

February, 2026 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

We met at the Vegas Steak House for our first quarterly meeting, and I believe it was one of our best yet. The primary area of discussion was club activities over the coming year. A lot of ideas were shared, and consensus seemed to be that more is better, so this could turn out to be our most active season yet.

It looks as if our easy winter is over and the Arctic has sent us her weather. It would appear that it will be a while before we can send it back. It is obviously too cold to drive, but even worse, it is too cold to work on our projects. I have one that I just managed to get home before Hell decided to freeze over. So, I'm doing a lot of planning, research, dreaming, and ordering while staying packed away and bundled up.

Please, stay safe, and we will hopefully meet on the road soon. As Broderick Crawford said, "It isn't the car that kills, it's the driver." - Jack

PBCC Activities is the hallmark of who we are. We are attempting to organize more activities for this coming year but your help is needed. Number one, to attend these events and number two, to help by coming up with some ideas and planning some events. It's not all that difficult. The hardest part is gettin' people to show up. Let's all make the effort to participate more this year and see what happens.

Thanks for allowing me to indulge this minor rant. - Ed.

Three of the hardest things for people to say is, “I was wrong”, “I need help” and last, Worcestershire sauce....

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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One Rule That Applies Everywhere

If you don't glance back at the car after parking, you took the wrong drive.

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 [PBCCTN.org](#). Happy shopping - Ed.

NOTICE

PBCC members, We've come to that time of year again when our annual membership dues are due. If you were part of the Plateau British Car Club in 2025 and haven't yet renewed your membership for 2026, we strongly encourage you to do so. We're already in the planning stages for numerous exciting activities throughout the upcoming year, and you wouldn't want to miss out on the fun. Keep an eye out for the 2026 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!

The Membership Chair Report

We have no new members for this reporting period. But, We have ten returning members who have renewed their membership.

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

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January - 2026 Treasurer's Report -
Richard Lockhart

Jan. 2026	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,634.73		\$1,634.73
Dues for 2026	\$250.00		\$250.00
Stationary Supplies		\$47.72	\$47.72
Total for Month	\$1,884.73	\$47.72	\$1,837.01



**“A little British car doesn't conquer the road
—it dances with it.”**

Schedule of Events - 2026

(Listed in chronological order)

- April Fools Bash - April. 4th, Sky ranch Airport Alcoa Hwy. #129**
- Springtime in the Smokies - May 9th, 2026**
- Hwy. 55 Car Show - All Marques - Third Sat. of ea. Month**

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.

**TBA

During the most recent PBCC Qtrly. Meeting (01/21/2026) the most dominate topic of discussion was drive outs and activities for the PBCC 2026 driving season. Rather than list those ideas here, as they are already in the meeting minutes (with a red bullet) I would encourage everyone to go thru those meeting minutes and if you have any ideas of your own, please don't hesitate to jump right up and say so. You can send me your ideas and I'll make sure they are sent out to the membership. - Ed

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.

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.



Battery Booster - They give ya a Charge...

In last month's Oil Spots, I wrote a short tech article on the subject of battery maintainers or sometimes referred to as "Float Charges". Their purpose in our hobby, as well as your other vehicles including boats, motorcycles, golf carts and if you've got an airplane, is to keep a battery at a full charge during long term storage so that it will be ready when the robins sing.

This month I decided that talking a bit about "Battery Boosters" might be useful.

A battery booster, or jump starter, is a portable, self-contained power pack used to start a vehicle with a dead battery by delivering enough electrical current to crank the engine, acting like a temporary power source until the car's alternator can recharge the battery. These compact devices, often featuring lithium-ion technology, connect directly to the

battery terminals and are a convenient alternative to jumper cables, with many models including USB ports and lights as extra features.

How it works

- **Connect:** Attach the red (positive) clamp to the positive (+) terminal on the battery that needs a boost and the black (negative) clamp to a clean, unpainted metal part of the vehicle, away from the battery.
- **Power:** Turn on the booster pack (some have safety features that activate automatically).
- **Start:** Start the vehicle's engine.
- **Disconnect:** Once running, disconnect the booster pack in the reverse order (negative first, then positive).

Key features & benefits

- **Portability:** Small enough to store in a glove box or trunk.
- **Ease of use:** No need for another vehicle to provide a boost, and some have built-in polarity protection.
- **Versatility:** Many models also function as power banks for phones, tablets, or as flashlights.
- **Safety:** Modern lithium packs are safer, lighter, and more powerful than older lead-acid versions, with features to prevent sparks or damage.

Important considerations

- **Sizing:** Ensure the booster pack is powerful enough for your vehicle's engine size (e.g., gas vs. diesel).
- **Maintenance:** Keep the pack charged and store it in a moderate temperature for best battery life.
- **Not a charger:** A booster provides a quick start; the car's alternator recharges the battery. Frequent boosting may indicate a failing battery or alternator, requiring a deeper dive or professional inspection.

Types of Battery Boosters

As of 2026, technology has shifted significantly toward compact, high-efficiency models:

- **Lithium-Ion Boosters:** The modern standard. These are lightweight, often the size of a handheld brick, and can hold a charge for up to a year. They are popular for their portability and ability to fit in a glove box.
- **Lead-Acid Boosters:** Older technology that is much larger and heavier (up to 20 lbs). While bulkier, they are sometimes preferred in professional garage settings for high-power, consistent output.
- **Capacitor-Based Boosters:** A newer category that uses ultracapacitors to draw remaining energy from a weak battery and "multiply" it to start the engine. These do not require an internal battery to stay charged.

Key Features (2026 Models)

Modern battery boosters are often "multi-tools" for emergencies:

- **Safety Tech:** Most include spark-proof technology and reverse polarity protection to prevent damage if cables are connected incorrectly.
- **Power Bank Capabilities:** Integrated USB and USB-C ports allow for charging smartphones, tablets, and other electronics.
- **Additional Tools:** Many units include built-in LED flashlights (with SOS modes) and some even feature portable air compressors for tires.
- **Manual Override:** A critical feature on high-end models that allows the device to output power even when a car battery is so dead it cannot be detected by standard safety sensors.

Comparison with Other Devices

Feature	Battery Booster	Battery Charger	Battery Maintainer
Purpose	Immediate engine start	Slow, full recharge	Maintaining a healthy battery
Portability	Highly portable (no outlet needed)	Typically requires AC outlet	Requires AC outlet
Speed	Seconds to minutes	Several hours to days	Days/Continuous



Tech Session Material

This car is a 1964 Triumph TR4 which I found on Facebook MarketPlace in Huntsville, AL. Legend has it that the car was originally owned by Lawrence of Arabia, who owned and raced it throughout the 1920's before parking it in a barn in Alabama in 1931. It sat, pretty much neglected, for just under a

century, though it was visited occasionally by Tom Baker in the guise of Dr. Who. It is unknown whether or not the time traveler was the car or Lawrence.

Of course, the above is a total fabrication. But, it is a '64 TR4 and it was a MarketPlace find in Huntsville, so part of it is true. All barn finds need a good back story, even if it is total B.S.

The fact is, I saw this car almost immediately when it popped up. I knew it wouldn't last long at the listed price So, I contacted the owner immediately. He was in Houston, Texas and wasn't due to return for almost a week. I asked him a few questions and made a deal over the phone, not something I normally like to do. We made arrangements to meet on his return and we arrived at his home about 5 minutes after he got in. He had obviously had dozens of calls about the car between the time I first talked to him and when I pulled into his driveway.

The car is a truly neglected and faded beauty with the emphasis on neglected and faded. She is going to need a lot of work to make her roadworthy. The body is very straight with almost no rot. Frame is solid with no rust. Tires are worthless and will all need to be replaced but there is a spare wire wheel in the trunk. Doors, trunk (boot), hood (bonnet), all close solidly.

It does need a new soft top but the frame is there. Engine turns over, but the SU carbs are shot. It looks like someone who knew nothing about them tried to work on them and carb pistons are stuck in the domes. Distributor has been removed but is still there. The previous owner said the car wasn't getting fire so he was changing it out. It did come with a new distributor. The interior is pretty much gutted but the floorboards appear to be good and the seat rails are still in place. Door panels are in good shape. All of the dash vinyl is rough, but the dash and gauges all look good.

It took a while to get it loaded because of the tires. One was completely blown out so it took a lot of jacking, and pushing, and wenching. But, we finally had it strapped down and got it home a day ahead of the threatened storm of the century.

As I said, this will be a pretty involved process but I think it will be worth it. I will keep everyone updated.

-Jack

Here is some food for thought.
Once you've been to one food court, you've been to a mall.
BTW, Pun intended!!!

Plateau British Car Club
Quarterly Meeting
January 21, 2026

Vegas Steakhouse & Lounge (Crossville, TN) hosted an informal gathering of members, beginning at 4:30 pm. Fellowship was enjoyed by those in attendance, prior to the meeting's official start at approximately 5:52 pm.

Welcome

President, Jack Spradling opened the meeting with a welcome to the 17 members in attendance. Pat Rainey made a motion to dispense with the reading of the previous meeting's minutes. The motion was seconded by Dennis Rainey and passed unanimously. Treasurer, Richard Lockhart reported the club's account balance to be \$1634.16, not counting the dues paid by seven members prior to the meeting's start. Steve Spradling moved to dispense with the reading of a more detailed Treasurer's report. Robin Faircloth seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business

No old business discussed.

New Business

Ideas for 2026 drives and fun activities:

- Jack Spradling introduced the idea of “Spur of the Moment” drives and/or activities (ie. working on Pat Nielsen’s MG TD’s brakes). A lot of interest was shown. Text will be the method used to inform the membership. Dennis Rainey is to be contacted and he’ll inform the membership via group text.
- It was emphasized that members can drive any car, not just British, on club drives.
- Both Mari Leedy and Steven Spradling volunteered to drive “chase vehicles”, in support of club drives, in order to give members more confidence in driving their British cars.
- It was agreed that PBCC should invite other local British Car clubs to join us when our club drives take us into their general areas.
- Mari Leedy proposed that efforts be made to start and promote a British car swap meet, in conjunction with the annual Historic Rugby British Car Show. Jack Spradling, Dennis Rainey, and Pat Rainey agreed to introduce the idea during the next HRBCS planning meeting.
- The membership was reminded that the Crossville Cruisers will again be hosting their cruise-ins the fourth Saturdays of April, May, June, and July on Historic Main Street in downtown Crossville.
- Dennis and Pat Rainey will host/lead a drive to Dayton, TN in April.
- Mari Leedy will host/lead a drive to the Lane Motor Museum in Nashville, TN in mid-May.
- Jack and Steven Spradling will host a fish fry in June at Roaring River State Park, outside Gainesboro, TN.

- Larry McDonald will host/lead a drive to Granville, TN in July.
- PBCC will again play a big role in the annual Historic Rugby British Car Show in August.
- Michael and Robin Faircloth will host a tech session in September.
- Buzz and Sherri Merchlewitz will host/lead a drive to Pikeville, TN in October.
- Steven Spradling offered his help to any club members with car trouble while near his home (Smyrna, TN / 615-498-0043).

Annual Election of Officers

Mari Leedy motioned that all 2025 officers be re-elected by acclamation for 2026. Michael Faircloth seconded the motion. The motion was passed by acclamation. PBCC's 2026 officers are:

- President, Jack Spradling
- Vice President, Pat Rainey
- Treasurer, Richard Lockhart
- Secretary, Larry McDonald

No other business was discussed. Hearing no further discussion, Jack Spradling asked the attendees for a motion to adjourn. Robin Faircloth so moved, Dennis Rainey seconded, and the motion was approved at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry McDonald
PBCC Secretary

Springtime in the Smokies



A GATHERING OF
BRITISH



AND EUROPEAN CARS & MOTORBIKES

Peaceful Side Social

Charitable Event

Free Admission for Spectators

100+ CLASSIC CARS



People's Choice Awards

Silent Auction



Saturday May 9, 2026

9 AM - 3 PM

7967 E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy
Townsend TN



Net Proceeds Benefit 4 Local Charities
INFO: (865) 805-7907
SpringtimeintheSmokies@gmail.com



Springtime in the Smokies pre-registration is now open in a PDF format, print it out to mail along with your registration check. Go to <https://blountbritishcars.org/annual-car-gathering/>

Don't Snooze