

February 2024 Edition

# OIL SPOTS

*A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club*



## THE PREZ SEZ

Happy almost Valentine's Day! Remember to buy something nice for the one that you love, and after those parts arrive, for your LBC supplier, consider buying something for your wife, too!

The big news for the club is the annual elections, which I believe will be reported elsewhere. Anyway, I am now officially the elected President for the year 2024 and I didn't even have to go through a primary! It is an honor to serve and I hope my year in office will be a good one for all in the club.

At the annual meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, I issued a call for volunteers to organize what I call "Gatherings" and Dennis calls, "Noggin and Natters". These are informal outings with no agenda, just a chance to get together share a meal, and swap stories. We already have several volunteers working on such events and will share them with you when we have more details. We will try to schedule these in the months between our quarterly formal membership meetings. If you have a place that you think would interest your fellow LBC owners, let us know.

And now, some thoughts on aging.

"We must recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars – more and more repairs and replacements are necessary." - C.S. Lewis

"To get back to my youth I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable."- Oscar Wilde

"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." - Andy Rooney

Tim-

**DID YOU KNOW THAT BRITISH RACING GREEN** originated with the 1903 Gordon Bennett Cup, held in Ireland (then still part of the UK), as motor-racing on public roads was illegal in Great Britain. As a mark of respect, the British cars were painted shamrock green. There is no exact hue for BRG – currently the term is used to denote a spectrum of deep, rich greens. "British racing green", in motorsport terms, meant only the colour green in general.

**O**il Spots is the official monthly publication of the **Plateau British Car Club of Tennessee**. Material is actively solicited for the newsletter and every effort will be made to use appropriate material from the membership. Unsolicited material from non-members is also encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit for length and appropriateness. No placement of material is guaranteed. Your contributions should be submitted to: [dprainey@att.net](mailto:dprainey@att.net)

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month prior to publication.

### **PBCC Officers and Support Positions**

Tim Beaton - President- [tjbeaton07@gmail.com](mailto:tjbeaton07@gmail.com) - 701.361.4751  
Edna Horony - Treasurer/flowers/Membership -  
[ednahorony@gmail.com](mailto:ednahorony@gmail.com) - 931.261.6943  
Secretary - Open at Present (looking for a volunteer)  
Dennis Rainey - newsletter editor - [dprainey@att.net](mailto:dprainey@att.net) - 256.744.4909  
Paul Barker - Webmaster - [barkerpa@gmail.com](mailto:barkerpa@gmail.com) - 423.442.4482

### **All British Cars/Owners Welcome**

**The Plateau British Car Club was created to band together owners of the Little British Cars (LBC) to provide a way of exchanging ideas, technical data, amusing stories, and just plain fun. All LBC owners are invited to enjoy the "LBC experience" to the fullest with friends. Ownership of a British car is not required for membership, but non-British car owners are classified as Associate members and have no voting rights.**

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The Membership Chair report.

The membership chairperson did not report for this issue. If you know someone who would like to join, please don't hesitate to encourage them to do so.

Membership applications for 2024 are available on the club website at [PBCCTN.org](http://PBCCTN.org)

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December Treasurer's Report - Edna Horony

	December Financials		
30-Dec-23	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,188.85		\$1,188.85
Membership Dues			\$0.00
Flowers Charlie Bunnell		(\$69.82)	(\$69.82)
Total for Month	\$1,188.85		\$1,119.03

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Happy 2024 Everyone  
May the wind be in your hair and sunshine in your face and lots of miles with smiles along the way.

# Happy New Year!



## New Year's Resolutions for the Classic Car Devotee

It might be tempting to read Charlie Brown's take on the year ahead and be done with resolutions altogether: "You know how I always dread the whole year? Well, this time I'm only going to dread one day at a time."

Or perhaps you prefer something more upbeat, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year."

There's even a possibility some of us will take the new year as a mysterious challenge, as David Bowie did: "I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring."

Whatever your approach to 2024, there is a common thread among vintage car owners: we know our cars are waiting - waiting for us to work on them, to keep them alive, to drive them, to continue their journey and, by extension, ours. Here, then, are a smattering of car-specific resolutions gleaned from the vast expanse of the internet - choose any that might fit well for you in the year ahead.

1. Commit to a regular maintenance schedule to get or keep your car in top condition.
2. Invest in quality parts to ensure the reliability, longevity, and authenticity of your vehicle.
3. Set a goal to restore, replace, or preserve a specific aspect of your classic - anything you've been wanting to address, but have put off in the past.
4. Take some time to learn basic do-it-yourself repairs, from oil changes to spark plugs to carburetor adjustments. Doing so is empowering and cost-effective.
5. Need more than a few tweaks on your car? Resolve to get serious about your restoration project and make this the year you dedicate yourself to bringing it back to life.
6. Attend classic car shows and related events. It's a great way to showcase your vehicle, connect with other

enthusiasts, and stay updated on trends in the car world.

7. Drive your car regularly. Cars are meant to be driven, and doing so will help keep the engine and components in good working order, and alert you to anything that needs attention.

8. Consider possible and necessary upgrades to safety features such as seat belts and horns - both you and your passengers will appreciate it!

9. Share your knowledge with fellow enthusiasts - a bit of useful information goes a long way with those who share your LBC love, but may lack your experience.

10. On the flip side of that coin, resolve to not wait to ask for assistance. Part of the benefit of belonging to a car club is the wealth of information available from people who've been there and done that.

Oh, while we're at it, here are a few thoughts of a more general nature: Eat better! Sleep more! Get some exercise! Drink plenty of water! And consider this bit of wisdom from C.S. Lewis: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

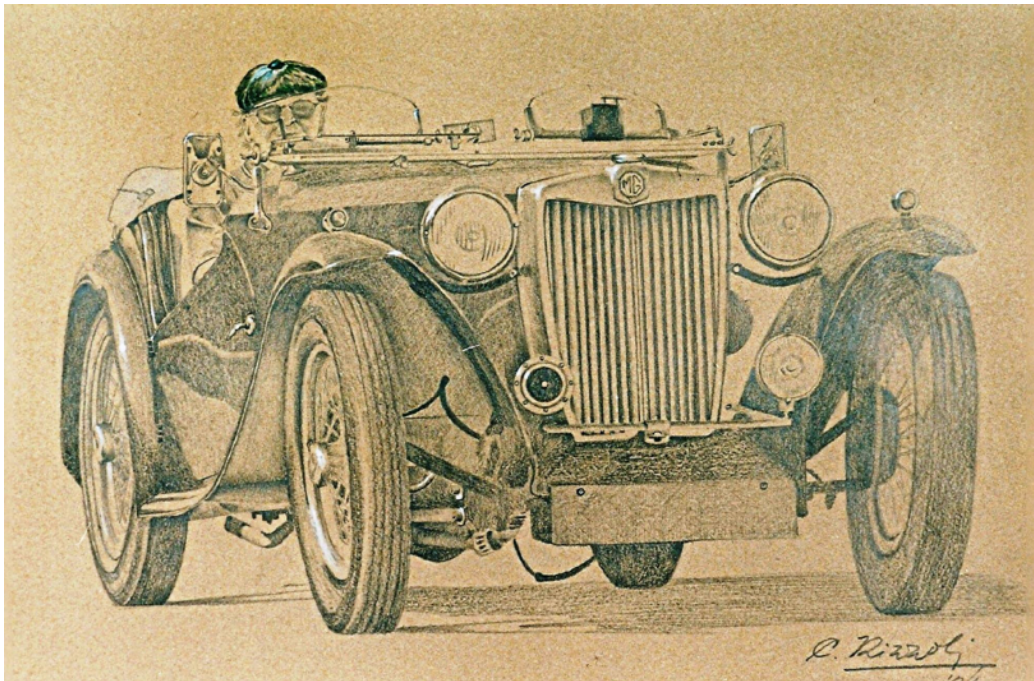
Author Unknown-

# **2024 DUES ARE DUE**

**LET'S KEEP THIS THING GOING**

OUR ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE BY THE END OF JANUARY 2024. YOUR MEMBERSHIP CAN BE RENEWED BY SENDING YOUR DUES TO OUR CLUB'S TREASURER, EDNA HORONY AT 195 S. SUMMERHAVEN DR. IN CROSSVILLE, TN 38555. IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER, A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE CLUB'S WEBSITE AT **PBCCTN.ORG.**

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# The History of Windshield Wipers



If you find yourself driving in a rainstorm, it is instinctual to turn on your vehicle's windshield wipers. In modern times, windshield wipers are an expected — and vital — feature on any automobile (except maybe McLarens), but this wasn't always the case. The history of windshield wipers is a rich one, stretching back to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

## **1903: Mary Anderson patents the first windshield wiper**

The first ever windshield wiper was patented by Mary Anderson, a real estate developer, cattle rancher, and winemaker, in 1903. While riding a streetcar in New York City in 1902 during a rainstorm, Anderson noticed that the streetcar operator was struggling with extremely poor visibility, causing him to open his window and stick his head out. Upon seeing this, Anderson automatically began drawing up the design for a windshield wiper operated by the driver to help improve visibility.

This manual mechanism operated a set of wood and rubber arms with a lever, helping clear away snow, rain, and debris. Anderson's invention never

took off, though, and she never truly benefited financially from the invention. Maybe it was the name: “window cleaning device for electric cars and other vehicles to remove snow, ice or sleet from the window.” Doesn’t quite roll off the tongue like “windshield wiper” does!

## **1919: The automatic windshield wiper is introduced**

It wasn’t until 1916 that windshield wipers were standard equipment on most vehicles, allowing for further advancements in the technology.

William M. Folberth, an inventor, patented the first automatic, non-hand-driven windshield wipers in 1919. These automatic windshield wipers used a vacuum-powered system to clear the windshield, which became standard equipment on automobiles. This vacuum-powered system was widely used until 1960s, when the use of intermittent wipers became more common.

## **1969: Robert Kearns introduces the intermittent windshield wiper**

Over the course of many decades, different inventors patented the idea of intermittent wipers, but the idea truly took hold thanks to Robert Kearns, an engineering professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Kearns’ invention was brought to the attention of the Ford Motor Company when he proposed manufacturing the design. While this proposal led to a patent dispute between the American carmaker and Kearns, the invention also led us to the windshield wipers we have today.

## **Today: Windshield wipers everywhere!**

Now, windshield wipers are commonplace on vehicles and a variety of options are available. The automotive industry has even introduced rain-sensing wipers that start themselves. With this technology, the view of the road is sure to stay clear.

**Who ever thinks of this kinda thing???**

**I guess I do, cause I need stuff to fill a newsletter!!!!**



It has been suggested more than a couple times, that we make available to the membership a club roster for the sole use of the club members. No comments have been received as requested, so I'll proceed to make available a roster for the sole use of the paid membership. I'll send this roster out for approval before it is published.

Thank - Ed

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PBCC Activities is the hallmark of who we are. We will be attempting to organize more activities for this coming year but your help is needed. Number one, to attend these events and number two, to help by coming up with some ideas and planning some events. It's not all that difficult. The hardest part is gettin' people to show up. Let's all make the effort to participate more this year and see what happens.

Thanks for allowing me to indulge this minor rant. - Ed.

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This section of the Oil spots can be used by our members to advertise items they may no longer need or want. If you've decided that car must go or you've decided to clean out your garage for example, here is a place you can let the rest of the world know. If you are trying to find that elusive part or car, this might be the place to find it.

In the case of cars, pictures are a must. The old saying, "If ya don't have pics, then it didn't happen" applies here.

If you are successful using this section for selling, please let the editor know that your ad can be removed.

**It has been suggested that we have a "Letter to the Editor" section in our club's newsletter. The "Letter to the Editor" portion of the Oil Spots, is your opportunity to have your voice heard.**

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## Groundhog Reckoning Day

Let me begin by saying, there is a way for you to stop me from writing about crazy things. Wanna know what that is? Well, just start writing some stuff your self and submit it to me and I'll include it in our monthly Oil Spots PBCC newsletter. Writing is not all that difficult. In fact, it's kinda fun. To start with, you can write a little about how you got your LBC, what trips you've taken with it, what you've had to do to it to make it road worthy, some of the history of your car/s, the list goes on and on. Now back to the subject of the title above.

In the midst of our winter woes, we celebrate the groundhog—but is it a meteorological marvel or a marketing gimmick?

The world's greatest weather forecaster; according to common belief, is essentially a large squirrel. As the story goes, if the groundhog sees its shadow on the second of February, there will be six more weeks of winter: no shadow means an early spring. How did this myth get started?

Well, lacking the Weather Channel, our ancestors relied on a number of methods of predicting the weather. One had to do with animals—such as the

groundhog, or “woodchuck”—that hibernate in winter. If hibernating animals were out and about in the very early part of the year, then spring must be near.

From the meteorological standpoint, that idea makes some sense. To see shadows, you need clear skies, and in winter, that means cold weather. An overcast sky provides the earth with a blanket of warmth that could mean the end of winter. And since Groundhog day falls on the second day of February—roughly halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox—it has long been seen as a natural turning point for the weather.

How did the lowly woodchuck become the bearer of winter weather reports? The notion seems to have begun with German settlers in and around Punxsutawney, PA. where groundhogs are fairly plentiful. In the late 1800s, a group of friends formed the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club to conduct an annual search for the animal. In 1887, the group introduced “Punxsutawney Phil” and proclaimed him to be the “official” weather-predicting woodchuck. Ya suppose they had a few beers that day? Anyway, as a club, makes ya wonder what other activities they might have.

**Plateau British Car Club**  
**Annual meeting - January 22, 2024**

President ProTem, Tim Beaton, called the meeting to order with thirteen members in attendance. He then asked for approval of the minutes from the October 2023 meeting. Jack Spradling so moved and Edna Horony seconded the motion before a unanimous vote formally approved the minutes.

Edna Horony then presented the Treasurer's report. The club currently has \$1119.03. Annual dues are expected to build to that treasury. Debits this past quarter included a card and flowers to Pat Bunnell in memory of her husband, and past President of PBCC, Charles Bunnell. Anticipated future expenses include also purchasing a tree to be planted in Charlie's memory in Rugby in middle to late April.

Edna also provided the membership update. As of the end of 2023, the club has 35 members.

Tim next asked for a call to vote for PBCC officers to serve in 2024. The attending members agreed that the club needs only officers for the current year. Therefore, the club leadership will consist of the four officers and the immediate past-President. Tim agreed to continue as

President, and Jack Spradling volunteered to step up to the role of Vice-President. The position of Secretary had no nominations and will remain vacant until the club finds a volunteer. Edna Horony offered to continue as Treasurer. In that position, Edna will also coordinate the membership roster. The members in attendance at the annual meeting voted this slate of officers to lead PBCC through the year 2024.

Tim then asked for a call for volunteers to organize and coordinate informal gatherings throughout the year. The Rainey's will host a morning coffee/breakfast at Bramble Berry Cafe in Crossville on February 3, 2024. The officers are hoping that members will join for coffee/breakfast at or anytime after 9:00 a.m. on that date. A second announcement will go out by email.

Richard Lockhart reminded the group that the 'April Fools' event is planned for March 30 at Sky Ranch on Alcoa Highway in Knoxville. This is traditionally a kick-off to the year of British Car events in the area. The host club this year will be NE Tennessee club in Morristown. An official flyer will be published soon.

Jack Spradling agreed to look for an optional club activity in the month of March. Plans are in process for a drive out to Rugby close to Arbor Day to plant a tree in memory of Charlie Bunnell. Alex Horony offered to look at options for



a marker for the tree. Again, announcements and specifics will be in email notifications.

Dennis Rainey then reminded the members of the 'Springtime in the Smokies' car show the weekend of May 12. Members should remember to register early and make reservations at the host hotel, the Townsend Tally Ho, as soon as possible.

Dennis also reminded members that ideas for any type of gatherings are welcome, including Natter and Noggin type evening events, breakfast/coffee mornings, drive-outs, and/or tech sessions. All members are encouraged to offer ideas to any of the club officers.

The group then discussed a strategy to provide an ongoing memorial in Charlie Bunnell's honor. Members discussed possible options such as an award or scholarship. Members brainstormed ideas for possible avenues for donations and awards. This discussion will continue and will be a part of the next meeting in April 2024.

With his thanks for the group's participation, Tim adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Rainey  
PBCC Secretary



