

Tech Session

TECH SESSION NOVEMBER 18—NATES SPRITE: We had a great turnout of OVAHC tinkerers for more work on the Nate Fyson Sprite. The group included Chris Wolfer, Richard Pratt, Gayle Loos, both Bernie and Ben Grabow, Dale Ballenger, Tim, Nate, and new helper Adam Higgason. It was great to see that in Nate's spacious and warm shop, we could all find a spot on the Sprite to work on without much interference to others. In general the Sprite is getting VERY close to being roadworthy. A few persistent issues still are giving us fits: the engine runs rough and will not pick up power (Tim still thinks it is the condenser), and the clutch still doesn't seem to release enough. The clutch slave cylinder was pressurized in reverse to try to get all the air bubbles out, the front and rear bumpers were attached, the seat belts were installed, the seats were installed, the throttle pedal was installed (with bolts that miss the exhaust pipe), the radio and speakers were prepared for installation, the new fuel pump installed (seems to work much better). With a new battery and alternator we were hoping for a smooth startup and running –



but still needs some sorting next time. Chris helped as much as possible with a bad knee, and of course Dale injured himself (but not enough for Tim to try out his amateur surgery technique). Nate as usual had the donuts, coffee, delicious home-made tomato juice, Subway sandwiches and assorted drinks for the crew. We'll miss his shop in Latonia when we finally get the Sprite done!



Future OVAHC tech sessions will primarily be scheduled for Tuesdays – call Tim at [513-528-3232](tel:513-528-3232) or email hugcrv@fuse.net to schedule help on your Austin Healey. After Thanksgiving we will either work on the Duffey head or the Weckenbrock oil leak.

The OVAHC tech team (Richard, Dale, Skip & Tim) had a short session yesterday, 12/5/17, at the Jim Weckenbrock hangar. Although the hangar seems partially empty without a plane, we had plenty on the list to work on. Jim got a lot of enjoyment out of his BRG BG8 in Michigan lake/cottage country this past summer. As usual, a number of items on the Healey stopped cooperating. We addressed a massive oil leak from a failed oil pressure gauge hose – but Jim had a new replacement hose which was relatively easy for Tim & Dale to fit. Richard also straightened out the steering. Skip helped locate the bad fuse block contact that stopped the horn from working. Richard advised on the rear brake issues, no major problem. But we did decide to take the rear drums to Richard's shop for a balance check, and they only needed a minor grind of the heavy edge to bring them into good balance. As usual, we left Jim with a few items to finish himself with new transmission mounts and touch-up paint. He doesn't have the BJ8 center console and radio, so if anyone has one (or a good lead) for Jim, please contact him. 12/5/17, at the Jim Weckenbrock hangar.

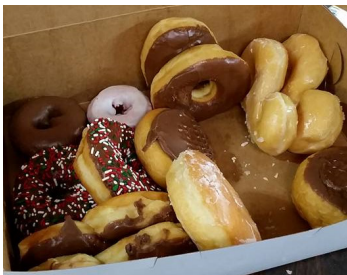


More Tech Sessions



At the Bob Duffey shop we took the head off his BJ7, looking for the problem with noise and low compression. Just as Mary Ann long suspected; "It's the piston(s)!" We found the #1 piston with a broken top ring that had spit pieces into the combustion chamber. Then, after lunch, we pulled all the other pistons – all but one had a broken top compression ring. So it was just a matter of time and miles before the other cylinders gave up. Luckily for Bob, all the bores survived without noticeable scratching. When Richard, Don Klein and Bob measured the bores and pistons, the source of the problem became evident; the pistons were way too small in diameter for the bores, resulting in ma-

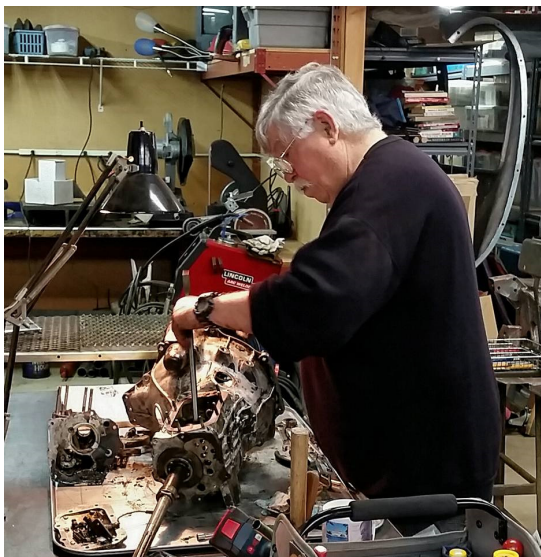
major piston slap, which caused the rings to wobble, fatigue and break. We also found some evidence of sloppy assembly of the rod bearing shells, but again the crankshaft rod journals felt smooth enough to just require a light polish and precise measuring for a new set of bearings. Thanks to Richard, Tim, Don Klein, Bernie, Dale and Skip who braved the first snow of the season to help Bob Duffy.



On Friday, 12/15/17, the middle of the "Big Week" OVAHC tech team sessions, the

group of Richard, Bernie, Tim, Skip, and Adam met at the shop of Jake Jacobs to disassemble three rib-case Sprite transmissions. Two of the rebuilt trans will be going to the Japan Austin-Healey Club per Jake, and one will be for a Chris Wolfer spare. As

we worked on the disassembly, we found that all three had badly worn/chipped first gears, which will need to be replaced. Also one of the transmissions was evidently from a 948 engine according to the different bearings. As we intend to end up with three essentially new transmissions, all the bearings, seals, gaskets, and synchronizer rings will be replaced. We had three separate work stations that Jake had set up for us, this kept the three sets of parts separated. We took all the disassembled parts to the Jeff Porada shop to be cleaned. And Jeff will also place the Moss order for the replacement parts.



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We are nearly done with the Sprite restoration. Just finishing up the final details: heater air hose, clutch line rerouting and bleeding (this time with partial success), windshield washer hose installation, bonnet attachment and adjustments. Richard will revise / fabricate the hood latch pin to be a little longer. Thanks to Don Klein for coming by Saturday to find the distributor issues and fix them so the motor runs great. Chris and Richard are finishing the radio and speaker wiring and it will be mounted shortly. We are down to the "last" adjustments and ready for a road test!



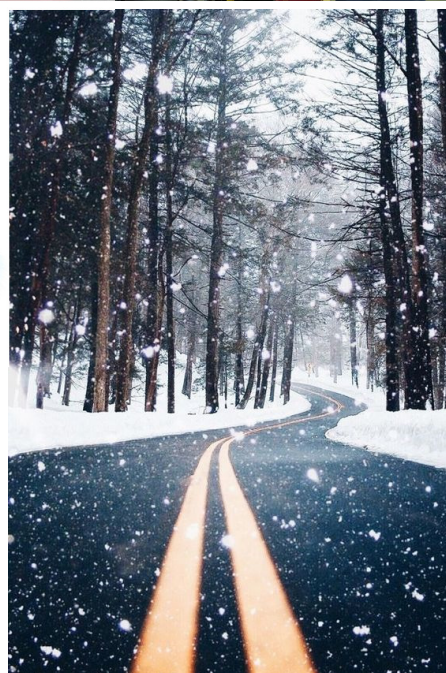
This is the last OVAHC tech session of the year, we had nearly 2 dozen sessions in 2017. The biggest accomplishments were the completion of the Ben Grabow 3000, and all the work to nearly finish Nate Fuson's Sprite. As you can see from the photos, Nate's car will be impressive!

One of the photos is the "Christmas Card" image of the OVAHC tech team (except it is missing two other stalwarts: Gayle Loos and Bob Merten). From Left to right are Bernie Grabow, Tim Ross, Dale Ballinger, Nate Fuson, Chris Wolfer and our fearless technical leader Richard Pratt.

Next year we will disassemble the spare Chris Wolfer rib-case Sprite transmission and get the parts in from Moss thru Jacobs / Porada and then work on the reassembly. I'm open for calls on other Healey work from club members. Thanks to all tech team members who got the tech requests done when the Ross's were gone on their vacations. Regards - Tim Ross



No more tech sessions until
2018..enjoy the holidays!!!



A note from AHCA,
If your members receive an
invoice after they paid their
dues, tell them it is ok to
ignore the AHCA invoice.
Deadline for dues payment is
1/15/2018.



CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____
Last First Spouse

ADDRESS _____ AHCA # _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____ + _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____

E-MAIL _____

CAR INFO _____
(New member or any changes) Year Type Serial #

The Ohio Valley Austin - Healey Club chapter of the Austin - Healey Club of America dues are \$65 per calendar year. Members receive via mail the printed **Healey Marque** award-winning AHCA magazine. In addition, members receive via e-mail *The OVAHC Newsleak* with local information about the Ohio Valley Austin- Healey Club activities.

Everyone is encouraged to attend our Greater Cincinnati area monthly meetings and join us for other activities. These include drives, tech sessions, a picnic, the Christmas party, and more. Our goals are to promote friendship and to preserve and enjoy the Healey cars. Ownership is not required. Deadline for annual renewal is January 15 of each year. Please make your check payable to OVAHC and mail with a completed application to the membership officer:

Sandy Ballinger
10179 Russwill Lane
Union, KY 41091-9572
SLB96RIVA@yahoo.com
(859) 384-1345

Membership application can be completed with a credit card on the Austin-Healey Club of America web site www.healeyclub.org/join-membership and choose our club: OVAHC.

If you desire to have the printed edition of *The OVAHC Newsleak* mailed to you,
Please contact: Jake Jacobs: Business Manager at 513-509-6038.

Bucket List item checked

In mid October, Don Klein received a message posted on our website from Brian Davis in Washington, DC stating that his 72 yr old father had a 100/4 over 50 yrs ago and is always saying he'd always hoped to drive an Austin Healey again. The family was having Thanksgiving get together in Mason and the son was asking if there was a club member that was willing to surprise his dad and let him drive one again.

I emailed Brian and after a few emails everything was set up to surprise his Dad the day after Thanksgiving in Mason. That day, Eileen and I pulled in the driveway and Brian went inside to get his Dad who came out and immediately broke out with the biggest smile I had seen in a while! He spent the next 5 minutes looking at every part of the car and sitting in both seats. His wife came out and started crying after seeing how excited he was. I took him out for a good long get familiar again drive and on the way back asked if he wanted to drive. He said he'd love to but declined as he had no feeling in bottom of his foot. So wound up driving him around some more and also gave rides to his wife, sons, and grandkids. During the ride, we also came across an XK-140 with the top down and waved. Jim Davis, who resides in WV, is all smiles and grateful to his son Brian for arranging his surprise. Brian told me he just typed in Austin Healey Cincin-





You may pay at the January, February, or March OVAHC meetings or mail this order form before 3/10/18 with check payable to OVAHC to:

Lauren Wallace
6824 Treeridge Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45244

Hello OVAHC members,

We will need workers in September when we host September Roundup in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. I propose we offer special show shirts to our members at a price near costs. Twenty-five bucks apiece! The regular Polo shirts on the registration form will still be available for \$30 until September 1. All shirts below will have the logo shown above on the left breast area. If you already paid, you can change it and get a rebate.

And, why can't the OVAHC wear reddish or maroon instead of green? Men with stripes, and ladies fashion, and the Polo shirts too? You can choose the color and style in your size. I want to sell these in early 2018 (deadline to order and pay is 3/15/2018) for only \$25 each to our OVAHC members who want them. Delivery in April, then we can wear them to Springthing etc. \$2 more for XXL or \$4 more for XXXL.

Sport-Wick® Polo. ST654 100% poly

Green with accents



Ag

True red w/accents



Atr

Black/red/white



Ab

K8000 all cotton

Green Glen and Maroon Polo shirts



Bgg



Bm

Ladies Polo shirts

LK8000

Green Glen and Maroon



Cgg



Cm

ALL styles below are 100 % Cotton

LPC450VLS

Forest Green & Cardinal



Dfg



Dc

Ladies fashion tee shirts

LPC54S

Athletic Maroon Kelly



Eam



Ek

Name _____ choices & sizes _____