

Tampa Bay AHC President's Letter, November 2011

It is hard to believe that my two years as your President comes to an end at the Annual Christmas/Holiday Party in just 3 days. I have enjoyed serving the club and sharing my love for all things Healey. I hope to see many of you at the party



which is always a highlight of the year for members. I will be turning over the President's cap to Walt Mainberger at the party as well as recognizing my Board of Directors for 2011. Walt will introduce the 2012 Board members and also serve as Master of Ceremonies for the evenings activities. The gift exchange is always fun with a number of prizes for unique gifts (and some just a little more than unique).

We had a great year of club meetings, programs, tech sessions and outings. Some of the highlights of the year included the following. This year we participated with the Tampa Bay BCC on several events. Members attended a number of British car shows around the state, usually taking home some of the trophies. Bill Borja drove his BJ8 to Colorado to again attend Conclave. Bill and Marion Brantley have to hold the record for miles driven in

their Healeys. February found a number of Healeys at Charlie and Dorothy Carpenter's home for what has become the Annual Villages Invasion with an overnight in town. Charlie and Dorothy have already set the dates for the 2012 Invasion with more information forthcoming. Our club picnic, hosted by Walt and Joanne Mainberger, was a great success with a large crowd in attendance. All our Healeys were arranged in Walt's spacious backyard and presented a beautiful sight.

Linda and I hosted the Annual Ice Cream Social this year. We had a nice turnout and Clete Gardenhour even brought out the Ferrari (we did find out that it at one time held some Lucas electrics but the Italians quickly changed them out). For a number of years the Social was hosted by Bud and Gyneth Stanley and we were saddened to hear of Bud's untimely passing last week. Our hearts and prayers go out to Gyneth during this time of grieving.

In June we had a large turnout of Healeys for a special meeting beginning at the Reeves Motorsport Gathering in North Tampa. We were the featured marque and generated a lot of interest in our LBCs, The Gathering is a "cars and coffee" type event and typically has mostly modern high end performance cars in attendance. Following the Gathering we had breakfast and a short monthly meeting at a local restaurant nearby.



October brought all the members out to attend and volunteer at the 25th Anniversary All British Field Meet held on Main Street in downtown Safety Harbor. I believe we had around 40 Healeys participating. They were joined by another 150+ British cars representing nearly every British marque to come out of England. We had sponsors on Main Street that sell all the current production British cars. Thanks again to Clete Gardenhour for his leadership of this event. He was joined this year by co-chair Warren Maxon to put on the best All British yet. We were able to increase the total benefit to the Special Olympics Pinellas by \$2000 over last year. Thanks also to the volunteers, the show would not happen without you! Also thanks to those that helped recruit the most sponsors we have ever had. Warren takes up the reins for next years All British and has already started the planning process.

In November we all went to Lakeland and Tsikuris Classics for our last Tech Session of the year. As usual, Paul, Debbie and Mark opened up their home and shops. We were able to view the completed Nash Healey number 1 that we have watched the progress on for the previous two years. Paul filled us in on S.U. carb modifications that make them work better. We enjoyed pizza on a bright, warm Florida day under the spreading oaks in the Tsikuris yard before departing for home. I have attached some photos from the session.

Well, that pretty well wraps up my last President's letter. I have enjoyed my two years serving the club in this office and look forward to helping Walt as he and the Board set plans for 2012. Hopefully he won't have to close down any of our meeting places, three closers in my two years is enough....Ron

