

August 2024 Edition

# OIL SPOTS

*A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club*



## The Prez Sez

Well, July has come and gone. Club wise, it was a good month with several chances to get together to celebrate friendships and our LBC's. Through high temps and now rainy weather, we have managed to persevere.

Next month will be even better. Why? Well, Rugby, of course. I know we are all anticipating our premier annual event. This promises to be the best ever. I hope everyone has made their arrangements and plan to attend. I know, at least for me, this is the best of the best. I certainly don't mean to take away from the other great shows and events that we all love to attend, but this one is ours, it is special. It is the legacy left us by our club founders and is more than a show, it is a tradition. And where better to have it than in a quaint little British inspired village in the middle of Tennessee. Hoping to see everyone there.

-Jack

Did you know that if you drink approximately four beers that you won't even feel guilty about how much money you spent on car parts.  
Science is crazy...

**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**

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

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

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

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

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.**

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

The Membership Chair report.

The membership chairperson reports some new members for this issue,  
They are Bob & Janet Brantley and Kit & Pat Thomson.  
We presently have 29 paid members.

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

0-----0

## June Treasurer's Report - Edna Horony

### PBCC JUNE 2024 FINANCIALS

1-31 June 2024	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,271.53		\$1,271.53
Membership Dues	\$0.00		\$0.00
PBCC Hat Sales	\$0.00		\$0.00
Total for Month	\$1,271.53	\$0.00	\$1,271.53

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Here's one for ya to ponder...

In the US, why do we drive on the right hand side of the  
road and our steering wheels are on the left side of our  
cars?

If ya think ya have the correct answer, send it to the editor and I'll put it in  
the next newsletter!!!

## 92 Year-old Law

Whenever you fill up your tank, you may notice that the price per gallon of gasoline always ends in nine-tenths of a cent — for example, \$3.699 per gallon, sometimes displayed as \$3.69 and 9/10. You've also likely noticed that it's pretty much the only everyday commodity that's priced that way. Even a whole penny hardly makes a difference now, so why bother charging a fraction of a cent? As it turns out, the strange pricing is a holdover from a 1932 law.

During the Great Depression, a penny was worth a lot more than it is now. The average gallon of gas cost about 20 cents in 1930, and in some parts of the country was as low as 10 cents. When the Revenue Act of 1932 was passed, it allowed for the first federal gas tax. The tax rate of 1 cent per gallon was pretty significant at the time; in some areas, that increased fuel prices by 10%. It made a difference, too: Ultimately, gas accounted for nearly 8% of tax revenue in 1933. Gas station owners, who paid the tax when purchasing fuel from suppliers, were faced with three options: They could eat the tax and take the hit to their profit margin, raise prices by an entire cent (which, again, was a lot at the time), or increase prices by less than a penny and pay the difference. The third option was less of a shock to motorists, but still made up a portion of

the tax burden, so it seemed like a good compromise to most retailers. As the interstate highway system grew in the 1950s (and gas prices stayed roughly between 20 cents and 30 cents per gallon), pricing gas to a fraction of a cent also proved to be effective marketing, making rates appear lower to motorists who saw them displayed on signs along busy highways. It's the same concept as charging \$1.99 instead of \$2 — consumers tend to focus on the leftmost digit of a price, making for an effective illusion even to savvy shoppers. But, that last fraction of a penny adds up to millions of dollars in revenue each month for gas retailers as a whole; in 2006, one gas station operator cut out the nine-tenths of a cent as an experiment and figured he lost about \$23 a day. Roughly 92 years after the 1932 law was passed, pricing gas to nine-tenths of a cent is still nearly universal, but there's nothing mandating that gas stations price their gallons this way. In fact, a 1985 law in Iowa banned the practice, though the law was repealed just a few years later.

-Ed.

In 1965 Ford introduced “wrist twist” steering for cars. Despite better visibility, a roomier cabin and allowing you to drive with your arms on armrests, it never went beyond the testing stage.







I know everyone is on the edge of their seats waiting for the latest update on Jasmine, the Jaguar. Ted Clough jumped into the trenches with me yesterday and we spent the day spinning wrenches and generally keeping the busted knuckles and curses down to a minimum, putting the new carb insulator to intake gaskets on without having to tear the whole front end off the car.

Well done, Ted for, finding those incredibly well hidden 4 bolts from behind the intake. There was definitely some wrongability about how many gaskets we found in there. I guess if 2 were required, 4 must be better. It wasn't.

We even managed to get the coil wired up correctly the first time. A light didn't shine down from heaven, but it sure would have been appropriate.

Since we drained the antifreeze out a few weeks ago, cause I was tired of mopping it off the frame, the floor, the toolbox, etc. I'll put water back in today and fire her up to hopefully expectorate all the liquids that ended up where they shouldn't have gone. Like my air cleaner filter..😬

Now she needs to be retimed and the carbs need to be retuned so if anyone knows somebody that knows somebody that has this sacred knowledge, please share with me so she may one day feel the asphalt under her tires, instead of my concrete garage floor like a barn sour horse that has no intention of going back out into nature.

Plateau British Car Club - Mari Leedy

# Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024

(Listed in chronological order)

- 08/03 - **Let's do our popular Saturday Mornin' Coffee again\*\***
- 08/17 - Return of the British Car Show/Gathering. See Flyer
- 08/30 - Drive out to Marioochi's Pizzeria in Beautiful Sparta
- \*\*See Details Below or TBA via PBCC FB page

We will add to and update this schedule as and when we have additional events or changes to the schedule. We are, after all, a driving club.

## **Pre-registration is now open**

This year we are doing this a little different than we have in the past. Pre-registration is available on-line by going to

[Click here for registration](#)

## **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](mailto: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.





## Put A Lid On It (or a Hat)

There are still some of these beautiful hats available. This hat 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 through 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.



## Request

As most everybody is aware, our single biggest money raiser at Rugby each year is our silent auction. Auction items are needed. If you need to clean out your garage of some car parts or car related items, this would be a really good chance to do that. Non car related items are also welcome. New or used items are fine. If you have something that you'd be willing to donate, please don't hesitate to let Dennis & Pat Rainey know by calling at 256.486.8605 or email at [dprainey@att.net](mailto:dprainey@att.net) and we'll make arrangements to pick them up from you. It's that easy. In addition, we can provide a receipt for tax purposes.

One again, your donation of items are needed. Also, please call if you have any questions.

Thanks - Dennis



Drive out to Marioochi's Pizzeria in Sparta, TN on August 30th. Meet at Good Times parking lot just off North Main at 1369 Interstate Dr. and plan on leaving there at 12:15. A beautiful 45 minute drive down US 70 to the square in Sparta TN.

Marioochi's Pizzeria is located in historic downtown Sparta. They make traditional Italian style pizzas, they also have salads, appetizers, pasta's or hoagie. With a cold beverage of your choice and many different desserts.

The pizza oven was handcrafted and shipped from Italy in 2021. A true Italian wood fired pizza in the heart of Tennessee.

Situated in the heart of White County, Sparta was designated as the county seat when the county was formed in 1806. The city was named after the ancient Greek city-state of Sparta, known for its courage and disciplined way of life.

With its strategic location along the stage road between Knoxville and Nashville, Sparta quickly grew into a prominent settlement. The bustling city became a transportation hub, connecting travelers and merchants between the two major cities in Tennessee.

Sparta found itself in the midst of a heated debate over becoming the permanent state capitol. This controversial issue brought the city to the forefront of political discussions, with Sparta becoming a serious contender for this prestigious title.

Sparta and Nashville were the primary contenders for the state capital, resulting in a near tie. The final vote was Sparta losing to Nashville by only one vote.

So let's take a drive to the almost Tennessee State capitol.

Edna and Alex



# Tech Session

Any interest in doing a couple of tech sessions? If ya got a pesky problem and a little help to resolve is needed, then thats a good excuse to gather and eat donuts and kick tyres etc. All that is needed is few donuts or maybe pizza if it goes on for long, and a problem to solve. Just let me know and we'll get it on the schedule.





## A Few Tips for Driving in The Heat

August and even September can be a couple of the hottest months of each year. With the right preparation and precautions, tooling around in your Little British Car during hot summer months can be an enjoyable experience! OK, OK, maybe we'll just say "merit-badge worthy." But with 90-degrees-plus pretty much standard in the our area and nearby foothills this time of year, and triple-digit days no rarity, here are some best practices to ensure a safe and worthwhile ride, heatwaves notwithstanding:

→ **Stay Hydrated:** Always carry plenty of water, especially during longer drives. An ice-filled cooler in the boot, full of water and other hydrating drinks, is not a bad idea. Beer is NOT a hydrating drink. Nice try.

→ **Sun Protection:** Wear sunscreen, lip protection, sunglasses, and a hat to shield yourself from too much sun exposure. Consider using a sunshade, blanket, or even raising the convertible top during stops to keep the seats from getting blistering hot.

→ **Monitor Engine Temperature:** Keep an eye on your engine temperature gauge to avoid overheating. Prior to hitting the road, check your coolant level and ensure your cooling system is in solid operating condition.

→ **Avoid Peak Heat:** Plan your drives during the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late afternoon, to avoid the midday rays. How hot is too hot? You be the judge.

- Ventilation: Make use of the vehicle's air-flow system or bring along a portable fan (battery operated or lighter socket plug-in) to help keep the air moving around the seats.
- Light Clothing: Wear lightweight, breathable clothing to stay comfortable while driving.
- Check Tire Pressure: Ensure your tires are properly inflated, as heat can cause tire pressure to increase, leading to blowouts.
- Frequent Breaks: Take regular breaks – find a shady place to park and cool off, stretch, and enjoy the scenery.

It's easy enough to say of our cars, "not today, it's just too dang hot," but with a little bit of planning and a mild case of adventure and/or insanity, we can enjoy the open road while keeping ourselves and our cars running along, no matter the season.

**\* \_ \* \_ \* \_ \* \_ \* \_ \* \_ \* \_ \***

Plateau British Car Club  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2024

President Jack Spradling called the meeting to order with fourteen members present.

Jack asked the Secretary, Pat Rainey, to review the minutes of the previous meeting. She indicated that she had not received any feedback following publication of the previous minutes in April. Given that, Jack asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Several members so moved and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the second quarterly meeting held on April 10, 2024.

## Old Business:

Jack then reviewed the activities of the previous quarter.

PBCC club members honored former President and founding PBCC member Charlie Bunnell at a tree planting in Rugby, TN on April 27. This event was well attended by current and previous club members as well as cars and totaled about 50 club attendees as well as members of neighboring clubs. The tree and memorial plaque, sourced and built by Alex and Edna Horony, are a beautiful lasting tribute. Jack led those interested in sharing stories of their experiences and fond reminiscences. Charlie's family, Pat Bunnell, Chuck Bunnell, and Pat's son-in-law seemed very appreciative of the event and the time available to see so many friends.

Several club members attended the Springtime in the Smokies car show in Townsend, TN. This show is a well organized and fun event that many PBCC members attend annually in early May. Members enjoyed a Friday night gathering and the show on Saturday, May 12.

On June 15, eight club members displayed their cars at the 'Cruise into Summer' event in Fairfield Glade. The show included a category for 'Import' cars, where our club reigned. Of the cars entered, member Robin and Jeanne George took the trophy with his 1970 E-Type Jaguar.

Club members again met on June 1st at Bramble Berry Cafe in Crossville for a monthly coffee/breakfast and returned the following month, July 6. The July gathering extended to a drive through beautiful backroads where the group then enjoyed conversations and camaraderie over libations at the Swing On Brewery.

## New Business:

The most urgent and essential upcoming event is the Return of the British Car and Motorcycle Show in Rugby, TN scheduled for August

16-18, 2024. PBCC members are encouraged to register now for this fun event. This is an annual event for which PBCC is the primary organizing club. Club members offered ideas for new ideas for spreading the word about the event. Thanks to Steve Spradling, Dennis will send a direct invitation to the Nashville British Car Club. Mari Leedy will, again, donate cases of water to be offered free to those at the show. The planning committee will provide coolers and ice. The attending members were reminded to gather items from their homes or any businesses to support the car show silent auction. Members are encouraged to contact Dennis Rainey about volunteering at the show. Areas that will need help are in setting up on Friday, prior to the show, and at registration on that Saturday morning, and breaking down the show Saturday afternoon. Volunteers and others attending were reminded that the community of Rugby is in the Eastern Time Zone, one hour earlier than Crossville. More information and registration forms are available on the club website.

In addition, Mari offered to get information about connecting with Terri's Jag, a business out of Indiana. Terri may be willing to come to the area to do a rolling tech session for British cars. Other clubs nearby may also want to participate.

The members held a general conversation about the need and strategies to encourage the younger generation to learn more about British cars, and other automotive marques. There was general agreement that this could happen through high school and tech schools. However, the group focused on the need for each member to continue to drive and display their cars, allowing others to see and learn more about them.

President Jack Spradling encouraged each member to contribute to the club as much as possible. Jack mentioned that Edna and Alex

Horony will plan a drive from Crossville to Marioochi's Pizzeria in Sparta in late August.

With a reminder that the next gathering will be August 17 at the Return of the British Car Show in Rugby, Jack asked for a motion to adjourn. Members so moved and unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Rainey  
PBCC secretary

## **Sorry if ya missed it**

A few of the PBCC members enjoyed a couple successful outings in July. The first was a short but scenic drive along a back road to the Swing-on Brewery on Potato Fram Rd. This drive followed a Saturday Mornin' Breakfast/Coffee gathering at Bramble Berry Cafe' on Genesis Rd. which was well attended by our members.

The Second outing was another short drive to a new local winery just off Hwy. 127 north called Bristow Rd. Winery. The winery has only been open for about three months but already has an impressive following. Once again, it was well attended.



## New Location for Saturday Mornin' Coffee Gathering

**Common Grounds coffee shop**, 152 W. First St, Crossville. How about Saturday the 3rd of August at 10:00 am.

Here are some facts about this wonderful non-profit organization:

- \* They provide meaningful employment for people with disabilities. Presently they have 29 employees that work 3 hour shifts, ages ranging from 17 to 60.
- \* Promotes self worth to the employees.
- \* The shop has Wi-Fi, a book swap, a play area for children, ample seating both indoors and outside.
- \* The pastries and coffee are purchased locally. (The prices are extremely reasonable).







# Return of the BRITISH



13th Edition of a British Car Gathering

AUGUST 16-18, 2024

Historic Rugby, TN

Cars displayed: Aug. 17 - 9 to 2:30 EDT

Awards, Silent Auction,

Tea Settings & More

Come for the weekend!



**PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

**(Just Click on Link Above)**

*Connect with old friends and make new ones*

