

June, 2025 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

Well, another month has almost passed us by and the weather has tried very hard to dampen our spirits and restrict our driving. Despair not, brighter days are coming. I just hope it happens before Fall.

We did have a great tech session a few days ago. Our host and hostess were Mike Faircloth and his wife Robin. There were some great discussions, a little tinkering on a TD, and snacks and drinks. Though it was overcast and rain was predicted, it stayed mild and dry. The overcast make it very pleasant. Mike, by the way, is an excellent wood turner and he gifted each of us with beautiful samples of his work. I look forward to more such gatherings.

If, and when, the weather clears I hope we can schedule some more drives and meetups. If you have any ideas for pleasant routes to a great gathering place, please let us know. Rugby and Ooltewah are still in the future and we would love to have some driving and companionship in the weeks prior. Also, having our cars out and about may help intrigue and, perhaps entice others, to join us. We are all ambassadors and I say "drive it and they will come."

Until we meet again on the road, be safe and enjoy.

-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

[Dennis Rainey](#) - newsletter editor - dprainey@att.net - 256.744.4909

[Paul Barker](#) - Webmaster - barkerpa@gmail.com - 423.442.4482

[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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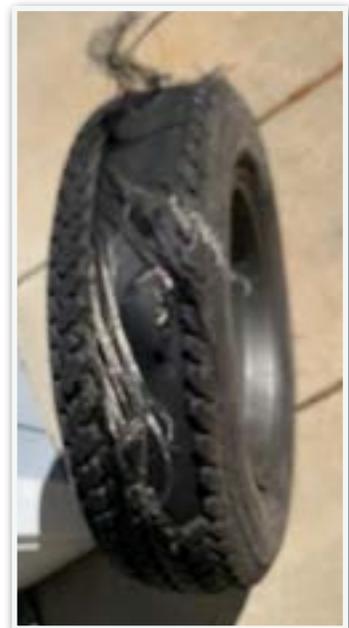
A tough old cowboy counseled his granddaughter that if she wanted to live a long life that she should sprinkle a bit of gunpowder on her oatmeal every morning. The granddaughter did this religiously every mornin until the age of 103 when she died. She left behind six children, eighteen grandchildren, forty four great grandchildren and a forty foot hole in the ground where the crematorium used to be.

Follow These Tire Tips, or Tread Lightly

Finally, proof!

For many years now, owners of infrequently driven cars have balked at the idea of replacing tires every ten years or so, when their tread is still impressively deep and there are no cracks in the sidewalls or between the rows of tread pattern. I have been guilty of this myself, especially as new tires have become quite expensive.

However, this past week reality brought me to a halt - literally! Last October, one of the 4-year-old tires on my MGB had developed a slow leak so I replaced that wheel with the spare and took the leaker to the tire shop. When repaired, I put that wheel into the trunk with every intention of swapping them back as soon as I had some free time. I was not worried about using the spare because it had no cracks and lots of tread. Then reality struck: buzzing down the freeway a few days ago, a sudden loud "bang" followed by scraping sounds and serious instability interrupted the journey. Fortunately, traffic was light and there was room to pull to the side of the freeway, where a quick look revealed that there had been a catastrophic failure (See picture). The repaired original, thankfully, was still inflated (how often do you remember to check that your spare still has adequate pressure?) and there were a jack and lug wrench in the trunk, so the journey continued after just a short delay.



One very good thing was that it was a rear tire, and it happened while driving straight. Imagine what could have happened if the tire had been on the front and had let go when cornering briskly - as my MGs tend usually to be driven. As it was, minor damage to the edge of the fender and a \$135 outlay for a new tire to match the other four were the only results of my having ignored the experts' advice to replace tires when they pass their use by date.

So, how do you know when that date has arrived? This picture shows the marking on the sidewall which gives you this information. There you can see the letters "DOT" followed by some code known only to the Dept. of Transportation and the tire manufacturer. What is important is that, adjacent to that DOT marking, there is a number in a rectangle with rounded edges. In this case, it is 219 which, to my horror, tells us the tire was made the 21st week of 1999! Prior to 2000, three-digit codes were used; for example, 032 signifies that the tire was manufactured in the third week of a year ending in "2" - this could be 1992, 1982, or 1972, but not 2002 due to the three-digit format. Any tire made this century will have a 4-digit code; the first two of these digits designates the week of the year the tires were made, and the final two digits are the last two digits of the year of manufacture. (For example, 1319 means the thirteenth week of 2019).



So, now you know. Go check your tires and, if they are more than 10 years old but in good condition, continue to use them at your own risk -- and make sure you have a properly inflated spare.

- Lawrie Alexander

I gotta find a way
to retire tomorrow.
I've had enough.



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)

- All marque car show - Bristow Rd. Winery, June 15th**
- Save the Date: "Return of the British" - Aug., 15-17 **
- Hwy. 55 Car Show - All Marques - Third Sat. of ea. Month**
- Crossville Cruisers - All Marques - 4th Saturday 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.

* This is a monthly event held in downtown Crossville and open to all marques and there is usually a good turn out including so our club members. It has been suggested that

we should include as many of our cars as possible and park together. Stay tuned for further details...

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.

FOR SALE

The description: 1977 MGB 85,431 miles in good (running) condition. Has original paint, powder coated wheels, SU carburetors. Sentimental family history, but time for someone to get the enjoyment of driving and riding in (Mae). She has been very good to us. \$7,700.00 Please contact Edna Horony at 931.261.6943 or by email at ednahorony@gmail.com.



WTB (Want to Buy) WTB

An MGTD hand crank and a Spridget jack with log wrench. If ya got one or both of these taking up room and they need a new home, contact our President, Jack Spradling at his email which is shadowfever@yahoo.com or phone at 931.255.2040. Jack says he has permission. Lucky Guy.



The Steel Coup

Great Run + Great Food + Great Company!!!

On the 15th of May, 20 members of our club with 11 cars met at the Good Times Liquor store just off N. Main St. in Crossville and headed off toward Livingston, TN to have lunch at the Steel Coop.

I believe from the comments I heard, that this was a big success. The beautiful country drive lasted about an hour. When we arrived, they had a rather large table waiting for us and we filled it up. The food was excellent, albeit, took a bit for it to come out. But, it was worth the wait. We did arrive right at noon time and the place was packed. I think this is a place we'll visit again.





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 Pre-registration, Click on this link

HistoricRugby.org



We had a Tech Session

And it was a good one. Fifteen members showed up at the home of Mike & Robin Faircloth. Donuts, coffee, iced tea cupcakes and cookies were made available for anyone who might have missed breakfast.

Dennis Rainey made a short presentation on how to manually aim the headlights on almost any marque of car. Following that, Jack Spradling did a presentation of tyres and how to determine their dates of manufacture. An important subject when it comes to our hobby cars. There was an attempt to get Nick Sciarrone's MGTD properly timed. Nick was able to drive home after the event, so at least no harm was done. All in all, everyone seemed to have a good time and it was mentioned that maybe we should do this again. Here are some pics of the event and a great big Thank You to Mike and Robin for hosting.

Mike has another hobby which needs mentioning and that is his talent for wood turning. Mike asked everyone to follow him to his shop where he had laid out several of his wood turnings and then said help yourselves to which ever one you want. Everyone sort of stood there in awe and disbelief and then Mike said again, "Go head and pick something out. It's for you to take home". So, finally we

all did. It wasn't easy to choose as everything was absolutely beautiful and the selections were awesome.

Here are some pics of the event and a great big **Thank You** to Mike and Robin for hosting.



Robin & Mike







Plateau British Car Club
Quarterly meeting
April 29, 2025

Vegas Steakhouse & Lounge (Crossville, TN) hosted an informal gathering of members, beginning at 5:00 pm. Fellowship was enjoyed by those in attendance, prior to the meeting's official start at approximately 5:20 pm.

Welcome and Old Business:

Vice President, Pat Rainey conducted the meeting, in the absence of President, Jack Spradling, who was unable to attend. Pat opened the meeting with a welcome to the 22 members in attendance. She gave a brief review of three local classic car related events:

- Ten cars and nearly twice that many members from PBCC attended the March 29th “April Fools’s Bash” in Kingston, TN. Good food, good weather and lots of fun was had by all.
- PBCC had 4-5 cars in attendance at the April 19th “Show & Shine” at Hwy 55 diner, held the third Saturday of every month from 2-6 pm.
- PBCC also had three cars in attendance at the April 26th Crossville Cruisers’ “Cruise-in”, held the fourth Saturday of every month through July from 12am - 4pm.

Regalia:

Richard Lockhart advised the members there is one ladies (L) polo shirt and no baseball caps left in inventory. Once ordered, items not in inventory usually take 4-6 weeks for delivery. More polo shirts can be ordered.

Upcoming events:

- “Springtime in the Smokies: May 9-10 in Townsend, TN. Always a great show to benefit local charitable organizations.
- May 15th: Meet at Good Times at 11:00 am to caravan to The Steel Coop in Livingston, TN
- May 24th: (Rain or Shine) Tech Session at Mike Faircloth’s, starting at 10:00 am. Subject matter - aiming headlights and coding tires

Other Business:

- Other possible events: Monkey Bar in Dayton, TN / Morgan Brothers BBQ, Pikeville, TN / General Store in Clark Range (4th Friday of every month)
- Rugby - August 15-16: Benefits the Historic Rugby Foundation. Volunteers needed for registration and set up Friday morning. Dinner Friday evening - \$10. Saturday’s “Return of the British” car show registration - \$25. Let Pat & Dennis Rainey know of any

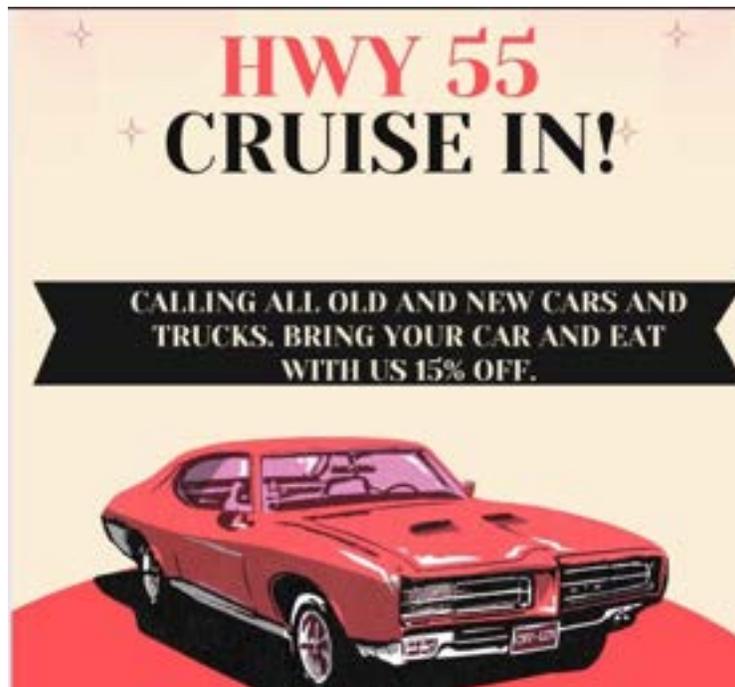
silent auction donations. Irish road bowling, after the car show. Registration forms for the car show will be available soon.

No other business was discussed. Hearing no further discussion, Pat asked attendees for a motion to adjourn. Members so moved, seconded and approved at 5:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry McDonald - PBCC Secretary
(Notes by Pat Nielson)



This will be a Father's Day event and what goes better than Dads and cars and wine. This event is open to all makes and models of cars but we'd like to make a good showing for British Sports cars. With that in mind, we should arrive 'en masse' so that we can park together. Therefore, we will meet at Good Times liquor store located at 1369 Interstate Dr. in Crossville. From there it is a short drive to Bristow Road Winery. We will depart from Good Times parking lot at 11:15 am to arrive at the winery and get parked etc. by noon. Please bring your own chairs.



This is a continuing event held every fourth 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

