

February 2025 Edition

# OIL SPOTS

*A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club*



## The Prez Sez

We held our 1st quarterly meeting of 2025 at Vegas Steakhouse and had a great turn out. Food and service were excellent. Elections were held and officers were elected, though it took some shuffling to get positions assigned. Since no one else was interested, it appears you will have to put up with me for another year.

We are in the planning stages for a very active season. Besides major events like "Springtime in the Smokies," the April Fools Bash, Rugby and Ooltewah, (all of which will have dates posted), we also are looking at several drives, tech sessions, and other adventures. These well all be posted but expect some last minute spontaneous get togethers as well. Our plan is to go and do as often as we can in order to get our cars out there as much as we can and to generate as much conversation and interest as possible. Hope to see you all soon.

-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.**

**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 - 2025\***

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

[Pat Rainey](#) -Vice President - [dprainey@att.net](mailto:dprainey@att.net) - 256.486.8605

[Richard Lockhart](#) - Treasurer/flowers/membership - [englishautoftn@att.net](mailto:englishautoftn@att.net) - 865.548.9891

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

[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.**

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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 2025 are available on the club website at PBCCTN.org](#)

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**December Treasurer's Report -  
Edna Horony**

1-31 Dec 2024	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,363.37		\$1,363.37
Membership Dues 2025	\$50.00		\$50.00
PBCC Xmas Appetizers		(\$263.00)	(\$263.00)
Name Tags		(\$42.64)	(\$42.64)
Total for Month	\$1,413.37		\$1,107.73

**PBCC DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIALS**

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Following is the year-end 2024 financials for the PBCC - the months of June & November do not appear in this report as there was no activity during those months.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	DEC	TOTAL
Begining Bal	\$1,119.03	\$1,389.03	\$1,541.19	\$1,435.32	\$1,206.53	\$1,271.53	\$1,336.53	\$1,283.37	\$1,313.37	\$1,363.37	\$1,119.03
Membership Dues	\$250.00	\$175.00	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$12.50		\$25.00	\$50.00	\$737.50
Name Tags Sold	\$20.00					\$40.00	\$10.00	\$30.00	\$15.00		\$115.00
Name Tag Vendor							-\$99.49			-\$42.64	-\$142.13
PBCC Hats Sold				\$180.00	\$40.00		\$60.00		\$10.00		\$290.00
PBCC Hat Vendor				-\$293.10							-\$293.10
Annual Web Page			-\$180.87				-\$36.17				-\$217.04
PBCC Supplies		-\$22.84									-\$22.84
Memory Tree Charlie				-\$62.04							-\$62.04
Memory Plaque Charlie				-\$153.65							-\$153.65
PBCC Xmas Party										-\$263.00	-\$263.00
YTD Total	\$1,389.03	\$1,541.19	\$1,435.32	\$1,206.53	\$1,271.53	\$1,336.53	\$1,283.37	\$1,313.37	\$1,363.37	\$1,107.73	\$1,107.73

# NOTICE

PBCC members, We’ve come to that time of year again when our annual membership dues are due. You may be asking ‘What do I get for my dues?’ Hopefully, you’ll find some answers here.

Paying club dues typically offers several benefits, which can vary depending on the type of club or organization you're involved in. Here are some reasons why paying club dues can be worthwhile:

- 1. Supporting the Club:** Club dues often go towards covering various expenses such as venue rental, equipment, materials, events, and other operational costs. By paying dues, you directly contribute to the sustainability and functioning of the club, ensuring it can continue to provide services and activities to its members.
- 2. Access to Resources:** Many clubs use dues to provide resources and amenities to their members. Paying dues ensures you have access to these resources.
- 3. Event Participation:** Clubs often organize events, tech sessions, seminars, and outings for their members. Paying dues often grants you access to these events at reduced or no additional cost.
- 4. Networking Opportunities:** Being part of a club provides networking opportunities with like-minded individuals who share your interests or professional goals. Paying dues helps foster this community by supporting events and activities where members can connect and collaborate.
- 5. Exclusive Benefits:** In some clubs, paying dues may grant access to exclusive benefits such as newsletters, discounts on merchandise or services, or priority registration for events. These perks can add value to your membership and enhance your overall experience with the club.
- 6. Community Support:** By paying dues, you're contributing to the overall strength and stability of the club community.

Your financial support helps ensure that the club can continue to thrive and remain a valuable resource for its members now and in the future.

Ultimately, the decision to pay club dues depends on the value you place on the benefits offered by the club and your commitment to supporting its mission and activities.

If you were part of the Plateau British Car Club in 2024 and haven't yet renewed your membership for 2025, we strongly encourage you to do so. We're already in the planning stages for numerous exciting activities throughout the upcoming year, and you wouldn't want to miss out on the fun. Keep an eye out for the 2025 calendar of events, which will be available soon on the club's website and Facebook page.

For new members or those returning after an absence, please visit the club's website ([PBCCTN.org](http://PBCCTN.org)) to download the application form. Complete the form and send it, along with the annual membership dues of \$25 USD, to the PBCC Treasurer, Richard Lockhart, at the following address:

Richard Lockhart -7809 Gracemont Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37938

Make the check payable to the Plateau British Car Club.

Thank you for your continued support!

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## **Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024**

**(Listed in chronological order)**

- \*\*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](mailto:dprainey@att.net).**





meaning that it absorbs water. One could argue that the ability of gas to absorb a small amount of water is a good thing. If water is present and isn't absorbed, it sinks to the bottom of the tank, where the pickup tube sucks it into the engine. But there's a limit to the amount of water that can be absorbed before separation occurs, so when E10 sits in a humid environment, a corrosive mixture of water and ethanol can accumulate at the bottom of the tank.

These problems are exacerbated in lightly driven vintage cars that often have metal fuel tanks that might be poorly sealed due to degraded or missing emissions systems. This allows moist air into the tank, which gets absorbed by the ethanol in the gas, separates out as water, accumulates at the bottom of the tank, and causes running problems and rust in the tank. Ethanol also ruins rubber fuel lines, gaskets, and plastic and rubber fuel-system parts. Fuel stabilizer used in vintage cars that sit for months, as I understand it, only prevents gas from going "sour." It doesn't alter ethanol's hygroscopic properties or cause water that has already formed to magically dissolve.

If you can buy ethanol-free gas at a reasonable price, do it. Availability varies state to state.

Websites like [Pure-Gas.org](http://Pure-Gas.org) and [BuyRealGas.com](http://BuyRealGas.com) make it easy to find ethanol-free fuel.

Now let's move to octane. I always use the recommended octane for the car I'm driving—no more, no less. A modern car has a digital engine-management system with a calibrated spark-advance profile for a certain amount of octane in the fuel. In addition, most modern cars have a knock sensor, so if the engine is under load (low rpm, open throttle) and it begins knocking, the system should retard the ignition timing until the knocking stops. In a vintage car without a knock sensor, especially one with a mechanically advanced distributor, like most of our cars, regardless of what fuel is in the tank, if the car knocks under load, back off the throttle! Knocking (or pinging, as it's sometimes called) is terrible for your engine and can blow holes in the pistons in short order. Especially in a vintage performance car with high-compression pistons, running on fuel with the recommended octane, with a distributor timed perfectly to spec, it's still possible for the engine to knock under load. Try rotating the distributor to retard the timing. If it still knocks under reasonable loads, try switching to higher-octane gas, if you're not already at the max. I set up my vintage cars for a tiny amount of pinging

in a load situation (for example, uphill, wide-open throttle, one gear higher than I'd normally be in) but zero pinging otherwise.

In short, buy ethanol-free gas if you can, and buy gas with sufficient octane that your car doesn't knock. If you're forced to choose, take the higher octane to prevent knocking. But if the car doesn't knock, go with the ethanol-free gas. - Ed.

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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.

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**Plateau British Car Club  
Quarterly meeting  
January 16, 2025**

Vegas Steakhouse & Lounge (Crossville, TN) hosted an informal gathering of members, beginning at 4:30 pm. Dinner and fellowship was enjoyed by those in attendance, prior to the meeting's official start at approximately 5:45 p.m.

## Welcome and Old Business:

Jack Spradling, President opened the meeting with a welcome to the 27+ members in attendance. He reminded those in attendance that the minutes of the October 2024 meeting could be found in the club's November newsletter. Given that he had not heard of errors or omissions, Jack asked for a motion to approve those minutes, as distributed. Members so moved, seconded and voted to approve the October minutes.

## Club Vision for 2025:

Following approval of the October minutes, Jack shared his vision for 2025, which initially included a couple of springtime events (April Fools Bash in Kingston, 3/29 / Springtime in the Smokies in Townsend, weekend of 5/10 ) and tech sessions. Jack also expressed his desire for an upcoming general membership planning session, stating that he valued input from all members, not just those serving in board positions. Lastly, Jack reminded those in attendance that 2025 dues are due and payable to current Treasurer, Edna Horony, who was in attendance. Jack then yielded the floor to Edna.

## Club Shirts:

Edna advised the members that polo shirts with the PBBC logo are now available for purchase at a cost of \$36.00 (shipping included). Examples of the shirts (both men and women's styles) could be found by following a link to our regalia supplier, from the PBBC website. Edna said she would be placing an order in the next few weeks and asked that those interested let her know the style and size desired. Payment should be made to Edna in advance of the order. Edna yielded the floor to Jack.

## Election of 2025 Officers:

Jack informed the members that both Edna Horony and Pat Rainey were not running for re-election to the board positions of Treasurer/Membership and Secretary, respectively. Jack asked for volunteers and/or nominations from the floor for all the board positions. There was a good deal of lively banter. In the end, current Vice President, Larry McDonald volunteered to relinquish his current position and take on the duties of Treasurer/Membership. Jack agreed to serve as President for another year. There were no volunteers/nominations for the positions of Vice President and Secretary. Jack and Larry were elected by acclamation, with no dissent. Jack invited the members to reach out to him, if interested in serving on the board.

Other business:

No other business was discussed. Hearing no further discussion, Jack asked attendees for a motion to adjourn. Members so moved, seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry McDonald - PBCC Secretary

### **\*PBCC Officers for 2025**

Per our club's by-laws, each year, we elect new officers for the coming year. There was an election of new officers during our 1st quarterly for 2025. New officers will assume their positions on February the first. This year, the election of new officers was held again during the regular meeting, but, a full slate of new officers was not achieved. Following the regular meeting, there was an impromptu gathering of the current officers who were attempting to address this shortfall. It was decided that the following changes needed to be made.

#### **For the 2025 slate of officers to be as follows:**

Jack Spradling to continue as the club's President  
Pat Rainey to assume the role as Vice President  
Richard Lockhart as Treasurer/Membership  
Larry McDonald as Secretary

# 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



