

Is it Spring yet?

I write this watching out my window as the snow is lightly falling and it's two days after our March club meeting was cancelled due to excessive snow. I work with a guy from Elie who got a foot of snow at his place – that would explain why the decision was made to keep our members at home, safe and off the roads.

I had my tractor snow blower out at least five times this winter and it was for major snow. The snow banks are getting higher that's for sure. Driving the residential streets in the city is a challenge with the deep ruts and trying to maneuver across.

Next month I'll probably be writing about this snow melting into water and where it is going to go ...

Looking back in time a bit, it was 15 years ago in 1998 that our club put on a display at the World of Wheels. Five cars participated owned by Dyrk Bolger, Dave Gibson, Terry Milnes, Rob Molyneux and yours truly. These vehicles were displayed around an array of Healey-related items and a feature board of Donald Healey's life in

review and photos. At the end of event, four of the cars won awards and the club display place 5th along with a \$50 prize.

Another other highlight from 15 years ago was our club, along the Triumph Driver's Club of Manitoba, committed to taking over the Wisconsin Austin-Healey Club role of hosting the Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous and we haven't looked back since. Our first host stint was the 1999 event and the planning started in 1998.

And it was 15 years ago when the Great "Grille Badge" Debate started. We did finally get them in the following year, but it was a very long and drawn out process. If you are lucky enough to own one, hang onto it – I don't know if or when someone else will step up to arrange another run.

Back to the snow. A few things you can do while waiting for the snow to stop falling or to finish melting: Circle Saturday, April 20th for the Annual Spring Garage Tour. If you have any suggestions or would like to have your project included, please call Ted or Mark. If you haven't already, make



AHCM

President: Roger Morcilla Vice-President: Richard Weide
Treasurer: Todd Chivers Secretary: Jim Jackson Past-President & Delegate: Elaine Davidson
Newsletter Editors: Ann Blonski & Mark Rogers annmark AT mts.net
Webmaster: Ed Driver edriver AT sasktel.net

your hotel reservation for the Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Online registration to the event can be done at <https://event-wizard.com/mnhealeyrendezvous/0/welcome> It's always been a great time going for a road trip to Sugar Lake Lodge. And the canoe trips at the resort are also memorable – just ask Bill Sullivan!

And last, but not least, Happy St. Patrick's Day all !



Treasurer's Report

- Todd Chivers

At the February meeting at Elaine and John Davidson's house a few members were discussing the phenomenon of the Phoenix area car auctions in January.

I have experienced this just once in January 2011, though many enthusiasts make an annual pilgrimage to the desert. Held in the third week of January there are five auctions houses that I know of that hold events. The biggest and most famous is of course Barrett-Jackson. The others are Russo and Steele, Bonhams, RM, and Gooding and Company.

Of the five, I attended three. I went to Barrett-Jackson, RM and Gooding and Company. Barrett-Jackson is not to be missed. It is spectacular in its scope and dominated by American steel, but with enough variety to have a little something for everyone. Outside, row upon row of classic cars await thousands of people each day for a week, with several hundred being auctioned each day. Inside the main tent there were three sections: the vendor area, the viewing area, and of course the auction. It is big. It moves fast. And it is loud!

In an atmosphere reminiscent of the Ex, there

are mobile food wagons, a time trial track, and sellers of everything the car enthusiast could want from a t-shirt to an RV and trailer to tow your more substantial purchase.

RM was very different. If Barrett-Jackson is the Ex, then RM is a gala event. Held at the Biltmore Hotel, it ran for just one evening and one day following. In 2011, the evening was British night. Perfect! Compared to Barrett-Jackson, RM and Gooding were both intimate affairs. Before the auction began, we enjoyed cocktails while we strolled the lawn outside the main ballroom viewing fine coaches from around the world. Once inside, it was a leisurely night of bidding where the auctioneers eschewed the fast paced gobbledygook patter of the auctioneers for a more refined and frankly easier to follow conversational approach. Each car was driven into the ballroom and up on stage. When the bidding was hot it moved at a good clip, and when the bidding slowed, the auctioneer would shamelessly cajole, tease, and browbeat his audience all to the delight of everyone in the room.

The Gooding and Company event was again only two days with about 100 cars per day. Held in a tent on a mall parking lot in Scottsdale, it did not have the same flair as RM at the Biltmore, but I got to see a 1948 Tucker; a car that I never even considered that I would ever see in person. What is more I got to see someone pay nearly \$800,000 for it. Imagine what it would have gone for had it been in running condition!

All in all a few days down south is always a good idea in January. However, if you get the chance to take in the car auctions of Phoenix, I highly recommend it. With hammer prices reaching into multi-million dollars prices for some cars, I would also recommend keeping your hands in your pockets!



This 'n' That

- Jean Caron

I think this may be the first time we have had a monthly meeting cancelled due to bad weather. I certainly cannot recall one instance where this happened before. At the same time I certainly can see why. Carol and I were gone for five weeks and could not believe the amount of snow that accumulated since and after several hours of shovelling over the last few days, I think it is time for spring to show its face.

I talked with Bill Sullivan today (Friday) and he advised me that his TR250 has been painted. Hopefully I will get a chance to pay him a visit in the next few days and take some photos and post them in this column next month.

While we were in Phoenix, Carol and I went hiking in and around a few parks with mountains that dot the city skyline and on our very first hike we met Norm & Louise Moore of the TDC who were doing the same trek along with some of their friends.



While out there I also visited a few places that cater to our favourite British marques and here are some photos of a place that deals mostly with all models of MG and Triumph. The amount of used parts on site was extensive and while there was little for Austin-Healeys, the MG enthusiasts would be well looked after.



I also went to visit another place that restores and sells British cars as well as being a new dealer for Morgan. They had several of the new Morgan Three-Wheeler on site and all were already sold. While this place, Brighton Motorsports, does not deal exclusively in British cars and motorcycles, it is the bulk of their business. They had an un-restored Nash Healey for sale and were restoring a Bugeye Sprite as well as a Porsche 356B.



I have received my calendar from the Austin-Healey Club of America, along with the November 2012 issue. I hope that the rest of the membership also received theirs.

I will get busy in the next few weeks finding out what everyone is up to and hopefully will have more about our Club next month.



Irish Lent

An Irishman moves into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers. The bartender raises his eyebrows, but serves the man three beers, which he drinks quietly at a table, alone.

An hour later, the man has finished the three beers and orders three more. This happens yet again. The next evening the man again orders and drinks three beers at a time, several times. Soon the entire town is whispering about the Man Who Orders

Three Beers.

Finally, a week later, the bartender broaches the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers?"

"Tis odd, isn't it?" the man replies. "You see, I have two brothers, and one went to America, and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond."

The bartender and the whole town were pleased with this answer, and soon the "Man Who Orders Three Beers" became a local celebrity and source of pride to the hamlet, even to the extent that out-of-towners would come to watch him drink.

Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender pours them with a heavy heart. This continues for the rest of the evening. He orders only two beers. The word flies around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers.

The next day, the bartender says to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer condolences to you for the death of your brother. You know-the two beers and all."

The man ponders this for a moment, then replies, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, me-self, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."



Upcoming Club Events

- April 1 Club Meeting, 7:30pm, Jean & Carol Caron's
- April 20 Annual Garage Tour, more details to follow
- May 6 Club Meeting, 7:30pm, Bill & Fern Sullivan's

WEST CAR SERVICE
(1996) Ltd.

330 Stanley St.
(Just 3 blocks west of Higgins Ave. & Main St.)

Specializing in
VOLVO REPAIRS
VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS



947-2656

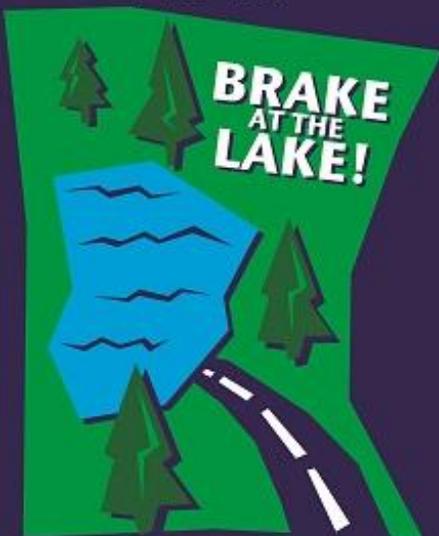


Chrome - Copper - Nickel
Brass - Gold
Black Chrome

MANUEL & NELSON

Unit 502
1500 Dublin Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3R5
Phone: (204) 779-7151
Fax: (204) 779-7152
1-800-661-6787
www.thechromepit.com
email: tcp02@mts.net

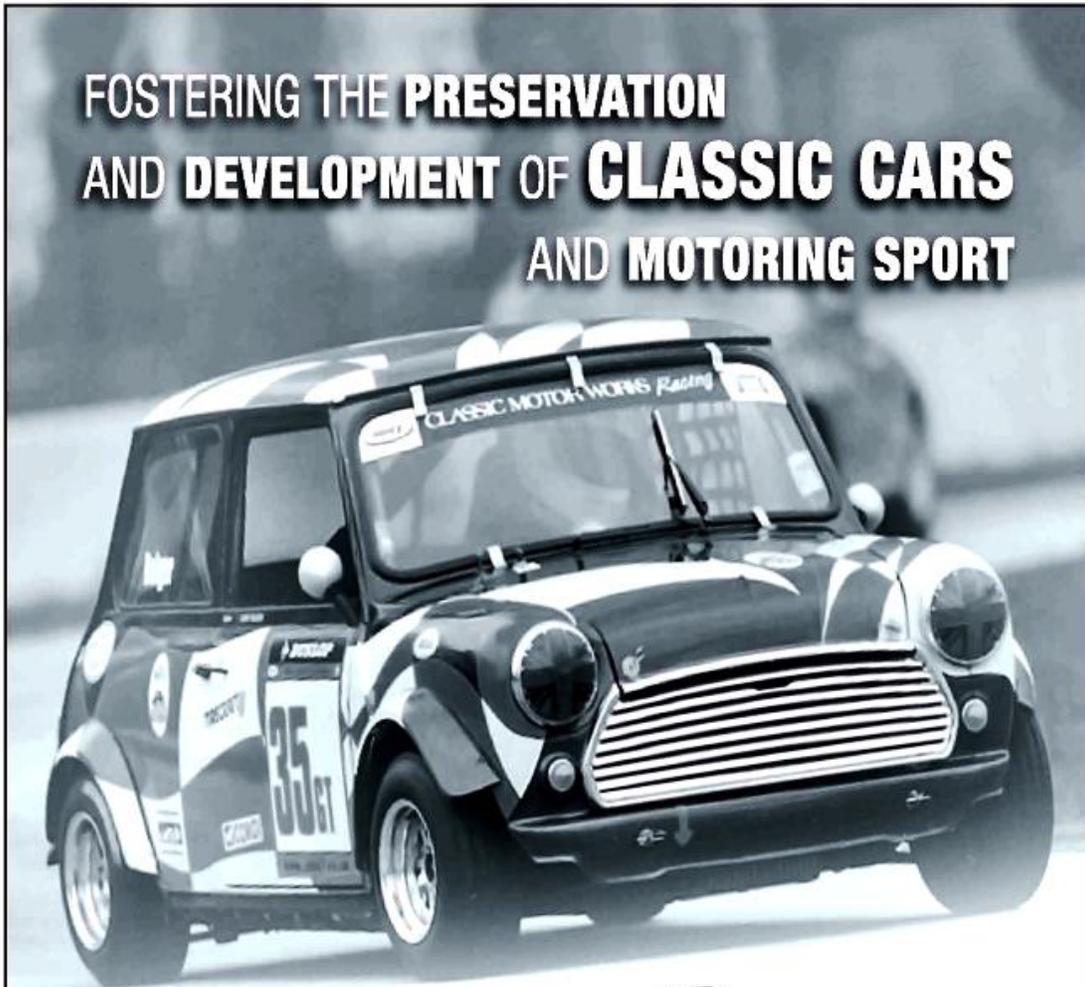
RENDEZVOUS
2013



BRAKE
AT THE
LAKE!

GRAND RAPIDS
MINNESOTA

FOSTERING THE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CLASSIC CARS AND MOTORING SPORT



OUR PRODUCTS

Parts for: Austin-Healey, Mini,
MG, Triumph, Sunbeam, Jaguar.

Race Gear: Race suits, balaclava,
race shoes, driving gloves.

Safety Equipment: window nets,
belt systems, HANS Device, fuel cells.

OUR SERVICES

Engine re-building for
BMC A, B, C-series engines.

Front suspension king pin rebuilding
for MGB, Spridget, Big Healey.



CLASSIC MOTOR WORKS

10 Parrish Bay, St. Andrews, Manitoba, Canada R1A 3B2

Tel: (204) 334-2415

Toll Free: 1-800-533-9544

Fax: (204) 338-8312

Email: classicmotorworks@shaw.ca

Website: www.classicmotorworks.citymax.com