



The Owner's Manual

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Packards

Special Edition Fall 2011 Tour

The Fall Tour went off today pretty much without a hitch. With a large number of last minute reservations we ended up with over 50 participants including several guests from the AACA and the CCCA. Several Packards made the trip including the Baccaro's '48 Limo, the Bartlett's '29 Super 8 roadster, the Grimes' 36 Coupe and the Lortz's '53 convertible. We met at the Tony Gullo Museum just outside Magnolia at 9 am. Almost everyone was there on time. After a short talk by Tony Gullo Sr. about his collection the group was treated to 50 thousand square feet of beautiful cars mostly from the 50's and 60's. The building was fascinating and included a drive in theater, a full functioning 50's gas station, and a full functioning soda shop. There were so many rooms with cars it was easy to get lost and not see everything. There were more than 200 cars and most of them were carefully restored. There were even three Packards, a 1950 Custom convertible, a 1955 Caribbean, and a 1940 120 Coupe.



About 11:30 we drove to Montgomery to the home of LSP members Richard and Irina Mitchell. What a beautiful surprise awaited our tour group! All of the Mitchell's collection of magnificent Packards, Stutz and LaSalles were parked outside and the newest building (it's hard to call the three buildings garages) was set up beautifully for a BBQ lunch including fresh flowers on each table. It is impossible to describe Richard and Irina's collection in this short write up. You had to be there to see for yourself. After a delicious lunch Richard was kind enough to answer questions from our members and guests. The final question asked was for Richard to start up his beautiful super charged Stutz, which he did. What a sound!! The Mitchell's were the perfect hosts and everyone had a great time.

Our final tour stop was a car-a-van to LSP members Harold and Marisol Honsberg's beautiful home on Lake Conroe. Harold had driven their magnificent 1933 Convertible Coupe so we followed him and Marisol to their home for dessert. Richard and Irina joined the tour group in his Stutz Bearcat. People all along the way to Lake Conroe waved. It must have been quite a site to see these beautiful Packards and the Stutz going down Highway 105.

Arriving at the Honsberg's members of our group who had not been there before could see how Harold gets five cars into a two car garage. Marisol had prepared some great desserts which evidently everyone enjoyed because, despite the large quantity, there was none left. Most everyone sat outside on the deck to see their great view of the lake which is so low that there is a wide beach behind the house.

Everything worked out well including the weather which was perfect. With great hosts like Tony Gullo, Richard and Irina Mitchell and Harold and Marisol Honsberg it's hard to go wrong.

Ben Carter, Director LSP



