



Regional Rumblin's



Vol. 2 2026 Newsletter of the South Texas Austin Healey Club

Club Officers, Board Members, and Appointed Positions

President: Larry Hester
Lhester1@austin.rr.com

Vice President: Julie Miller
jmillerslp@gmail.com

Treasurer: Bob Adkins
radkins@ieee.org

Membership: Tina Adkins
kristina.adkins@icloud.com

AHCA Delegate: David Ayers
david.ayer@icloud.com

Webmaster: Ron Borden
rborden@gvtc.com

Newsletter Editor: Melinda Hester
melhester@austin.rr.com

Highway Cleanup: Denene Whitmore
whitdemore@gmail.com

**South Texas All British Car Day
Representative: Julie Miller**
jmillerslp@gmail.com

**Special Healey Artwork by Joe Johnson, AHC
of Kansas City**

President's Rumblin's

Hello, All.

It's in the rearview mirror.... bye, bye Texas Healey Roundup 2026. I so hope you were able to join in some or all of Roundup this year. If not, there is always next year. And it will be back in South Texas' hands in three years.

One of my favorite parts was the number of the local folks that stopped by for the beautiful Popularity display in downtown Dripping Springs. 55 votes were cast. The '61 BN7 that started out in the Panama Canal Zone was the rightful People's winner with a great story. Karl and Joe Ebert brought it over from Florida (PCAHC) to meet with six family members from various points at THR 45. It was a family affair shared with all in attendance.

The weather largely cooperated and it was a great Healey weekend. Much more Roundup news and thanks beginning on page 2.

We have more fun coming up in '26.

Join in.

Larry



Here's the "Roundup" on the Texas Healey Roundup 45

By Larry Hester

Where to begin..... at the top!

We started planning a fun event in earnest in June of 2025 with picking an interesting locale having lodging, popularity and banquet space. By the end of June, we had a logo design. In September collaborators met in Dripping Springs to tie down the banquet venue, met with their staff and ensured they had quality barbeque. We met there again in January and February to visit with local shops and vendors about the upcoming event and how they could participate. In the meanwhile, the next layer of components, like popularity and the rally, started coming together. Did I mention, your officers and this production group put a lot of fun effort into Roundup 45?

So, a BIG thank you to all who worked on Texas Healey Roundup 45. We are fortunate to have a seasoned core of veterans who know how it should be run. It really came together under Julie Miller's guidance, our Roundup Queen. Thank you, Julie. Lodging and registration among other things were handled by our Roundup King, Bob Adkins. Thank you, Bob.

Roundup Princess, Tina Adkins, arranged a



special Westcave Preserve Private Tour north

and east of Dripping Springs and along the Pedernales on Friday. The hike down and back was rewarded with amazing pond and



cave experiences at the bottom. Thank You, Tina.

The Hospitality Room was always a hub of activity and the Cornish auction was fun. Thank you, Debbie Berry, Julie, Tina, Melinda Hester, Pat Stamp and Bonnie Ayers.

On Saturday morning, cars started forming up for the Popularity display in downtown. Thanks to Wells Fargo for making their lot available. There were 24 cars registered, with a couple of no-shows due to the threatening



weather that ultimately never impacted the weekend. Thank You for keeping the location organized, Tina. Thank you to Brian Blackwell for managing the popularity event.





The popularity results were:

100's and related:

- 1st Place – Vince Barnell 1955 BN1
- 2nd Place – Daren and Doris Laine 1956 100M

Roadsters:

- 1st – Charles Jeffery 1960 BT7
- 2nd – Karl Ebert 1961 BN7
- 3rd – David Freed 1960 BT7

Convertibles:

- 1st – Bill Cantwell 1966 BJ8
- 2nd – CW Barnell 1967 BJ8

Sprite:

- 1st Place – Brian O'Neil 1960
- 2nd Place – Al Amato 1966
- 3rd Place – Rob Brown 1965

People's choice:

- Karl Ebert 1961 BN7



Also recognized by the local crowd:
Bill Cantwell's 1966 BJ8 and



Vince Barnell's 1955 BN1.



There were 34 registrants for the rally starting and ending at the host hotel. It was said, "if a rally is not hard, it is not fun". Mission accomplished Bob Adkins and Brett Miller. I had personally been lulled into a false sense of security of left and right directions and actual



road names and numbers, but oh no, there were plenty of clues but no name or numbers. Even so, there were indeed scenic byways and hill country views, plus a hidden State Park. What fun! I will be ready next time, but could easily not place again. Job Well done, Bob and Brett!



The Rally results were:

<u>Driver:</u>	<u>Navigator:</u>
1st place - Mike McPhail	Jane Sandy
2nd place - Hilary Cooper	Ed Reiss
3rd place - David Freed	Darlene Freed
4th place - Vince Barnell	Mike Johson
5 th place - Doug Solomon	Steff Colston
6th place - Denene Whitmore	Jeff Whitmore

In between the rest of the fun, a few folks tried their hand at driving the Star Search Funkana staged all over town. There are 16 very large public art stars installed in Dripping Springs, all painted by local artists representing a range of themes inspired by the Hill country. Steff Colston was the winner in finding the most and discovering their messages. Thank You for developing this event, Tina Adkins.



The banquet was held at Dripping Springs Distilling, Distillers Hall. After cocktails, we posed for a group photo and enjoyed a barbeque buffet during live music.

We had 58 registered for dinner.



Mr. Dripping Springs, Bob Adkins, was our master of ceremonies. The O'Neil and Spuria families were recognized for having Healey's featured in the AHCA 2026 calendar. Bill Cantrell gave a sneak preview of Conclave 50 in Galena, Ill.

Long Distance Driving Award:

Bill Cantrell

Grand Competitor (Awarded Posthumously):

Jim Richmond



Thanks to the following for handling banquet decorations: Julie, Tina, Debbie Berry, Rita Brockway, and Bonnie Ayers. Thanks to John Berry for coordinating the beautiful trophies awarded out at the banquet.

Music was provided by Ken Hamilton. Check out Ken's [Facebook](#) page.





The final special event was at Beerburg Brewing on Fitzhugh Road. There was a THR after-party Sunday afternoon. A band and dancing were enjoyed along with some great craft beer. Thanks for suggesting it, Bob. You are owed a dance by someone.



Finally, thank you to All who made contributions and helped with producing a great Roundup.

In closing, if producing a fun car event like this with many parts sounds like your cup of tea or you want to help with part next time, make it known.



Time to Clean up the Highway

We meet Saturday, May 9th at 9:30 am to scour the roadside. This service project is our way of giving back to South Texas. We meet at the intersection of FM 1623 at KcKinney Loop, 2.6 miles west of Blanco. Afterwards we will meet at the [Red Bud Café](#) in Blanco for an always good lunch.

Remember to bring your gloves, sunscreen, grabbers, water bottle and your pedometer. It's a fun way to get your steps in!



May Healey Trivia Question



For which James Bond film did the producers want a “sexier” sound for the Toyota 2000GT; so, they used an Austin-Healey 3000 off the showroom floor to record engine sounds?

Whoever can answer the trivia question above and sends the answer to me **first** at melhester@austin.rr.com will receive a Healey prize.

(I have prizes for ladies and men!)



February Healey Trivia Winners

Remember back in February the Healey Trivia Question was: What's the best music video featuring a Big Healey?

Tina Adkins won with the Tears for Fears – “Everybody Wants to Rule the World”!

She won her very own CD, so she can play the song anytime!

We had to award a second-place winner because his response was a “HOOT”! **Mike Phillips** also won his very own CD for “Everybody Wants to Rule the World”. I had to include his story about how he found the song, because Larry and I broke out laughing. Hope you get a chuckle too!

Mike says, “Love the trivia. I started this exercise by searching for all the music videos



with Big Healey's. This led me down several rabbit holes.

For instance, some malignant algorithm claimed that Simply Red's "Something Got Me Started" video had a Big Healey. I'd never heard of this song before (despite being a Gen-Xer). I forced myself to watch (and listen to) this "t#d", despite its strong disco influence. It wasn't until about ¾ of the way through that I realized, "No way does this group have the budget for a Healey."*

The next search hit: The Smiths' "Stop Me If You Think You've Heard This One Before." OK, I'm not the biggest Smiths fan, as they tend to be a bit mopey, but you know what else is a bit mopey? English weather! And the Smiths have a classic, timeless feel to them, not unlike the Big Healey's: they are not only of their time, but transcend their time, as well. But despite a few old English cars at the beginning of the video, there wasn't a single Healey, big or small, in this video. Bad algorithm! Bad!

Then popped up the Aussie Bad Boys, INXS, with Suicide Blonde. Now, for backroad cruising, this was certainly a better choice than either of the previous two options, despite the fact that the band was descended from the British Isles' rapists and murderers. Alas, not a Healey, not even a motorized vehicle in sight! What is going on with AI?!

What is a music- and Healey-loving (dare I remind you, Gen-X) man to do? Then, out of the echo chambers of my MTV-saturated youth, comes.... the Tears for Fears video with "Everybody Wants to Rule the World." I won't bother linking it because we both know it's the only possible answer. And it's green, to boot!"

I'll link it, Mike! ["Everybody Wants to Rule the](#)

[World"! Take a look and enjoy!](#)

My Healey Story

-by Charles Jeffrey



"I'm originally from the UK, home of the Healey. I have lived in the US for 30 years now and have always been a car enthusiast, having been brought up with a father in the motor trade.

In 2014 I purchased my 1960 BT7 Colorado Red Healey at the Keels and Wheels auction in



Clear Lake, south of Houston where we keep a home. The car didn't make reserve and so I negotiated a deal with Wayne Carrini (of Chasing Classic Cars fame) who was representing the seller. The car had been restored by Fourintune ten years previously.





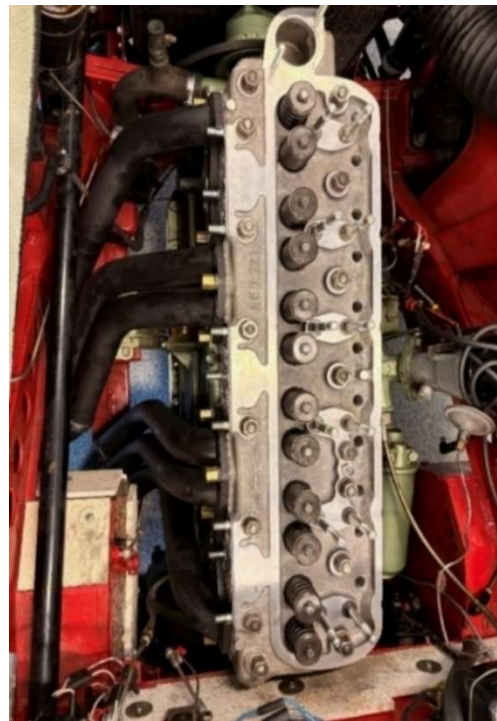
Judging by the pictures it looked like a wreck before they worked their magic.

Shortly after the purchase I joined the Gulf Coast Austin Healey club and enjoyed several drives and events. Also, exhibited at later Keels and Wheels events where she won prizes every time!

Three years ago, we decided to move to the Hill Country where we could enjoy the cars, yes there are others, and built a home in Spicewood with a purpose-built, detached garage to keep and work on the cars. I have rebuilt and improved much of the mechanical side of the car; here are some pictures.

Lowering the gearbox onto the overdrive after overhaul and seal replacement.

New aluminum head, smooth flow exhaust manifold and aluminum exhaust. And MUCH MORE!!!



I now look forward to further events with STAHC and enjoying the beautiful Hill Country."



Traveling to Port Aransas and Meeting Kindred Spirits

- by Mel Hester

In February, Larry and I took a two-week vacation to my happy place, Port A. We have been traveling there several times a year for over 50 years. It's where I can relax, unwind and unplug. While we were there, we arranged to have lunch with a new STAHC



member, Michael Kneale and his friend Paul Froeschner. Each live in Aransas Pass with their spouses. We met at one of our favorite water side restaurants, [Grumbles](#), for beer and shrimp. I had so much fun learning these men's stories (some I had never even heard Larry tell!) and how their love for Austin Healey's has turned into their lifelong passion.



What is it when a Healey hood goes up that it attracts people? Out in the parking lot as we



were saying our good-byes and see you soon at the next STAHC event, another couple walked up to admire Michael's Healey. Turned out, Linda Crowley who is from Massachusetts had just inherited her mother's Healey and her partner Paul Gazzara from New Hampshire had just finished restoring it! Linda plans to start driving it around her hometown this Spring. Her Healey, of course is very special to her because it was her mother's. I'm hoping she will get to drive it on Mother's Day to celebrate her Mother.

A wise Australian once said, "The joy of sharing the Healey experience with others can be personal and quite special. Meeting and travelling with other Healey owners is always interesting, both on the road and off as conversations and friendships with like-minded folks is inevitable." – PR



Happy Mother's Day

Hey guys, Remember Mother's Day is Sunday May 10th! Here a couple of our favorite moms' with their loved ones in Healey's.



Astrid and Benjamin Borden



Debbie Berry with her Mom, Rose Welser



Lera and Benjamin (4 y.o.) Borden



John Berry with Mother-in-Law, Rose Welser and Son, Adam Berry



Note from the Newsletter Editor

Regional Rumblin's is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. I'll send out monthly email announcements and reminders to help you stay up-to-date. I always appreciate your feedback, suggestions, stories and pictures. Keep them coming! melhester@austin.rr.com

Our Past Highway Cleanup

On Saturday March 7th we met to clean up the highway west of Blanco. It's always interesting to see what we find and *WHO* we see along the way!



Here's a bit of the stash we found.



Hope you will join us on Saturday May 9th!



Did You Know?

The United States was the primary market for the Austin Healey. Over 90% of the inventory was predominately exported to us here in the U.S; particularly the 3000 models.



"In the world of cars, passion is the ultimate fuel."

-unknown



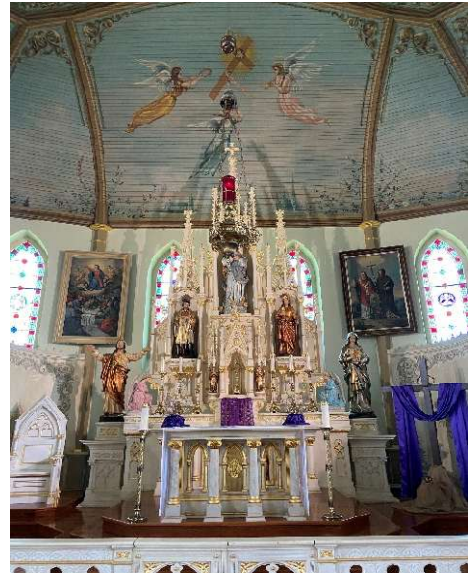
The Painted Churches Tour

We can officially say *"We Have Painted!"*

On Friday March 27th we followed our tour guide, Gary and toured 4 of the 6 churches in the Schulenburg area. Turns out Gary use to have a Sprite in his younger days. It was a beautiful day to drive. Wild flowers were out and Spring was in the air. Several of our Gulf Coast Healey Club friends joined us.

We stopped half way through the tour for lunch at the [Garden Co. Café](#). They have a beautiful nursery and garden.

We hope to go back and tour all 6 churches soon.



Healey Museum

Congratulations STAHC! We surpassed our 2025 giving to the Austin Healey museum. Last year we sent in \$660.00 and this year, we sent in \$775.00.

For more information about the museum, visit <https://www.healeymuseum.nl/en/>



A Trip to Big Bend

Peter Rowland and his daughter, Laura Rowland, after the Roundup in April, hit the



road for Big Bend. He Snapped this iconic picture of his Healey.

Thanks to DJ Stamp for this flashback! He found it in his barn when he was cleaning! Be sure to enlarge the picture so you can read it.

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HOLIDAY / APRIL



Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Location	Time
January 17	Annual Planning Meeting	Brett and Julie Miller's	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
February 5-6	Planning for the 45 th Roundup	<u>City Hall in Dripping Springs</u> 511 Mercer St, Dripping Springs, TX 78620	11:00 am
March 7	Highway Cleanup and <u>Lunch</u>	FM1623 at McKinney Loop 2.6 miles west of Blanco	9:30 am
March 27	Tour of the Painted Churches and <u>Lunch in Schulenberg</u>	Begins at Chamber of Commerce 618 N Main St, Schulenburg, TX 78956	10:30 am \$25/person
April 10 -12	<u>Texas Healey Roundup 45</u>	Dripping Springs	12:00 pm
April 25	San Antonio Jaguar Club Rallye	TBA	11:00 am
May 9	Highway Cleanup and <u>Lunch</u>	FM1623 at McKinney Loop 2.6 miles west of Blanco	9:30 am
June TBA	Fredericksburg Road Rallye, Lunch and <u>Museum Tour</u>	TBA	TBA
July TBA	Pool Party	John and Debbie Berry's home	TBA
August 22	National Healey Ice Cream Day and Pool Party	The Hester's Lunch and Ice Cream Served	12:00 - 4:00 pm
September 13 - 18	<u>AHCA Conclave</u>	Galena, Illinois	Various
October 9 - 11	<u>Texas All British Car Days</u>	Marble Falls, TX	TBA
October 10	Highway Cleanup and <u>Lunch</u>	FM1623 at McKinney Loop 2.6 miles west of Blanco	10:00
October 31	South Texas All British Car Days	Boerne Main Square Plaza 132 S Main St. Boerne, TX	8:30 - 3:00 pm
November 14	Club drive to <u>Lost Maples State Natural Area</u>	5 miles North of Vanderpool on RR 187	TBA



December 6	Annual STAHC Christmas/ Holiday Party	<u>Forke Store</u> 1300 Church Hill Dr. New Braunfels, TX 78130	1:00 – 4:00 pm
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SOUTH TEXAS AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB (STAHC) is an area club of the Austin Healey Club of America (AHCA), the largest Austin Healey club in the world. STAHC is one of 47 independent area clubs and was sanctioned by AHCA in 1979. STAHC covers the Austin, San Antonio and surrounding areas of South Texas.

Membership is open to owners and enthusiasts of all cars bearing the name HEALEY. Ownership of a Healey is not required.

For membership information please contact Bob or Tina Adkins at: (512) 264-2042. Membership information is also available at:
<https://www.stahc.org/contact>

Current and past issues of *Regional Rumblin's*, as well as other information about our club, can be found at the STAHC web site at
<https://www.stahc.org/newsletters>

Ready to submit *YOUR* article to our newsletter? Let us know about your first Healey. Need tech help? Have something to sell? Need a referral for your Healey restoration. Contact me at
melhester@austin.rr.com.

Check Out these Newsletters, Websites and Events

[Conclave 50 Years](#) in Galena, Ill
September 13-18, 2026

[New Braunfels Area Car Club](#) in New Braunfels, TX
October 24 -26, 2026

[The Austin Healey 75th Anniversary Meet](#), Lake Tahoe, CA USA, June 7-11, 2027

[North Texas Austin Healey Club](#) [Healey Trails Newsletters](#)

[Central Texas Region Antique Club of American \(AACA\)](#) Fender Talk Newsletter

[The British Sports Car Hall of Fame](#)

[Pistons on the Square](#) in Georgetown, TX
3rd Saturday of the month from 8-10 am

