

January, 2026 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

The start of a new year is upon us, and we have much to feel blessed about, especially the fact that we have survived another year.

As at least 23 of us know, we had our Christmas party at Sandbaggers. This was a new venue for the club and I thought it was a great choice. The people that I talked to all said the food was delicious, prices reasonable, service fantastic, and atmosphere loud, but pleasant. Since we weren't holding a meeting the noise wasn't an issue, at least in my opinion. We were able to hold a conversation at our table that we could hear even without our hearing aids. Of course, had it been a meeting, then noise would have been an issue. But, it was comparable to most public establishments. Kudos go out to Pat for finding and making arrangements for this place.

We will have our first quarterly meeting in January, location and date still to be determined. Everyone will be notified.

Normally, we would be having elections for club officers. But, we haven't seemed to find much interest from most club members to serve in an official capacity. All officers have agreed to continue to serve in their posts for another year. However, if ANYONE would be interested in serving in any position, let us know.

At our next meeting we are going to have a planning session to develop some ideas for drives, events, and tech sessions for 2026. Among the things under consideration are regular

drive-outs in 3 categories: local; longer daylong, destination oriented; and overnights. Local would be just what it implies. A drive to somewhere in the Upper Cumberland area to meet up and socialize. It could be a trip to a brewery, winery, restaurant, museum, etc. and most likely being within an hour or less of Crossville. Longer daylong trips might include trips to Sparta, Dayton (home of the Scopes Trial of 1925), or any other interesting places we might come up with. The overnights could include trips to Guntersville, Al., the Natchez Trace, and elsewhere. Please keep an open mind and try to come up with some ideas for our January meeting.

Tech sessions will, hopefully, be more hands on than wordy lessons. We are thinking of maybe service sessions, or running issues. While most of us are not experts like Jim and Richard, we have had some experience maintaining our cars. We obviously aren't talking about rebuilds, but oil changes and lube, SU carb balancing, brake adjustments, etc. The list is endless and I know some of you must have some thoughts. Even if you don't want to lead a session you still might have some ideas that we would all be interested in.

One of the things that we discussed, in our single table conversation, was that since we are all getting older (not being morbid, that was just a cloud passing in front of the sun, not a spectre of doom). Maybe we need to start using our time productively. For many of us that can include driving our LBC's more and socializing with like minded people. To that end we plan to have at least one drive-out a month through the spring, summer, and fall. I know that everyone cannot attend each

one, but my plan is that once we have announced one, we are going to go. If only one car shows up then fine, one person has a mini adventure that they can enjoy and share with the group in a later newsletter. If two or three cars show up, then so much the better. And, if we get four or more, we have a caravan. So basically, rather than throwing it out there to gauge response, we will make a plan, follow through, and drive whether it is one car or a dozen.

I know this was much more verbose than my usual offering so I will close here. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Our final words from Broderick Crawford, "The clowns at the circus are real funny, but on the highway they are murder."

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 - 2026

[Jack Spradling](#) - President- shadowfever@yahoo.com - 931.255.2040

[Pat Rainey](#) -Vice President - dprainey@att.net - 256.486.8605

[Richard Lockhart](#) - Treasurer/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 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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There is a road, no simple highway, between the dawn and the dark of night. And if you go, no one may follow. That path is for your steps alone. -Jerry Garcia

The Membership Chair Report

We have no new members for this reporting period. We have 31 paid members.

[Membership applications for 2026 are available on the club website at PBCCTN.org](#)

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December - 2025 Treasurer's Report -
Richard Lockhart

Dec. 2025	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,634.73		\$1,634.73
Total for Month	\$1,634.73		\$1,634.73



I was going to give up all of my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that no one likes a quitter.
Happy New Year!

Schedule of Events - 2026

(Listed in chronological order)

- 1st. Qtr., 2026 Meeting - Jan. 21, 2026 - TBA**
- Springtime in the Smokies - May 9th, 2026**
- 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-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X



SPRINGTIME IN THE SMOKIES 2026

British & European Car Show MAY 9th ~ Townsend, TN

New show location: Peaceful Side Social peacefulsidesocial.com

New host hotel: Tremont Lodge & Resort tremontlodge.com

Friday evening Welcome Social: Tremont Lodge & Resort

The "Springtime in the Smokies Committee" is pleased to announce a new host hotel and field facility for our 2026 British & European Car Gathering in Townsend, TN Friday evening - Saturday, May 8 & 9, 2026.

We feel these new venues will provide an enhanced car show experience as we celebrate our 42nd Springtime in the Smokies show and we are looking forward to visiting with our old friends while making new acquaintances.

- Please consider making plans to join us in May for this wonderful event!
- Follow the web links posted above to explore the new host sites.
- Ask for the special room rates at Tremont Lodge by mentioning the car show.
- Registration will open in mid winter 2026.
- For more information: SpringtimeintheSmokies@Outlook.com

What's with Battery Maintainers???

Most of us have put our LBCs away for the cold winter months only to look forward to waking them up again as soon as the robins start to appear. While they slumber in their long winter naps, a battery maintainer might have been an excellent Christmas gift for that LBC.

The primary purpose of a battery tender—generically known as a battery maintainer—is to keep a vehicle's battery at an optimal charge level during extended periods of inactivity without the risk of overcharging. Unlike traditional "dumb" chargers, a tender uses smart microprocessor technology to monitor the battery's voltage and only delivers power when necessary.

The main benefits and uses include:

1. Preventing Damage and Premature Failure

- **Combatting Self-Discharge:** All batteries naturally lose energy over time through internal chemical reactions. A tender provides a gentle current to counter this "slow leak".
- **Stopping Parasitic Drain:** Modern vehicles have electronic modules (clocks, alarms, computers) that draw small amounts of power even when the engine is off. A tender offsets this constant drain.
- **Avoiding Sulfation:** If a lead-acid battery sits in a discharged state, sulfate crystals can form on its plates, permanently reducing its capacity. Tenders keep the battery full to prevent this buildup.

2. Extending Battery Lifespan

- By maintaining a healthy, full charge and avoiding deep discharge cycles, a battery tender can significantly extend a battery's life, sometimes doubling it compared to unmaintained batteries.
- It protects your financial investment by delaying the need for expensive battery replacements.

3. Maintaining Seasonal or Infrequently Used Vehicles

- Tenders are ideal for vehicles not driven daily, such as:
 - Motorcycles and ATVs stored for the winter.
 - Classic or collector cars that only get occasional use.
 - Boats, jet skis, and RVs during the off-season.
 - Lawnmowers and tractors used seasonally.

4. "Set It and Forget It" Safety

- Float Mode: Once a battery reaches 100% charge, a tender automatically switches to a "float" or maintenance mode. It stops sending power and only resumes if it detects a voltage drop, making it safe to leave connected for weeks or months.

- Safety Guards: High-quality tenders feature spark-proof connections and reverse polarity protection (to prevent damage if you cross the cables).

Key Distinction: Tender vs. Charger vs. Trickle Charger

- Standard Charger: High amperage; designed to recharge a dead battery quickly but can overcharge if not manually disconnected.
- Trickle Charger: Low amperage; provides a constant, low-level charge at all times. If left unattended for too long, it can still overcharge and damage a battery.
- Battery Tender (Maintainer): Smart technology; monitors the battery and automatically turns off/on as needed, making it the only option truly safe for long-term, unattended storage.

