

The Owner's Manual

The Official Newsletter of The Lone Star Packards



Summer 2018

Director's Corner

Greetings to our Lone Star family

After no meeting in July due to the National, I am looking forward to catching up with everyone at our August 19th meeting at Red River BBQ in League City.

I covered the National pretty well in another section of the OWNERS MANUAL so maybe this is a good time to up-date everyone on Salado preparations. With the help of the other region directors, plans have been moving along steadily almost since the day we left Kerrville. As mentioned at our last meeting, The Holiday Inn Express is our meet hotel and we have negotiated a reasonable rate and signed contracts for the different meeting rooms for our various needs. I encourage everyone to please make your reservations now as we guaranteed 30 rooms to start off, but the manager is moving a room to our block every time one of the original 30 is booked. We could sell out the hotel! **REMINDER**, you cannot call the 1 800 number to reserve your room and get the special rate. **You must call the Salado Holiday Inn Express directly at 254.947.4004** and ask for a room in the Texas Packard meet block. For those that arrive early on Thursday, we have tentative plans for an ice cream social and "Packard Bingo."

Gordon Logan will again come up with an early bird tour Friday morning but due to a business commitment, he will be unable to attend. David Miller, the Heart of Texas director will lead the tour following Gordon's directions. Gordon was unable to attend in Kerrville and David took his place then as well. On Friday night we will have a mixer at the brewery which opened in town since we were in Salado four years ago. If the ground allows we will park next to the creek and enjoy the brewery and food trucks along with the regular Friday night crowd of locals.

As of late we have been taking bids from caterers for our Saturday night dinner and awards program. The directors voted to continue in the buffet format we had last year instead of a sit down dinner. Based on the bids, we have decided to work with Johnny's Steaks and BBQ. Not only was their bid compatible with our needs but they have catered several affairs in the civic center. I think it will be a reasonable charge per person. Currently I am tweaking the bid with some requirements I think we need.

I was asked at the last meeting what the membership could do to help me regarding the TPM. Right now we are just trying to get all the major components of the meet planned.

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One thing you can do is to help us out in planning the monthly activities of LSP. **Activity Director Chris** works every other Saturday and is on call when he is not there. He gets home between 6 and 7 nightly and I think you know how much time I am devoting to Salado. We have August planned but still do not have a September activity.

In October our official meeting will be **Lenny's Car Show on Sunset Blvd. benefiting the Houston Food Bank.**

The Darrow's suggested they were willing to lead a group to the "Scarecrow Festival" close to Brenham.

Early November is traditionally reserved for our fall tour when the weather is cooler. I saw something on one of those Texas Travel shows about Anderson, Texas. It is out beyond Montgomery and maybe we could tour up that way, find a place to eat, and then see if our friend and member, Richard Mitchell, might let us tour his shop again in Montgomery. We could skip Anderson altogether and visit the Gullo Museum in the morning and then ask Richard if we could see his place in the afternoon. If someone would take on the responsibility of following up on these or come up with something else it would be most appreciated.

The December meeting will be our Christmas/Holiday party and plans are already underway in the Katy area.

In January we have tentative plans to return to the Hemi Hideout as arranged by the **Orr's**. Nothing scheduled yet for February or March. Let us know if you would like to take on one of these months.

In local news, **Janice Musgrove** is trying to sell the '55 400 that Dale did not get to finish before his health faded. I know he did the engine work, put in a new interior and fixed the power windows. From memory, I think it is all back together with the exception of the left front fender. It probably has not been started in a couple of years but do not think it would take much to get it going.

Also, **Ann Stebenne** is selling their 1940 120 coupe. Most of you know this Laguna Maroon coupe and it is a really nice driver. Give Ann or Janice a call if interested in either car.

Looking forward to seeing everyone August 19, at Red River BBQ and then our house following.

Happy Packarding, Tommy

IMPOSSIBILITIES IN THE WORLD

- 1) You can't count your hair.
- 2) You can't wash your eyes with soap.
- 3) You can't breathe through your nose when your tongue is out.

Put your tongue back in your mouth, you silly person.



July Birthdays:

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 11 | Steve Slaughter |
| 17 | Todd Bates |
| 17 | Ron Orr |
| 25 | Maureen Carlson |
| 31 | Shirley Darrow |

August Birthdays:

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 2 | Pam Ahlers |
| 19 | Ron Scarbro |
| 21 | Dee Wanderman |
| 29 | Bill Anderson |
| 29 | Pauletta Jeter |

September Birthdays

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 3 | Martha Roberts |
| 5 | Gregg Jeter |
| 10 | Bailey Pate |
| 13 | John Lortz |
| 15 | Janice Carter |
| 15 | Cathy Grilli |
| 19 | Jamie Roberts |
| 25 | Doyle Hinds |
| 25 | Richard Mitchell |

We all need a laugh once in a while.....

Ten (10) Things I know about you.

- 1) You are reading this.
- 2) You are human.
- 3) You can't say the letter "P" without separating your lips.
- 4) You just attempted to do it.
- 6) You are laughing at yourself.
- 7) You have a smile on your face and you skipped No. 5.
- 8) You just checked to see if there is a No. 5.
- 9) You laugh at this because you are a fun loving person & everyone does it too.
- 10) You are probably going to share this to see who else falls for it.

2018 Packard Automobile Classics National Meet July 1 - 6

Article and Photos by Tommy, Carol & Anthony Baccaro

The National Meet was held in Dublin, Ohio which is a suburb of Columbus. The Meet hotel was the Marriot Northwest and there was ample secure parking for the Packards. I did not take a count, however I believe there were more than fifty Packards in attendance but several were not judged. The host region was "Buckeye Packards" under the leadership of our friend **George Holinga**.

George is also a board member and he has attended the Texas Packard Meet several times and actually attended one of our LSP meetings last year with **Mike Grimes**. The folks in the hospitality room really went out of their way to make us welcome and to learn all of our names. They even provided games in case the grandchildren wanted to play. **Mike Grimes and Jerry Ehrman**, members of LSP were also in attendance.

I did learn one big lesson about flying across the country. Plan your schedule to give yourself time for any airline problems!

We planned our flight so that we would leave Hobby Monday, 7/2 at 7:05 AM, making a connecting flight in Nashville and arriving in Columbus at 12:30 PM. We would miss two tours to private collections on Monday morning but be there in plenty of time for the evening dinner and program at 6:30. Our plane moved to the runway at Hobby waiting for approval to take off, we were advised after some time there was an a/c issue and they were trying to fix it. A little while later they said they found the reset button and all was fine and we would be in the air shortly. We waited longer and finally were told the problem was reported in the earlier flight so we were returning to the gate to get onto another plane. By this time we would have missed our connection in Nashville. Instead we had to wait a couple of hours to get a flight to Baltimore after a stop in Charlotte. Once we got to Baltimore, we came in to terminal "A" and our tickets showed terminal "C" gate 9. That was about a twelve minute walk with only a small part covered by a moving walkway. A 12 minute walk for some turned out to be at least 15 minutes for us! When we got there no one was at that gate. I asked the first official I could find and she advised us that our flight had been moved to the "B" terminal gate 15; we retraced half of our long walk and finally made the connection.

We arrived in Columbus around 6:30 PM and you guessed it, all three bags were missing. Southwest assured us they would deliver them to our hotel. Through their computer search they were found in Florida (many of our original fellow passengers were headed to Nashville and they had been rerouted to Orlando and our bags evidently went with them!) I told the hotel to call me no matter what time it was when the bags arrived. I got the call at 3:30 AM. Tuesday morning and Anthony and I went down to get them. Luckily, my nephew had advised us to take our meds with us in our carry on so we were fine in that regard. **Chris and family** drove to Ohio and they arrived around the time we had planned to be there, so they all got to attend the welcome dinner.

Following the dinner, **George Holinga** gave a detailed account on how he acquired the 1947 Custom Clipper formerly owned by Al Capone. It was an interesting story as retold to me by Chris.

Despite being up at 3:30 in the morning, we made the great breakfast buffet at the Marriot and boarded the bus at 8 AM for the approximately 70 mile trip to Dayton where we visited the United States Air Force Museum as well as America's Packard Museum. My seat mate was my granddaughter Gianna and we both took a nap on the way. We had been to Dayton in the early 90's in conjunction with another PAC meet but did not visit the Air Force Museum that time. My college roommate had been a pilot in Vietnam told me several years ago that I really missed a treat so this visit I was happy to go. We spent less than 4 hours browsing but you could spend two or more whole days there! One of my favorite exhibits was the Presidential Planes. They had every plane on display from Roosevelt through Johnson. Interestingly, the aircrafts that carried the president were not always known as Air Force One. FDR was the first American president to fly over seas to Casablanca to meet with Allied leaders during the war. I don't believe his plane actually had a nick name. At least it was not painted on the fuselage as were the others. Harry Truman's plane was named The Independence after his home town in Missouri.



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Back Together Again

By Ben Carter

For many years Lone Star Packards participated in the car show at the Covey Trails Airport in Fort Bend County. This was a fun show in October hosted by Bob and Gail Supina. It has not been held for several years. On one of the last years the event was held, Rich Trokey was driving his 1938 Packard Coupe to the show followed by Bernie Stebenne in his Model A Ford. On the way the Packard threw a rod and blew a hole in the engine ending Rich's participation in Packard events for a long time.

After doing a lot of checking, Rich was able to find a man in Waco that could repair the hole in the engine. He took the engine to Ken Stanford at Centex Welding who was able to weld a repair patch in the cast iron block. Rich then took the engine to Vilas Motor Works in Bryan for additional engine work and assembly. Sounds good right?

After returning the engine to his garage in Katy where the car was sitting with the front disassembled, the car sat for several years with not much progress, although other members of LSP kept asking when it was going to be finished.

This year it finally happened! With the help of LSP members led by Doug Carlson, Rich's Packard is back together again.

Several other members showed up to help including Jack Sartin, Bill Anderson, Ron Scarbro and Ben Carter. Doug and Rich did most of the important work.

We were all happy to see Rich drive the Coupe to the June meeting.



Lone Star Packard Meetings & Tours in 2018

January 20 – Hal Naumann's Shop Tomball, TX

February 17 - Spring Creek BBQ League City hosted by Chris & Jamie Baccaro

March 18 – Los Cucos in Kingwood hosted by Ron & Juanita Jordan and John & Vivian Lortz

April 5-7 – 43rd Packard Meet – Kerrville, TX – no local meeting

May 19 – Spaghetti Western Restaurant in Houston with guest speaker from Hagerty Insurance Company

June 16- BBQ and covered dish at Sartin's Car Barn in Katy, TX.

July – no local meeting – National Packard Meeting in Columbus, OH

August 19 – Red River BB in League City hosted by Tommy, Carol & Anthony Baccaro

Upcoming Meetings & Tours – 2018

September – Open

October – Lenny's Car Show

November – Open – Fall Tour

December – Christmas Lunch in Katy and dessert at Sartin's



Mike Grimes forwarded this picture from the Packard Proving Grounds showing the memorial our club purchased in honor of Dale. We all miss him and know that he will always be remembered at the PPG.

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President Eisenhower's plane was named the Columbine, and I think the Air Force One designation may have begun with Kennedy and then Johnson. Before Air Force One, the presidential planes had all been propeller driven. In walking through the planes, I was somewhat surprised at just how simple and small the planes carrying FDR and Truman had been. Truman's was obviously an improvement and Ike's was a big improvement over it. The rest of the museum was divided into various sections dedicated to the Wright brothers and each military conflict our country was involved in going back to the early fighting machines of WWI.

After a quick lunch in the museum, we boarded our buses for the short trip to America's Packard Museum. As stated earlier, we had attended a National Meet in Dayton in the early 90's. The Packard museum was very young at the time and not nearly as big as today. If you are a Packard enthusiast, you have to see this museum. It is at least twice the size of when we saw it before and has Packards ranging from the teens to 1956. Just guessing as I forgot to count but pretty close to a hundred cars. They have a number of celebrity cars including Perry Como's red Caribbean which they loaned us for Keels and Wheels, famed speed boat builder Gar Woods' 1935 12 cylinder, as well as the hearse used in the movie God Father. Al Capone's Packard that I mentioned earlier has now been donated to the museum and it will soon be on permanent display. In fact Dan, the curator, has already offered to let us have it for K & W if we like. I am also on the trail of the '48 almost identical to ours that Hank Williams used to haul his band around during his early days, but getting conflicting reports as to which museum it is in. A long shot is one of Jack Benny's Packards. Am told it is in the possession of a well-known collector but I have not tried to contact him yet. With all the time I am spending on Salado, may not get around to following up.

Jerry and I attended a trustee meeting. I attended the regional director's meeting.

At the trustee meeting the subject of dues was discussed. The national dues are currently \$40 annually and it runs from when you pay to a year from that date. For that fee, you get 16 publications. That includes the 4 Packard Cormorant slick covered magazines with color and the 12 black and white multi page Cormorant news Bulletins, sometimes referred to as the CNB. The CNB, like the Cormorant has pictures and articles but also a calendar of events, cars and parts for sale and more. The dues have not been raised in nearly 20 years, and you know how the rising postal rates have affected the club.

The trustees approved a \$5 raise several years ago but it was never implemented. This board approved an additional \$3 raise so in January dues will go up to \$48

Considering how many publications you get, plus the big PAC Roster you get every two years and access to the website and all it offers to support the members, it will still be a bargain! The national insurance policy can also cover us during tours if we request the waiver. I know we have some members that have not kept their national dues current for whatever reason. I hope you will consider doing so now because it will be \$48 in January.

At the regional director's meeting, **Mark Wilson (director of North Texas)** and I promoted the Texas Packard Meet 2019.

We also heard from several of the regions regarding their membership and activities. I am convinced we are doing things right and we are probably one of the most active of the regions. Several regions have over 100 members but they are the only region in their state. We maintain our numbers around 50 families and have been fortunate enough to pick up several members young enough to not be on Medicare yet! Some of the regions do not have publications. I was proud to tell everyone that our club is fortunate to have two outstanding publications that keep us all informed and an awesome website.



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Member Highlight - Jerry Ehrman & His Packards

by Janice Carter

Jerry first got interested in Packards back in September 1969 while working in Parkersburg, W. VA. He came home from work one day and found a woman from across the street talking to his wife Nancy. She wanted to know if they knew anyone who would want an old Packard. It wasn't hers, but belonged to a friend. He told her he would be glad to talk to some people about the car as they might be interested. He would take a look at it sometime. Later that evening the neighbor came back to say Mrs. Mary Virginia Baker will see you at 6:30! So Jerry went to Mrs. Mary Virginia Bakers at 6:30 and found a brand new Chevrolet in the driveway. He asked where's the Packard? She replied in the garage and when the garage door opened, there was a 1950 8 Deluxe Packard Sedan. It had a lot of rust on its rear quarter panel and a gash in the door, which she caused by hitting a fire hydrant, and this convinced her she could no longer drive the Packard – hence the new Chevy sitting in the driveway.

She told him to take a drive, but he would only drive if she rode with him. He started the car and a large cloud of blue gray smoke came out the back and followed them all the way on their drive and back to her house. She said Mr. Ehrman do you want to buy this car? Jerry told Mrs. Mary Virginia Baker "I could not afford to give you what this car is worth" (he thought it would be worth \$800.) Mrs. Mary Virginia Baker said you did not answer my question Mr. Ehrman! I told her I have \$150 saved up, but your car is worth more than that. She replied, "Mr. Ehrman my husband bought this new, but he was a short man and could not see over the instrument panel very well and drove it once." She did not want some punk buying it and turning it into a hot rod! She was thinking \$200 so if you split the difference with me, the car is yours. So this 27 year old kid got out maneuvered by a 76 year old woman. After telling Nancy about this find she agreed to the purchase. The car had 48,263 miles on it as it had been driven to Atlanta once.

He started restoring the car and did most of the body work, all mechanical and had it painted. In 1974 it won 3rd in class at the Texas Tour.. He kept this car until February, 1987. Jerry joined PAC Classics after buying the first Packard.

He heard about Salado and went there in 2001 or maybe 2002. He had gone to the Packard National Meet held in Houston at NASA and attended the car show held at Lakewood Yacht Club and found out about our organization. After that he decided to join our Lone Star Packard Club in early 2000's. He was elected to the National Board of the PAC in 2016.

Jerry graduated from Notre Dame with an engineering degree, and MBA from University of Pittsburgh. He started out as an engineer at DuPont in Parkersburg, PA in 1964 and got into management and stayed there. Worked mainly in

plastics and retired in 2007 after 42-1/2 years in 8 different company locations. He was transferred to Orange, TX in 1994 where he still lives.

They have six children – Rick, Tim, Julie, Missy, Amy and Emily (his late life blessing!) and now he is blessed with 20 grandchildren. Remarkable that he sent all six children to Norte Dame where all graduated. What a dad! His wife Nancy was diagnosed with frontal temporal dementia in 2006 and spent four years in assisted living memory care facility in Beaumont until her death in 2013. Jerry worked, raised these kids and drove back and forth to Beaumont to visit Nancy. This could not have been easy on him, but he has a great attitude and always a smile.

Jerry now has three Packards:

1949 Super 8 Convertible Victoria - which was former member Gene Oeding's car

1953 Caribbean Convertible he has had since 1973 and is currently undergoing restoration at Jeff Pate's Houston Classic cars.

1956 Patrician 4 Door Sedan - which is close to being road worthy

Jerry hosted one of our favorite fall tours a few years ago in Orange, TX. Our tours included the Stark Mansion and Museum and a visit to [Shangri La](#) an amazing botanical gardens and nature center. Shangri La has been closed since Hurricane Harvey and may reopen in September. These would be awesome places to visit again in either the spring or fall.

If you have not met Jerry, introduce yourself to this delightful, affable guy. He has a lot of knowledge to share.



Photos from National Packard Meet in Columbus, Ohio



Swap Meet



WWII Military



Judging Day



George Holinga as Al Capone & Al Capone's car



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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