

April, 2025 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

The season has started. We have had a couple of tech sessions, our annual Rugby weekend is in the planning stages, and we have had our first drive out event. The April Fool's Bash was held on March 29 in Kingston, Tennessee. It was a complete success. The weather was a little overcast, but that kept the heat and the glare down making for perfect event weather. We had about 53 British cars and around 102 human participants. The food was delicious and plentiful, and the gathering was low-key and very pleasant. We will have our first weekender event in May when we celebrate Springtime in the Smokies in Townsend, Tennessee. If you haven't made your reservations, then do so quickly. Most of us will be staying at the Tally Ho Inn where the show will take place.

We will be planning a number of drives and meet-ups, so let us know if you have suggestions and we will let you know when we have events occurring.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon and often.
See you soon. - Jack

Due to publication time constraints, this issue of the 'Oil Spots' is abbreviated. My sincere apologies for that...Ed

.

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 - 2025*

Jack Spradling - President- shadowfever@yahoo.com - 931.255.2040

Pat Rainey -Vice President - dprainey@att.net - 256.486.8605

Richard Lockhart - Treasurer/flowers/membership - rwlockhart54@aol.com - 865.548.9891

Larry McDonald - Secretary - larry.McDonald53@gmail.com - 210.912.5546

Dennis Rainey - newsletter editor - dprainey@att.net - 256.744.4909

Paul Barker - Webmaster - barkerpa@gmail.com - 423.442.4482

Edna Horony - Regalia-meister - ednahorony@gmail.com - 931.261.6943

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.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

2025 Driving Season (Things to do)

The spring driving season is upon us, so here are some thoughts to put your ride on the road with confidence. Our cars need regular maintenance. Oil checks, and changes if necessary, greasing and oiling where needed, fluid level checks and even tire checks. If you are capable of doing these things, I strongly encourage you to get them done so you can hit the road with confidence. If not, I strongly recommend finding someone to help you get this done. Remember to use a small note book to track maintenance and general condition of your car. Our memories aren't getting any better!

Things to check:

- First, do an overall inspection. Look for oil and water leaks and record what you find. Remember to look for and record oil or coolant or brake fluid anywhere it shouldn't be.
- Brake fluid level – top off if needed and record this so you can see if you are losing fluid. Note: if the fluid is purple, it is synthetic. Do not mix with regular Dot 3 or 4 yellow fluid!
- Engine oil – does it need to be changed? Top off if necessary and record how much oil used.
- Transmission oil – some early cars might have a little dipstick to check this. Yes, you may need to recruit a teenager to wiggle in to get access! Later Bs, for example, have a fill plug on the side of the case. The oil should be to the bottom of the threads. Record the level and how much you needed to top this off. If you can't remember when this was last changed, consider having it changed and recording the event this time!
- Differential oil – top off and record how much you used. Like with the transmission oil if you can't remember when this was last changed, consider having it changed.
- Steering rack – this is topped off with a few shots of 90 weight oil, not grease. Check the steering rack boots for signs of leaks. Replace if you find any.
- Chassis – there aren't that many places to grease on our cars, but it is important that it is done. Each front king pin typically has three grease points, The driveshaft has one grease point for each universal on most of our cars, and the emergency brake cables also have a grease point.
- Carburetors – Check for required maintenance such as oil in the dashpots. Know what weight to use – 20 weight for SU carbs, engine oil for ZS carbs -- and remember, it doesn't take much. Ask if you're not sure.
- Radiator – top off with a 50-50 antifreeze mix. As with everything else, record how much you add and consider changing your coolant if it's not clear or you can't remember

changing this before. Note, if you have had heating issues on hot days, consider asking for advice from the tech experts as there are several things you can do to make your car run a bit cooler.

➤ Tires – look up the recommended pressure and top off as needed. Again record what you found and how you left it. Also look over your tires. Is the tread good? Anything stuck in the tread? Any cracking in the rubber? If your tires are old, consider having them replaced even if they aren't worn out. How old, you ask? The answer here is that if you ask ten people, you'll most likely get eleven answers. However, it is generally accepted that tires seven to ten years old should be suspect.

Definition of “Handling”; ‘When you are enjoying yourself and your passenger is nervous; that is oversteer. When you are nervous and your passenger is relaxed; that is understeer’.
-Road & Track (USA)

The Membership Chair report.

We have no new members for this reporting period.

[Membership applications for 2025 are available on the club website at PBCCTN.org](#)

0-----0

February Treasurer's Report -
Richard Lockhart

February 2025	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,554.73		\$1,554.73
Membership Dues 2025	\$100.00		\$100.00
Polo Shirts	\$288.00		\$288.00
Total for Month	\$1,942.73		\$1,942.73



NOTICE

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 a number of activities throughout the 2025 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) 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!

Being in a little British car covering hundreds, or even thousands of miles and feeling the tires rolling across the whole blessed length and breath of this country and seeing all the little nooks and crannies and people and houses and landscapes and tiny, ongoing human dramas along the way, well, that's a whole 'nother thing entirely. In fact, traveling by car is one of the very best places I know, watching the whole blessed world parade by for your own personal amusement. And the best part, you don't have to worry about one single thing-not one - until you get to wherever the heck it is you're going and have to climb back out into the real world again. It's sorta like, so long as you keep moving, nothin' can catch ya....-BS Levy

Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024

(Listed in chronological order)

- Springtime in the Smokies - 10 May, 2025 **
- Save the Date: "Return of the British" - Aug., 15-17 **

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.

0-0

Check This Out

Look what our Prez did. Who knew that he was a horse trader? Jack Spradling's new ride which he debuted at the April Fools Bash. Congratulations Jack, nice ride.



X-X

The Future of Our Hobby

Over the years that I've been involved with this hobby, there has been many discussions about the future of what drives us, no pun intended. We have heard talk about "How do we get young people involved with LBCs" and similar concerns. Lately, it has me thinkin' again. This is something that is probably better left to someone much more qualified.

However, being retired, puts me into a category with many other people who maybe have too much time on their hands. Many of those people are little British car people and have been concerned about the future of our hobby. Who's going to carry on and care for our LBCs as much as we have ourselves?

When we were younger, much younger, say, in our mid to late teens, we saw the sport car craze come to America following WW II when service men returning from Europe brought with them cute, sexy, fast little British sports cars and they were soon the rage among teens who couldn't afford one for ourselves. That meant that we had to wait until retirement or some kind of earned wealth or inheritance to join the LBC

crowd. Once that was accomplished, our love for these cars has deepened. The thrill of winding down a curvy country road on a fall afternoon, completely into the moment, is reward. This is especially true when we are accompanied by someone we care about.

Yes, we have a very real penchant for these neat little cars and in my own mind, we've earned it. There seems to be a lot more to it than just our cars themselves. We join clubs of like-minded infected gents and ladies where friendships are formed and some of those grow very strong over time. That's what wags my tail.

So, in conclusion, maybe, just maybe, we should quit worrying about it and get the most out of what we have left and enjoy what we've built up. Maybe thats the answer we've been lookin' for all along.

- Ed



April Fool's Bash - 2025

Each year, one of the area British car clubs, hosts the April Fool's Bash, the first gathering event of each year. This event sorta kicks off the driving season and is always a lot of fun to see old friends and enjoy a lot of good food and seeing some great cars.

This year was no exception to the fun, food and cars. There is an unofficial nose count of 102 attendees and a bit over 50 beautiful cars which included a few additions over the winter months.

The PBCC proudly sent, via caravan, 10 cars and several members via other means. Here are some pictures to enjoy.







Return of the BRITISH



14th Edition of a British Car Gathering

AUGUST 15-17, 2025

Historic Rugby, TN

Cars displayed: Aug. 16th - 9 to 2:30 EDT

Awards, Silent Auction, Tea Settings & More

*Come for the
weekend!*



Net Proceeds Benefit Historic Rugby, Inc.
KEEPING TENNESSEE & BRITISH HISTORY ALIVE

For more info, email/contact

HistoricRugby.org

Registration info coming soon.



Springtime in the Smokies



41st Anniversary



A GATHERING OF

BRITISH & EUROPEAN CARS & BIKES



Saturday May 10, 2025

9 AM – 3 PM

Talley Ho Inn

8314 TN-73, Townsend, TN



Net Proceeds Benefit 4 Local Charities

INFO: (865) 805-7907

SpringtimeintheSmokies@outlook.com



Registration form can be found at the site at the bottom of this flyer or from the English Auto Society website which is englishautosociety.org

