

May 2024 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

Another month, another newsletter; shoutout to Dennis for continuing to make this happen. This is a lot of work for him and he could certainly use support in the way of stories, how-to articles, or outright lies, to fill the pages. Any of us who have owned and enjoyed LBC's have tales to share. Please let us see them.

On to business. We had our second quarterly meeting at a new location on April 10th. Grandy's Bar and Grill at the newly refurbished Deer Creek Golf Course in Crossville. The venue was excellent. We had plenty of room, excellent food, beer, incredible service, beer and no crowds to fight. And beer. About 18 people showed up including two brand new members. I think we should find more excuses for these gatherings even if it isn't officially a meeting.

Though it may have already passed by the time you read this, I want to remind everyone about the tree planting memorial for Charlie Bunnell on April 27th in Rugby. Charlie was one of the founding fathers of both the club and the Rugby event. Please join us in this celebration at 1:30 (Eastern Time) in Rugby.

I hope everyone has made reservations for the annual event in Townsend, Tennessee, Springtime in the Smokies. The Tally Ho Inn will once again be the venue. Details are on our website as well as the Facebook page the Blount County Club sites. Hope you plan to attend and I will see you there.

Now, I will turn the newsletter back over to Dennis.

Dennis, take it away.

DID YOU KNOW

The guy who invented the door knocker got a *No-bell* prize!!

Oil 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

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

PBCC Officers and Support Positions

[Jack Spradling](#) - President- shadowfever@yahoo.com - 931.255.2040

[Larry McDonald](#) - Vice President - larry.McDonald53@gmail.com - 210.912.5546

[Edna Horony](#) - Treasurer/flowers/membership - ednahorony@gmail.com - 931.261.6943

[Pat Rainey](#) -Secretary - dprainey@att.net - 256.486.8605

[Dennis Rainey](#) - newsletter editor - dprainey@att.net - 256.744.4909

[Paul Barker](#) - Webmaster - 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 reports for this issue, that we have twenty three paid members. This is up from last month by four. Let's welcome new members Tony & Pam Orlando. They have a 2000 Jaguar XK8

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

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March Treasurer's Report - Edna Horony

PBCC MAR 2024 FINANCIALS

1-31 Mar 2024	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,541.19		\$1,541.19
Membership Dues	\$75.00		\$75.00
BlueHost Domain Renewal		(\$180.87)	(\$180.87)
Total for Month	\$1,616.19	(\$180.87)	\$1,435.32



Plateau British Car Club
Quarterly meeting
April 10, 2024

Welcome and introductions:

Jack Spradling, President, opened the meeting with a welcome to the 19 attending current members and acknowledgement of the newest members, Tony and Pam Orlando. Jack then asked each member to introduce themselves to each other.

Pat Rainey reminded those in attendance that each had received the minutes of the first quarterly meeting of 2024 by email. Given that she had not heard of errors or omissions, Pat asked for a motion to approve those minutes, as distributed. Richard Lockhart so moved and the members voted to approve the January minutes.

Edna Horony reported that the club treasury balance is currently \$1435.32. She reminded the membership that there are expenses related to the memorial planned for Charlie Bunnell, later this month. Edna also reminded members that she can order name tags, if needed. Thanks to Larry, our Vice-President, the club currently has embroidered ball caps with the club logo for sale. These caps are khaki in color and will cost \$20 each. The club will make a minimal amount on those sales. Edna also encouraged members to encourage friends and former members to submit current dues.

Past events:

Jack reminded members of past events, all of which were well attended. On March 2, several members returned to the Bramble Berry Cafe in Crossville for a Saturday morning gathering. Several members (and a couple of British cars) enjoyed the coffee, breakfast, and camaraderie.

Also in March, a group drove to the Cookeville History Museum to see a display of 'tiny' cars. The group proceeded to enjoy lunch at Father Tom's Pub.

Several club members attended the gathering for the annual April Fools' Bash, held at the Sky Ranch airport in Knoxville. The event was well attended, with over 50 British cars and over 100 area club members. This annual event was a great kick-off to the 2024 driving season.

Future events:

As a reminder of future events that are currently in plans, the club is hosting a memorial and tree planting for former President and founding member Charlie Bunnell on April 27, 2024. This event will begin at 1:30 p.m. EDT in Rugby. Members are asked to notify Dennis Rainey (dpaine@att.net or 256.486.8605) if they plan to attend. The club officers will be busy at a planning meeting earlier

in the day and will not be available to lead a caravan to the event.

Jack then asked if anyone had interest in another first Saturday morning of the month breakfast gathering. This month, that would be on May 4. Jack asked that members contact him with suggestions for this gathering.

The Blount British Car Club and the Eastern Auto Society are again hosting the annual Springtime in the Smokies car show in Townsend, TN. This event will be held on May 11, with events extending to the day before and the day after, for those interested in staying over the weekend.

The Plateau Corvette has asked our members to again participate in their Summer car show on June 15. Many of our members have attended in the past, and some have even won the only trophy of the event. Jack and others who have attended in the past encourage members to notify Jack to give the hosting club an idea of the space we will need for our British cars. This is a single day event with food, beverage vendors as well as live music and games.

Other business:

Dennis Rainey asked club members to continue to submit contributions for the club newsletter. He will finalize the

next edition between the 20th and the end of the month. He always appreciates ideas and written articles.

Edna Horony asked for suggestions for ideas the membership might have for using the British car plate that Meri Leedy donated. Meri would like the club to use this as an award or acknowledgement for participation in club activities. Members agreed to consider ways this plate could be displayed, including a plaque for names of awardees each year.

Hearing no further discussion, Jack asked attendees for a motion to adjourn. Members so moved and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Rainey
PBCC Secretary



Lines on the Road are Longer Than You Think



Most people believe that the dashed lines painted down the middle of a road are about 24 inches in length. And they're off by about 8 feet.

US federal guidelines dictate that the dashed lines separating traffic lanes or indicating where passing is allowed run 10 feet in length. But a recent study showed that people grossly underestimate the length of those lines, and thus could be misjudging distances as they drive. That means they could be driving too fast.

Psychological scientist Dennis Shaffer began heading up this research as a graduate student in the 1990s and continued it while on the faculty at Arizona State University and finally at The Ohio State University, where he serves as an assistant professor. The series of experiments involved a collective 400 college students over the year.

In the first experiment, he and his colleagues gave participants a written test in which they were asked how long they believed the lines and the spaces in-between lanes to be. In a second experiment, the researchers took a piece of paper that was the exact size and shape of a dashed line and taped it to the ground. Participants stood either 60 or 120 feet from the line, and looked at it at an angle close to their line of sight, as they would see it if they were driving down a road. In the third experiment, participants sat in the front or rear passenger seat of a car, and were

asked to study the lines and spaces while a researcher drove down an actual road at either 25 or 60 miles per hour.

In all three experiments, most of the students, when asked to guess the length of the lines, answered 2 feet.

At each university, he and his colleagues measured lines on a variety of nearby roads. Over those years, the federal guideline for line size shrank from 15 feet to 10 feet. Wherever the researchers went, they found all lines to be close to the federal guidelines of the time. In Arizona in 2000, for instance, some lines were 16 feet long instead of the expected 15.

But even back then — when the federal guideline was 15 feet — people still thought of lines as measuring only 2 feet.

Why are these erroneous estimates for consistent? Shaffer suspects that the miscalculations have something to do with how our brains perceive geometry. Engineers design roads, buildings, and public spaces using Euclidian geometry — the system of lines and angles first described by the ancient Greek mathematician Euclid. But this study and previous ones suggest that our brains perceive objects in a non-Euclidian way.

As a possible explanation for this misperception, Shaffer pointed to the concept of “size constancy” — in which we see an object as being the same size, no matter how close or far away it is. Scientists have demonstrated this phenomenon in a number of contexts. Researchers have found that people tend to perceive their dominant hand as staying relatively the same size even when its magnified.

Even though lines appear to expand as a car passes by, drivers can't safely notice that effect. Rather, the first line we can comfortably look at while driving safely is some 120 feet ahead — the fourth line ahead on the road. So perhaps we think that all lines are as small in reality as that one faraway line appears to be.

These line misperceptions have real implications for traffic safety. The empty spaces between each line measure 30 feet. So every time a car passes a new dashed line, it has traveled 40 feet. But in this study, people consistently judged the lines and the empty spaces to be the same size — 2 feet. This means drivers are covering more ground than they perceive, and are thus underestimating their speed. The study appeared in the journal *Attention, Perception & Psychophysics*.



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Plateau British Car Club

Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024

(Listed in chronological order)

- 05/11 - SpringTime in the Smokies See attached Flyer/ Registration form or link.
- 06/15 - Cruisin' into Summer, Hosted by the Plateau Corvette Club - See Flyer below for details. RSVP requested to Jack Spradling at **shadowfever@yahoo.com**

We will add to and update this schedule as and when we have additional events or changes to the schedule.

You are encouraged to come up with your own ideas about events and outings for the club. If you need help planning something, please don't hesitate to ask. We are, after all, a driving club.



The British are coming . . .
To Townsend, Tennessee for -

Springtime in the Smokies

A Gathering of British
and European Cars
and Motorcycles



When: Saturday May 11, 2024

Where: Talley Ho Inn
8314 SR-73
Townsend, TN
(865)448-2465

Time: Registration 8:30-11 AM
Event Begins at 9 AM

\$25 Pre-Registration Fee / \$30 Day of Show



What You Can Expect

- More than 100 vintage, classic and modern automobiles
- Trophies by category and Best In Show
- Silent Auction - Bid on and win automotive themed goodies
- Light concessions (water, sodas, packaged snacks)
- A driving tour of the Great Smoky Mountains area



Points of Contact:

Jim Watson - spridget@charter.net
Jesse Lehn - jesse.lehn@gmail.com

 (865)599-4305
 (865)805-7907





FAIRFIELD
Glade
9th Annual

FREE
to Public

Cruisin' into Summer



PARKING
available at
The Center &
CMC Wellness Complex.



Find us on
Facebook



ZURICH
HOMES
exceptional by design

All Makes & Models Welcome -- NO Entry Fee!

Saturday,
June 15, 2024
12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

at the
Square in
Fairfield Glade, TN
(intersection of
Peavine Rd & Stonehenge Drv)

<https://plateaucorvetteclub.com/>

Peoples Choice Trophy
Participant Trophies (new this year)

Best GM (non-Corvettes)
Best Ford
Best Mopar
Best Import
Best Corvette

Numerous Raffle Drawings (proceeds to charity)

Music - Food - Cars - Bake Sale (including K9 treats)

Fairfield Glade Info - 931-484-3722

Making contributions to the *Oil Spots*

Your stories, photos, tech tips, questions and anything LBC or PBCC related are always welcome in the *Oil Spots*. Please make your contributions to the editor by the 20th of the month preceding the issue in which you would like to see them appear. You may email them to Dennis Rainey at dprainey@att.net.

The *Oil Spots* is, of course, the official news letter of the Plateau British Car Club. It is not the only form of communication that the club is using, nor should it be. Its purpose is pretty straight forward as it is intended to keep the membership abreast of what's going on within the club and to provide a measure of entertainment. Another widely used form of communication is the club's web site and its function is very similar to the news letter. It is an excellent method of checking event schedules and related information. The third method being employed by the club is the mass email announcements which you receive periodically. Once again, this method is used to alert the membership to changes in schedules and to act as reminders of events about to take place. All three methods overlap considerably, and all three have their needed place. Please make sure that you use of all three of these methods and you won't be left behind.—Thanks Ed.

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.

BST - Buy, Sell or Trade

Classified ads on the website are free to members in good standing of the Plateau British Car Club.

All others must pay \$10.00 (with submission of the ad) for 3 months minimum. Maximum 40 words per classified ad. Ads may run three consecutive months, and again after a two month hiatus, upon re-submission to the Editor at dprainey@att.net.

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Triumph spitfire 1977 Knoxville TN
David Tindell

1977 Triumph Spitfire
For sale for \$8000 or best offer or trade for daily driver.

Contact information, please email me with any questions.

Thank you

davidtindell@gmail.com

Many more pics available. Please contact David at his email address above.



Looking For

A set of seats for a '78 MGB.

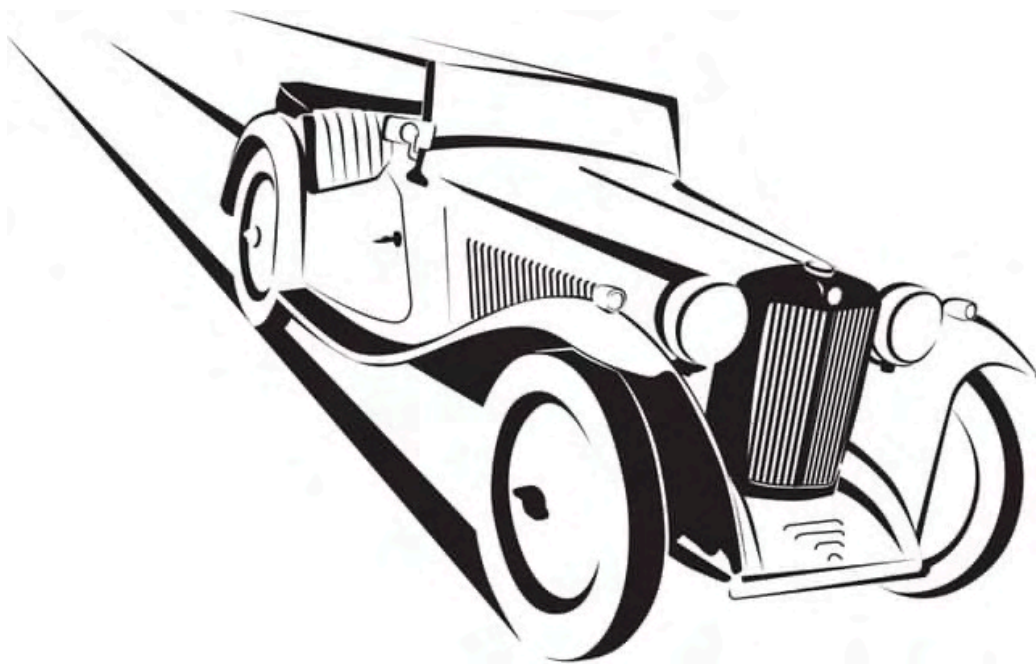
Please Contact Eric Ritzman at eric.ritzman@gmail.com

Put A Lid On It

(Or a Hat)

My fellow PBCCers, We now have an haberdashery item that will be the envy of all involved with our hobby. This item is designed to provide protection from the harsh sun rays while putting on display your proud membership in our club. If you should be so inclined to break loose of the paltry sum of just \$20 USD, then you'll look good anywhere you go. These great hats can be purchased thru our club's treasurer, Edna Horony, by sending her a check made out to PBCC. Edna's snail mail address is 195 S. Summerhaven Dr. Crossville, TN 38555. Edna then will bring your hat/s to the next gathering. She also makes several trips to town during the week and can meet you in town to make an exchange.





The Thrill of Driving a British Sports Car

Driving a British sports car is an experience like no other. Picture yourself behind the wheel of an LBC, the wind whipping through your hair as you navigate twisting country roads or glide through the city streets. British sports cars are renowned for their elegance, precision handling, and snappy response.

As you slide into the driver's seat, you're immediately struck by the craftsmanship of the interior. The rich smell of leather fills the air, and the polished wood accents add a touch of sophistication. Everything is designed with the driver in mind, from the perfectly positioned pedals to the ergonomic placement of the gear shift.

Starting the engine, you're greeted by a throaty roar that sends a shiver down your spine. The car springs to life, eager to hit the open road. With a flick of the wrist, you engage the clutch and

shift into first gear, the engine responding eagerly to your command.

As you accelerate, the car hugs the road with precision, each curve and bend met with ease. The steering is responsive, offering unparalleled control as you weave through traffic or tackle hairpin turns. No radio needed, the roar of the engine fills your ears, urging you to push the car a little more.

But it's not just about speed. Driving a British sports car is an experience that engages all your senses. The smell of burnt rubber, the feel of the wind rushing past, the sight of the world blurring by—all combine to create a symphony of sensations that leave you exhilarated and alive.

Whether you're a seasoned racer or a weekend enthusiast, there's nothing quite like the thrill of driving a British sports car. It's a blend of elegance and power, craftsmanship and performance, that captures the imagination and leaves you craving more. So, buckle up and get ready for the ride of a lifetime.

-Ed



April Fool's Bash - 2024



On the 6th of April, the annual season kick-off event, was held at the Sky Ranch airport near Knoxville. The event was well attended with about a hundred and ten attendees with fifty plus cars. This event is held each year and the host club rotates among the eastern Tennessee all British car clubs. This year's host club's (there were two) were the Appalachian British Car Society from Kingsport, TN. and the East Tennessee British CarClub from Morristown, TN. Those two clubs furnished hamburgers and hotdogs grilled on site with condiments and attendees brought a dish to share.

The weather was made to order and the venue was very close to perfect. After all, airplanes and LBCs just sort of go together. There were a couple of local pilots putting on an airshow for us as they flew their light airplanes doing some touch and go's for us.

