



Tampa Bay Austin Healey Club



Tampa Bay AHC Presidents Letter June 2011

We kicked off the month of June by celebrating “Drive Your British Car Week” with 7 Austin Healeys and 2 MGs as part of the Reeves Motorsport Gathering on Saturday June 4th. We were given front row parking and the British cars were very popular as other attendees looked us over, ask questions and took photos. Following the Gathering (which runs from 7 to 9 AM), we adjourned to the Forest Hills Diner for breakfast and a short meeting. The event was a lot of fun and I would like to do it again in the future, maybe at the DuPont Registry Cars and Coffee in Clearwater. The DuPont event had 300-400 cars at their event last weekend. There were only a handful of British cars, but the Healey was popular with the crowd, even with all the exotics and super-cars in the parking lot.

On Sunday June 12th we gathered at Walt and Joanne Mainberger’s home for our annual club picnic. Their backyard is heavily shaded, thanks to many great oaks, which helped with the heat and humidity we have been enjoying the last several weeks. Walt and Joanne had a great picnic planned with hot dogs, brats, hamburgers and all the fixings. Each family brought many different salads, appetizers and desserts to add the grilled meats. A cold beer or soda and life could not have been better. We had 23 members present and most drove their Healeys providing a nice little car show on Walt’s acre + lot. Many thanks to Walt and Joanne for hosting the event, it was a big success. I have attached a few photos from the picnic.

We continue to get club member recognition with Dave Quillen’s BJ8 gracing the cover of the June Healey Marque issue. The photo was taken at the 2010 All British Field Meet by Editor Reid Trummel. Thanks Reid.

Mr. and Mrs. Tampa Bay AHC, Marion and Kay Brantley were also recognized in the June Marque for their 25 year membership in AHCA. Congrats to Marion and Kay on their “Longevity Award”.

Well we succeeded in shutting down another restaurant. That makes 3 during my term as President. I saw on TV that Perkins had filed for bankruptcy and I thought they said the Waters store would be closed. Concerned, I call the restaurant and the phone was answered by somebody that was shuttering the doors, it was in fact closed. I gave Dennis Magee a call, as the MG club was also looking for a new place since they were also affected when the Stonybrook Pub closed. He gave me the names of some of the places they had look at and along with some research of my own I started calling potential meeting places. The criteria included a location easily accessible to all members in the greater Tampa Bay area (not an easy thing), a private meeting room (preferably free), separate tickets, good food and reasonable prices. After many calls, there were only two that mostly meet the criteria. The general consensus has been to continue with the alternating dinner and breakfast meetings, so the next meeting is on Saturday July 9th (2nd Saturday due to July 4th holiday weekend) and will be held at Daddy’s Grill, 6942 Tampa Rd., Oldsmar 34677. I have not been to Daddy’s before but have had good reports from other members. Breakfast starts at 8 AM in the private room with the meeting commencing around 9:15 or so. You can Google Daddy’s and check the different routes to get there. Saturday morning traffic should be light, so I hope to have a good turnout to check out this new place. Our dinner meeting will be held at Perkins Restaurant, 2625 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater 34017. Yes, I know I said Perkins was in bankruptcy but I have been assured by the owner that this restaurant would not be closing. I will be checking up well prior to our next dinner meeting which will be on Tuesday, August 2nd. I had to move the dinner

meeting to Tuesday as Thursdays were not available. Dinner will start at 6 PM followed by the meeting at 7:15 or so. The Perkins should be a little easier to get to with the evening traffic but once again I suggest that you check out Google maps for the best routes. I would like to have a good turn out for this meeting also so we can evaluate if we need to do something different. As always I am open to suggestions of meeting places that you think meet the criteria stated above.

In July we also have other opportunities to drive our cars in addition to the meetings. On July 2 we have been invited to the Tampa Bay British Car Club picnic at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor. If you wish to attend, plan on taking your own picnic meal. Please RSVP to Phil Ross at pbrross@juno.com.

TBAHC has again been invited to participate in the Safety Harbor July 4th parade. The Brits will invade again. We currently have 10 cars committed to participate but if you would like to join up let me know ASAP. I know several of our members (Bill Borja and Tim Jacobson) will be attending Conclave 2011 in Colorado Springs July 3-8. Drive safe and tell us about the trip and the event when you return.

That covers June, see you on the road at all our events, Ron.....





