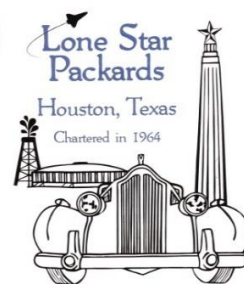


# The Owner's Manual

The Official Newsletter of The Lone Star Packards



Summer 2016

## Postcards from the Road:

By: Ben Carter

What would you do if you were driving down old Route 66 in Oklahoma? Earlier this year, Janice and I were driving to Missouri through Oklahoma when we decided to take part of what is left of Rt 66 which use to run from East Coast to West Coast but has mostly been replaced by the interstate system. We left I 44 near Big Cabin, Okla. and entered Rt.66. After a few miles we came to the small town of Afton, Okla. As we drove through this small town we passed this sign and kept going. Janice insisted I should turn around and check it out which I did. What we found was an old DX gas station that looked like it might be from the 1930's. It was full of restored Packards. On the door there was a note that the station was closed but full of restored Packards for a funeral. There was a phone number to call for information. When we got to our destination in Mo. I called the number and got the owner David Kane. He told me they would be closed for some time because of the loss of his ex-wife who ran the station. I told him we would like to stop sometime to see the collection of Packards. David told me that if we wanted, he would arrange for us to get in on our return trip to to Houston. A week later on our way back we stopped and some workmen who were working inside let us in. What we saw was a beautiful collection of 17 fully restored Packards about half were pre-war and the others post-war. The old DX station has been restored as a museum of the history of Route 66 and holds Mr. Kane's Packard collection. If you find yourself in Eastern Oklahoma and would like to see a really interesting museum make the short side trip to visit Afton and enjoy this unusual museum. There is a small charge for admission but it's worth it. You can find out more about Afton Station. Google Postcards From The Road - Afton Station Project.



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## Directors Note

### Tommy Baccaro

As I write this note, I am again inclined to "blow our own horn"! The Lone Star Region is the 3rd oldest region in the national organization. Only two others can brag they have been around for over 50 years in continuous operation. Over the years we have hosted two national meets, the Texas Packard meet was born from a discussion at an LSP officer's meeting in 1976, we have an annual fall tour, much of that time we had an award winning newsletter, we have enjoyed monthly activities, we try to do at least two public service activities per year, we contribute significantly to the restoration and operation of the Packard Proving Grounds historical site, and our group is not only very family oriented but life long bonds and friendships have been established between members. We continue to maintain membership in the 35 to 40 family range. Unfortunately, we occasionally lose members to the grim reaper or for other reasons, but we continue to pick up new members. I think we have added at least four families the last couple of years and they have all been active. Our club cars range from a 1920 to two 1957 Packards. So, pat yourself on the back as you are part of a great group that is probably one of the most active regions in the country and is made up of friendly people from all walks of life.

When we first started in the Packard hobby back in the early 70's, we had a '52 200, and we would attend cruise nights that were near us. Back then it was not unusual to see another Packard but we would often see a lot of other older restored or original cars and not nearly as many muscle cars. As time marched on we saw fewer and fewer restored or original oldies and more and more muscle cars. Somewhere along the way we acquired and restored a 1965 Mustang coupe and began to bring it to the shows and leave the Packard home. Only if I knew another old car guy was going to be there that I could park next to, did I bring it. Now on occasion, we do drive through the lot to see what is there and once in a while we do bring a Packard. A few weeks ago, I met a fellow at the Clear Lake Shores Saturday cruise with an original 1947 Oldsmobile with a 6 cylinder and Hydramatic. I did not know Olds ever had a 6! Anyway, I told him he had renewed my cruise night spirits because he was drawing a

respectable number of folks checking out his car. Last Saturday we decided to go in a Packard. I wanted to bring the '47 and park next to the '47 Olds but I was waiting on some parts for the '47 so we brought the '55. The Olds was not there but there was an original '62 Chrysler that I had met before so I parked our red and white Clipper between him and a 2014 Vette. Lots of people came by to look and ask questions and some knew about the load leveler which I happily demonstrated. The guy with the Vette was about my age and he was one of the most interested. He said he had been looking for a Packard for years and would I help him find one. I said of course and took his contact info. and inquired as to what kind he wanted. " oh I don't know but probably late 40's or early 50's" It has to be the right car because he does not want to restore one and he wants a nice driver. I will keep my eye out for him. All that is to say, get your Packards out in the public eye. Even if you are the only oldie there, you will find people who appreciate you coming out.

It is summer and since most of us do not have a/c in our Packards, we have not had many Packards to enjoy at our recent meetings. We move our monthly meetings all around our attendance area so when it is close to you, please try to bring your Packard(s). In a couple of months cooler weather will arrive and it will be a lot more fun to cruise in a Packard. None of ours have air but they all have heaters! ( some day I will put air in the '55!)

See you down the road, driving a Packard I hope.  
Tommy



## Buying a Packard through a Broker

**By: Ben Carter**

In the past 10 years I have purchased 3 Packards. The first was by answering an ad in Hemmings Magazine from the owner who was in Chicago. To see the car I flew to Chicago and made a deal including delivery to Richmond, Tx. The second was a car I saw on eBay where I was the winning bidder and the seller found a shipper who would deliver the car to Richmond for only \$600.00. Both sales and delivery went very well.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> car was my 40 coupe which I bought from a broker in New Jersey. I worried the most about this purchase because of several reasons. First it was in New Jersey. Second, how much rust is hidden in a 75 year old Packard that has always been in New Jersey. Third, I was concerned the whole deal might be a scam. The broker had a very nice website which could be a fake. I decided to take a chance because the broker whose name was Basim told me I could wait until the car was on its way to pay for it which would take a couple of weeks to schedule. I became more concerned when Basim called me and told me that a friend of his was bringing a shipment of cars to the Houston area the next day and he had space for one more car. The problem I had was, he needed the money the next day which I sent against my better judgement.



Was I going to be out a lot of money because I was taken in by a Middle Eastern scam artist who was selling the same car to several people and then leaving town with the money? The next day I got a call from someone who told me he was the truck driver and he was leaving New Jersey with the car. This did not make me more comfortable. He could have been in on the scam. A couple of days later he called again and told me he was running late and would not be here for 2 more days.

On the scheduled date I got a chair and sat in my driveway and waited. After a couple of hours I heard a big truck coming and it turned down my street. It was the enclosed carrier which he parked by my house and opened the rear of the trailer. Inside was my blue coupe and 6 corvettes. It took only about 5 minutes to unload and drive into my garage. The moral is, if you find a car offered by a broker instead of the owner check it out. It may be a good deal.



# 50 Years of Lone Star Packarding in Houston, Texas

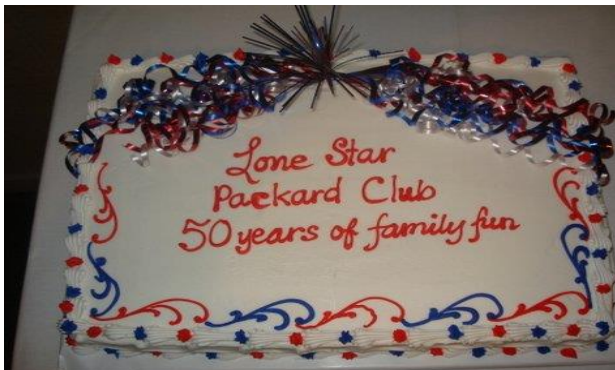
Part 1 of a Series  
By Steve Wanderman

In 2014, the third oldest Packard regional club of the national Packard Club: Lone Star Packards, in Houston, Texas, celebrated 50 years of family, friends, and Packard comraderie in the biggest city of the Lone Star State. Lone Star Packards was founded in 1964. For those of you that cannot remember because

- a) It's a long time ago, or
- b) You weren't even born

Here is a non-exhaustive list of some things as they were back then, in the U.S.A., and the world:

1. There were no cell phones (smart or otherwise,) iPads, personal computers, and certainly the internet. If you were on the road, and needed to communicate beyond the sound of your voice, you looked for the "pay phone." And, you'd better have some change. (Quarters were still made with silver in 1964) Information sources were network TV, newspapers, radio, or word of mouth. A trip to something called a public library, with actual books, was often made to research a given subject.
2. If we broke down on the road, we didn't call from the highway, we hitched a ride with a kind passerby, or actually walked for help.
3. There was no pollution control on cars, other than shutting them off. There were no computers: we worked on our vehicles, mostly ourselves, or with the help of another "shade tree mechanic" using hand tools, wire, tape, and parts stores that were not open on Sundays, and usually not past noon on Saturday.
4. A dollar would buy 4 or 5 gallons of gasoline, a little bit more for high octane "ethyl." We were quite happy to get 12-14 miles per gallon in our six passenger sedans.



5. Family vacation trips were taken with everyone piled into the family car, not in an airplane at 590 miles per hour at 35,000 feet. Texas to California was three long days, usually without air conditioning. We played games to pass the time between sightseeing stops: "license plate spotting," word games, or just listened to whatever A.M. radio stations were available between towns.
6. A Texan: Lyndon Johnson, was President of the United States. We had just lost John F. Kennedy.
7. Most Americans had barely heard that there was war a-brewing in a far way country called Viet Nam.

Into this environment and that culture, a few far sighted souls decided that they should get together for the mutual enjoyment, preservation, and common bond of appreciation of the love of the Packard automobile and, perhaps most importantly: as a bonding experience for Packard families. It had only been 8+ years since the last Packard built Packard rolled off the assembly line on Grand Avenue in Detroit, and only 6+ years since the last automobile to bear the Packard name was issued out by Studebaker. Fifty years later, that same club exists for exactly the same reasons, and even more so, as the intervening years have wrought so much rarity upon our favorite marque, and changes to the fabric of our society.

For our celebration, a huge turnout of members, some we hadn't seen for some time, came to the Monument Inn at the foot of the Lynchburg Ferry terminal. We had the party room on the first floor, and it was filled to the brim. Tommy Baccaro was ringmaster and keynote speaker.

Tommy did a great job of presenting the history of our Club and you may look forward to our relating many of these milestones and events, and the people of Lone Star Packards (past and present,) in future issues of The Owner's Manual. For now, due to space limitations, we leave you with some photos of the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party of Lone Star Packards held on June 21, 2014.



## KERRVILLE

BY: Tommy Baccaro



The Texas Packard meet was held the first weekend in April in Kerrville, Texas. The move was prompted by the closing of the Stagecoach Inn in Salado. While some felt we should either find a more central location or just move the meet to another facility in Salado, the prevailing thought was find a place that can offer everything on one site. We had grown accustomed to that in Salado, and Kerrville offered a similar arrangement.

Probably the highlight of the meet was the great early bird tour Gordon Logan put together for us on Friday. It was longer than usual, therefore we left at 8:30a.m. instead of the usual 9 a.m. We drove through state parks, through fields of wild flowers including blue bonnets, through hills that this flatlander thought bordered on a small mountain, and because of all the Spring rains, we crossed several water crossings (never more than a couple of inches) while on the Willow City Loop, north of Fredericksburg. Before returning we stopped at a private car collection in Kerrville. It was a really nice early bird tour. From memory, I think we had 21 cars on the tour ranging from David Stewart's '25 to our '55 Clipper.

That evening Larry Myers called to my attention that the hotel had provided us with a first class wash station. It had a long hose with a pistol grip on the end and a couple of buckets and wash mittens. It also provided a couple of gallons of Maguire's car wash solution. Even though the sun had gone down and it was a little cool, I washed "Ike" so I would not have to wait in line the next morning. We had a nice show, however there were not as many locals who came to see us as we usually have in Salado. I guess that car wash solution did the trick because we won our class once again! I ended up buying several items at the swap meet but I sold about \$30 more than I bought, so I was a happy camper.

You may remember that several members asked that we find an alternate place for the Saturday night dinner as many felt the price for the banquet was excessive. Robin Scarbro volunteered to find the place and we had a private room overlooking the river at Billy Genes' Restaurant. Great food and great atmosphere. Meantime at the banquet, the mayor stopped by to extend his welcome. Though the food was more than \$35 a plate at the banquet, I heard it was very good and was ready on time.

I had not planned on attending the Sunday morning business meeting due to the length of our trip home but I received a special request that I be there so the boys and I attended. It was generally agreed that it was a nice meet and the hotel and the town went out of their way to make us feel welcome. There were a few concerns expressed. The main concern was the distance for three of the regions. Our '55 logged 298 miles from my driveway to the parking lot of the Inn of the Hills. By the time you add in the early bird tour we put a little over 800 miles on our Packard round trip. I thought that was bad but a friend from Arklatex told me he drove from his house to the meet in his brand x and he travelled 400 miles. There were less than 40 Packards in attendance and only 85 master registrations. Without a doubt the distance was reflected in the attendance. There were also concerns about the distance between the show site and the rooms and hospitality suite. Pulling out onto the main drag in a Packard took skill and patience. Despite the concerns, the group voted to return next year because of the uncertainty of when the Stagecoach will reopen. There was significant interest from the members to return to Salado when possible. I volunteered to be the contact person with the Salado chamber and have already written a letter to Tim Fleischer of the Village Voice. Tim is not only the editor of the paper but a member of the chamber.

Jim Hollingsworth once said any trip in an antique car is an adventure but it is a special adventure when you don't have a problem. Our '55 travelled over 800 miles, mostly at 65 plus, with the only problem being a blown fuse in the load leveler which was quickly replaced. It was a nice weekend.



*continued on page 6*

## Packard Friends We Lost In 2015



David McDonald, Sr, born in Plano, Tx. Dec. 26, 1930. David served his country in Europe in the Army from 1950 to 1952. Married to his wife Jeanne for 25 years, David was the memorable combination of a unique individualist who was also a friend to all.

A proud, positive and devoted father, husband, friend, business leader and veteran. He led by example at all times and we are all richer for it. Active for many years in Lone Star Packards, David loved his 1950 Club Sedan that had been in his family since new.



Tom Timmins, born Mar. 31, 1943. Tom was married to his wife Evelyn for 48 years. Tom was a generous and giving man well known for his integrity and commitment to others. He was devoted to his family. His humorous storytelling was widely known, and will be missed by all who knew him.

Tom was active in Lone Star Packards and had put together a wonderful collection of little known makes and models of early 1900's autos that were enjoyed by our club on our many visits to Tom and Evelyn's home where they were always the perfect hosts. Tom and Evelyn exhibited cars from their collection every year. Tom was an active member of the Keels charity boat and car show and was an active member of the board.

Subsequently, I followed through with the chamber of commerce and they arranged for the Holiday Inn to submit a package to the site committee (composed of the registrars and members of the Heart of Texas Region). Despite the Salado folks willing to make every effort to make the 2018 meet as "seamless" as possible, the committee decided to accept the Kerrville offer to return for two more years. The Kerrville Hotel offered to freeze the room rates at next year's price if they would sign a contract for two years.

They just felt having everything at one location was imperative and the Salado offer would require going to one of the nearby venues for the Friday night meet and greet and the Saturday night banquet. Recently, I was contacted by the group to see if I would remain the point person with Salado for a possible return to the more central location in 2019. By then the renovated and enlarged Stagecoach will hopefully be open for business. I am willing to do so, especially if the attendance in Kerrville does not pick up to the level we experienced in recent years in Salado. However, we spent the night at the Holiday Inn in Salado a couple of weeks ago and we saw no progress on the Stagecoach Inn despite a big sign that said, "reopening in the summer of 2016". On a related note, the best Western where several of our members have stayed, has been torn down. In its place they have built a multi story hotel that is about to open. I think it was a Comfort Suites but not sure from memory. I found that strange because I think the Best Western was newer than the Holiday Inn.

I will keep you posted. Happy Packarding, Tommy



## Technical Tip- Trailer Safety

By Ben Carter

Recently I learned a lesson about trailer safety when I rented a UHaul trailer to haul my 40 Coupe to a car show at 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church on the Katy Freeway. I had rented a similar trailer several times with no problem. This type trailer fits my car well and is very easy to load. The car is held on the trailer by straps that hold the car by the front wheels only. I loaded the car as usual strapping the wheels down as tight as possible. After about a mile of driving I could tell something was wrong with the car and trailer. I slowed to a crawl and eased to a stop on the road shoulder. Even though I was stopping very slowly the car came over the front of the trailer and the front bumper and fenders fell on the trailer tongue. I called AAA who came out in just a few minutes but because the car was covering the crank on the trailer it took about 2 hours to maneuver the car back onto the trailer. The straps had come loose and the car was shifting back and forth on the trailer. The trailer I rented had no tie down for the rear wheels. I had rented similar trailers several times with no problems. It took me some time to figure out why it came loose. The car needed to be in gear or the parking brake needed to be on to prevent the car from moving on the trailer. Damage was not serious except for damage to the front left fender which Haggerty Insurance is replacing. I was able to locate a new 75 year old fender at Max Merritt. If you rent one of these car hauler trailers from UHaul, be sure you secure the rear wheels or be sure the car is in gear. I learned my lesson the hard way.



## New Member & 2016 Activities Pictures



New Members Ronald and Patricia Orr  
1957 Packard Clipper





*Lone Star  
Packard Fall  
Tour*

Fall Tour 2016  
Galveston October 21-22

This year's Fall Tour will be to Galveston to coincide with the ACCA Central National Fall Meet at the Moody Gardens Hotel. We have reserved a block of rooms at the La Quinta Hotel 8710 Seawall Blvd. at a special rate of \$99.00. Make your reservation now by calling 1-409-740-9100. The hotel is very close to the Moody hotel and provides enclosed parking. The ACCA is expecting up to 200 cars for this event.

Plans are being made for club activities Friday and Saturday. More information coming soon.

Lone Star Packards  
4718 Shadow Grass Drive  
Katy, TX 77493-1777

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Calendar of Events:

**Sunday, August 28** – Red River BBQ 1 PM  
1911 East Main in beautiful and cool League City. Meeting and dessert at Baccaro's.502 Lily Court.

**Sunday, September 18** – Pot Luck lunch at Trokey's.at 4718 Shadow Grass Drive, on the breezy Katy Prairie. Janice Musgrove is organizing this meeting.

**Friday – Saturday, October 21-22** – Fall Tour to Galveston - LaQuinta Seawall Blvd.

**Saturday, November 19** – Meeting in Montgomery County area - TBA

**December** -: Need help planning Christmas party – any volunteers??



