



January 2025 New Year Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



THE PREZ SEZ

Christmas is over and another year has passed us by. I believe, as a club, we have progressed quite well over the past few months. That, despite the turmoil in the world around us. As we reflect over the past, let us all remember those things that have gone well, the things that have brought us joy, and the pleasure of sharing good company with friends and family. And there is the future to consider. Not trying to be dramatic, but we all recognize that both ourselves and our LBC's are aging. Now, we could consider cutting back, taking it easy, coasting for the rest of the ride. But, to quote John Wayne, "That'll be the day." No, I think we need to go into this new year swinging for the fences, driving the wheels off of our cars, and raising some late middle age mayhem. Let us plan more drives, attend more events and gatherings, and take the opportunity to enjoy the companionship of others who share our passion. None of us knows what tomorrow brings, but we should never stop planning, and dreaming, and driving. Let's make this coming year the best of them all. Then next year, we can do it all over again. Because, as someone said, "it ain't over till it's over". "Happy days until we meet again" and thank you for being you. - Jack

**I was going to give up all of my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that no one likes a quitter.
Happy New Year!**

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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Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations

The Membership Chair report.

We have no new members for this reporting period. - Edna

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

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November Treasurer's Report -
Edna Horony

1-30 Nov 2024	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,363.37		\$1,363.37
Membership Dues			\$0.00
Total for Month	\$1,363.37		\$1,363.37

PBCC NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCIALS

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Here's to a New Year of polished chrome,
winding roads, and only *minor* oil leaks.
Cheers - Dennis

Happy News to Report

This may be a first in the history of LBC newsletters. A couple of our club's members got married (to each other) on the 29th of November and I, the Oil Spots editor, was the officiant. What an absolute honor that was. The wedding was held on Las Vegas, NV on the Linq High Roller, a gigantic ferris wheel which they call an "Observation Wheel". It is 550 ft. tall at the top and takes a half an hour to make one revolution. There were 28 people on board including a bartender with a complete bar. The views were magical and the total experience was almost indescribable.



Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024

(Listed in chronological order)

- 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.

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Points Versus Electronic Ignition

... It's an age-old debate in the classic car community, and if you ask ten people, you'll most likely get eleven answers on which is better. Fitting electronic ignition to your classic car comes with a lot of perks and I've listed them below. Here are five reasons why you might consider swapping your points out and one reason for not installing an electronic ignition kit:

1. Low maintenance – no tuning or adjusting, fit & forget!

First and foremost, these kits are very low maintenance, so say goodbye to messing around with points and condensers. Once installed, you can drive along knowing your timing is going to stay absolutely spot on, and your ignition system will be performing its best, with no need for tuning or adjusting. With no mechanical parts to wear, these conversion kits deliver consistent and reliable spark timing. You won't have to worry about leaning over your engine bay every few months resetting the points gap, or standing on the side of the road replacing burnt out points. Converting your distributor to electronic is as

easy as changing a set of points, which is why these kits are 'fit and forget'!

2. Stronger spark – more efficient, better starting, smoother idle!

Increasing your spark energy will give you several noticeable benefits. First, you can use a leaner fuel mixture, which makes your fuel go further and improves the overall efficiency of the engine. It also helps with starting, so if your vehicle can be tricky to start at times, going electronic may save you from getting stranded. You'll also notice a much smoother and more seamless idle, so your classic will tick over smoothly.

If you're wondering why you get a stronger spark from these electronic ignition systems, there are a few reasons. Now that the switching is done electronically, you will get much less energy loss than with mechanical points. The time it takes for mechanical points to open and close means some of your spark energy gets wasted. As well as that, upgrading to our system means getting rid of any arcing that was happening across the points. Electronically controlled switching means that switching happens quickly and precisely, with very little energy wasted.

3. Intelligent dwell for precise spark timing!

These kits are designed with adaptive or 'intelligent' dwell. Adaptive dwell helps maintain peak performance across the full range of RPMs by adjusting the dwell time of the coil. This can help reduce misfires and improve your engine's overall performance.

In traditional points systems, the dwell time decreases as the RPMs increase because the dwell angle is fixed. As a result, the time available for the coil to charge reduces as the engine speed increases, which gives you a weaker spark when you need it the most. Dwell would also change as the points wear, so your timing would gradually get less accurate, meaning constant adjustment is necessary.

The adaptive electronic system maintains a relatively constant dwell time at lower RPMs to maximize the time for which the coil is being energized. It then optimally adjusts the dwell in the higher RPMs to give you the strongest possible spark.

4. Durable, resistant to harsh environments, no moving parts!

Another great thing about electronic ignition is its durability. For instance, these electronic kits and distributors can handle all the harsh conditions of an engine bay, and they can operate in a wide range of climates. Your classic's timing and overall performance won't be affected by heat, cold, or engine vibration. It will carry on running smoothly even when conditions are against you.

And, with no moving mechanical parts making contact with each other and wearing themselves out, there is no life expectancy on our kits. Once you've installed the kit and timed it up, you won't have to worry about it again.

5. Maintain original look!

Many classic car enthusiasts prefer the old to the new, but ask yourself this, what if you can have it both ways? Electronic

ignition kits are designed to fit inside your distributor, making them virtually invisible from the outside. No big external boxes or complex wiring, they have two simple wires that come from the distributor and go to either side of the coil. Positive earth vehicles are wired slightly differently, but, there are kits for those too. The simple beauty of electronic ignitions remains the same and will keep your car looking like it just drove out of the factory, so if you are considering a subtle yet reliable and effective electronic ignition solution, this may be the way to go for you.

One reason to keep the old point system!

As I mentioned above, there is at least one reason for keeping your points system of ignition. The electronic system doesn't often fail. It is a rare event. But, when they do it is a catastrophic failure, meaning that there is no warning and it is complete with no hope of a quick repair. However, if you chose to go the electronic route, there is a simple and easy solution to a roadside failure. Many enthusiasts who use the electronic system in the past, as I have in my MGB for approximately fifteen trouble free years, carry with them in their parts stash, a preset set of points which can easily be installed on the road side and you are on your way again.

-Ed.

****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 to be held on Thursday, January the 16th at 4:30 pm at the Vegas Steakhouse & Lounge located at 3152 N. Main St. in Crossville. New officers will assume 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 all 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. Because I know most every member of our club, there are many who held leadership roles during their professional lives and they could bring those skills to one of our officer positions. Please consider running for a position in the club.

In last months 'Oil Spots' newsletter, I listed the four positions which will be open for the 2025 calendar year. Please see the December, 2024 issue for that description. There are four officer positions opening for the 2025 calendar year. They are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer/Membership.

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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.

PBCC Annual Holiday Dinner/Gathering

On Wednesday the 4th of December, the PBCC held its annual holiday dinner/gathering. It was held this year at Grandy's Bar & Grill at the Deer Creek County Club.

We had the entire restaurant and wait staff to ourselves which meant that we were the center of attention. The staff did a great job of preparing the facility for our function. The attendance was very good with thirty-three people. Our President, Jack Spradling, presided over the occasion. We started with an excellent Hors d'oeuvres and drinks and socializing before sittin' down to an excellent, well prepared meal of choice. This was followed by a couple of choices for dessert which capped off an excellent experience.

Attendees were asked to bring an unwrapped gift, and there was a great response to that, to be donated to the USMC 'Toys for Tot's' program which were later delivered to them by Steve Garland.

In addition, attendees were ask to bring a handmade Christmas tree decoration using something from their LBC parts bin in the garage. Those decorations, which required some imagination, were then judged by the wait staff for a prize for the best one which went to Larry & Bunny McDonald. Their ornament is pictured below.





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

