

November 2024 Thanksgiving Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

We held our last quarterly meeting of 2024 on Wednesday, October 16, at the Bristow Road Winery. It is a very accommodating venue that offered us a room to ourselves. Turn out was excellent. I believe we had 22 attendees and may have picked up a new member who was at the facility with another group. We discussed several things that I will get to, but first I want to address another issue.

I would like to apologize to the group for allowing the meeting to veer somewhat off course. I am afraid that I was a bit unprepared and distracted due to some personal things that I should not have allowed to interfere. I especially want to apologize for the way the nomination segment was handled. We had a move to nominate the current office holders for another term. I failed to acknowledge that move or ask for a second. The reason was that I did not lead off with the fact that two of our long serving and hardworking officers had asked to be removed from consideration because they need a break. I failed to preface the opening of nominations with that. I wasn't intentionally ignoring the nomination, I was attempting to correct my own mistake and doing it badly. I do hope that the way I allowed this to shift our focus will not be considered a reflection of the club. The mistakes were entirely mine.

We discussed the possibility of opening up our membership to British bikes and other European cars. We would not change our name or our focus but we would be opening up the

possibility of expanding our base and increasing membership and participation. Our car show at Rugby already has a classification for these 'other vehicles' and this is something that I feel we could at least consider.

Another item pertained to tech days and then expanded to a couple of other ideas. Tech days could happen when we have an informal gathering with a mentor present to explain/show how certain repair or maintenance jobs are performed. As a tie into that, it was suggested that perhaps we could use some of those tech days to help members who are unable to do the work themselves with oil changes, brakes, and other issues. Also mentioned was having a club project car that could be refurbished and then sold, with the money going to some charity. This would offer members an opportunity to get more familiar with the cars, learn some new skills, and give us all a bit more together time.

The Christmas party was discussed and a tentative date of December 14 was set, though that could change as we follow up on venues and food options. We are considering a club house type venue with catering. You will all be updated in the coming days.

We have a few nice days coming up before the LBC season starts shutting down. I believe a couple of drives are in order. Pizza anyone?

-Jack

I'VE NEVER FOUND THAT THE TIME SPENT DRIVING DOWN A BACKROAD TO BE A WASTE OF TIME!

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.

We have no new members for the September time period.

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

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September Treasurer's Report -
Edna Horony

PBCC SEPTEMBER 2024 FINANCIALS

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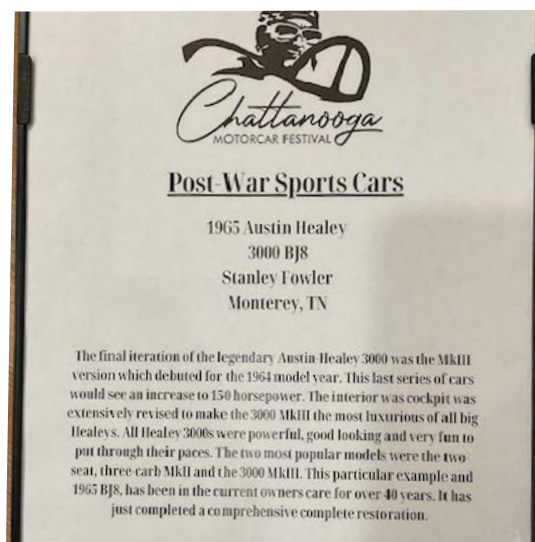
1-30 Sep 2024	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,283.37		\$1,283.37
Membership Dues			
Name Tags	\$30.00		\$30.00
HRI Donation Century 21	\$100.00		\$100.00
Century 21 Donation to HRI thro		(\$100.00)	(\$100.00)
Total for Month	\$1,413.37	(\$100.00)	\$1,313.37

**The longest driveable road in the World!
The Pan-American Hwy passes through 14 countries and
is a length of 48,000 kilometres or 29,825.817 miles.**



The Chattanooga Motorcar Festival is an event that was started several years ago - an event that has been on my bucket list every year, but just never got there. It was held in Downtown Chattanooga around the Westin Hotel, with cars parked along the city center streets. When I found out a friend of mine was organizing one of the classes there, and had invited a car that I had built about 10 years ago, I decided this was the year to go! And, as long as I was going, I would enter my Austin Healey - the same car I entered at Rugby two years ago, and took to the Fairfield Glade show this year.

Well, the Healey was accepted, which is absolutely an honor in itself, in the " Post War Sports Car " class . - Stan Fowler



Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024

(Listed in chronological order)

- **12/07 - PBCC Annual Christmas Dinner****
- **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 and as with driving, sometimes ya have to make turns.

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

1965 AUSTIN HEALEY 3000 WIRE WHEELS AND DUNLOP TIRES

Good used wheels - sand blasted several years ago, and painted. No broken or loose spokes, run true. These are 60 spoke wheels, 15" diameter, 4.5" wide . Correct on later BJ-7 and all BJ-8, but will fit earlier cars also. Tires are correct size 165R15 metric, very good shape, no cracks, but very old. \$400 OBO.

FRONT BRAKE ASSEMBLIES FROM 1959 AUSTIN HEALEY 100-6

Looks like they are just rebuilt - new brake hose, new wheel cylinders, new shoes. Brake drums turned. I went to disc brakes. \$100 OBO - I need them gone.

MGB GOOD BUMPER CORES

Straight, chrome pretty good, need re-chroming for show car. Front bumper has two extra holes for driving lights . \$25 OBO.

Stan Fowler - sbfowl@yahoo.com or eight one zero.four four four.four two eight eight.





Tech Session Anyone???

Any interest in doing a couple of tech sessions? If ya got a pesky problem and a little help to resolve is needed, then that's 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.

(The young mechanic above is Elijah Duke, and he is the future of our hobby)

PBCC Officers for 2025

Each year, our club attempts to elect new officers for the coming year. We will be doing that again just after the first of January. Taking on a leadership role in any club is essential to the diversity and growth of virtually any club. New leadership within a club is vital for maintaining enthusiasm and can cultivate a strong pipeline of new leaders, ensuring that the organization remains dynamic and responsive to its members' needs. Now is the time for us to consider running for, and participating in our club's leadership. Remember, it is for only a year term which anyone can do standing on their heads. Please consider running for a position in the club.

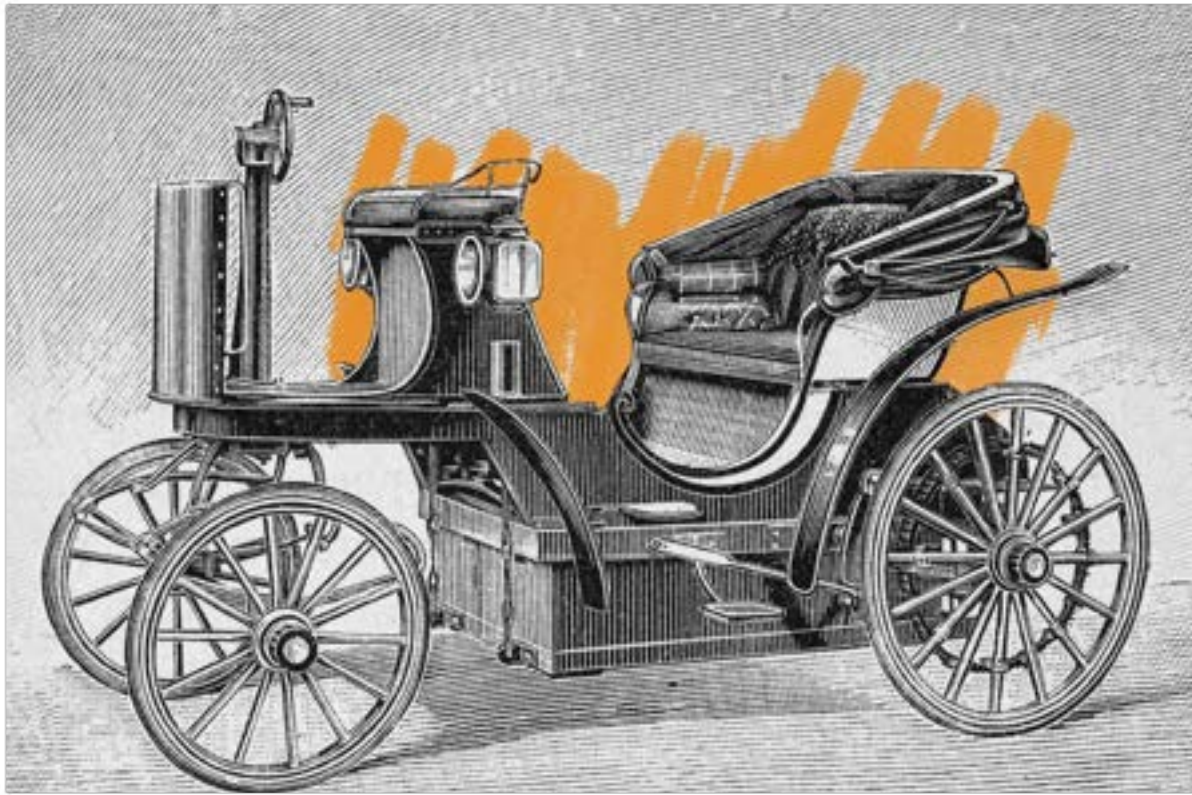
There are four officer positions opening for the 2025 calendar year. They are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer/Membership.

I will write up a description for each position for the next newsletter but please consider running for one of these positions.

Volunteerism is the act of contributing free labor to conduct community service or support a nonprofit organization. It is the principle of donating time and energy towards a greater cause.

Volunteers help to strengthen their community through responsibility rather than receiving a financial reward.

A Little History About Gas Pumps (More about Gasoline)

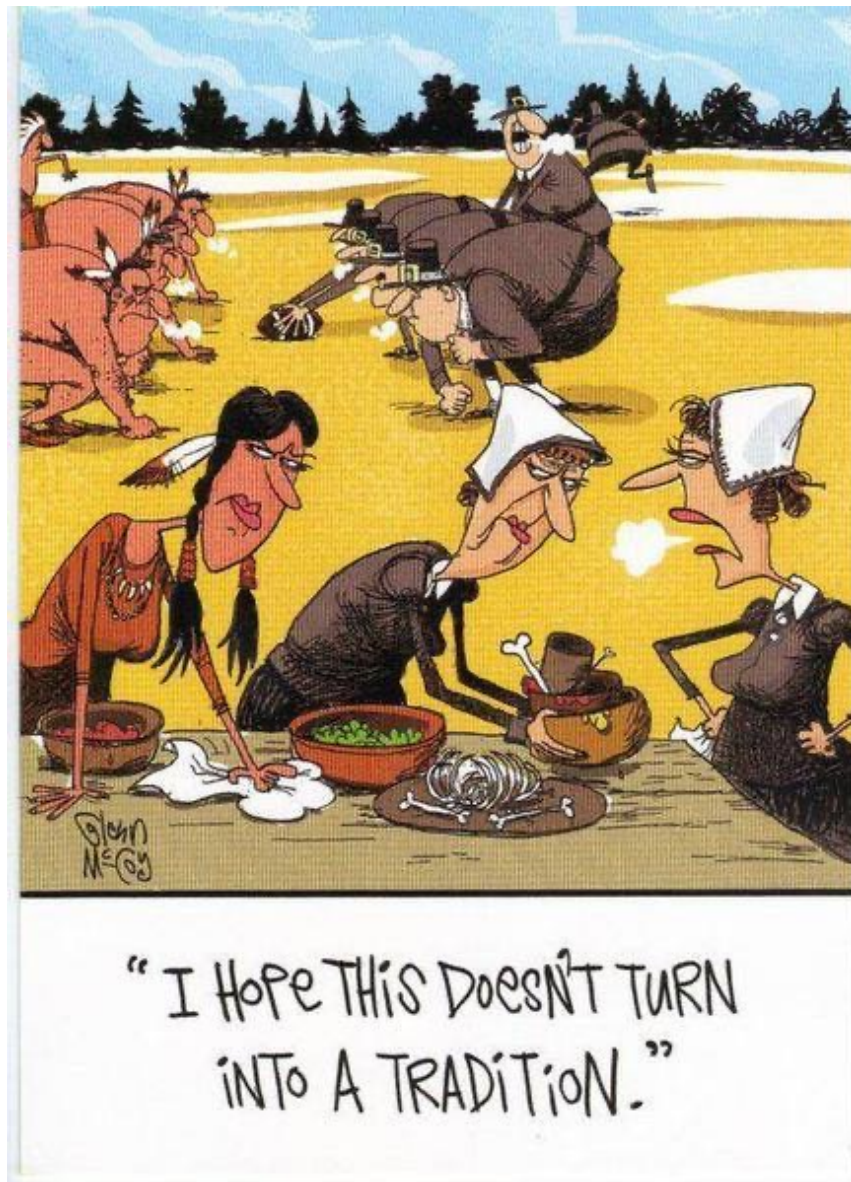


When the automobile was first taking off, gas pumps as we know them today didn't exist. In fact, the very first motor vehicles were powered not by gasoline, but rather by steam, electricity, or in some cases, kerosene. In the early days of oil drilling in the mid-1800s, when the first gas-powered cars were still decades away, oil companies were after kerosene for lamp fuel. Gasoline was just a byproduct of creating kerosene, and was often burned or discarded. The predecessor to the gas pump wasn't designed for cars; the first one was installed in a grocery store in 1885 to measure and dispense kerosene for lamps.

In the 1890s, car inventors realized gasoline made great motor fuel, and what was once disposable suddenly became valuable. In the early days of gas-powered vehicles, there weren't any gas stations to dispense the fuel, so customers bought gasoline the same way they bought kerosene: in a can at the pharmacy, blacksmith shop, or grocery store.

Although its inventor, Sylvanus Freelove Bowser, didn't anticipate it at the time, the pump originally designed for kerosene ended up being extraordinarily useful for filling cars with gasoline. In 1905, Bowser added a long hose to one of his pumps so motorists could fill up curbside. While there's some disagreement on what the very first gas station was, the first drive-up service station is usually cited as the Gulf Refining Company pump that opened in downtown Pittsburgh in 1913. - Ed

Happy Thanksgiving everyone...Be safe out there.



Pizza Anyone????

PBCC members joined together for a drive to Sparta, TN. on Tuesday the 22nd of October. Pizza and calzones were enjoyed at Marioochi's Pizzeria in Sparta's historic town square which is impressively maintained. On the return trip, the group paused at the overlook to appreciate the emerging fall colors. It was a quintessential autumn day. Our group's procession of cars along State Road 70 featured notable British vehicles amidst a scenic backdrop.





First time out for Jann & Pat Neilson's MGTD MkII. Good Show. Photos above are the courtesy Steve Garland and Buzz Merchlewitz.

Plateau British Car Club 2024 Fourth Quarterly Meeting - October 16, 2024

Welcome

Jack Spradling, PBCC President opened the meeting with a welcome to all members in attendance. This was a busy meeting, with 22 members participating.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Jack verified with Secretary, Pat Rainey, that the minutes from the previous meeting had been distributed. Members received the minutes by email and they were also published in the 'Oil Spots' Newsletter. Those minutes received a motion to pass and the attendees approved them, as written.

Old Business

Jack noted several activities in which club members had participated this quarter.

Several cars and individuals attended the annual car show sponsored by the Southern British Car Club in Ootlewah, Tennessee. The reports were that it was a great show, in a unique setting. Those who attended encouraged others to make this show a part of their fall schedule in October 2025.

Other members attended the Nashville Car Club event and reported similar enthusiasm. Meri Leedy's Jaguar XKE took the excursion and did well in the judging. With a minor glitch of needing to add fuel, both she and the car returned to Crossville safely.

On a beautiful, warm September day, several members of the club ventured from Crossville to Sparta for an enjoyable lunch at Marioochi's Italian Restaurant. The pizza and service were amazing and all who attended were grateful to Edna and Alex for the recommendation.

Treasurer's Report

Edna Horony, PBCC club treasurer, noted that the club treasury stands at \$1313.37. She also stated that she has one last ball cap available (sold at the meeting), and a prototype of embroidered club tee shirts. At least eight members expressed interest in a Polo type of shirt and Edna will get a price and commitment to purchase these to sell at a future meeting.

Dennis Rainey noted that the treasury seems to be strong enough to consider the option of beginning to contribute to a local charity. This may be discussed at future meetings.

New Business

A member announced an upcoming event to be held in Clark Range. While this gathering is not specifically for British cars, it is a fun gathering at the Country Store there on October 19 this year. Members were encouraged to make the short drive to this casual event, 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. that day.

One topic explored during the meeting was the idea of expanding our membership to include British bikes and other European cars. While we would not change our name or primary focus, this could potentially broaden our base and enhance participation. Our car show at Rugby already accommodates these vehicles, making this a consideration. The idea of advertising on the Facebook page of the 'Crossville Critter Chatter' to spread the word about our club and potential expansion was introduced.

Membership also discussed the concept of 'tech days', where members could gather informally with mentors to learn about maintenance and repair tasks. This could extend to assisting members who may struggle with basic services like oil changes or brake work. Additionally, the group entertained the idea of a club project car, which we could refurbish and sell for charity. This initiative could help members gain hands-on experience while fostering camaraderie. Meri Leedy offered her garage for tech activities.

Planning begins now for the 2024 Christmas gathering. Several members made suggestions for locations and menu options. The group seemed to agree that Buzz Merchlewitz's offer to host at the Garden RV Community Clubhouse was a welcome option. Due to scheduling there and the needs of the members, the consensus was determined to plan the event for December 7, 2024. Edna and Pat will investigate caterers for this event. Members should save that date, beginning at about 6:30 p.m. As plans develop, more specific notices will be distributed to all club members. As in the past, members want to continue to collect items for the local 'Toys for Tots' benefit at the holiday dinner.

Nominations for next year's PBCC Club officers will be solicited via email between now and the first meeting of 2025, in January.

Adjournment

Jack then asked for a motion for the meeting to adjourn, to which the membership agreed and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Rainey, PBCC Secretary

