

# HEALEY HEARSAY

Official Publication of the

*Austin-Healey*

Club of San Diego

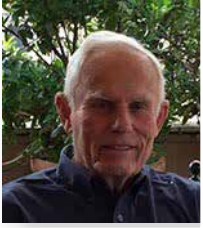
**WE'RE  
DENTED....  
BUT  
NOT DONE**

## In This Issue:

- July 8 Virtual ZOOM Club Meeting 6:30PM
- MAYBE...July 13 Club Drive To Mt. Soledad

July 2020

## From The Editor:



**T**he front cover, in my mind, reflects the status of the club. And there is little that can be done about it. This issue will be brief as we hopefully wait for better days...It would be nice if the Mt Soledad drive materializes.

Living in the back country, it's easy for me to forget we are still in the midst of the pandemic. I live where there's plenty of room. In my case, I go outside, move around, do whatever I'm doing without a thought of a mask or social distancing, because there's not another person, other than family, about. My youngest son Nathan and his family live down the road. My other son, Derek, lives across the valley. I can see their homes from the deck. And we are as one family. It's very pleasant island in a contentious world...It's easy to be spoiled and forget that many urbanites live within twenty feet or less from their neighbors, who could have the "plague". In times like these, family is everything, as it should always be. And I am humbly grateful for mine...

I subscribe to the Austin Healey Car Forum, as I'm sure many of you do. The Forum is a strange mixture of human nature, Healey hearsay, wishful thinking, and lost dreams... An entrant had purchased a new steel gas tank for his BJ8 to replace the original that had rusted out inside and outside. The key words here are *rusted... outside*. At this point I'm wondering why he didn't consider aluminum. We'll soon see...

As I have mentioned before, my Healey had about fifteen years of being just transportation. It was not treated badly, always under cover or garaged, but just wheels to get somewhere. About 1980, I noticed a puddle of petrol underneath the exposed part of the tank. I removed everything in the trunk, er *boot*. The floor of the boot that was still able to hold liquid was a gas puddle. The trunk lining was a wick, waiting for ignition for a trip to the moon.

It should be noted here that outside rust on Healey gas tanks, and boot floors, is caused by the little rubber bumpers in three places on the lower lip of the trunk opening. When these fall or knocked out, the lower lip becomes a rain gutter collecting all the rain and car

*Continued on pg.4*



**HEALEY HEARSAY** is the official monthly publication of the **AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB OF SAN DIEGO**. Monthly members' meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. The location varies, and is announced by email, in this newsletter, and on our web site, [www.sdhealey.org](http://www.sdhealey.org).

### Membership Information

Membership in the Austin Healey Club of San Diego is open to all owners of Austin Healey, Jensen Healey, or any other Healey vehicles, and to anyone else who is interested in the Healey marque. Annual dues for the Austin Healey Club of San Diego are \$30 per household. Visit our web site, [www.sdhealey.org](http://www.sdhealey.org), or contact our Membership Coordinator, Don Benke 619-778-1680 [dgbenke@cox.net](mailto:dgbenke@cox.net) for details and an application.

### 2020 AHCS Board Members

**President-** Howard Stark - [hjsmentor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hjsmentor@sbcglobal.net) 619-519-4250  
**VP- Membership-** Don Benke 619-778-1680 [dgbenke@cox.net](mailto:dgbenke@cox.net)  
**Secretary-** Lisa Mandell - [lisa.mandell14@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.mandell14@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer-** Sandy Leon - [leoncpa@cox.net](mailto:leoncpa@cox.net) 619-224-1393  
**HH Editor-** Warren Voth 619) 368-3895 - [vothstir@aol.com](mailto:vothstir@aol.com)  
**Activities-** Lou Galper- [lgalper1@cox.net](mailto:lgalper1@cox.net)-619-287-0626

### Special Staff

**CotY Recorder-** Rick Snover- [ricksnover@earthlink.net](mailto:ricksnover@earthlink.net)  
**Web Master-** Rick Snover - [sdhealey\\_admin@sdhealey.org](mailto:sdhealey_admin@sdhealey.org)  
**Delegate, Austin Healey Club of America-**  
Vacant - Contact any AHCS board member  
**Representative, San Diego British Car Club Council-**  
Alternates - Howard Stark and Don Benke  
**Representatives, Car Club Council of Greater San Diego-**  
Doc McAllister - [robertmcallister1@cox.net](mailto:robertmcallister1@cox.net)  
Udo Putzke - [ah1103putzke@gmail.com](mailto:ah1103putzke@gmail.com)

### Advertising Information

Classified Ads (Market Place) are free to members. Classifieds for items wanted or small items for sale are free to nonmembers, too. Ads may be placed any time. Submit artwork and payment to the Treasurer. Annual display ad and monthly nonmember "Car For Sale" classified ad rates are as follows:

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Full page 8"x 10.5".....       | \$ 150.00 per year |
| Half page 5"x 8".....          | \$ 100.00 per year |
| Quarter page.....              | \$ 75.00 per year  |
| Business card.....             | \$ 50.00 per year  |
| Non mem.- 1/4 pg. up to 3 mos. | \$50.00- 3 mos.    |

All advertising and articles for publication must be submitted to the editor no later than the 20th of each month for publication in the next month's issue. ([vothstir@aol.com](mailto:vothstir@aol.com))

**On The Cover:** *About 6 months ago, the garage door opening moved as I was backing out for a drive, and creased my right rear fender.*

Visit our web site at <http://www.sdhealey.org>



Hello and Happy 4th of July

I hope everyone has a safe and happy 4th. It is unfortunate we have been unable to assemble for such a long time or have any club events. We were hoping to be able to get together for a BBQ and celebrate July 4th, but unfortunately gathering has been difficult with constraints and restaurant closures. I am sorry that we will not be able to have our annual party. I have great memories of past Healey Club 4th of July get togethers. I especially enjoyed Warren firing his cannon. I miss gathering with friends, BBQing and social occasions. It appears most fireworks displays have been cancelled and I expect I will be watching them on television staying safe. That's not all that exiting, but we all have to be flexible and safe.

I spoke with webmaster Rick and asked if he would be willing to set up and notify club members regarding having a virtual ( ZOOM ) club meeting on July 8th at 6:30 PM. He will send out a notification with some comments about getting set up to join the meeting. This will enable us to spend a little time together and see and hear everyone. We'll have a general membership meeting and discuss the next few months of event possibilities. Thank you Rick!

I am hoping we can schedule a club drive, maintaining safe distancing. There have been some local planning discussions to take a drive to Mt. Soledad where there is plenty of space to social distance and visit this wonderful memorial of those who gave their lives for our country. The monument is inspiring and the view from up there is great. This drive is mentioned in the activity calendar. We will talk more about possibilities at our Virtual meeting on July 8th. We were thinking a local drive would be best. Temperatures are great for a fun run drive, although who knows what will happen with lock downs in the coming weeks due to the Corona Virus

I have been in communication with the British Car Club Council (BCCC) and understand the Port Authority will not allow any events in October, so with that said, British Car Day has been cancelled. The BCCC is looking into the possibility of having British Car Day and Rolling British Car Day as a two day event in 2021. I will keep you informed as plans solidify.

Best regards and Happy Summer  
Howard Stark

washings that sheet off the rear shroud, directly to the boot floor, thus helping our Healeys return to mother earth, from whence they came...

At that time, Healey distributor, Westcott Motors, in National City, where we purchased the Healey 1n 1967, was still selling the last of it's Healey original stuff. Of course, gas tanks were out of the question by then. I did find one for sale, from a guy who had two used tanks in "great condition". I recall the price was \$800. That was serious money in 1980.

I friend suggested a guy on Cuyamaca street in Santee that made custom gas tanks for hot rodders. I showed my tank to him. He said he could duplicate it, but not before I had Kirk's Radiator Shop boil the tank out. He said come back with the tank and the receipt from Kirk's as proof that I did it. He didn't want to be the first welder on the moon either.

A short time later, I had a very nice tank that aligned and fit perfectly. And it only cost \$140. He had very professionally cut the gas line outlet, filler spout, sender cavity, and drain, and made them the part of the new tank, in just the right positions. This tank lasted until about 1999 when I had the engine redone, along with Udo's Bilstein shock conversion, new wire loom, and refurbished engine room while the engine was out. I had noticed that there was gas moisture on some of the seams in both ends of the tank. So I splurged and purchased a nice aluminum tank from Moss motors.

Thinking this was the end of my gas tank problems, I was enjoying my Healey with a great rebuild and a Denis Welch cam and other tricks. I thought it really scooted. I soon noticed strong fumes coming from the trunk. Removing the trunk lining, which was again soaked with petrol, my new aluminum gas tank was leaking... already...

The tank manufacturer had not pressure tested the finished tank. It was leaking at every point the baffles were heli-arc'd to the inside during manufacturing...The welds came through and I had installed a petrol sprinkling can in my boot. So I drained the tank and took it over to Kirk's Radiator shop for repair and pressure testing. Needless to say, I was not thinking good thoughts about Moss Motors about now. But to be fair, the tank and all welds looked sound when I installed it. Still, there's no excuse for not pressure testing. So it's been about twenty years and the tank is still sound. End of my story, I hope...And I hope to see you on Mt. Soladad on the 11th... Warren ■

*Going through the last three years of my editing, I saw this story, I did which is a good fit for sitting around for three months, waiting for the pandemic to go away, or at least be tamed. The kind of daydreaming we might do while waiting for better days, blue sky's and this curse to end...editor*

**M**y favorite catalogue is from the J. Peterman Company. You may be already thinking..."what does this have to do with Austin Healey's? Simple... Peterman's catalogue lead statement is "People want things that are hard to find. Things that have romance, but a factual romance, about them. He follows this with, "I had this proven to me all over again when people actually stopped me in the street (in New York, in Tokyo, in London) to ask me where I got the coat I was wearing." Change that to "the car I was driving."

In addition, the copy that goes with his catalogue items is romantic, but *factually so* (his words). The text reminds me of lines from an all time favorite movie, Casablanca with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. "We'll always have Paris," (*make that Warwick*). You know what's coming. And you can't get enough of it. I've lost count of how many times I've watched this chestnut. And it's a great incentive to travel...or maybe just get out and drive to Mt. Soladad on July 11...

Austin Healey's, are kind of like that. I'll prove it to you, (although I probably don't need to...) Several years ago, my Healey was hobbled and grazing in the Ralph's Rancho San Diego parking lot, while I was inside picking up a few victuals. When I returned, the following note was under the windshield, (opps...wind screen) blade... "Hi!...I just wanted you to know your car brought a smile to my face. My boyfriend had one of these in 1969-1970 and it was the first car I ever drove on the freeway. What a great machine... My cars' the clunker Honda next to your classic"... In my minds eye she left a photo and phone number attached to the note. In reality, her Honda had already left. Many of us, okay...maybe just a few of us... may have a similar story, or foggy fantasy.

You can bet your badge bar I would never have received this note if I was driving a Prius. Especially the new 2017 Prius Prime, which is powered with a suitcase sized battery. They seem designed and destined for urban life where transportation is a drudge getting you from your veal pen on the 24th floor to the latest show or trendy perch for the evening. And maybe by not driving at all.



### what the future brings

#### Austin Healey Club of San Diego 2020 CALENDER

**July 8** Virtual Zoom Club Meeting 6:30PM.  
Seperate email with information regarding  
Zoom and the virtual club meeting will be sent  
from Rick Snover

• **July / TBD** Drive to Mt Soledad; bring  
your own snacks; Social Distancing with masks  
and getting out for some fresh air and a Healey  
club driving event.  
This will be discussed at our virtual meeting.  
RSVP will be requested to finalize.

• **August**

1 Breakfast on the Bay -- tentative RSVP

• **September**

9 Monthly Meeting- based on restaurant guide-  
lines – to be announced  
11 El Cajon Cruise British Invasion - tentative

• **October**

14 Monthly Meeting-based on restaurant  
guidelines - to be announced  
24 **British Car Day has now been cancelled**  
-- Octoberfest – Club sponsored party – need  
Host volunteer

• **November**

11 Monthly Meeting and Board Elections- Vol-  
unteer for a position and Cast your Vote.

**December**

12 Holiday Party – More to follow  
31 New Year's in Abingdon 2pm to 4pm – Lo-  
cation to be announced

Revised: June 22 , 2020



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- TRIUMPH
- AUSTIN HEALEY
- SUNBEAM



Austin Healeys are designed for the rest of us who want our lives to be the way we *wished* they were... the open road, the mystery around the next bend, the mineral smell of hot Castrol, the hypnotic drone of a straight six, too close to our feet, starlight overhead and city lights in the distance... It's more fun to imagine ourselves on the Tulip Rallye or maybe just vanquishing the Alps with Pat Moss as navigator...chatting about the evenings stop, dinner with fellow re-counters, talk about the quality of the local wines..“the beginning of a beautiful friendship”, *gag, gag...yadda, yadda...*

While we may lament the spotty quality of our loved (*or cursed*) cars, it is the reason that they still retain cult status with Healey owners. What if they were like boring Toyota trucks? Would we not be rolling them over cliffs, just to get rid of them?

In a galaxy, in a parallel universe, far, far away, our cars might be called, Austin-Hillarys. They would only be available in certain colors. (Sorry. no BRG. Too elitist because everyone could not have one.) Clubs would be restricted to cars of a certain color only. There would be red car only clubs. And there would be blue car clubs. Some with government approved and allotted colored coves, (not of your choice.) They would all be powered with the infamous Trump 350HP double overhead cam, 4.6 litre, V-12 engine. You would never have to shut them off, *because they would never run out of gas.*

People would hate them. They would never rust. There would be riots in the streets over car color. False Austin-Hillary blogs would arise advocating their destruction, simply because there are too many of them. Fortunately, this was not to be the case...

Meanwhile, back on planet Earth, Healeys are being driven in the rain, left in the sun to dry the weather soaked leather upholstery. Unbeknown to their owners, rusting rocker panels were being packed with road grime, the trailing edges of the front fenders are now stuffed with silt and blacktop. Mud is now packed between the inner sills of the rear fender dog legs with rust waiting to burst through the surface. The rubber bumpers have fallen out of the lower trunk, (*please see page 2*) (oops...boot) opening lip allowing water to pour in and rust out the (oops again boot) floor and gas tank, at the same time. (The latter is a double bagger, which actually is adding value to the car you may own some day in the future.) Water pumps are not being lubed. Valves are not being timed. Armstrong shock absorbers are running dry. Frames


are rusting. All the while your future car is being driven like Sir Sterling Moss is in the cockpit. It's obvious to see how this works out, right...

As providence and British Layland have carefully planned, just the right amount of Healeys were to be saved from returning to the Queen's Earth as iron and aluminum oxide.

Moss Motors, Victoria British, Denis Welch, Southern Carburetor, Cape Restorations, etc. were providently formed to save the remaining relics of the Empire. Because “*People want things that are hard to find. Things that have romance, but a factual romance, about them.*” We mortals are now able to restore Austin Healeys from piles of rust, fallen in the dust of the Empire, from foot size holes in floor pans.

Overshadowing all are the Healey family, benevolently smiling down on us like saints, from Michaelangelo like frescoed panels in the Sistine Chapel. And there below are we, bathed in a warm, lovely golden light eternally fortified by their memory and the above mentioned after market suppliers, eternally cursing and praising our Healeys' who continually treat us like the Queens' serfs, even on good days.

Who said “predictions are difficult to make, especially about the future”? Lets hope it stays that way.

Makes you want to dust off your Healey, pack a picnic lunch and head for MT Soladad on July 13th, doesn't it... 

### ***We're All Members of the Activities Committee***

- Do you enjoy the club's events and drives?
- Do you know of a great place that SDAHc Members might enjoy?
- Do you want to share a favorite drive you've made in your Healey?
- Do you have a favorite luncheon or dinner place that would make a good venue for a SDAHc gathering?
- Think about sponsoring one of our monthly events.
- Please contact me to find out what's involved or just to talk about it.

**Lou Galper • 619-287-0626**  
**LGalper1@cox.net**

Austin-Healey Association of Southern California  
*presents*

# **CONCLAVE 2021**

## **BIG BEAR LAKE, CA**



I couldn't  
"bear" it if  
you didn't  
come to  
Conclave.



[www.conclave2021.com](http://www.conclave2021.com)

To: All AHCA Club Presidents and Newsletter Editors

From: Steve Kirby, President, Austin Healey Association  
Southern California  
Chairman, Conclave 2021



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to introduce myself and Conclave 2021. The Austin Healey Association of Southern California is pleased to have been chosen to host Conclave 2021. As president of the host club, the "honor" of chairing the event falls to me. I am happy and relieved to have the support of a seasoned team who run the Annual California Healey Week (for the last 45 years!), a similar get together. We are confident that we will put on a great event, but we need your help with the one thing we cannot control ..... attendance.

Conclave 2021 will be held at Big Bear Lake, CA. Many people think of Southern California as all flat desert, dry coastal hills and beach. Those who attend Conclave 2021 are going to see a different side of SoCal....pine forests, 5000+ foot mountains, blue lakes and even bluer skies. Located in the San Bernardino National Forest and only 90 minutes from Ontario International Airport, Big Bear couldn't be further from the urban sprawl of LA. Come enjoy the fresh, cool air, amazing driving roads and laid back, log cabin vibe in Big Bear!

Over the next several months we plan to introduce Conclave 2021 and Big Bear to your members through a series of ads and articles. We need your help getting this material out to the membership either via your newsletter or your email communications. Maybe you could put a link to the event website ([www.conclave2021.com](http://www.conclave2021.com)) on yours? How about starting to discuss a caravan to the event from your area?

The entire Conclave 2021 crew thank you in advance for your assistance and we look forward to seeing you in Big Bear next May.

Attached you will find the first teaser ads for you to use as you see fit. New material will be sent to you each month.

Thank you,

Steve Kirby  
President, AHASC and Conclave 2021 Chairman





# CAR OF THE YEAR (COTY) AWARD



To recognize Club members who participate with their Healeys, the Austin Healey Club of San Diego awards CAR OF THE YEAR (COTY) points for various activities. Opportunities to collect COTY points include any car-related events (shows, drives, rallies, etc.) sponsored by an official organization (other car clubs, auto museum, city chambers of commerce, charities, etc.) where you participate with your Healey. Events need not be listed in the Club's newsletter to earn points.

The participant is responsible for providing proof of participation (entrance fee receipt, photo, corroboration from other club members etc.) to the COTY Recorder, Rick Snover (619-980-4194 [ricksnover@earthlink.net](mailto:ricksnover@earthlink.net)) within 30 days after the event. AHCSO events will have a sign-in sheet that will be forwarded to the recorder. For members with multiple eligible vehicles, be sure to indicate which one(s) you drove.

COTY points currently approved by the Board are: AHCSO Meetings & Tech Sessions 4pts; AHCSO Driving Events, Parties, etc. 6pts; AHCSO Healeys on the Green 8pts; California Healey Week, Healey Rendezvous and Austin Healey Conclave 16pts; S.D. British Car Day and Rolling B.C.D. 10pts; other multi-day British-themed events 8pts; other multi-day events 4pts; other one-day British-themed events 4pts; other one-day events 2pts. Other non-Healey British-built cars earn half points, but are not eligible to win the award.

All points received during the year by all members will be worth a discount towards the purchase of AHCSO regalia during the subsequent year. The total point leader at the end of the year will receive the coveted CAR OF THE YEAR badge for display on their Healey for the following year.

## 2020 CotY Standings (as of June 20)

| Member           | Car                 | Pts | Member           | Car                     | Pts |
|------------------|---------------------|-----|------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Galper, L        | 1955 100 BN1        | 28  | Grundies, D & DS | 1965 3000 MKIII BJ8     | 8   |
| Benke, D & P     | 1967 3000 MKIII BJ8 | 18  | Humphreys, B & B | 1971 Jensen Interceptor | 8   |
| Voth, W          | 1966 3000 MKIII BJ8 | 18  | Graves, E        | 1962 3000 MKII BT7      | 6   |
| Court, J 1967    | 3000 MKIII BJ8      | 16  | Linnard, T & D   | 1966 3000 BJ8           | 6   |
| Putzke, U & G    | 1961 3000 MKII      | 16  | Polger, L & A    | 1966 3000 MKIII BJ8     | 6   |
| Matheus, E & S   | 1960 Sprite AN5     | 16  | Stalker, G & N   | 1955 100 BN1            | 6   |
| Stark, H & L     | 1960 3000 BT7       | 12  | Wilhelmy, R & L  | 1953 100 BN1            | 6   |
| Richtmyer, R & C | 1958 100-6 BN4      | 12  | Wolf, E & M      | 1954 100 BN1            | 6   |
| Rogers, W & S    | 1964 3000 MKIII BJ8 | 10  | Humphreys, B & B | 1960 3000 BT7           | 4   |
| Cowan, T & LM    | 1965 3000 MKIII BJ8 | 10  | Court, J         | Aston Martin DB9        | 4   |
| Neumeyer, E & A  | 1966 3000 MKIII BJ8 | 10  | Galper, L        | 1964 MGB                | 4   |
| Snover, R & A    | 1962 3000 MKII BT7  | 10  |                  |                         |     |

• 2020 AHCSO ACTIVITIES CALENDER •

**July**

8 Virtual Zoom Club Meeting 6:30PM. Seperate email with information regarding Zoom and the virtual club meeting will be sent from Rick Snover

**July/TBD**

Drive to Mt Soledad; bring your own snacks; Social Distancing with masks and getting out for some fresh air and a Healey club driving event. This will be discussed at our virtual meeting. RSVP will be requested to finalize.

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**December**

12 Holiday Party – More to follow  
31 New Years in Abingdon 2pm to 4pm – Location to be announced  
Revised: June 22, 2020

**AHCSO JULY BIRTHDAYS  
AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Bob Humphreys.....1  
Sylvia Torres.....6  
John Banales.....14  
Jo-Ann Carberry.....14  
Allie Snover.....16  
John Farkash.....17  
Carol Farnsworth.....17  
Alice Hurley.....17  
Violette Walter.....26  
Neil Tabachki.....28  
Loreen Wilhelmy.....30

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Udo and Gisela Putzke.....7/17/92  
Will and Sharon Rogers.....7/12/64  
Scott Jones and Tim Spivey.....7/23/95

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invites you to become one of our thousands of members and begin receiving the benefits of membership in the world's largest club for Austin-Healey enthusiasts:

- **HEALEY MARQUE** magazine, our award-winning, all-color, 40-page, monthly magazine.
- **AHCA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**, listing members in all 50 states, across Canada, and even many overseas.
- **AUSTIN-HEALEY CALENDAR**, our colorful calendar with beautiful photography of these beautiful cars.
- 47 local chapters across the continent.
- Please visit our website where you can learn more and join online:

[www.healeyclub.org](http://www.healeyclub.org)



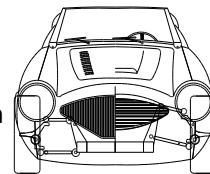
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