time allotted. 50 points."

"In the 2nd half of the exam, you reassembled the engine and put it back into the car in the time allowed. And so I gave you another 50 points."

"And I gave you extra credit of another 50 points because, in the 40 years I've been teaching this course, I've never seen anyone do all of that ... through the tail pipe!"