The Owner's Manual/Newsletter

Official Publication of The Lone Star Packards

April, 2025 | **ADDENDUM TO SALADO TPM** | **Issue 4**

Director's Corner

We ran out of space in the first April OM, so here is an addendum with more club info for your enjoyment.

A Drive to Remember

When you share a humorous account of your recent road trip mishaps, including a stalled '55 Clipper on the Gulf Freeway and a journey through Alvin and Sugarland that involved a dead '54 Cavalier, then you reflect on the positive experiences and the award won.

The Wrong Route and More!

Many of you have probably heard me talk of my apprehensions when driving a Packard on the Gulf Freeway and any of the Expressways that circle and weave around the nation's 4th largest city. Those feelings were deepened a while back when we were driving our trusty '55 Clipper on the Gulf Freeway on our way to the LSP meeting.

We were meeting at Pappas BBQ and then travelling the short distance to the 1940 Houston Municipal Airport Museum. About two miles from the restaurant exit, a lane on our side of the freeway was closed due to construction.

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29th ANNUAL KEELS & WHEELS
Concours d'Elegance
Lakewood Yacht Club
Saturday & Sunday
May 4 – 5, 2025
Seabrook, TX

It's too late to register, but we have a significant number of members and Packards that will there.

Come on down and visit Saturday or Sunday and enjoy the car and boat show.

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We were bumper to bumper for more than a mile just creeping along. You guessed it, the Clipper overheated and died and would not start again. Workers blocked one lane and we blocked another making a bad situation even worse! We were rescued pretty quickly by Chris in his Bronco with a tow strap. The car did restart after he got us to safety and we made the lunch just as the others were about to leave for the airport. We had to skip the museum because we had a memorial to go to and we got there in the Packard and all was well. But that stall on the freeway really was a nightmare come true!

All of the above weighed heavily on me as I planned a route to Salado. I decided to go through Alvin, get on State Hwy 6 and before we got to Sugarland switch over to University Blvd. University Blvd. runs parallel to 6, has very few lights and moves quickly to the Southwest Frwy. We would take 59 (SW Frwy) to the Grand Parkway and ultimately to 290 as we had done many times before.

About a mile from 59, we suddenly came to a stop as all but one lane on University Blvd. was blocked and the traffic was literally creeping. After about 15 minutes and no more than 60 feet, our '54 began to overheat like the '55 had on the Gulf Freeway! As we creeped forward and the needle got closer and closer to the "H" mark, a driveway to the Texas Instruments Co. appeared and I dashed in. I turned the engine off and raised the hood. It was a pretty windy day and after about 20 minutes the temp gauge regained its composure. I discovered there was another drive in that parking lot that was considerably further down University Blvd. We took that exit and got back on University much closer to 59. Once we got on 59, we proceeded without incident to the Grand Parkway and then on to 290. We have taken the 290 route dozens of times since we first attended the Salado meet in 1977. It was a great drive until we got to the other side of Giddings where we were brought to a halt by a really long train! We waited and waited and the car began to overheat again. Just in time the train passed! In all the years we have taken that route, we had never encountered a train before! The rest of the trip was uneventful.

Sunday morning early, we started the trip back to Houston. We decided to stay on 290 and since it was Sunday morning, we would use the freeway system to get back to League City. Remember when I said we had never seen a train in Giddings before? Just as I said it would be funny if we got stopped again the crossing arms came down! This train was even longer than the first. The car began to overheat but thankfully the train passed, and we got back to highway speeds and the car cooled off. The trip the rest of the way was fine, even though we traveled Beltway 8 and the dreaded Gulf Freeway.

Not sure how we are going next year but it will be a different route for sure!

Our '54 Cavalier never left us on the road but there is a transmission leak and we did have to change a fuel filter.

Our son Chris is a manager at Mac Haik Ford in Pasadena. He called his buddy at Mac Haik Ford in Georgetown and they graciously let us drive over, use one of their lifts, and fill the transmission with seal leak and trans fluid. Unlike newer cars, you cannot access the dip stick under the hood, but you have to get it on a lift and add the fluid below. We had no more mechanical issues or leaks

Despite the traffic issues, the cold wet weather, and the transmission leak, we had a wonderful time. Forty cars were supposed to be there, but we had the prettiest 18 wet Packards anyone had ever seen! Many came even if they left the Packard at home. We really enjoyed seeing our friends from the other 3 regions. Many of them we only get to see in Salado. I look forward to Salado every year and I think our family has only missed 3 out of the 46 meets. I start looking forward to the next meet as soon as we pull out of the hotel parking lot! Rain or shine we have a good time so join us next April!

By the way, our route did get us a second award! The Long-Distance Award

Happy Packarding, Tommy

Packard Friends

By Carol Baccaro

April, 2025 in Salado, was a fun weekend. We saw friends from years past that we only get to see in person each year and sometimes longer.

A monthly LSP meeting is nice because we get to see and visit with our friends who have become like family members. We miss those who cannot attend for some reason.

Those in charge of the TPM registration this year did a fine job. As I enjoyed the hospitality room I was visited by many fond memories of Jan and me at past meets trying to help **Rena.**

PACKARDS AND PARTS FOR SALE

Help us rehome these Packards. Forgot to put this in the first April issue. See how lucky you are to have a chance for more useful news.

Lenny Holzband 713-823-9369 1941, 120 Sedan. This is fully restored and ready to sell.

Sherry Hairrell 713-557-7617 1955 fully restored Caribbean and a 1940 160 sedan with new motor and partially installed harness

Nancy Eudy 281-383-9704 1949 Standard Sedan

Juanita Jordan 713-614-2156 1956 Caribbean Convertible (Available after October)

Leon Ahlers 281-324-9393 1941 restored 120 Convertible 4 door

Dan Becker 281-507-2617 1940 180 Formal Limo

Nicole Costillo (not a club member but Facebook contact) 281-682-8232 1951 Model 200 Sedan $300.00 project car. The car is in Pasadena.

Some of the late Ben Carter's car parts - Contact Tommy Baccaro 281-797-5423 Best Offer

Genuine Packard spotlight as used on many '40's through early '50's Packards

License Plate Holder assembly with light and good lens. 1940 and maybe others

Consider advertising in the Owner's Manual when you are looking to buy or sell cars or parts.

Pass it on.

In other news, Jack Sartin sold all of his cars at the Mecum Auction in Houston last weekend except the 1938 110 Packard Convertible that the Dentler's bought before the auction.

LSP MEDICAL REPORT

Please remember our members that are going through health issues.

Larry Myers is dealing with back issues.

Tony Darrow got a pace maker in March and is doing well. Just couldn't make it to Salado this year.

John Lortz, Sr. fell in March and broke his hip. Has to stay off his feet for six weeks. Even in a wheel chair he made it to Salado and planning to go to National Packard Meet in June.

Lenny Holzband with kidney issues.

Tommy Baccaro, got to spend 2 days in late March at the hospital with blood pressure issues. He was concerned he would not make it to Salado, but he did!

Jack Sartin is going through tests and treatment at MD Anderson.

Carol Baccaro had surgery a few months ago and now doing better.

Shellie Lortz had surgery Wednesday. We hope she is doing well.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, The Ponderosa Forest Auto Show scheduled for this Saturday, April 12, has been postponed until October 18. Hope to see you on that date.

LSP MEMBERSHIP

Stephen Morris has graciously accepted the position of membership director.

On behalf of Ben, Janice has prepared his last membership report.

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Currently we have 54 families and a total of 96 people on our roster.

52 Pre War
45 Post War
97 Total Packards

Stephen is in the process of creating a membership roster in a new format. Please keep him informed so he can keep our records up to date.

Also, let him know if you have any leads on new members.

Email your changes to sjaymorris@hotmail.com.

2025 Events…..

January 18	Lunch at Pappas BBQ & Tour 1940 Houston National Airport Museum
February 16	**Lunch at Spaghetti Western**
March	Cancelled
April 3-6	**46th Texas Packard Meet Holiday Inn Express, Salado, TX**
May 3-4	Keels & Wheels Lakewood Yacht Club, Seabrook, TX
June	TBD
July	TBD
August	TBD
September	TBD
October 18	**Auto show at Ponderosa Forest. Time and activities to be announced later**
November	TBD
December	TBD

Tommy and Chris Baccaro need your recommendations for 2025 meeting sites. Any interesting place you want to go, let them know.

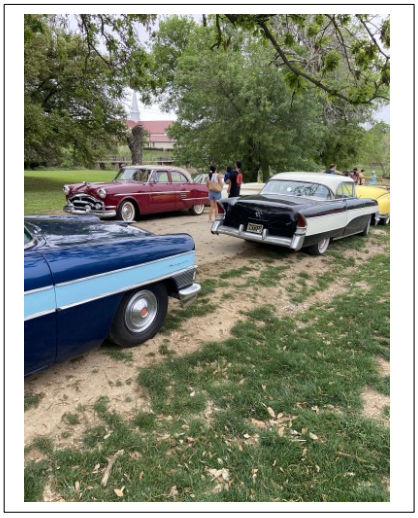
SALADO 2026 REMINDER:

The 47th Texas Packard Meet will be held in Salado on *April 9th through the 12th, 2026*.

It is a week later due to Easter coming during the first week. Mark your calendar now and don't miss it.

Richard Heilbush HOT & his Packard

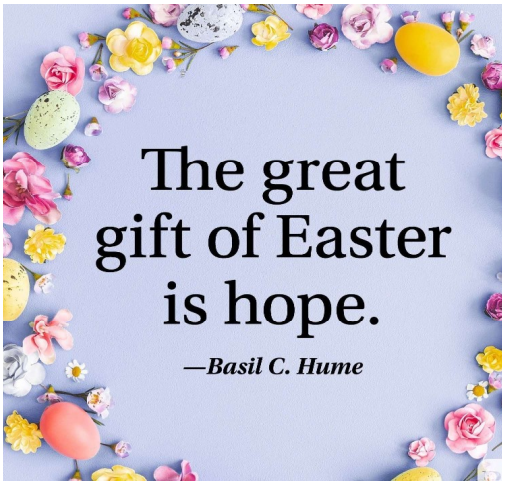
Jill's '58 & in background Jay's '48



Blue '56 Packard belongs to Doug Carlson,

Black/white '56 Packard belongs to Jeff Podmer HOT

Red '54 belongs to Tommy



Regional Officers

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Webmaster:	**Doug Carlson** **281-391-6203**
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Lone Star Packards was charted 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.

The Owner's Manual/Newsletter is published monthly. Editorial office located at 1103 Pioneer Dr. Richmond, TX 77406 – 281-635-2267 - .janice.carter25@yahoo.com..

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