

Six More Weeks of Winter?

Here's hoping the Manitoba groundhogs are right and only six more weeks of winter...

Ann and I had hoped to be writing this from a beach in Mexico, but it just did not happen. Looks like it's going to be the "Lazy River" down south in Thief River Falls, Minnesota this winter with a little cross-border shopping to top it off. There have been a number of club members that have headed to warmer climates already and some still waiting to get on a plane. It's a good winter to go – enjoy!

My big experience of winter was a couple weekends ago when on a "Blizzard Sunday" Geordie Despina (MCMG), Bill Sullivan and I headed out to Ste Anne, Manitoba to pick up two Austin Mini's from Darren James (TDC). Well, what should have been a 2 hour round trip took 4 ½ hours (including lunch), but we did get one back to my place. We went a week later for the second one. It was a much better trip – check out the pictures below.



Blizzard Sunday



The following Saturday

AHCM

President: John Davidson Vice-President: Ted Moorby Treasurer: Helmut Friedrich
Secretary: Jim Jackson Past-President: Roger Morcilla AHCA Delegate: Elaine Davidson
Newsletter Editors: Ann Blonski & Mark Rogers annmark AT mymts.net
Webmasters: Ed Driver edriver AT sasktel.net Roger Morcilla roger01 AT mts.net

Healey drive or ride, your first Healey club meeting or event, your first Healey Conclave, etc. We will welcome articles on other "first" Little British Car experiences too. Next month we will re-print mine, but it will be in two parts: Part 1: a new My First LBC and Part 2: an encore of My First Healey. We hope this series of articles will be written by a series of members.

As winter winds down (hopefully) and you need a break from time working on your LBC, don't forget to email a photo of your vehicle or work-in-progress to our webmaster to include on our club website's Gallery of Member Rides.

Club Membership Dues are Past Due

If you are an AHCM only member, 2014 dues are now \$25.

If you are AHCM and Austin-Healey Club of America (AHCA), 2014 dues are \$70 combined. Please disregard the renewal notice sent by mail by the AHCA and renew directly with our club. AHCM will absorb any exchange differential and forward one payment to AHCA.

Please send a cheque payable to:

Austin-Healey Club of Manitoba

% Todd Chivers
55 Niagara St,
Winnipeg, MB
R3N 0V3

The Austin-Healey Club of America asked for renewals to be complete prior to **Jan 15th** to ensure a spring delivery of the AHCA Membership Directory.

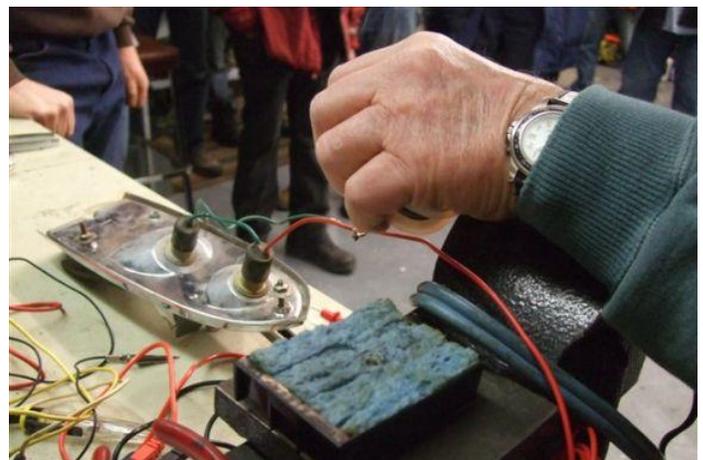


January Tech Session: Up in Smoke

- Ted Moorby

The 1st of the 3 planned joint AHCM and TDC winter tech sessions took place on a cold wintery night at Rick Unruh's garage on January 8th.

An enthusiastic group of 26 guys showed up to hear Rome Innes, Jim Jackson and myself do our best in the allotted time period [1 ½ hrs] to try and take some of the mystery out of Little British Car wiring systems and electrical components.



We first reviewed the principals of automotive DC wiring and the use of multi-meters and 12 volt test lights to diagnosis problems. Next Rome did a demo on how to make a good solder joint to repair broken wiring and I did a demo on replacing the 'bullet' connectors typically use on our cars. Rome also showed the group his solid state conversion of those troublesome little voltage stabilizers that are used on many of our cars to make the fuel gauges read correctly. We went on to talk about and demonstrate various ways to diagnose problems with starters, generators, alternators, solenoids and the like.



Even though a lot of the guys were more than familiar with what Rome and Jim and I were talking about it was fun getting together as a group talk and laugh about our cars in January.



See you on February 12th at Pete Kroeker's Body Shop for the next tech session.

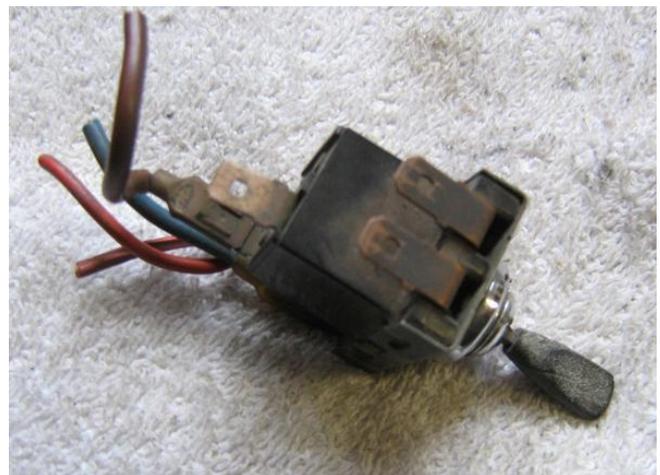
Refurbishing Toggle Switches

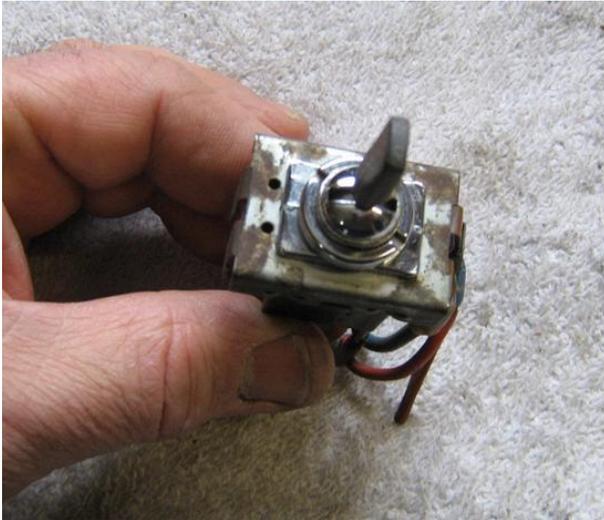
- Jean Caron

Following up on the excellent Tech. Session presented by Ted Moorby, Rome Innes and Jim Jackson on January 8th, which dealt with various facets of the electrical circuits on British cars, I will detail here how to refurbish a toggle switch.

As part of a comprehensive restoration, these small items sometimes tend to be overlooked and should not be in order to provide years of good service. There are many types of toggle switches and some models of postwar British cars often carry a large number of them. For the purpose of this article, one will assume that the toggle switches have been tested and are in working condition prior to refurbishing them.

The switch here is an original Lucas six prong, part #31837E, date coded 10/65, which means it likely came with the car, when new, since it is fitted to a 1965 Austin-Healey BJ8. This particular unit serves the headlights and taillights and is part of a cluster of four toggle switches that are located on the centre part of the dashboard.





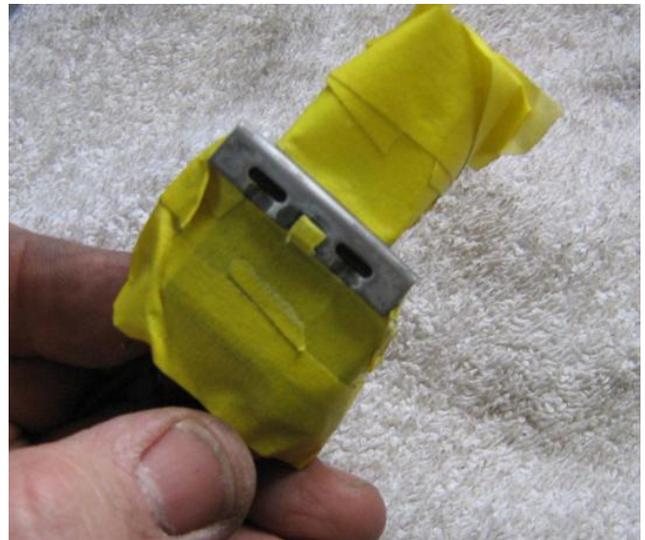
As can be seen on the above photos, the terminals are covered in verdigris and are in need of cleaning to ensure proper continuity. The bakelite box also needs some cleaning and the switch lever handle appears to be turning white from age and overexposure to the sun, while the front metal housing shows surface rust is becoming quite prevalent.

STEP 1: I start by cleaning the back of the switch by running an emery cloth or fine sandpaper (360 grit or higher) over all the terminals that are protruding from the back. Once this is done, I then check the bakelite housing for cracks and, if some are found, it is likely time for replacement of the switch. If not, as in this case here, I thoroughly clean the bakelite with a biodegradable solution "Mean Green" that removes layers of dust, grease etc. quite easily. I then clean it with compressed air to remove any possible residue left in out-of-the-way places.

STEP 2: I then turn my attention to the front of the switch and start with the metal housing, by sanding it with 360 grit sandpaper to remove the surface rust. While this part of the switch is not seen anywhere on the dashboard, it is nevertheless imperative that it is thoroughly cleaned so as to prevent further rusting that could eventually prevent the switch to function properly. See photo below with half of it already sanded.



Once the sanding is complete, I mask the entire switch and apply two coats of clear paint on the metal surface.



Once the clear paint has dried, usually after a couple of hours, I then remove the masking tape and clean the threads of the front part of the switch. I first remove the chrome ring and the wavy ring that normally secure the switch to the dashboard. Often those threads have dirt or glue residue from the upholstery and various other matters that often clog the ring, making it difficult to secure it properly so that the switch holds tight to the face of the dashboard. I use WD40 for this, sprayed on a brass brush and then dry it with a rag.

STEP 3: The last item on this switch to be looked at now is the lever handle. In this case, the

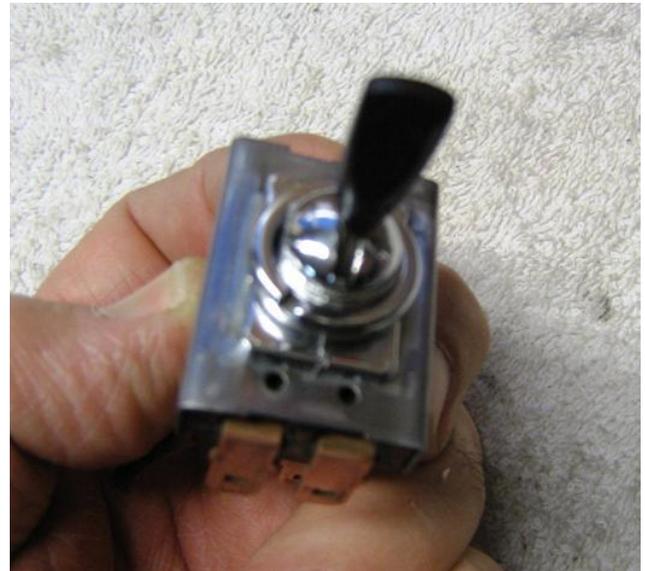
plastic handle shows a couple surface cracks, but neither are deep enough to allow the handle to come off or show that it is loose on the metal lever. Should these cracks be deep enough that the handle becomes loose, they would then need to be cut in a "V" shape and filled with PC-7, a two-part epoxy that is compatible with plastic and bakelite.

Some of the readers here may question why one would repair this when a new switch currently sells for just under \$30.00 US. My answer to this is that yes, you can buy a new switch, likely not made by Lucas, very likely made in either China or India. It is also doubtful the handle will be an exact replica in size or in looks of the one you currently are repairing and it will not be code dated as this one is. I realize that to some these details do not matter, but to others it may, so it is a matter of personal preference.

So let's continue here on the repairs of the handle. I sand it with a Grey 3M Scotch Brite scratchpad that leaves a minimum of visible lines on the plastic surface. Once this is done, I mask all areas not to be painted, clean the surface with turpentine, dry it well and ensure there are no dust particles sticking to the plastic; then I apply two coats of black paint.



And finally, here is the finished product, ready for installation



www.ahcm.ca

January Club Web Site Report

- Ed Driver

This month the web site received contributions from Jean Caron (article for the Workshop page); John Davidson (photo for Gallery/Members Rides); Jim Jackson and Don Huebert updates for the Club Calendar page. Many thanks!

Total visitors for January were 377, these represent visitors from 37 countries, top five countries in descending order Canada, USA, China, Ukraine and Great Britain. Other interesting locales included Denmark, Moldova, Peru, Sri Lanka and Luxembourg. Top pages included: Calendar, Executive, Library and Members Rides (Gallery).

Approximately 81 percent of the visitors used Windows, the "Apple group" at 13% and the true hard core operating system group Linux at 5%. The most common browser was Firefox (39%), followed in descending order by Internet Explorer (22%), Google Chrome (11%) and Safari for i-pad, mac and apple users at 11%.

My guess regarding visitors from China is the high volume of jpeg viewing and I suspect image capture - one wonders if it is not the car model makers harvesting pictures?



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Report on the November 2013 AHCA Delegates Meeting

- Elaine Davidson

The AHCA President, Gary Brierton, opened the meeting with a roll call by Secretary, Edie Lowery. A quorum was declared with 32 clubs in attendance. The agenda was revised, minutes approved and club reports presented.

The following Officer reports were presented:

Editor of on the Healey Marque, Reid Trummel – Reid stated that this was his eighth year as editor and that the Marque came in under budget for 2013. Starting in January 2014, the magazine cover will be printed on heavier paper and have a retro look to it. As previously discussed at the June 2013 Delegates meeting, Reid is looking for several persons to assist him. Both Charlie Moshell and Gary Feldman have asked to step down, so two replacements are needed (one person to do the Healey Chatter column and someone to do the activities calendar). In order to increase technical content, a Technical Editor on staff would be advantageous. Reid would also like each chapter to send in at least one article a year to highlight a local event. It should be a word document with jpeg pictures. If you have an item for the calendar, please send it to Jamie Daggett at activities@healeyclub.com. This information is in the magazine each month.

VP. Classification & Safety, Don Klein - reminded members to check for stress fractures in the frame of our

cars and to change tires every five years. Don plans to add a section on speed events to the safety pages.

VP Conclave, Jo Switzer – thanked Roger Hamel and the Quebec club for the 2013 Conclave. She then called upon the various chairs to report on their events.

- a) Conclave 2012 Louisville, KY was officially closed. Ben Moore reported that the Bluegrass Club donated \$2,500 to Grace and gave over \$10,000 to AHCA.
- b) Conclave Charlevoix 2013, Quebec, Canada – Roger Hamel reported that there were 202 registrations with 5 no shows. He thanked the sponsors and presented a check to Treasurer Bev Sealand for \$6,806.
- c) Conclave 2014. Carl Brown reported that this conclave will be held June 15 to 19 at The Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia. The dinner at Garth Newell is limited to 200 people. A national website has been set-up. On Wednesday, there will be an off-site BBQ at the Music Conservatory. The hotel cost for two persons is about \$190 per night and ranges from \$129 to \$159 per night for the B&B option.
- d) Conclave 2015 will be held at Gettysburg, PA and hosted by New England AHCA and Austin Healey Sports and Touring from July 19 to 25, 2015. The theme will be “Healeys on Hallowed Ground” and the Wyndham Hotel room rates will be \$125 plus tax. A power point presentation was given by Peter Sturtevant.
- e) Conclave 2016. John Jacobs distributed information packages and did a slide show presentation. The event will be hosted by the Ohio Valley Club and held on June 12 to 18 at northern Kentucky at Hebron which is near Cincinnati, Ohio at the Marriott. This is the 40th anniversary of the first Conclave and the 30th anniversary of the Ohio Valley’s first hosting of a conclave.
- f) Conclave 2017. David Nock of the Golden Gate Club sought approval and authorization to investigate locations and develop a proposal. David’s discussion was for information only and a formal proposal will be forthcoming. David noted 2017 will be the 50th anniversary of the end of the Healey production. The two locations being investigated are Lake Tahoe and Monterey Bay with two dates being considered (June or possibly September 11 to 18, 2017. Should Monterey Bay location be chosen, it would be expensive. David noted that Conclave 2002 at Lake Tahoe was a very successful event and the 2017 conclave committee would be the same persons who organized 2002.

VP Marketing & Promotion, Ben Moore stated that he has developed a high resolution version of the Club logo. He then discussed a program in development with Hagerty Insurance Company.

Advertising Manager – Robbie Cook was unable to attend the meeting. He is working to collect revenues that are outstanding and to be collected prior to year-end. An effort is being made to expand various companies’ presence in the Marquee (such as Geico Insurance).

Web Site – Carl Brown noted that the implementation of a new web site design has begun. He is currently updating the membership data information. Regalia information is not posted yet; this effort has been delayed due to John Eslinger’s injury. It is hoped that the regalia section will become active when a replacement is named.

Membership – Mike Schneider issued the request for renewal payments which are due by January 15, 2014. The following process is to be followed for renewal payments. Members are requested to pay local and national dues to the local club treasurer. Local club treasurer will send a single cheque for national

dues only to Mike along with a list of members covered by the cheque. In addition, payment for insurance purposes along with a **list of names and addresses** for those members who are local members only should be sent. He hopes to have the directories mailed in March or as soon as possible.

Club Support – Gary Feldman distributed a summary of the 2012 and 2013 “Free Membership” program. The 2012 program was very successful. There was discussion about continuing the free membership program for new owners of cars. We voted to continue this practice and I have cards available.

Club Insurance – In 2014, Gary Feldman will mail an invoice to each club with local club members. The invoice will be sent to the treasurer/membership officer, the Delegate and the club President. The cover letter and this invoice will contain an explanation of the necessity for both names and contact information for local only members.

Fred Dabney said he had provided 30 Certificates of Insurance. The following is the process to be followed to obtain a certificate. The club must notify Fred of the need for a certificate (email is ok). Fred will send a form to the requestor who completes the form and returns it to Fred. Fred reviews the information and sends it to the insurance company. The insurance company issues a certificate to the requestor with a copy to Fred. The current policy includes \$3,000,000 for General Liability with an additional \$1,000,000 umbrella policy. Coverage is provided for Directors’ and Officers’ liability, and AHCA has a Treasurer bond for \$50,000.

There may be a nominal increase for the 2014 premium. Speed events can create a problem and we should implement some safety measures. The insurance covers the club and its members.

Concours – Bruce Gearns stated that the Concours program is a separate standing committee which is not affiliated with the AHCA. Its operation has remained the same for about 20 years with the goal of educating Concours entrants about the marque. Committee members work with Conclave organizers. Roger Moment has worked on the standards and would like some help editing the guide lines.

The committee is considering establishing a “Preservation” class as there are arguments of condition versus originality. Other marques have this class.

Regalia – replacement coordinator is to be chosen.

Future 50 – Elliot Flaws is currently working to re-brand Future 50.

Donald M Healey Memorial Fund – No report was available. Gary noted that the 2013 DMH scholarship recipient received the award in person at a Perranporth ceremony. No name was provided.

Delegate’s Hand-book – Edie Anderson reported that this should be completed and available in the next few months. The President thanks her for all of her work on this.

Merger with AHCUSA – there has been no recent movement regarding merging the two clubs except for attempts to better coordinate the dates of events to prevent overlapping schedules.

Hall of Fame – this was suggested as a way to honour people who have contributed to the marque. There was lengthy discussion but no general consensus; rather Delegates agreed to continue recognition through Lifetime and Honourary memberships to AHCA.

Nominating Committee – proposed slate was accepted.

New President of AHCA is Fred Dabney.’

2014 Calendar of Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
Monday, February 3rd	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Ana Maria and John Powell's
Wed., February 12 th	7:30pm	<i>Tech Session: Bodywork</i>	Pete Kroeker's
Monday, March 3rd	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	John and Elaine Davidson's
Wed., March 12 th	7:30pm	<i>Tech Session: Oil Specialist</i>	T.B.D.
Monday, April 7th	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Jim and Wendy Jackson's
Saturday, April 26 th	9:00am	<i>Annual Garage Tour</i>	T.B.D. - contact Mark Rogers or Ted Moorby with suggestion
Monday, May 5th	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Fern and Bill Sullivan's
Saturday, May 10 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Saturday, May 24 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Friday, May 30 – Sunday, June 1	T.B.D.	<i>Spring Drive & Overnight stay</i>	T.B.D.
Monday, June 2nd	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Val and Hugh Arklie's
Saturday, June 7 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Thursday, June 12 th – Sunday, June 15 th		<i>Vintage Sportscar Rendezvous</i>	Thunder Bay, ON http://tbvscc.ca/Rendezvous/rendezvous.html
Saturday, June 24 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Saturday, July 6 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Monday, July 7th	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Joan and Bob Wilkinson's
Sunday, July 13 th	12 noon – 4:00pm	<i>Mid-Canada Mini Group's All British Car Show</i>	The Forks followed by BBQ at Barry Howarth's
Saturday, July 19 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Saturday, August 2 nd		<i>Tom's BBQ</i>	Rush Bay, ON Note: Kenora's Harbourfest Show August 3 rd
Saturday, August 9 th		<i>Lanoway's BBQ</i>	Ponemah Beach
Monday, August 11th	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Karen and Roger Morcilla's
Saturday, August 16 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Saturday, August 16 th – Sunday, August 17 th		<i>Classic Motorworks Vintage Race Weekend</i>	Gimli
Saturday, August 30 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Saturday, September 6 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Sunday, September 7 th	T.B.D.	<i>Ted & Terry's Car Rally</i>	T.B.D.
Monday, September 9th	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Isabella and Todd Chiver's
Saturday, September 20 th	T.B.D.	<i>Saturday Breakfast Drive</i>	T.B.D.
Saturday, September 27 th (tentative)	T.B.D.	<i>25th Anniversary Dinner Banquet</i>	T.B.D.
Monday, October 6th	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Don Huebert's

October ?		<i>Fall Supper Drive</i>	T.B.D
Saturday, October 25 – Sunday, October 26		<i>Fall Colours Tour</i>	T.B.D Rain Date: Nov 1 – 2
Monday, November 3rd	7:30pm	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Graeme and Joyce Lowden's
Friday, December 5th	T.B.D.	<i>Christmas Dinner Party</i>	Rembrandt's in Lockport

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