

HEALEY HEARSAY

Official Publication of the



Club of San Diego



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May 2024

Note from the Editor

Hello all! And Welcome May. We're deep into spring and summer is just a short time away. We have had some good and bad weather this spring, but it hasn't dampened our spirits. We get our Healey out whenever we can, and I hope you all do as well.

April brought Rolling British Car Day and we had a great turnout of Healeys. The weather was not what I would call perfect, but we did not get rained on. More to come later in this issue.

May is going to bring California Healey Week in San Luis Obispo. Any AHCS D members that are going, please take photos and write up something about the experience. Laura and I will be out of the country, so your pictures and stories would help greatly for the June HH edition.

It seems the updated website has hit a bit of a snag that the board plans to rectify. We've been talking about this for quite a while, we need to things back on track.

We're looking at the second edition of the Highland Valley Winery Tour in June. This event was a huge success last year. Look for details coming soon.

As always, I will ask for your input for a Member's Page. Photos of your travels, as short story about them as well. This is your club, we want you all to be a part of our events and newsletter.

Cheers—Terrey

Welcome to the May 2024 edition of **Healey Hearsay**; the monthly publication of the **Austin-Healey Club of San Diego**. Monthly AHCS D members' meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. The location varies and is listed in this newsletter, on the [AHCS D website](#), and by e-mail to all club members.

Membership Information

Membership in the Austin Healey Club of San Diego is open to all owners of an Austin Healey, Jensen Healey, or any other Healey vehicles, and to anyone else who has an interest in the Healey marque. Annual dues for the Austin Healey Club of San Diego are \$35.00 per household. [Visit our website](#), www.sdhealey.org, or contact our Membership Coordinator, John Lee, 661-714-6899, leebmba@hotmail.com

2024 AHCS D Board Members

President - Laura Leyland 858-212-8922 laura.leyland@cox.net

VP - Membership - John Lee— 661-714-6899 leebmba@hotmail.com

Secretary - Kathleen Reid 858-705-4607 kdreid59@gmail.com

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Representatives, San Diego British Car Club Council— Howard Stark hjsmentor@sbcglobal.net Alternate Lou Galper ljalper1@cox.net

Representative, Car Club Council of Greater San Diego— Robert “doc” McAllister robertmcallister1@cox.net

Regalia— Lynne Stark 619-579-7551 redjag99@sbcglobal.net

Advertising Information

Classified Ads (Market Place) are free to AHCS D members. Classified ads for items wanted or small items for sale are free to members and non-members. Ads may be placed at any time. Submit artwork and payment to the Treasurer. Annual display and monthly non-member “Car For Sale” classified ads pricing:

Full page 8" x 10.5"	\$150.00 Annually
Half page 5" x 8"	\$100.00 Annually
Quarter Page.....	\$75.00 Annually
Business Card.....	\$50.00 Annually
*Non-Member ¼ Page.....	\$50.00 3 Months
*Only available for 3 month term	

All advertising and articles for publication must be submitted to the editor no later than the 20th of the month for publication in the next month's issue. terreyl@cox.net



AHCSD May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Kathy Luckie	May 3
John McCoy	May 15
Robert Reid	May 21

Anniversaries

Tom & Deborah	May 9, 1998
Ron & Sharon Burton	May 29, 1971

All membership renewals and written correspondence, unless "otherwise specified" should be sent to:

**AHCSD
P.O. Box 17101
San Diego, CA 92117**



From The President

Hello Fellow Club Members,

Another month gone and that much closer to halfway through the year. Where does the time go.

Let's hope the last of the rainy weather is behind us so we can get more of these beautiful cars out and about.

Some of you will be heading to San Luis Obispo for California Healey Week so please take photos and write a story detailing the event and if you have any fun anecdotes to share about your journey there. Terrey and I will not be able to make it this year but we will be thinking of you.

I look forward to seeing you at this months meeting on the 8th.

See you in a Healey!



April Meeting Minutes



AHCSD April10, 2024 Meeting

President Laura Leyland called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

(H) = Drove Healey, (O) = Drove Other British

There were 14 members in attendance: Don Benke (H), John Lee (H), Howard Stark (H), Alex Watt, Sandy & Lily Leon, Robert & Kathleen Reid, Joan & Bob DeYoung (H), Terrey & Laura Leyland (H), Dave Grundies (H), and Jim Doornink

Laura Leyland opened the meeting with a thank you to John Lee for facilitating last month's meeting in her absence.

Old Business: Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

New Business:

Members were reminded about the upcoming Rolling British Car Day. There appeared to be an issue with paying the entrance fee using the online registration system. Members were encouraged to bring \$20 with them to the starting point.

Announcement of a AHCSD member Mickey Pleasant's passing, may he Rest in Peace. The planned memorial for Mickey is set for 6/22. It was suggested that a Car Club drive to the service would be a nice recognition of his long time participation in the club.

AHCSD website update. The club is looking for a volunteer to serve as a contact to the web designer Jeff. Jeff is waiting for more information that is needed so that he may proceed. AHCSD had reviewed other club's websites and selected one to use as our model. It was suggested that perhaps Ed Mathius might be able to take this lead.

Membership update: John Lee informed members present that if no response has been received regarding membership renewal that those names would be dropped from our local roster. John is responsible for emailing the Austin Healey Club of America a list of our local members. On the subject of paying annual dues: AHCSD would like to receive renewal fees for just our local club. Members that would also like to be members of the national club are encouraged to send those fees directly to the national club. Don Benke is our delegate to the national club and will continue to disseminate information to our local members.

Treasury Update: Sandy Leon reported that the club remains solvent.

Activities Update: Laura Leyland discussed the details for Rolling British Car Day with 2 different starting sites. Cars will end up at Bates Nut Farm for a picnic. Robert Reid is planning on providing a lunch of hot dogs, sides, dessert and will accept donations to cover costs and fund lunch for an upcoming tech session. Other events of which to take note: Motor Cars on Main Street in Coronado (4/28); AHCSD Ladies Lunch at Seasons 52 (5/1); Temecula Car Show & Seafood Boil with Ed Mathius (5/3-4); Monthly meeting @ The Hamburger Factory in Poway (5/8); California Healey Week (5/13-17)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

2024 Club Activities

May Events

1- Ladies Luncheon, Seasons 52 UTC Mall, 11:30

· RSVP to Jan Schmidt- 858-337-8874

3- Temecula Rod Run, Historic Old Town

· Ed & Ron to host a seafood boil at Pechanga RV

· RSVP to Ed- 760-519-1684

8- Club Meeting, 6:30pm

· Hamburger Factory, 14122 Midland Rd. Poway, 92064

13-17- California Healey Week

June Events

12- Club Meeting, 6:30pm

22- Winery Tour

July Events

10- Club Meeting, 6:30pm

20- Tour of Pt. Loma



We Are All Members of the Activities Committee

- Do you enjoy the club's events and drives?
- Do you know of a great place that AHCS D Members might enjoy visiting?
- Do you want to share a favorite drive you've made in your Healey?
- Do you have a favorite lunch or dinner place that would make a good venue for an AHCS D gathering?
- Think about sponsoring one of our monthly events.
- Please contact us to tell us about your ideas!

Laura Leyland

Laura.leyland@cox.net

858-212-8922



Participation at Club Events, Tech Sessions, Drives and Gatherings are understood to be voluntary and at your own risk. AHCS D, its Board Members, AHCA and Affiliate Clubs, Representatives and/or Members are not liable for outcomes resulting from your participation at any club activity.

Car of the Year Award Standings

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 smokey.snover@gmail.com 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.

COTY Standings as of April 20, 2024

Member	Car	Pts	Member	Car	Pts
Matheus, E. & S.	1960 Sprite AN5	64	Galper, L.	1955 100 BN1	12
Lee, J. & Davis, S.	1966 3000 MK III BJ8	52	Putzke, U. & G.	1961 3000 Mk II BT7	12
Leyland, L. & T.	1962 3000 Mk II BT7	42	Galper, L.	1985 Jaguar XJ6	8
DeYoung, R. & J.	1967 3000 MK III BJ8	40	Graves, E.	1962 3000 Mk II BT7	6
Grundies, D. & Schneider, D.	1965 3000 Mk III BJ8 Ph 2	20	Howard, J. & Hays, J.	1962 3000 BT7	6
Cowan, T.	1965 3000 Mk III BJ8	18	Reid, R. & K.	1960 3000 BN7	6
Luckie, T &	1967 3000 Mk III BJ8	16	Snover, R. & A.	1962 3000 BT7	6
Benke, D. & P.	1967 3000 Mk III BJ8	14	Stark, H. & L.	1960 3000 BT7	4
			Lee, J. & Davis, S.	1967 3000 MK III BJ8	2

Cover Photo

4 of the 10 Healeys in attendance. John Lee's, Bob De Young's and Tom Luckie's BJ8s with Laura's BT7. Photo by Tom Luckie.

Monthly Meeting Schedule

May Meeting

Wednesday, May 8 6:30 PM

Hamburger Factory
14122 Midland Rd
Poway, CA 92064

June Meeting

Wednesday, June 12 6:30 PM

Filippi's Pizza Grotto
5353 Kearny Villa Rd
San Diego, CA 92123

July Meeting

Wednesday, July 10 6:30 PM

Marie Calendar's
6950 Alvarado Rd
San Diego, CA 92120

Please Attend!

Membership Update—John Lee

AHCS D Membership Summary - May 2024	
Individual Memberships	17
Family/Group/Couples/Partners Memberships	40
Total Combined Members	97
Austin Healey Club America Members/Families/	24

New Members for March - April 2024	
Tom & Deborah Linnard	2
Total	2

Please address any concerns regarding:

- Club Membership
- Healey Hearsay Distribution
- Monthly Meeting Venues
- Other Ideas or Recommendations

John Lee
Phone or Text 661-714-6899

Rolling British Car Day

What another great event. There were so many cars to look at and we had a good turnout with 10 Healey's. Actually 11 if you count Terry Cowan who showed up as everyone was leaving. Better late than never as the saying goes. I think we should start having a "hard luck" prize for our events, you just never know what is going to happen with these oldie but goodies of a car.

Those in attendance were John Lee and Susana Davis, Terrey and Laura Leyland, Don Benke, Howard Stark, Dave Grundies, Bob and Joan DeYoung, Tom Luckie, returning member Tom Linnard. Lou Galper and Deb Durham were there as well but they drove their Jag. A former member was also there with his Healey, Jeff Boysen.



AHCS Members from left: Don Benke, Howard Stark, Tom Luckie, Bob and Joan De Young, Kathleen Reid, Tom Linnard, Laura and Terrey Leyland, John Lee and Susana Davis, Deb Durham and Lou Galper

Robert and Kathleen had a great setup for lunch.

There were even people coming up thinking they were there to support the whole event for lunch. Robert could have charged anything he wanted at that point and they would have paid. Off to the general store at Bates Nut Farm to get snacks for lunch.

The weather held up, although a little on the chilly side but it was a nice way to spend a couple of hours and got to see some nice British Cars.

Until the next event, cheers!



Tom Linnard's 66 BJ8 and Don Benke's 67 BJ8

Rolling British Car Day



Dave Grundies '65 BJ8 and Howard Stark's '60 BT7



Tom Luckie's '67 BJ8 and Laura & Terrey Leyland's '62 BT7



Tom Luckie's beautiful engine compartment



Some of the AHCS D contingent chillaxin by Robert Reid's Hot Dog stand.



John Lee & Susana Davis's '67 BJ8 and Bob & Joan De Young's '67 BJ8

THE CASE FOR POSITIVE GROUND

By Steve Kirby

Most of you know that all Austin Healeys (and most any other British car up through the late 60's) originally came fitted with Positive Ground electrics, while most of rest of the world, then and now, had Negative Ground equipment. Much has been said and written about how to convert positive ground cars to negative ground, if for no other reason than to allow one to plug their iPhone charger into the lighter socket (don't try this with a positive ground lighter or Mr. Lucas will let all the smoke out of the wires). But little is ever said about WHY these cars were Positive Ground in the first place.

By way of background, positive and negative ground simply refers to the direction that electrons flow through the wiring when something electrical is turned on. In a conventional negative ground car, the "hot wires" are hooked to the "+" side of the battery, from where "juice" flows to the device to be powered, let's say a headlight. The "juice" then returns to the "-" side of the battery, frequently through the metal parts of the vehicle chassis. This enables a device to be powered by a single hot wire without the need to have a separate "return" wire. *(Author's note: Ok you electrical engineers out there please don't bother to write me to correct this explanation of current flow, I know the electrons actually go the other way, but that's too confusing for this article).*

In a positive ground situation, the roles, and the cables, are reversed. The "hot" wires are connected the negative terminal of the battery, and the positive terminal is connected to the chassis. But why so? Who came up with this oddball orientation and why?

Over the years I have asked many smart electrical guys, from auto techs to electronics engineers, and no one has had a rational reason for how positive ground evolved, until I read Rod Shears excellent article entitled "Improving XK Charging" in the UK based Jaguar XK Club's Gazette. It seems that up until the invention of PVC (plastic) insulated wiring in the 60's, all wiring was covered with cloth based insulation, usually varnished to make it more durable. This cloth based insulation was not perfect, especially when it absorbed water as it was wont to do in Jolly (and foggy) Old England. Under these conditions, a small amount of electricity tended to "leak" through the insulation wherever wiring came in close proximity to a ground (like running through the firewall). Today we refer to this phenomenon as (lack of) dielectric strength (the ability of something to contain electricity, i.e. to insulate).

Engineers of the day found that where this "leakage" occurred, corrosion would form. We've all seen the effects of corrosion around electrical terminals, batteries and the like. However, it was noted that when the ground was Positive, the corrosion effect was greatly reduced. Now you know. Faced with imperfect insulation and a wet climate, English auto makers opted for the least corrosive electrical orientation.

Want more? Ok, so after the invention of plastic wire insulation, why did Positive ground go away? Electronics. Some-time around this era the transistor was developed and all kinds of neat things were invented....including electronic ignition and transistor radios which were cool to have in cars. The electronics industry standardized on what is known as the NPN transistor (negative-positive-negative) which only works on Negative ground electrical systems! Hence, positive ground cars became a thing of the past.

And now you know, probably more than you ever wanted to. Thanks to Rod Shears and the XK Gazette. Rod's article also includes a lot of valuable info on converting English cars to negative ground, going from generator (DC current) to alternator (AC current) and related subjects. Order issue #185 at www.xkclub.com or email me and I will try to get you a digital copy.

SIDEBAR

Powering Negative Ground Devices in a Positive Ground Car

Yes, it is possible to charge your iPhone or run your Garmin even if your Healey is still positive ground. But it takes a little caution and a little ingenuity. Do NOT try to just reverse the wires on your cigarette lighter (if your car is so equipped)! This is a recipe for a very expensive fire.

(Continued on page 11)

Tech Feature

THE CASE FOR POSITIVE GROUND

Powering Negative Ground Devices in a Positive Ground Car - Continued

Here's how to do it. First, purchase one of those "one into two" power adapters off the internet. The one pictured below is listed on Amazon for \$10. Search "Sparking Cigarette Lighter Splitter" (ominous brand name!). The key features are that it has a length of wire attached to the sockets and plastic caps to cover the outlet ports when not in use. Do not buy one that plugs directly into a lighter socket as you need the wires available and definitely DO NOT buy one that has metal housings on the ports, they must be covered in plastic!

You do not really need the two-port kind of adapter, but I have found having two charging ports is useful, for example to run a Garmin and charge a phone at the same time.

I choose to "mount" my outlet ports in the glove box, just loose. Drill a small hole in the back corner of the box large enough to run the lead wires out. Now cut off the cigarette lighter adapter and discard it. Strip back the red and black wires and select appropriate crimp terminals. The black wire(s) will go to the "hot" side of any nearby power source on the dash (wiper switch, panel light switch, etc.). The decision will be whether to use a power source that is hot all the time (like headlights) or one that is only hot with the key on. I prefer the later for safety sake.

Turn off or disconnect the battery. Attach the black wire(s) to your power source. Then find a suitable screw or bolt under the dash and, using a ring terminal, attach the red wire(s) to it. Reconnect the battery. You now have one or two 12v negative ground power ports available in your glove box.

Be sure to keep the plastic covers on the ports when not in use and do not let any exposed metal to touch any metal part of your car (the little chrome trim rings shown are probably not grounded, so should not be a problem). If you are concerned about any exposed metal, wrap it with electrical tape.

I have done this on my positive ground BJ8 and routinely run my Garmin and charge my 12v electrical devices at the same time. If you want to use USB charging, you can use a standard USB cigarette lighter adapter.



Meet Our Members—Laura Leyland

Do you have a significant other? Terrey

Do you have kids? Grandchildren? I have a daughter, a stepdaughter, and a stepson. No grandkids yet!

What Austin Healey and/or other British car do you drive? 1962 3000 MKII

How long have you owned your Austen Healey? 3 ½ years

Are you the original owner? How did the car come into your possession? I inherited it from my Dad, John Wilson. He had owned since around 1979.

What else do you drive? Audi Q5

In what part of town do you live? North County, Escondido

Native San Diegan? If not, where are you from? How did you end up living in San Diego? I moved here as a teen from Eugene, OR.

Where is the best road trip you've taken in your Austen Healey? A 5 day trip in 2008 after my Dad brought it here for the SD sponsored Rendezvous. We then drove it back to Oregon.

Where is the coolest place you have ever traveled? The countryside of France

Do you collect anything? Not really, I try to get neat things from traveling

What are your hobbies? Reading, hiking and walking, and traveling

What are you passionate about? Travel

What is on your bucket list? There are too many to list, I have a lot of places I still want to see

What is your favorite recent memory? Watching my stepson get married

What is one thing that instantly makes your day better? Cuddling one of my cats

What do you enjoy spending money on? Travel and good food

What did you do as a teenager that makes you cringe now? Got a perm

How do you waste time most often? Watching reality TV

What is the first concert you attended? What is the best concert? My first was Duran Duran and my favorite was Elton John and The Killers

What do you dislike that everyone else seems to like? Tik Tok

What is your favorite cuisine? Pretty much all cuisines (French – Italian – Asian– Mexican)

What are you most excited about right now? Our upcoming trip to London, Lisbon and then a cruise out of Lisbon

What is the best advice you ever received? The worst advice? Best: Don't hold grudges Worst: Get over it

What was your first job? A movie Theatre

What was your first car? Toyota Celica, not sure what year

Meet Our Members—Laura Leyland

What line of work do/did you choose as a career? Inventory Management and Supply Chain

What is the biggest mistake you ever made at work? Believing everything that is told to you

What is the hardest lesson you have learned so far? You can't be everyone's friend

Do you have any pet peeves? Bad drivers

What is your favorite thing to share with other people? Travel experiences

What is one fact that few people know about you? I danced in high school and performed in a Superbowl

Have you ever met a celebrity? Giada De Laurentis at a book signing

Which celebrity would you like to meet?. Elton John

What is your go-to karaoke song? Nothing, no one wants to hear that



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- **AUSTIN-HEALEY QUARTERLY**, our new e-zine, the only one of its kind worldwide, with 300 more pages of Healey reading.
- **AUSTIN-HEALEY CALENDAR**, our colorful wall calendar with beautiful photos of these beautiful cars.
- **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**, listing members in all 50 states, across Canada, and even many overseas.
- **40 CHAPTERS** across the continent.

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