

March, 2026 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

As surely as the weather, life, and the political climate, things change. We tend to look at traditions as sacred and unyielding, as memories that don't end but rather keep accumulating and adding to themselves. And yet traditions, too, can fade or die; history is not so much changed as rewritten.

The Talley Ho Inn is changing its name. Out of respect, I am told, to the family who opened it in 1953. The family built a legacy and that legacy is now ending. Perhaps I am over rating the importance of the change in the day to day scheme of things, a small fish in a very large pond, and yet....

This has been our home for Springtime in the Smokies for several years. It was comfortable, friendly, convenient. It was like a familiar friend, or a beloved cousin we saw once a year but with whom we were always able to pick back up immediately where we left off the last time we embraced. Okay, perhaps it was a bit dated, the restaurant has been closed for sometime, there was no continental breakfast, but it fit like a favorite pair of jeans and that broken in pair of loafers. It was the perfect companion to our out of date little British cars.

Perhaps I am overthinking this, it was just an old motel. With all of the motels in all the world, why does it matter? Maybe it doesn't. And yet, it is one more thing gone; one more memory replaced rather than continued; one more mom and pop lost to the corporate world. Will it shake the world? Of

course not. Will it alter the course of history or bring sanity back? No, it is just a ripple, and most will not even notice. But it is lost, one more thing, an irretrievable part of our past. And, for some, this may have been the last place we saw friends who are no longer with us. Goodbyes hurt, but we often don't realize that they can sometimes be final.

This year will be great. A new place to stay, a new venue for the show, and returning friends sharing their love of all things British. There will be new memories, new traditions, probably new friends. Yes, it will be great. But I hope when we get there that you will all join me, offer up a toast, raise a pint, to all that we have lost, and all we still hold onto.

As Broderick Crawford never said, "may the force be with you." See you soon. - Jack



WOW, Spring is just around the corner!!!

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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 Small Car, Big Grin.” 

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 eleven returning members who have renewed their membership.

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

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February - 2026 Treasurer's Report - Richard Lockhart

Feb. 2026	Income	Expenses	Total
Beginning Balance	\$1,837.01		\$1,837.01
Dues for 2026	\$25.00		\$25.00
Total for Month	\$1,861.01		\$1,861.01



“Take the back roads—the highways may get you there faster, but the winding roads let you arrive with a story and a smile.”

Schedule of Events - 2026

(Listed in chronological order)

- April Fools Bash - April. 4th, Sky ranch Airport Alcoa Hwy. #129
- Monkey Bar - April, Dayton, TN. - **TBA
- Springtime in the Smokies - May 9th, 2026
- PBCC Fish Fry - June, Roaring River Park in Gainsboro **TBA
- Hwy. 55 Car Show - All Marques - Third Sat. of ea. Month

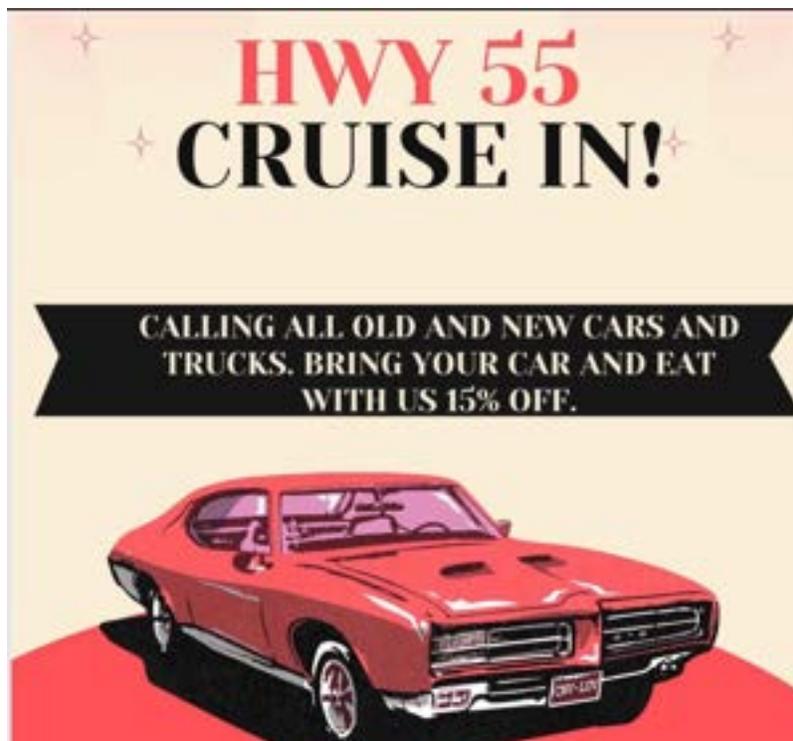
We will add to and update this schedule as and when we have additional events or changes to the schedule. We are, after all, a driving club and as with driving, sometimes ya have to make turns.

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.



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.



Back Roads and Little British Cars (LBCs);

Go together like tweed and drizzle. They were made for lanes that curve without apology, where speeds are modest and the joy comes from *feel*, not force. A narrow roadster fits the road instead of dominating it. You hear the engine, smell the hedgerows, feel every camber change through the wheel.

On back roads:

Light weight beats horsepower. You're working the gearbox, not the brakes.

Mechanical intimacy matters. Steering talks, suspension whispers, the car asks you to pay attention.

The journey is the point. No rush, no destination pressure, just motion and moments.

A little British car turns an ordinary errand into an event and a quiet road into a story. It's not about getting there faster. It's about arriving with a grin, bugs on the windshield, and the sense that—briefly—you and the machine were exactly where you belonged.

The Perfect Afternoon Drive

1. Choose the Road

Look for: Two-lane blacktop with **gentle curves**, light traffic, no shoulders, tree cover if possible. Farm roads, river roads, or old state highways that avoid towns

Best signs you're on the right road: Faded centerline, mailboxes instead of streetlights and a speed limit that feels like a suggestion.

2. Time It Right

Mid-afternoon (2–5 pm) is ideal, sun high enough for warmth, low enough for long shadows. Avoid commute hours and church-let-out times. Top down if it's above 60°F, always.

3. Prep the Car (5-minute ritual)

Check oil (British cars appreciate the courtesy), tyres slightly softer than modern specs. Clean windshield inside and out. Toss a light sweater behind the seats
Optional but encouraged: Leather gloves, sunglasses with real lenses, not fashion ones.

4. What to Bring

One destination in mind, not a schedule. Cash for pie, coffee, or ice cream. Phone on silent. Camera or just your memory. No GPS. Let wrong turns happen.

5. How to Drive It

Keep it in the middle of the rev range. Shift often, even when you don't have to. Let faster cars go. You're not racing — you're savoring. Listen for new sounds, not speed.

6. The Pause

Stop somewhere unremarkable: Old bridge, grain elevator, small-town café, scenic turnout no one posts about. Lean on the fender. Look back at the car. You always will.

7. The Way Home

Take a different route back.

Golden rule: **never retrace the same road** unless it's truly perfect.

Arrive home slightly dusty, slightly tired, and noticeably happier.

Perfect — I'll **tailor it two ways**, since those are the most common sweet spots for little British cars. If one fits, great. If not, we'll fine-tune it.

-Ed



Hear Ye..... Hear Ye.....

20th Anniversary
APRIL FOOL'S
BRITISH CAR BASH ~
A MULTIPLE CLUB GATHERING
& JUST A GENERAL GOOD TIME



HOST CLUB THIS YEAR:
Blount British Cars, LTD; Maryville, Tennessee

WHEN: Saturday, April 4th, 2026
WHERE: SKYRANCH AIRPORT
3535 ALCOA HIGHWAY
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37920

TIME: 10:30 AM – 2:30 P.M.
I AM SURE THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF FOOD, CONVERSATION
LITTLE BRITISH CARS & AEROPLANES TO LOOK AT

PLAN OF ACTION:

- Blount British Cars members will grill hotdogs and hamburgers and provide the condiments and buns.
- All others bring your favorite:
 - COVERED DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE
 - YARD CHAIR & BEVERAGE OF CHOICE
 - CLUB STORY FOR SHARING & FLYERS ANNOUNCING CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR

PLEASE OH PLEASE ~ RSVP ASAP OR AT LEAST BY MARCH 30th, 2026

Jim & Melinda Watson
spridget52@gmail.com
865-599-4305

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

Why We Love Little British Cars

It's never about the horsepower.

If it were, no one would fall for a car that leaks a little oil, smells faintly of petrol, and requires a gentle pep talk before starting on cold mornings. But Little British Cars were never about brute force. They were about spirit.

You see it the first time you shut the door—thin as a biscuit tin lid—and it closes with a metallic click that sounds like history. You sit low, almost on the road itself, hands wrapped around a steering wheel too large by modern standards. The key turns. The engine coughs, considers, then catches with a raspy growl that feels like a secret shared just between you and the machine.

They are small, yes—but that's the magic. In a Little British Car, every journey feels bigger. A trip to the corner shop becomes a rally stage. A winding country lane becomes a ribbon of possibility. You don't drive one so much as participate in it—shifting at just the right moment, listening for changes in pitch, feeling every ripple of the road through unfiltered steering.

They demand attention. They reward patience. They forgive nothing—and yet somehow, you forgive everything.

We love them because they are honest. No screens. No insulation from the world. Just wind, weather, engine noise, and the smell of warm oil on a summer evening. They remind us that driving was once an event, not an errand.

And maybe, if we're being truthful, we love them because they're a little bit like us. Imperfect. Stubborn. Charming. Occasionally unreliable. But full of character.

And when the sun is out, the road is clear, and the engine is singing at just the right note, there is nothing in the world quite like a Little British Car. -Ed



Fish Fry

The Spradling brothers are planning a fish fry for the club in June for interested members. The event will be at Roaring River Park in Gainesboro, Tn., just north of Cookeville. There is a pavilion which is on the river and has restrooms close by. The park itself is quite under utilized, so parking is abundant. Like most government parks there is a \$5 entry unless you have a state issued pass.

We will be furnishing the fish, probably french fries, and possibly hush puppies. If anyone wants to bring anything additional like slaw, baked beans, drinks, dessert, or anything else, let us know. We will need a head count to assure that nobody leaves hungry.

I would like to get a consensus on when would be the most acceptable time for the most people. Obviously the sooner the better for reserving the pavilion. Does everyone prefer a weekend or during the week?

There are many good back roads in the area, fishing available, and even a playground for the young at heart.

If interested please contact Jack at shadowfever@yahoo.com or Dennis at dprainey@att.net.

I don't know the secret to happiness, but, I'm pretty certain that it involves LBCs, dogs, country backroads, friends and sunsets...

You can't expect a child who grew up with Hot Wheels, to be content with owning one vehicle at a time as an adult



Spring Time in the Smokies is coming up

