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April 2015

Time to Tour!

Welcome to the April issue of 2015. This month we learn about:

- Great upcoming events
- Another member's labour of love
- Portable solvent tanks

Upcoming Events

Short Notice: Ted and Mark's Annual Garage Tour, Saturday April 26

- Meet 8:30 AM at the Lanoway's, 4 Oberlin Rd. (in Fort Richmond) for coffee and breakfast.
- There will be six stops on the tour; one includes lunch.
- The Chili dinner is at 5:00 PM back at the Lanoway's on Oberlin Road.
- Your \$25 registration includes the bus ride, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Bring a guest to the chili dinner for an extra \$5.

Please RSVP with your numbers to tedm@canadawestboots.com

2016 Rendezvous Update

John Davidson

The Name Our 2016 Rendezvous contest voting has come to an end.

We had 25 excellent submissions... so many from which to choose. I am pleased to announce that Rick Unruh's submission of "Sunset Country Rendezvous" is the winner. Congratulations Rick! Now if Rick would consider writing a song...

For all you artistic folks out there, our next task is to develop a logo. Stay tuned for more information.

[See page 6 for a reprinted article on the origins of Rendezvous.]

Elkhorn Automobile Museum Events: July 11 and 12

This tour takes us to near the Saskatchewan border. The EAM has a special collection of rare WWI vintage cars. The marques include EMF, Federal, Flanders, Gray Dort, Hupmobile, Jackson, Jeffrey, John Deere (a car, not a tractor), McLaughlin, Marmon, Maxwell, Master, Maxwell, Metz, Overland, Regal, REO, Russell, Saxon and Willys. Seen any lately?

There is also a good representation of more common marques. You can find a list on the EAM website under "tour". One word of caution:

AHCM

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the EAM is run by volunteers with few resources. The car collection is spectacular, its presentation is not.

In a modern car this could be a day trip from Winnipeg. In an LBC, not. We can take it easy along Hwy 2 and stay overnight quite cheaply in Virden which has a nice collection of heritage buildings. We can visit the Souris swinging bridge and the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum on the way home.

The dates are July 11 and 12. We need decent weather for this so there may be a cancellation if necessary. I don't think that this is worth doing with fewer than six cars none of which can be Volvos, unless they are really old Volvos, like their drivers. Please contact me if interested in this tour or the ones following:
hughandval@mymts.net

Possible Fall Colours Tour

Here are three suggestions for a fall colours tour:

- A. Day trip to Gimli along the River Road to Selkirk, then to Matlock via Hwy 9. From Matlock to Gimli via old Gimli Road along the lake, and possibly on to historic Camp Morton. Lunch at Amma's in Gimli, possibly followed by a guided tour of the MS Namao, a former Coast Guard vessel and now a scientific research platform. Sep 19.
- B. Overnight to the Hecla resort to enjoy its spa. Tour the Heritage Village. Sep. 19 and 20.
- C. Day trip circumnavigating Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Highways 5 and 34 bracket the park. We could visit the Austin Threshermen's Museum with its amazing collection of vintage steam and petrol tractors. A short hike into the Spirit Sands Desert would provide a different kind of fall colours because the ground cover is rare and unique, and offers wonderful colours if your timing is right. This late summer day needs an early start to get home in daylight, but is easily doable. Sep. 19.

We have done A and B at other times, but I am unaware of clubs doing C. This one is my recommendation.

Resurrection Alley

Frank Kozmet

Metal panels temporarily pinned with struts to bring shape to true, like splints to correct healing on a broken body. Axles floating in the air and one with a tire on the end, as if to remind that the thing once had motion. Rigid steel, carefully measured, cut and made a part of the skeleton, creating a greater strength in the whole than the sum of the parts. Rust ground away and new patches carefully worked into gaps and faults to make a smooth skin.



Basking in cosmetic and other surgeries

Empty sockets at the front that will someday hold bright eyes to illuminate the road ahead and more sockets at the front and back for other eyes that will give yellow winks and red stares to announce to those following behind the intent to swerve or stop.



Preparing for her close-up

During our April meeting and customary garage tour at John and Elaine Davidson's, we came to appreciate, once again, the seemingly impossible starting point from which many vintage cars begin their journey to restoration.

John acquired this 1956 Jaguar XK140 FHC in 1975, and aims to fix all the rusty and bent bits to bring it back to its former glory.

Tech Tip: Portable Solvent Tank

Mark Rogers

Part of being a mechanic means I often get a call to help a friend or club member with a car repair. One thing most people don't have is a solvent tank for washing parts.

I was at Princess Auto and came across the surplus steel ammunition boxes they sell in the back left corner of the store. I bought one on sale for \$25. It has a strong carrying handle, a neoprene lid seal that solvent does not seem to affect or swell, and a very good closing clasp.

I set up the one I bought with a small basket inside to hold the small bits and a magnet on the parts wash brush so it won't fall to the bottom.



Tank Exterior

It's just the right size to make it portable. It won't spill and the attached hinged lid is easy to close when not in use. It's safe to be left in the garage and not spill or smell, and is always ready to go.



Tank Interior

Membership Report

2014 I believe we had a record year for membership with 59. To date we have 47 members renewed for 2015. Of these 18 are also members of the Austin Healey Club of America (AHCA). Dues are \$25.00 for local only memberships and \$80.00 for AHCA based on \$US 50 at an exchange rate of \$1.20, plus \$20 local membership.

If you have not yet renewed, please send your cheque payable to the Austin Healey Club of Manitoba (AHCM) to:

Helmut Friedrich
317 Borebank St.
Winnipeg, MB
R3N 1E5

We continue to plan a lot of fun events for 2015, so make sure you read the newsletter and follow the calendar of events on our website.

Club 25th Anniversary Book

Entries for the book are now closed, and it is now being prepared for printing. Check with a club member or member of the executive about securing a copy.

The Origin of Rendezvous

Ann Blonski

A number of newer AHCM members may not be familiar with the Annual Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous. A number of members will be heading to Ashland, Wisconsin this June to take in its latest incarnation. And our club, along with the Triumph Drivers Club of Manitoba, will take our turn at hosting this event next June. As you hear about this year's event (there's still time to register!) and the road trip there and back, and later you hear the call for help for our event, you may wonder "what's this all about and how did it come to be?!" The following article was penned by AHCM member Glen Patterson residing in Thunder Bay - the birthplace of "Rendezvous" (with ties to Manitoba). I think it explains it so very well...

The Rendezvous Story

Glen Patterson (reprinted from June 2000)

This event is the product of continued growth and development of an idea that was conceived back in 1990. Having been involved in a number of Austin Healey events in the past, I decided, after discussions with John Davidson, Dyrk

Bolger and Tom Politiski, that the time was right to host an event in Thunder Bay. There was one major problem. At that time, there was no "club" in Thunder Bay, so I solicited the help of my wife Donna, a few members of the Austin Healey Club of Manitoba, members of the Thunder Bay Autosport Club, and some local sports car owners to present "Healey's Northwest" in July 1991.

If you ever want to get a sports car event off the ground, call on Tom Politiski from the Minnesota Austin Healey Club. He enthusiastically promoted the event to fellow members, and to the Wisconsin club resulting in a convoy traveling north along the "cool" North Shore of Lake Superior to Thunder Bay.

The Nor'Wester Resort Hotel was selected as the venue to host the event. When first approached, they were in the middle of renovations that were guaranteed to be complete by May with everything being set by the time of the meet. As the event drew closer, I became increasingly concerned about the hotel – things didn't seem to be progressing at the rate which I thought they should – however, the management reassured me that the facility was being readied. Well, to make a long story short, the parking lot was paved three days before the meet, only some of the rooms were finished, the restaurant was not open, and the pool facilities were not completed. The lobby became the center for all weekend activities with the hotel doing a great job of hosting close to sixty people even though they were not open to the public yet. With twenty-eight registrants and a great collection of vehicles from Manitoba, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario, the first annual event was declared a success, rain and all.

Tom and the Minnesota contingent went away suitably impressed and decided to host the event in Duluth in June 1992. Once again Lake Superior was a major attraction and, for the first time, the event became known as the Annual Lake Superior Austin Healey Meet. The Best Western Edgewater was an excellent host venue – who could forget the free happy hour provided by the hotel – the hospitality was super.

Approximately thirty five cars were registered from Illinois, Manitoba, Minnesota, Ontario and Wisconsin, demonstrating that the event was experiencing a positive growth trend. The weather was great, the camaraderie was fine, and a fantastic tour of the Archer Brother race car shop highlighted the weekend.

A challenge was presented to the Wisconsin Austin Healey Club to carry the torch for 1993, and they did. In June 1993, the quaint village of Bayfield was awakened by the sound of sports cars from Illinois, Minnesota, Ontario and Wisconsin. Great weather was the order of the day as a very relaxing weekend was spent touring the sites of the area. One of the highlights of the weekend was a tour on the ferry to historic Madeline Island. A bicycle tour, great ice cream and good friends made for an enjoyable weekend. "Rain, rain go away", we departed in the rain and got drenched on the way home – I can still see an over six foot John Bonneville driving topless Archer Brothers Bugeye Sprite, trying to pretend this British sports car thing was fun!

It was back to Thunder Bay for 1994, and many changes had taken place since the first event. Most importantly the formation of the 35 member Thunder Bay Vintage Sports Car Club. The hotel was finally completed, and what was to be at the first event took place at this one. The end had grown considerably from the first gathering, and we hosted a truly multi-marque event. One full cycle was now complete, but the various clubs represented decided to keep the ball rolling. Back it went to Duluth for 1995 and Ashland, Wisconsin for 1996. Ken Hall discovered that Chevy universal joints fit his Jaguar, and we all traveled home with some great memories.

Back to Thunder Bay for 1997 and the completion of the two cycles of the event. If nothing else, we had the combined momentum of all the previous gatherings. The registration numbers and marques represented were proof positive that this Rendezvous idea had stamina. The presence of some wonderful Morgans and unique MG's made a memorable weekend.

1998 was back to Duluth. Bueyes, Bugeyes everywhere – it seemed – especially at the slalom driving event. Plus some beautiful Jags and a Daimler SP250. It was a very enjoyable weekend.

What was going to happen for 1999 – the Wisconsin club was unable to host the event, and there was talk of giving it a rest for a year. The Manitoba Austin Healey Club members suggested that they would be willing to take on 1999 in Winnipeg. Combined with the Triumph Drivers Club, they hosted a great event even though they didn't have Lake Superior! The Forks became the site of its car display and was voted a great success by all.

The ball is now back in our court, and we are excited by the opportunity to continue the tradition of high quality multi-marque sports car craziness.

A number of common elements have contributed to the success of the past events, but two things top the list – FUN and FRIENDS!! The tradition continues into the new Millennium!

For Sale – Last Chance Soon Club 25th Anniversary T-Shirts

The 25th anniversary T-shirts are in one colour only, British Racing Green, with the artwork in light grey and the Club logo on the left sleeve in the same colour.



They are 100% combed cotton made in the USA by American Apparel, which means that they are high quality but their sizes are likely one size smaller than what you would regularly take; if you are a medium, then order a large.

Contact the executive for details about pricing, availability and payment methods.

2015 Event Calendar

Date	Location	Cost	Contact	Description
Apr. 26	Winnipeg	\$25	tedm@canadawestboots.com	Ted and Mark's Annual Garage Tour; see page 1.
Jun. 06 to 11	Circumnavigate Lake Superior		andyrlind@gmail.com	Rendezvous Rallye Superieur; see attached PDF
Jun. TBD	Kenora			2016 "Sun Country" Rendezvous hosted by the TDC (Triumph Drivers Club) and AHCM
Jul. 11 & 12	Elkhorn		hughandval@mymts.net	Tour coordinated by Elkhorn Automobile Museum; see page 1
Sep. 18	Bronte Provincial Park, ON			British Car Day; see March newsletter
Sep. 18, 19	Various		hughandval@mymts.net	Three possible tours coordinated by Elkhorn Automobile Museum; see page 2

Note: If you know about an event that we should know about, please send as many details as you can to the Newsletter Editor (John) so that we can include them in our Event Calendar as information becomes available.

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