

August, 2025 Edition

# OIL SPOTS

*A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club*



## The Prez Sez

Well, it has been a pretty busy month. The club had another breakfast gathering that was well attended. We had our final Rugby planning meeting, and then a great turn-out for our quarterly meeting at Deer Creek. Personally, I have put about 600 miles on 'Lizbet' this month and I'm sure a number of you are doing so as well. Perhaps we should try doing it together.

The Return of the British, the club's premier annual event is less than three weeks away. Remember, if you haven't pre registered you can do so on the Historic Rugby website, the Plateau club website, or on the club's FB page. This is always a lot of fun, a chance to socialize with other British car owners, a great car show and silent auction. There will be food and drinks as well.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with onsite registration, setting up and tearing down, and spreading the news about the event. We also need donations for the silent auction.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Jack-

**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/membership - [rwlockhart54@aol.com](mailto:rwlockhart54@aol.com) - 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

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

[Pat Nielsen](#) - Cards & Flowers - [jann\\_nielsen@hotmail.com](mailto: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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## Return of the British - Rugby, TN

This month is 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](mailto: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

The Membership Chair report

We have no new members for this reporting period, we have 25 paid members.

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

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July 2025	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,567.73		\$1,567.73
Membership Dues			
Total for Month	\$1,567.73		\$1,567.73

**July Treasurer's Report -  
Richard Lockhart**



**Real Cars Don't Shift Themselves!!!**

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# **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\*\*
- “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.

## **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).**

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 -SOLD

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](mailto:ednahorony@gmail.com).



## **Who Drives a British Sports Car?**

- 1. A man named Nigel**  
Wears leather driving gloves, says “bloody hell” when cut off, and pronounces “garage” as "*gair-idge*."
- 2. Someone who’s constantly explaining why the car is in the shop.**  
“It’s not a breakdown, it’s character!”
- 3. A person who enjoys feeling *everything* on the road.**  
Including every pothole, pebble, and existential crisis.
- 4. A driver who carries a toolkit, towel, and optimism at all times.**  
Because British sports cars don’t leak oil—they *mark their territory*.
- 5. The guy who revs it at lights but stalls it pulling away.**  
(But it *looked* amazing for that half-second.)
- 6. Someone who’s accepted that air conditioning is “optional”**  
And by optional, we mean *nonexistent*.
- 7. A romantic who believes Lucas Electronics isn’t a bug, it’s a tradition.**  
Nicknamed the “Prince of Darkness” for a reason.
- 8. An owner whose idea of a fun weekend is “fixing what I broke last weekend.”**
- 9. Someone whose turn signal has never been used—because it never worked.**  
But they always *meant* to use it.
- 10. A person who waves at other British car drivers as if they're part of a secret society.**  
Because they are.



**Last month I wrote an article about “Overheating” your car.**

**I’m adding another tidbit of info on the same subject.**

Why employ distilled water? Because it will not coat the interior of the coolant system with mineral scale that will inhibit heat transfer. In addition, pure water, either distilled or deionized, is a poor conductor of electricity. It is the dissolved ions and contaminants that conduct electricity, leading to electrolytic corrosion of the cooling matrix of the radiator. Avoid the purchase of pre-mixed coolants, as the manufacturer almost certainly does not employ distilled water. A gallon of distilled water can be cheaply purchased in the Laundry aisle of any supermarket.

Note that unit for unit, ethylene glycol, which is the most-common antifreeze, absorbs and transfers 37% less heat than distilled water can. As a coolant medium, water has an assigned cooling value of 1.0, while pure ethylene glycol antifreeze has an assigned cooling value of 0.6. Thus, ethylene glycol antifreeze is only 60% as efficient at heat transference as water is. A mixture of antifreeze and pure water is therefore not as efficient at heat transference as pure water is.

The mathematical formula for determining Coolant Efficiency is: Coolant Efficiency = [(Percentage of Water X 1.0) + (Percentage of Antifreeze X 0.6)]

A preferred mixture of 75% distilled water and 25% ethylene glycol antifreeze that results in 90% Coolant Efficiency.

$[(75\% \times 1.0 = 75\%) + (25\% \times 0.6 = 15\%)] = 90\%$  Coolant Efficiency.

That is a 12.5% improvement over the commonly available pre-mixed 50% / 50% coolant solution, which would have a reduced Coolant Efficiency of only 80%. This would have a somewhat similar effect as adding yet another row to the cooling matrix of the radiator, therefore, it is suggested that one should experiment with that simple approach prior to considering spending money on either recoring or replacing a radiator.

Remember that the label says "anti-**freeze**", not anti-boil. Using the traditional 50/50 mixture reduces your cooling systems effectiveness at **cooling**. By contrast, using that 50/50 mixture gives your car's system the ability to survive not freezing in -40 degree weather. How many of us need protection down to -40 degrees?? If you keep your car in a garage (like most of us do), does it ever really get much below the freezing mark in there? the 75/25 ratio will protect

from freezing down to like 5 degrees, which means it's probably below zero outside. If you live in a warmer climate where it almost never gets below zero, using 75/25 makes much more sense...better heat dispersal when you really need it. Or you could modify it a bit, do something like a 60% water/40% glycol solution, if you wanted to hedge your bet a bit towards the cold side.

In any event, you should ALWAYS buy the pure, unmixed anti-freeze and then blend it yourself to whatever ratio you want to employ, using **distilled** water...NEVER just plain ole tap. Some people insist their water is "mostly" mineral free, so that's close enough; a little bit won't hurt anything. These are the same people that probably change their oil but not the filter, *'cause it's only been a year and I didn't put many miles on the car, so it will be OK*. Doing things half-assed always catches up to you in the end!

– Ed

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On Saturday the 12th of July, members of the PBCC met at Bramble Berry Bakery & Cafe' for a simple social gathering and to have breakfast. We had twenty, that's right, twenty members show up and cram into their largest room for a very good time to visit and talk about club activities. Sorry, no one took any pics to share but who wants to see a bunch of old guys and gals sittin' around jaw'n. Anyway, this seems to be a popular activity and maybe we should do it a little more often. The biggest problem with that is finding a location that can accommodate us. If anyone has any ideas about how to resolve that hurdle, please don't hold back. Even if we might have to drive a few miles to gather. We are after all, a driving car club, right?



This is a continuing event held every 4th 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

**X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X**

### A Great Proposed Driving Event

During our quarterly meeting, July the 24th, there was a lot of discussion regarding club driving events. One proposal that came up was an overnighter visit to the Lane Auto Museum in Nashville with a back road drive to get there. Mari Leedy made the suggestion and asked for a show of hands of interest. There were several hands raised indicating a positive interest. It was then suggested that a better time of the year to visit Nashville might be in the fall when temperatures become milder and more tolerable. It was also suggested that a weekday would be better than a busier weekend. Again, a positive interest prevailed. As this event develops, we'll keep everyone informed. Stay tuned for further details...



# 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](http://HistoricRugby.org)



## **Brits at Cambridge**

This year the Southern British Car Club will be hosting their event at Cambridge Square in Ooltewah, TN. This is a beautiful venue with numerous shops and restaurants. The entire square is closed off to outside traffic during our show adding to the safety and enjoyment of the day. The information included below will help you to come to the show and enjoy the day.

**Registration Link:**  
**[Southern British Car Club](#)**

### **Event Schedule:**

**Friday Welcome Reception:** To be held at the host hotel, October 3, 6pm to 8pm, hors d'oeuvres, deserts, and soft drinks provided. No charge but please RSVP on the pre-registration form

**Saturday October 4 :** Registration – 8am to 11am  
Show - 10am to 1pm  
Valve Cover Races – 12pm  
Ballots placed in cars: 11am, Awards – 2pm

### **Lodging:**

**Springhill Suites in Ooletwah, TN** - We have a negotiated rate of \$169 (plus taxes and fees) for show participants at Springhill Suites. This is a very nice hotel located 5 minutes (2.4 miles) from the show site. There are a very limited number of rooms available at the price so reserve as soon as possible. Other hotels in the area which are a similar distance from the show site:

**Springhill Suites**  
**[Springhill Suites, Ooletwah](#)**

**Holiday Inn Express Ooltewah**  
**[Holiday Inn Express](#)**

**Hampton Inn Ooltewah**  
**[Hampton Inn](#)**