

August, 2026 Edition

OIL SPOTS

A Newsletter of the Plateau British Car Club



The Prez Sez

On Thursday the 23rd, Larry McDonald led a small caravan of British cars to the historic riverboat town of Granville, Tennessee, which sits on the banks of the Cumberland River/ Cordell Hull Lake. Granville was once a vital riverboat stop on the Cumberland River, and fertile farming community that was devastated by the building of Cordell Hull dam, which flooded the rich farm lands and ended riverboat traffic. Modern highways bypassed it, people forgot it, and the town almost withered and died. Almost. There were a few who saw potential and they salvaged what they could and, with a bit of imagination, recreated small town America. Known as Tennessee's Mayberry town, they have a combination Andy Griffith and I Love Lucy Museum, a 5000 piece whiskey decanter display that is unbelievable, the Sutton homeplace, a car museum, and during numerous festivals a working blacksmith shop, mill grinding, and weaving displays and much more. Centerpiece is the T. B. Sutton General Store dating to 1880. Here you can browse, shop, eat and buy tickets for your walking tour of the town. Nearby is a newly revitalized marina with excellent dining, boat rentals, and a luxury campground featuring Airstream trailers, cabins as well as a lodge and other rooms.

A great day was had by all who made the journey, which was highlighted by the backroads drive. Afterwards, a few of us drove back to Cookeville where we socialized and solved some of the world's problems at the Red Silo Brewery. Over a

couple of brews, carefully keeping within the limits of moderation. We discussed the fact that at our first quarterly meeting, we had laid out plans for four outings. They were the drive to the Monkey Town Brewing in Dayton, Tennessee, the drive and tour of the Lane Museum in Nashville, fish fry at Roaring River Park in Gainesboro, and the drive to Granville. We are only missing one and that is a drive to an undisclosed location that Buzz will lead in October. Great job everyone. We've had a couple of club events which didn't require a drive out. One was a social breakfast gathering on the 22nd of July. These breakfast gatherings always seem to be a popular event. Another was a Father's day car show at the Bristow Rd. Winery. Members have also participated in area wide events, such as the April Fool's Bash and Springtime in the Smokies.

We will be announcing some spontaneous drives in the near future that anyone and everyone are welcome to join. We have so many wonderful places to see and things to do, all within easy driving distance for us all. So please, if you have somewhere you want to go and don't mind a few friends tagging along, let us know when and where to meet and you will never have to walk or drive alone.

Coming up we are preparing to have our final planning session for the Return of the British car show in Historic Rugby which is only a month away. Gentlemen (and ladies) start your engines. - Jack

Members of the Plateau
British Car Club —

One of Tim's favorite activities
here in Crossville, was
getting together with all of
you and sharing the fun
with your little British cars.
Thank you for those memories
and for the beautiful
spot we are enjoying.

With gratitude,
Paul Beaton
& family

XOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOX

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 - dpainey@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 - dpainey@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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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.

We have a returning member for this reporting period. That would be Wayne & Besse Baker, they have a '59 MGA. Welcome back guys.

Membership applications for 2026 are available on the club website at PBCCTN.org

July 2026	Income	Expenses	Totals
Beginning Balance	\$1,992.56		\$1,992.56
Dues for 2026	\$25.00		\$25.00
Total for Month	\$2,017.56		\$2,017.52

July - 2026 Treasurer's Report - Richard Lockhart

Which is most important, the journey or the destination?
The company...

Top down, tach up, worries gone. LBC therapy is as good as it gets. Agree?"

Schedule of Events - 2026

(Listed in chronological order)

- Return of the British - Rugby, Aug. 22nd - Preregistration is now open.
- Hwy. 55 Car Show - All Marques - Third Sat. of ea. Month
- Brits at Cambridge Square - Oct. 9th & 10th, Ooltewah, TN**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.

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.

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 so that your ad can be removed.



How's your Spark

Electronic Ignition vs. Points Ignition

This is a question that seems to come up every time LBC enthusiasts get together. If you've got ten people discussing the subject, you'll probably get eleven different opinions about which is best! So I decided to lay out a few facts about each system and hopefully help you decide what's right for you.

Electronic ignition systems use a solid-state sensor instead of mechanical contact points to trigger the spark that ignites the fuel/air mixture in your engine. For British sports cars, converting from points to an electronic ignition provides a consistent, maintenance-free spark, while keeping points preserves a completely factory-original restoration.

Upgrading your ignition system changes how your car creates that spark. Understanding the differences between points and electronic ignition can help you decide which system best suits your driving style. Keep in mind that both systems accomplish the same task—they simply go about it in different ways.

Points Ignition

How it works:

A mechanical set of contact points opens and closes inside the distributor, switching the ignition circuit on and off.

Maintenance:

The points begin wearing from the very first revolution of the engine. Over time, the rubbing block wears and the contacts become pitted. Periodically, the point gap must be adjusted and the contact surfaces may need to be cleaned or lightly filed.

Performance:

As the points wear, ignition timing and spark quality gradually decline, sometimes resulting in harder starting, rough running, or poor performance at higher engine speeds (RPM).

Pros:

- Original factory equipment.
- Simple, inexpensive, and easy to repair almost anywhere.
- A failed set of points can often be cleaned, adjusted, or replaced on the side of the road.

Cons:

- Requires periodic maintenance and adjustment.

- Performance gradually deteriorates as the points wear.

Electronic Ignition

How it works:

Electronic ignition replaces the points and condenser with a solid-state triggering system, typically using a magnetic or Hall-effect sensor, depending on the manufacturer.

Maintenance:

Virtually maintenance-free. Once the timing is properly set, there are no points to adjust or replace.

Performance:

Provides a consistent, reliable spark and more accurate ignition timing. Many owners report easier starting, smoother idle, and improved reliability.

Cons:

- Electronic modules can be damaged by excessive heat, incorrect wiring, or voltage spikes.
- When a module fails, it usually does so without warning and generally cannot be repaired on the roadside.

What the Enthusiasts Say

Many owners of classic British cars—MGs, Triumphs, Jaguars, Austin-Healeys, and others—convert to electronic ignition to eliminate one of the more common causes of ignition trouble. Many say that installing an electronic ignitor gives an older engine a new lease on life, especially if the distributor has some wear. Purists, however, will point out that a properly rebuilt distributor with a fresh set of correctly adjusted points performs every bit as well for normal driving.

Interestingly, many electronic ignition users carry a complete set of points and condenser in the glove box. If the electronic module ever fails while they're miles from home, they can reinstall the points and be back on the road in a short time.

Upgrade Options

If you decide to convert to electronic ignition, there are two common approaches.

Drop-In Module

Products such as the Pertronix Ignitor install inside your existing distributor, preserving the original appearance while replacing the points with electronic triggering.

Complete Distributor Replacement

A complete electronic distributor, such as those offered by 123ignition, replaces the entire distributor assembly and eliminates virtually all internal mechanical wear components.

A Personal Note

I installed a Pertronix Ignitor in my 1965 MGB about seventeen years ago, and it has performed flawlessly with absolutely no maintenance. That said, I've heard from others that the quality of some ignition modules today may not be quite what it was years ago.

There's another option worth considering, and it's one I've used on a couple of cars I've owned. Several companies specialize in professionally rebuilding original distributors. You simply send them your tired old distributor, and they return it restored to better-than-new condition with properly rebuilt advance mechanisms and new bushings. With the relatively few miles most of us put on our LBCs, a professionally rebuilt distributor may well last the rest of your driving years.

In the end, there really isn't a right or wrong choice. If originality is important to you and you don't mind occasional maintenance, points are perfectly capable of doing the job. If you prefer a "fit it and forget it"

approach with modern reliability, electronic ignition is an excellent upgrade.

Whichever route you choose, the goal is the same—getting out on the road and enjoying your Little British Car.

-Ed



Plateau British Car Club
Quarterly Meeting
July 14, 2026

Las Margaritas Mexican Restaurant (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 19 members in attendance. Dennis Rainey made a motion to dispense with the reading of the previous meeting's minutes. The motion was seconded by Stan Fowler and passed unanimously. Treasurer, Richard Lockhart reported the club's account balance to be \$1967.56. He also

reported 23 paid members, after long-time founding member Wayne Baker's recent membership renewal. Stan Fowler moved to dispense with the reading of a more detailed Treasurer's report. Dennis Rainey seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Old Business

Jack Spradling reported that the June 30th drive and fish fry he and his brother (Steven) hosted at Roaring River State Park, outside Gainesboro, TN was a big success. Some 17 members attended. Jack and Steven may host another fish fry sometime this fall, perhaps in October.

New Business

Ideas for 2026 drives and fun activities:

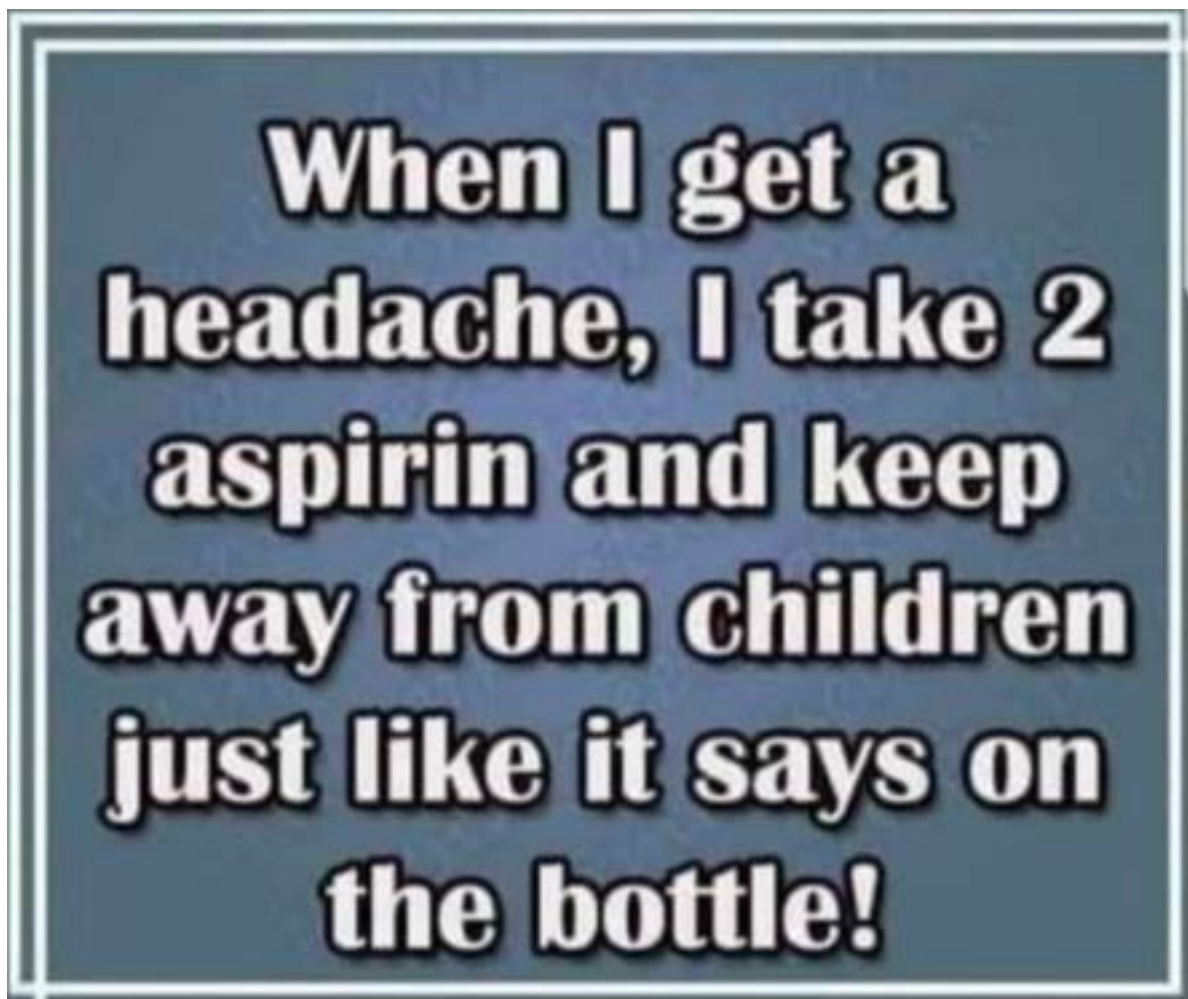
- The club will gather for breakfast 7/22 at 9:00 am at The Cabin restaurant on Peavine Road in Crossville, TN.
- Larry McDonald was be leading a drive July 23rd to Granville, TN. Plans are to gather at 9:00 am at Good Times Wine, Spirits & Brew (Crossville, TN)...departing around 9:15 am taking US-70N and TN-53 to Granville. Town Tour Tickets will be available for sale at the T.B. Sutton General Store for \$7.00 per person. Lunch will be enjoyed either at the general store or the Lakeside Restaurant at the Wildwood Resort & Marina on Cordell Hull Lake.
- The final planning meeting for Rugby will be 7/28.

- The annual Historic Rugby British Car Show will be held August 22nd in Rugby, TN. PBCC members were urged to contact Richard Lockhart, should they have any British car parts for the swap meet or silent auction donations. Dennis Rainey reported that pre-registration is now available through the PBCC website.
- Mari Leedy reminded members that July 25th will be the final Crossville Cruisers Cruise-In of the year. It will be held in downtown Crossville, TN from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Jack Spradling informed the members in attendance of a couple upcoming local/regional car shows: The Peach Tree MG Registry is hosting it's annual Southeast British Car Festival September 24-27 in Young Harriet, GA. The Southern British Car Club of Greater Chattanooga will be hosting its annual Brits at Cambridge car show on October 3rd in Ooltewah, TN.
- Dennis and Pat Rainey gave the members an update on Barbara Mitchell's condition after her recent fall /broken neck. Barbara is currently rehabilitating in Nashville, TN.
- Larry McDonald reported that long-time members Pat & Jann Nielsen will soon be moving back to Pennsylvania to be closer to family.

No other business was discussed. Hearing no further discussion, Jack Spradling asked the attendees for a motion to adjourn. Stan Fowler so moved, Dennis Rainey seconded, and the motion was approved at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry McDonald
PBCC Secretary

**“British sports cars were built
for roads that curve,
conversations that linger, and
journeys that don’t need
destinations.”**



Might wanta check your hoses once-in-a-while

I've had a long suffering gasoline smell issue with my TR8. But, I may have solved the problem. First, I tried a BMW 5-series charcoal canister which didn't do much to help the problem. I finally got around to replacing the two small hoses connected to the fuel vapor separator (one was really bad, photo attached) and the filler hose, although it looked fine, I discovered a 2-1/4 inch x 2 inch hose is available, but cost prohibitive. In its place, I watched a "Youtube University" video and was able to fashion a 2 inch x 2 inch which worked with a little persuasion. I'm keepin' my fingers crossed. - Larry



Return of the British

Online Pre-registration is now available
Click on this link at [Return of the British](#)



It's never been easier.



Return of the BRITISH



15th Edition of a British Car Gathering

AUGUST 21 & 22, 2026

Historic Rugby, TN

Cars displayed: Aug. 22th - 9 to 2:30 EDT

Awards, Silent Auction, Tea Settings,

Swap Meet & More

*Come for the
Weekend!*



Net Proceeds Benefit Rugby, Inc.

KEEPING TENNESSEE & BRITISH HISTORY ALIVE

Online Pre-registration is now available:

*Go to the Plateau British Car Club's website for the pre-registration
link at **Return of the British** It's never been easier.*

