

HEALEY HEARSAY

Official Publication of the

Austin-Healey

Club of San Diego

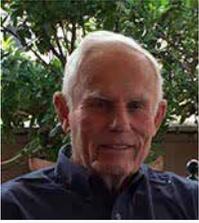


In This Issue:

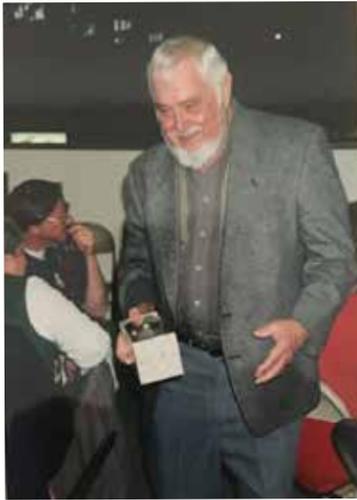
- Saturday, May 20th Ramona Wine Tour and Drive
- Remembering Ralph Merritte on Memorial Day

June 2018

From The Editor:



I'm writing this on Memorial Day morning. Yup...I'm getting a late start. I purchased an 10-1/2 in. iPad Pro note pad, Wednesday. I hadn't planned on the iPad. The reason was my Mac mouse was locking up and I needed to have everything working to get the newsletter started. So I headed for the Mac Store in Fashion Valley...While having fun with my new iPad, this morning...I realized it was time to get serious about the newsletter.



Ralph Merritte at a club meeting.

There is another part of Ralph...his experience as a ball turret gunner in B17's and B24's in WW2. This was and is amazing to me, as my military experience, had I had any, would have been during the *Pax Americana*. The following is what Ralph related to me...

When Ralph joined the Army Air Force, in the early 1940's, he was assigned as a ball turret gunner. His size qualified him as he was small enough to fit in a ball turret. And *that was that*. This worked out as he was an avid trap and skeet shooter. And this was his training... to shoot trap at the range, practicing leading a target, in his case an Me109, that would fly into a cloud of bullets from the two 50cal. BMG's, protruding from his ball turret.

Continued on page 15.

June Meeting...

Wednesday June 13th @ 6:30 PM
Bully's East
2401 Camino Del Reo S.
Mission Valley • 619-291-2665



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.

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, or contact our Membership Coordinator, Vice President Rick Snover (ricksnover@earthlink.net) for details and

2018 AHCS D Board Members

President- Terry Cowan (619) 475-7937 terry@toyshop-resto.com
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Representative, Car Club Council of Greater San Diego Vacant

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"	\$ 100.00 per year
Half page 5"x 8"	\$ 75.00 per year
Quarter page	\$ 50.00 per year
Business card.....	\$ 30.00 per year

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)

On The Cover: Ed & Sandy Matheus '60 Sprite AN5, Sandy & Lily Leon's '59 Sprite AN5, Gary & Nancy Stalker's '55 100 BNI

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



Hello Fellow Healey Peeps...

Well, there's never a dull moment In Healey Land. We had a very close call during the wine tour. While on the way to the winery, Rick and Allie had the left rear splined hub, come completely off the axle, after wearing through the five studs, over an extended period of time. What makes this even scarier is the fact that Rick called me to test drive the car, the day before, for a few minutes. He mentioned a clunking sound coming from the rear of the car. I went over and drove the car for a short time. The sound I heard sounded like loose rear shocks or worn shock mounts.

The car didn't wobble or rock around, which is amazing, as the hub studs had been slowly worn through until they sheered off, and the wheel came off. What's really lucky is the fact that the wheel came off when they were traveling slowly on 79, just east of Ramona, heading towards Julian. Fortunately, the wheel tucked itself inside the left wheel well, and they came to a safe stop.

This could obviously have been much worse... What I think happened is, as we had noticed previously, some of the new rear hubs supplied to Moss, made by Austin Healey Spares, had the stud holes countersunk too deeply. And the locking nuts were not locking securely on the splined hubs as normal. They were in fact going so far in as to come in contact with the brake drum, prior to actually securing the hub, as it should be.

When I went over to check the Snover's car, Rick and I jacked it up to look underneath. We saw a leaking rear hub... Typical Healey stuff. Perhaps we need to have more club maintenance tech sessions. Our cars, sit, sit, sit. Then we drive them with the thought...Oh I have hardly any mileage on my fifty year plus old sports car... So all should be fine. Not so much!!!

We ended up replacing the left rear hub studs, nuts, brake drum, rear brake linings, both rear splined hubs, and all new lock nuts...\$\$\$\$\$ Just Sayin! !!!

Next up...Sprite timing tensioner rubbers...

OK, got a Morris Minor back in for service, making an odd sound presented as a rod knock. Again, this was a seven or eight year old rebuild. Sounded like a rod knock...but, it wasn't. Based on the noise we heard that sounded like the timing tensioner, we dropped the pan. What we found looked like worms of rubber. We found the timing ring tensioner had melted and turned into bits, then passed through the breather between the timing cover and the pan, then ground into little bits from the timing chain and gears. Then into the pan, spreading small bits of rubber, that if they get past the pick up screen, into the engine...

I think we should start having normal check-u-tech session on top of regular repair sessions, based on the latest issues our cars are facing. They may be low mileage issues, but not low cost issues.

Mimi's had another group this month, on our night, so we have to fall back on Bully's for the June meeting...6:30 as usual...And Don gets to be the boss of us, as we'll be out of town...

See you all in July...

Until then keep the tires on the road surface...

Yr, Prez!! Ter

Minutes – Austin Healey Club of San Diego Monthly Meeting Wednesday, May 9, 2018 – Mimi's, Mira Mesa

President Terry Cowan called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

There were 15 members in attendance: Don & Pat Benke, Terry Cowan & Lisa Mandell, Lou GalperH, Sandy & Lily Leon, Udo & Gisela Putzke, Mary Schermerhorn, Rick & Allie Snover, Gary Stalker, Howard StarkH, Warren Voth H Drove Healey, B Drove other British car

Membership: VP Don Benke reported that former member Arnolfo Ventura has returned to SD and re-joined the club. He'll need a hard-copy Healey Hearsay mailed each month. The "final" updated member directory for 2018 will be published soon.

Treasurer: Gary Stalker reported that the treasury is stable, dues checks are being processed.

Web Master: Rick Snover reported that the Calendar on the Club's web site is several months out of date. Not sure when the site will get updated.

Activities:

- The Tech Session on April 21st was successful – (Don B: "Thanks Udo")
- Lou Galper is organizing a Ramona Winery Tour, out Old Julian Highway on May 20th. It'll cost \$25/per person, to include lunch, and stops at three wineries. The tour will leave from the park & ride at Poway Rd & Hwy 67 (Iron Mtn trailhead) at 10 AM.
Warren V reported that he recently enjoyed a similar tour with the Triumph Club.
- The hangar at Gillespie Field will be open to the public on Mother's Day, celebrating the 100th anniversary of US Air Mail.
- There will be a Tech Session to work on Mary Schermerhorn's Sprite transmission on Saturday, July 7th at Terry's shop in Santee. More details to follow.

Newsletter: Editor Warren Voth reported that, as always, more contributions of content from members will be appreciated.

Terry and some other members discussed the effect of zinc in motor oil and a possibly related oil pump failure.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Udo Putzke was the lucky winner.

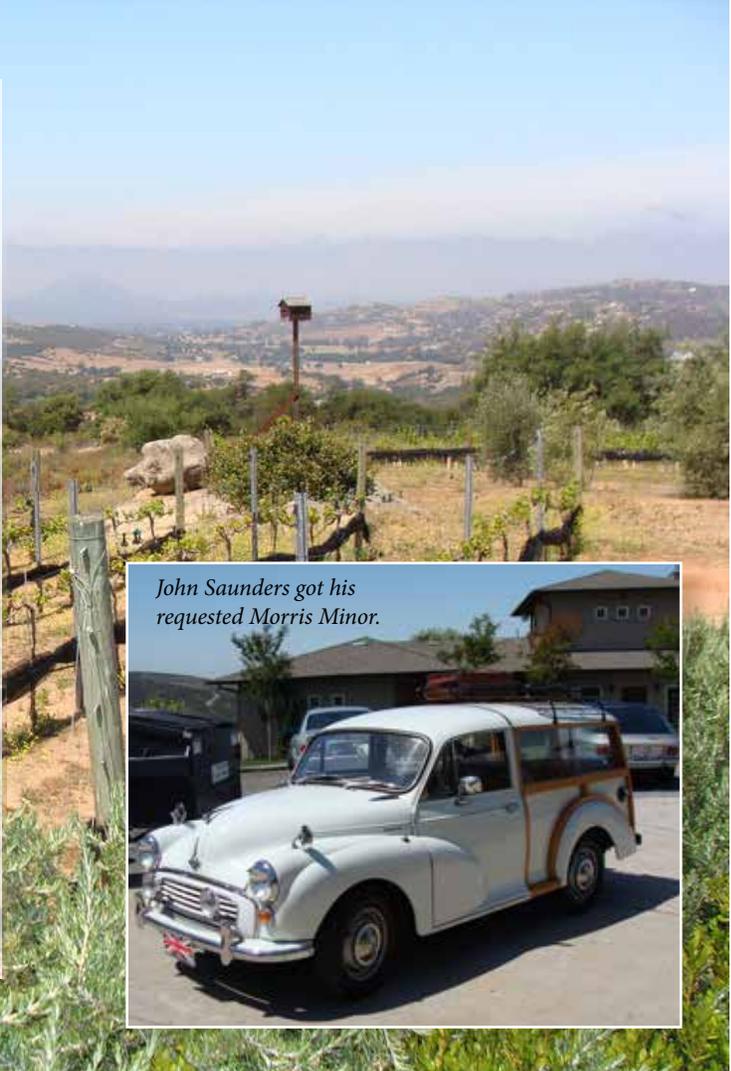
Respectfully submitted,
Rick Snover, AHCSO Secretary.

Saturday, May 20th Healey Wine Tour included: Gary and Nancy Stalker, Lou Galper and Deborah Durham, Micky Pleasant and Lora Rice, Ed and Sandy Matheus, Dawn Moore and Larry Allredge, Bob and Barbara Humphreys, and myself.

We met at the appointed Poway Road and Hwy 67 Park and Ride and left on time. We followed up Hwy 67, turning on Dye Road on back country Ramona, to the Old Julian Highway. Then to Poppaea, our first stop...

We were greeted by ex-Brit, John Saunders at Poppaea Vineyard and Winery John is an extremely cordial host, who gave us a run down on the History of Poppaea. I chose their Nebbiolo, recommended paring: hearty meats and stews. Before leaving, we received a call from Rick and Allie Snover stating that the left rear wheel came off their car. As I had my BMW, I drove over to their car, and picked up Allie while Rick remained with the car, waiting for Terry and flat bed.

Allie and I proceeded to Grant James Vineyard for more tastings and the bespoke catered lunch. Grant
Continued on PG. 6.



John Saunders got his requested Morris Minor.

what the future brings...

- **June 2-Ball Bearing Breaker Fun Rally**, in conjunction with the San Diego MG Club. There are three ways to compete in this event, and the MG Club has laid out a fun and challenging game course. We will begin at the Olive Garden at 11555 Carmel Mtn Road, San Diego (Carmel Mountain Road, East of I-15) and end at La Carreta Restaurant in Alpine. For more information and to register for this event, visit: SDBCCC Events
- **Sept. 16 – 21: Healey Rendezvous Place:** Madras, Oregon. (see page 7) Inn at Cross Keys Station, innat-crosskeysstation.com. Early arrivals Sunday, September 16 (recommended arrival day). “Official” first day

with evening welcome reception, Monday the 17th. The event wraps up Thursday evening, September 20, with awards dinner. Friday, September 21 is a drive-home day that begins at the Inn. **For all the details check www.HealeyRendezvous.org**

- **October 4 -7 Charleston SC Southeastern Classic XXII**, Patriots Point, Hosted by the Carolinas Austin-Healey Club, SEClassic2018@gmail.com • **Oct 17 – 21**
- **AHCSO Octoberfest** Date and location to be arranged
- **Oct.13 British Car Day Saturday 7:00 AM 2:00 PM** Held at Spanish Landing Park East, San Diego British Car Day is an annual event, showcasing the best of British vehicles.

Continued on PG. 6.

May 20th Wine Tour

John Saunders greets his guests and the Morris Minor he hoped would come.



James wines are also excellent. I chose their very drinkable 2016 California Red Cab. The catered barbecued tri-tip and spicy chicken sliders, veges and a wonderful tossed salad lunch was memorable. Especially served under their covered tasting area patio, overlooking their vineyard.

The last stop was at La Finquita for their Wine Slushies. Those who couldn't make it, missed a very nice back country drive and a memorable lunch. A phrase, often heard in the UK, "*It was a lovely, lovely, day*". aptly described our day. My hat's off to all stalwarts who opted to stay home to mow the grass and clean the bathrooms. I'm sure you'll be rewarded sometime, somewhere...I hope...



...while his pooch checks out the cars...



John explains Poppaea and his wine offerings...

The caterers did a nice lunch presentation.



The water feature in the Grant James patio.

*Bob Humphreys...
...looking like
Bob Humphreys.*



*Gary and Nancy Stalker's
1955 100 BN1.*

Continued on PG. 8.

Are you
Rendezvous Ready?

Just in case
there is still anyone
receiving this
who is not up to speed,
the Rendezvous
is now just about
four months away.
That's four months
to get yo
Are you Rendezvous
Ready?



Just in case
there is still anyone
receiving this
who is not up to speed,
the Rendezvous
is now just about
four months away.
That's four months
to get your Healey
road ready,
to make your
lodging reservation
in Madras,
and to get your
event registration in.

Are you ready?!?
I can't hear yooooooooo!
ARE YOU READY?!?
That' better.

Now get on the phone and make that room reservation; download, print, fill out (duh!) and send in your reservation form, and don't forget your check for the bargain price of just \$65/person. Then get out there and put some miles on your Healey and work out the bugs so that it's mission-ready come September.

You DO NOT want to be waiting by the side of the road for a tow when the rest of us are relaxing in the Hospitality Lounge enjoying our favorite beverages and snacks.

The website has the lodging information and the downloadable registration form, and your local Post Office has stamps.

Do I have to explain everything?!?

Click here for the HEALEY RENDEZVOUS website

ur Healey road ready, to make your lodging reservation in Madras, and to get your event registration in.

Are you ready?!?
I can't hear yooooooooo!
ARE YOU READY?!?
That's better.

Click here for the HEALEY RENDEZVOUS website You can do this! Now get out there and prep, prep,prep! We're all counting on you!



Grant-James welcome sign on the patio...

Lou Galper, Deborah Durham, Sandy Matheus, Ed Matheus,, and Allie Snover on the Grant James patio

what the future brings...continued

- **October 4 -7 Charleston SC Southeastern Classic XXII**, Patriots Point, Hosted by the Carolinas Austin-Healey Club, SEClassic2018@gmail.com • **Oct 17 - 21**
- **AHCSD Octoberfest** Date and location to be arranged
- **Oct.13 British Car Day Saturday 7:00 AM 2:00 PM** Held at Spanish Landing Park East, San Diego British Car Day is an annual event, showcasing the best of British vehicles.



- **Oct.17 -21 California Healey Week 2018** will be held in Solvang, CA. Registrations are now open... **register online at www.austin-healey.org** by clicking on the event logo and following the instructions. Stay tuned to our website for periodic updates and announcements. Please see pg. 11 for more information.

- **Dec. AHCSD Christmas Party** Date and location to be arranged



My unfathomable clutch problem is making it's way to the surface. After replacing the clutch master and slave cylinders and the flex line, twice, it's obvious the problem must be in the clutch cover.

Still, my problem is rare, as I haven't found anyone, Online, that has had a similar problem. Of course, I may not have explained my problem clearly. My problem seems to be in the clutch cover as the clutch disc and release bearing, feel, sound, and act fine. It's very possible that some of the diaphragm fingers are weak or worn. Or the release bearing plate, in the center of the diaphragm could be worn and not straight. This may be what is keeping the clutch plate from releasing the disc, and clashing the gears when I shift. Not a good thing...

Late model Healeys, such as mine, have diaphragm clutches, which are considered very reliable. Diaphragm clutches are used in modern cars. As Terry has mentioned in his Presidents Message, our cars are at least fifty years old. Maybe it's time to give some of these old parts a well deserved rest, with new stuff.

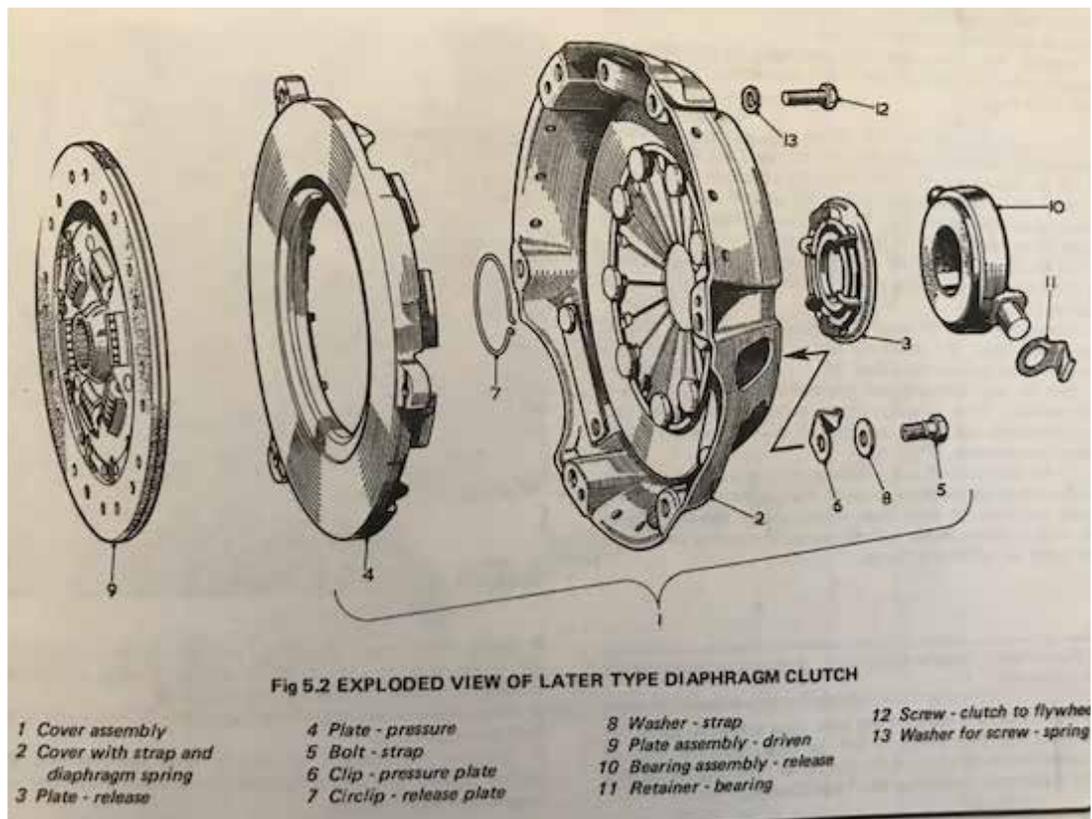
My first choice is to replace everything with a Denis Welch heavy duty clutch kit, which includes the cover, clutch disc, and release bearing. A nice addition to this is their roller release bearing, normally required for race and rally.

I'm going to have a similar problem rebuilding the front end, which has never been touched. I want to have the spindles magna-fluxed for cracks. The Denis Welch catalogue mentions that about 50% of all spindles checked, show cracks. My car's spindles have been doing their job for fifty years. Is it time to put them out to pasture?

Again, my first choice would be Denis Welch front end repair parts. While expensive, their products are high quality competition stuff. Much of it manufactured on their premises.

As an aside...Again, as mentioned, mine is an old car, regardless of how cool I may think it looks. I found this out, recently on an electrical problem, that was much of my own making... *We've all heard of Lucas, the prince of darkness...* Actually, I invited the prince aboard while changing the voltage regulator for a dummy, when the generator was switched for an alternator. Even though I replaced all my wiring in 1999, when the engine was rebuilt, over time, contacts and connections corrode and can loose continuity, when moved. While using a wiring diagram, emery cloth, and a circuit tester, I looked up to hear the prince laugh, chatting with Donald Healey, as they walked out my garage door...

Later Type Diaphragm Clutch found in BJ7 (29f H4879) through BJ8



Illustrations from Haynes Austin Healey 100/6-3000 Owners Workshop Man-

Continued from page 12.

Putzke's "FAHRSPASS"

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Shock absorber conversion Kit for:

Big Healeys \$ 949 / \$ 999 (BJ8 Ph2)

Bugeye Sprite \$ 590

Jensen-Healey \$ 455 (2 front & 2 rear shocks)

*Front and rear, with brackets and all hardware.
 Bolt-on, no frame modifications required.*

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For all Healeys, front lower and upper suspension, rear leaf spring eye, Sway-bar link. Individually available. Check our web page for prices.

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NEW Rear spring Anti twist shock kit for the AH 100-4 to BJ7

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Plastic Knock-off Hammer. \$75
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For more details, prices and pictures, please visit:
www.putzkes-fahrspass.com

Club discount on order of three or more shock kits.

Drive your HEALEY safer and with more confidence!



The Sperry ball turret had a hatch for the gunners entry/exit and maintenance. The ball could be raised and lowered in and out of the fuselage hydraulically. And it could also be raised

manually in case of electrical or hydraulic failure. The gunner, who entered the turret when the guns were pointing down in flight, was in a fetal position, between the guns, his feet in stirrups, which were also controls. He was not in the ball on take-off and landing. B24's had a fully retractable mount because of low ground clearance.

Ralph described a typical mission as follows...The flight from Brize Norton, in south-west England, to the intended target was usually "seven or eight hours of freezing cold, boredom, and thinking what was ahead". As the squadron approached, the Me109's would be waiting for them as they entered enemy airspace. He would track the enemy with his guns, holding them at bay, as they both were angling for an easy kill. If the mission survived that, closer to the target was usually a ring of enemy 88MM flak guns. As the captain handed the controls to the bombardier, the boredom became "object terror" of the Me109 cannon and the 88MM flack rattling against, and ripping through, the planes thin aluminum skin. They were an exposed target for about half an hour as they began their bomb run. Then, hopefully, the long return flight to Brize Norton.

He mentioned the trauma of the of planes and crew he saw go down, lost in action, or on the way back, and men and boys he knew, and never saw again....And how, and why fortune favored him, making it through, when so many didn't..

Ralph and I always enjoyed lunch, at least once a month, at Saigon, an Asian restaurant on El Cajon Blvd, or DZ Akins for matzo ball soup and pastrami sandwiches. And reminiscing about his car being the fourth factory production Austin Healey 100. And driving it through out Europe after the war. How he wished he still had it. He gave me his cloisonné Healey grille badge, given him by "the Healey's".

I would never have mentioned any of this while Ralph was

Continued on page 16.

Remembering Ralph Merritte...

Continued from PG. 15.

alive as he was quite private about it, especially the mental flashbacks, which he said were always with him, still, after all those years. I was surprised, and honored, he was open on this to me. He wouldn't thought of himself as anything special. Those were the ones who never came back...

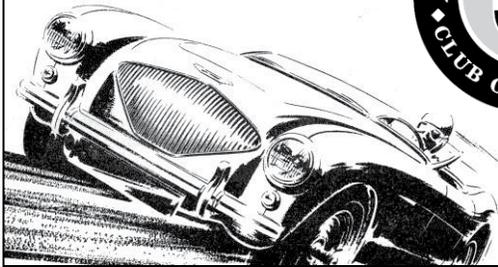


Ralph Merritt at Brize Norton Royal Air Force Base in 1955, with the forth production Austin Healey 100.

AUSTIN-HEALEY CLUB OF AMERICA

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



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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) 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.

2018 CotY Standings

(as of May 20)

Member	Car	Pts	Member	Car	Pts
Stark, H & L	AH 3000	28	Cowan, T & Lisa M	AH 3000 Mk III	6
Galper, L	AH 100	20	Farnsworth, B & C	AH 3000 Mk II	6
Humphries, B & B	Jensen	19	Matheus, E & S	AH Sprite	6
* Benke, D & P	AH 3000 Mk III	18	Schumacher, K & A	AH 100	6
Stalker, G & N	AH 100	16	Galper, L	Jaguar XJ6	5
Humphries, B & B	AH 3000	14	Farnsworth, B & C	AH 3000 Mk III	4
Putzke, U & G AH	3000 Mk II	14	Graves, E	AH 3000 Mk II	4
Voth, W	AH 3000 Mk III	12	Pleasant, M	Morris	3
Leon, S & L	AH Sprite	10	Galper, L	MG B	2
Moore, D & Larry A	AH Sprite	10	Watt, A & S	Aston Martin	2
Snover, R & A	AH 3000 Mk II	10			

*2017 CotY Winner, not eligible to win in 2018

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David Aidnik
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Mike Vickers
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June Momthly Meeting
Wednesday June 13th @ 6:30 PM

• Bully's East •
2401 Camino Del Reo South
Mission Valley • 619-291-2665

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