

To the British Marque: (Hey Ed. – please note the president change to Gary Brierton)  
02/11/06

The Triad Austin-Healey Club wrapped up a very busy year with our annual Christmas Party on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2006 at “The Depot at Cody Creek” restaurant. This growing restaurant/retreat near Dobson, NC was an excellent place to meet and eat. There is a huge restaurant, an olde tyme general store and a meeting hall (under construction). Some of us initially thought the announced “4:00 pm to 6:00 pm” dinner time was unusual. However, as the 20 of us got seated and started to enjoy our meal, we saw this huge crowd of prospective diners gathering in the lobby, on the front porch, in parked cars, waiting out on the highway, etc! Had we arrived any later, we would still be there, waiting for our table. In attendance were, Jack & Ann O’Brien, Jon & Paula Saylor, Melvin & Jane Reece, Bruce & Tina Younts, Bill & Lynne Poteat, Fred & Karen Patrick, Jerry & Micki Metscher, Jerry & Carolyn Anderson, Mike Brow, Harold Arrowood and Gary Brierton.

After our meal, outgoing President Jack O’Brien passed out the Triad AHCA annual awards. “Competitors of the Year” went to Paula and Jon Saylor. The George Crombie Hard Luck Award went to Tina and Bruce Younts, who collected a deer with their new Mini-S; the Mini lost her windshield and top, the deer lost it’s life but our heroes were uninjured. Then the Member of the Year Award went to...the entire Triad membership for their enormous effort at hosting Carolina Conclave 2005. This huge event drew over 250 Healeys and about 600 people to Winston-Salem! Incoming President Gary Brierton thanked the club for their support and predicted an action-packed new year.

Speaking of Conclave, our Triad Club has turned most of the proceeds from that event into three charitable donations. There was a \$5000 donation to the Children’s Home, Inc. in Winston-Salem (see British Marque Jan./Feb.). Then two \$2500 scholarship funds were established; one at the Guilford Technical Community College and one at the Forsyth Technical Community College. The scholarships will assist one student each year who is pursuing a career in an automobile related field.

On Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Triad Club met to plan and plot activities for 2006. There was a great deal of interest in having more Saturday morning, informal breakfast get-togethers. These may be followed by short tours among those who brought their cars. Further ideas included adopting a stretch of road, having a picture opportunity at one of the local airplane museums, inviting guest speakers, participating in local Cruise-ins, etc. There was also some discussion of improving communication within the club by updating the web site and gathering all members e-mail addresses to use for announcements. The monthly meeting will continue to be on the first Monday of each month, rain or shine.