



## **The View from Behind the Wheel**

**January 2026**

**by Ralph Spayd**

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026. The past year was another successful year for the LANCO MG Club as we continued to grow our membership and celebrate our shared British Motor Heritage. If you take a quick tour of the members and our cars, it's quite an eclectic mix of both owners and cars. The mix has certainly morphed from strictly MGs to a wonderful mix of British cars.

The Holiday Banquet on December 6<sup>th</sup> was a nice recap for the year. We recognized Charlie Baldwin for his 35 year membership. As a "factoid" Charlie joined the club right out of elementary school, seriously!!! Our "Enthusiast of the Year" went to Steve Rineer. We kid Steve a lot, but he embodies the true spirit of our mission. Joe Clark won the "Most Active" new member award. Joe is a regular at most events and has done a wonderful job preserving his MGA. Our infamous "Brown Wire" award was dutifully presented to both Dennis and Carol Blevins. They did an outstanding job of deserving the accolade for 2025. The award is a tongue in cheek award, but kudos to the Blevins for driving their car - keeping the spirit of British Motoring alive and well.

We did recognize our Board of Directors: Deb Eckert; Gloria Ciarrocca; Steve Dellinger; Trex Trexler; Andy Schnegg; and Pam Preston. What a wonderful group of leaders for the Club. Our WEB Gurus, Dennis Blevins and Karen Gerth help to keep us informed and our presence on the internet. Finally, our worker bee groups handling car shows and road trips coordinated by Charlie Baldwin and Gregg Swartley and our Tech Squad advisors Steve Rineer; Bruce Hurley; Jim Harbold and Emory DeWitt. Thank you to our award winners and volunteers helping to keep the club alive, vibrant, and relative.

In my banquet comments I noted that we need to step up our communications game. After losing the British Marque we have a communication void to fill. My commitment to the club is to publish a bimonthly club update to our members. LANCO is very active and we need to ensure everyone is aware and up to date on our activities.

As we all hibernate and hunker down for the winter months it does not mean we've gone to sleep. Although your car might be on battery assistance, doesn't mean you

are....so some highlights to keep you going. On Feb 7<sup>th</sup> we are having ice cream for breakfast at Hinkle's at 8am, and then we're off to CCC at 10am to the Burger King. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 8am we'll enjoy a "full Monty" at the Bulls Head Tavern in Lititz and then head over to the Burger King in Columbia for our CCC at 10am. On April 18 we'll caravan to the Dills Celtic Festival in Dillsburg. On May 23<sup>rd</sup> we'll join the KBCC at Union Jack's Pub in Oley for a joint club event. This was a blast last year and the Pub is a perfect venue. In May we'll group up to enjoy Music in the Vineyard at Nissley - the exact date TBD. In June we'll again head out to the Golden Age Air Museum. And don't forget ToB 2026 on Sunday, August 16 at the Sylvan B. Fischer Township Park. This is just a sampling of the events for 2026. There will be lots to do, lots of help needed and lots of good times to be had with good friends. Check our web site for details and all the events.

Now, what I've missed most the past several months are my soapbox ramblings. Yesterday, Sunday January 11, we held our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the New Year at the Centerville Diner in Lancaster. We had 30 members attending, a wonderful gathering and the staff at the diner was very accommodating. As I looked around it's very comforting for me to see all the familiar faces, listen to the banter and just enjoy the company of good friends while sharing a meal. It's our "tribe" enjoying our time together. But I was struck by all the changes we're going through on a club and personal level. Looking back, did you think TOB wouldn't always be held at Forney Field? We'd have such an eclectic mix of non-MG cars in the "MG" club? Our Holiday Banquet would be at 1PM in the afternoon and there wouldn't be a British Marque?

Nothing is as constant as change, what an oxymoron! It strikes me we can't take anything for granted and as Bob Dylan said, "the times they are a changing". The times are changing and we're changing as a club. But that's how we will continue to grow and stay relevant in our environment and ensure our future as a club. Changing what we do, how we do things, and adapting our focus as a club to staying nimble and proactive to our environment. All this will take some effort by the membership, but with your help and leadership we can forge a bright future through our efforts to preserve our British Motoring Heritage.

**"The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion."**

**Paulo Coelho**

Stay safe, positive and involved in all things. Remember to check out our web site at [www.lancomg.com](http://www.lancomg.com)

Ralph