

VP Safety/SEMA Report
Jeff Porada

As the VP of Safety, I've answered any questions about safety and requirements for running events. I've also attended events when possible. I continue to believe that the best thing you can do to be safe driving your Healey on the road is to participate in gymkhanas. Gymkhanas are a safe environment to learn all about your car. What does it feel like when it starts to slide? At what point am I no longer in control? What speeds are actually ok for a corner? At what speed is it safe to swerve around an object? If I could, I would make it a requirement for all drivers on the road before they have a license, but unfortunately, the government hasn't asked me yet.

AHCA is also a proud member of SEMA. Being a member basically means we help support them in all they do for us as enthusiasts. When the government does something either not thinking about its effect on collector cars or possibly intentionally to dissuade them, SEMA helps represent all of us in fighting that.

This year, I've also had a couple of extra tasks I'm working on. The first is a Sprite Registry. At the Florida Conclave, I was approached by a gentleman asking why AHCA has a registry for the other models, but not Sprites. I told him that the other people volunteered to make them and that no one has offered for Sprites. He graciously said he'd do it. I presented this to the officers and we voted to approve Howard Collins to be in charge of the Sprite Registry. He has filled out the appropriate forms agreeing that the information will be available to AHCA and that we will receive updates. He's agreed to all of our policies and has been reaching out to the other registrars for their help before setting everything up.

I was also approached by several "young people" at that Conclave saying that they wanted to start a group of the younger people interested in Healeys and wanted me involved. I've since been to several events and talked with a decent amount of people about this idea and everyone has been excited about it. It's still in the planning stages, but the idea is to have all of the younger Healey people talking about what they'd like to see. By young, we're talking about people under 50. Many are considerably younger. I met 2 Americans who were much younger than myself at the European Healey meet who were there with their fathers, have much interest, and work on the cars as well. My local club has 5-6 younger couples in it. The group of young people I was approached by at Conclave was from Atlanta. Being in the parts and restoration business for British cars, I see more young owners than we generally get to at our meetings and events. Many have talked about how they want to do the events I tell them about and are waiting to have time to participate. Most are busy with children and careers just waiting to have time to play with us.