

# The FLASH



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
AUSTIN HEALEY SPORTS AND TOURING CLUB**

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**POSTMASTER**

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**CONTRIBUTIONS**

AHSTC encourages the submission of articles to the Editor for publication. There is no restriction on content, other than it should be of interest to the readership and Healey related.

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The Austin Healey Sports & Touring Club is a non-profit Pennsylvania corporation; dedicated to the preservation of the Austin Healey marque. **Contact Rick Brodeur or a region president (see contact information this page) to inquire about how to become a member.**

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Contributions and advertising must be received by the editor prior to the 25th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.






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	<b>BRANDYWINE REGION</b> <b>President:</b> Chuck Ott 302-378-7287 chucknsueo@yahoo.com	Ernie Leser 410-398-7308 ernstleser@verizon.net	See region article or call for date, time and location.
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*Cover:*  
The Toccis' in their super fast Sprite.

*Photo by:*  
Mark Goodman

## RAMBLINGS

By Nigel Smart



Here we are with the spring rains beating down on us here in Pennsylvania. Like you, I'm wondering when I'll get the car out again and whether the season's start is going to be slow because of all the soggy weather. Elsewhere, I know you're experiencing heavy snow and bitterly cold days, particularly those of you up north in the Pocono region. Happy skiing, that's the only consolidation I can think of.

May looks like a busy month with key events like Spritefest, the Hershey Hillclimb and Lewes car show all being staged early in the month. I can only believe that for the Sprite people in the Club, the nights and weekend garage activity is very busy right now as the cars are hastily put back together after the winter hibernation.

On the racing front, I see that Jeremy Welsh (of Dennis Welsh Engineering, U.K) just won a championship in his father's old 3000, beating

out other more powerful marques (including Jaguars, Porsches and Cobras). I guess this goes to prove the old saying, "like father like son."

Something new to consider: I recently suggested to Steve (El Presidente) that we should consider a twice yearly paper magazine as a supplement to the planned electronic version. There's a real appetite now for a move to e-publishing, so I'm wondering if we could consider this and have two special issues; one after Encounter and one as a year-end review.

I think this is something to think about and it would contain the Flash as a "special" in full color printed format. Let me know what you think by mailing me on [AHSTCFlash@AOL.com](mailto:AHSTCFlash@AOL.com)  
Have fun driving.  
Nigel.



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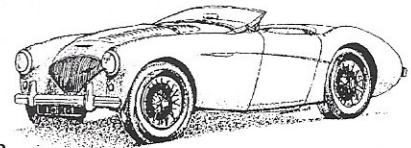
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## BRANDYWINE

By Ernie Leser



Our 2008 Events Planning meeting finally took place Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of February after a few postponements. Attending were Chuck Ott, myself, and Kris and Steve Garrett. Not a huge turnout, but enthusiastic! The atmosphere at Matilda's helped – half of the restaurant was taken over by a University of Delaware sorority, while the bar side (where we were) was setting up for Karaoke. We did manage to plan at least part of the Brandywine calendar while munching on nachos and Aussie fries (yummy).

President Chuck went over the last Board meeting happenings. Much discussion over the merits and costs of the paper vs. electronic Flash. There is no question as to the value of the short, as needed, E-Flash issues put out by our President. These alert the members as reminders of and changes to events in a timely fashion. Personally, for the monthly (full) Flash, I prefer the printed copy. It provides a more relaxed, read-

able format than when it is put on the computer. Of course it can be printed out, using up much expensive ink in the process. Oh well, wait and see.

Our 2008 Events Calendar is shown below. June and July are still open. Driving tours to a winery, brewery, car museum, or a historic site are possibilities. Please let our events coordinator Kris Garrett (610-558-1334) know if you have a suggestion.

The Annual Pizza Party will again be held at the home of Pete Roberts in Downington. "Pizza at Pete's" will take place on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1 pm. Besides great pizza, checking out Pete's collection of Healeys is always a treat. Give him a call (610-458-5412) if you need directions.

### BRANDYWINE REGION 2008 EVENTS

March, Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1 pm. Pizza at Pete's.

April – Tech session – TBD

May - Lewes British Car Show Sat., May 3<sup>rd</sup>;  
Carlisle Import Show Sat., May 17<sup>th</sup>.

June – TBD

July – TBD

August 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, Encounter, Carlisle, PA

September, Sat. 6<sup>th</sup>. Annual Crab Crawl and Feast. Location TBD.

October -- Annual Picnic and/ or Fall Foliage Tour to Luray, Virginia (1).

November, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm. Annual Elections. Matilda's in Newark, DE

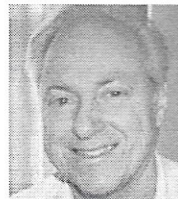
December, Sat. 6<sup>th</sup>. Region Christmas Party.

January 2009, Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm. Events planning. Matilda's, Newark, DE

*Note 1. Let Kris Garrett know by Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> if you're interested in the tour. Overnight arrangements would be made in Luray. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> weekend is anticipated.*

### NEW JERSEY

By Art Herkomer



No column for New Jersey this month.

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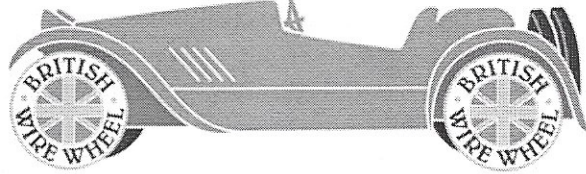
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### ENCOUNTER 2008 To Feature Honored Guest

Yes, Virginia, there is going to be an ENCOUNTER this year, and the Harrisburg region is headlong into its preparations. Mark your calendars for August 6-10 and plan to join us at the Hotel Carlisle in Carlisle, PA. We had a late, but happy addition to our plans for this year's event which caused us to do a little more planning. So we're a little behind on getting the registration form out. But look forward to it very soon.

We are extremely pleased and honored to announce that pioneering race car driver Janet Guthrie will be our guest at ENCOUNTER 2008 in Carlisle. Janet is the first woman to compete in both the Indianapolis 500 and Daytona 500. An accomplished pilot, flight instructor, and aerospace engineer, Janet broke barriers in 1976 and 1977 by successfully competing in the two great American automobile races. Lesser known, but just as important to us Healey folk, is the fact that Janet raced Sprites in her early years. We are hoping to have a Sebring Sprite, similar to that which she raced, at ENCOUNTER. Her acclaimed autobiography, *Janet Guthrie: A Life at Full Throttle*, has been hailed by *Sports Illustrated* as one of the best sports books ever. We will have copies of her book available to purchase at ENCOUNTER and are working on making them available to order prior to ENCOUNTER so you can read about this history making driver and personality. Then bring it along to ENCOUNTER for Janet to autograph. Janet will be speaking a number of times during ENCOUNTER and will be our guest speaker at the awards banquet on Saturday night.

We are planning a variety of events that will

make for an enjoyable experience for all. We will begin on Wednesday evening, August 6, with an opening BBQ and tour of the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing in nearby York Springs, PA. ([www.emmr.org](http://www.emmr.org)) Janet Guthrie will be attending. For those planning ahead, we're scheduling the rally on Thursday and the Gymkhana on Friday morning. The room rate at the Hotel Carlisle is \$90.00 per night so come on Wednesday and join out guest Janet Guthrie to kick off ENCOUNTER 2008 in a big way.

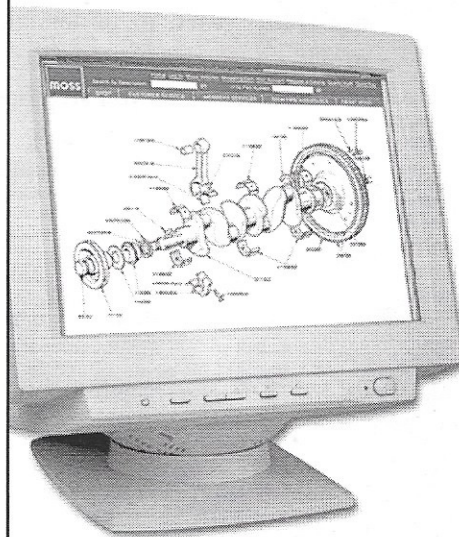
More details to follow soon. See you all in Carlisle in August!

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## LEHIGH VALLEY

By Mike Bradley



Well Sports Fans, it's February and the Super Bowl is over and we have another month and a half before we start thinking about driving our cars once again. I don't know about you, but I'm ready now.

Gerry Kunkle and I used to go out once or twice in the winter, but now it seems like every time there is warmer weather, I have something on the burner.

From all accounts, the meeting last night at the Lehigh Valley Grand Prix Track was a great success. Many people were surprised at the speed of the cars and the strength required to operate them, especially through the turns. I hear there are some aches and pains today, as a result. At first I thought it was an age thing since most of our members are over fifty, but even Bob Messenger's son, Adam, was feeling it today. Bob tells me he beat Adam in the first race by 1.5 sec-

onds, but lost in the second by .1. That's still an overall timing victory (and a moral one for Bob). Thanks to everyone who participated and especially to Tom Mantz for originating the idea and then organizing the entire evening. Great job Tom.

Trish Woglom from the Philly region e-mailed me asking if other regions could participate. I e-mailed back, but I never heard from her. I don't know if she received my response, but if not, I apologize for the confusion. If we do this again, I will notify the other local regions to see if anyone wants to join us.

In fact, this is something we should consider more often, since there are usually around ten to fifteen active members in each region.

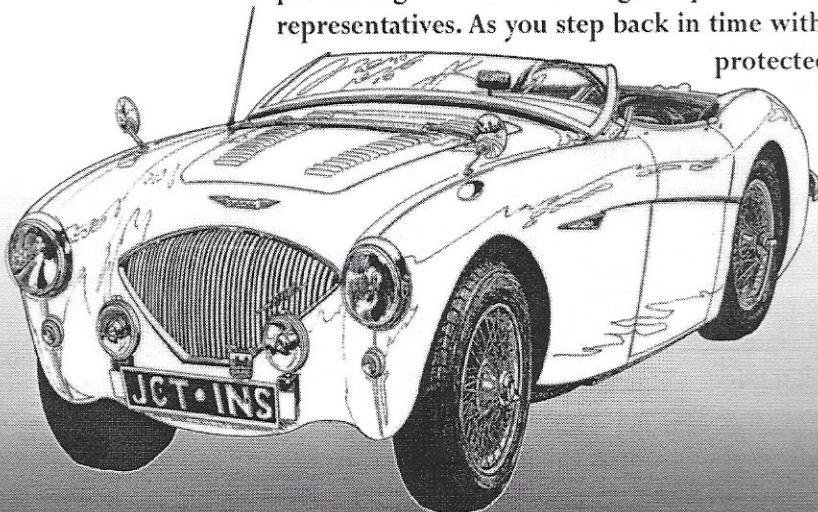
Our next meeting will be Monday, March 17th, probably at the Lantern in Bethlehem. I will confirm by E-Flash. Bring yourselves and some ideas for upcoming events so we can schedule them.

See you then.

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## LONG ISLAND

By Paul Parfrey

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times..." This is not *A Tale of Two Cities* but a tale of two accidents with a definite Dickensian twist. Dealing with the aftermath of any automobile accident is frustrating but, at least with one involving your classic car, you have the expectation that you will be compensated for your loss. **Not necessarily! Members of every region should read the following.** The shop that wrote the estimate for my Healey had two classic cars in for collision repairs, both MGs and both underinsured but with different insurance companies.



The first occurred just after the MG Fall Foliage Tour: a just-restored MGBGT was involved in an accident that required a new right front fender, right front wheel and front bumper. The owner had meant to raise its coverage above the \$2000 he originally insured it for but never did. The cost of repair was way above this, causing his insurance company to total the car and provide him with a pay out of \$1600 (\$2000 - \$400 salvage value). While this is no way covered him for his loss (a new BGT fender is around \$800 alone), it provided him with something: a payment with the customary subtraction of 20% of value if the owner elects to keep the car and have it repaired.

The other accident was an eye opener for the professionals in the trade as well as for the rest of us. A '60 MGA, in less than perfect shape and insured for \$6000, required a new grille, bumper, and windshield, with repair needed to the shroud and fender tops. This car was declared a total loss but the compensation offered was very different from the first. The insurance company placed the car in an online auction where someone bid \$4500 for the car without actually inspecting it in person. The insurance company then offered \$6000 - \$4500 = \$1500 to the owner if he wished to keep the car and have it repaired. This outcome is not an isolated incident and obviously does not provide near enough to repair the car. Realize that a Healey's salvage value could easily be calculated in this way as

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### Sprite Jubilee 2008

50th Anniversary Austin-Healey Sprite

May 16-20, 2008

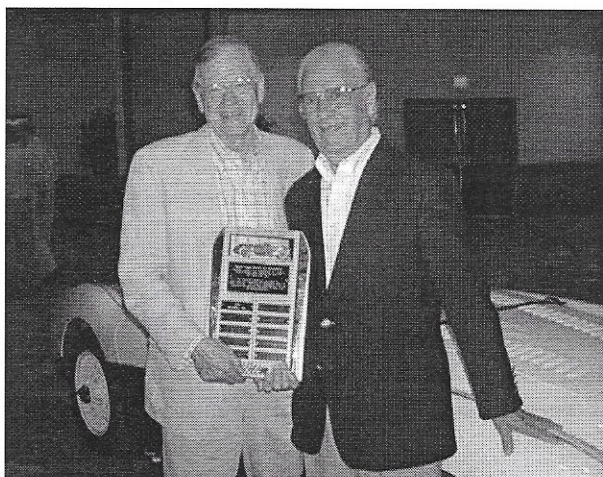
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## The Gerry Coker Award for Excellence

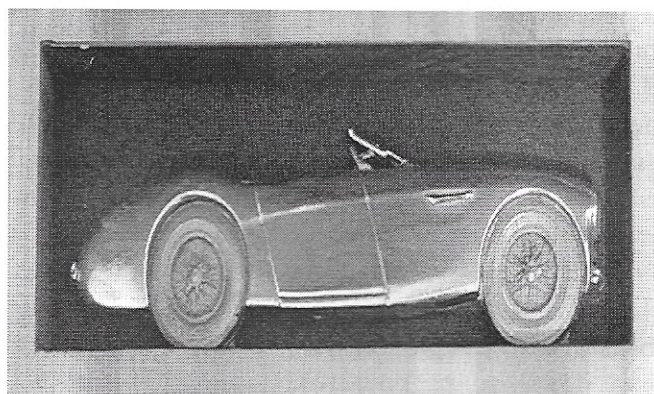
At Lake Tahoe on June 5, 2004, the distinctive 100S owned by Bob Griffin became the first recipient of the Gerry Coker Award for Excellence. To be presented annually, this award honors an Austin-Healey 100 that preserves the combination of design and driving enjoyment envisioned in the beautifully shaped car styled by Gerry Coker. The year, winner's name and car type is inscribed on the trophy. The winner will keep the trophy for one year. A separate plaque, with 100 in bronze and trophy text is given to the winner to keep.



*Left to Right Bob Griffin, Trophy, Gerry Coker and car*

The realization of this award was the culmination of a year's work by Gerry Coker, Roger Moment and Bill Emerson. The body design of the Austin-Healey 100, the work of one man, Gerry Coker, is featured on the trophy. This classic design is as beautiful today as it was in 1952 when the car first appeared.

To capture this classic shape, Roger Moment of the Rocky Mountain Austin-Healey Club, modified a 1/24th scale plastic model, including fabricating the fold down windshield. The right side of this plastic model was used as the basis for a mold and then cast in bronze.



*Bronze Austin-Healey 100 © by Roger Moment*

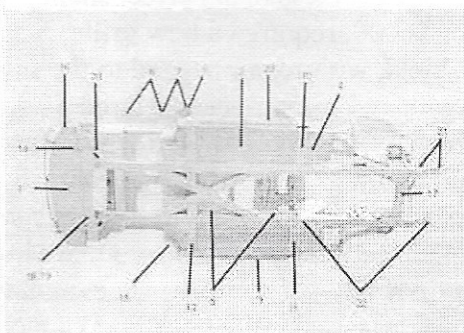
The completed bronze was sent to Gerry Coker who designed and made the remaining

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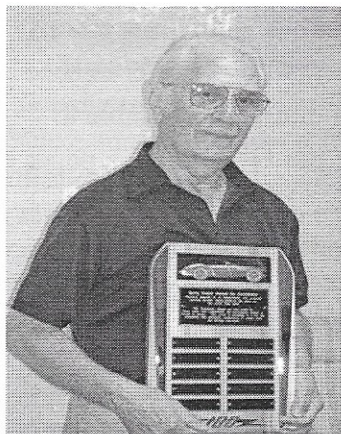


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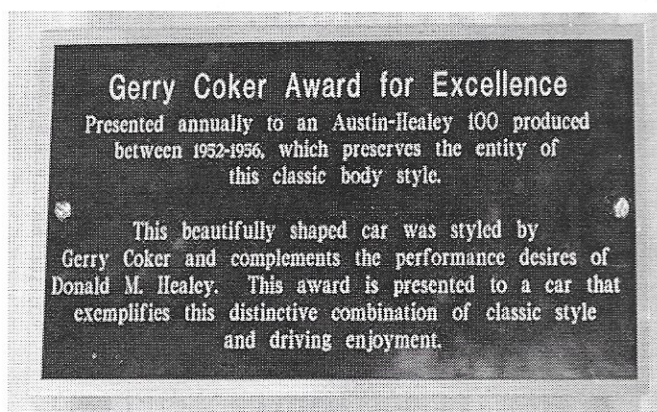
portion of the trophy based on the bronze casting. The car design features present on the trophy include the chrome spears mounted on the front fenders of all Austin-Healeys and the flash insignia from the grill that is unique to the 100. All of these items were mounted on a wooden plaque built by Gerry in his North Carolina woodworking shop.



**Gerry Coker with trophy**

Gerry Coker and Bill Emerson collaborated on the trophy inscription and presentation. Since Gerry's body design of the 100 is the only Austin-Healey that is totally his design, it was de-

ecided that the award would be strictly for the 100 series cars including BN1, BN2, 100M and 100S. The second item to be considered was what criteria should be used in the selection of the winning car. Gerry very modestly stated that the car's design was done to complement the performance capabilities of the chassis as designed by Donald and Geoff Healey and that performance should be part of the award criteria.



**Award text**

As a designer award, not a club-defined award, it was decided that the Gerry Coker Award for Excellence would be presented in alternate years at Healey Rendezvous and at the

Austin-Healey Conclave. The winning car shall not be defined by club affiliation; ANY Austin-Healey 100 is eligible. Gerry Coker is totally responsible for the selection of the winner.

The selection of the first recipient has set the standard for future years. After completing almost 40 years as a race car in the U.S., New Zealand and Australia, the car returned to the United States. Over the past five years, the car has won Concours events and participated repeatedly in long distance high-speed events, some of which exceeded 1000 miles. Truly this car has both beauty and performance.

**How Your 100 Can Be Entered Into Selection for the 2008 Gerry Coker Award for Excellence**

**Award will be presented by Gerry Coker at the 2008 San Diego CONCLAVE (Cut off date for the receipt of entries is May 24, 2008)**

1. Submit an e-mail, or letter, of 500 words or less providing the history of the car and why you believe it has the beauty and performance associated with this award.
2. Submit a list of the car shows/Concours events in which the car has participated.
3. Submit a list of the performance events in which the car has participated, include long drives or tours.
4. Submit current color photographs of the car showing front, rear, side, cockpit, and engine. Photographs sent by e-mail should be in jpeg format and sent separately. Photos sent by mail will not be returned.

\*Until May 5, mail should be sent to

**Gerry Coker Trophy 2008**

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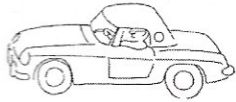
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\*For entries submitted by E-mail, use [cokemar@AOL.COM](mailto:cokemar@AOL.COM)

(Note: Entries for award selection may come directly from an owner or as a referral)



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## MEMBERSHIP

By Rick Brodeur

There are no new members this month.



Our member lists are available to any member just for the asking. Each Region President has a copy that can be distributed, and I will send out a copy to any member who requests one. I prefer to send them out via email, but if that's not available to you just call or email me and I'll send out a paper copy.

My email address for the Club is membership@austin-healey-stc.org. If you have any questions about your membership or didn't receive your Flash, please contact me. Contacting me is the quickest way to solve a membership or mailing problem. My phone number and email address are on the inside front page and also on our web site.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

## 2008 HERSHEY VINTAGE HILLCLIMB

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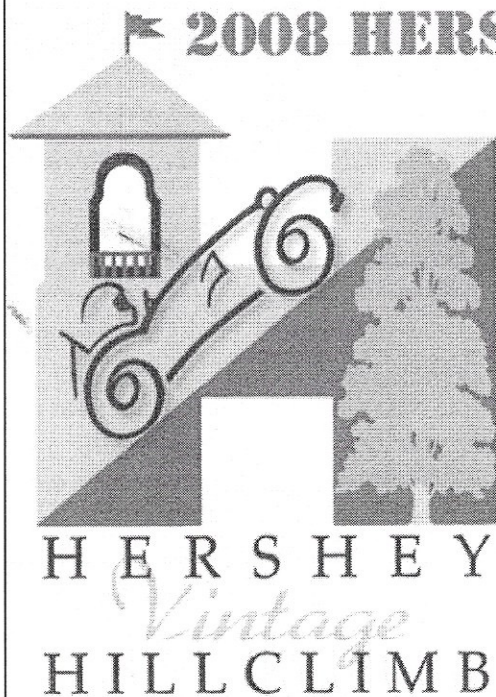
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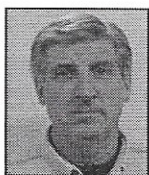


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## DRAG RACING AT CARLISLE

By Del Border

The 2008 Carlisle Import-Kit/Replicar Show is sponsoring a drag race for Carlisle entrants on Friday, May 16. The drag races will be held at the old South Mountain Dragway, now under new ownership and called Quarter Aces Drag-O-Way.



Time trials start at 4:00pm with eliminations starting at 6:00pm. This is an excellent way to make sure that your Sprite and/or big Healey is properly tuned up for the driving events at Sprite Jubilee. The track is only 1/8 mile long, so speeds won't be much faster than the autocross that I've designed for Sprite Jubilee.

The track is only 10 miles away from the Fairgrounds and the cost is \$25. You can run against your friends in the time trials. If you want to run in the eliminations, the starts will be staggered,

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so a 948 Sprite could conceivably go up against a big block Cobra and have a realistic chance of winning. The Carlisle show will hold a driving seminar prior to going to the race track to let everyone know what to expect.

I've raced at this track before and it's a neat little venue. Everyone should be able to get into 4<sup>th</sup> gear and give their Healey a good workout. As I mentioned, the track is under new ownership and quite a few improvements are well under way. For more information, go to [www.southmountaindragway.us](http://www.southmountaindragway.us) and for up-to-date photos of the improvements, go to [www.quarteraces.com](http://www.quarteraces.com).

One final note – if you look at the schedule for August 10, you'll notice that Austin-Healeys are the featured marque. The new owner extended an invitation to Healey owners at ENCOUNTER 2008 to bring their cars to the track. More information will follow, but this will not be an official ENCOUNTER event, just an opportunity to run our cars before we go home on Sunday.

## HARRISBURG

By Dave Hooper



The other night I get a call from good ol' Herb Sailer from the N.J. Region suggesting a side trip option for this year's Encounter. This turned out to be one of those revelations of some undiscovered neat nugget hiding in plain sight right under your nose that makes you wonder how it could have materialized in a place you have called home for a half century without you noticing it. Feeling suddenly clueless and pathetically unobservant, I find that the Rolls-Royce Foundation and Rolls-Royce Owners Club exist together in a building not 6 miles away. I call some Healey Clan cohorts to arrange a feasibility look-see so results could be revealed at the next Encounter planning meeting, only to find our Events Coordinator Contessa already knew about the place. I'm feeling dumber by the day at this point, so to resurrect myself from my pit of ignorance, I venture off to leverage the only straw of advantage I had left. Nobody I called had ever been there, and none were free to joined me on the recon mission.

I show up and enter the 1st section of the long "L" shaped building where RROC is emblazed on the wall facing the road. Here I find 3 employees, all busy, laboring away of Rolls-Royce Owners Club business. I'm then directed to the Rolls-Royce Foundation, located at the opposite end of the "L", where I find 2 more employees, a museum, workshops, archives and parts. Laura Heeschen, Curator and Librarian gave me a quick tour including the recently received records of the Bentley Co. all 300 boxes - an automotive historical treasure trove. Needless to say Herb's idea got the chairman's OK and all you Encounter '08 attendees will get a chance to visit this gem in August.

I got myself on the disabled list and missed the last meeting, but Dave, our region's commander-in-grief filled me in and here is his report - filtered through the questionable skills of your scribe:

Eleven of the faithful attended.

50th Sprite Anniversary gets another boost

being named the featured Marque at the Vintage Grand Prix. Mid-Ohio 27-29 June in Lexington, Ohio.

Encounter Plans update for our 6-10 August effort (chaired for the 3rd time by Bob Preston, our resident masochist or our foremost optimist) brought everyone up to date on events, Guthrie book availability, Spears caricature artist appearance details (This thing drew so much interest that her being at the meet on Friday may not provide enough time to meet demand, so an option to send her car/people photos ahead of time will be provided which will allow you to pick up the completed artwork at Encounter at a \$5 buck discount.)

Reviewed our cooperation with Sprite Jubilee 16-20 May which coincides with Carlisle Import Show. The give away car will be a Spridget at Carlisle and Jerry Coker along with John Spanzel will be the featured Jubilee guests.

After Encounter, there will be a British Reliability Run 27-28 September covering 700 miles by the Delaware Valley Triumph Club - Charity Event.

Dave then reviewed the Feb 08 corporate Board Meeting covering: Web site links for each region, coordinators for regalia sales, '07 Encounter financial results, membership (our region has 68), 2009 change in membership renewal dates and a pitch to justify dropping the Flash as we know it. Seems to me the embellishments to the Flash over the years drove the costs beyond affordability. Maybe shopping around outside the Philadelphia metro area for another printer could have avoided this. The people that made this decision are so inundated by the influence of computers in their lives that they make the assumption that everyone else has followed along like a herd of cattle. I've felt the dust in my face for not joining the cattle drive, but I admit unbridled amusement watching the hysterical crisis that even a short power outage deposits on our "all eggs in one basket" computerized society. I'm not at all amused by the ongoing cost and endless frustration of joining the herd. Like a carousel from hell where you have to change horses every rotation, the effort to keep up negates the convenience you at first achieved a lot

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quicker than you imagined. Planned obsolescence is now a refined art and before long, you're back in the park eating dust yourself - and maintaining your position at the front of the herd isn't cheap. This adds a financial class barrier that doesn't belong in a car club most people joined to get away from the rat race, not plunge deeper into it.

Now that I've grated the nerves of every nerd on the planet, this dusty old, but observant relic rides into the sunset of simpler times un-envious of the road ahead of you.

Settling for an unbounded black and white Flash is clearly not the end of the world - I just couldn't resist railing against an electronic nemesis that reminds me of that old Novel "1984" and good old "Hal" of Sci-Fi movie fame. Being a Healey owner tends to indicate you're not prone to following the crowd anyway. If old is passé and new is wondrous, we'd all be driving some hybrid crossover cookie cutter.

Speaking of driving, if you can break away from your PC long enough, there is a good driving season taking shape - especially if you pilot a Sprite. During the 50th anniversary of their introduction, there are numerous venues recognizing this landmark car. Plan to take advantage of this opportunity. Sprites will be on top of the

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heap this year.

Next meeting is 11 March for Encounter Planning, with the regular meeting the following week on the 18th. Your old car cronies look forward to your attendance.

### CARICATURES BY M.J. McFALLS

**Before Encounter:** Send a picture of you and your car to Joseph Spear, 3701 Hill Church Rd., Lebanon, PA 17046. Phone: (717)272-8343.

Email: bjspear1@verizon.net

Size: up to 14" X 17"

Include your name, phone number, home address and check/money order payable to Joseph Spear.

Cost: \$30.00 includes two people and your car

Additional people: \$10.00 each

Additional car: \$8.00 each

Pick up at Encounter or include \$5.00 for postage and have it mailed to you immediately.

**During Encounter:** Pose for your caricature on Friday, August 8, 2008 at Encounter between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

**After Encounter:** Have your photo taken at Encounter and have your caricature mailed to you. There is an additional \$5.00 charge for postage.

\*\*\* See sample caricature on page 16!

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(see details on page 15)

