

The Owner's Manual

The Official Newsletter of The Lone Star Packards



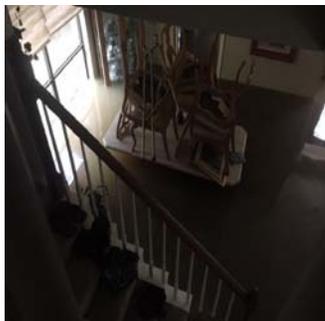
Fall 2017

Ron & Juanita Jordan's Hurricane Harvey Story

After several days of rain from Harvey water was rising nearby on the golf course and our private lake. However we had never experienced flooding of our home of almost 35 years. We had moved family pictures upstairs before going to bed. We awoke at 4:00 in the morning to water coming into the front door. A friend was here spending the night as he could not get home because of high water. The three of us quickly started stacking furniture on top of furniture, rescuing the dogs to upstairs, gathering medication and clothes to fit into 2 suitcases.

We retreated to the upstairs and waited. By morning we had 3 ½ feet of water in our home. Our grandson was coming by boat to rescue us but he was stuck on the other side of the San Jacinto River. We kept in contact with our daughter by text. Helicopters were flying overhead looking for white towels on the hood of cars or trucks signaling that a rescue was needed. We put a towel out and were rescued by a private boat of a family in the neighboring subdivision. We boated about a mile to a point where volunteers were waiting with cars or trucks to take people to a shelter or to family or friends. We were taken to our daughter's house where we stayed for about 6 weeks.

Our children, spouses and grandchildren gutted, packed, sprayed and dried out our home. Our unfit to be saved items were thrown into a dumpster along with sheetrock, shelving, door frames and etc. Some things were put into storage and other things were taken to our son's house. We are very fortunate to be able to get back into our home so quickly. This was possible because of our children's quick response and working together to make this happen. We were also thankful for our friend in the home remodeling business who worked constantly. Yes, we lost a lot of things including both cars but we are thankful for all the things that we did manage to save.



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Jack & Rena Sartin's Hurricane Harvey Story

In the Tax Day flood of 2016 our feet were in water when we woke up at 7:00 am. When the rains started with Hurricane Harvey we had a false hope that we might not flood, but on Saturday evening when they announced that both Cypress Creek and Mayde Creek were out of their banks, we knew we would soon be part of the creek.

We worked until the wee hours of Sunday morning, slept, and then worked again. Thank goodness we have an upstairs! By 3:00 pm Sunday the water started coming in. The last thing to grab was food to put in the cooler and take upstairs for our "picnic" meals. We lived upstairs throughout.

By Wednesday the water had receded and neighbors waded in to begin cutting out sheet rock and insulation, it was so critical to quickly get that out. By Friday the street was passable and friends came in to help.

We count our many Blessings: friends who came to help us, we didn't lose everything as thousands did, we were able to restore quickly, and we never lost electricity. While our first responders claimed they didn't "do" much, to us it was everything and we are forever grateful.



Restoring a Family Heirloom Completed

Featured in the Owner's Manual Summer issue was the restoration of LSP member Dr. Dan Grilli's 1949 Packard by our LSP member Jeff Pate's Classic Cars of Houston. Jeff exhibited the in progress car at the 2017 Keels and Wheels Concours event in May. The frame off restoration is now complete and the car was exhibited by Classic Cars of Houston at the November Autorama at the Brown Convention Center in Houston. The car looks brand new and is probably the finest 1949 Packard in the country. We are all anxious to see this car at future club meetings. Great job Jeff!



Houston Strong to Houston Champions

by Janice Carter

Houston and suburban areas has suffered through the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey and historic flooding which started around the middle of August and lasted through part of September. Many residents are still trying to put their lives and homes back together. There are many heart breaking stories of people losing furniture, household items, cars, clothes, and other irreplaceable personal belongings. The long road to recovery is causing many to continue living in hotels or with friends or family. Their lives are still in limbo and here we are three months after the storm. So many have braved the elements, their lost and together were resilient. All of us felt "Houston Strong"! Seems like we all know someone that was flooded or had damage and assisted where we could. Even with the resources available in Houston, restoring what you lost takes time and can't be done in one hour like a home make-over show on HGTV. Actually, Chip & Joanna Gaines from HGTV's Fixer Upper show brought their crew from Waco to Houston to rebuild an 80 year old woman's home.

There are so many wonderful stories of volunteers helping. And I am so proud of how this city stepped up to the arduous task of relief efforts. However, if you were one of the thousands displaced and working with your insurance company, FEMA and local authorities then it seems as though your life will never be the same.

Then the most wonderful thing happened! In the middle of all the piles of debris lining hundreds of streets, scenes of trash trucks constantly moving debris to pile up in designated areas, our Houston Astros won the American League Division Championship by beating the New York Yankees! The Astros were displaced, disconsolate and helpless, grieving that they could not do more for a city ravaged by Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath. All the Astros could do then was play baseball, to give their fans common cause and a little distraction. This was something we all needed to bring smiles and some happiness back into this storm damaged area. Then we anxiously watched as the Astros went on to the World Series with all our long awaited hopes hanging on these talented players.



I am not an avid sports fan, but this series got me caught up in the game and actually learned a few things about baseball. These games were exciting, stressful and exhausting all at the same time. Houston has only been in one other world series back in 2005 and came up short. This time the Astros really needed a win for Houston that could bring a reprieve to this town going through so much despair. To make these games more captivating - it lasted all seven games and was spectacular to the very end.

Then in the final game in Los Angeles, in the ninth inning, with Dodgers at bat, Altuve caught a groundball and threw to 1st for the final out and the Astros WON with a score of 5-1! This is the first World Series win in the franchise's 56th season. For all those thousands that were wondering if their FEMA check would be coming, or could they keep on rebuilding, this win energized and lifted up everyone.

In interviews, players have noted how they kept images of the flooding in their lockers to serve as inspiration, and perhaps, to keep the team's own challenges in check. At some point, this team, this game, this quest for the World Series transcended sports. It became something more than an exercise in athleticism and statistics. It became a symbol of strength and optimism. I have to recognize the diminutive 5' 5" MVP Jose Altuve a guy, if he did not have a five o'clock shadow, would be mistaken for a teenager at the local mall. What an outstanding player and he deserves all the accolades he has received.

Ben and I are proudly wearing our World Series Champions shirts and giving other strangers wearing Astros shirts a "thumbs up" and a passing smile. We have enjoyed this roller coaster ride. This whole season has been a thrill and something we won't soon forget.

One funny story - While on a road trip to Missouri in October, we were wearing our Astros World Series Shirts. At a rest stop, Ben was surprised that a man stepped out in front of a group of people, took his hand and shook it and said "Congratulations"! Ben thought he must have been the one millionth customer or something and looked confused. The guy pointed to his shirt and said "The Astros man!" So even in Oklahoma people were excited for us.

So maybe the Astros are not your favorite team, but if you live in the Houston area you have to be enjoying the camaraderie, and feeling of excitement for the Astros being first time World Series Champions! Thank you Astros!!



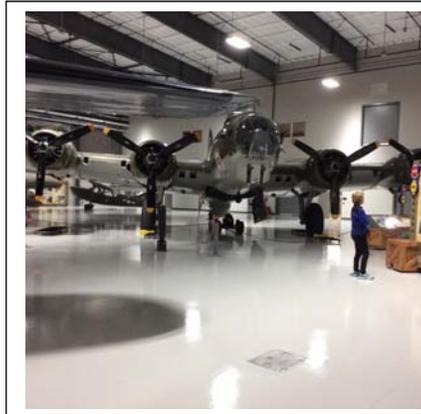
Lone Star Packards Visits Lone Star Flight Museum

The Lone Star Packard Club is one of the first to be able to visit the new Lone Star Flight Museum which was to open in early September, but opening was delayed because of Hurricane Harvey.

After many years in Galveston the museum collection was moved to Houston because of damage from Hurricane Ike in 2008. The museum is funded by private donations and admission fees plus a 7.6 million grant from FEMA as a result of the Ike damage.

The new museum, concentrates on vintage aircraft especially World War II. All of the aircraft are beautifully restored and fly on a regular basis to keep them in operable condition. The museum also includes a Texas Hall of Fame which includes President George H.W. Bush, Howard Hughes and Senator Lloyd Bentsen.

The new museum has a beautiful location at Ellington Field which allows plenty of room for the planes to take off and land. Visitors can book a flight in a vintage aircraft including the WWII B-17 bomber. It was a real treat for the club to be one of the first groups to visit the new museum which is sure to become one of the premier World War II collections in the nation.



TX DOT Projects – How It Works



We are all too familiar with the constant road construction throughout Houston and surrounding areas and wonder if it will ever be finished. With the steady population growth we are experiencing over the last decade, there are more commercial and residential developments and it doesn't look like there is any slowdown in sight. Texas Department of Transportation, along with all the surrounding counties, is trying to improve mobility. If you think it is taking forever for these construction projects to end, below is information from TxDot.

When planning a construction timeline, the Texas Department of transportation estimates crews will work an average of 16-17 days per month. Additional days are set aside to account for unfavorable weather conditions and weekends.

According to TxDOT construction projects are most often affected by rain. However, several events – such as flooding or a hurricane – high winds, lightning, hail and extreme temperature can also halt construction.

As construction crews cannot work in muddy conditions, the ground and materials must dry before construction can resume. A half inch of rain could delay projects with a large amount of earthwork for three or more days.

Cold temperatures and rain can also delay concrete and hot mix asphalt projects, as the projects require warm temperatures. However, work often resumes the next day as the pavement dries or the weather warms.

I'm dreaming of an over-the-top Christmas

... By Jim Shea of the Hartford Courant

This is what can happen when you watch too many TV commercials this time of year!

I know exactly what I am buying my wife for Christmas. Usually I have no idea until Christmas Eve, when I go shopping. But this year I'm way ahead of the game. I'm buying my wife a Lexus SUV. It costs \$53,000. I got the idea from a television commercial.

Originally, I was going to buy my wife a \$20,000 diamond bracelet. I got that idea from a television commercial, too. Then I started to think that maybe a \$53,000 SUV would be more practical than jewelry. Then I thought about how diamonds are forever, which is better than a 7/70 warranty. Then I went, hey, it's Christmas, why not get both? Then I had this brainstorm.

I'll put the keys to the Lexus on the diamond bracelet and have the dog trot over and drop it on her lap on Christmas morning. I can just picture it. She'd jump up off the white sofa – note to self: buy a white sofa – and run over to the window. The car would be sitting in the driveway with a big red bow on it.

Boy would she be happy, not to mention grateful, if you know what I mean.

The only problems I see with this plan – aside from the \$73,000 and the fact that my dog is as dumb as a stump – is what do you do for an encore? Let's face it, after diamonds and SUVs, you really can't go back to sweaters and tube socks. I have traveled with the Ghost of Christmas Television Commercials Future, and all I have seen is escalation:

Christmas 2018: The dog, a purebred, trots over with a set of keys attached to a necklace that is so expensive it comes not in a box but in an armored car. Keys in hand, the woman runs over to the window and sees her new corporate jet taxing up the driveway.

Christmas 2019: The dog, a Westminster Kennel Club best in show, trots over with a set of keys attached to the Hope Diamond. The woman is whisked away on her corporate jet to a private island, where she uses the keys to open the front door of a second home.

Christmas 2020: The horse, a Kentucky Derby winner, trots over with a set of keys attached to the Crown Jewels. The woman uses the keys to open the door to a spare bedroom, where she is delighted to discover two attractive well-mannered, housebroken children – with big bows on them, of course.

So now I'm thinking that maybe the Lexus isn't such a good idea after all. I mean, 30 years is a long time to be making car payments.



Meetings & Tours in 2017

January at Ole Railroad Café and tour of Rosenberg Historic area – hosted by Ron & Patricia Orr

February at Fudruckers in Greens Point and Gateway Classic Cars – hosted by Tony & Shirley Darrow

March at Los Cucos in Humble, TX – hosted by Ron & Juanita Jordan & John & Vivian Lortz

April the 40th Annual Texas Packard Meet – Kerrville, TX

May 20 - Joe's BBQ and tour of Dave & Sandra Lucas' car collection in Alvin, TX

June – no local meeting due to National Meet

July – Meeting Cancelled due to sudden death of Dale Musgrove

August 20 – Jay's Country Café, Needville and back to Del Webb community in Richmond where Lenny & Paula Holzband provided desserts at their community Lake House.

September – Cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey

October 28 – Lunch at Savannah Bakery & Café in Webster, TX then guided tour of Lone Star Flight Museum at Ellington Field

November 11 – Fall Tour to Round Top/Warrenton, TX hosted by Sartins & Trokeys

December 9 – Christmas Lunch at Gina's Italian Kitchen in Friendswood, TX and Christmas party/meeting hosted by Evelyn Timmins



October Birthdays

4	Cynthia Tanner
9	Harold Honsberg
9	Richard Wilken
10	Irina Mitchell
11	Bernie Stebenne
11	Tracy Wilken
17	Robin Scarbro
23	J.C. (James) Hairrell
24	Larry Myers
26	Anthony Baccaro
30	Kim Ess

November Birthdays

16	Tommy Baccaro
20	Sandra Lucas
21	Dick Bautch
24	Gail Supina
29	Tony Darrow

December

8	Ben Carter
18	Mary Matthews
16	Janice Musgrove
27	Jack Sartin

The Wrong Answer

Two applicants, Smith and Jones, applied for work at an organization that had only one open position. The hiring manager sat the two of them side by side to take an aptitude test. When time was up she found that both applicants missed only one question, the same one. After studying the results, the administrator announced that although both candidates had given the same wrong answer, candidate Smith had won the job.

"Wait a minute," Jones complained. "How can one wrong answer be better than another?" "Well, the manager said, "on the one question you both missed, Mr. Smith wrote, "I don't know this answer." You wrote, "Neither do I."

Don't forget --- time to pay your 2018 LSP dues.

Send check in the amount of \$20 made payable to LSP to our Treasurer, Rich Trokey at 4718 Grass Shadow Drive, Katy, TX 77493-1777 **by January 31.**



Punctuation Is Powerful

Maria Fendorovna, the wife of Tsar Alexander III of Russia, was known for her charitable works. According to one story, she once saved a condemned man from exile in Siberia by moving a single comma in the warrant signed by her husband.

The original document read: "Pardon impossible, to be sent to Siberia". The Empress moved the comma so the warrant read: Pardon, impossible to be sent to Siberia" The man was saved and released.

Lone Star Packards was chartered by Packard Automobile Classics (PAC) in 1964. Our charter requires that Lone Star Packard members also be members of the Packard Automobile Classics. For information please contact our treasurer.

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