



The Southern Star



A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E F L O R I D A R E G I O N , L C O C

Founded in 1953, the LCOC is now an international organization of 3,000 members. The Club is dedicated to restoring, preserving and enjoying the legendary and famous Lincolns and Continentals. We recognize Lincolns and Continentals of all years, but they must be at least 10 years old to be eligible to compete for trophies at the National Meet Concours. Lincolns and Continentals provide a common interest.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings everyone. I'd like to take this time to welcome our new Board of Directors and thank them for stepping up to the job and also thank our past Board Members for service to our Region.

Last month our Region was the Host Region for the LCOC Annual General Meeting. Held in Orlando. This was attended by Jack Shea and our new Board Member and Editor, David Berndt.

Things are looking up for the Florida Region and I am happy you are a part of what we hope will become a group that makes owning your Lincoln even more of a pleasure. Our collector cars have a tendency to stay in garages and we want to give you an excuse to bring them out and have fun with fellow LCOC members.

We have several event proposals including two for next month. Those of you who have proposed events for other times should go ahead and draft a plan so we can post it in the newsletter so you can set aside those dates well ahead of time. The details aren't needed until the month prior but you need to start the outline, months early to insure a success. If you need help or support, we are here to help.

We now have a veteran newsletter editor who can give us something good to read throughout the year. BUT, he needs your input. If you have cars or parts for sale, a tech question or a tip that helped you, an event that might interest members, etc., send it along to David. I want to thank David for his volunteering to help us. Like all of our volunteers, meet hosts and Board members, a few hours donated here and there adds to the chance of success for our Region. Hope to see you at an event this year. MMG

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello everyone. Welcome to my attempt as your Florida Region Editor. I have been an LCOC member for a few years, but not active, as I didn't have a car at the time. But, getting the bug to own another, I started searching for something to get my hands dirty. My first car was a 1963 Continental, because my parents wanted me in something large and safe. It was this, or a Fiat 850. Am I glad I listened. After the first one, I bought and horse traded another eleven over the next few years. They were my favorite. This January, on the Friday of the Annual Board meeting in Orlando, my latest purchase arrived that evening. I had acquired a 1979 MK V Collectors Series. Needs some work, but a good 20 foot car. I have already visited the websites of Lincoln Land, Green Sales Co., Old Parts Store and on and on. In the mean time, I hope you enjoy the issue.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message From The Chair	1
Message From The Editor	1
2012 Officers & Directors	2
Editorial	2
Piano Man	3
Events	4
Classified Found On EBay	4

*LCOC Florida Region
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David Berndt, Editor

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EDITORIAL

As a long time car collector, or in the trade, known as a car “nut”, I have gone from soup to nuts in my yearning, learning, and finally acquiring my dream car. Starting out in life with exposure to the local Pontiac dealer and the blue '64 GTO convertible sitting on the showroom, for a mere \$3500.00; it was all the money in the world. I probably could have swung the money somehow, but did I mention I was only 13. So much for that. I couldn't buy the car with cash, check or money order, regardless of ID. So my passion started. Forbidden fruit.

Next in High School, the guys started talking about the fastest, the slowest, the worst, the best. When a girl, who I wanted as a friend, Judi, said, who could afford a Lincoln? Yes, you know the rest. My first 1963 Continental, and the eleven others that followed. Plus, the other years. She married someone else. I know, because I sold her and her fiancée the diamond. But the passion was still there. Suicide Doors.

Then later, my long time friend and mentor, Ralph, exposed me to another marque, whose headquarters was near my hometown, in Harrisburg, PA. The top dog. An actual Club Headquarters. A Volunteers dream. And, some of their Custom Coach Builts had suicide doors. So for the next few years, as a volunteer, I organized, stacked, cleaned, and eventually got paid to buy Stores Merchandise, create a merchandise catalog, head up a Library and manage a Foundation starting to be a Museum.

Since then, over 40 years later, and membership in 7 different car clubs, you ask:”where we going with this?” The other weekend, at the Annual General Meeting, the primary concern for LCOC, is shrinking membership. For various reasons, from age, economy, life and death, the numbers change. Well, LCOC, is not alone. One Club I am in dropped 25% in membership. It is happening to everyone. You did nothing wrong. But you can revive it.

The core foundation to any National Club, is its membership, its REGIONS. Without its members, officers, volunteers, the Club dies. Every member is not in Membership, but every member must promote being a member. Just in my town, I found 3 1960's era Continentals, that belong to people who are not members. Save your passion. Promote your desires and keep your Club alive. Carry membership applications with you , put them on future LCOC members cars.

Liberace. THE Piano Man



Several years ago, while I was working in the Pittsburgh area, I had a gentleman working for me, who was a retired Lincoln Mercury general manager. As Jim Palmer told me the story, Liberace was in the area visiting friends and family and decided to stop in the dealership and decided to order a new 1958 Lincoln. To match his lifestyle and image, the car was all white with special black and white striped leather seating, to match the look of his piano keyboard.

Taking delivery of the car, as in the above photo, with Jim Palmer in the background, Liberace sets out to show off his car to the locals. Proceeding several blocks now from the dealership, people are running through the streets yelling and waving at Liberace, as if he were the super star he knew he was.

Several more blocks now down the road, with the crowds gathering to see “Mr. Showmanship”, he finally came to a dead stop, as the flames grew to large to continue! Several blocks back, the car caught on fire, and the people chasing him through the streets were trying to tell him his car was smoking, literally. It was on fire. But being the entertainer he was, he just thought they were excited to see him.

Today, I don't remember if he ordered another car or not. But I held on to this photo (for 28 years) for no particular reason, and here it is today in a story I can write about, to the LCOC. Sadly I just read that Liberace's Museum has closed, with the hopes of relocating in Las Vegas. But his Music Foundation is still going strong handing out music scholarships.

**A P U B L I C A T I O N
O F T H E F L O R I D A
R E G I O N , L C O C**

A Region Newsletter can only be published with the help of its membership, not just the Editor. Send any articles you think may be of interest to the membership, either by mail, or best, email. Along with photos of your current project, newest car or recent experience in the LCOC. Mail To: David Berndt, P.O. Box 1403, Mount Dora, FL 32756 or DCBerndt@aol.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.LCOC.ORG

Our First Classified !! Ms. Debbie McGerty, has sent a note to our Chairman, about a 1974 Continental MK IV, for sale. Purchased originally by her mother, the car has 45,000 original miles. Crushed velvet interior, all luxury options. One owner. Car was not driven for several years, so will need some work to be road worthy again. Car is in Vero Beach. Anyone interested can call Ms. McGerty @ 631/680-3662 or email her @ deb41912@yahoo.com

NOTICE: TO ALL CAR CLUBS WHO WANT TO MEET & EAT WITH OTHER CAR PEOPLE. Every LAST Sunday of the month, Jaguar, Rolls-Royce & Bentley people meet at Dixie Cream Café, at 9:00am for breakfast. Located at 434 Main St. in Windermere. No judging! Eat and kick tires. Sometimes a drive about.

AREA EVENTS IN AND AROUND FLORIDA

February 24/25/26: Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance

March 9/10/11: Amelia Island

March 17/18: 24 Hours of Sebring

March 16/17/18: Lake Dora Classic, Mount Dora. Contact Registrar : dougmajor@dougmajor.com

March 15/17: Melbourne, AACA. Contact: Dan at: racer36@bellsouth.net

March 30/31, April 1: Festivals of Speed, Saint Petersburg

Found on EBay

St. Louis Museum presents this 1936 Lincoln K model, with Body type #323 7 passenger touring car. Offered at \$250,000.

