



# The Owner's Manual/Newsletter

Official Publication of The Lone Star Packards



December 2022

Issue 10

## Director's Corner

Greetings LSP family!

Wow, what great meeting Sunday, Dec. 4th, at the Pueblo Viejo in Porter, Texas. We had a total of 46 and there were **9 beautiful Packards in the parking lot**. Thanks to all who brought a Packard. **Tommy Lortz brought his '53 Clipper**, his mom and dad brought the **'56 Patrician**, **Lonnie** brought the **'55 Clipper hard top**, **Stephen and Lyn brought their '53 hardtop**, **John brought the '53 convertible**, and we brought our trusty **'55 Clipper Custom**. New members **Maria and Alton Hues** brought their fabulous **1940 180 formal limo** which originally belonged to actor Brian Dunlevy (people my age remember Dunlevy as Boston Blackie). We are working on a possible visit to see the Hues' collection. **Alton** also shared that he has a friend with a Packard and he will probably join as well. **Reed Simpson** brought his **'41 modified 120** to its first LSP meeting. Speaking of **Reed**, he joined our group in June, 2022 and has not missed a meeting since!

**The Lortz family** was responsible for setting up our Christmas get together. **John Jr and Donna** did a great job

*Continued on page 2*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Directors Corner Continued, New Members
- 3** Director Corner Continued, Pictures
- 4** Dec. Birthdays, 2023 Dues Announcement
- 5** Pictures from Sunday
- 6** Homeless Packard, Gabby's story
- 7** See Ya on the Road  
Pg 8-9 Tommy's Packard Story

May this time of year brighten your spirits and bring to mind happy holidays past and future. Whether you celebrate **Christmas** or **Hanukkah** Best wishes to all from Lone Star Packards

*continued from page 1*

decorating and several activities and drawings for prizes. I know we all appreciate their efforts.

**Rena and Jack** once again entertained us with a Christmas sing along. Most were standards we all know but just in case they made song sheets available. (My granddaughter **Gianna** helped **Rena** pass the sheets around) Everyone enjoyed the sing along!

As usual, **the Carters** were busy giving out badges, recognizing birthdays, taking pictures and keeping us aware of our growing membership.

We discussed there is nothing definite yet for January and February, However, **Leon and Alton** are working on a tour to see **Alton and Maria's** collection which is in Richards, Texas. **Rena** has an idea for something in the Navasota area maybe in the Spring. Of course, Salado is coming up in April and Keels and Wheels will follow the first weekend of May. If you have some ideas, please contact Chris or me with your suggestion. We had our monthly 50/50 drawing resulting in **Lonnie Gipson** getting \$70 in spending money and another \$70 going to the club treasury.

Speaking of the treasury, we voted to approve a suggestion made by the **Darrow's'** to suspend dues for 2023 for all those who are currently paid up. A few of our members paid multiple years in advance and **Tony** will keep track of those folks. Anyone who joins our club in the 2023 year will pay the normal \$10 fee. As a side note, this means Jan can publish a roster much quicker than she has in the past as we don't have to wait on dues coming in. It is my recommendation that the dues resume for 2024 because we will want to make another donation to the Packard Proving Grounds restoration fund during that year and there may be some expenses relating to a special banquet celebrating our 60th anniversary as a region of the Packard Club. We celebrated our 50th club anniversary at the Monument Inn and I would suggest we go back

Continued on page 3



### *Welcome New Members*

Alton and Maria Hues. They live in Richards, TX and have a 1940 8-cylinder Formal Sedan, and 1927 8-cylinder Dual Windshield Packards.

They are inviting us to visit their ranch soon.

### **LSP December Membership Report**

We have **54** families and a total of **101** people on our roster.

**52 Pre-War**  
**45 Post War**  
**96 Total Packards**

Email Ben if you have acquired another Packard or let one go. Also, any other information that needs to be changed. We want to keep our records as accurate as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

Continued from page 2

there for the 60th. The last time, the club did underwrite the meal expense by paying the tax and gratuities.

With our newest couple joining, **Ben** reported we now have 54 families and 101 Packards! They may not all be running but I think it is clear that the Lone Star region is doing its part to keep the Packard legend alive.

Don't forget to send your registration to **Rena** for the 44th annual Texas Packard Meet. Also, it is important you make your room reservation as well. We would like to have all participants that want to stay at the host hotel get a room. People attempting to make late registrations ended up elsewhere last year.

*I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, and Happy Packarding... Tommy*



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## December Birthdays

- 4 Tracy Hammac
- 7 Donna Lortz
- 8 Ben Carter
- 8 Mary Ann Dalton
- 8 Robert Taylor
- 11 Jill Burtchaell
- 18 Kevin Lortz
- 18 Mary Matthews
- 21 Terry Scott
- 27 Jack Sartin



Front row: left to right - Mary Matthews, Donna Lortz  
Back row: let to right - Ben Carter, Kevin Lortz, Jack Sartin

## ATTENTION LSP MEMBERS

We voted, and since our treasury is solvent,  
*'23 is going to be free!*

No dues will be collected from members that paid in 2022.

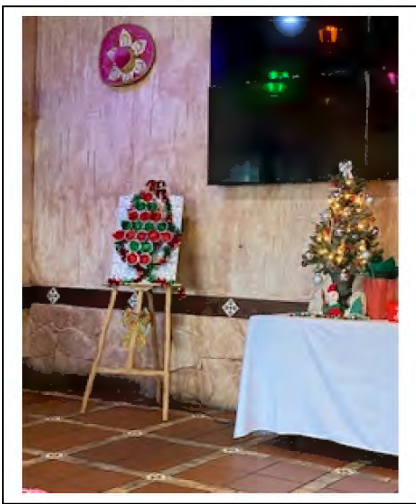
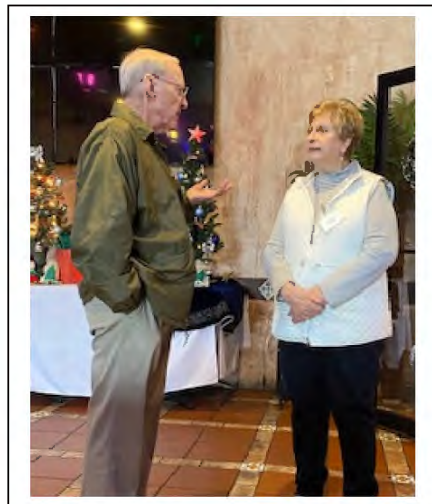
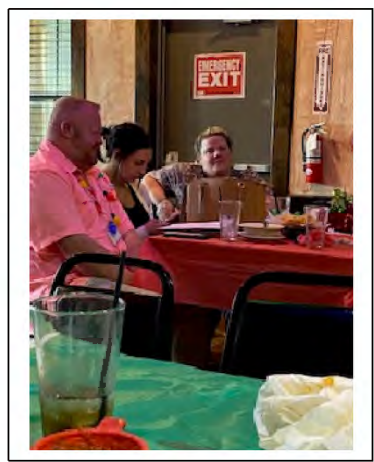
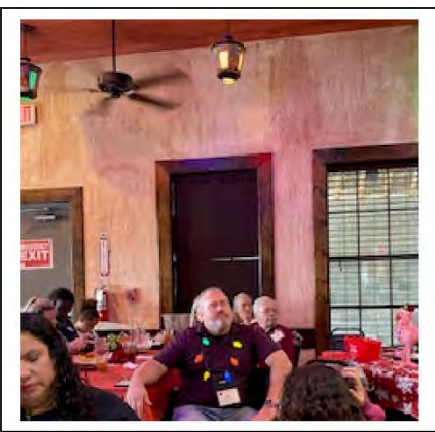
New members in 2023 will pay their \$10 dues.

If you paid more than \$10 in 2022, your balance carries forward for the years you paid. We will collect dues again in 2024.

### On down the road in 2023.....

- January 21 Planning to tour the Hues Ranch in Richards, TX
- March 30-April 3 TPM Salado, TX
- May 5 -7 Keels & Wheels Seabrook, TX

**If you have an idea for a meeting during 2023, contact our Activities Director, Chris Baccaro.**





### ***HOMELESS PACKARD***

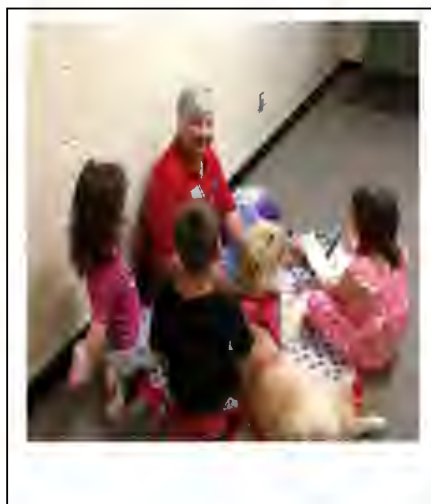
Tommy shared information about this Homeless Packard found sitting in front of a vacant house in a residential neighborhood for several weeks and was about to be towed by HPD.

Car was unlocked and documents found. Neighbor is trying to locate the owner. He says it is as nice inside as it is outside. If we find out any more information on this Packard, will pass this along.

### ***Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dog – Gabby***

Several years ago, I had an article in the OM about Gabby and thought you should know her final story.

Woof, my name is Wahkeen – Girl Talk, but I am better known as Gabby. I am a Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dog with an AKC Title of Distinguished Therapy Dog. This means I have volunteered over 400 hours of therapy work. Most of my time has been with HISD. Of course, none of this would be possible with my handler, Juanita Jordan, who is a retired teacher from HISD. We have volunteered as a team with many other Bright & Beautiful Therapy dogs over the last 11 years. Hopefully, Gidget will follow in Gabby's foot paws in April.





#### SEE YA ON THE ROAD

Back in the good ol' days when you just had to deal with it.  
This Packard cost around \$78,000.00 in today's dollars.



May the New Year bring you  
happiness, peace, and prosperity.  
Wishing you a joyous 2023!

#### 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>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**<sup>®</sup>

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

We all know Tommy is an avid Packard enthusiast!

Here is an article done many years ago that I thought should be shared with our club members.



Chrome cormorants decorate the hoods of Tom Baccaro's two Packard cars of 1940s vintage. The cars are fully operational and are maintained on a

weekly schedule. Baccaro, assistant principal at Beverly Hills Intermediate School, has won honors with both cars this year.

*Photo by Lillie Gramann*

*Likes nostalgia*

Read accompanying article on next page

# Baccaro enjoys antique Packards

By Lillie Gramann

In Tommy Baccaro's garage are two tiptop cars; a black 1948 Packard Deluxe Super 8, a seven-passenger sedan, and a coral blue 1947 Packard Custom Super Clipper, a four-door sedan.

Parked in the driveway in second place are his '76 Ford stationwagon and '81 Dodge van.

Tommy Baccaro is assistant principal at Beverly Hills Intermediate School. His wife Carol recently became a second grade teacher at Stuchbery Elementary School and sons, Chris, 10, and Anthony, 9, are students at the same school.

Baccaro likes old things, nostalgia. It's why he became a history teacher, he said. He collects antique clocks too. So far he has 11 to keep wound and chiming. His home also reflects the preference for antiques with tables, chairs and other furniture.

Baccaro's attention, however, is on the cars; "I can keep the Packards running, but I can't keep all the clocks running."

Baccaro has had the black 1948 Packard for four years. It's a "stretched" airport limousine used back in the '40s at Houston International Airport. The blue 1947 one he got through the Packard Club two years ago, replacing a 1946 Packard he owned.

## Long Interest in Packards

"I've always been interested in Packards," said Baccaro as he recalled the incidents in his life where the car seemed important.

Both sets of Baccaro's grandparents drove Packards. When his parents brought Baccaro home from the hospital after his birth, he went home in his grandfather's Packard rather than the family Chevy.

Baccaro's father died when he was only 2 and he became very close to his paternal grandfather, Dominic Baccaro. "He used to let me drive the '55 Packard at the Forest Park Cemetery on Lawndale."

"And I had my first 'car' date in my other grandparents' Packard," he said. "I went to my high school graduation in a Packard."

As a child, when others were building model airplanes, "I was doing Revell antique cars," related Baccaro.

Baccaro remembered when he was dating Carol in 1969. "I drove the Packard every chance I could." Even when it came time to meet Carol's family, he drove the Packard and "I passed the test," he said.

He married Carol in 1970—a decade after Packard went out of business.

## His First Own Packard

"I kept saying I wanted one," said Baccaro. And his grandmother found him one when listening to an

In October, the Club participated in the first Columbus Day Parade in Houston and shared the spotlight with the antique Thunderbird club.

## To Keep the Packards Running

Baccaro works constantly on the cars, sometimes to the neglect of the family cars, he admits. He uses a calendar in each car to keep up on their use. He drives each one three miles per week and during the week idles the cars for at least 30 minutes each.

The cars are a family thing. The boys can identify the different Packards and the family goes to club meets. They all have great fun riding in the cars and getting the attention of passengers in other vehicles.

## Some History of Packard

Packard was in business from 1899 to 1958, related Baccaro. It was an independent car-maker like others famous in the '30s and '40s such as Nash, Studebaker, Kaiser, Hudson and Duesenberg. Baccaro believes Packard would still be active if deals could have been arranged then with the government as was done for Chrysler.

Packard had many firsts, said Baccaro. Packard was the first to use steering wheels instead of tillers.

That was in 1899. The cars were famous for their big 12-cylinder engines in the '20s. In fact, the official White House car was the Packard until Truman came to office and changed it to the Ford Lincoln which is still the official car. Packard was the first to offer air conditioning back in 1942.

## Some Baccaro Background

In addition to Baccaro's interest in cars, he is the founding president of the Bay Area Italian-American Club, is a member of the Optimists Club and belongs to St. Luke's Evangelist Catholic Church where he is a parent educator.

Baccaro has worked in the Pasadena School District 19 years. He has been assistant principal at Beverly Hills for five years. Before that he was a counselor at Sam Rayburn High School for eight years and a history teacher for six years at Pasadena High School.

Baccaro's interest in Packards has been a long one. Even on vacations the Baccaro family enjoys poking around in antique shops and checking fields for old cars. It's become a family thing to enjoy memorabilia of the past. The two Packards in the garage are among the favorite ones.

THE END