

Regional Rumblings

Vol. 2024 Newsletter of the South Texas Austin Healey Club

October 26 is our All British Car Day in Boerne!

Visit our [STAHC Website](#) for details of events.

Disclaimer: This is a post-Covid composition. Sorry for mistakes, errors and funky formatting!

What have we been up to this Summer?

JULY TECH SESSION AND POOL PARTY

Our July event was hosted by Melinda and Larry Hester in Round Rock. They invited the club to provide insight into Larry's renovation job for his Healey. It was quite the gathering! Turns out Larry has a second garage which dedicated solely to the restoration of his car as well as the beer fridge! The bare chassis of his Healey was suspended above the floor on a rotisserie rack. He can turn and tilt his car at any angle on this impressive steel gadget. Turns out Larry wants to restore his car to Concourse quality. Melinda says he has 5 years to be finished for their 50th wedding anniversary since they drove off from their wedding in the same car. Go, Larry, Go!

After the tech session, we enjoyed Fajitas with all the toppings. (Mmmm, Chuy's! My fav!). Melinda baked brownies that morning so we enjoyed the warm dessert. With full tummies, we jumped in the pool and enjoyed the afternoon. The weather was fabulous for July. Mid-80s and partly cloudy. The Healey enthusiasts in attendance pictured below were Julie and Brett Miller, Lynn McKinnie, Bonnie Ayer, Debbie Berry, John Berry, Tina and Bob Adkins, DJ Stamp, David Ayer with hosts Melinda and Larry Hester.



In July, this email came my way. I told Evan, one of our members, I would post it.

Evan Hanzlik <evan_han@hotmail.com> wrote: Thu, Jul 11, 8:00 AM

Hi Julie,

Do you happen to know anyone in the market for a 1969 Austin Healey Sprite?

It is a complete, good running, and driveable project car that would be ideal for a restoration.

The car is located in Fredericksburg.

-Evan Hanzlik

Texas Healey Roundup 44

APRIL 4-6, 2025

Hosted by Gulf Coast Healey Club of Houston

Mark your calendars today for this exciting event. It will be held in La Grange, Texas. The host hotel is the Best Wester La Grange Inn & Suites, (979) 968-6800. Note: It is Roundtop Antiques Week during our event so make your reservations now! City officials and the Chamber of Commerce are excited to have our Healey come to town next spring.

More information and event registration forms will follow.

Blue Ridge Parkway in May

Or Larry and Melinda Hester's Most Excellent Drive!

We travelled up and back down much of the Blue Ridge Parkway in May. Along the way, we retraced the AH Southeast Classic '23 rally routes to Mount Mitchell and Mount Pisgah. Excellent routes and naturally scenic drives.

North of Boone, NC in VA there are a couple of small stretches where the Parkway is constructed on the very crest of the Ridge. On these "crest" sections, narrow shoulders give way to very steep and long slopes down on both sides of the roadway. You get used to there being a drop-off on one side and an upward slope on the other side. Then, suddenly, you realize there is nothing but way, way down on both sides. Dramatically scenic, but it gets your full driving attention.

Two photos along the broader Parkway caught my eye. Located in Ashville, the Estes-Winn Antique Car Museum was founded by a car dealer who also restored antiquated vehicles to original condition. This 1967 photo of his dealership showed his lines; check out the bottom of his marquee.



(No, that is no flying saucer above the building; could not get that reflection out.)



The second photo was displayed at the top of Grandfather Mountain among many images portraying activities tied to the area. The caption reads "*Sports Car Hill climbs in the 1950s and 1960s were exciting races where cars navigated the steep gravel roads from the bottom of the mountain to the top.*"

Number 9 sure looks like an Austin Healey BN7 or similar model. Incidentally, I used to drive a '59 MGA coupe like 114 in high school.

This photo from the internet gives a pretty good perspective of the last section of the hill climb challenge. The finish is



at the top right.

More climb info is in a very detailed article at <https://blogs.lib.unc.edu/morton/2016/06/04/a-climb-to-the-bridge/>
The first car featured on page one is a AH 100 hauling a**.

An excerpt: On a June day in 1953, nine months after Hugh Morton and his team at Grandfather Mountain dedicated the Mile High Swinging Bridge, a small group of sports car enthusiasts from the Greensboro-Burlington-Winston chapter of the Sports Car Club of North Carolina gathered on the road at the foot of the historic mountain. They, along with Morton, wanted to see how fast they could climb the winding two-and-a half-mile road with an elevation increase of 1,000 feet during a race to the top against the clock. An average tourist driver would take about ten minutes to maneuver the 28-turn trip to the Swinging Bridge, but these sports cars, with their tremendous horsepower, could do it much faster. On that June day a Jaguar made the run in 4 minutes, 55 seconds—and the idea for a “hill climb” caught on.

June was hot! We had a nice evening meal at Specht’s Texas in Bulverde, TX. Its a great hill country hangout! Check it out!

August was hotter! We visited the Museum of Ice Cream in the Domain in Austin. Those attending: Bonnie and David Ayer, Brett and Julie Miller. Good ice cream with lots of people. Expensive.

What have you been up to this summer? Send an article and some photos!