

April, 2026 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

It looks like the groundhog got it wrong, some really nice days have appeared after the heavy pummeling we took only a few weeks ago. I know that some of you are already taking advantage of them. I'm tied up at the moment trying to work out some brake issues that I hope to have fixed before the April Fool's Bash that is coming up.

Also coming up is our first Rugby planning meeting. Though the event is still a few months away we start planning early to try to make it as glorious as a possible.

I still haven't gotten any feedback on interest for a fish fry in June at the Roaring River Park in Gainesboro. I need to have an idea whether you prefer a week day or a weekend. Also need to get some kind of head count before I rent the pavilion and start figuring out how much fish I need to bring.

Got to get back to the shop but I want to leave you with something else that Broderick Crawford never said. Spring has sprung and grass has riz where last year's reckless driver is. See ya soon. -Jack



**You might be able to our run me,
but ya can't out fun me!!!**

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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Where is Far, Far Away
And How Do I Get There?

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

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!

Schedule of Events - 2026

(Listed in chronological order)

- Monkey Bar - April 17th, Dayton, TN.
- PBCC 2nd Qtr. Meeting - Las Margaritas -see details below
- 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

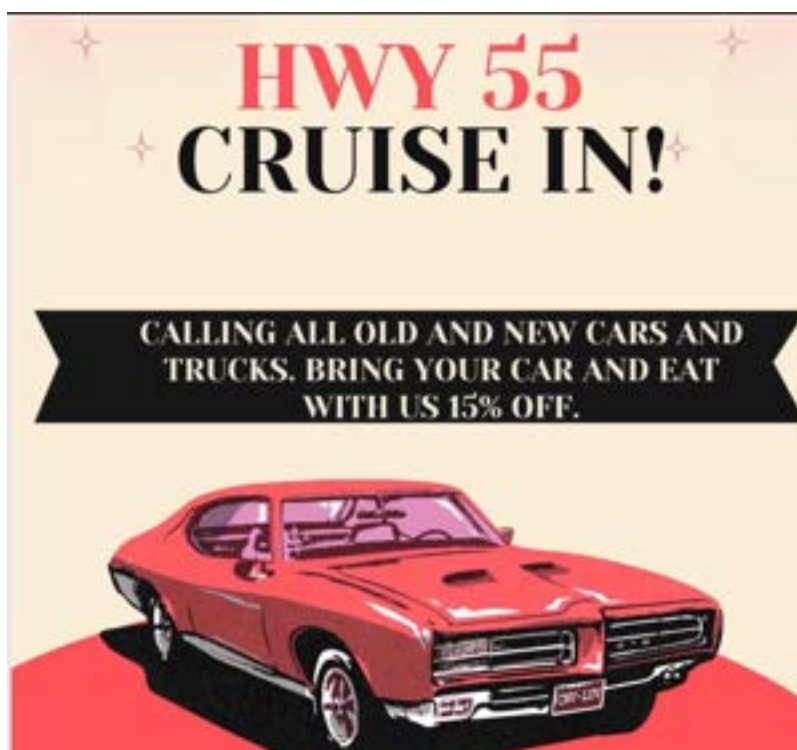
We will add to and update this schedule as and when we have additional events or changes to the schedule. We are, after all, a driving club and as with driving, sometimes ya have to make turns.

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.



De-winterizing your LBC

That time of year has rolled around again. Bringing a classic car out of winter storage is one of the best days of the year. Whether it's a chrome-bumper roadster or a big American cruiser, a careful wake-up will protect the engine and help you enjoy the season worry-free.

Here's a practical, step-by-step guide to de-winterizing your classic car.

1. Start With a Good Walk-Around:

Before turning the key:

- Remove the car cover and check for **rodent damage** (wires, insulation, air cleaner).
- Look underneath for **fluid leaks**.
- Check belts and hoses for cracks.
- Inspect tires for flat spots and dry rot.
- Make sure nothing is blocking the exhaust (critters love tailpipes).

Take your time here — this prevents 90% of spring surprises.

2. Battery Check & Electrical System:

If you disconnected the battery or used a tender:

- Reconnect and tighten terminals.
- Clean corrosion with baking soda and water if needed.

- Check that lights, turn signals, and horn work.
- Inspect fuse box (older glass fuses especially).

If the battery won't hold charge, replace it now rather than risk being stranded on your first drive.

3. Fluids: Don't Skip This:

Check all fluids before starting:

- **Engine oil** – If you didn't change it before storage, change it now.
- **Coolant** – Proper level and no rust color.
- **Brake fluid** – Clear, not dark brown.
- **Transmission fluid** – Correct level (if automatic).
- **Clutch fluid** – If hydraulic.
- **Fuel** – If stored without stabilizer, consider dilution or replacement.

Old fuel is one of the most common springtime headaches.

4. Prime Before You Start:

For carbureted classics:

- Pump throttle once or twice (not excessively).
- If it sat a long time, you may need to crank briefly to refill the carb bowl.

For extra care:

- Crank engine a few seconds with ignition disabled to circulate oil.
- Then reconnect ignition and start.

Let it idle gently. Don't rev immediately.

Watch for:

- Oil pressure
- Unusual noises
- Fuel leaks

5. Tires & Brakes:

- Inflate tires to correct PSI.
- Check for brake drag (light rust is normal; heavy sticking is not).
- On first drive, test brakes gently in a safe area.

Flat-spotted tires usually smooth out after a few miles — if not, it may be time for new rubber.

6. First Drive: Take It Easy:

- Keep RPMs moderate.
- Listen and feel for vibrations.
- Re-check fluids afterward.
- Look underneath again once parked.

That first short drive is a systems test — not a road rally.

7. Bonus: A Gentle Spring Detail:

- Wash off storage dust.
- Wax paint.
- Polish chrome.
- Condition leather or vinyl.
- Clean glass inside and out.

It's part maintenance, part ceremony.

A Few Extra Classic-Car Tips:

- If it's carbureted, expect a little fussiness on first start.
- If it's fuel-injected ('80s+ classics), check rubber fuel lines carefully.
- Replace windshield wipers — they dry out over winter.
- Check registration and insurance before heading out.

-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.

We're trying to set a date for this event but we need your help. Please let Jack or Dennis know what date/day would be your choice.



Let's go out for a drive and monkey around a bit...

The Monkey Town Brewing Co. in Dayton, TN is a unique establishment with great food and good beer. Two things that LBC drivers are attracted to like a monkey to a banana.

For anyone not familiar with this establishment or the story that goes with it, Dayton, TN is the small Tennessee town where the Scopes trials were held in mid 1925.

The State of Tennessee v. John Thomas Scopes, commonly known as the **Scopes trial** or **Scopes Monkey Trial**, was an American legal case in mid July, 1925, in which a high school teacher, John T. Scopes, was accused of violating the Butler Act, a Tennessee state law which outlawed the teaching of human evolution in public schools. The trial was deliberately staged in

order to attract publicity to the small town of Dayton, TN, where it was held. Scopes was unsure whether he had ever actually taught evolution, but he incriminated himself deliberately, so the case could have a defendant. Scopes was represented by the ACLU which had offered to defend anyone accused of violating the Butler Act in an effort to challenge the constitutionality of the law. William Jennings Bryant, a three time presidential candidate and former Secretary of State argued for the prosecution, while Clarence Darrow served as the principal defense attorney for Scopes.

We are proposing a visit on Friday the 17th of April, to the area with a stop at the Monkey Town Brewing Co. for lunch and maybe a brew, if so inclined and then a driving tour of Dayton before returning to Crossville. It's a 54 minute scenic drive down Hwy. 27 from our meeting place at the Dollar General store at 2516 US-70E in Crossville. We'll need to depart there NLT 11:00 am our time (CDT) as we do cross a time zone to EDT, so let's meet between 10:30 and 10:45 am at the Dollar General.

Please, oh please RSVP with Dennis at dprainey@att.net or text to 256.486.8605 so that we don't miss anyone.

Any area club members would be more than welcome to join us by either meeting us there or by joining us for the caravan drive from Crossville.



Springtime in the Smokies



A GATHERING OF
BRITISH



AND EUROPEAN CARS & MOTORBIKES

100+
CLASSIC
CARS

Peaceful Side Social

Charitable Event

Free Admission for Spectators

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



Send in the Clowns

As many of you know, my brother Steve and I, have a habit of bringing home unwanted strays. You've heard the expression, "one man's junk is another man's treasure." We keep finding those treasures and the first guy was right, they were junk. No, not really, we seem to love them even when they are old and broken.

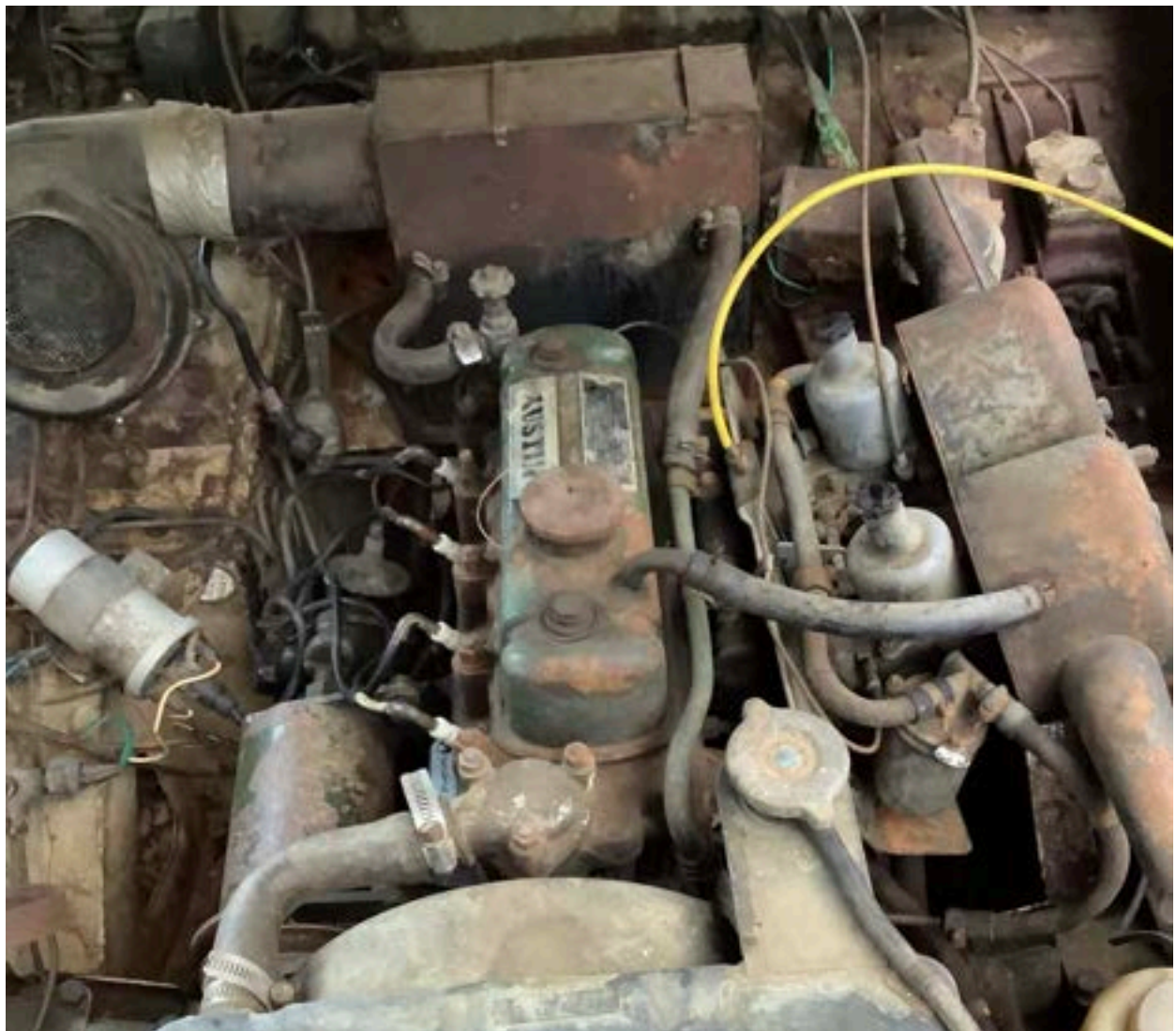
That brings us to the clown car. We actually bought it about a year ago and are just now getting around to it. It sat in a barn for about 47 years before we picked it up. Before it was parked, it received its clownish paint job and was used for a few seasons as a Shrine parade car. Alice, as I call her because we really pulled her out of the rabbit hole, is a true time capsule. Everything about her, other than the paint job, was original. Down to the 64 year old spark plug wires and rotten tires. The seats and rubber floor mats are the ones the car left the factory with. Obviously we had to change the tires. And we had to change out a couple of ignition parts so the originality is starting to slip. We had to drain out 50 year old oil. Fortunately the tank and carbs appear to have been drained before it was parked.

The point of this is to say that we finally got a couple of days to work on it and after almost 50 years we got it to start and run. Maybe it was really Sleeping Beauty all along. No, she was too nasty to kiss after spending all those years housing rats and squirrels. Speaking of which, despite the rodents, the wiring was surprisingly intact.

We have a way to go before she is ready for the road. Will we keep her as much like we found her as possible or will we scrub her and do a mild restoration? We don't know, in Wonderland you never know where the road might take you but it is always an adventure.

-Jack





MARCA SU CALENDARIO

It's time again for our PBCC quarterly meeting.

Here is a place that we haven't been to as a club, but it has been recommended and it seems they can accommodate us.

— — 30th April — —

Las Margaritas Mexican Restaurant

72 Woodmere Mall

Meet and Greet at 4:30 pm - dinner about
5:00pm.

