



# Regional Rumblings

Volume 2016, Volume 7

4 July 2016

STAHC is an area club of the Austin Healey Club of America, 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 or membership@stahc.com

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## Presidents Rumblings by Jim Richmond

For the second year in a row, Karen and I left the usual 90° summer temperatures in South Texas for Conclave. For the second year in a row it was just a hot in the “frozen” north as it was in South Texas. In spite of the heat, the Ohio Valley AHC hosted a great Conclave with Healey enthusiasts from all over North America and lots of Healeys, three Healey boats and some other interesting old cars including a Model A Ford coup with rumble seat owned by one of the Ohio Valley members. Monday featured a great evening dinner cruise on



Jim Richmond's 100 in paint.

the Ohio River. Other events included a popularity car show on three blocks of closed streets in downtown Covington, Kentucky, which is a part of the greater Cincinnati metropolitan area. The rally was conducted on some very scenic back roads of northern Kentucky. Live music was provided in the evenings.

About 200 Healey enthusiasts with 175 Healeys attended Conclave 2016. David and Bonnie Ayer as well as Karen and I were there from STAHC. Several members from the North Texas AHC also attended Conclave 2016. More coverage of this event will be in a future issue of the Healey Marque. (cont'd) One of the activities of each Conclave is a

## With a Little Help from my Friends by Charlie O’Connors

On 25 June a South Texas Austin Healey Club Tech Session was held at Charlie O’Connors’ home to upgrade the rear suspension of his 1960 Austin Healey 3000 (BT7) from original lever shocks to Bilstein gas shocks. And

while under the car, they also took on replacing the leaf springs. Club members in attendance included STAHC Club President Jim Richmond, Lynn McKinnie, Ron Borden and Brian Eaton. The session began

around 9:00 AM with the hope we could get a lot of work done before it got too hot. Charlie had a large fan blowing in the garage and the A/C from his workshop provided a little extra comfort – but it still got pretty hot after



Austin Healey boat at Conclave 2016

## Elected Officers, Board Members & Appointed Positions

President: Jim Richond  
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jkrich@gvtc.com

Vice President: Ron Bordon  
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rbordon@gvtc.com

Membership: Tina Adkins  
(512) 264-2042  
membership@stach.org

Delegate: Jim Richmond  
(830) 537-5075

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:  
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Highway Cleanup: Jeff & Denene  
Whitmore  
(210) 403-3783  
defwhit@satx.rr.com

South Texas All British Car Day  
Representative: Lynn McKinnie  
Lmckinnie@satx.rr.com

**STAHC is on  
Facebook at  
[https://  
www.facebook.  
com/  
southtexasausti  
nehealeyclub](https://www.facebook.com/southtexasaustinehealeyclub)**



## Presidents Rumblins (Cont'd)

short informational Delegates meeting. Following is a summary.

⇒ In accordance with a resolution passed by the Delegates at the meeting last November, the AHCA Officers have asked the three Texas Austin-Healey Clubs to develop a plan for Conclave 2017, possibly in Waco Texas with help from the National Officers. Co-chairs for developing this plan are Bonnie Ayer (STAHC), Hilary Cooper (North Texas) and Anne Johnson (Gulf Coast). There was dis-

cussion about a possible date, however no date has been selected. More information will be sent to our members soon.

⇒ Although the AHCA Membership Directory was printed on time, a problem in distributing the directory to members arose when the United States Postal Service announced that it could not be distributed by bulk mail, even though it had done so in the past. The Delegates approved a \$5,000 budget increase to permit distribution by first class mail. AHCA Officers will consider alternate means of distribution for

2017. (We received our directory last week. Hopefully, you received yours as well.)

⇒ The nominating committee, made up of former AHCA Presidents and two Delegates, will present the following for election for 2017 at the November 2016 Delegates meeting: Gary Feldman, President; Neil Anderson, Vice President Conclave; and Bruce Gearns, Vice President Club Support. All other Officers have agreed to stand for re-election. Other candidates, with their permission, may be nominated from the floor. The fall Delegates meeting will be in Indianapolis, November 7 – 8. At the meeting the Delegates will vote on a proposal to increase nominating committee Delegate members to three.

After Conclave, Karen and I drove to Cleveland, Ohio for a brief visit with relatives and friends. On the following Monday we drove to the Fourintune Garage in Cedarburg, Wisconsin where our 100 is being restored. The final coat of paint had been applied, but the car

had not been wet sanded. The restoration process should be complete by the end of summer. After our visit to Four-in-tune we started the long drive home.

Summer has settled in and STAHC has no activities scheduled for July, and nothing in August until the Ice Cream Social late in the month. So now is your chance to come up with an idea. If you would like to host an activity let me know. If you would like a tech session to work on your car, let Charlie O'Connors know.

Come to think about it, now might be a good time to work on your Healey or other British Car. No matter what else Brexit might bring, the Dollar-Pound exchange rate is now very favorable and parts prices might never be cheaper.

Speaking of parts, there are still free (talk about cheaper) Sprite parts left from those donated by Bob McFarland. If interested, let me know.

*Current and past issues of Rumblins, as well as other information about our club, can be found on the STAHC Website*



Healeys on Display at Conclave 2016

## Event Calendar -

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	WHO
Highway Pickup & Tour to River Cottage	Highway Pickup in Blanco, Chamberlains River Cottage near Wimberly	September Date TBA	Witmores & Chamberlains
All British Car Day	Roundrock, TX	September 23-25, 2016	
South Texas All British Car Day	Boerne, TX	October 29, 2016	San Antonio Jaguar club
Fall AHCA Delegates Meeting	TBA	TBA	AHCA
Holiday Party	Dick's Classic Car Garage	December 4, 2016	Millers

## With a Little Help Cont'd)

a while. That didn't stop this group of mechanics.

The primary lesson learned this day was that no matter how well you read instructions, nothing lines up exactly and a hammer along with some sort of prying device are your most valuable tools. We also learned that it's nice to have a few bags of concrete available to put in the trunk to weigh the car down – just to offset the strength of new springs and to help line things up.

By lunchtime everything had been disassembled and some of the new parts had been put in place. To insure the mechanics would complete the job, Charlie fed everyone lunch. And then, it was back to work. An interesting observation was that it took us almost 4 hours to complete the left side of the car, but after the lessons learned doing that side it took less than half that time to complete the right side. By the time everything was completed it was almost 4:00 PM. WHAT A DAY!

I belong to a car club like the South Texas Austin Healey Club for multiple reasons. Sure, it's fun to go on drives together or to attend car shows. But it's others who appreciate these cars and are always willing to dive in and help when needed that draws me to becoming a club member. Thank you Jim, Lynn, Ron and Brian for spending your Saturday working on my Austin Healey. I hope I have the opportunity soon to repay your time by helping you with your car – or anything else you may need.

## TOOL BOX

The purpose of the Tool Box is to assemble, and make available for use by STAHC members, specialty tools that are used in the restoration of and/or maintenance of Healeys. In general, such tools will beat those that are too expensive for an individual member to acquire for one time or infrequent use.

Currently, the STAHC Tool Box contains the following:

- Lift the dot Hand Punch  
(Punches center hole and prong holes for installation of Lift-the-Dot fasteners for tops and tonneau covers. (Moss Motors No. 226-105)
- Tenax Fastening Tool
- Snap Fastening Tool
- Valve Guide Reamer size .281 for intake and exhaust standard size valve guides used on all Sprite and Midget A series engines 1958-1974.
- Engine leveler (for removing or installing an engine
- Carb Synchronizer
- Colortune Carb Synchronizer
- Wire wheel spoke tool
- 1/8" OD pipe bending tool
- Panel & Trim Removal Tool Set
- CD Workshop Manual for Sprite MK 2, 3 & 4

If you would like to borrow any of these tools, please contact Jim Richmond at [jkrich@gvtc.com](mailto:jkrich@gvtc.com) or (830) 537-5075.

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Healeys on Display at Conclave 2016

## EL MERCADO

El Mercado is our advertising section. If you have Healeys, Healey parts, Healey stuff or even other British stuff that your spouse says has to go, send it in and we'll post it here. If you are looking for any of these things we will run that to. El Mercado is free to members, very inexpensive to others.

Charlie O'Connors has a pair of rubber floor mats w/AH Logo. Great condition and they are "FREE". Call Charlie at (210) 284-0095 or email him at charliebt7@gmail.com

There are still free Sprite parts left from those donated by Bob McFarland. If interested, please contact Jim Richmond at jkrich@gvvc.com or (830) 537-5075.

We're on the web at  
<http://www.stahc.org>

## TECH Sessions

Tech sessions can be a get together of members to help a fellow club member with a specific problem or a task that requires, or is easier, with one or more helpers. A the session can also be a meeting where a member, or non-member, with some particular skill or expertise demonstrates how to accomplish a particular task. Tech session attendees may be helpers, teachers, learners, tool suppliers or any combination of the above. Tech session hosts usually supply light refreshments. Beer is recommended.

If you would like to host a Tech Session please contact Charlie O'Connors at (210) 284-0095 or char-

liebt7@gmail.com as far in advance as possible, but no less than one week ahead of the session date. I will forward your request to all members on the Rumblyns email list as soon as possible. Please supply the following information.

- Date, time & location
- Task that you hope to accomplish
- Description of the problems, if any, that you have encountered
- Tools required that you do not have
- Model and year of your Healey

- Other information that you would like to include in your notice/invite

