



***Director's Corner***

Greetings LSP family.

Once again, we have decided to cancel our monthly meeting due to concerns related to the Corona Virus.

Because of the age of many members, not to mention some of the health factors involved, we cannot take a chance.

Please join me in praying and hoping we will be able to have a monthly meeting in September. Again, we will wait and see and let you know in plenty of time.

Instead of meeting the third weekend as we traditionally do, let's shoot for the last weekend (**Saturday, September 26**) to put as much time between us and the virus as possible.

As I have said, one of the hardest decisions I ever made was cancelling the 43rd Annual Texas Packard Meet. Who would have thought five months later we would still be cancelling our activities due to concerns about this virus?

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***WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON.....***

Here are updates on a few of our members about what they have been doing or what they are going through these past few months.

**Janice Musgrove in Brookshire** still has health issues and being treated for UTI infection and fluid in her lungs. She is a trooper – and just keeps on going! She has a positive attitude and her family is close by helping her.

**Maureen Carlson in Katy** is still home bound with **Doug** and improving each day. She looks good and slim. She is getting lots of "Retail Therapy" through QVC.

**Vivian Lortz in Porter** had her first ambulance ride to the hospital with pneumonia and was a guest there for 3 days. Now home feeling better. We are sorry to hear her sister passed away Monday, 8/17 and her nephew has the COVID-19 virus. Our sincere condolences to Vivian and her family. Hoping her nephew is well soon. Then last week she had hand and feet swelling and unable to walk. Doctor diagnosed her with RA. She goes back to the doctor to start on treatment. This has slowed her down some, but she is not one to stop.

**Ron and Patricia Orr in Richmond** have been helping a friend with her sick husband. Patricia is president of the Ft. Bend

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*Director's Corner continued from page 1*

Just this week we learned the 2020 Keels and Wheels Show which was postponed to October from its traditional May date was now cancelled.

With that in mind, I am proposing that our fall tour be the first Saturday in November – November 7. Unless someone wants to float another activity.

We will be making preliminary arrangements with the Stephen F. Austin Museum in Lake Jackson, the River Rendezview Restaurant, and Yellowstone Paddle Boat nearby on the San Bernard River. Actually, not sure either is open right now but we will check it out in plenty of time.

We can meet somewhere along 288 in Pearland or if we want to take a more leisurely pace on 35 and caravan about 30 miles to the museum located outside Lake Jackson on 288.

Keep starting your Packards weekly and take them for a spin if you can.

I had to buy a new battery this week for the '47. That is the first Optima battery I have had that failed before the 3-year warranty was up. Mine usually last 5 or more years. I am going to try one of the battery maintainers that **Jack Sartin** uses on this one instead of the traditional trickle chargers. They seem to work well for him.

Stay active and above all.....Stay healthy! Hope to see you in September.

Happy Packarding, Tommy

*Note: It has been suggested by **Dave Lucas** that we consider having a Zoom meeting. He has had good luck doing it with his Model T Club. How many of you would participate?*

*What's Going on continued from page 1*

American Heart Assoc. and is working hard to organize their fund raiser during this difficult time.

**Jerry Ehrman in Orange**, is healthy but has flunked quarantine. However, he is careful when he goes out and who he sees. He has done nothing on his cars, but is one of many volunteers doing deferred maintenance on the Catholic elementary school in Orange. He says his knowledge of working on cars has been beneficial in his new line of work.

**JC & Sherry Hairrell in Magnolia**, have a large camper and usually have several camping events to attend each year. All those have been cancelled so this week they went to Galveston and are in a nice RV park on the beach and enjoying the Gulf Breeze and swimming pool at the park with friends.

**Jamie & Martha Roberts in Brenham** were doing fine until **Jamie** started feeling bad last week. She drove him to the Medical Center in Houston in her new car. She was very cautious as she has only driven a short distance in Brenham and getting into the Houston Medical Center traffic can be very scary. Jamie's blood count was very low and he received 4 units of blood. Doctor said he had no B-12 at all in his blood. He is back home now and feeling better. One good thing - their Packard has a new top and looks great!

**Evelyn Timmins in Friendswood**, goes into hospital next week for a heart catherization. She is most excited about her new **Collie puppy – Duchess**. As we know, she lost her two collies earlier this year so now Duchess is giving her a "New Leash" on life! She is in a widow's group that gets together but has not done so for a while. Four of them decided it is time to get out and made their first outing at **Marinas** in League City. She says great place to eat if you are down that way and they all enjoyed themselves. She also took Duchess and some goodies to visit the Calistrats. See pictures of Duchess and Mike on page 5.

Let's remember Jamie, Janice, Vivian and Evelyn in our prayers.

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**In April of 2019 my wife, Mary and I** bought a '29 Packard 6-26 Convertible Coupe. We have other collectibles but this is our first Packard. We're very excited about getting to drive around the Heights with the top down and friends in the rumble seat. Our gangster and flapper hats with a genuine, authentic replica Thompson sub machine gun would complete the Look.

As always when I get something new to me, I took it right away to **The Shop** that has worked on my other cars for a mechanical once over. **The Shop** boss said he could do it. **Of course, there were going to be things wrong! Hey, it's 90 years old! I'm not that old and I've got stuff wrong with me. But still, I wanted to get it going reliably.**

I wanted to make sure it would start & stop, the lights and Aaooga horn should work, not overheat and generally be fun for Sunday afternoon top down fun. The convertible top rear glass needed to be replaced as well.

**A year later** I got to drive it the 8 miles home from **The Shop**, where it's not been driven but 3 miles since.

Let's back up just a bit to fill in the time gap.

**The Shop** had a mechanic who had worked with the John O'Quinn collection so I felt pretty good about him knowing what our Packard was all about. **The Shop** itself however, was a high-end super car shop that worked on my '89 Ferrari Testarossa with reasonable results. **So, good luck.**

*Continued on page 4*

*Ed Fleming's Packard Story continued from page 3*

We decided that the radiator needed to be replaced but ended up being re-cored since new/used replacements weren't available. The electrical needed re-doing, the brakes needed some help also. The foot starter needed replacing and the water pump needed a good going over. **Normal stuff.**

### **Months go by.....**

Along the way, they discovered that the gigantic aluminum oil pan was cracked in more than just a couple places. The Shop sent it out to several places to try to weld the cracks shut. Again, new/used replacement 3-foot-long oil pans apparently don't exist. I know it's not an easy fix but there had to be someone in a city the size of Houston that could fix it. Eventually a place was found but the pan still "weeps" oil.

### **More months go by.....**

**After about 9 months** the convertible top rear glass frame was finally sent out to be painted and have new glass installed. Why did it take that long before sending them out? In the meantime, The Shop misplaced the canvas panel it fits into. They never did find it. I now have a gaping hole in my convertible top that I'll have to find a solution to. The Shop said they'd have a new one made. I called the upholstery shop they wanted to use, to see how long it would be to get it back if it was indeed eventually sent in. Unfortunately, the guy sounded like Goober from Mayberry so I made the decision right then to make sure it didn't go there. Now, Goober was a nice guy but I don't think I want somebody from Wally's Filling Station working on my car.

On the first drive after finally getting it home, the horn Aoooga-ed twice then quit. The headlights just flicker. The foot starter works. Go figure.

About a mile into our maiden drive, the beautiful Packard straight 8 just stopped running. At the side of Heights Blvd, I discovered that there were bits of debris in the glass gas reservoir that gravity feeds the carb. I disconnected the reservoir, emptied the junk and managed to get back to the home garage. On Monday the Shop said, "Oh yeah, we thought that might be a problem." Apparently, the gas tank needs to be cleaned. Not only didn't they tell me about it, I didn't even get the opportunity to have them solve that issue so the car could be driven reliably! Come to think about it, I'm probably better off doing it myself. I've never dropped a gas tank before. Drain it. Disconnect a couple things. 3 bolts. Send off for cleaning. How hard can it be? Guess I'll find out. At this point I'm willing, anyway. **Note – any of you guys know what to do call him.**

**Another 6 weeks go by with absolutely no action or solution**, I shrugged my shoulders and just went by and picked up the frame and glass from **The Shop**. Still have a gaping hole. Still looking for a proper upholstery shop. Sheeesh.

That's the saga to this point. There's lots more to it but going further would just be complaining. At least I've got a great story out of it.

However, I am truly enjoying sprucing up the shiny bits – actually a lot of shiny bits. The tires and wheels look like new; I can see myself in the chrome and the engine will be detailed soon. Looking forward to pulling out the speedometer and fuel gauge to get them re-done as well.

Even with all this silliness, the engine is as smooth as can be. It starts right up every time and just purrs. Can't wait to get this '29 reliable so I can start looking for our next Packard.

**If you ask THIS man who owns one, I say – "What a car!" ... Ed Fleming**

What's Going on Continued from page 2

**Juanita Jordan in Kingwood**, she and **Ron** have been social distancing. She, however, gets out on the water and rides her Ski Doo every week on Lake Conroe for several hours. After that it is time to visit her daughter and hold down the float in her pool. What a Life!!! She and other retired teachers (HARTA) were asked how they are spending time at home during this pandemic. See photo below of some of the many items she is crocheting from plastic bags into hats, bags, etc. When you don't have yarn, you use *plarn*. She also wanted us to know that their daughter is working on the National Packard meet in Franklin, TN for 2025 at her Marriott.



★ HAPPY ★  
BIRTHDAY!

### August Birthdays

2	Pam Ahlers
7	Rich Trokey
21	Dee Wanderman
26	Harold Schmaltz
28	Mary Fleming
29	Bill Anderson



Duchess at 10 weeks at airport in Minneapolis



Mike Calistrat day of Evelyn's visit

**History repeats itself. This poem written in 1869,  
reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.  
This is Timeless....**

And people stayed at home  
 And read books  
 And listened  
 And they rested  
 And did exercises  
 And made art and played  
 And learned new ways of being  
 And stopped and listened more deeply  
 Someone meditated, someone prayed  
 Someone met their shadow  
 And people began to think differently  
 And people healed  
 And in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways  
 Dangerous, meaningless and heartless  
 The earth also began to heal  
 And when the danger ended and  
 People found themselves  
 They grieved for the dead  
 And made new choices  
 And dreamed of new visions  
 And created new ways of living  
 And completely healed the earth  
 Just as they were healed



**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</b> <b>Darrow</b> 832-286-1276
<b>Secretary/Benevolence:</b>	<b>Janice Musgrove</b> 713-304-7493
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<b>Technical Pre-war:</b>	<b>Leon Ahlers</b> 281-324-9393

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.

The Owner's Manual/Newsletter is published monthly. Editorial office located at 1103 Pioneer Dr. Richmond, TX 77406 – [281-341-6595](tel:281-341-6595) - [ben.carter47@yahoo.com](mailto:ben.carter47@yahoo.com).

*It's more than a car...it's a*

**PACKARD**

**ASK THE MAN WHO OWNS  
ONE**