



December, Holiday 2025 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

Well, it went and did it. Jumped from great driving weather to sub freezing temps in a couple of days. We did get a break though. Today the sun came out, the temps went up, and I got out. Put about 50 miles on Lizbet and it was good for both of us. Looks like we may have a few more days before the bottom falls out again, so I think I'll take advantage of that and rack up a few more miles.

The only thing we have coming up before the new year is our Christmas party and I do hope to see everyone there. However, if anyone finds themselves driving down to the Cookeville/Sparta/Gainesboro area, let me know and perhaps we can meet up.

Have a great Thanksgiving.

Remember, as Broderick Crawford said, "Reckless driving doesn't determine who is right, only who is left."

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

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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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'Tis the season to don your driving gloves and take your British beauty out for a spirited spin (assuming it starts, of course). May your holidays be filled with joy, cheer, and a breakdown-free journey to the shops! Here's to a New Year of polished chrome, winding roads, and only minor oil leaks.

Cheers - Ed.

Kilroy Was Here !

Have ya ever wondered where that term came from? Well, this sounds like as good of an answer as any that I've ever heard. So, I decided to share it with you. Besides, I needed something to fill out our newsletter.

In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article.

Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts had evidence of his identity.

Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war. He worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet. Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark. Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then that he realized what had been going on. The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his checkmark on each job he inspected, but added KILROY WAS HERE in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks.

Ordinarily, the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard

so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before the war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long haul to Berlin and Tokyo.

To the unfortunate troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that some jerk named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U.S. servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived. Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arch De Triumphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon.)

As the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for the coming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo!

In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. The first person inside was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave it to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax, Massachusetts.

So now, you know! - Ed

Plateau British Car Club Merch

We are very happy to announce that we now have our own PBCC merch where members can shop for and order directly and individually from the supplier. Here is the link to [Bits of Triumph](#), which is the website for our own page of PBCC merchandise. The offering at the moment is limited. But, if you should see something from one of the other club's store, that item should be available to PBCC members with our club logo. Once you've made it to this website, click on the link at the top and then scroll down to our club. This link can also be found on our club's website at [PBCCCTN.org](#). Happy shopping - Ed.

Christmas Chrome

Beneath the twinkle of winter stars,
Purr the hearts of British cars—
A Triumph's cheer, a Jaguar's glide,
MGs dancing side-by-side.

Tinsel draped on bonnet bright,
Headlamps glowing through the night,
They hum a tune of yuletide cheer—
Sports-car joy, this time of year. 🎄

Schedule of Events - 2025

(Listed in chronological order)

- PBCC Annual Christmas Dinner
- 1st. Qtr., 2026 Meeting TBA
- Hwy. 55 Car Show - All Marques - Third Sat. of ea. Month**
- 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 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

1986 Jaguar XJ6 Vanden Pla

- Desert Sage Metallic paint/biscuit leather interior. Paint is original to car.
- 55,xxx original miles.
- 3rd owner since 2012. Texas car from 2012-2021. Always garage kept.
- Clean Carfax. Receipts since new.
- Hagerty insured value number 2 condition \$26,100.
- My asking price is \$24,500.
- Contact info: Bill Hirschey. Phone: 512-944-4531.



HWY 55 CRUISE IN!

CALLING ALL OLD AND NEW CARS AND
TRUCKS. BRING YOUR CAR AND EAT
WITH US 15% OFF.



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

Let's Do Some Writing - Megan Rainey

As I run out of things to write about or find relevant articles about our hobby, I've appealed before to get our membership to write about their own experiences with their little British cars. That well seems to be dry. Therefore, I've included in this issue an article written by my niece on the subject of writing. The intention is to encourage our members to discover that writing is fun. A couple of members have already found this out. Please read this article and think it over.

Megan Rainey earned her bachelor's degree in English from UC Berkeley in 1987 and her master's degree from California State University, Sacramento in 1991. From 1992 - 2005, she worked at Cosumnes River College (Sacramento, CA) as an Associate Professor of English. During that time, she co-wrote a college writing textbook, *Connections: Writing, Reading, and Critical Thinking* (co-author, Tammy Montgomery Boeck) which is now in its second edition. She also wrote another college writing textbook, *Expressions: An Introduction to Writing, Reading, and Critical Thinking* which she revised for its second edition. She has edited two publications for the California Workforce Association (*50 Stories* and *Tuning In*), and has taught writing classes at Stone Lake Elementary.

More recently, Megan is the Literacy Director and the Development Director at Uncommon Good, a nonprofit located in Claremont, CA. When she is not writing to funders to highlight the great work of Uncommon Good, she is working with a team of teachers and dyslexia specialists to help low-income children develop stronger reading and writing skills. Once also a college writing instructor and textbook author, Megan believes that even in this high-tech, visual world, writing is a powerful tool of expression and communication.

This is Megan's article:

Why are people often reluctant to write? They may not be able to think of anything to write about. Or they may have ideas, but they may fear that others will find their ideas uninteresting. Or they may lack confidence in their writing skills. Time can also be a factor; they may feel that they simply don't have time to write. Of course, a person could suffer from some combination of the aforementioned "problems."

Why should people write? We should write because it is a skill that only humans have. Writing helps us define who we are and what our own existence means. Too highfalutin for an MG newsletter? Not really. You join a club because you wish to associate with people who share an interest close to your heart. Belonging to and participating in the MG club is one way that you define who you are what your values are. Writing about your experiences as an MG owner and club member will help you fully participate and come closer to the ultimate goal we all have—defining and clarifying the important aspects of our lives.

To prospective writers:

--Here are some practical suggestions for getting ideas down on paper.

I'll begin with the time factor because if you cannot get past the time factor, you'll never write. We always have time for the things we care about. Even if a writer only spends 10 minutes each day writing, he will advance toward his goal and sharpen his skills.

(Usually "too little time" is just our way of avoiding tasks we fear, but we don't have to fear writing. See the following points.)

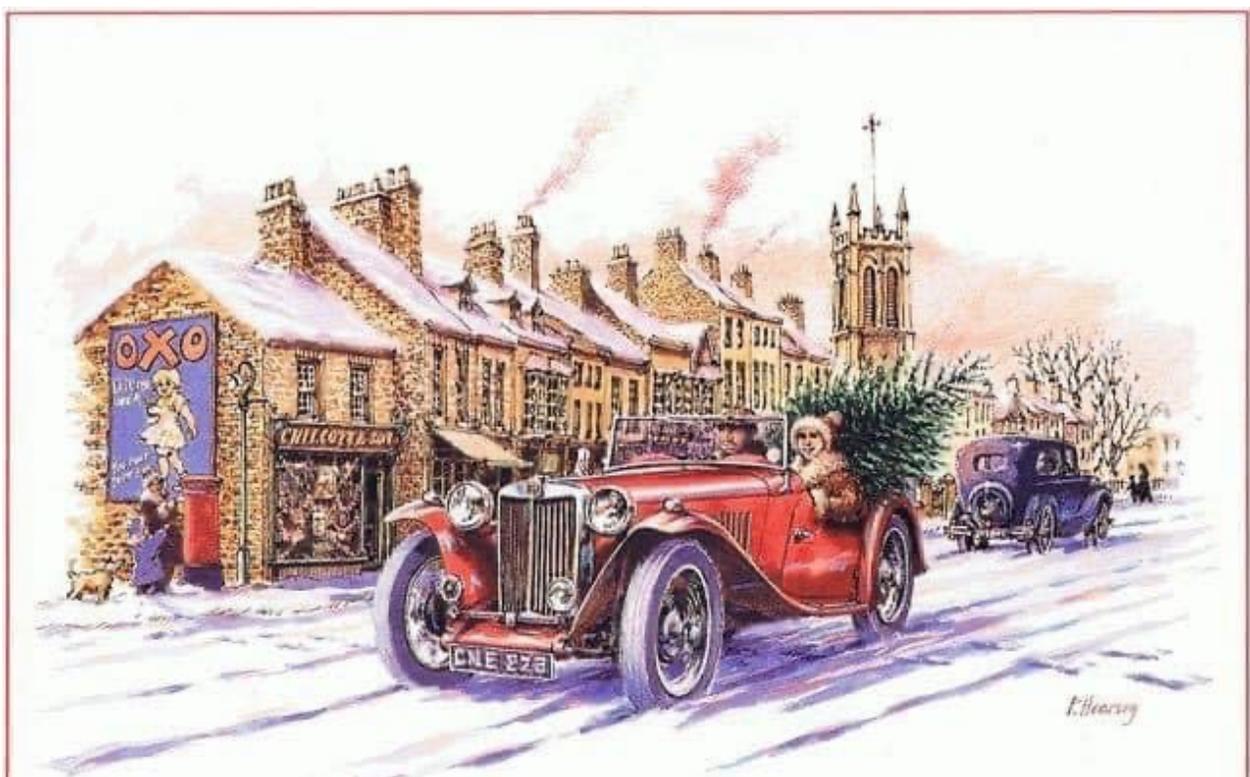
Writing is an acquired skill. Good writing does not spontaneously spout from a rare gene in your DNA. So practice. Learn one new thing each week: a word, a punctuation rule, a style rule, or a technique. Then practice . . . by writing!

If you believe that writing is a skill that anyone can acquire, you will have the attitude that breaks down writer's block. Believe that you can do it, and you will. As an interesting person, you have interesting things to write about. You may have a unique experience or thought to share, but most likely your experience or thought is similar to someone else's (perhaps many someone else's). The interesting part is your take on the experience or the thought . . . your method of describing it, connecting it, analyzing it, explaining it. To discover things to write about, consider these techniques:

- Keep a journal. Choose an item from the journal and elaborate (add detail, similes, explanation, etc).
- Brainstorm. Sit down and let the thoughts fly onto the paper. Turn off the internal censor (the one that constantly questions the value of your ideas or the mechanics of your writing). Go back and look for the idea/event that is most interesting (or that perhaps is repeated—suggesting its importance).
- Talk to people. Tell them about your ideas; ask them questions; listen.

- Read. All writers draw from the world around them. Books, magazines, and newspapers are great resources for writing topics.
- Question. Think about what other people might like to ask you. Assume the stance of an expert. Use the reporter's questions: who, what, when, why, how, where. Then assume the position of the learner. Picture yourself posing questions to an expert. Research the answers.
- Be creative. Write down the testimony you give the court, explaining why you stole that MG. Consider poetry. It doesn't have to rhyme. Poetry's magic is in capturing a sight, an experience, or a feeling in fewer words than prose, allowing the reader to paint his/her own mental picture. The point to remember is that valuable communication—in a newsletter, in a novel, in a letter, or any other writing—is authentic communication. Write honestly and you'll reach your audience. Readers are smart and will sense your authentic effort to communicate.

--Megan Rainey



PBCC Officers for 2026

Per our club's by-laws, each year, we elect new officers for the coming year. That time is here again. The election of new officers for 2025 will take place during our quarterly meeting in January with new officers assuming their positions on February the first. Taking on a leadership role in any club is essential to the diversity and growth of virtually any club. New leadership within a club is vital for maintaining enthusiasm and can cultivate a strong pipeline of new leaders, ensuring that the organization remains dynamic and responsive to its members' needs. Now is the time for us to consider running for, and participating in our club's leadership. Remember, it is for only a year term which anyone can do standing on their heads. Please consider running for a position in the club.

There are four officer positions opening for the 2025 calendar year. They are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer/Membership.

Section 4 - Duties of Officers (from the PBCC By-Laws)

President: The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Club and shall preside at all meetings of the Club. The President shall have the power to appoint members to committees or to replace other officers unable to serve their terms. The President shall have check-signing authority equal to the Treasurer.

Vice President: The Vice President shall preside over the Club in the absence of the President, or if the President becomes unable to perform their duties. The Vice President shall have check-signing authority equal to the Treasurer.

