

Tech Session - May 15, 2011

This year the tech session was once again hosted by Tim Phillip's BMC Repair located in West Bend. Despite the cold rainy weather we had a very good turnout for Tim's tech session.

The guest of honor was Don O'Connor, from Illinois, and his blue Healey. Tim had Don's car partially disassembled and he used it as his demonstrator for the many dos and don'ts related to restoring Austin Healey's. Don and his father had restored this car many years ago and now it is in the process of being freshened up by Tim.

One interesting note is that Don's car was originally from somewhere in Europe and was later imported into the United States. This is evident because the plate on the firewall lists the car's weight in Kilograms.

Dennis Ricchio must be recognized for being the only member to arrive in a Healey. Way to go Dennis!

We had about seventeen members (apprentice mechanics) quizzing Tim and letting him share some of his knowledge and expertise gained from a lifetime of working on Austin Healey's.

He covered many timely and relevant topics including:

- Squaring up drum brake shoes with the axel and the drum to get 100% of the braking surface to work when you push on the brake pedal.
- How to restore the factory new look to the various knobs and buttons on your dash board.
- How to convert positive ground cars to negative ground.
- Testing for worn shock absorbers and steps involved in replacing them.
- How important the front air dams are that go between the grill opening and the radiator.
- Updating and improving both front and rear suspension components.
- What to look for and how to repair electrical problems caused by a bad ground from the battery.
- Causes and cures for the dreaded "Scuttle Shake" that typically occurs around 60 mph.

In addition to Tim's presentation/discussion, several members shared ideas on keeping engine and exhaust heat out of the passenger compartments.

Local representatives from British Car Field Days and from Masterpiece were also on hand to promote their events this summer.

Once all the questions were answered it was off to lunch and more Healey discussions.

Thanks Tim for one of the best Tech Sessions we have had.

By: Fred Fleischmann