



REGIONAL RUMBLIN'S



Volume 2020, Issue 5 NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH TEXAS AUSTIN-HEALEY CLUB May 2020
STAHC.ORG & [FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/stahc)

HILL COUNTRY DRIVE AND LUNCH RESCHEDULED

Now on Saturday, May 30, 10 A.M.

This is TENTATIVE. Updates will be provided as we get closer to the 30th.

RUMBLIN'S "ROAD MAP":

- President's Ramblin's, pages 1 - 2
- "Getting to Know You" is back!, pages 5 - 6
- Editor's Ramblin's, page 2
- RoundUp 40 Info and Registration Form, pages 7- 10
- "As the Spanner Turns", pages 3 - 4
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PRESIDENT'S RAMBLIN'S

By David Ayer

The times are a changing.....

I hope this finds you all well and fortunate enough to be able to work from home or re-tired and not have to work at all and that you have not been personally touched by the effects of the virus. Bonnie and I have adjusted to lock down. I find we spend more at the grocery store, but appreciate that restaurants are doing To-Go. We are going to online church. I actually had a visit with my sleep doctor over FaceTime.



There is still a lot of Healey activity on Facebook pages. Folks pursuing restorations while stuck at home. Several of the major parts house are closed right now. I assume ones that are open are doing better.

I have not used this time to tackle the Sprite. I am in a quandary about it's future. I've realized that all the good intentions really mean little if I don't have a direction, and I don't have interest in the process any more. Sounds kinda strange , I know.

Please check the revised event schedule. Ron and I talk about when to move or cancel things keeping in mind the current pandemic and where we might be in a month with regard to social distancing.

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**Club Officers, Board Members,
and Appointed Positions**

President: David Ayer
210-775-8168
dbayer@swbell.net

Vice President: Michael Escriva
210-394-2813
michael.escriva@gmail.com

Membership: Tina Adkins
(512) 264-2042
stahcmembership@icloud.com

Treasurer: Bob Adkins
(512) 264-2042
radkins@ieee.org

AHCA Delegate: Jim Richmond
(830) 537-5075
jkrich@gvtc.com

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:
Ron Borden (830) 537-3191
rborden@gvtc.com

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

**South Texas All British Car Day
Representative: AVAILABLE -
Contact any Officer above**

Facebook Administrator:
Jaime Molina 512-858-9235
tjmolina@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLIN'S (continued)

Our granddaughter Ana sent us masks. Even one for Benjamin.

So as Oat Willie has always said,

" Onward through the fog"

David

B & B:

Bonnie & Benjamin



EDITOR'S RAMBLIN'S

By Ron Borden

As stated in the Headlines on page 1 of this issue the Hill Country Drive and Lunch has been tentatively rescheduled for May 30.

Tentatively. This date will be reevaluated almost daily as the "reopening" progresses. If May 30 looks good we will also determine

whether we want to eat at a restaurant, bring picnic lunches and eat in a park, or ? ? ? You will be kept informed via email, the club's website and Facebook page.

Beyond May we will plan to proceed with the remainder of the club's events that were scheduled at the January Planning Meeting. Again, this is subject to change and updates will be forthcoming as necessary.

After a long absence the "Getting to Know You" column is back! This month features a long-time Healey, Morgan, etc., enthusiast, Dr. Bob Chamberlain! Bob and lovely wife Pam have hosted many club events at their home with the stunning view of the Blanco River valley. We always look forward to being guests in their home, enjoying King Ranch casserole and other delectable meals. And Bob never fails to entertain us with some hilarious stories!

Ron



AS THE SPANNER TURNS

Getting our beloved Healeys on the road and keeping them there is a seemingly never ending saga, not unlike several shows seen on afternoon weekday TV. The objective of this column is to be a forum for members to ask questions, update car statuses with progress reports, etc.

Lynn McKinnie reports:

He is adding a second fuel pump in series with the regular SU pump in his BJ8. Of course both pumps will be wired through the fuel pump inertial cut-out switch* Lynn installed several months ago. A full report with pictures will be coming in the June *Rumblin's*.

(*The 2 tech sessions to install this safety device in *your* car are still scheduled for July 18 & 25. Plan to attend one of these sessions. Ed.)

Ed Dingivan reports:

His Bugeye he has been restoring "is drivable so 'all' I have to do is get insurance and registration." In the mean time he is refining the brake pedal pressure. He has a pressure bleeder but is not getting good fluid flow when he opens a bleed port. The biggest hurdle is the registration process at DMV. He says he will eventually get it on the road again. The last time was in early 1993 per a Kelly AFB registration sticker still residing on the front bumper! Looking good, Ed!



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AS THE SPANNER TURNS (continued)

From your Editor:

As reported in the March 2020 issue of *Rumblin's* I had several projects going on: remedy the erratic battery charging, install an aluminum radiator, LED headlights, and a timing chain cover reinforcement plate. As it turns out the battery, voltage regulator and generator were all defective. All three have been replaced and working properly. The LED headlights are installed with a tremendous improvement in brightness. They have not been aimed yet. That is one of the next things to do. After removing the radiator prior to installing an aluminum unit I installed a timing chain cover reinforcement plate on the front of the engine. The easiest way to install this plate would be to do it with the engine out of the car. Definitely not gonna pull the engine just to do that. And definitely would not be able to install the reinforcement plate with the radiator in place. As it was the installation was no picnic but got it done with the front wheels off the ground and some installer contortions.

A Moss aluminum radiator was ordered through Little British Car Co., a Moss dealer. They sell Moss parts with Moss part numbers at roughly a 15% discount to Moss prices. The installation wasn't "Plug-N-Play" like I had hoped, but it eventually got done.

I've driven the car over 200 miles with the new radiator in place and the coolant temperature is 5-10 degrees lower than before. With a 180 degree thermostat the temp is staying pretty close to that. The "final exam" will be in a few days when the ambient temperatures in the 90's.



The occasional gasoline odor mentioned several months ago is back. The gas tank will be dropped, *again*, to see if fuel is seeping out around the sending unit as before. If not, ??? TBD.

After that on the to-do list is to remove the windshield wiper motor and replace the 50+ year old grease. The wipers oscillate but very slowly. As with the headlights for night driving, I never plan to drive when there is a possibility of rain. But it will happen so I want to be ready.

Fuel Economy Improvement:

Almost everyone is getting better mileage from their cars because of the quarantine/shelter-in-place mandates. The average fuel consumption is now over **3 weeks per gallon!**

The gentleman pictured at the right might have consumed more ethanol than an E85 Flex-fuel SUV.

(Image provided by Michael Kaiserman. Michael resides in Arizona and is a friend of Julie & Brett Miller that many of us met at Conclave 2019 in Deadwood, SD, last year.)



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

(This month the Healey Headlights High-Beams shine on Dr. Bob Chamberlain)

My Lifetime Experience with Austin-Healey Sports Cars

by Bob Chamberlain

In the summer 1955, my fun uncle Bill arrived at our home in Houston driving a new Austin-Healey 100. He was selling cars in Tucson and had just acquired the AH franchise there. This particular Healey was fresh off the boat in New Orleans and Bill was driving it to Tucson ... nothing like a few “delivery” miles.

Bill slept one night with us, but he gave me a ride in the Healey the next morning. I was smitten!!! I would not have my driving license until the next year at age 14, so Bill did not offer to let me drive. I assured him that I could drive, but I lacked clutch skills, so I didn't pursue it. I accompanied Uncle Bill to our neighborhood auto parts store where he purchased a small scissors jack. The primitive King Dick jack that came with the Healey was too tall to fit under the car and he knew that a flat tire would make the car even lower. This deficiency didn't seem to bother Uncle Bill in the least. He explained that sports cars were “works in progress”; a phrase I would use often, later in life.

Fast forward to 1973, when I spotted an ad for a 1956 AH 100, in the newspaper (that is how we bought and sold cars). It was about an hour away in Richmond, Virginia. The seller was a young guy with skills flipping cheap cars. He had done a driveway color change with a light blue lacquer. I could see in the engine bay that the original color was AH forest green. At \$1,700, the price was well inside my budget, so I could afford to correct some of the obvious deficiencies like a wetness on the bottom of the fuel tank. On the drive home to Charlottesville, I got my first speeding ticket in the Healey. It became my “work car” for the next fifteen years, never leaving me stranded on the road. Meaning, that it always died in my driveway at home or in my office lot. I learned the usual remedies, like hammering on the Lucas fuel pump, spraying ether into the SU carbs, and parking on a hill. I treated it like the beater it was.

I left the faculty of the University of Virginia and joined Baylor College of Medicine in Houston in 1975. Again, my Healey was one of a kind in the Baylor lot. Other faculty members that parked in the lot drove better stuff: Ferraris, Aston Martins, Jaguars, and newer too. One of the benefits of larger cities is the proliferation of car clubs. In the early 1980's, I joined the Houston MG Car Club that welcomed all British cars at the time. This club sponsored many Time-Speed-Distance rallies which were fun and challenging, especially if you were married to your navigator. A small number of us owned Austin-Healeys and we eventually broke off to form the Gulf Coast AH Club. Bob Kimball and I wrote the Bylaws and we had six members. There was no national club then, so we were on our own. After a few years we began to or-



Bob and Pam at Conclave 2019

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU! (continued)

ganize what is now called the annual Round-Up in conjunction with the other Texas clubs. I often volunteered with Mike Johnson to make the tee shirts.

Sometime in the late 1980's, the driver's seat in my Healey collapsed down to the driveway one morning in an attempt to drive to my office The outrigger/frame was rusted through and gave way. Just then Jeff Bishop and his wife opened British Cars of Houston, off North Eldridge Rd. on the far northwest side. Jeff said he was experienced as a heavy machinery mechanic, a real confidence builder! Three years and some dollars later they finished the frame-off restoration ... new color, new interior, Le Mans kit, top, frame repair, etc., etc. I listened to restoration advice from my friends in the club: visit the shop often to monitor the progress, pay as you go ... not up-front, monitor the parts orders, all sage advice. I visited the shop every Saturday that I could. I spent time shopping for parts ... remember, there was no internet, just catalogs and the phone. Many AH parts were only available from junkyards, such as the Austin-Healey Salvage in Manville, south of Houston. Few vendors had new-old-stock and no one was manufacturing new parts, because the low value of old Healeys did not make it profitable. Now, collectors are driving up market values of Healeys and you can not only buy a new fuel tank, but you can get it in stainless steel. Last fall, I was able to replace my rear leaf springs with brand new ones from Moss Motors, instead of re-arching the old springs as in the past.

I could go on, but in conclusion I should mention the riches in friendships and fun that my Austin-Healey has brought to me. Pam and I have friends from many walks of life who we would never have met without our mutual interest in the cars and activities with cars. The social aspects of the car hobby are appreciated by all of us and I hope that we can sustain this, despite the aging of our clubs.



Pam and Bob, Gunnison, Colorado, 1992



Bob & Ruby - their 17 year old Australian Shepherd



The youngest of their 6 grandkids love the Morgan 3-wheeler!!!

GETTING TO KNOW -

The newest, and smallest, STAHC member!

Jim and Karen Richmond recently welcomed Meg into their family. She is a 5 year old Maltese. She is even smaller than their Bugeye Sprite and Jim claims that she weighs less than just the tail of a Golden Retriever! Has she ridden in your BN1 yet, Jim?





*** * * * TEXAS HEALEY ROUNDUP 40 * * * ***

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2020



North Texas Austin Healey Club is proud to be the host of this event. This is the **“40th Anniversary” Round-Up**. Please join us in celebrating this milestone. We are in Granbury, Texas for a weekend of Healey Friendships, Family and Fun!

Friday Afternoon starts off with a “Welcome Tea” for those who need a cuppa, and of course Hospitality will be open, cold beverages for the people who need to wet their whistle after a long Healey drive. Registration will also be open and ready. We will have raffle tickets for sale for a beautiful “40th Anniversary Texas Healey RoundUp” Quilt. Raffle tickets will also be available to buy a handsome “Leather Jacket with Healey Wings” so bring your money, honey! Friday evening we will have a Complimentary Fiesta Buffet, no need to go out.

Saturday begins early with a spectacular Car Show on the square at the Hood County Courthouse in downtown Granbury. Then there will be a Car Rally, not to be missed, that takes you thru the “Heart of Texas”. Saturday evening we are at Harbor Lakes Golf Club with our Healey friends for a delicious prime rib dinner along with car show awards. Afterwards hospitality will be open for those who would like to catch up on what’s been going on!

Sunday begins early with the annual Gymkhana event. Then we will gather back at Harbor Lakes Golf Club for Brunch with our Healey friends. The Gymkhana and Rally awards as well as the Raffle Winners will be united with their Prize! Then we will say “Bye Ya’ll see you next year somewhere in Texas with a Healey!”

Karen Gilleland,
Chairperson

Registration form available on page 8

Hotel Reservations:

Best Western Granbury Inn & Suites
1517 North Plaza Drive
Granbury, Texas 76048
Hotel Phone: (817) 573-4239

*****VERY IMPORTANT*****

You must use the Link below to book your Hotel Room:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.44579.html?groupId=7E2EW0L1

- Hotel Room Rate \$85.00 per night plus taxes
- Includes Complimentary Full Breakfast Buffet
- Free WiFi

For assistance or inquiry regarding Texas Healey RoundUp 40, please contact Barbie Bucy at:
(817) 480-4831 or stuckonbarbie@gmail.com

A special 40th Anniversary quilt is being constructed and will be raffled off at RoundUp! Old T-shirts, polos, and patches from the following years are needed.

- 1980-1984 • 1986-1993 • 1995 • 2000-2002 • 2006-2019

Contact Bonnie Ayer if you have any of these items from these years to donate. Thank you!

210.213.4177 cell

bonnieayer@icloud.com

“40th Anniversary Celebration” Texas Healey RoundUp

September 18-20, 2020

Hosted by the North Texas Austin-Healey Club

www.txhealeyroundup.org

Name: _____ Address: _____
 Spouse/Guest: _____ City, State Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 Club Affiliation: _____ AHCA: Y / N Will you have a Trailer: Y / N
 I/We will enter: (quantity) Car Show: _____ Rally: _____ Gymkhana: _____
 >>>Year/Model of Big Healey(s): _____
 >>>Year/Model of Spite(s): _____

<u>Registration, Meals and Events</u>	Cost		Quantity	Total
Early Registration(Before TBD)	\$100.00	x		
<i>*Includes 2 people and children < 10 y/o, 1 Patch, and 1 Car Magnet</i>				
Additional Car Registration	\$25.00	x		
<i>*Includes 1 Patch and 1 Car Magnet</i>				
Late Registration	\$125.00	x		
Late Registration: Additional Adult(s) or Children < 10 y/o	\$25.00	x		
Friday Afternoon: Complimentary “Welcome Tea”	N/C	x		
Friday Evening: Complimentary “Fiesta Buffet” (specify Quantity)	N/C	x		
Saturday Morning: Car Show	N/C	x		
Saturday Afternoon: Car Rally	N/C	x		
Saturday Evening: Prime Rib Dinner & Awards - Adult	\$38.00	x		
Saturday Evening: Prime Rib Dinner & Awards - Children < 10 y/o	\$20.00	x		
Sunday Morning: Gymkhana	N/C	x		
Sunday Afternoon: Farewell Brunch & Awards, Raffle Prizes	\$20.00	x		
Regalia				
Mens Dress Shirt w/Pocket (Navy, White, Red) S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$40.00	x		
Ladies Shirt (Navy, White, Red) S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$40.00	x		
Custom Distressed Hat (Navy w/Red Front)	\$25.00	x		
40th Anniversary Logo Patch	\$10.00	x		
Registration Total:				



Return this form w/check to:

North Texas AHC c/o Barbie Bucy
 2611 CR 531
 Burleson, TX 76028

Have any questions or need assistance? Contact: Barbie Bucy
 +1 (817) 480-4831 or stuckonbarbie@gmail.com

40th Anniversary Celebration Chairperson:

Karen Gilleland

Additional RoundUp Information can be found at:

txhealeyroundup.org

ROUNDUP 2020 - Granbury, Texas



Hello RoundUp Fans

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Texas' premiere event "Texas Healey RoundUp", this year's location will be in the historic lakeside community of **Granbury, Sept. 18-20, 2020!** For those interested you can come in on Thursday and leave Monday...

The first RoundUp occurred when I was 16! Mom and Dad, aka Bob & Stella Gilleland, were part of the original organizational committee for the event held in Kerrville, and it was a "joint" effort between all three Texas' Austin-Healey Clubs. After the first RoundUp, the attendees decided to make it an annual event that passes between the Gulf Coast Healey Club, South Texas AHC and North Texas AHC alternately giving each club the opportunity to host in a Texas town of their choosing. This year North Texas has the great honor to host the "**40th Anniversary Celebration**" in Granbury.

NOTE: * Registration forms will be available next month, but you can always call the **Best Western** at **(817)573-4239** to reserve your room for the "Texas Healey RoundUp" now to hold our spot! Room rate **\$85.00** plus taxes.

We are kicking off the event on Friday night at the best Western with a "**Fajita Fiesta**", which will be free for all to attend. This will give everyone time to relax and catch up with "Old and New" friends.

Saturday will be a busy day, starting early in the town square at the steps of the Hood County Courthouse with the **Carshow**. We have also secured the beautifully restored "**Celebration Hall**" on the square for attendees to enjoy fellowship and of course coffee and donuts during the Carshow.

Saturday afternoon will be the scenic **Rally** through the surrounding countryside of North Texas, it is not to be missed! After the Rally feel free to stop by for "**Afternoon Tea**" hosted by Stella and The North Texas ladies. It's a great pick me for the afternoon dull drums.

Saturday night we will return to "**Celebration Hall**" for the **Carshow Awards** and a catered **dinner and special private show** following in the restored 1886 Opera House, now Granbury Live Theatre adjoining Celebration Hall.

Sunday starts early again with the fast and furious "**Gymkhana**" at the nearby school district complex. Our weekend concludes at Celebration Hall with **Sunday Brunch**. **The Rally and Gymkhana Awards** will be presented during this time.

For those who want to relax an extra day ask for a Monday checkout. We hope everyone can make the journey to Granbury and join in on the Celebration of this Texas Tradition!!

There will be some unique items up for auction too. The first is a custom tri logo blanket with the "Healey wings" embroidered. There will also be a handsome men's bomber jacket with the embroidered "Healey wings" across the back. The number of raffle tickets sold will be limited for both items. Tickets will be \$10 each. The winners will be announced during Sunday brunch.

Continued on next page...

ROUNDUP 2020 - Granbury, Texas (cont)

As a special incentive the *first 15 registrants to the 40th Texas Healey RoundUp will receive a limited edition locally bottled wine with a customized 40th Anniversary label*, donated by my company Shield Awards & Promotions.

Finally, as with any event it is only as good as the people who are involved. If you haven't done so, please volunteer with planning or to help the weekend of the event....either way please *reserve your room now* and we all look forward to seeing in Granbury next April.

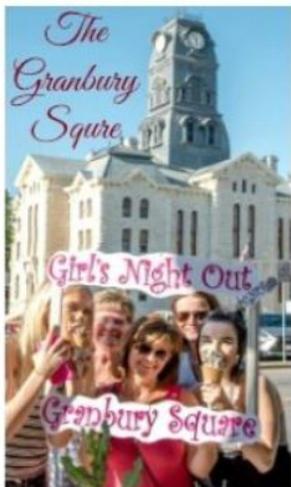
Adios,

Karen Gilleland
RoundUp 40 Chairperson
NTAHC



SEPT. 18-20, 2020!

Forty years gone by and still going strong...
Texas Healey RoundUp.



STAHC 2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>HOSTS</u>
Hill Country Drive & Lunch at TBD	Beginning @ Stripes, Hwy 281, south of Blanco	Saturday, May 30 10:00 A.M.	Ron Borden
Highway Pickup & Lunch	FM1623 at McKinney Loop, 2.6 mi. west of Blanco	Sat., June 13, 9:00 A.M.	Whitmores
Fuel Pump Cutout Switch Installation Tech Session	950 Stagecoach Ranch Road, Dripping Springs 78620	July 18, 9:30 A.M.	Bob Adkins
Fuel Pump Cutout Switch Installation Tech Session	331 Wild Turkey Blvd., Boerne, 78006	July 25, 9:30 A.M.	Jim Richmond
Ice Cream Social	New Braunfels, TX , Zenzero Artisan Gelato	Sat., Aug. 22, 2:30 P.M.	TBA
Texas Healey Roundup 40	Best Western Granbury Inn & Suites, 1517 N. Plaza Dr. Granbury, 76048	September 18-20	North Texas AHC
Texas All British Car Days	Round Rock	September 25-27	
Highway Pickup & Lunch	FM1623 at McKinney Loop, 2.6 mi. west of Blanco	Sat., October 3, 9:30 A.M.	Whitmores
South Texas All British Car Day (STABCD)	Main Plaza, Boerne	Sat., October 24, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.	Alamo MG Association
Club Elections Meeting	Random Beer Garden, Boerne Lake	October 24, following STABCD	
AHCA Delegates' Meeting	Indianapolis, Indiana	November 6-8	AHCA
STAHC Camp Out	Leakey	Sat. - Sun., Nov. 7-8	TBA
Christmas/Holiday Party at the Forke Store	Conservation Plaza, 1300 Church Hill Dr., New Braunfels, 78130	Sunday, Dec. 6, 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.	Stamps

MAY AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

Due the uncertainty of schedules for non-club events In our area during May please refer to the following websites for the latest information:

- <http://www.motortexas.com/Events/>
- Southtexascc.com

SOUTH TEXAS AUSTIN-HEALEY

CLUB (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.

Membership information is also available at:

stahcmembeship@icloud.com

You can join online at:

www.healeyclub.org

Current and past issues of *Rumblins*, as well as other information about our club, can be found at the STAHC web site:

www.STAHC.org

STAHC is on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/southtexasaustinhealeyclub>

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 Tech 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 send notification to Ron Borden at rborden@gvtc.com as far in advance as possible, but no less than one week ahead of the session date. Your request will be forwarded to all members on the *Rumblin's* e-mail list.)

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 and/or maintenance of Healeys. In general, such tools will be 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.)
- Texas 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
- Colourtune 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 **David Ayer** at:

dbayer@swbell.net or 210-775-8168.

All articles appearing in *Rumblin's* represent the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily represent the opinions of *Rumblin's*, South Texas Austin-Healey Club, or the Austin-Healey Club of America. Neither *Rumblin's*, STAHC, nor AHCA is responsible for the accuracy or safety of technical information presented herein. If you choose to use such technical information, you do so at your own risk.