

# HEALEY HEARSAY

Official Publication of the



## Club of San Diego



• January 30th...Seasons of Peace Presents •

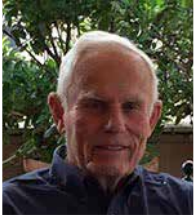
**First Annual Cruise For Peace**

3060 54th Street San Diego

Roll In 1:00 PM - Roll Out 2:00PM

January 2021

## From The Editor:



**T**hanks goes to Loreen Wilhelmy for retyping the first of several stories of our odyssey to Rendezvous 2000. I received the long distance award for the longest drive to attend the Rendezvous. It was a great 12 day adventure that brought back many great memories.

I couldn't resist the front cover photo. It sometimes looks like life...teetering on the edge... a perfect metaphor for our times... Hopefully the Healey was pulled back from its wet abyss. I wasn't clear to me how it got there in the first place. Must have swerved off the road, like we can do sometimes...

The pandemic makes me think about the club and what's in store for it, after it's over. The Clubs greatest weakness, in my opinion, is member participation.

Years ago, Dehesa, where I live, formed it's citizen group called the Dehesa Valley Community Council to deal with local matters. I was the Councils second president and thirty-four at the time. It seemed an awesome responsibility for me as I was dealing with neighbors old enough to be my parents. Of course, their life experiences were way above mine. Neighbor Lois Reed, was my secretary and old enough to be my mother. Lois was involved in real estate. She would pick up the mail and we would meet, prior to the monthly meeting, to go over the correspondence and discuss current community issues in which the Council became involved. I haven't thought about Lois and the help and insight she gave me, years ago, in a long time. We became good friends for life...

I was faced with "you aught'a do's" and "why dont'cha do's" too often. It could be tough to find help when the kitchen got hot, which it did sometimes. Still, I felt I had to stand up and do the job I volunteered to do.

I'm not going to whine about you should do. And how tough life can be. It's my choice. And I'll be editor for some time as long as it's still fun.

I'm personally not in favor of the rest of the board over-staying their desire, and maybe their welcome. And it's disappointing to see members benefit from the Club and then not make their contribution...I know life is busy for all of us. We can all do something, sometime... can't we?...

Regards, Warren



**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 D Board Members

**President-** Howard Stark - [hjsmentor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hjsmentor@sbcglobal.net) 619-519-4250  
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**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 D 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:** *An Austin Healey tetering on the edge*

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



Happy 2021.

I am hoping this year is a better year than 2020! With a little luck, vaccinations will begin happening soon and safely for all folks accross our country. Maybe we will be able to get together more this year Vs last year. Shall we plan more drives to enjoy ourselves, while social distancing and enjoying what San Diego has to offer? I hope to hear from members as drives appear to be a safe way to begin getting out safely this year, while remaining socially distant and have a good time. We will leave the planning up to our activities chairman, Lou, so please reach out to him with ideas and suggestions about where you would like to drive. Maybe those ideas can be placed into action and scheduled as one of our club activities. I really am working on remaining optimistic. Let's keep our fingers crossed about Rolling British Car Day (RBCD) other British car events and Conclave 2021. Actually, I have heard nothing about RBCD thus far and will make some calls. We shall see.

I had suggested some tech session activities, since there may be member interest. I know I have many tech session requirements now. Replace a windshield, replace rear brakes, adjust overdrive etc... The list is growing and goes on. Do you have some car needs to address? Maybe we can do more than one car session at a time keep socially distant and be safe. I recall Terry was generous to offer getting together at his Santee location, which is spacious for some tech sessions.

In 2020 we made a donation to Toys for Tots. Thank you for your votes to help provide support to our local San Diego military children. We will talk about insurance matters at our meeting and the potential impact AHCA Insurance cost may have upon our 2022 membership dues. Your board members, conduct club business in the best interest of our club members, work to help keep our members informed, involved and sharing enthusiasm about our Austin Healey's and have a good time. May this year be filled with promise of better times ahead.

See you at our next Zoom meeting Wednesday,, January 13th @ 6:30PM. Please look for email notification from our webmaster.

Howard Stark

**Wed. January 13th, 6:30 PM  
ZOOM CLUB MEETING  
Info to T/C from Webmaster Rick.**

### Minutes: Austin Healey Club of San Diego Monthly Meeting Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 Online via Zoom

President Howard Stark called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

**There were 18 members in attendance:** Don Benke, Howard & Lynne Stark, Alex Watt, Terry Cowan & Lisa Mandell, Sandy Leon, Louis Galper and Deborah Durham, Ed Matheus, Warren Voth, Rick and Allie Snover, Doc McAllister, Dave Grundies, Eric Graves, Will Rogers and Bob Rast.

**New Business: President Howard Stark** reported and brought forward the following announcement:

- **2020 COTY Award:**

2020 winners are Ed and Sandy Matheus. Although COVID presented activity challenges, the points were close this year with Ed and Sandy winning by 2 points.

**Activities: Louis Galper** reviewed the activities information

- **Photos from November's Activity**

Please send photos from the November drive to Warren for the newsletter.

- **Toys for Tots**

Club donated \$200 to Toys for Tots.

- **Future Activities**

Current state health restrictions continue to create challenges with planning club activities. No activities scheduled currently. Members are encouraged to share ideas with Lou or other board members on favorite drives for next month where social distancing guidelines can be observed.

**Membership: Vice President Don Benke** reported the following membership information:

- Membership dues for 2021 are due. Recommendation made to send another membership dues email and include the list of members who have already paid. 14 Renewals received out of 70 since Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.
- There is some confusion on the AHCA xls member file but there appears to be rebates for 4 members.

**New Members: Ron and Sharon Burton** are new members for 2021. They spend half of the year at their date farm in Indio and the other half of the year in Montana.

**Treasurer: Sandy Leon** reported the treasury is stable and the club is solvent.

- Sandy is sending out the advertising letters and asked if there are additional vendors for newsletter advertisements.
- There's a 20% discount on ads placed by Club members.

**Editor: Warren Voth** reported and brought forward for discussion:

- Membership renewal will be in the newsletter.
- Send stories and photos by the 20<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.



• what the future brings •

Austin Healey Club of San Diego  
**2021 CALENDER**

• **January 13th**

Monthly Zoom Meeting

***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 SDAH 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 SDAH 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**



*Must be James Bond and girl friend heading out for a rendezvous somewhere...*

**AHCSD DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS  
AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Barbara Humphreys.....1	George Hurley.....16
Lylah Felt.....5	Carolyn Richtmyer.....28
Anne Rast.....5	Nancy Stalker.....30
Susan Slade (Virden).....10	Lynne Stark.....30
Lorne Polger.....12	Aeint DeBoer.....31
Will Rogers.....13	Ron Richtmyer.....31

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Curt and Nancy Arndt.....	12/21/84
Aeint and Virginia DeBoer.....	12/27/94
Craig and Sue Turner.....	12/1/79

Terry Cowan, Owner



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**Sunday May 16 - Friday May 21, 2021**

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# CRUISE FOR PEACE

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**Roll in: 1:00 p.m.**

**Roll out: 2:00 p.m.**

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**(any car can follow the cruise)**



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*The Shilo Inn at Ocean Shores Oregon and Rendezvous 2000.*

### On The Road To Rendezvous 2000

*By Warren Voth*

This is not a log of our twelve day odyssey to Rendezvous 2000 but some thoughts for those of us who have put off doing what we did for “want of time, money or whatever”. (Be sure to read the Wilhelmy’s log of our trip and their observations.) I have often said life is short. We need to spend a few days of our years spoiling ourselves, if for no other reason then to have a new experience, and maybe learn something unexpected.

I had wanted to do a long distance drive in our ‘66 BJ8 for several years. For one reason or another, the drive never materialized. Regardless of our age, we are all still 18 or 20 years at heart. I recall reading Huck Finn forty-five years or more ago. He was rafting down the Mississippi with Jim, the escaped slave, to get away from Aunt Polly, who was trying to civilize him. He said he was “lighting out for the territory ahead”. What better use could you find for an Austin Healey? This is what Healeys do best.

I decided this was the year as I had Randy Zoller of Heritage Motorsports rebuild the engine, while I detailed the engine room after removing everything except the brake and clutch lines. I replaced the wiring with a new loom, had the radiator cleaned, generator and starter rebuilt, checked and cleaned the underside for any hidden problems in the suspension, emergency brake, steering, and front end. I rebuilt the HD8’s and replaced the fuel pump with a new SU and checked all fuel lines. I even replaced the gas tank with a new aluminum one from

Moss motors (which has its own story), before detailing the trunk,...er boot. I had installed a set of Bilstein Shock Absorbers, from Putzke’s Fahrepass, (more on those later). The week before heading out on the trail to Rendezvous 2000, the voltage regulator crashed and was replaced with a new unit as well as having the generator checked again. at the same time. Top this off with fresh fluids and filters and I had run out of excuses not to hit the road.

Take as many spares and tools along with you as you are comfortable with. I took a certain amount of ribbing when I had to remove everything from the trunk when I over filled the gas tank due to a faulty filler nozzle at a gas station. If you don’t need the spares, remember that someone in the group might need what you don’t and will be eternally grateful to you for your foresight. The stuff I took included an extra water pump, generator, set of water hoses, fan belt, relay, spare igniter electronic ignition as well as conversion back to points, fuel pump, spark plugs, fuses, light bulbs, testing light, , tape, Hylo-mar, alligator test wires, Whitworth and SAE wrenches and other hand tools. Don’t forget Posidrive screw drivers if you have them. It’s amazing how much trouble a ruined machine screw head can cause , when you’re trying to replace it in a pinch.

What can go wrong, will go wrong. Remember I said I had replaced the voltage regulator about a week earlier? When leaving San Louis Obispo, the second morning out, the volt gauge and red charge light indicated no charging was going on. I had taken along a copy of the Lucas diagnostic manual. Roland had a hand held

## What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

voltmeter. Between the two of us, we found the almost new voltage regulator wasn't working. What to do? This is one part I didn't have a spare for...*naturally*. Roland suggested taking it off for one more test. He took the regulator and gave it a smart tap on its three sides...on the curb, as I recall. We reinstalled it and...*naturally*, it worked perfectly. He had stated earlier that the most important thing is to keep your wits about you, when you need them. How true! To be on the safe side, I ordered a replacement from Moss by cell phone to be delivered UPS to Ocean Shores when we arrived.

Roland and Loreen were ready to go as Roland was going through about the same thing to their BT7. We had talked earlier about traveling together, but Roland was not sure their car would be ready. As luck would have it, both cars were ready to go by trip time. I might never have made the drive alone, as the total mileage for me was close to 3,000 miles. and over half of it, even under the best circumstances, would have been alone. I wasn't afraid of being alone, but being alone without a desperately needed something. It was wonderful to have the company of the Wilhelmy's. They are great traveling companions. A bonus is that after you spend two weeks with someone, its amazing how much of lifes experiences you have in common. Not to mention that two heads, or three in our case, are better than one, in emergencies. One of the nice things about traveling is you meet people who do things differently. We, in San Diego, get nervous when four drops of rain hit the pavement and are ready to call off a driving event. Healey people in the Northwest consider our water days the middle of summer. Not only do they wear shorts in this kind of weather, most of them don't bother to put the top up! They simply drive a little faster so the windshield acts as a foil to keep most of the rain out. I must admit that I have not used the windshield wipers (one thing I did not check) in a number of years. To be fair, the Northwest gets enough rain to keep the roads from being as slick, as ours are for the first rains of the season. The Rendezvous 2000 driving/touring event to a rain forest was...you guessed it...in the rain...Our Northwest hosts are, rain or shine, a great bunch of people...

To assume makes an *ass* out of *you* and *me*. We had a

cell phone in each car as well as Motorola FRS Talkabout hand held radios. Loreen did such a super job as tour director, I became complacent because I was following the Wilhelmy's in case their front SU Carb should act up again. I didn't want to overshoot them in case of a stop. We had not bothered to exchange cell phone numbers for some reason or other. The FRS Talkabouts have a maximum range of two miles. We lost contact in San Jose because I missed a freeway turn off due to traffic. Furthermore, I was not clear on the morning itinerary (*remember, I was following them because of their front carb problem*) and I didn't realize this until we were out of FRS contact. So we waited each, by the sides of our respective freeways with no way to contact each other... What do?...As luck would have it, we agreed to have lunch at Nepenthe in Big Sur. At this point, I realized I had missed the turn off we were supposed to be on to Monterey and there was little chance of meeting them, assuming their car was OK, before Nepenthe. I stopped and picked up a road map, at a gas station (*those were large fold-able sheets of paper that could never be refolded to fit in your glove compartment, which were kind of like a GPS printed on paper.*) and made my own itinerary to Monterey, hoping to catch them before they got on HWY 1 to Monterey. No luck. I got on HWY 1 and headed to Nepenthe. I arrived to hear from a gal, in the parking lot, that a car just like mine, but black and gray, had left about 45 minutes earlier. This was the best news of the day. Their car was OK and they were on the way to San Luis Obispo. We would meet at the Olive tree Inn, that evening and have a fabulous Creole dinner...

Meanwhile...back at Nepenthe, upon hearing the Wil-





helmy's were safely in front of me, I decided to enjoy the bottom half of the day that I had screwed up...I had a super burger and a fancy herb tea. I was tempted to have a tall dark brew of whatever they were serving. (*HWY 1 is not a road you want to drive on, without being able to handle a full deck.*) I had been driving on some of the most scenic highways in the United States, But nothing compares to HWY 1 and Big Sur. I hadn't driven a Healey on HWY 1 since our honeymoon, in our '59 100-6 going to and coming back from Monterey in 1963.

I couldn't wait to try out the BJ8 with the Bilstein Shocks. They didn't let me down. It was fun braking into a corner, shifting and powering through it without



wondering about where I was going to end up. The car went where it was supposed to go without the infamous Healey Hop. The traffic was light. The day was filled with foggy patches and lots of indescribable Big Sur atmosphere. Life is good... Midway through, I was on a section of road with only a Ducati motorcycle. I pulled over to let him pass. And later pulled into a turnout, further on, where I saw him stop. His name was Jerry and he was from Las Vegas. His wife and boys were on a trip and he decided to take a vacation himself. He had had a '63 BJ7 for several years and traded it for a Corvette.

Of all his cars, he said, the Healey was the only one he missed...Wherever you go, you'll find a Healey fan. *Life is good...*

On the last night out in San Louis Obispo, tour director Loreen made a switch to the Olive Tree Inn, which would save us about twenty bucks a room. In front of the inn was the "Bon Temps Creole Cafe". Bon Temps means good times in French. And they certainly were... That evening I had deep fried crusty Creole catfish with hush puppies and rice and beans. The plate was edged with very thin cucumber and strawberry slices to form a ring flowers pattern. A dark beer and Creole coffee finished off the evening.

The morning breakfast led off with offerings like baking powder biscuits with gravy and smoked pork chops. To avoid falling asleep at the wheel, I opted for the lighter Creole French toast...After last night, I was not surprised to see a large hot plate arrive with four very thick slices of French toast floating in, and I mean floating, in syrup dusted with powdered sugar and covered with pecans. All of this was circled...or I could say dammed up with crispy smoked bacon. The syrup was made with brown sugar, spices and bourbon whiskey, as Maple trees are not native to the South. Like I said, *when traveling in a Healey, life is very good...*

I had a great time re-living this story. and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did the telling. On reflection, there is a contemporary take away that I almost missed...That is we were able to get along without modern technology. I'm not saying modern technology is not important. It is. Would it have guaranteed a better outcome with my voltage regulator or getting lost on the freeway? Maybe, but I might have missed Jerry and his Ducati...Roland had stated earlier that the most important thing is to *keep your wits about you, when you need them*. How true. When we were separated on the San Jose freeway, we each did what we had to do to move on. And we did it without iPhone's, GPS technology and the benefit if instant communication they bring. Even with modern technology, there is still plenty of room for poor judgment. As Roland said, *we kept our wits about us, when we needed to get us through...*

### A Basket Case BN6 Becomes a Ten Year Restoration

*By John Close*

My Healey saga began with a basket case BN6, an error which, of course, I compounded by throwing more money, time, and labor into a 10-year restoration. I wouldn't do it that way again, but I learned a lot along the way. I got lots of help from the club, especially from Dick Schmidt, the Luckies, Warren Voth, Randy Zoller and Terry Cowan. My original goal was to make a vintage racer, but as I continued to throw resources into my Healey, that



started to sound like a bad idea (for me). The tipping point was reached when I started pricing fuel cells and found out they had to be replaced periodically. The project just took long enough so that I became older and more cautious, and too attached to my BN6 to risk smashing it up on a race track. Because it started out to be a racer, my BN6 has an unusual combination of features. It has a 3-litre engine with an Elgin



cam, Kirk headers, dual HD8 carburetors, DMD inlet manifold, an oil cooler and Crane ignition. It has front disk brakes and a booster, heavy duty front and rear anti roll bars and Bilstein shocks. For nice freeway cruising, it has a 3.55 rear end and overdrive. It's fast and reliable, and I drive it at least once a week.

*John Close was a past Club member from 2008. I always liked his car and thought you might enjoy seeing it...Ed.*



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- **AUSTIN-HEALEY CALENDAR**, our colorful calendar with beautiful photography of these beautiful cars.
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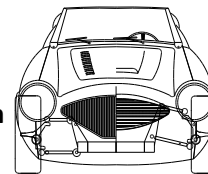
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## CAR OF THE YEAR (COTY) AWARD



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. AHCS D 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: AHCS D Meetings & Tech Sessions 4pts; AHCS D Driving Events, Parties, etc. 6pts; AHCS D 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 AHCS D 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.

### 2021 COTY STANDINGS

(as of December 20)

Member	Car	Pts
*Matheus, E. & S.	1960 Sprite AN5	14
Richtmeyer, R. & C	1958 100-6	4

\*2020 Car of the Year, not eligible to win in 2021



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**Wed. January 13th**  
**ZOOM CLUB MEETING**  
Info to T/C from Webmaster Rick.