

May, 2025 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

The Prez Sez:

We have a busy several weeks ahead. The weekend of May 10, we will be headed to Townsend for the annual 'Springtime in the Smokies' event. On May 15, a drive out is planned to the 'Steel Coop' in Livingston. There is also the possibility of a tech session around the 24th of May, but details are still being hashed out. Plans are also ongoing for our club's annual event in Rugby.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

- Jack



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

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[Pat Rainey](#) - Regalia-meister -dprainey@att.net - 256.486.8605

[Pat Nielsen](#) - Cards & Flowers - jann_nielsen@hotmail.com - 484.919.8090

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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Did ya ever wonder why kamikaze pilots wore helmets???

THINGS I LEARN BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. LESSON NUMBER 423

After taking a HUGE leap of faith and saying "Of course we can drive the Jag to Nashville for a car show! Why not?! We can do this!" Clearly another case of false bravado..so to be sure we had several fall-back contingencies like a trunk full of spares and our fearless friend Ted following after in a far more sensible minivan just in case we set off for a date with destiny. We made it 120 miles due west, with just enough time to make the car show and had a splendid time, although my car did look a bit like a slightly 'down-at-the-heels' long lost cousin sitting amongst the trailer queens. BUT, WE DROVE THERE and that's the honorable part. We set off for home after a long afternoon of enjoying vintage car eye candy, gassed up and hit the interstate for the long drive home. Since the whole rewired gauges thing is still fairly recent, and my Dodge truck usually practically reaches out and slaps me when my fuel is low enough to cause alarm warning, I have not been able to gauge when low fuel enters the "HOLY COW!!" You are really sucking fumes here, Missy!! " stage and just as we were in sight of the off ramp to our exit it happened. Yup. She quit. I've definitely decided this car is a reincarnated super model because if you stop obsessing over her every move for even ten minutes she'll pout and make you sorry you forgot about her needs and should be accordingly punished emotionally. We popped the hood and figured out pretty quickly with the aid of a stick pulled off a nearby tree and stuck in the gas tank (don't try this at home ..we are professionals here ..) that the unthinkable happened and the most amateur mistake that could be made was our new reality. OUT OF FUEL. We had pulled the car over onto the shoulder on an uneven surface so the MASSIVE hood dropped as soon as she saw her chance and Pat's hand was right in the perfect spot for maximum damage and to his credit when it happened, he didn't even use any words that generally rhyme with luck, spit and ham and kept his feelings in check which was truly remarkable given the situation. I wouldn't have been so cool, calm and collected myself. After Ted ran me to the tantalizingly close gas station and I paid \$20 for a gas can so small it wouldn't hold a six pack of beer. But, a gallon and a half of gas later we went right back to the same gas station and I put \$20 more into the tank to get home while Pat sat on the passenger side glumly remembering when both his hands looked the same shape and color. Fast forward a week later and necessity being the mother of invention, Pat decided there must be a better way and figured if he put a piece of PVC just above the hood strut and wired it onto the bracket you would have a hood that stays where you put it until you reach in and lift it up to release and it slips over the strut thereby making sure the hissing cat (that is my car) wouldn't catch him off guard again. Until she does. Wicked kitty.

-Mari Leedy

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!

Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024

(Listed in chronological order)

- Springtime in the Smokies - 10 May, 2025 **
- Drive out to Steel Coop - 15 May, 2025**
- Tech Session - 24 May, 2025**
- Save the Date: "Return of the British" - Aug., 15-17 **
- Hwy. 55 Car Show - All Marques - Third Sat. of ea. Month**
- Morgan Bros. BBQ, Drive out to Pikeville - Details TBA
- Monkey Town Brewery/Cafe' - Dayton - Details TBA

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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A SAFER WAY TO WORK UNDER YOUR CAR

Are you one of those people who cringe with the thought of jacking up your car to crawl under it to work on it? I am. Don't like the idea at all. Partly because gettin' down then back up again just doesn't appeal to me as much as it might have a few, or a lot, of years ago.

Some time back, I came across an idea that I believe has a lot of merit. This looks like it is probably one of the safest ways to work on the underside of any car without fear of gettin' squashed like a bug. The picture is pretty much self explanatory and all that is required is some 2x4 lumber cut into proper lengths and cribbed and screwed together to form a strong support for almost any vehicle. You can build such a tool to be just about any height you need. The only other tool needed is a floor jack to raise your car to get these 'blocks' under the tires. You don't necessarily need to have one under each tire depending on which end of your car you want to work on. Just make sure that two are under the same end.

Safety cannot be over emphasized.

-Ed



THE FASTEST HIGHWAYS IN THE USA

The first official speed limit in the United States was set in Connecticut in 1901, at just 12 mph for motor vehicles in towns and 15 mph on country roads. Fast- forward to more than a century later, and you'll find highways across the U.S. with speed limits in excess of 75 mph, a number unheard of back at the turn of that century. From Texas to Montana, these routes not only get you where you're going faster, but also showcase stunning landscapes and interesting historic attractions along the way. Here are four of the fastest highways in the U.S. and what makes them worth the drive.

Interstate 29 - South Dakota



Rural interstates in South Dakota clock speed limits of 80 mph along many stretches, and this applies to all vehicles, day or night. I-29 is one of the state's most traveled roads, running north-south along the Iowa border. This major route takes travelers through Sioux Falls, the states most populous city, named after the stunning Falls Park which is fed by the Big Sioux River. Though the speed limit is lower in urban areas, slowing down here offers a chance to enjoy scenic trails,

inviting parks, and fascinating museums. And with I-29 running right through it, you can easily experience all the city has to offer before speeding off again.

Interstate 80 - Nevada



Nevada's fastest highway is a 130-mile stretch of I-80 across the northern part of the state between Winnemucca and Fernley, east of Reno. With a speed limit of 80 mph, it's a quick route through the Silver State. But, be prepared to ease up on the throttle once you reach Reno and cross into California, where the speed limit drops to between 65 and 70 mph. While many travelers use this route as a direct path from point A to point B, others opt to follow in the path of early pioneers, exploring the rich history along the way. The broader 400-mile stretch of I-80 across the northern Nevada is dubbed the "Cowboy Corridor", and passes through a series of historic towns that honor the state's Western heritage. Just to the east of Winnemucca, Elko is famous for its cowboy culture and gold mining heritage. History buffs can venture off I-80 to visit Fort Churchill State Historic Park, the site of the state's first military outpost.

Interstate Highways - Montana



In 2015, Montana raised its speed limit on its interstate system from 75 mph to 80 mph for cars and light trucks. This limit applies to highways outside urban areas with populations of 50,000 or more, but it dips to 65 mph in those areas. Many of Montana's interstate highways, including I-15, I-90 and I-94, offer scenic open roads, past glacier-fed lakes, lush valleys, trickling waterfalls and wildlife sightings.

State Highway 130 - Texas

State Highway 130 is the fastest highway in the U.S. It was completed in 2006 with the purpose of alleviating traffic on the heavily congested I-35, the busiest interstate connecting major Texas cities. Stretching between San Antonio and Austin, State Route 130 has a posted speed limit of 85 mph. Designed to accommodate



large vehicles such as set trucks and buses, SH 130 provides a quicker alternative to I-35, while maintaining a better safety record with fewer accidents.

So, there you have it. Go see some of America but watch your speed. They do still write tickets on all these roads.

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Four engineers get into a car. The car won't start.

**The mechanical engineer says:
"It's a broken starter"**

**The electrical engineer says:
"Dead battery"**

**The chemical engineer says:
"Impurities in the gasoline"**

The IT engineer says: "Hey guys, I have an idea, how about we all get out of the car and get back in".



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



Tech Session

This will be get together to eat donuts and drink coffee as a couple of members have agreed to do a short presentation on issues with Little British Cars. Imagine that...

Anyway, Mike Faircloth has volunteered to host this informative event at his place at 164 Autumn Dr. in Crossville at 10:00 am on May the 24th.

If you are havin' any issues with your car(s) that you'd like to bring up, this would be a great time to discuss with the brilliant collective minds. Maybe someone might have the answer...just sayin'.

Anyway, should be a good time.

The Steel Coop

Check your oil and tyres, fill up your gas tank and let's go get lunch.

The Steel Coop is a neat restaurant in Livingston, TN.

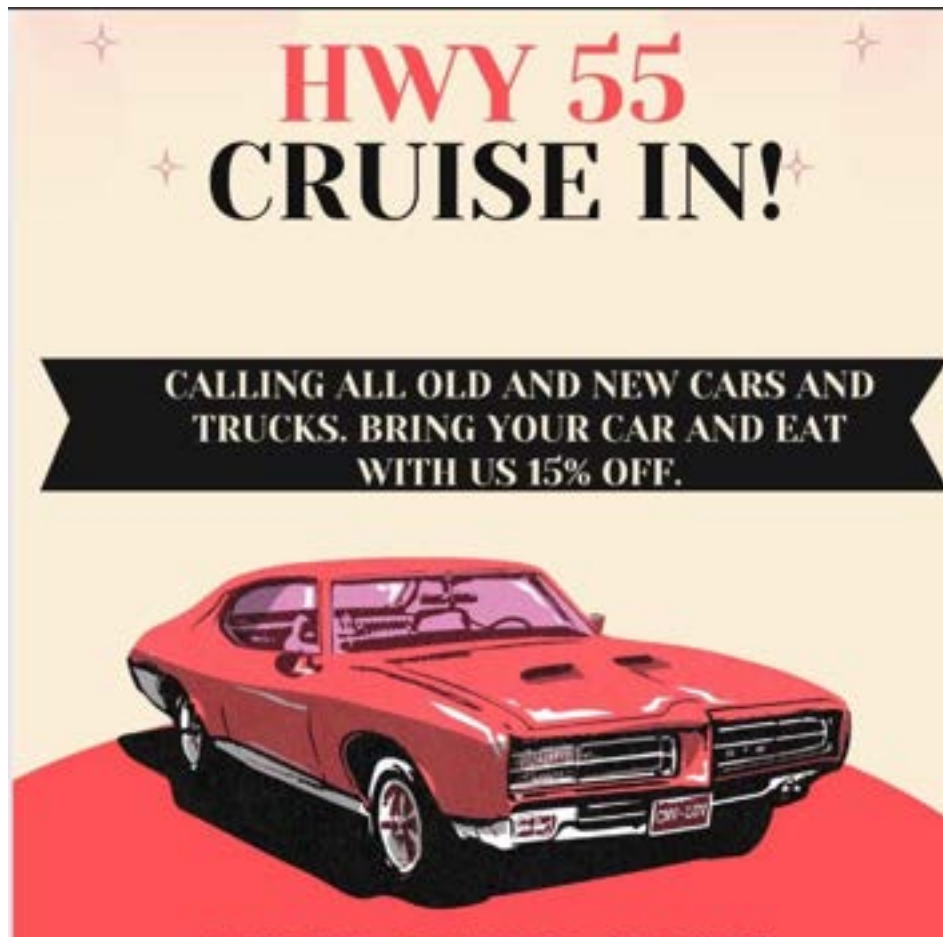
It's a scenic 39 mile, 52 minute drive (avoiding major highways)
from the parking lot at Good Times Liquor store located at
1369 Interstate Dr. in Crossville.

The plan is to be there at noon which means we'll need to depart the
parking lot at Good Times no later than 11:00 a.m. on May the 15th.

In order to give the Steel Coop a good head count, please RSVP with
Bob Brantley at his email which is rpbrantley@gmail.com.

This should be a good one.





This is a continuing event held every forth Sat.
of each month thru the summer months from 2pm - 6 pm
It's open to all marques and participants are offered a 15% discount
on food purchased during the event.

The address is 2192 N. Main St., Crossville, TN

Let's do this and make a good British Car showing