

## LANCO MG CLUB (07/15/24)

### The View from Behind the Wheel

**By Ralph Spayd**

**Photos by Steve Dellinger**

Gotta tell you, you're a better person than me if you've been driving your LBC the last several weeks in this heat. For me, the call of my MINI with AC has been too much to resist so the TVR just sits on the battery tender!! But amazingly our last CCC on July 6<sup>th</sup> at Jim Mack's had an outstanding turnout despite the heat and lack of ice cream. See the CCC write up for details. To put my "chutzpah" in perspective I drove to the Hellertown show in my TVR, which was a 175-mile round trip. The show was great and as always talked to both old and new friends. But immediately after getting home had to take a nap...now you understand!! But enough about me and back to business as June was one busy month. We had a Club personal best of 7 events for the club to attend. Let me recap: June 1<sup>st</sup>, drive in movie night hosted by Pam and Bob via the AH Club and our monthly meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. June 8<sup>th</sup> was CCC at Rob and Jims "garage" and the 9<sup>th</sup> was the Hellertown car show. We held our 1<sup>st</sup> joint club picnic on the 13<sup>th</sup> with all 3 clubs participating and caravanned to the Golden Age Air Museum on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Finally, we finished the month by dining on ice cream on the 19<sup>th</sup> at the Freeze n Frizz in New Holland. Quite the month and congrats to all the organizers and members who attended our marathon month. But not to sit back on our laurels, we're running hard and fast in July with our CCC this past July 6<sup>th</sup>. We met today July 14<sup>th</sup> for our monthly meeting at the Centerville Diner. The turnout was again surprisingly good despite the weather, with 17 members attending. Really, we should have had 18, but Steve R is recuperating, and we all wish Lucy the best ... I mean Steve! Someone mentioned we should challenge the CPTC and Rich R's gang to a water battle at say Jim Mack's some Saturday. To which I say Rich are you and the CPTC game? We were busy today and at the meeting we recognized our newest "essayist" Gregg S (watch the British Marque); coincidentally, we're heading to Gregg's neighborhood for ice cream on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Boehringer's. That doesn't really roll off the tongue does it, the name not the ice cream. And finally, our infamous drive-in movie night at Haar's Drive-In on July 19<sup>th</sup>. It's no wonder I need to take naps ... but really, it's just a convenient excuse! So, what's coming up in August? Well, we're heading to the PVGP, the Das Awkscht Fescht, our annual club picnic at Rocky Ridge, Jim Mack's for our monthly CCC and some outstanding ice cream at Sara's Creamery in Dillsburg. But last but not least, our 34<sup>th</sup> annual TOB on August 25 at Forney Field in Rothsville. Andy S and others are working hard to re-energize the event and we'll have a photographer there to "snap" a beauty shot of you and your pride and joy. We're donating proceeds from the show this year to the Schreiber Pediatric Center, and they will have ambassador families there to represent Schreiber. Speaking of Schreiber, we will hold our September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at their "Rubber Ducky Day Race and Festival" and supply car rides for their clients. This is a VERY worthwhile community event and LANCO is honored to participate and help with their mission. To that, we need you and your car to help support the event, so please sign up and help us to make our support a success. Regarding support, on August 16<sup>th</sup>, LANCO has been invited back to show our cars at the Long Community at Highland in Lancaster. We did this last year, and the residents still talk about all the cool cars we had on site. I'm hoping to supply 25 cars for the event and NEED your support. We've invited the AH and CPTC to help us. Please invite anyone you know to come out and show their car. Both events, Schreiber and Long will have music and food trucks on site. So, all this leads me to the "soapbox" for this month which is innovation at the club level. LANCO has become much more than just a club you belong to, it's a club you want to be involved in through our innovation. We all belong to numerous organizations, but are you involved? I look back at this year and I'm struck by the sheer number of events we've run and the tremendous support and turnout at those events - you our members have been involved! We've innovated club events keeping them relevant and interesting. We enjoyed a joint club picnic with the LANCO, AH and CPTC clubs, we've targeted five "follow me" events to re-energize participation. We're hosting our first ever Halloween Party and continue to mesh events with the AH and CPTC. This can only

happen with an involved Board of Directors and an involved membership. Events are only part of the club innovation process. We've established a Tech Squad to help members and non-members. We've revamped and updated our WEB site and continue to evolve our TOB event to remain current in an era of declining participation. For me, and most importantly, we're increasing our involvement with our community by working closely with the Schreiber Pediatric Center and then sharing and showing our cars both with Schreiber and the Long Community. Innovation can only happen with participation and you, our members are participating and involved, making LANCO a 145-member premier car club or really a premier car community.

**“Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things.”  
Theodore Levitt**

Right on Mr. Levitt and I'm off to take an innovative nap! Stay safe and positive and remember to check out our web site at [www.lancomgclub.com](http://www.lancomgclub.com) and follow us on Meetup and Facebook. Mark your calendars for the upcoming events.



**Golden Age Air Museum**



**Brits on the Field**



**Emma is here!**



**Fly By**



### **Checking out the Studebaker**

#### **Mixed Up British Car Club Picnic**

**By Ralph Spayd**

Months ago, Rich R from the CPTC suggested to me we should plan a group picnic with LANCO, CPTC and the AH Club. That sounded like a great idea, as we have been “cross pollinating” our clubs for the last several years with Rich and Pam from the AH Club. We even made the bold move to hold the gathering during the week on a Thursday . whew! We are a bunch of old rebels! Rocky Ridge Park in York County was chosen, and we scheduled the picnic for June 13<sup>th</sup>. When we published the event on the LANCO calendar, I had to clarify it was not a replacement for our annual club picnic in August AND explain why we were holding it on a Thursday to a group on mostly retired members .... hummmm! But we did get it clarified. The day finally arrived, and the weather was perfect. I got there early and just didn’t know what to expect for a 1<sup>st</sup> time event but was pleasantly surprised to share lunch and dessert with 14 members from the 3 clubs. All three British Marques were represented, and we had a great time. Anytime you get that mix of car enthusiasts together there is never a lull in the conversation and the day was no exception. This event is definitely a keeper and will be on the 2025 calendar. Thanks to Rich and Pam for again supporting our joint effort to mix up the clubs.

#### **July Coffee, Cars and Conversation**

**By Ralph Spayd**

**Photos by Steve Dellinger**

Remember the movie “Some Like it Hot”? Well on Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> we held our monthly event at Jim Mack’s in Hellam and some did like it hot. In fact, for a very warm summer day during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, we had an excellent turnout with a great mix of cars. For me, the star of the show was the Mini-Moke, what a car or kinda/sorta car! Since we don’t live in a perfect world, we did have a

major issue as the ice cream freezer at Mack's was broken. OMG, never saw so many phones pop out to locate the next closest ice cream location. Now keep in mind this was only 10AM and it is a "coffee" gathering. But thanks to the quick thinking of Mary Ann from the CPTC (BTW Mary Ann drives an MGB) she saved the day by getting quarts of ice cream, dishes, spoons and the coveted ice cream scooper to serve the masses. It was almost Biblical watching Mary Ann dish ice cream, like the parable of the loaves and fishes. Seriously, great job Mary Ann and proof that MG, Triumph and AH can now live and dine in harmony....



**Lots of Cars Today**



**Alpine, MINI and B**



**Some of The Crew**



**1275 cc Mini Moke**



**Hello Zach!**



**On-Site Troubleshooting**



**Not British ...**





**Also not British ...**

### **Distributor Fun with the Midget**

**By Gregg Swartley**

**Photos by Gregg Swartley and Steve Dellinger**

So, the Midget has been running poorly for the last year. Here's my story.

**THE PROBLEM** - Let's step back in time about a year, on my way home from a LANCO MG event (Covered Bridge tour and ice cream IIRC) in my 1970 MG Midget and it starts running poorly. The idle is fine, but under load the car has no power. Upon arriving home and inspecting the car I determined the Distributor was to blame. The mechanical advance mechanism was to put it lightly FUBAR. Thinking back on how the car had run up to that time I realized the Distributor has been going bad for quite some time now. The advance weights would stick and cause the idle to be high before they would release and the idle would come down.

**FIRST REPAIR** - I purchased an aftermarket Distributor from the Jungle Site (Amazon). The unit seemed to be of decent quality and did get the midget running again. But something was not quite right. At first the car ran ok-ish, but the problems were soon to follow.

**ONGOING ISSUES** - Soon after replacing the Distributor the issues started - hard starts and poor idling. At first, I adjusted the idle screws on the carburetors and cleaned the plugs. This helped some and the Midget ran ok for a while. Then the problems returned. The Midget would idle very high for about 20 seconds then the idle would drop off and the car would not run without pumping the gas, but the power while running down the road was good. More plug cleaning and this time I adjusted the mixture on the Carburetors. The problems continued with me adjusting the carburetors and cleaning plugs. I removed the plug wires one by one to inspect them and found rust on the Distributor cap end of one of them. I replaced the wires and distributor cap. The Hard starting and lack of idle plagued me for an entire year with me cleaning plugs and trying to adjust the carburetors.

THE CLIMAX - Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, I was doing an oil change and tried tuning the Midget again with very little luck. After the car work was done and I was relaxing with a beer, my brain kicked in. I remembered I have a 1968 MGB which is apart for a rebuild and the Distributor is just ready to test in the Midget. Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> I was going to drive the Midget to our club's CCC, but the car had different ideas. I did get it to start, but it stalled. I was able to get the car running enough to back it into the driveway, but it stalled again. Now I could not get it to restart. I decided to push the Midget back into the garage and take my MINI to the CCC. After returning from the CCC I found my MGB Distributor and installed it on the Midget. The Midget responded by starting right up and running well. Not being able to leave things alone, I was inspecting my aftermarket Distributor and found the point gap to be almost 0. Seriously it had to be about 0.001". THE SMOKING GUN! The adjustment screw was on the loose side, so I reset the point gap, tightened the adjusting screw and reinstalled the Distributor on the Midget (Yes, I want to keep the B's Distributor for the B). I quickly set the timing and took the Midget for a short drive. Power was low, but it was running, and I was happy. Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> my wife and I took the Midget for a drive to do some shopping. The car seemed to be getting hot on the way to the shop. On the way home it was very hot and backfiring a bit. One more time under the car to check the timing. I found the timing to be retarded by 10 Deg. OK how did this happen? Well, I'll tell ya! Yesterday when I timed the Midget, I was so excited it was running I forgot to disconnect the vacuum advance. DUH. Now with the car timed correctly, I went for one last drive and it's finally running well. Power is back, no spitting and sputtering, running cool and when the car is turned off it shuts right down and does not diesel.

MORAL - Moral of the story is when you replace a part on your car and then have some problems that part is probably the cause. If I had checked the Distributor when the Midget was running poorly, I would have found the point gap closing, adjusted it and tightened the screw.

So yes, I had a screw loose for the last year.



**The Car ...**



**... and the Culprit!**