

December 2024 Holiday Edition



OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

We just celebrated Thanksgiving and I feel, that as a club, we have had a lot to be thankful for this past year. Great events, shared moments, some fantastic drive-outs, and some of the most wonderful people in the world sharing their love of our LBC's. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our memories for this year, and who I hope, will continue contribute in the year to come. Hope that special day was blessed, whether with family, friends, or alone, remember you are special.

Don't forget , we have one more big event happening on December 4th. Our Christmas party, Dennis has posted the information.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

-Jack



Christmas - What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

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 one returning member for the October time period.
Welcome back Michael & Robin Faircloth!!!

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

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October Treasurer's Report -
Edna Horony

PBCC OCTOBER 2024 FINANCIALS

1-31 Oct 2024	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,313.37		\$1,313.37
Membership Dues	\$25.00		\$25.00
Name Tags	\$15.00		\$15.00
Hat	\$10.00		\$10.00
Total for Month	\$1,363.37		\$1,363.37



Season's Greetings from the Garage!

'Tis the season to don your driving gloves and take your British beauty out for a spirited spin (assuming it starts, of course). May your holidays be filled with joy, cheer, and a breakdown-free journey to the shops! Here's to a New Year of polished chrome, winding roads, and only *minor* oil leaks.
Cheers - Dennis

PS: Don't forget to leave mince pies out for the Royal Air Corp.(RAC) chap —he's the real hero this time of year.

The Twelve Pings of Christmas

Once upon a time, in the quaint English village of Pistonwick, there was a car club known as the "Little Brits." Its members were deeply devoted to their classic British sports cars—tiny, noisy, and prone to more breakdowns than a politician's promises.

At the center of the club was Reginald, the proud owner of a 1964 Austin Healey Sprite. He called her "Penny," though his wife secretly referred to her as "The Other Woman." Penny was a character: her engine purred like a cat after too much milk, her brakes squealed like a startled pheasant, and her electrical system (courtesy of the infamous Lucas, Prince of Darkness) provided enough sparks to light a modest Christmas tree.

As Christmas approached, the club prepared for its annual "Jingle Run," where the members dressed their cars in festive lights and decorations to drive through Pistonwick spreading cheer (and a bit of exhaust).

But this year, Penny had other plans.

On the morning of the Jingle Run, Reginald found Penny stubbornly refusing to start. She emitted a faint ping from under the bonnet—a sound so tiny and pathetic

that even the village mice stopped to offer their condolences.

Reginald rolled up his sleeves, muttering, "Not today, Penny. Not Christmas."

His neighbor, Margaret, arrived with her MG Midget, which was bedecked in tinsel and bells. "Need a hand, Reggie?" she asked with a smirk.

"No, no. Just a little British charm," he replied, giving Penny's bonnet a fond pat.

"British charm won't get you past the village green!" she laughed.

One by one, the other club members pulled up in their triumphantly temperamental vehicles: Morris Minors, Triumph Spitfires, and a single, much-maligned Reliant Robin (dubbed "The Three-Legged Reindeer"). The gathering looked less like a parade and more like Santa's scrapyard.

Despite Reginald's best efforts, Penny stayed stubbornly silent, offering only the occasional ping. With time running out, the club decided to leave without him. "We'll swing back for you," Margaret called, her Midget jingling as she drove off.

Reginald sighed, staring at Penny. "You're going to ruin Christmas, aren't you?"

But then he had an idea. He grabbed a set of fairy lights from his shed, draped them over Penny, and hitched her to his garden tractor. It wasn't glamorous, but by Jove, it was British ingenuity at its finest.

As the Jingle Run looped back through Pistonwick, the club members were met with a sight they wouldn't soon forget: Reginald, proudly trundling along on his tractor, towing Penny, who was now the merriest, most illuminated car in the parade. The villagers roared with laughter and applause.

Margaret pulled up alongside him. "Well, Reggie, you might not win Best in Show, but you've certainly won Most Determined!"

As the parade ended, Penny finally decided to spring back to life with a triumphant roar—her way of saying, "See? I was just being dramatic."

And so, under the twinkling village lights, the Little Brits toasted to another successful year of friendship, laughter, and the peculiar charm of their tiny, maddeningly wonderful cars.

The moral of the story? Never underestimate the holiday spirit—or the stubbornness of a British sports car.

-Ed & AI

Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024

(Listed in chronological order)

- **12/04 - PBCC Annual Christmas Dinner****
- January '25 - Qrtly. Meeting**
- **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 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 newsletter. It is an excellent method of checking event schedules and related information. The third method being used 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.

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.

PBCC Officers for 2025

Per our club's by-laws, each year, we elect new officers for the coming year. That time is here again. The election of new officers for 2025 will take place during our quarterly meeting in January with new officers assuming their positions on February the first. 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.

Section 4 - Duties of Officers *(from the PBCC By-Laws)*

President: The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Club and shall preside at all meetings of the Club. The President shall have the power to appoint members to committees or to replace other officers unable to serve their terms. The President shall have check-signing authority equal to the Treasurer.

Vice President: The Vice President shall preside over the Club in the absence of the President, or if the President becomes unable to perform their duties. The Vice President shall have check-signing authority equal to the Treasurer.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have charge of all Club funds and deposit all funds in a bank approved by the Board of Directors. He/she shall collect dues, send out bills, pay bills as authorized by the President or the Board of Directors and shall report to the membership at Club meetings, but no less than once per year at the Annual Meeting, on the status of such funds in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State of Tennessee.

Secretary: The Secretary of the Club shall conduct all Club correspondence, maintain all vital records, and keep records of the minutes of Club meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors. Minutes from each meeting are to be published in the next edition of the Club's newsletter or on the Club website or by whatever means the Board of Directors deems necessary.

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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.

STOP, READ THIS

Traffic accidents were a problem long before motor vehicles dominated the road — pedestrians, horses, and carts all competed for the right of way, sometimes with fatal results. In fact, the first traffic signal in Britain predated cars: Railroad engineer John Peake Knight helped design signaling systems for trains, including semaphore signals, which employed a movable arm to indicate whether a train operator should stop. Knight proposed that these signals could work on city streets, too, with gas lamps for nighttime visibility. After the plan received government approval, the first gas traffic light was installed in London on December 9, 1868, just outside the Houses of Parliament. This being Victorian England, it was ornately decorated, with a hollow cast-iron column adorned with gilding and acanthus leaves. Above the signal arms, an octagonal box with a pineapple finial contained red and green gas lamps. Automated lights were still several decades away, so the signal had to be manually operated by a police officer 24 hours a day. The light was successful at first, and drivers, for the most part, actually paid attention to it. But the very next month, a leaky pipe filled the hollow tower with gas and caused an explosion that severely injured the officer operating it. London didn't get traffic lights again until electric lights were installed in 1929.

The first three-way traffic signal was invented in 1923. The first electric traffic lights typically went straight from red to green and green to red with no warning signal indicating how soon the light was going to change. A Detroit police officer introduced yellow lights to one intersection in 1920, but they were far from widespread. Two years later, another three-way traffic signal was invented by Garrett Morgan, a pioneering Black inventor from Cleveland, Ohio. Morgan had already created a lifesaving precursor to the gas mask and an improved sewing machine when he witnessed a carriage accident at a problematic intersection in Cleveland. Troubled by the incident, he created a T-shaped illuminated traffic signal that had a third setting that instructed traffic in all directions to stop, which served as a warning for drivers to fully clear the intersection and also gave pedestrians a chance to cross safely. The signal was influential and widely used, and Morgan made \$40,000 from it, around \$700,000 in today's dollars, when he sold the patent to General Electric.

Plateau British Car Club Proudly Presents Polo Shirts For Your Consideration



They are made of lightweight moisture wicking material, typically 100% polyester or poly/rayon blend. Shirt sizes are small-XXXL. Below you will find a photo of each type of shirt. The women's shirt is tailored. If the women would prefer the straight look then order a mens shirt. It will take approximately 2 weeks to get the shirts completed. Once we have a good size order, We will send it to Wynell and she will start on the logo embroidery. The embroidered PBCC logo below will be used over the upper left pocket area. If you have any questions please let Edna let know either by email or phone. Shirts are \$36 which includes shipping. Look forward to getting an order ready soon. Please be specific on your style and size.

Thanks - Edna

