



# WingNotes

*"There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October."* - Nathaniel Hawthorne

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**Regional Meeting  
October 12 at  
Aurelio's Addison**



Eileen and Gary Weitzel (Minnesota Club) preparing to head to the grid at Road America



# BCU BRITISH CAR FESTIVAL

September 10, 2023



Tom, Gary, John, and Barb



John, Gale, and Clarence



Nancy and Kim



The weather was perfect for the festival. There was a very good showing of both Big Healeys and Sprites and many members were on hand for the event.

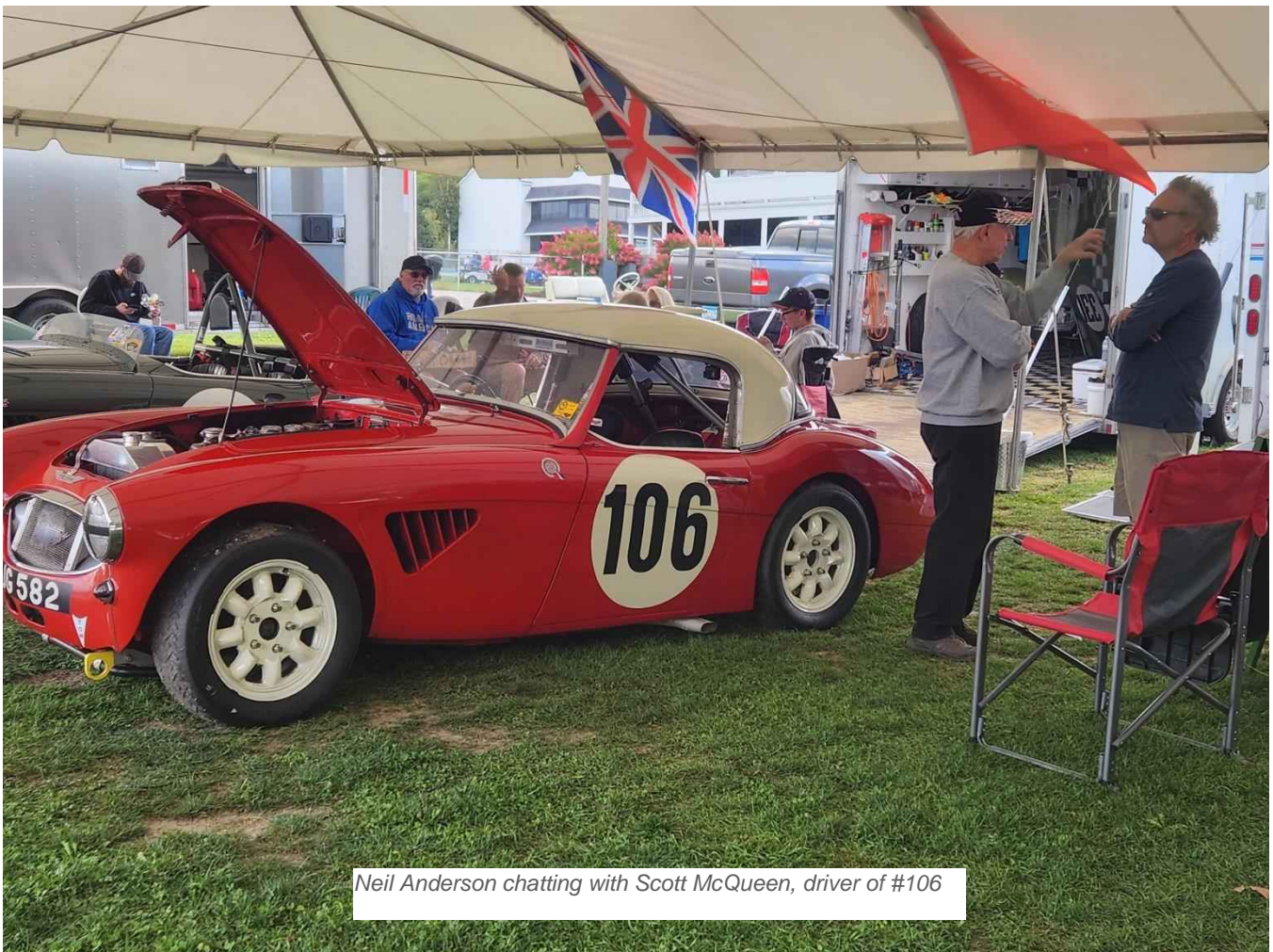


## Vintage Weekend with VSCDA at Road America Bill Cantrall

It had been raining for many hours when Neil and I left my house to head for Road America. Mission: Conclave 24! -- to meet up with Wisconsin and Minnesota club members and the Minnesota racer contingent. As we headed down the new and temporary(?) entrance ramp to I 294 from Ogden Avenue, neither of us noticed the two feet of water that had collected at the bottom! Let's just say we were quite lucky to have not been in the BJ-8!

At some point in Milwaukee, the sky started to clear, and it was sunny but partly cloudy when we got to the track, which was just in time to watch a race along the back straight. After having a "brat break," we headed into the paddock to meet up with everyone.

Anyway, it was a great afternoon of meeting people, talking, watching races, shopping, and enjoying a celebratory refreshment. Neil will be reporting to us the success of the trip, as all seem to be quite excited by the plans to start off Conclave week (September 2024) with racing at Road America!



Neil Anderson chatting with Scott McQueen, driver of #106



**For Sale!**  
**1960 Bt7 Mk1**

full frame off restoration, multiple award winner.

Same ownership for the past 38 years.

special features : aluminum cylinder head, Carillo rods,  
Venolia 10.5 compression pistons header,  
alloy flywheel, Bj8 clutch, brakes and high lift cam.

red over white/ white spoke wheels. comes with fitted white  
soft top and side curtains

\$62K

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## **Elections for 2024 Gale Fabisch**

Elections will be held at the November 9 regular meeting. If you cannot attend you may cast an absentee ballot (once) on November 9 via email.

The following positions will be filled based on the election results. Most of the positions will be filled by the incumbents. If you wish to be on the ballot for any of these positions, please let me know prior to or on November 9. Anyone can run against an incumbent.

Regional Director: Gale Fabisch

Vice Regional Director - Programs: James Gruber

Deputy Regional Director - Driving Events: Bill Cantrall

Deputy Regional Director - Membership: **VACANT**

Deputy Regional Director – Newsletter Editor: Bill Cantrall

Treasurer: Bill Kowalski

Secretary: Kim Ladwig/shared with Gayle Mrock.

### **The following positions are appointed by the Regional Director:**

AHCA Delegate: Dan Samyn

Future 50: Andrew Flaws

RC Car Bodies Shipping Agent: Tom Hartman

BCU Rep: Chuck Ladwig

Event Coordinator: Chuck Ladwig

If anyone has any questions, please contact me via email at: [gwfabisch@gmail.com](mailto:gwfabisch@gmail.com).

## What's the point of points when the points don't break because the points is broke?\*

Matt Krajniak

I had some trouble with the Healey on the way to and from the meeting in September. It was driving fine, but then seemed to be losing power. As I'd come to a stop light, it felt like it just wasn't running on all 6 cylinders, and didn't idle smoothly. The problem was intermittent at first, but was getting worse, so before long I pulled off to see what was



Close up of the broken rubbing block

what.

I couldn't find anything obvious, so pulled out the feeler gauge (I always have my tool kit with me) and set the points just to rule that out. I'd recently replaced the Pertronix Ignitor with points after a separate ignition failure--that one turned out to be a failure of the carbon brush inside the cap, but I was planning to switch to negative ground anyway so I left the points in place (Pertronix units are polarity sensitive). Off I went.

Within a half mile, there was more trouble. Bad condenser maybe? But the points weren't out of spec when I just checked them.... Coil? The coil wire? It had to be something affecting all 6 since it was now running poorly while moving too, and getting more pronounced.

Finally, I pulled the cap again and found the issue. The points are held down by a 5/16" nut. That also attaches them to the condenser and the line coming in from the distributor (when the points open, that line from the distributor has nowhere to go, so it loses its ground and it causes the coil to fire through the new path of least resistance... the spark plug). If the nut is loose, it allows those connection points to be loose as well. They can separate and lose contact, or even make contact with the post inside the distributor causing a short. That's the same as having the points closed when they aren't supposed

to be--so it would prevent cylinders from firing randomly. Got it! Everything worked perfectly from that moment for the rest of the drive.

Now after the meeting, there was to be

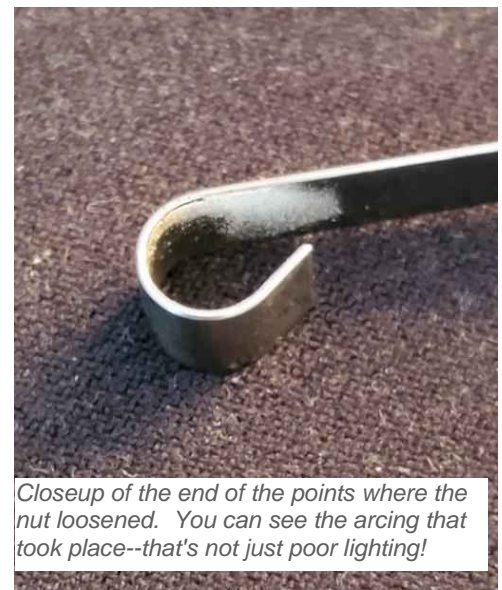
trouble again. Neil Anderson offered to follow me most of the way home since it was on his way anyway. Everything was running wonderfully as I cruised at 70 MPH, but then suddenly stopped with a loud backfire on the side of I-88! We went through some checks while Neil helped with a flashlight (by now it was well after dark). Power here, continuity there... but it looked like the points weren't opening now. It's hard to see when not blown up in a close-up photo like this one, but the rubbing block on the points snapped. In a couple decades of owning numerous British cars and driving very frequently in all of them, I've never seen that bit fail.

Like a good LBC enthusiast, I keep a spare set of points in the boot. It was a used set that I didn't completely trust, but at least it wasn't broken. After 10 minutes or so the engine was once again singing and I was back to cruising home. The points are still in place since I was side tracked with a leaking clutch master and a voltage control box that went on strike... but now that those issues are sorted there's an XR 3000 electronic ignition waiting to take their spot.

\*(apologies from your editor)



The points that caused so much trouble in 1 evening.



Closeup of the end of the points where the nut loosened. You can see the arcing that took place--that's not just poor lighting!





## Photo Report from the UK Chuck Ladwig



### Lakeland Automobile Museum

Explore our fascinating collection of over 30,000 exhibits that trace the development of road transport throughout the twentieth century - cycles, motorbikes, motor cars and automobilia. Housed in a converted mill in the heart of the Lake District, we're minutes from Lake Windermere.

Much more than just a motor museum, our local history and period shopping displays, authentic recreations and picturesque riverside cafe makes it a great day out for the whole family.





**Meeting Notes from September 14, 2023**  
**Gayle Mrock**

> Attendees: Dan and Joan Anderson, Neil Anderson, Bill Cantrall, Brendan Casey, Gale Fabisch, Ken Gaborek, Tom Hartman, Matt Krajniak, John and Gayle Mrock, Bob Pelen, Dan Samyn, John Schroeder, and Gary Springer

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> Gale opened the meeting reporting that we currently have \$10,921.11 in our treasury as recently reported by Bill Kowalski. He went on to thank Gary Springer and his crew for putting together the annual picnic, a good time was had by all! He also said a few words about the Geneva Concours, which was held the day following the picnic. Congratulations to our club member, Dan Samyn, who was presented with the SCCA Street Sports Car Award of Excellence for his Black BJ8! Also, Congratulations to Chuck and Kim Ladwig, and John and Gayle Mrock who both received Best in Class Awards at the BCU held last Sunday at Harper College!

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> Bill Cantrall gave a membership report. Andrew Flaws joined the club. Bill also noted that there are some inconsistencies in membership reporting. Currently we have several lifetime members; Edie Anderson, Jeannette Blanck, and Ernest and Gail Rysso. 2024 renewals will start in December. Bill also requested that if you include photos along with your Wing Notes submissions, please do not send the photos imbedded in the text of the article. Also, include captions if possible.

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> Neil Anderson gave a brief update on the 2024 Conclave. The Wisconsin Planning Committee is working on the website, hoping to have registration open by month end. The 2024 British Race Car Festival in Elkhart Lake will immediately precede the Conclave, ending on Saturday, with the Conclave opening day on Sunday. The planning committee hasn't made any assignments yet for assisting clubs, but we may be penciled in for the car show. Neil also announced, although not finalized, the 2025 Conclave will possibly be held in Branson, Missouri. Neil also shared that after many years of being inoperable, Warren and Jeanne Gallinger's son worked to get their car running again. They have made the most of their reborn car! They made the trip to Florida for the Conclave in May, and recently won 1st place in the Rally at the Fall Roundup in Indiana!

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> Gary is working on putting together a mid-week, 3 day, 2 night, Fall Mini Tour for mid October. He projects it would be around a 600 mile drive, visiting several interesting car museums in Indiana, Michigan, and possibly Wisconsin. He is currently researching accommodations and museum information, and will share details soon.

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> Tom Hartman sold another race car body! Our profit is minimal due to the high cost of shipping, so instead of including shipping, we are considering changing our cost to \$35 plus shipping.

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> Matt Krajniak confirmed that he and his wife will host our Christmas Party, date to follow soon.

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> Lastly, Mike Flaws is looking for a pair of front spindles for his BJ 8.

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> Meeting adjourned.

## 2023 Midwest Region Events Calendar

*New Feature! Click on a contact person to start an email, click on an event link to go to a web page! (Thanks to Matt Krajniak for the request and Chuck Ladwig for the links and the events.)*

Please check with the event Point Person to make sure the event has not been cancelled or rescheduled.

### Healey "Pop-Up" Events

In addition to our Club Calendar, we are going to have some pop-up events throughout the year. A "pop-up" event is a low-key get-together where everyone is welcome, but no one knows who is coming till they show up! To be more specific, a week or so prior to the event, an email invitation will be sent out announcing the event. All members are invited to attend. Additionally, any member may initiate a pop-up event. Feel free to contact Chuck Ladwig [1960ah3000@gmail.com](mailto:1960ah3000@gmail.com) for any assistance in coordinating this event.

10/07	Midwest Tech Session Sugar Grove	<a href="#">Matt Krajniak</a>
10/12	Midwest Region Meeting Aurelio's Addison	<a href="#">Gale Fabisch</a>
11/04	Midwest Tech Session Sugar Grove	<a href="#">Matt Krajniak</a>
11/09	Midwest Region Meeting Aurelio's Addison	<a href="#">Gale Fabisch</a>
11/23 (Thanksgiving Day)	Gathering at the Rock Science & Industry Museum	<a href="#">Gale Fabisch</a>
12/02	Midwest Tech Session Sugar Grove	<a href="#">Matt Krajniak</a>