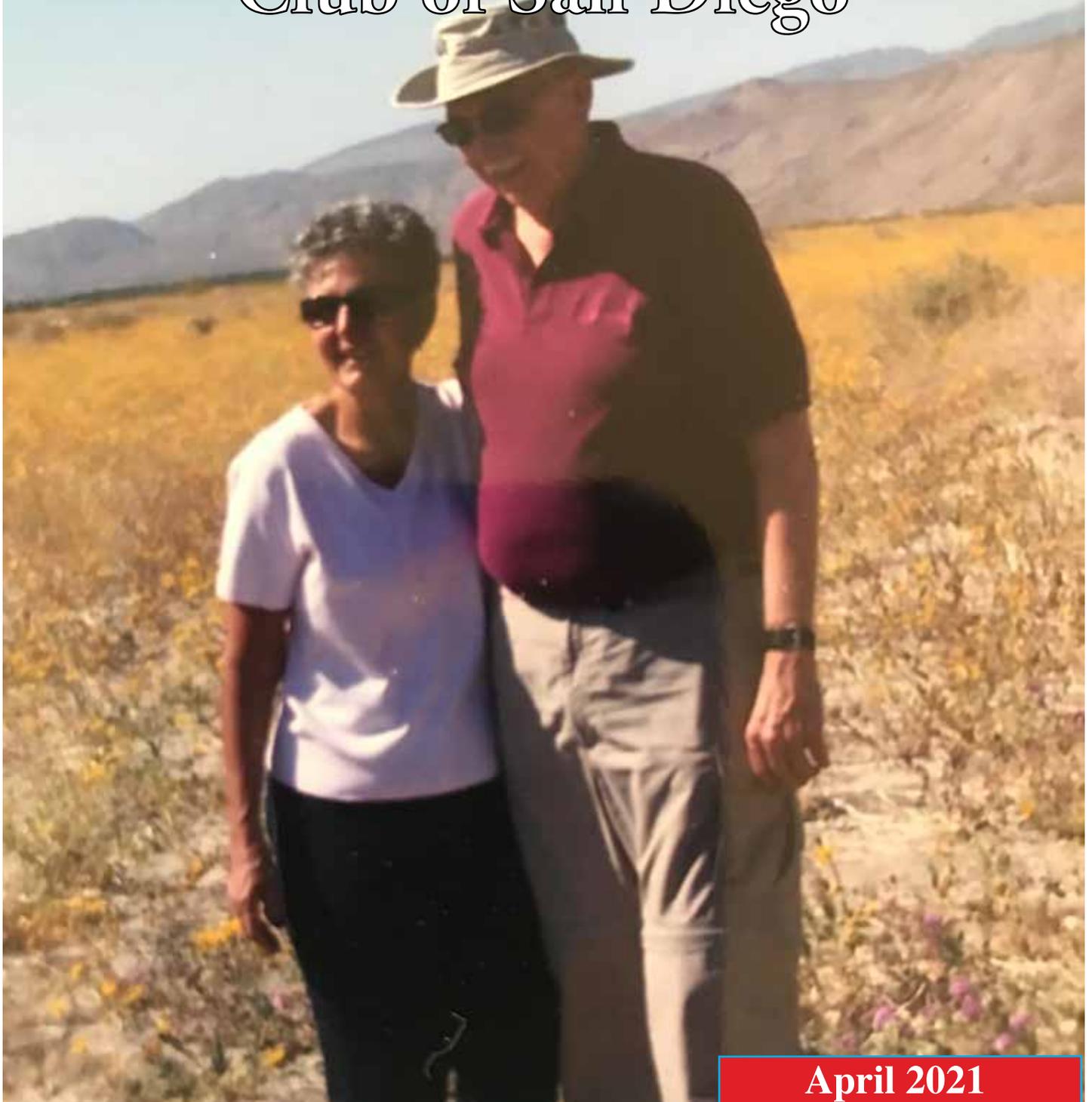


HEALEY HEARSAY

Official Publication of the

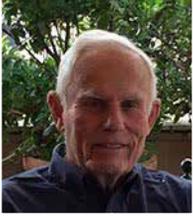


Club of San Diego



April 2021

From The Editor:



My longest Healey trip was to Rendezvous 2000. And I have the Long Distance Award to prove it. This month's last chapter of **I Used to Own An Austin Healey** brings

an end our epic tale. It's difficult to believe it was twenty one years ago. A lot of water has gone under the bridge of life since then... and there's been many Healey memories for me. Not to be too redundant, I included my article again **On The Road To Rendezvous** from January Healey Hearsay, especially for new members, so the ending of Loreen's Rendezvous 2000 story makes more sense to them.



I am sure we've all heard of Bob Humphreys sudden passing. Bob will be missed by all. His remembrance is part of this issue...

Thanks Lynne Stark for stepping up and doing the story to the San Diego & Arizona Railroad Museum. I always enjoy Lynne's stories which have gusto...which means they have enthusiasm, vigor, pleasure, and satisfaction...atta girl Lynne...

I am hopeful that the pandemic will be under control by Conclave time. But, we haven't heard of Conclave's mask protocol from the Association. And I understand their dilemma...And now...Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the new head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "with emotion in her voice, urged public officials and others to spread the word about the seriousness of the situation in an effort to prevent a fourth surge"... When I see a politician with tears in their eyes, why do I get the feeling that I'm about to take it in the shorts again for my own good?... especially when I have my covid vaccination card...It's tough to give up control, isn't it...

To reiterate what Howard has said in the Presidents column, hopefully better days are ahead with warmer spring weather, and I'm ready for it...I don't know if it will be possible, but I will commit to Oktoberfest this year...

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.

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, Don Benke 619-778-1680 dgbenke@cox.net for details and an application.

2020 AHCS Board Members

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

Special Staff

CotY Recorder- Rick Snover- ricksnover@earthlink.net
Web Master- Rick Snover - 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
Udo Putzke - 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)

On The Cover: Bob & Barbara Humphreys with the wild flowers on a club drive to the Borego Desert.

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



Hello everyone.

Earlier in March, Bob Humphreys passed away. We remember Bob joining us with Barbara as regulars on so many Healey events over many years. There were so many good times together, I will miss him at meetings, car shows, drives, breakfasts on the bay, tech sessions, special events, holiday parties, his laugh, smile and that hair cap he wore. He was a happy caring man.. As these are very difficult times, final arrangements are delayed at this time. His final resting place will be in Miramar. Lynne and I expressed condolences to Barbara and their family. Our club sent a card and plant with our deepest sympathy and we offer our support to Barbara.

Marching along this month, there were drives and gatherings. We met up at Cars and Coffee, drove out old 94 highway to Campo to take in the railroad experience and enjoyed a back county ride. Two couples from the Antique Automobile Club joined in the fun. The Old 94 highway ride was approximately 80 miles and the return trip presented a closed border check point, imagine that. The drive was fun but colder than expected for some. The ride helped me identify some car related repair effort needed before RBCD and Conclave. Maybe, it would be wise to install our heater as we had over insulated to avoid Healey Hot Foot. Upon our return trip I noticed Barrett Junction is up for sale. It had been the traditional old stomping ground for dining and gatherings of many car and motorcycle clubs. It's Tragic! There have been so many small business closures struggling through these hard times. I can only hope that someone will buy the restaurant and reopen it.

The world is beginning to open up, since some have been able to get immunizations. Please keep yourselves safe as immunization is only to stall off worst case effects of the virus. I see a lot of folks ignoring distancing and not wearing masks when out near other people. Many have opposing opinions about the pandemic and CDC guidance, but I certainly do not want to get ill from this virus. I will continue to remain vigilant.

Rolling British Car Day and Conclave are in May so let's get our cars ready for future drives and adventure. There will be a Cars and Coffee April 10th, a Tech session, to work on our cars in Santee April 3rd. More details about Cars and Coffee and the tech session will be in this newsletter. Hope you join us at Cars and Coffee and the tech session and make progress getting your cars out and road ready. There is plenty of space at Terry's storage location in Santee.

Drives are fun ways for us to gather and be safe while getting out breaking up isolation. As we get further into the second and third quarters, the weather warms up and guidelines for dining continue to loosen up, I will look into places that will allow larger gatherings possibly outdoors venues for our club meetings. We will see how this unfolds as the year carries on.

Our next Zoom meeting is April 14th at 6:30 PM
See you soon.

Howard Stark

**Wed. April 14th, 6:30 PM
ZOOM CLUB MEETING
Info T/C from Webmaster Rick**

**Minutes: Austin Healey Club of San Diego Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 - Online via Zoom**

President Howard Stark called the meeting to order at 6:44pm

There were 20 members in attendance: Don Benke, Howard & Lynne Stark, Alex Watt, Terry Cowan & Lisa Mandell, Sandy Leon, Louis Galper, Ed Matheus, Warren Voth, Rick and Allie Snover, Eric Graves, Will Rogers, Doc McAllister, Robert and Kathleen Reid, Terry and Laura Leland and Bryon Wood.

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

• **Bob Humphreys**

President Stark shared the extremely sad news of Bob Humphreys passing. Barbara is with family and doing as well as can be expected but she wanted to let everyone know that Bob was able to be an organ donor. This was very important to Bob. Lynne is getting a plant and card from the Club and we'll also make a donation later to the charity of Barbara's choice.

• **New Members**

Byron Wood: '66 BJ8, 2nd owner car

Laura Leland: '62 3000 Mark 2, Best in Show, Laura's father's car.

§ February Meeting Minutes - Approved

• **Activities:** Louis Galper shared the following activities information:

Drive to Campo for the Train and Museum – March 13th. Meet at the Rancho Edwards Cinema at 8:30am

Cars and Coffee – March 20th – Clairemont Mesa

Tech Session – Prep for Conclave – Sat April 3rd – Terry Cowan's shop in Sante

• **Membership:** Vice President Don Benke reported Club Membership is currently at 66 members. Don is updating the roster to include our newest members. Board permission to be requested for releasing names only for local only members to the national association for insurance purposes.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

• what the future brings •

Austin Healey Club of San Diego
2021 CALENDER

• April

• 3 Tech Session For Conclave at Toy Shop Restorations- Saturday 9AM. If you're taking your Healey to Conclave 2021 at Big Bear in May, here's your chance to get some expert advice and help to get your car ready for the event: AHCSO Tech Session: Prep for Conclave, Saturday, April 3, beginning at 9 AM. Toy Shop Restorations, 10658 Prospect Ave, Unit B in San-tee, Zip 92071

Any other members who'd like to assist or maybe just observe, are more than welcome to attend. Hope to see you there, -- Rick Snover San Diego, CA

• 14 6:30 PM - Zoom Club Meeting

• May

• 2 Sunday- Rolling British Car Day
 See attached. More information to come.

• 16-21 AHCA Conclave 2021- Big Bear, CA

Drive to Campo and Train Ride

By Lynne Stark



In years past we have usually done this event in March to pleasant temperatures and clear skies. However, this year Saturday March 13th that was not to be the case. The weather had been rainy and cold, but with the promise of clear skies by mid morning according to the forecasters (who we know rarely get it wrong) a few of us met at the Edwards Rancho San Diego Theater parking lot.

The ride was brisk, with only a few scattered raindrops. Howard and I, Lou and Debbie and Warren drove Healeys. Warren had his top up. Ron and Carolyn Richtmyer drove their SUV bringing Ed and Sandy Matheus. Joe and Cathy Cibit from the Triumph Club in their lovely red convertible joined us as did Sheldon and Sheila Jurist from the Antique Auto Club. There was no traffic and we enjoyed the cold, but scenic drive to Campo.

We arrived in time to buy our tickets and board the train.

Our group pretty much had a train car all to ourselves with plenty of room to move around, social distancing and of course everyone wore masks. I love this event! Being on a vintage train riding through the Back Country makes it easy to imagine travel, people and times of a different era. The train stopped at the Museum a short distance from the station, but do to Covid, unfortunately it was closed. A few braved the cold and wind to examine the outdoor train yard. The rest of us got back on the train and rode to the station.

Everyone brought picnic lunches which most of us ate at the tables outside the station. It was cold, windy and drizzly, but we had a good time, met some new friends and enjoyed some bad weather. We were out of the house. The weather got progressively worse as the day went on. Did I mention it was cold? After lunch we packed up and headed for home. It rained and hailed, but it was good to be out on the road in the Healey!



Banditos Ron & Carolyn Richtmyer and behind, Sandy & Ed Matheus with Howard Stark riding shotgun...

My car was full of masked banditos. I grinned them down and told them that Lou and Deborah, in front of me, were loaded.

All Aboard On The Short Line



It was a little chilly. Did I mention how comfy my Healey was with the top up?...



Ed & Sandy Matheus and Lynne & Howard Stark are having a good time...



Do Lou and Deborah look cold?...



The railroad museum was closed due to covid.



The border fence can be seen about half way up the far mountain...

Conclave Phone List

Conclave in Big Bear is coming up and several members of our club are going. I am putting together from our roster a list of San Diego club members who are attending and their cell numbers. It seems that all of us who are going will be staying at The Lodge at Big Bear.

Some may be driving on their own, while others may be caravanning on different routes and it will be almost a full week of events while there. I thought it a good idea for those of us going to have each others cell numbers to stay in touch and be social while there, coordinate caravanning to and from Big Bear and “just in case”.

I will be emailing the list to our attendees the last week in April. If you have any changes to your cell numbers or are going and have Not received the list by May 1st, please call or text Lynne Stark at (619) 733-7785.

If you are going and do Not want your name and or cell number on the list, please let me know ASAP. This list is for AHCS D members attending conclave only.

Note: This list was compiled with info as of March 16th 2021. If you registered after that date or changed your plans, please let me know. Thanks, LS

Lou Galper (lgalper1@cox.net)
To:you + 1 more Details

I'm looking at this route:

<https://goo.gl/maps/qyLDYwUXGm7GEzzT9>

Mira Mesa park n ride up I-15 to Temecula, then off the freeway, onto the 79, through Winchester and Beaumont and the 38.

About 45 minutes from the Park n Ride, we get to Temecula and can re-group at the Corner Cafe, right off the freeway.
Then it is about 95 miles more to Big Bear, about 2.5 hours

Others may want to take the freeway the whole way.



Rolling British Car Day is Sunday, May 2nd, 2021

We'll be hitting the road again, on a quest to enjoy the winding ways and superb scenery of San Diego. How better to view it, than through the windshield of your British automobile (or motorcycle, for that matter!)

The route will take us hither and yon, ending at Menghini Winery. Menghini was our final destination a few years ago, and everyone praised the routes and the lovely old apple orchard which was exclusively ours for the day. Menghini started out as an apple cider producer, and their old facility now houses their winery. They will be holding tasting sessions, in accordance with current requirements.

Since Menghini doesn't have food, you are encouraged to bring your own picnic, to enjoy in the delightful orchard among your fellow British car enthusiasts. Alternately, you could brave the crowds in nearby Julian, though do be warned that the tourists take over Julian on these lovely days, and wait times may be long.

We will continue to require masks unless you are sitting and eating. Bring your own chairs, and have a day of it!

When the starting location(s) are confirmed, you will receive an email, and afterward, registration will open on APRIL 2nd. That gives you a full month to register for the event. Cost is \$20 per CAR, and you will receive a window sticker to commemorate the event. Rolling British Car Day is a fundraiser for British Car Day, our show in October, which is expected to be held on the first Saturday in October.

More information will follow, as we confirm that the starting location(s) are adequate for our current needs.



CONCLAVE REGALIA STORE NOW OPEN! www.conclave2021-regalia.com



Gear Up! Check out the online store.



Check Out These Great Events continued...

Photo Contest will honor the very best photos taken at the event (or on the road to the event). Your pictures can be uploaded at any time prior to the closing date.

Arts and Crafts and Photo Contest entries will be on display throughout Conclave in the Social Center. Trophies will be awarded to the winners during the final night Banquet. Make plans to bring your very best!

Ladies Only Event Just Added!

Chairwoman Lisa Mandell has just announced a new Event for Ladies Only. On Thursday afternoon those who sign

up will enjoy a Paint and Sip Session at the nearby Elks Lodge. Participants will be provided with all the materials needed to create their own piece of Healey themed artwork, whilst enjoying a sampling of fine California wines and snacks. An art instructor will be on site to guide even the most inexperienced hand.

This is an optional event and the fee is \$65 per person which includes all materials, snacks, and beverages. Capacity is limited, so sign up now by emailing Lisa at lisa.mandell14@gmail.com.



Creative Contests

CONCLAVE CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN: STEVE KIRBY
sackirby@pacbell.net

REGISTRATIONS: JAY MILLER
jmiller979@aol.com

SPONSORSHIPS: MIKE SCROGGIE
mscroggie@aol.com

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



For a free copy of the excellent Big Bear Lake Visitor's Magazine, go to WWW.BIGBEAR.COM/TRAVEL-TOOLS/VISITOR-GUIDE/ (available by mail or for download).

The event of the year! Austin Healey Conclave 2021.

Big Bear Gazette

WEATHER FORECAST
Cruising with your top down sunny.

Vol. 1., No. 7.

www.conclave2021.com

NEWS FOR TODAY

Big Bear Lake, CA

.26¢

CONCLAVE 2021: MORE FUN ON TAP

Check Out These Great Events

With all the exciting drives planned, it's easy to overlook some of the other fun events that make Conclave such a special happening. Conclave 2021 will feature all your favorites:

Silent Auction Set to be a Big One

Thanks to the hard work of our Sponsorship Chairman, Mike Scroggie, the Silent Auction is shaping up to be a great one. The auction will feature items in all price ranges. Headliner offers so far include a \$2000 Gift Certificate towards the purchase of a 5-speed transmission upgrade (courtesy of the Driven Man), a set of brand new chrome wire wheels from British Wire Wheel (a \$1600 value), a free pass to the VARA University



Tool Box

Driving School (\$400) and an autographed copy of the coffee table book Healey-The Men and Machines (John Nikas).

Some of the more unusual items include a one-of-a-kind tool box with a Sprite rocker cover lid, a model of NOJ393 and a variety of NOS items including a 100 Grille, an Early AH Wings badge, 100 Brake Master Cylinder and much more (courtesy the Toy Shoppe). Moss Motors has donated a selection of attractive Healey items including a wood steering wheel, floor mats, shift knob and various "man cave" accessories. Lucas Oil has supplied three gift baskets, including a wide selection of their items.

We expect many more valuable additions to the Silent Auction soon. So, bring your credit card or checkbook! Silent Auction items will be on display in the Social Center.

Attention Creative Types!

Conclave will feature three events for Healey Hobbyists. The *Arts and Crafts Competition* will showcase Healey themed creations of all types....paintings, ceramics, textiles, you name it. *The Healey Photo Contest*



Lucas Oil Products

will feature a display of physical photographs that reflect the Healey spirit....could be racing, touring, or lifestyle oriented...bring you best shots. Finally, an *Online Event*

...continued on page 3

LOOK INSIDE!

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Day by Day Schedule page 4

Conclave 2021 – Day by Day

Conclave 2021 will offer all the traditional events and much more, with plenty of time to socialize with old friends and make new acquaintances. The week will unfold as follows:

SUNDAY, MAY 16

Hotel and Event Check-in, time for a **Car Wash** (on site) or to relax in the Social Center. No host evening **Cocktail Party** with appetizers and a special **Guest Speaker**. Silent Auction, Arts and Crafts and Photo Contest displays open. Dinner on your own at the hotel or one of the numerous nearby establishments.



Ed's Car 105

MONDAY, MAY 17

After breakfast we will head out on our **Poker Run and Tour** around the Lake and into the mountains.

Concours Judging all day. **Cocktails and final Poker Card draw** in the evening, followed by the optional **Santa Maria BBQ Dinner** by the pool.

TUESDAY, MAY 18

Today is our big drive, your choice of participating in the TSD Rally or just enjoying the scenery. We will head down the mountain on scenic Highway 38 to visit **Joshua Tree National Park**, a truly unique landscape and habitat. After lunch, we will return to Big Bear via another mountain route. Tonight will feature the preliminary and practice rounds of **Rocker Cover Racing** followed by a no-host **Cocktail Party** in the Social Center. Many have decided to partake of the optional **Paddlewheel Boat Tour** on the Lake.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

Car Show Day is here! After your commemorative photo is taken you will be directed to your parking spot on Pine



Knot Avenue, the main drag in Big Bear where we will wow the tourists with our dazzling cars. Late afternoon will see the finals of **Rocker Cover Racing** followed by a no-host **Cocktail Party** in the Social Center and more **Paddlewheel Boat Touring**.



Old Healey Ad

THURSDAY, MAY 20

Gymkhana and Funkhana Day at the Big Bear Airport. For those not participating there will be several optional self-driving opportunities including a **Lake Arrowhead drive, Morongo/Las Vegas style casino visit, Palm Spring Aerial Tramway ride, Idyllwild and Palms to Pines Highway tour** and

many other options. Late afternoon will include **Tech Sessions** and a **Ladies Only Event**. A final **Cocktail Party** with appetizers will precede the **Grand Banquet, Awards Ceremony, conclusion of the Silent Auction and a very special Healey guest**.

FRIDAY, MAY 21

Start your morning with an included **Farewell Breakfast**. We will have some special fun awards and the event signage will be auctioned off.

(Please note that the hotel room rate is \$100 plus tax for Sunday through Thursday nights. Early arrival on Saturday or stayover on Friday night will also enjoy a discounted rate).



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration is now open. You may register online or by mail. Visit www.conclave2021.com for full event and hotel information and to start registration. Please note the money back COVID-19 Guarantee. Please answer all the questions carefully, we are collecting a lot of information to make your visit as personalized and enjoyable as possible. Once we have received your paid registration, you will receive an email containing the code required to book your room.

I Used To Own An Austin Healey

PART FOUR...I used to own an Austin Healey... The end of the 2000 Rendezvous...

Our plan was to drive down Hwy 280 to Hwy 85 and then to Hwy 17. Warren almost got run off the road by a woman driving a Buick near the junction to Hwy 85 South. By the time he got peeled off to Hwy 85 North, got turned around and headed south on Hwy 85 North, got turned around and headed south on Hwy 85, he couldn't reach us on the walkie-talkie. We were out of range.

When we realized that Warren was not behind us, we pulled into an emergency lane off the freeway and waited for ten minutes for him. No Warren. Then we decided it would be safer to get off the road where it stopped being the freeway at Hwy 17. We waited another 15 minutes. Still no Warren. We kept calling on the FRS walkie-talkie, but with a two mile range, we never got together by radio.

Later, after many hours, when we finally got back together with Warren at our motel in San Luis Obispo, we realized we really should have exchanged cell phone numbers and turned on our cell phones when we realized we were out of range on the FRS's.

The day turned out to be memorable for us and for Warren, even though we didn't share the activities. We had discussed earlier on the trip about visiting Nepenthe Restaurant, and old historic hangout for members of the Beat generation, in Big Sur. We felt sure we would certainly meet up with Warren there, if not before. Roland and I stopped and enjoyed the view, had coffee and a snack, visited the gift shop, and still no Warren. (There was some discussion earlier at breakfast, of driving straight through to San Diego without a stop in San Luis Obispo overnight. After two hours, we began to think Warren had gone home and would leave a message for us at the motel. We called the motel in SLO and asked if there were any messages for us. No messages yet.

Warren's day started badly, but it turned out to

be one of the most fun days he'd ever spent. (See his article, reprinted following this on page---, to bring the conclusion of I used to own an Austin Healey.)

By 5:00 Monday afternoon when Roland and I arrived at our motel in San Luis Obispo, we were quite concerned about Warren and decided to call his home to find out if he called there. We didn't want to alarm Lynn, his wife, but we needed to know if we could stop worrying. No, Lynn had not heard from Warren.

You can imagine the kind of reception Warren Received when we finally got together! After calling home to

reassure his wife that he was safe and back together with us, we all had a good laugh and lots of stories to tell about our adventuresome day. We celebrated our reunion with a fabulous Cajun dinner of fried catfish at Bon Temps Creole Cafe, next door to our motel. After a long day of sitting in cars and a delicious dinner of fried catfish, craw-fish etouffe, gumbo, , ya-ya, red beans and rice, and cornbread to die for, we needed



some exercise. We walked for a mile or so before returning to our rooms for a good nights sleep. (We tried to walk every evening after dinner, while traveling to clear our heads as well as flex sore new muscles.

Tuesday night August 1st was our last night on the road. We had breakfast and fueled up the cars and left San Luis Obispo by 8:15 a.m. and Roland and I arrived at our house at 3:15 p.m.. Now, thats the kind of precision driving we experienced most days.

Around 11:15 a.m. we were driving through Thousand Oaks in 100+ degree heat. The water temperature in our engines was climbing - ours was 190 degrees. Warrens was 200 degrees. We were in bumper traffic: we couldn't stop for fear of a vapor lock; the batteries in our walkie- talkies were going dead. Time for a Coke.

Finally, by 12:30 p.m., we were on the Toll Road from Hwy 405 to Hwy 5 in Orange County. With a fuel stop and a delightful lunch at Cedar Creek Inn in San Juan Capistrano, we were refreshed once again to make the last 1 or 2 hours to HOME. (Warren received the award at Rendezvous for driving the greatest distance to the meet!)

We learned many things from this trip:

1. There's always at least one more thing to do than you have time to get it done.
2. If you have the tools and parts to fix a certain problem, then you won't need them. If you decide something is too unlikely to break or too expensive to tote, watch out.
3. Two (or more) Healeys are a heck of a lot better than one on a long trip.. But decide what speed you are going to try and maintain.
4. Have radio communication between/ among all the cars. Make sure everyone is connected by smart phones. *(This may sound dated as it was before smart phones-ed.)*

5. Have a "drop dead" plan where to meet or whom to contact in emergencies

6. When a breakdown occurs, try to get your head on straight before grabbing tools and diving under the hood. Give your brain time to feed you some suggestions. Stop and have some water. Much of the time if it happens fast, it can be fixed fast- if you can figure out the problem.

7. In hot weather, zip-out rear windows are the best thing since clouds were invented.

8. Six to seven hours driving time per day appears to be a sustainable maximum for 'mature' drivers in Healeys. Eight to ten hours a day is doable, but it's going to be a drag several days out. Cut yourself some slack. Stop periodically, stretch and have a water.



9. Car covers are a definite maybe. We used ours over night while traveling, except when the weather was too wet..A cover keeps the idly curious from exploring a car with no door locks.

10. Keep your cool in an emergency. Above all, keep a sense of humor...And have fun...On the road is part of the experience, isn't it?... ■



The Shilo Inn at Ocean Shores, Oregon and Rendezvous 2000

On The Road To Rendezvous 2000

By Warren Voth

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 a driving event off. 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. (*This was before our phones ran our lives.-ed*) 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. Further more, 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 foldable sheets of paper that could never be refolded to fit in your glove compartment, which were kind like a GPS printed on paper.*) and made my own itinerary to Monterey, hoping to catch them before they got on HWY 1 in 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...



Entrance to the Phoenix Restaurant at Nepenthe, the iconic hangout for the West Coast Beat Generation.

Meanwhile...back at Nepenthe, upon hearing the Wilhelm's were in front of me, I decided to enjoy the bottom half of the day 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, 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 you were going to end up. The car went where it was supposed to go without the infamous Healey Hop. The traffic was light to none. 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...*

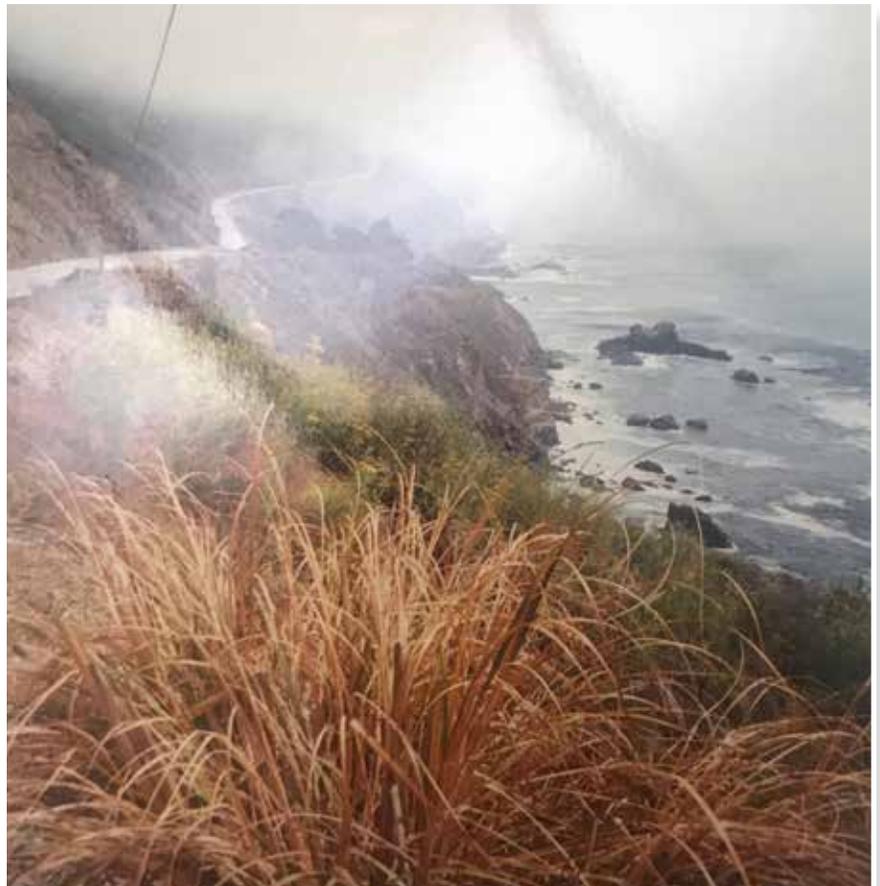
On the last night out in San Louis Obispo, tour director Loreen made a switch to the Olive Tree Inn, which would save us about twenty bucks a room. In front of the inn was the "Bon Temps Creole Cafe". Bon Temps means good times in French. And they certainly were...That evening I had deep fried crusty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

Heading down a lonely, moody, and misty HWY 1 overlooking the Pacific Ocean...

ing, 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...*

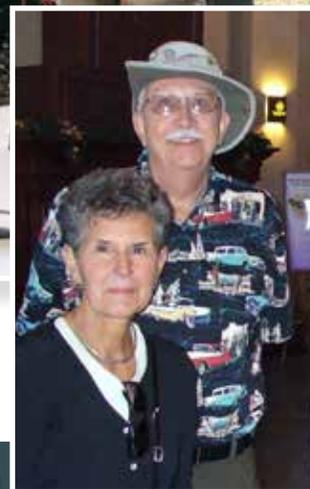
I had a great time re-living this story. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did the telling. On reflection, there is a contemporary take away that I almost missed...That is we were able to get along without modern technology. I'm not saying modern technology is not important. It is. Would it have guaranteed a better outcome with my voltage regulator or getting lost on the freeway? 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 them to get us through...*



Remembering Bob Humphreys

The worst editing job ever, for me, is to say good-by to a friend. What better way than to show something he did. We never know what will be our obituaries. Bob's recent Healey tale has become his...

What can we learn about Bob from his jinxed Healey?...He had friends and family who will miss him. He obviously had a sense of humour. He had "stick-to-it." He was a Healey guy. And most importantly, he married Barbara, the "Brownie Queen" (*my name for Barbara as she makes the best brownies ever*)...So, he gave a good account of his life, as we are all called to do. Bob, my friend, our lives are richer for having known you...



haunted or just plain cursed.

In 1961, when I purchased a black 1960 Austin-Healey 3000 from my boss, It already had been involved in a number of unlucky incidents.

My boss was driving on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, at about 70 MPH, when a pheasant flew in front of the car and went through the windshield. The windshield shattered and his face was cut severely. Fortunately, he wore glasses and his eyes were saved from any damage. Next, he was driving in town when a boy playing baseball hit the ball which landed on the aluminum shroud and dented it.

THE UNLUCKIEST HEALEY – EVER or WAS IT JINXED?

By Robert W. Humphreys

I owned what was most likely the unluckiest Austin-Healey ever built. It was plagued by incident after incident that were mostly not the fault of the owner – either that, or it was

The first weekend after purchasing the car, I drove to the New Jersey shore to visit some friends. While parked on the street, the parking brake on a car in a driveway failed and the car rolled down the driveway and across the street into my right hand door. (First incident for me.)

While getting gas, an early 1950's Dodge backed up into my front end – more damage. The driver claimed that he didn't

see me. He could have driven forward out of the station, but he decided to back up. The impact must have misaligned the windshield posts, as I had a number of windshields crack ever-after.

While driving home one evening, in the rain, a car pulled up to the stop sign on a side street. The driver stopped and then drove into the left side of the car, damaging the door and front fender, along with cracking the windshield (again). He claimed that he didn't see me, even though my headlights were on at the time.

I attended my first US Grand Prix at Watkins Glen with a friend. As usual, it had been raining and the infield was wet. My friend believed he could make it through the INFAMOUS BOG, even though a Healey has only about a 4 inch ground clearance. The Healey bottomed out on the mud. While pushing the car out, of course the tires spun and I was covered with mud. We later found some friends and were able to sleep under their trailer, out of the rain. I never was able to get all the mud off the bottom of the car. While returning home after the race, on the PA Turnpike, my friend decided to see if a Healey really would do 120 MPH. It did reach an



indicated 120 MPH, down-hill at night, in the rain, on the Dunlop RS4 tires. As I reached to turn off the ignition switch, he thought he saw something beside the highway and decided to slow to a reasonable speed. Did I mention, that my friend was noted for his poor driving? His driving was so bad that the SCCA refused to grant him a competition license. Ironically, he became a commercial airline pilot and an instructor

for the Porsche Club of America.

The next incident happened while I was driving home from a friend's house at night. A driver, who smelled of alcohol, came through a stop sign and hit my right front fender and door. More damage!



The National Level, March Lion Rallye was presented by the South Jersey Region of the SCCA. I decided to try my first National Rallye. The 15 year old daughter of someone who worked with a friend's father was a little car crazy. She had recordings of cars racing at various tracks and she

wanted to go on a drive in a sports car. The person I wanted to navigate was unavailable, so I took her along on her first rallye which was known to be very difficult. Well, with the unlucky Healey, we had a flat tire, a water hose broke and the fan belt came off too many times to count. By the time we made it to the banquet at the end, we were too late to claim the Hard Luck award. She never rode with me again.

All these problems were in addition to the usual Healey issues of broken spokes on 48 spoke wheel rims, electrical failures, refusal to start in very cold or wet weather, breaking

shock absorber mounts and leaking water in the rain.

By the time I traded the car for a 1964 MG Midget, after still another shock mount failure, the only panel that had not been hit or damaged was the left rear fender. The saga of the Midget is a whole different story that will have to wait for another time.

I originally fell in love with British Sports Cars after hearing the sound of my bosses' Austin-Healey. Ever since, I have owned a British Sports Car, with the exception of my time on active duty in the Navy. These have included several MGB's, an MG Midget and a Jensen Healey. In 1991, I was looking for an MG to restore, when I found another 1960 Austin-Healey 3000 at a reasonable price. I was in love again. (I never really fell out of love for Healeys.) The car was restored to Concours level for the 1999 International meet held here in San Diego. Most of the problems that plagued the early cars have since been corrected and my current Healey is now very reliable.



I have now had my second Austin-Healey for almost 30 years and I still enjoy driving it. However, I have never again owned a black car. ■

Terry Cowan, Owner



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- Do you enjoy the club's events and drives?
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- 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.

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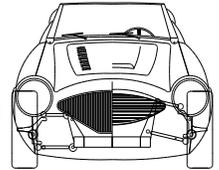
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CAR OF THE YEAR (COTY) AWARD



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) 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.

2021 CotY Standings (as of March 20)

Member	Car	PTs
*Matheus, E. & S	1960 Sprite AN5	34
Richtmyer, R. & C.	1958 100-6 BN4	8
Stark, H. & L.	1960 3000 BT7	8
Voth, W.	1966 3000 MkIII BJ8	8
Galper, L.	1955 100 BN1	6
Linnard, T. & D.	1966 3000 MkIII BJ8	4
Reid, R. & K.	1959 100-6 BN4	4
Galper, L.	1964 MGB	4
Cowan, T. & L.M.	1965 3000 MkIII BJ8	2
Humphreys, B. & B.	1960 3000 BT7	2
Polger, L. & A.	1966 3000 MkIII BJ8	2
Ventura, A. & Y.	1960 Sprite AN5	2
Watt, A. & S.	1961 Aston Martin DB4	1

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



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