



LONE STAR PACKARDS NEWS ALERT



July, 2022

Issue 2

CONGRATULATIONS TOMMY BACCARO!!

The National Packard Meet was held July 4-9 in Old Town Alexandria, VA. At their closing banquet Saturday evening the awards are announced. We are proud to broadcast our **Director, Tommy Baccaro**, had the distinguish honor of being inducted into the

PACKARD CLUB HALL OF FAME.

This is his acceptance speech sent to PAC President Craig Handley...

"I am very humble and thankful to be included in this group. I also need to thank our region members as our contributions not only to the Texas Meet but also the hosting of two national meets, our participation in securing a PT boat engine for the Nimitz Museum, monetary contributions to the Packard Proving Grounds plus many events in the Houston area that has kept the Packard name alive could not have happened without their support.

In addition to our involvement with every Lone Star Region activity, our family has been involved in one way or another in the Texas Packard Meet since it was conceived by the late Lone Star Packard director, John Belmar. In the fall of 1976, there was a LSP officer's meeting in John's home. (At the time I was the publicity chairperson, but the last four years I was the meet chairman.) John suggested instead of continuing the reciprocal visits with the then P.I. chapter in San Antonio, we include the Dallas group and meet in a central location. After discussions with San Antonio and Dallas clubs, Salado was chosen as the most central meet site. Years later we were joined by the new Arklatex Region.

Despite the many obstacles during the past few years, the meet has survived for 43 years. Contracts have been signed and plans well under way for the 44th meet March 30 to April 3, 2023, in historic Salado, Texas.

Our family is so sorry we were unable to attend this year. Packard has always been a part of my life since I was a small child as the first car, I ever rode in was a 1941 120 Deluxe.

Hope to see some of you next year and thanks again for such a great honor."

Happy Packarding, Tommy Baccaro

HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

Since this is a special edition, we are including an article Tommy wrote in response to a question from a couple of members.

At our recent club picnic, two members of our region asked me to help them understand **Why IS LSP Successful?** Both belong to other clubs who they don't feel are as active and whose membership is declining. In some cases, members are passing and are not being replaced by new members. I would not be so presumptive to tell someone how to run their club. It is hard enough keeping LSP on track! Our active club would not be possible without our "Worker Bees" to whom I am most grateful! However, I have no problem listing the different factors that seem to be keeping our region successful for the last 58 years.

BUILDING MEMBERSHIP:

Many of our members, including yours truly, easily fit the senior citizen description, Unfortunately, it is sad but natural for some of those members to pass. Without much reflection, I can count at least six active members in the last few years that we have mourned. However, aggressive recruiting helps us remain around 50 families yearly. At our last meeting a new person with a 1950 sedan accepted an invitation from a member and we are looking forward to him joining. Another couple who joined recently made their first meeting and promised to bring their 1937 Packard when the temperature cools off.

The director cannot do all the recruiting. It is essential that there is a membership director that looks for leads and follows up on them. For instance, when our national club, Packard Automobile Classics, publishes a roster, we look it over for anyone that may live in the Houston/Gulf Coast area that does not belong to LSP. That name is passed along to our membership director who has probably already done the same research and one or both of us will send that person an invitation.

Over the years, we have picked up several new folks that remain active. In addition, some Packard owners, for whatever reasons, belong to the generic clubs like AACA, CCCA, local cruise clubs etc. We have found that some don't know there is a Packard Club nearby! If you belong to one of those clubs or have friends who are, scan their membership list occasionally for Packard owners.

I am also a strong believer of "grow your own members". When my oldest son first attended the Texas Packard meet, he sat in a highchair at the dinner. Today he is married with three children and a '56 Patrician in his garage. Our younger son maintains the club Facebook page and furnishes a lot of pictures for our publications. We encourage members to bring their kids and grandkids to meetings. One of our member's grandsons is in his early 20's and he just bought a '53 Clipper. For a long time one of our members and his wife would bring their grandchildren. Then their son and daughter-in-law joined with their son. Now his brother and his family, and his cousin has joined. So, ours is truly a family-oriented club. At a recent meeting, we had five young people in their teens and a young lady about to enter 3rd grade! Bring your kids and grandkids to the meetings! It does pay off!

CONSISTENT MEETINGS & OUTINGS:

Regular scheduled meetings are important. With few exceptions, our members can count on getting together on the 3rd weekend of every month. LSP membership spans from the Huntsville area all the way to Orange and south to Galveston. Even if we picked a central meeting location, most of our members would have a healthy drive. Therefore, we move the meetings around the greater Houston area. In addition to assuring that the same people do not have to drive a great distance every month., you often see older Packards that nearby owners would not like to drive across town in congested Houston traffic.

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COMMUNICATION:

Ideally communication calls for a website and a newsletter. Our website has a bulletin board, classified section, member's cars gallery, club history, and information on how to join. You need a member that will step up to this task, and we are very fortunate that we do and he does an excellent job.

The national website has a list of the regions with their contact info as well as website for the regions that have them. The national link to our website has produced several members over the years. It is a big plus if you have someone willing to set it up and maintain it for the region.

The importance of the monthly newsletter cannot be overstated! Our newsletter, ***THE OWNER'S MANUAL***, is very informative with pictures of the previous meeting, articles, director's comments, a calendar of coming events, monthly birthdays, and anything else our editor feels is important. We were recently informed that our newsletter got a first place in competition with the newsletters of the other regions of the National Packard Club. For several years now, the newsletter has strictly been an electronic publication. Printing and postage in previous years was a tremendous expense, doing it all online allowed us to cut our dues in half!

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

We also keep our club in the public's eyes by doing numerous public service events. We have strong representation at the annual Keels and Wheels show in Seabrook which benefits local charities.

Several years ago, we had our cars on display at Moody Gardens in Galveston for the celebration of the Boy Scouts 100th anniversary on the island. We once did a show for the Marines 'Toys for Tots' program. We have also displayed our Packards at two different nursing homes so the residents could come out and reminisce.

Just recently we displayed at a program for the local history museum. The museum then put pictures of our cars on their website expanding our exposure even more. You just need to keep looking for places to visit and show your Packard.

We have about six families who live in Ft Bend County. therefore, once a year we meet at a restaurant in the historic district of Rosenberg. The local paper is contacted and that has resulted in a front-page story on our club at least twice!

In summary there are several key elements to a successful club, at least successful for us.

1. One is to meet regularly on a specific weekend that all can mark on their calendar.
2. Another is to have good communication with members. Ideally that would mean a newsletter, website, and or Facebook page. An email from the director or secretary summarizing the last meeting, giving news about an individual member, or mentioning who has a Packard for sale is very helpful.
3. Finding ways to keep our club and Packards in the public eye also helps a lot. For a couple of years, we did not have an editor. To fill the gap, we sent out a summary of the meeting each month and mentioned what cars were for sale, and anyone who might be needing help with their Packard.

Again, I have no intention of telling folks what to do. We were simply asked by two of our members why we were successful and other clubs they belonged to did not enjoy the same level of success.

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I sat down and tried to think of all the things we do, some of which were passed down by previous members and directors and share them with anyone who is interested.

Hopefully the two members who started my reflection will share some ideas with other groups. Our club (region) is in its 58th year so we are doing something right.

ONE THING TOMMY DID NOT MENTION AND I THINK IS ESSENTIAL:

LEADERSHIP:

If you want your antique car club to be active, you must have a director that knows how to lead. It is great that the director loves antique cars – especially Packards, after all that is why all of you joined in the first place. But a good leader has to be honest and trustworthy, bring positive energy and have a readiness to listen to others' ideas. A willingness to delegate, have a commitment and passion for the club, and have stability so others can count on him.

It takes more than scheduling meetings. A leader has to be someone who is willing to put in the time and effort it takes to hold this family of Packard owners together. **NO CLUB CAN SUCCEED WITHOUT A GOOD LEADER.**

I took the liberty of adding the above ... Janice

At this time, I would truly like to thank you all for joining LSP and those that are always participating as much as possible in our activities. Our club would not work at all if no one showed up!

Especially a huge thanks to those that stepped up to serve in a club position or Texas Packard Meet - Doug Carlson, John Lortz, Tony & Shirley Darrow, Patricia Orr, Ben & Jan Carter, Chris Baccaro, Carol & Anthony Baccaro, Rena Sartin and Leon Ahlers.

And for those that volunteer to host or plan a monthly meeting. This is the best help of all!

Forgot to mention the winner of our 50/50 drawing in the first July OM. **Bill Anderson** was the lucky winner and took home \$50. This little activity each month puts a few more dollars in our treasury and someone goes home with a little extra cash in their pocket.

WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER

Let's welcome our newest member
Reed Simpson
of Tomball

He owns a 1941 modified Packard
8-cylinder 120 Touring Sedan

He has some other cars and plans to attend the August 20 meeting, and he has an August birthday. Double treat for him!

Oh yeah, he found LSP on our website

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Adding Reed's 1941 Packard gives us a total of:

50 Pre-War
49 Post War
99 Total Packards

We have 54 families and a total of 100 people!

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Gerald "Jerry" Ehrman
January 29, 1942 – July 3, 2022

It is with deep sadness we tell you that our dear friend and LSP member Jerry Ehrman passed away at his home in Orange, TX on July 3.

Those that knew Jerry know what an extraordinarily kind, helpful, compassionate Christian man he was. He was an intelligent and affable guy that loved antique cars – especially Packards. He served as a board member for the National PAC.

Jerry was a beloved employee at DuPont Chemical Company for over forty years with the position of Vice President before retiring. His obituary has many messages from former employees that relate what a fine gentleman he was. You may also leave a message at Dorman Funeral Home website.

In his retirement years, he was an amazing volunteer as a board member for Southeast Texas Hospice, and a faithful member of the Knights of Columbus Council 13825. He devoted hours of his time to both St. Francis of Assisi Church, and St. Mary Catholic School. He knew how to fix things and was always volunteering to make repairs as needed.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Nancy.

He is survived by his six children: Rick Ehrman and his wife Lori, Tim Ehrman and his wife Amy, Julie Ehrman Whalen and her husband Dr. PJ Whalen, Missy Ehrman Palmer and her husband Colonel Ian Palmer, Amy Ehrman Boehme and her husband David, and Emily Ehrman McAulay and her husband Andrew. He is also survived by 20 grandchildren.

Viewing is at St. Francis Assisi Catholic Church, 4300 Meeks Drive in Orange, Thursday, July 14 from 4:30pm until 6:30pm, followed by a wake service and rosary. Funeral Mass is Friday, July 15 at 2:30pm at St. Francis Assisi Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary Catholic School in Orange, St. Francis of Assisi Church in Orange, or Southeast Texas Hospice in Orange. LSP will decide which organization will receive our donation.

We will miss you Jerry

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Still trying to sell your Packard and no buyer yet? Here's an idea:

Ben had success selling Rich Trokey's Packard for Karen. He placed an ad in the *PAC magazine*, and the day the magazine came out; he had an email inquiring about the car. The guy wanted it and Karen approved the deal. Rich's car left Houston, but it found a really, really good home. The buyer has been in touch with Karen and the car has already been out to car shows again.

After the sale was done, Ben had two other guys calling wanting to buy the car. This magazine reaches thousands of Packard enthusiasts. There are lots of people looking for a Packard. It helps to expand your market area.



Don't just describe it, show it!

Have a photo ad published for just \$10 per issue.

Photos returned only if accompanied by a SASI

Make check payable to "The Packard Club" and mail to:
4620 Briarwood Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48073.

Another idea is Facebook Market Place. This is where Stephen Morris found his latest Packard – a 1953 Mayfair.



It's hot – really hot in Texas these days. So hot I have been telling everyone I am hibernating. Go outside either early morning or late afternoon when sun is setting. Then one day watching JEOPARDY, a question was asked "What do you call hibernating in summer. "

Answer: What is ESTIVATE. That is correct. I have never heard of this word, so I checked Wikipedia and there it was.

Estivation = similar to hibernation, although taking place in the summer rather than the winter. So now you know. The next time someone asks you what you've been doing – say I am estivating. Believe me – they will not know what you are talking about.

Just tell your friends from up north that we don't have to shovel heat. Stay cool – Janice