

September 2024 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

Another year, Rugby has come and gone. It was a great event, some beautiful cars, fantastic people, and one of the greatest venues for classic British cars. The weekend always seems to pass so quickly, and the next event always seems to be so far in the future. But, we have a couple of drives coming up and another great show in Ooltewah in October. So, a few more opportunities to spin our wheels.

Got to cut in short here, going in for surgery so I will be out of pocket for a few. But, my heart will be in our LBC's even if my seat isn't. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

50 years ago the owners manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves. Today, it warns you not to drink the contents of the battery.

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

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[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 one new member for this issue Nick & Connie Siarrone who have a 1952 MGTD Mark II We presently have 28 paid members.

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

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July Treasurer's Report - Edna Horony

PBCC JULY 2024 FINANCIALS

1-31 July 2024	Income	Expense	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,271.53		\$1,271.53
Membership Dues	\$62.50		\$62.50
Name Tags	\$40.00		\$40.00
Return of Overpayment of Membership Dues		(\$37.50)	(\$37.50)
Total for Month	\$1,374.03	(\$37.50)	\$1,336.53



When was the last year that US auto builders used chrome bumpers on their cars they produced?

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

The Future of our Hobby

During our last meeting, there was a impromptu casual discussion about the future of our hobby and how to attract younger people to participate. Several ideas were thrown around. This started me thinking about the subject, so I decided to write a little something about it.

Maybe one of the first things that we should do is define “young people”. When we talk about young people, we often think first about high school aged young folks. Really, the term young people applies to a growing segment of the population. By that, I mean as we age, the number of young people grows. My own definition of “young people” are the high schoolers up to those people approaching maybe an early retirement age. Most “Young people” have never had the opportunity to experience anything related to our chosen hobby. Most can’t manipulate a standard transmission. However, getting young people interested in British sports cars can be achieved through several strategies that emphasize their unique attributes and appeal:

- 1. Heritage and History:** Highlight the rich heritage and history of British sports cars, showcasing iconic models like the Jaguar E-Type or the Mini Cooper and others. Use storytelling to connect younger generations to the legacy and craftsmanship behind these cars.
- 2. Technology and Innovation:** Showcase how British sports cars integrate modern technology and innovation while maintaining their classic appeal. Highlight advancements in performance, materials, and eco-friendly technologies.
- 3. Social Media and Influencers:** Utilize social media platforms where younger audiences are active. Collaborate with influencers who have a passion for cars or British culture to create engaging content that showcases the excitement and allure of these vehicles.
- 4. Events and Experiences:** Organize events such as car shows, track days, or driving experiences that allow young enthusiasts to interact with British sports cars up close. Offer test drives or rides to let them experience the thrill firsthand.
- 5. Customization and Personalization:** Emphasize the potential for customization and personalization that British sports cars offer. Show how owners can express their individuality through color options, interior finishes, and performance upgrades.
- 6. Affordable Models:** Highlight more affordable models or entry-level options that appeal to younger buyers who may be starting their automotive journey. Showcase the value for money and the unique driving experience these cars offer.
- 7. Community and Clubs:** Encourage involvement in car clubs and online communities dedicated to British sports cars. These forums can provide a sense of belonging and camaraderie among young enthusiasts, fostering a passion for these vehicles.

8. **Education and Workshops:** Offer educational workshops or seminars on automotive design, engineering, and the history of British sports cars. This can cultivate an appreciation for the craftsmanship and technical aspects of these vehicles.
9. **Collaborations and Partnerships:** Partner with universities, automotive schools, or youth organizations to promote interest in British sports cars through collaborative projects, internships, or educational initiatives.
10. **Environmental Consciousness:** Highlight the sustainability efforts and eco-friendly features of modern British sports cars, appealing to environmentally-conscious young consumers who value performance with a lower environmental impact.

By leveraging these strategies, it's possible to ignite an interest among young people in the timeless appeal and driving experience of British sports cars. The next obvious question might be "How do we make direct contact with potentially interested young people". Some suggestions are made above. I don't know, but suspect, that is a topic for further discussion. If you have any ideas, please don't hesitate to share them. - Ed

Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024

(Listed in chronological order)

- 08/30 - Drive out to Marioochi's Pizzeria in Beautiful Sparta
- 10/05 - Brits at Cambridge - Southern British Car Club**
- Mid October - Fourth Quarter Meeting, Election of Officers***
- **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.

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.

For Sale

Very cool trailer built from an MGB. Have you ever traveled in your little British sports car and hated that you didn't have enough storage space? Have you ever attended a car meet and thought, "I wish I had a place to sit and a table to hold my burger and beer? Well, never again. Admittedly this is a project. Some cosmetic work to do and some of the parts need to be attached. Has primer and a couple of coats of paint on it. Needs a light sanding and another coat and then a good sealer. Gas cap, trunk handle, wiring harness for lights, and MG emblem aren't shown but come with it. Table set up to accept an umbrella. Pulls great, good tires. Once the painting is done, a good afternoon could see this finished. Contact Steve Spradling at 615.498.0043.



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.



US Interstate Highway System

Next time you're cruising on the interstate, take some time to spot all the different highway shields. Are there single digits? Double? Triple, even? What do the odd and even numbers actually mean? Believe it or not, there's a legit method behind the madness that makes up the United States interstate highway system and how they get their numbers

Way back in 1926, the U.S. Numbered Highway System was established, setting the groundwork for how the nation's highways would be named and labeled. But it was the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 that actually helped establish the interstate numbering system as it is known today. To cite any federal standards would be boring and confusing to take in all at once. Let's take a virtual trip across America to understand just how this all works.

Just a quick note before you jump into the comments and yell at me: yes, there are exceptions, and I don't get paid nearly enough to make the rules of the nation's highways (I've asked, believe me). So don't shoot the messenger, just soak up the sweet, sweet knowledge.

First, let's talk major interstates. Essentially all of these highway systems have double-digit numbers, with just one pesky exception. East-west highway systems all end with "0" and are numbered increasingly higher as you progress further north. For example, I-10 runs through the southernmost states (California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida), while I-90 makes its way across some of the northernmost (Washington, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts).

North-south interstates end with a 5 and are numbered increasingly higher as you progress further east. For example, the westernmost major highway system running between California, Oregon, and Washington is I-5, and the easternmost is I-95, which travels through Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine.



There are also plenty of interstates that don't actually cross into other states. Texas has the only major interstate like this, and it follows the same naming convention as the rest of the continental U.S. Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico all have their own special naming convention that doesn't exactly follow the standard system we're talking about here, too.

Next up comes interstate mediums, which are suffixed with either an even or odd number. Evens mean that the interstate is east-west, and odds are north-south. Multiple medium interstates can exist with the same number. I-76 is a highway in Colorado, and it's also the interstate number of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. There are plenty of other examples of this across the U.S. as well.

Then there are minor interstates, all of which are represented by three digits instead of the usual two. The first number in the three-digit sequence is the secret sauce, while the last two represent the major interstate that it branched from. If the first digit is even, the interstate will eventually branch back into its parent; these are called “bypasses,” or “beltways” when encircling a landmark like a city. An interstate with an odd-numbered first digit is called a “spur” and will not connect back to its parent. If a minor interstate connects two major interstates, it is generally up to the state to decide which major interstate is used as the suffix of the minor.



Now you know the secrets of the major interstates in the US, so if your GPS ever acts up and all of your maps vanish, at least you’ll be able to navigate the highways across America.

Brits at Cambridge 2024

The Southern British Car Club is excited to announce that the Brits are returning to Cambridge Square for our annual show this fall. Cambridge has numerous shops and restaurants with several new choices, including a "Fish & Chips" restaurant scheduled to open by our show date. "The Square" is closed to outside traffic during our show, creating a safe and relaxing day for enjoying British cars and the fine folks driving them. We will start with a welcome reception at our host hotel, Springhill Suites, on Friday evening, October 4 followed by our show on Saturday, October 5. A block of discounted rate rooms has been reserved at Springhill Suites. Additional info and a reservation link will be available on our website soon.

Please Save The Date!

October 4-5 Photos from our previous shows at Cambridge Square:



<https://www.southernbritishcarclub.net>

Return of the British Rugby, TN

Over the weekend of the 17th of August, The PBCC in cooperation with the Blount British Car Club and the English Auto Society (EAS) of Knoxville and Historic Rugby, Inc. (HRI) held our 13th annual event in Historic Rugby, TN.

We had 54 cars registered and countless numbers of people from the public in attendance. The variety of cars was once again fantastic with many models of MGs, Triumphs, Jaguars, Minis, Lotus, Morris Minors and even a British Triumph Bonneville T-120V Bike and a rare reliant Scimitar. There is a very good video of the event which has been posted on Facebook and some other places but here is a [link](#) to it if you'd like to see it. Just click on the under lined word "link" above. This will take you to a lot pictures from the show.
Enjoy - Ed