



# The Owner's Manual/Newsletter

Official Publication of The Lone Star Packards



August, 2021

Issue 7

## Director's Corner

### Greetings LSP family!

On Saturday, August 21st, we had our monthly LSP meeting. The site was the private room at Spring Creek BBQ in Humble. Despite the blistering heat, we had 33 members present.

A big thanks to **Tony and Shirley** for finding the site and making all the arrangements. The room was nice and clean and there was room for all. The food was excellent and we will have to remember it the next time we rotate to that area.

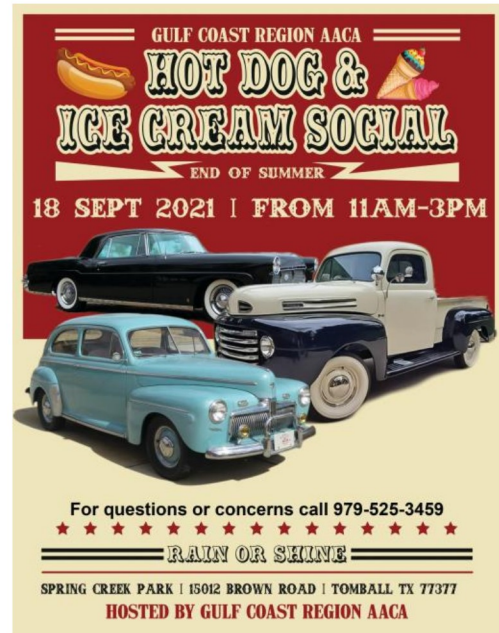
A big thanks to **Pam and Leon** for bringing their gorgeous 1941 120 4 door convertible. **John** also brought the shiny red 1953 convertible with the top down. **Kevin** and family brought their newly acquired elegant 1956 Patrician.

One of the advantages of moving our meetings around is you get to see different cars. This time all three cars that braved the heat were located close to the meeting site.

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We voted last month to have our September meeting with the Gulf Coast Region of the AACA. Multiple automobile clubs are invited and they are expecting about 300 to participate.

This event will be held at **Spring Creek Park in Tomball on September 18 from 11 AM – 3 PM.** Drive your Packard or other antique automobile if you can.

No RSVP is required. They will have plenty of hot dogs and ice cream for everyone.

Put this date on your calendar and we will send out reminders as we get closer to the date.

*Directors Corner continued from page 1*

In June, we met about 60 miles away in League City on a day almost as hot. Three of the 5 classics present lived close to that site. We brought our '48 and '55 that day.

Elsewhere in this edition, you will find the schedule of events going through April of 2022. We have a lot of great things planned but we cannot overlook the resurgence of the virus, especially with the new strain. That does cast a shadow over our plans and I urge you to consider the safety of you and your loved ones as you consider attending some of the events. As in the past, if things are really bad I will discuss it with our club leaders and if necessary, cancel meetings. Most of us have had the two doses of vaccine, but most of us are also in the most vulnerable group. They are now recommending a booster shot for those 65 and older. All of our family is vaccinated except for the 7-year-old granddaughter and I worry for her. At first, we were told that age group was the least vulnerable but Texas Children's Hospital now has many cases.

Without getting into politics, the situation at the border makes the Houston area particularly vulnerable as it is the destination of choice for many of those folks and most are not vaccinated. I hope not but if the situation continues to worsen, we will revert back to "zoom " meetings. Even Salado may be threatened. Pray for Covid to subside.

If you have news or pictures, you think the group would be interested in, please send that material to Jan. Ideally an editor is just that, they edit by putting everything together. It is a much harder job when you have to do all the research and write it without the submissions from members. Not only do we have one of the best newsletters, we have one of the best websites in the PAC.

We have several new cars in our region as well as members. Please send a picture to **Doug** so he can include it in the members' cars section.

Also, if you would like your car to be considered for

the star car of the quarter, please write a story about it and get some nice pictures and send them to **Doug**. It might just be your star car for the next quarter.

Stay safe, and Happy Packarding, Tommy

### Sunshine & Showers Report

Let's continue to remember our members going through difficult health issues.

**Jamie Roberts** is still having treatment for Leukemia. We were glad to hear he was feeling well enough to drive his 1932 Shovel Nose Packard Roaster the other day. He would still appreciate your prayers.

**Judy Anderson** is improving every day from her cancer treatments and now on the road to recovery. This will take a while so keep praying for her healing and comfort.

**Tom Drisdale** is having gastro surgery this week. He would appreciate our prayers.

During our wellness report, I forgot to mention our friend in the North Texas region, **Royce Kidd**. Royce had a serious stroke about a week ago. He has made progress and can stand and walk a little but is having speech difficulties the last I heard. He is in a Dallas hospital but will be moved to a rehab facility closer to their home in Boyd this week. Many of you know Royce and Clydette as regulars at the annual Texas Packard meet. I think we first met them in 1977 at the first TPM. Prayers for a quick recovery.

**I'M SO OLD  
I REMEMBER  
MULTIPLICATION  
WAS CALLED  
"TIMES TABLES"**

## A NEW LIFE

By Mike Calistrat

We (Mike and Caroline) became old people. Mike is 94 and Caroline is 88. Becoming old has a few advantages, but many disadvantages.

Mainly, people in our family moved away, and many of our friends passed away. Slowly, slowly we became "alone". We lived in a large and beautiful home, but since our boys moved away, the house became very large for just two people. At first, we completely closed the upstairs. Then, the dining room, our beautiful dining room, being NEVER used, became a storage room.

We had each-other, which was good, but not enough!

We reached the decision to move in a smaller quarter. Our best friend just moved in a retirement home, and kept telling us we should do the same. Therefore, we started visiting such homes (there are quite a few in the Houston area). We liked many of them. What attracted us, in particular, was the social life people had there.

We made the decision to move. But disaster struck! The virus forced management of the retirement homes to ask residents to stay, and stay in their rooms! Meals were brought to them! Well, this was not what we wanted! We lived better in our home. We could go places; we could spend time in our garden! Therefore, we decided to postpone moving until such time that life becomes NORMAL again.

This time was now. Of the many retirement homes we visited, we liked the "Treemont" best. We visited it again, and found a great change happened: as many apartments were empty, they broke the wall between two apartments, and made a large and very attractive residence. Yes, the price was also larger, but still affordable for us. So ... on July 9, 2021 we left our beautiful home and moved to Treemonti

Now, after over a month, we are happy we did! Moving was not easy, but thanks to the help of our dedicated son Andy we did it! For the ones who are not familiar with retirement homes, allow me to describe the one we moved into.

The complex has five buildings, each three stories high. Apartments are either one room, one bedroom and a living room, and two bedrooms and living room. The apartments differ depending on the renters:

independent people, people that need assistance, and nursing home.

Every apartment has a walk-in closet, a full bathroom, and a kitchen (some full, but most are reduced.) The two-bedroom apartments have two bathrooms, two walk-in closets, but only one kitchen. The other kitchen was made into a large storage facility.

What makes a retirement place particularly attractive is the services they provide. These include three full meals a day, maid maintenance once a week, a handy-man group, and a bus that provides transportation to stores, and to doctors. All included in the rent, as is electricity and heat.

At Treemont the meals are very tasty, and the portions are large (too large, in my opinion).

To our surprise, management organizes activities to keep residents fully busy. These include physical exercises, movies, music parties, and many others.



Packard that Mike restored. He did everything but paint it.

## Mike & Caroline's Story Continued

By Janice Carter

They brought several things to their new home that gives them happy memories. He had a story to tell about each one. Having these with them makes it more like home.

They want to live the rest of their lives happy. Not to cry and not to complain.

For those that do not know Mike & Caroline, let me tell you a little bit about this amazing couple. They left Romania a few years after the war ended in September 1962. They arrived in Italy where they stayed for one year before getting a visa to the U.S. During this time, he learned Italian and speaks it fluently, of course with a Romana accent!

Mike is a Mechanical Engineer and holds a M.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering and was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering. He owned his own company and provided consulting related to the manufacturing and use of couplings.

Replacing coupling is a major expenditure in parts replacement and maintenance downtime. He wrote a book on couplings and sold 11,000 copies under Caroline Publishing. Caroline handled the orders and she says they still receive orders from time to time. However, the book is now out of print.

They love playing table games. My favorite memory with them is having lunch at their home in Quail Valley many years ago and they wanted to play **Rummikub**, which is one of my favorite games. Only they played the "Calistrat Way." We followed along and to this day is the only way we want to play – not by the rules that come in the box, but the "Calistrat Way".

Mike's father was an accountant and worked for the man that invented this game. He had a woodworking shop and wanted to use leftover pieces of wood, so he made small wooden tiles and put a number on each one. Mike's dad liked it and brought one home. Soon their friends wanted one along with many others. Then he went to Israel

and they were made there out of plastic and were selling very well. Once Rummikub got to America Toys R Us bought it and now this game is played around the world. He has taught many at Treemont how to play Rummikub the Calistrat Way.

The Treemont offers many activities for them and they participate in several. One that Mike enjoys is the Reading and Writing Class. The attendees are given homework. His recent writing was "**Your Sentimental Feelings**". He wrote how he met Caroline which is an interesting story.

His brother had a party with friends and invited Mike who was 29 at the time. The only girl at the party he was interested in was Caroline. He got her phone number the next day, called her and asked for a date. She agreed and asked when and where, but she did not ask who was on the phone! You see--- she expected HIS call! Mike and Caroline will be married 64 years on August 26.

His next creative writing homework is: **What do you do to shake off a bad day and turn it around to a better day?** All of us need to think about this one. What would you write?

Mike and Caroline are a very interesting and loving couple with a lot of wisdom to share.

They wanted to say hello to all in the club.



Mike in the middle, Caroline sitting on the right with their new friends.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## August Birthdays

- 2 Pam Ahlers
- 7 Rich Trokey
- 7 Tony Sakkis
- 16 Glen Grace
- 21 Dee Wanderman
- 23 Stephen Morris
- 26 Harold Schmaltz
- 28 Mary Fleming
- 29 Bill Anderson



When Franklin Roosevelt started a foundation to fight polio, Comedian Eddie Cantor came up with the "March of Dimes", asking people to mail a dime to the White House. They were soon overwhelmed with 2,680,000 dimes mailed to them, literally truckloads, mostly from children. These dimes went directly to research that resulted in the Polio vaccine. This is why Roosevelt is on the U.S. dime.

### 2021 Calendar of Meetings and Events

- January** Meeting at Dalton's postponed due to Covid concerns – no meeting
- February 17** First Zoom Meeting
- March 20** Second Zoom Meeting
- March 27** Hot Wheels and Heroes Car Show Second Baptist Church Katy
- April 17** Third Zoom Meeting with PAC President Craig Handley
- May 1** Keels & Wheels in Seabrook where LSP Members were big winners
- May 15** John & Mary Ann Dalton's Ranch in Cleveland for lunch and car collection
- June 26** Joined AACA at Dr. Williams Car Collection & Lunch at Lunas in League City
- July 24** Summer Picnic at Sartin's Car Barn in Katy
- August 21** Spring Creek BBQ in Humble hosted by Tony & Shirley Darrow

### Going on down the road.....

- September 18** Join AACA for Hot Dog and Ice Cream at Spring Creek Park in Tomball
- October 16** Location to be announced
- November** Ole Railroad Café Rosenberg Bob Supina coordinating with local paper
- December 5** Christmas Party Lunch Babin's Seafood Restaurant, Katy, TX

### 2022 Calendar of Meetings

- January** Lunch in the Heights and tour Ed Flemings Collection
- February 5** Bob & Gayle Bucher in Willis, TX lunch and view their car collection
- March** Bellville hosted by Jay and Mary Mathews and view Jay's Car Collection
- April** Salado



**This is Jonas Salk (1914 - 1995) who decided not to patent his 1955 Polio Vaccine so that it would be affordable for millions of people who couldn't afford it. As a result, he lost out on an estimated 7 billion dollars.**

PICTURE COURTESY: PUBLIC DOMAIN @ HISTORYALLDAY



**In 1959, a coffee maker was an optional extra in Volkswagen cars.**

PICTURE COURTESY: OPENCULTURE @ VINTAGEFACTS



Tony, Ben, Ron & Patricia Orr



Donna Lortz & Chris Baccaro



Leon Ahlers 1941 Convertible Sedan



John Lortz, II, Chris & Leon



Pam & Leon Ahlers



Maya & Gianna Baccaro lead in Pledge of Allegiance



Trokey's & Jack Sartin



Leon, Kevin & John's Packards



Doug, Jay & Tony



Kevin Lortz's 1956 Patrician 4-door



John Lortz's 1953 Packard Convertible

**Regional Officers**

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<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*



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

