



## ***Director's Corner***

Thanks to the continued hospitality of **Jack and Rena Sartin**, we had a wonderful meeting in their air-conditioned car barn on Saturday, July 24th. By my count, we had 34 members and guests participating. We had that and a few more last month so we continue to have a very active club.

The Katy ladies decided to make this our delayed 4th of July celebration so we set the menu up as southern fried chicken picnic with all the sides plus desserts. Due to our RSVP list Rena was able to order the chicken from Brookshire Bros. deli department and pick it up that morning. It was really good and I wish we had a Brookshire store close to us.

In honor of the 4th, we had our invocation said by **Stephen Morris**, we said the Pledge of Allegiance and **Jack and Rena** led us in one verse of God Bless America.

We also acknowledged 3 of our couples recently celebrating their **SIXTIETH wedding anniversary**. Congratulations for the big 60th to Tony and Shirley Darrow, Ron and Juanita Jordon, and Rich and Karen Trokey.

Following lunch, we began the meeting.

First on the agenda was recognizing guests.

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**Vivian Lortz**  
**May 4, 1950 - June 29, 2021**

Vivian and John were married for 50 years. Her passion was flowers and pleasing people. She was an avid Elvis Presley fan with all kinds of Elvis memorabilia. She loved to be in the kitchen and according to her family was a great cook and she always had her children and grandchildren over for Sunday dinner. Vivian worked at DHL for 35 years retiring in 2015 to help with grandchildren and continue her passion of flowers and weddings. She developed her successful catering and events business while working at DHL. She didn't stay retired long and soon started working at a local flower market designing and delivering flower arrangements, which was a match made in Heaven knowing she loved both.

Vivian and John have been long time active members of LSP owning several Packards.

In lieu of flowers, LSP has made a \$50 donation to the Packard Proving Grounds in Vivian's memory.

The Lortz family is extremely grateful for the Packard family and their support during this difficult time.

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Then I acknowledged we had received a thank you note from **John Lortz and family** for our support following the recent passing of **Vivian**. We also got a nice letter from the Packard Foundation for our donation to the restoration fund at the Packard proving grounds in Vivian's name.

**Leon and Pam Ahlers** recently returned from a 3000-mile round trip to an AACA meet in Indiana and a side trip to the Packard Proving Grounds. *They made the trip in their 1969 Dodge Charger which Leon's mom bought new.* Leon gave us a little insight to the trip and especially his trip to the Packard proving grounds historic site. A more detailed description is elsewhere in this Owner's Manual.

Following Leon, we began to get some reports and make some decisions. **Ben** related that we now have 55 Packard families in our region and that works out to be over 100 people and Packards.

**Tony** has had no trouble paying our bills and he gave us our balance.

The winners of our 50/50 were **Ben and Jan Carter** who split the total with the club and received \$40! This little event always makes someone happy they came to the meeting.

I then went over up-coming activities.

At this time, nothing is scheduled for August. I asked if someone would volunteer to find a Spring Creek BBQ that would have their room available for us on the 3rd Saturday. They have a nice private room and they don't charge and don't hassle us to set up a buffet. (It is fine if it is another restaurant just so they don't charge for the room.) We could return to Big Horn on 288 but they do charge for the room. If we can get one free that would be the best). **Shirley** volunteered to look into finding one.

**In September** AACA has invited us to participate in a hot dog and ice cream picnic on September 18 at Spring Creek Park in Tomball. We voted to let that be our September meeting.

**In October**, we are working on visiting **Ed Fleming's collection** in the Heights area.

We previously were contacted by the editor of the Rosenberg paper, through long time member **Bob Supina**, inviting us to once again display our cars in front

of the Old Railroad Cafe in historic downtown Rosenberg. We will meet there at noon on **November 13**. It should be cool so please bring your Packard if you can. They give us a ton of publicity, front page last time, and we have picked up members there in previous years.

The last Christmas party was here in our area in 2019 at the South Shore hotel and resort. The 2020 Christmas party was scheduled for a restaurant in Katy, but due to Covid we had to cancel. We planned to go there this year but unfortunately, the restaurant had a serious fire and will not be rebuilt in time for Christmas. I can probably get the hotel again but that would mean everyone would have to travel a great distance two years in a row.

After the meeting, one of the members asked how Salado planning was going. I confessed that I have been holding off on getting my team together for you guessed it, Covid fears. I am watching numbers go up with this new strain and I am hoping and praying it will be put down and out of the way by the Texas Packard Meet time in April 2022.

It is a lot of work on our helpers to get the registration materials designed, posted, and collected. For two years now our team has worked to get all this done and then had to shut it all down and start giving out refunds.

I have reserved the dates at the hotel, the museum for the banquet site, and the brewery where we go on Friday night. We have not picked a caterer but am thinking about getting BBQ again as it will be cheaper and most people seemed to enjoy it in 2019. The only complaint we had was it was too slow, but I will stress we must be served from both sides of the table this time. I think we will wait to get our "worker bees" started in late September with the goal of getting the information out in October. Hopefully we will have a clearer picture by then. March 31st through April 3rd are the dates.

Happy Packarding, Tommy

Let's continue to remember our members going through difficult health issues.

**Jamie Roberts** still struggling with Leukemia and would appreciate your prayers.

**Judy Anderson** has finished her cancer treatments and now on the road to recovery. This will take a while so keep praying for her healing and comfort.

## What A Fantastic Road Trip! By Leon Ahlers

**Pam & I** recently took a "Road Trip" in our '69 Dodge Charger to the AACA National Meet in Auburn, Indiana. Old cars and long distances are nothing new to us, as we have covered over a hundred thousand miles in used cars in the past 45 years!

The first trip was to California in 1975 in a 1967 Mustang, the longest was to Victoria, British Columbia in 1996, (6200 miles in a 1939 Ford Convertible-kids rode in the rumble seat).

This time, we took a somewhat circuitous route to Auburn, through Chicago and Detroit. While my bride was meeting with clients in Detroit, I took the opportunity to visit the Packard Proving Grounds in Shelby Township, MI.

Upon my arrival, I checked with a nice lady who could not find my reservation. I'm glad I had taken my copy with me. She told me she had no docents scheduled that day and as I was 1200 miles from home, I couldn't just go back to the house and wait! She made a phone call, and a gentleman named **Dave Dolby** appeared. We made introductions, and I knew that I'd hit the jackpot as he is **The Director of Acquisitions** and also in charge of the volunteers. The man has been there for a number of years and is currently restoring the facilities originally designed by Albert Kahn.

Our first stop was at the electrical room. All electrical is underground. Radical for 1928, but Packard was at its zenith. We toured the garages where Packard executives parked and is now used as a wedding venue (117 last year). We then went to the dormitory where Joy and his family lived, and where Packard executives stayed during inspections and meetings. The blue smaller rooms were for lower-level management where the Gold (yellow) rooms were for executive types.

On to the garages and teardown facility. **Henry Joy was president of Packard** at the time and his brother ran the proving grounds. The brother took delight in calling Henry to tell him that they had broken one of his newly designed engines!

We then went through the displays:

- Packard marine engines, Packard PT boat engines, and even a non-magnetic engine for a mine sweeper.
- I took Dave to school on the 1954 Packard dash knobs and why they have a three-point star. Once he realized that I was familiar with the marque, anything was fair game.

- Dave explained that a gentleman, recently passed at age 99, gave him invaluable information about the facility, as he had been a test driver before the war and tested tanks for Chrysler at the facility during the war.
- There is a crack in the exterior of the administration building; they started to patch it but the old gentlemen told them that it happened in 1933, during Michigan's only earthquake.
- Dave was a fount of information, not just Packard but was a veteran of forty-seven years at GM engineering. He had worked with Ed Cole, Zora Arkus Duntov, and John DeLorean, just to name a few luminaries.

Needless to say, all of this could not have been accomplished in forty-five minutes; my 11 am tour as the only guest lasted until 1:15pm. What an experience!

I had to wash the smile off my face that evening. Oh, and yes, we did make it to Auburn. The car was awarded a plaque and we returned home without incident, a little over 3000 miles and more memories.

★ HAPPY ★  
BIRTHDAY!

### July Birthdays

1	John Eanes
5	Maya Baccaro
17	Todd Bates
17	Ron Orr
25	Maureen Carlson
31	Shirley Darrow

### *Fuel For Thought...*

Put a smile on your face  
And spread sunshine all over the place!



### Congratulations to our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries Members

Sixty years of marriage deserves something truly special to commemorate it, so it's no surprise that the traditional 60th anniversary gift is a diamond. This precious gemstone is a fitting tribute to a rock-solid relationship, symbolizing light, durability and faithfulness. The meaning of Devotion is love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity or cause. Their commitment to each other all these years says a lot about these three couples. So here you will find their love stories.....

#### **Rich and Karen Trokey**

**Married April 29, 1961 in St. Louis, MO at St. Margaret's Catholic Church**

They met on a blind date in St. Louis and didn't take long for them to fall in love and get married when they were 22 and 19. They both had the same interest in cars. Drag racing and stock car racing back then and big sports fans - sports of all kinds – football, baseball, basketball and especially hockey. They are still devoted fans of the St. Louis Blues hockey team.

They were always going to car races NAS Car, Indy 500, Talladega, and season ticket holders at the Texas Motor Speedway. Their enthusiasm in car racing and sporting events gave them both the same thrill.

Karen says “These 60 years haven't been that difficult, as they always got along with each other, and were just an easy-going couple who enjoyed going places and doing things together. “

The Trokey's joined Lone Star Packards in 1995 when friends George and Jackie Bruns were members and encouraged them to get a Packard. After Rich retired from Shell, they were able to really travel and made many overseas trips with friends and have lots of great memories. They have two daughters and six grandkids. They say it has been a really good life and we are blessed with great friends.



St. Louis  
1961

Houston  
2021



#### **Tony and Shirley Darrow**

**Married July 22, 1961 at Capitol Ville Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, OK**

Tony and Shirley met in 1958 when Tony returned from military service. She says she had her eye on him. He asked her to go out for pizza. That first date started their romance. When they married, they had a whopping \$60 in their pockets and a '54 Ford and took off for California and Disneyland!

Soon afterward, the union resulted in 2 children, a daughter and son, and later 4 grandchildren.

Home was in Norman, Oklahoma until Tony graduated from OU, as a Chemical Engineer.

There were many homes along the way in Oklahoma City, Bastrop, La to Houston to London, England and back to Houston where we found a Great Packard Family!



Oklahoma City  
1961



Houston  
2021

**Ron & Juanita Jordan**

**Married June 17, 1961 at First Methodist Church in Hyattsville, Maryland**

Ron and Juanita met the spring of 1960 when Ron had completed his degree in hotel administration at Penn State and was working at a Marriott Hotel in Maryland where he met Juanita who was a senior in elementary education at the University of Maryland and also working at the same Marriott. Their first date was a company picnic at Glen Echo Park and they soon were in love. Engagement was to be on Juanita's birthday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. A heavy snowstorm and a wreck delayed it a few days.

After moving 10 times in 10 years across country with Marriott, they settled in Texas to raise their family. They have 4 children – 2 girls and twin boys. They now have 7 grandchildren – 5 boys and 2 girls.

Ron's first car as a teenager was a Packard and their first 2<sup>nd</sup> car was a Packard. They have owned many 1956 Packards over their married life and named them all. Ron was once Director of LSP and often held meetings at his hotel.

Both their 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries were surprises given by their children.

Their lives have been filled with many blessings, and are thankful for all our family and friends.



Hyattsville, Maryland  
1961



Houston  
2021

**From the Editor:**

If you are celebrating a momentous occasion and would like to share with the club, let us know at [ben.carter47@yahoo.com](mailto:ben.carter47@yahoo.com).

**2021 Calendar of Meetings and Events**

- January** Meeting at Dalton's postponed due to Covid concerns – no meeting
- February 17** Zoom Meeting with PAC President Craig Handley
- March 20** Second Zoom Meeting
- March 27** Hot Wheels and Heroes Car Show Second Baptist Church Katy
- April** Third Zoom Meeting
- May 1** Keels & Wheels in Seabrook where LSP Members were big winners
- May 15** John & Mary Ann Dalton's Ranch in Cleveland for lunch and car collection
- June 26** Joined AACA at Dr. Williams Car Collection & Lunch at Lunas in League City
- July 24** Summer Picnic at Sartin's Car Barn in Katy

**Going on down the road.....**

- August** Shirley Darrow checking on venue
- September 18** Join AACA for Hot Dog and Ice Cream at Spring Creek Park in Tomball
- October** Possible tour of Ed Flemings collection in The Heights
- November** Ole Railroad Café Rosenberg Bob Supina coordinating with local paper
- December** Christmas Party ---- Any Ideas??

## *PACKARDS FOR SALE*

**Are you looking for a Packard? Check these out.**

**Glen Grace** has two '55 400's that he is considering parting with. Contact him at **409-763-0000**.

**Tom Drisdale** would like to sell one of his Packards, preferably the '53 but would consider selling the '40. Contact him at **832-892-8526**.

**Rich & Karen Trokey** are interested in selling their '38 restored coupe. Call **281-371-0498**.

**Dan Becker** would entertain offers on his '40 180 formal sedan. Call him at **281-507-2617**.

**Harold Schmaltz** would like to sell two of his Packards. A '41 120 sedan and '49 8. Call **281-468-3886**.

**Tracy Hammac** will sell his '47 2106 2126 Henney Super Clipper 7 Passenger Sedan. Call him at **713-806-0753**.

Pictures of these Packards can be seen on our website at [www.lonestarpackards.com](http://www.lonestarpackards.com).



Jack's extremely rare Packard hood ornament & antenna



Jack's 1932 Packard



Ben giving membership report



Tommy at the mic!



Happy faces and full tummies!



Shirley, Jan, Rich and Tony



From left guest Mitzi Shaddix, Tommy Lortz, Lonnie Gibson, John and his son John Jr, Shellie & Kevin Lortz

#### Regional Officers

<b>Director:</b>	<b>Tommy Baccaro</b> 832-905-3904
<b>Assistant Director:</b>	<b>John Lortz</b> 832-746-8078
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Tony &amp; Shirley Darrow</b> 832-286-1276
<b>Secretary/Benevolence:</b>	<b>Ron &amp; Patricia Orr</b> 281-342-3855
<b>Membership/Publications:</b>	<b>Ben &amp; Janice Carter</b> 281-341-6595
<b>Activities:</b>	<b>Chris Baccaro</b> 281-796-9131
<b>Historians:</b>	<b>Carol Baccaro</b> <b>Anthony Baccaro</b>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<b>Doug Carlson</b> 281-391-6203
<b>Technical Pre-war:</b>	<b>Leon Ahlers</b> 281-324-9393
<b>Technical Post-war:</b>	<b>John Lortz</b>

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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*It's more than a car...it's a*

**PACKARD**

*ASK THE MAN WHO OWNS ONE  
AND NOW ASK THE WOMAN WHO OWNS ONE*

