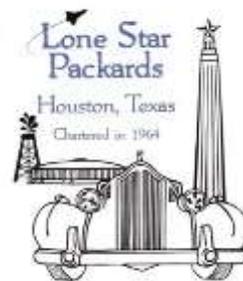


The Owner's Manual

The Official Newsletter of The Lone Star Packards



Spring 2017

2017 Keels & Wheels

By Ben Carter

The 22nd annual Keels & Wheels Concours D' Elegance Boat and Car show was held May 6 & 7. Keels & Wheels has become one of the premier Concours events in the nation with over 300 cars and boats participating. The weather was perfect and The Lakewood Yacht Club was as always, a beautiful setting for the event which benefits the Boys and Girls Harbor. With hundreds of volunteers, this show is very well organized and always exceeds expectations.

Packard automobiles have always had a special place at the show and this year was no exception lining up together under the great oak trees in front of the Yacht Club. The Lone Star Packard Club participated as usual with six beautiful Packards. The Baccaro's showed their 1947 and 1955, the Carter's their 1940, the Lortz's their 1953, the Supina's their 1927 and Jeff Pate showed the Grilli's 1949 which is in the process of complete restoration. Two other club members were registered to show but were unable to make it. The Jordan's 1956 stopped running on the way and the Wanderman's were unable to start their 1942 and had to stay home. Three of the cars that made the show won major awards which are outstanding! Three other club members showed non Packard cars. They were the Matthews, the Mitchells, and Evelyn Timmins.

Altogether there were 9 Packards at the show including a very unusual 1934 Coach-Built Coupe from California, 1937 Rumble Seat Coupe from The Classic Car Club of America, and a 1954 Caribbean from Deer Park.

At the award presentation on Sunday afternoon three of our member's cars were recognized. The Baccaro's 1947 Custom Clipper won the Silver Award, The Carter's 1940 1800 Coupe won Best in Class and the Supina's 1927 Convertible Coupe won Best in Class. Evelyn Timmins presented the 2nd annual Tom Timmins award to Joe Scott for his 1925 Ford T. It was a good year for Lone Star Packard entries with a 50% win ratio. Congratulations to the winners!



continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Keels & Wheels 2017
- 3** Packard Power on Da Bayou & 40th Packard Meet
- 5** Taking Care of Your Ride & State Speed Limits
- 6** Kerrville Photos

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 7** Important Dates & Club Notes

continued from page 1

The 2018 Keels & Wheels event will be May 5 & 6. If you want to show your Packard at the best show in Texas, plan now to bring your car and enjoy the fellowship of other Lone Star Members under the great oaks at the Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook. This is a great charity event. Hope to see you there!



**Keels &
Wheels
May 2017**



Newly Restored Packard Power Launched on Da Bayou

By Steve Wanderman

A Packard restoration taking 5 plus years, a labor of love for a racecar engine specialist, has been completed, and the result is operating Full Speed Ahead. We're talking about the Packard powered, WWII veteran Patrol Torpedo Boat, PT-305, christened "The Sudden Jerk" by her original crew. She is owned and operated by the National WWII Museum in New Orleans and berthed in a specially built boathouse on Lake Pontchartrain.

Last month, the fully restored Higgins built boat was set in the water for the first time in about a decade, and is undergoing "sea trials" and special excursions this month. She will actually be offering rides to the public on the Lake starting in May (perhaps a bit pricey, but a rare opportunity, for sure, and the proceeds go to a great cause.)

There are several good articles online that have been published over the years on the progress of the massive restoration effort. Recently major media coverage was given on the transport of the boat through the streets of New Orleans to get her relaunched. But, the exciting thing for Packard aficionados, not very much emphasized in these stories, is that all three of the original type 12 cylinder, supercharged Packard engines are installed and operating. The plan is to keep the boat and its prime movers in reliable operating condition as part of the Museum's tribute to our WWII (and all) veterans.

I had the good fortune, a number of years ago, to be given a tour of the boat and the restoration facilities, located in downtown NOLA, by the chief engine rebuilder (himself a U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran.) At that time, the boat and the engines were stripped to their respective skeletons. This facility was chosen and arranged specifically to showcase the ongoing work, with large plate glass windows and a corner location to enable the public to follow the work. The engines were refurbished in a backroom workshop, and so were unseen by the public when torn down. To this engineer's eye, they are, unconditionally, mechanical works of art, expressed in bronze, Monel aluminum, stainless steel, and Navy Gray. The machining and fit-and-finish are as fine as can be had, especially considering they are products of 1940s engineering and the exigencies and pressures of wartime production. But then, Packard People would expect nothing less.

As many of you know, there were three of the monster 2500 cu in aluminum alloy engines in each boat. (Two were used in hundreds of similarly designed Air-Sea Rescue boats.) Shaft horsepower was up to 1500 hp per engine by war's end. They could propel the 50+ ton wooden "war yachts" to upwards of 40knots (around 45 land miles per hour) fully loaded with crew and armaments. The PT-305 weighs much less without all the fighting iron aboard, so it will be interesting to see just how fast they might dare to push an unladen boat.

continued on page 4

40th Texas Packard Meet

By Ben Carter



The 40th annual Texas Packard meet was held March 31 to April 2 for the second year at the Inn of the Hills in Kerrville, TX instead of Salado, TX where it was held for more than 30 years. Registration and attendance was down again this year after a drop last year. The extra distance to Kerrville seems to have taken a toll on the number of Packard owners willing to travel all the way. Last year there were 56 master registrations which were down from an average of almost 100 in the recent past.

The Texas Packard Meet has for many years been the oldest and largest regional meet in the nation, at the current rate of decline, that claim may be in jeopardy.

The decline in attendance cannot be blamed on Kerrville or the Inn of the Hills. The facilities are excellent and the car exhibit area is very good. A few positive notes:

1. There were more parts vendors than last year with many more Packard parts for sale. I have been looking for a rare part 2 years that I found in Kerrville.
2. The food was good at the hotel and the complimentary breakfast was great.
3. The hill county was beautiful.

The Friday morning tour was a very nice drive through the countryside around Kerrville toward Fredericksburg. A good number of the Packards made the trip with a stop at Street Dreams, which is a collector car sales facility. Unfortunately the tour ended there with everyone left on their own to find a place to eat in Fredericksburg and find their way back to Kerrville.

The best part of the meet was the approximately 30 beautiful Packards and one Pierce Arrow that were shown. The meet itself was as good as any in the past. Everything from the hospitality suite to hotel arrangements, car show, awards and awards banquet were well done. The volunteers that work so hard to put on the meet are to be congratulated. Their dedication to the meet success hopefully keeps the Texas Packard Meet going for years to come, even though the meet is in Kerrville for another year. Make plans now to attend. The hill country is beautiful. 2018 will be the last year in Kerrville. The meet plans to return to Salado in 2019. Please plan to attend both to keep the Texas Packard Meet going.

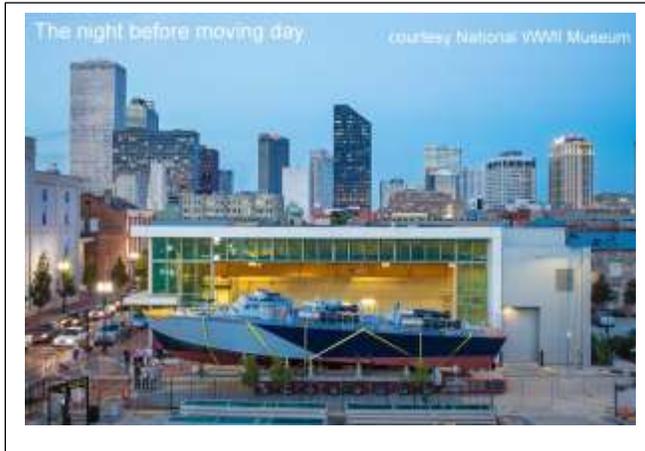
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It is reported that wartime sea trials of the unarmed boats at the Elco Plant in Bayonne, NJ and the Higgins Plant in NO showed performance close to 70 mph on glassy seas. Her sister boat, PT-658, restored several years ago in a wonderfully beautiful and successful effort led by actual PT veterans in Portland Oregon, has non-original postwar 5M2500s, with more horsepower than the 305 boat, but had been limited by the permission of the Coast Guard as to top speed due to structural certification issues, the last this author had heard. The 305 boat was "frame-off," down to basic framing timbers, so we may see it put up a serious rooster tail on the Lake, hopefully before too long, hopefully with those monster Packards howling at full revs.

That's it for now, as we have space limitations, but for further info on Packard PT Boat and aircraft engines, see the late Bob Neal's superb book, Master Motor Builders, as well as our article previously published in The Owner's Manual in the Winter 2011 issue. Also, check out www.PT305.org, and parent National WWII Museum main website.

-Steve Wanderman



TAKING CARE OF YOUR FAVORITE RIDES

KEEP IT COVERED

Rain, wind, and sun are the enemies of classic cars. Prolonged exposure to water promotes the development of rust. Rust will eat away at your car, requiring you to hunt down hard-to-find replacement parts. Direct sunlight can cause excessive heat, which can negatively impact various aspects of your vehicle. The simple act of covering your vehicle or parking it in a garage will shield and protect it from the elements.

REGULAR CHECKUPS

Even the most talented and knowledgeable professionals in any field need a second opinion now and then. If you perform your own car maintenance, you should still have your car checked regularly by a qualified mechanic. It's easy to overlook simple adjustments or repairs that could result in larger problems down the road. Additionally, a professional mechanic may be able to find parts that might be difficult to track down and can often get them at a discounted price.

DETAIL IT

A detail clean is the cornerstone of good car maintenance. By regularly getting down and dirty and cleaning every nook and cranny of your vehicle you can avoid the damaging buildup of dirt and grime. A dirty car can lead to poor performance, rusted parts, and chipping paint. Make sure to rinse and dry your car thoroughly after washing to remove residual soap scum. You also might want to consider adding a coat of wax to protect it from the elements and keep it looking classy.

DRIVE IT

While you might be inclined to safeguard your vintage auto by keeping it locked up in the garage, what's the fun in that? Getting out on the road and showing off your ride isn't only a thrill, but it also keeps it running well! Allowing a car to sit around for prolonged periods of time increases the risk of corrosion and rust and can prevent it from staying in running condition. It's also easier to pinpoint problems when you're zipping around the neighborhood.

It's important to protect your classic car as you would with any other major investment. Not only is it a valuable piece of history, classic cars can increase in value if properly maintained over time.



How are state speed limits determined?

Whenever a new road is built in Texas, the entity constructing the roadway is required to reach out to the Texas Transportation Commission to determine the speed limit for the new road, according to the Texas Department of transportation.

Factors that determine a road's speed limit include the road's length and location, transitions from other speed limits, directional differences, and trial runs of the roadway and the location of regulatory speed limit signs along the road, according to TxDOT.

Local governments hold some control over determining speed limits as well. Cities, counties and other government officials work with TxDOT to conduct traffic and engineering studies and pass local speed ordinances based on TxDOT recommendations. TxDOT Public Information Officer Deidrea George said.

Legislation filed this session could affect speed limits across the state. State Rep Celia Israel, D-Austin, filed House Bill 1368 to lower the prima facie speed limits on urban district roads in Texas from; 30 mph to 25 mph. The prima facie speed limit is the unspoken speed limit on roads without a posted limit.

Proof

A woman went to a lawyer. "My neighbor owes me \$500, and he won't pay up. What should I do?"
"Do you have an IOU for the money?" the lawyer asked. "No, it was just a promise."
"Here's what you do," the lawyer said. "Write him a letter asking for the \$5,000 he owes you."
"But he only owes me \$500," the woman said.
"And when he writes you back to say that you'll have your proof!"

40th Annual Texas Packard Meet: Kerrville 2017



Lone Star Packard Membership Update:

For 2017 we have a total of **88 members and 81 cars**. We are happy to have so many members of LSP, and we would love to see more of you at our meetings. Our members live all over the Houston Metro area and we like to move monthly meetings around Houston and outlining suburbs to make it convenient for everyone. Remember this is your club and we can only keep going if everyone participates. If you have a suggestion for a possible tour or activity that would be fun and interesting, please bring it up at our next meeting or contact Tommy Baccaro at Baccaro3@verison.net.

Recent Past Meetings & Tours – 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

Upcoming meetings - 2017

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

June – we usually have no local meeting due to National Meet

July – Open

August – Open

September - Open

October – Open

November – Open

December – Christmas Lunch/Meeting - Open

April

1 Carol Baccaro
1 Evelyn Timmins
7 Paula Holzband
12 Lisa Sweeney
13 Bob Supina
14 Dixie Grimes
20 Mike Calistrat
21 Douglas Carlson



May

4 Vivian Lortz
7 Chris Baccaro
9 Mike Hoffman
22 Dan Grilli
22 Jamie Baccaro

June

2 Patricia Orr
23 Bob Ess
26 Judy Anderson

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Auctions, swap meets, rallies, misc. that may be of interest to LSP members:

Navy Seal Danny Dietz Memorial Classic & BBQ	May 27	Rosenberg, TX
52 nd National PAC Meet	June 19-23	South Bend, IN
Hill Country Swap Meet	July 29-31	Fredericksburg, TX
Traders Village Swap Meet	Sep 23-24	Traders Village Houston
Humble Swap Meet	Sep 25	Humble Convention Center
Cruisin' the Coast	Oct 6-8	Biloxi, MS
Conroe Swap Meet	Nov 4-6	Montgomery County Fairgrounds

Clever Thoughts

Try some of these one-liners to liven up a conversation:

- I, for one, like Roman numerals."
- "Why do they call it 'insomnia' and not 'resisting a rest'?"
- "I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me."
- "If a clock is still hungry after one serving, it just goes back four seconds."

Lone Star Packards Website:

Don't forget to utilize our LSP website. Send Doug Carlson a picture of your Packard. This is an excellent site to sell or search for car parts. Car enthusiasts from around the globe are checking out our website.

www.lonestarpackards.com

Email Doug at ggccdrive@aol.com

THE NEW **PACKARD**



America's
New Choice
In
Fine Cars

A New Choice in fine cars is a welcome addition to the line of thousands of cars and trucks of a new and better era, because of functional and modern design for maintenance of a single choice.

These men and women want and need better, a fine car that is different from those with a package of quality and a history of maintenance record to name in all the world.

Many things, of course, have contributed to Packard's reputation and success—change in national economic policy, which is actually being the trend in automobile change today. A more solid design in the New Packard with more and more features and parts that make it help you see the road ahead, and inside you, more clearly than

ever before—practical all-around performance, better economy, maintenance and more rugged capacity.

Center styling, the glass and Packard's style stability that will reflect your personality in a higher level of performance for a new model in the years to come.

But you who have driven Packard's know full well that nothing in style or pleasure will take the place of actually driving a Packard. This new line is yours now by and it is here again today—the New Packard, with the famous Packard eight, power steering, power brake and 120 horses, is only the great new one with the good old name.

Your Packard dealer will put a new car at your disposal at any time.

Now Ask The Man Who Owns One

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- Acting Director: Tommy Baccaro
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- Assistant Director: John Lortz
832-746-8078
- Treasurer: Rich & Karen Trokey
281-371-0498
- Secretary/Benevolence: Janice Musgrove
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- Membership/Publications: Ben & Janice Carter
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- Activities: Chris Baccaro
281-796-9131
- Historians: Carol Baccaro
Anthony Baccaro
- Webmaster: Doug Carlson
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