

LANCO MG CLUB – January 2024

The View from Behind the Wheel By Ralph Spayd

Welcome to the New Year 2024. I hope you all had a busy and relaxing holiday season. We hit the deck running in January with our first CCC on 6th at our winter retreat at the Burger King in Columbia. The weather was iffy with snow showers, but we did muster a dozen brave souls. We held our regular club meeting on the 14th at the Centerville Diner. It was a rocky start as the diner was not ready for our meeting. Typically, we have the side room dedicated to just the club. But we were “sharing” the room today with other customers, so in our best LBC fashion we just rolled with the situation. Not a biggie and the meeting was well attended. Steve R did bring a guest - a local mechanical legend who worked on most of the members cars over the years and we welcomed Scott R. to the group today. FYI do you know how far you can raise the boiling point of water with the right cocktail of antifreeze and radiator cap? Check with Steve R and he can give you a copy of the chart. Hmmmm, hot water and Steve R, a coincidence I think not!! We'll have our first hot chocolate night on the 17th at Oregon Dairy and just for fun we have a board of directors meeting on the 18th at the “epicenter”. Not a bad start to the New Year. As the info ad spokespersons like to say, “But wait there is more”! Yep, lots more planned this year. We'll host a poker run this year, something we haven't done in quite some time. We're working on a new route for our covered bridge tour. The planning is in progress for a joint summer picnic with the AH and CPTC and start thinking about what to wear, as we'll be having a Halloween party this year. Something new as we'll be kicking off our Tech Squad to help answer questions about the mysteries of our LBC's.

I like to have a theme for the year to help focus our efforts and this year our theme is “**Purpose Driven**”. This is very apropos to both our cars and our mission as a club. We will be working with a local charitable or service provider organization this year. Our focus for TOB will be to support the organization and we will offer support to the chosen organization via our cars for fun rides or shows. We are finalizing the organization details, so I'll let you know very soon. Dinner at the Whip Tavern, ice cream runs, CCC on Saturday morning, car shows and road trips to wherever. A very good year in the works, so don't be a stranger, be Purpose Driven with LANCO. To kick off my initial soapbox ramblings for the New Year I'll relate my New Year wishes. I recently moved to a new house. The period from mid-October thru the end of the year was chaotic to say the least. But I am settled in now with the help of Linda. The typical season greeting is Happy New Year, but I don't want to wish anyone just “happy” new year. Happiness is very fleeting. I'm happy if my LBC starts. I'm happy I didn't win the brown wire award. I'm happy I survived another year. All are happy thoughts and experiences, but fleeting emotions. What I wish for everyone is a contented New Year. I hope you're content with whatever and wherever you may be in the new yew. You can be content weather your LBC starts or not. Happiness is really just a part of contentment. I'm content in my new house with Linda and I'm very content when I'm with my friends at LANCO. Walt Whitman got it right when he said:

“I have learned that to be with those I like is enough”

So, contentment is my wish for everyone in the coming New Year. Carnation Milk had it correct in their 1960's ad for contented cows being more productive....what a moovelous idea. Let's be purpose driven this year and content as we navigate the New Year together in our LBC's or whatever we may be driving at the time. Let's be content by just being with those we like and collectively share our gift of motoring with others to expand our circle of friends.

Stay safe and positive and remember to check out our web site at www.lancomgclub.com and follow us on Meetup and Facebook. Mark your calendars for the upcoming events.

LANCO Annual Holiday Banquet

By Ralph Spayd
Photos by Steve Dellinger and Gloria Ciarrocca

On Saturday December 9th we held our annual Holiday Banquet at The Willows at Historic Strasburg Inn. This was the second year we switched to an afternoon celebration. We had 50+ members and guests attending, and the time change works well for the club. The venue and food did not disappoint, as it's a beautiful spot to hold our banquet. A special thanks to Gloria, Deb, Steve D., Dennis B. and Bonnie for organizing and putting together a very special and fun event. Not to disappoint, Linda and I were dressed in full Holiday regalia.....nuff said!!

There was no shortage of awards to present. The Enthusiast of the year went to Gregg S with special recognition to Lisa for supporting Gregg in time spent supporting the club. With enthusiasm like that you are presidential material.... (**please!, please!, please!**). Gregg was a 2-award winner this year – also taking home the first ever “Sad Award”. Ask Gregg and check out the picture, it is worth a thousand words. Our most active new members award went to Larry and Bonnie M. They were regulars at most events and certainly deserved the recognition. Thank you both, your spirit help make LANCO the premier club we are. Our coveted “Brown Wire” award was up for grabs till the very last minute. The award recognizes the mechanical struggles we all face at some point but gets awarded to only the best event. This year the award went to Karen G. for her BGT event(s) spanning several days and some interesting Amish intervention. Karen's new BFF is named WEBER. A special award was given to Steve R. for his outstanding auto impression. The “Pherrari” award was given to Steve, but really recognized his car's contribution. Steve, you made Enzo's eyes water. Finally, Trex although not present, was awarded the “Optimist” award for his eternal optimism that someone or a group of rouge magazine enthusiasts actually took his free offer. Stay positive Trex! The club did several special recognitions to key members who supported the club this year. We recognized Charlie B. for his excellent work of coordinating car show schedules. I can't say enough about Dennis B. for coordinating our WEB actions and Steve D. for his support as Secretary, British Marque coordinator and keeper of tasks. We also recognized Mark and Cat, Rob and Jim, Phil G, Jim H, and Gloria for hosting events this past year. Finally, a special recognition was presented by Dennis B. on behalf of Joan Martin. Much to the efforts of member Joan, Gloria, the club founder was recognized by a proclamation signed by Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro for her work in founding the club and the greater good spawned by her effort. Congratulations Gloria for a well-earned recognition for all your effort!

The letter of recognition in part states:

“Pennsylvania has a strong automobile history and the LANCO MG Club has been instrumental to our Commonwealth through its strong community involvement for the past 40 years – each member playing a critical role in the success of this club. As the founder of the LANCO MG Club, Gloria Ciarrocca, has brought hundreds of Pennsylvanians together, bound by a love for British cars. Her relentless commitment and dedication to not only her passion but giving back to the community is inspiring and exemplifies excellent leadership”.

“On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I am honored to recognize the 40th anniversary of the LANCO MG Club. Please accept my best wishes for continued success”.

Signed and sealed,

Josh Shapiro
Governor of Pennsylvania

After all that, Larry C. conducted our prize give-away. Truly everyone was a winner. The year was a huge success, but only because of the interest and participation of our members. I am truly honored to lead such a vibrant group of friends and British Motoring enthusiasts. Well done everyone!

Service awards for the year included the following:

Years of service in the Club:

35 Years of Service

Jim Harbold

30 Years of Service

Tony and Rose Sinkosky

25 Years of Service

Andy Schneggenburger and Kelly Hartlaub

Dale and Claudia Glatfelter

Bob and Peggy McFarland

20 Years of Service

Tom Higgins

10 Years of Service

Janet Redfern

John and Jonathan Marsh

5 Years of Service

John and Brenda Paxson

Robert Shingle and James Keener

Andy and Pamela Olearczyk



Prez Ralph with Elfin Helper



Pre-Dinner Conversations - 2



Listening to the Prez



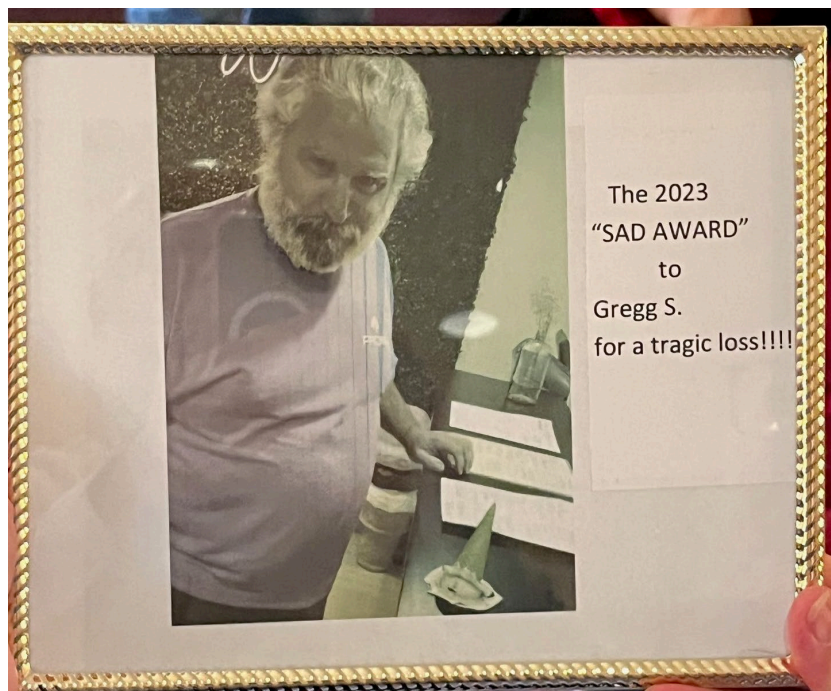
“Enthusiast of the Year” – Gregg Swartley



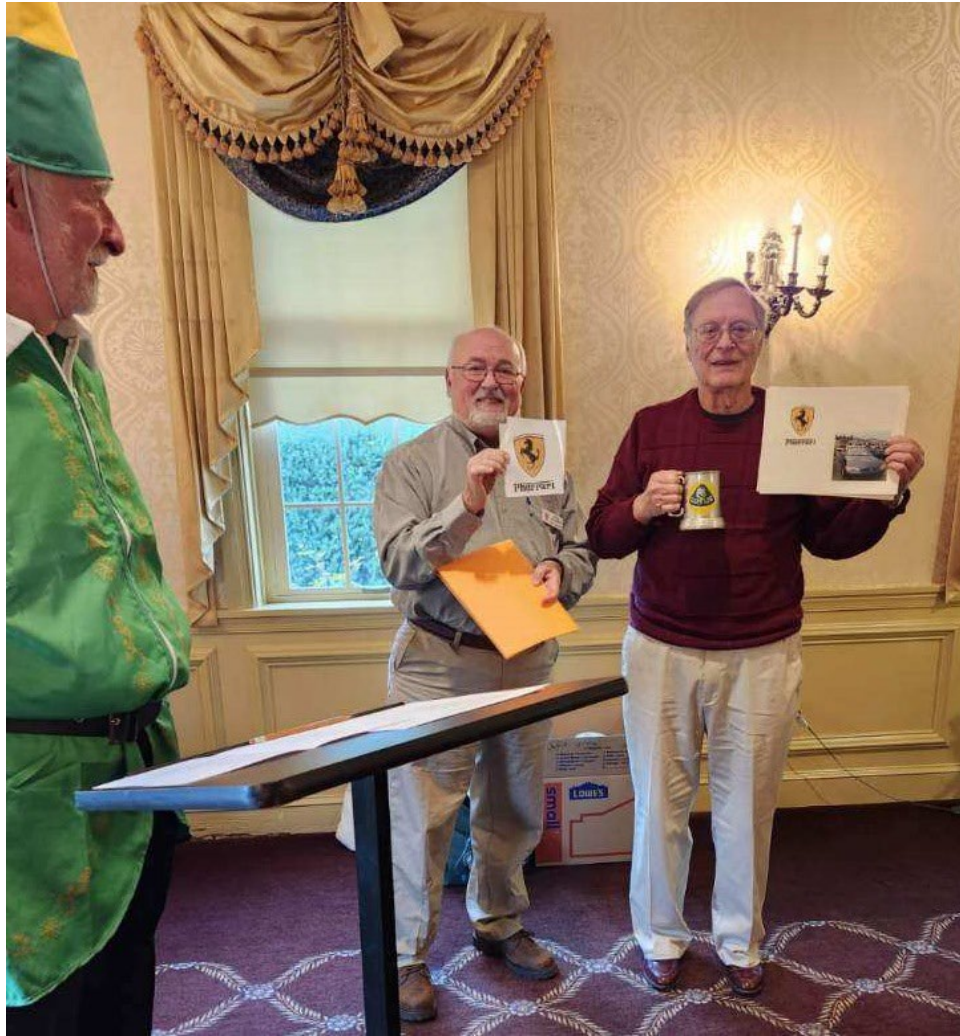
“Most Active New Members” – Larry and Bonnie Mellott



“Brown Wire Award” Winner – Karen Gerth



The “Sad Award”



“Pherrari”?



Special Recognition for Charlie



Congratulations from the Governor!



The Lonely British Car

Coffee – Cars and Conversation and Beers and Bull

By Ralph Spayd

Photos by Steve Dellinger

We kicked off the year with our first CCC event on Saturday January 6th at the Burger King in Columbia. The weather was marginal spitting snow showers and gracing us with central PA's best mix of snow and rain....yuck!! In fact, the weather was so bad, how bad was it Johnny? Neither Gregg nor Deb drove their LBC's to the event. Now that is bad weather! [The only British cars in attendance were two new MINIs – and the "Pherrari" also made an appearance!] The conversation was our typical range of eclectic topics and we actually discussed British cars at some point. Not bad for the first event of the year. The following Wednesday, January 10th we were invited to CPTC's first Beers and Bull session at The Sherwood Inn in New Salem. Several of the LANCO regulars attended and we all had a good time with some good friends from CPTC, thanks to Rich R for setting up the event and graciously inviting LANCO to the first CPTC B and B event. They plan to make it a regular monthly event so check out our calendar and plan to attend. I appreciate and enjoy the cross pollination of the clubs and really enjoyed catching up with Tom H. If you know Tom, you know there was no lull in the conversation.



Two MINIs and a “Pherrari”



Badging the “Pherrari”



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Dedicated CC&Cers