



# The Owner's Manual/Newsletter

Official Publication of The Lone Star Packards



July, 2020

Issue 5

## Director's Corner

Greetings LSP Family,

I hope each of you are safe and healthy and all hunkered down with your loved ones and your Packards. I regret having to cancel the proposed July 25th LSP meeting but with the CO-VID numbers as they are, I think it was the appropriate thing to do. There are more than 1000 cases in League City alone. We lead Galveston County in cases with Texas City and Dickinson not far behind. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in August.

I have been advised by Carol as well as the editor that some of my editorials have been too long. Who knew?

Anyway, we have been passing the time while we are hunkered down watching a lot of television (especially Gun Smoke re-runs), fixing up around the house, reading and face timing with grandkids.

We rented a beach house a couple of months back for 4 days beginning July 4th. Wouldn't you know? The beaches were closed that Saturday and Sunday.

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## Keels & Wheels Oct. 17-18, 2020

Reminder that you can still register for K&W.

If you were not planning to participate in May, please reconsider and get your application in as the registration process has been resumed. Deadline is August 15.

Tommy is optimistic that we will have another great K&W weekend! - we just have to! For registration and more details visit [www.keels-wheels.com](http://www.keels-wheels.com).

Packards will be the featured car.

Keels & Wheels d'Elegance  
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We enjoyed it anyway and all 8 **Baccaro's** had a great time.

I have continuously started the 4 Packards once a week. They also take turns driving short distances around our end of League City.

I finally bought on eBay a senior 16" wheel for Franklin, our 1940 160. I had a tire already and I bought an inner tube from Coker Tire. I took it to a local shop to be mounted but it was so crowded I could not find a parking place. Have not been back, but I will when I think it is safe. Now, I can put the tire in the trunk and not have to worry about breaking down the side mounts, if I have a flat on the road.

Stay safe and remember we have several events to look forward to if this virus will just slow down.

- *August meeting at Sartins.*
- *Participants in Keels and Wheels in October.*
- *Fall tour either in late October or early November.*
- *and before you know it Christmas will be here.*

Maybe the Virus will move out as quickly as the time seems to fly!

We miss you all!

***Happy Packarding, Tommy***



### GET WELL WISHES

**Janice Musgrove** has been going through some health issues. She is fighting a UTI infection to get ready for a TVAR procedure on Monday, July 13 at S.W. Memorial Herman Vascular & Heart Center. She will be there for a few days.

Let's remember her in our prayers and I am sure she would appreciate a card. Since Janice is the one that sends out the Get Well and Sympathy Cards for our club. This time we can remember her.

Also, **Maureen Carlson** spent many days in the hospital and is home recuperating. Then had indications of a heart problem. Doctor found a blocked artery in her heart and she had to have surgery and a stent inserted. She is doing better, but staying home so as not to take a chance on catching something. Right now, she just has "**Cabin Fever!**"

Remember **Maureen** and her caregiver, **Doug**, in your prayers. He needs this as much as she does.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### June & July Birthdays

#### June

- 2 Patricia Orr
- 8 John W. Dalton
- 9 Donna Williams
- 12 Dave Lucas
- 23 Bob Ess
- 23 Kay Schmaltz
- 26 Judy Anderson
- 30 Lynn Eanes

#### July

- 1 John Eanes
- 17 Todd Bates
- 17 Ron Orr
- 25 Maureen Carlson
- 31 Shirley Darrow

## Tom Drisdale's Packards

### 1953 Packard Clipper

Tom bought the '53 Packard Clipper in Owensboro Kentucky March 2020 and is the third owner.

It is all original unrestored no rust and original interior. It needed brakes so got that repaired. It has a 327 Thunderbolt engine with power steering and brakes. It drives great!

It had the motor rebuilt at 68,000. miles. And had 70,000 on it when he bought it. The car now has 75,000 miles. He put new tires on it and says he loves to drive this car.

Fortunately, the person he bought it from acquired the car in 1995 and kept it in a climate-controlled garage. It looks great and Tom is anxious to drive it to an LSP meeting.



### 1940 Packard Coupe

Tom bought the '40 110 Club coupe more than a year ago in San Marcos. Since purchasing he has driven the car about 5,000 miles and it runs great! Good news is that it and does not need an engine rebuild.

He plans to keep the car mostly original. However, it has been in the shop about a year having all rust removed and a beautiful maroon paint job added. It will still need a complete brake job when he finally gets it back from the shop.



*Antique, Classic and others...  
Everything you ever wanted to know about Texas  
License Plates*



Antique car collecting, and restoration is a favorite pastime for people all around the globe. For many, antique cars are a reminder of simpler times, especially from childhood or adolescence. Antique and classic cars give us a fond glimpse of the culture and history of automobiles.

Owning an antique or historical vehicle requires patience and care in order to maintain its beauty and condition.

Part of owning a piece of America's history also requires special registration by the State of Texas. In order to acquire your Texas antique plates, you'll need to meet the qualifications outlined by the state. Your registration and plates will depend on whether your vehicle is classified as a Classic, Antique, or Street Rod/Custom Vehicle. Learn the rules and regulations regarding antique vehicles in Texas.

#### **Antique License Plate Eligibility**

In order to qualify for Texas antique vehicle registration, your vehicle must be at least 25 years old, and can only be used on a limited basis such as car shows, exhibitions, parades, and travel to and from repair and maintenance facilities.

Additionally, commercial advertisement on antique vehicles is strictly prohibited.

However, vehicles registered for Antique Plates are exempted from state auto safety inspections. Once the plate is issued, it will need to be displayed on the rear of the vehicle and is valid for up to five years. Vehicles manufactured prior to 1921 are just \$40.00 for registration while those manufactured in 1921 or thereafter are \$50.00.

Vehicle owners **must** provide proof of insurance or a **Texas DPS affidavit**, along with the application for approval. As the owner, you have the option to choose

an antique plate or the original license plate issued by Texas in the same year as the year model of your vehicle. However, the plate must have the original color design and be in legible and good condition and be approved by your local county tax assessor.

If approved, a plate tab and sticker will be provided to prove its validity. Find the Application for Antique License Plate at [https://www.txdmv.gov/reports-and-data/doc\\_download/956-vtr-54-application-for-antique-license-plate](https://www.txdmv.gov/reports-and-data/doc_download/956-vtr-54-application-for-antique-license-plate).

#### **Classic License Plate**

Similar to the antique plate, to qualify as for a Classic License plate, your vehicle, whether passenger car, truck, motorcycle, or travel trailer must be at least 25 years old. The difference lies in how the vehicle will be used.

Antique cars have restrictions that do not apply to the classic vehicle registration. Where antique cars may only be used for certain special events and are excluded from advertisements, classic vehicles can be driven daily, with advertisements, and without additional restrictions. The only caveat is that the vehicle must be inspected and registered annually.

#### **Street Rods and Custom Vehicle Plates**

Custom vehicles are classified as vehicles that are at least 25 years old and modeled after 1948 or manufactured to resemble a vehicle over 25 years old. This includes those that are produced after 1948 but have been altered from the original design or has a body created from materials unoriginal to the vehicle.

A Street Rod is a vehicle that was produced prior to 1949 or after 1948 to take after a vehicle produced before 1949, that has been changed from the original manufacturer's design or made with different materials, not original to the vehicle. Additionally, to obtain the specialty plate, an ASE Certified Master Technician must inspect and certify that the vehicle is structurally stable and safe to function on public roads. Once approved, however, it is exempt from the **Texas vehicle safety inspection**, and in some cases, emissions inspections. Finally, the systems that are inspected are based on the year model of the vehicle and need only comply with state and federal motor vehicle safety laws in effect from the year the vehicle emulates. For example, a 1954 Chevrolet Bel Air must only conform to vehicle safety laws of 1954.

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## TRIPPING THROUGH TIME

**1917** First official Texas license plates are made from sheet iron in Missouri. They are so heavy it takes 20 railroad cars to bring the initial 300,000 plates to Austin.

**1969** Plates are made with reflective coating.

**1992** Plates start including today's slogan, Lone Star State.

**2008** Last year that stamped/embossed plates are produced.

**2012** Texas Classic debuts, the general-use plate issued today.

**2019** Acting for Corvette fans, Rep. Ken King introduces a bill to exempt "luxury passenger cars" from needing plates both front and back. It dies in committee.

## CREATIVE LICENSE

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TXDMV) the agency that issues motto license plates, motto is a plate for every passion – almost! For an extra fee, TXDMV and its contractor - My Plates offer more than 490 specialty plate backgrounds, with themes, ranging from sports teams and colleges to veterans' groups, charities, and businesses.

There are more than 150 plates honoring military service. There's a Boy Scouts plate, a Mothers Against Drunk Driving plate. They also offer plates with a personalized message. With so many options to choose from, did you ever wonder how Texas does it?

## JUST THE FACTS

**WHO MAKES THEM** Inmates at the Wynne Correctional Unit in Huntsville produce up to 90,000 plates a day using a digital printing process. Plate designs are printed on reflective vinyl sheets before being pressed onto aluminum backing. The old embossing process could produce only about 50,000 plates a day.

**WHERE THE MONEY GOES** A portion of each purchase goes into the state's general revenue fund. Sports or organization plates help fund programs associated with that group. School plates help fund scholarships.

**DESIGN YOUR OWN** Anyone can propose a specialty plate design, whether an individual, a nonprofit group, or a for-profit company. TXDMV and My Plates have different procedures, and you can even lobby the state legislature to approve your design. Details are at [tinyurl.com/txpl8](http://tinyurl.com/txpl8).

## **3 WAYS TO ORDER THEM**

Through TXDMV ([tinyurl.com/specialtx](http://tinyurl.com/specialtx))

Its contractor My Plates ([myuplates.com](http://myuplates.com));

Or at your local county tax assessor-collector's office for backgrounds such as Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans plates.

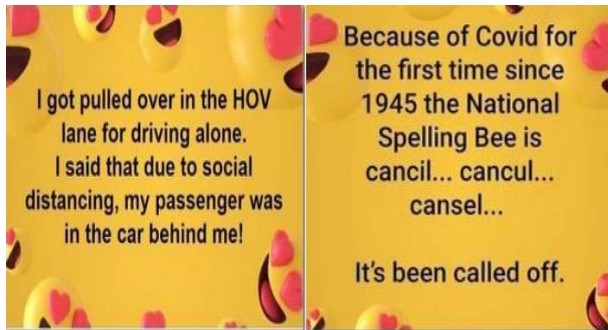
**SOUVENIR PLATES** Many specialty license plates are available as souvenir plates. They're not street legal, but they do make good gifts, mementos, or decorations.

**SECURITY FEATURES** To combat forgery two vertical security threads are added to each plate, along with a hologram.



*Thanks to Doug Carlson for a portion of this article, and AAA Texas Magazine for The Tripping thru Time & Creative License.*

## A SIGN OF THE TIMES (Humor)





**One-Liners For Seniors....**

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.

Don't irritate old people. The older we get the less "Life in prison" is a deterrent.

Aliens probably ride by earth and lock their doors.

"You will hit every cone on the highway before I let you merge in front of me because you saw that sign 2 miles ago like I did. "

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

I miss the 90's when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.

I thought getting old would take longer.

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

**Regional Officers**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
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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**

**ASK THE MAN WHO OWNS ONE**