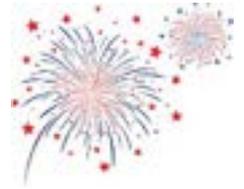


July, 2025 Firecracker Edition



OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

Well, it looks as if July moved in early, usurping the entire month of June. Not only is it almost too hot to drive our LBC's, it's almost too miserable to walk out and check on them. But Lizbet is looking a little dehydrated, so I think I need to get her out for a short spin today to move some air and water through the radiator. Looks like we may be getting a slight break over the next few days so I'm thinking about a run to someplace around Sparta sometime in the next week or so if anyone is interested. Not sure where yet but there are several options. Marioochi's is always a good choice. There is also the Calfkiller Brewery and I'm sure a number of other places as well. I may drive down in a couple of days, look around, and then report back.

Remember to stay hydrated, try to stay cool, and be safe.

-Jack



Jack heading to Calfkiller

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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Just when ya think you've seen it all...

Another great car cruise-in day in downtown Crossville was upon us and I was SURE we had it all together with Jasmine the Jaguar but you can rest assured I was about to eat yet another slice of humble pie.

Getting to town was uneventful, so I was getting rather cocky about the expectations of the day. When the clock struck 12 and the main road was blocked off for the cruise-in we all jumped into our rides and proceeded to parallel park. As I spun the wheel to the right, I thought I heard a crunch. But since nothing seemed "off", I parked and got out and didn't suspect a thing. I was just super happy I found reverse without any cursing. Too much pressure with 40 people watching.

After a marvelous afternoon of automotive eye candy, we packed up to get back home and I could have sworn my turn signal stalk was on the left on the way to town and there was a few tiny pieces of plastic bits on the carpet. Now the stalk was on the right. Sigh.

Back in the garage we discovered the little plastic ring that holds the signal stalk in place has chosen to give up after only 50 years. To make things more interesting (that's the way I think about it so I won't have to double up on my blood pressure meds) that part was not listed as available. But, I had the option to purchase the whole stalk for a measly \$259.99. Not gonna happen.

Our friend Ted said he had a neighbor who was a model train enthusiast and was able to use a 3-D printer to make his little Lilliputian village accessories. So, we glued the broken plastic ring back as best we could. (I'm not allowed near the super glue, as soon as I take the cap off it's suddenly EVERYWHERE, the wall, the cat, my elbow).

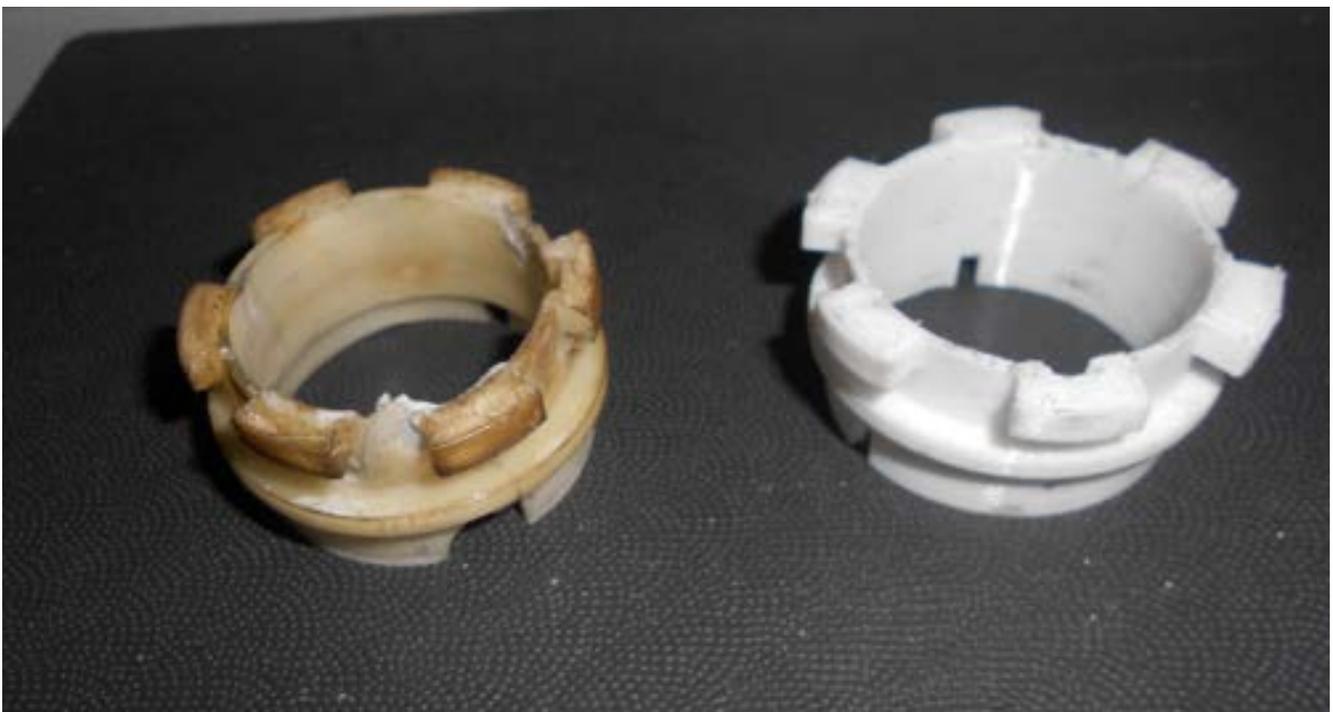
Ted brought the part to his friend and after a day or so he sent back a perfect replica of the part . I sent back a case of beer. Everyone was happy.

Well, suddenly there was a whole new world of possibilities for ridiculously hard to find and extinct parts. So, we tried another part that is the first to break and is rarely seen on restored Jag and that was the seat hinge covers. The plastic is wafer thin and complicated to design, but this friend of a friend came through once again with some wonderful covers and we sanded them smooth and painted them factory black. I was so happy I would have done a cartwheel if I didn't think I would end up in the emergency room.

Since my understanding of 3-D printers on a scale of 1 to 10 is a minus 3, I sure am glad this fella has this hobby and while most folks would not get this excited about plastic bits I consider him to be the Wizard of Odds.

Now ... about that little door card tray....

- Mari Leedy





We are just a little over six weeks from our annual big event, “Return of the British” car show/gathering held in Rugby, TN. Our Club, The PBCC in conjunction with the Blount British Cars, Ltd. and The English Auto Society of Knoxville, co-sponsor this event to raise money for a 100% donation to Historic Rugby, Keeping history alive in beautiful Tennessee.

One of the biggest fund raisers during this event is our silent auction. This is a reminder and an appeal for donation of items for that silent auction. Also, it’s a good chance for donors to clean out their garages and storage areas or anyplace you might have something that would go well in an auction. Car related or household related items always seem to go well.

If there is something that you’d like to donate, please contact Dennis Rainey at his email address, dprainey@att.net, to make arrangements for pick up.

Pre-registration is now open - Click on link below

[Return of the British](#)

Thank you-Thank you-Thank you-Thank you-Thank you

Proposed Schedule of Events - 2024

(Listed in chronological order)

- 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*
- “Brits at Cambridge” - October 4th, 2025 - 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 newsletter 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.



What Kinda Guy/Gal is a British Car Nut???

Great question — and a fun one, because British car enthusiasts are a special breed. People who fall in love with classic British cars (like MGs, Triumphs, Minis, Lotuses, Jaguars, etc.) tend to have a few things in common, regardless of age or background.

Here's a tongue-in-cheek, but honest profile:

The British Car Enthusiast Personality

1. Romantics at Heart

They love stories — and few things are more romanticized than the golden age of British motoring. Whether it's winding country roads in an MGB or tinkering with a Triumph TR6 in a shed, it's about emotion, nostalgia, and experience, not just specs.

2. Tinkerers & Fixers

They accept (sometimes even enjoy) mechanical unreliability. A Lucas electrical system doesn't scare them — it *challenges* them. If it leaks oil, it's just "marking its territory." This is someone who owns a torque wrench, Haynes manuals, and probably drinks tea in a garage.

3. Lovers of Quirk

British cars often have weird ergonomics, eccentric engineering choices, or hilariously underpowered engines. But that's part of the charm. These people appreciate “personality over perfection.”

4. Individualists

They *choose* not to drive a Toyota. Reliability isn't the top priority — uniqueness is. Driving a 1960s Mini or an Austin-Healey isn't practical, it's a statement.

The Official British Car Inspection Sheet

This inspection sheet has been approved for all British car marques.

Instructions

1. Place this sheet under your cars engine. Leave over night.
2. Remove and inspect this sheet before driving your car.

-If the sheet is covered with oil drips, check your oil level and top up. Now, go for a drive.

-If the sheet is clean, **DO NOT** drive your car! The oil sump is **EMPTY!**

Note: This sheet can also be used with gear box, rear end differential or anywhere else fluid flows in you LBC...

You are authorized to print this sheet out and use it as often as necessary.





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



"My Car Overheats!" — Maybe It Doesn't...

With summer temps heating up, you might be thinking (or hearing others say), “My car’s overheating!” But hold on—there’s a strong chance that it actually *isn’t*.

What they probably mean is:

“My temperature gauge pegged all the way to hot.”

While that might be true, it doesn’t automatically mean the engine has overheated.

What *Is* Overheating, Really?

True “overheating” is when the coolant boils over, steam’s pouring out, the car stops running, and you’re on the side of the road calling a flatbed. That’s actual overheating—and it’s usually followed by engine damage.

If your car is running hotter than normal but hasn’t boiled over, it’s just **running hot**, not overheating.

As long as there’s coolant in the system, major damage won’t happen from temperature alone.

So What’s Actually Happening?

1. Faulty Temp Gauge?

Maybe your gauge isn’t accurate.

 **Easy fix:** Buy a **pyrometer** (an infrared thermometer). It looks like a laser pistol.

- Aim it at the **thermostat housing** to get a real temp reading.

- Compare it with what your dashboard gauge says.
- If it's off, consider replacing your **voltage stabilizer**—a common fix in older vehicles.

2. Radiator Upgrades?

Yes, **aluminum radiators** look great and dissipate heat efficiently—but they're expensive and **only slightly better** than a properly functioning stock radiator.

Stick with what works *unless* you have persistent cooling issues.

3. Coolant Mix Matters

The ideal ratio is **50/50 coolant and water**.

You can buy it premixed or do it yourself. Any other ratio reduces cooling efficiency.

4. The Right Thermostat

A thermostat's job is to control the minimum temperature—it doesn't set the upper limit.

- **Ideal engine temp:** 195°F
- Make sure your **thermostat is the correct rating** for your engine.

5. Engine Tuning Affects Temperature

Timing is critical.

- **Retarded timing = higher engine temps**
- **Advanced timing = potential piston damage**

A **well-tuned engine** isn't just about power—it keeps temps in check, too.

6. A Bit About BTUs (British Thermal Units)

Every gallon of gas contains **120,000 BTUs** of energy.

Here's where it goes:

- 40,000 BTUs → **Tailpipe (exhaust)**
- 40,000 BTUs → **Radiator (heat)**
- 40,000 BTUs → **Flywheel (motion)**

That's 1/3 of your fuel's energy being turned into heat the **cooling system** has to get rid of.

So, yeah—we **gotta cool it**.

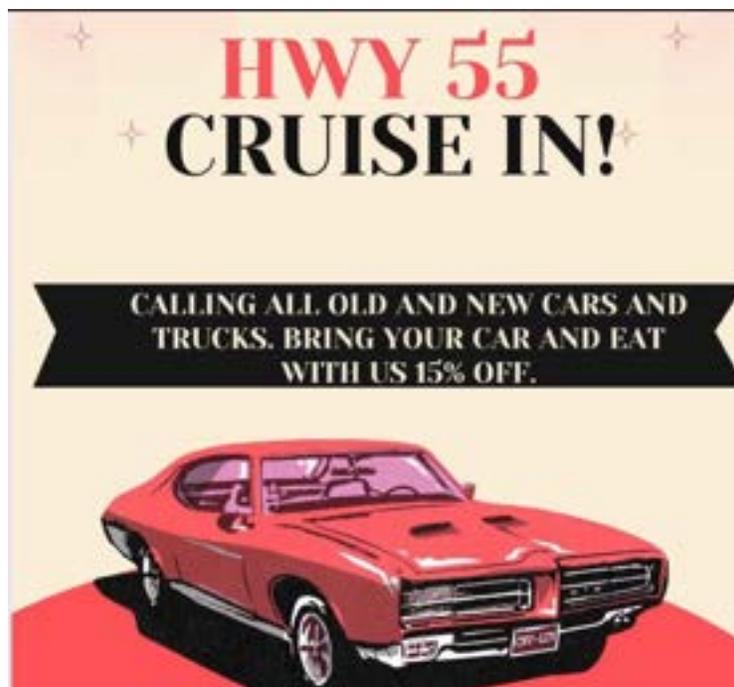
Stay cool out there

– Ed



On Sunday the 15th of June, a Father's Day car show event was held at the Bristow Rd. winery in Crossville and what goes better than Dads and cars and wine. The event is open to all makes and models of cars and the PBCC proudly showed off seven member cars. There was a total of fifteen cars showing. The weather was iffy to start but turned out to hold off on the wet stuff.





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

