

The
**Pious
Pelican**

December 2020



Northern California Packards

PAC's First Region

Founded in 1960

www.NorCalPackards.org



A Region of The Packard Club, Packard Automobile Classics, Inc.

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Health & Welfare	Phil Sherman	925-418-4706	packard56@msn.com
Website, Projects & Publicity	Christopher Slater	408-599-9103	gladstone.cottage@gmail.com
Website Assistant	George Beck	925-827-1255	beck1584@astound.net
Technical Lead	Bob McCoy	925-518-5909	bobmccoy3@gmail.com
Tour Director	Clint Moore	408-426-0741	batbuick@yahoo.com
Assistant	Dave Wooldridge	408-368-0510	packardnut@comcast.net
At Large	Tom Beidleman	925-719-0152	tmbeidleman@earthlink.net
At Large	Michael Solomon	916-365-1887	mchl.solomon@gmail.com
At Large	Janet Wooldridge	831-431-3731	janetwooldridge@comcast.net

Historian

Historian	Fred Hill	925-939-4455	echohillpackards@comcast.net
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Pious Pelican

Executive Editor	Bud Juneau	925-634-3730	cbjphoto@dslextreme.com
Editor	Clint Moore	408-426-0741	batbuick@yahoo.com

Any changes, additions or corrections to the Pious Pelican should be directed to Clint Moore at batbuick@yahoo.com.

The Pious Pelican
November—December, 2020
Volume 59, No. 6
Director's Report

Well, folks, what a year we all have had. Maybe there's that proverbial light -at-the-end-of-the-tunnel.

I'm optimistic that our club will start to see something liken to normality in 2021.

Clint has kept us informed via the Pious Pelican. In this issue, we learn of our tour of the Ruth Bancroft Gardens and a drive to Brentwood followed by lunch at the Hannah Nicole winery. (This event was designed to be COVID 19 sensitive through being outside, encouraging social distancing, and requiring face coverings.)

You will also learn of our involvement in the Silverado Tour.

I think one of the highlights of our club (besides our fellowship) has been our annual Western Regions Tour. This year, San Diego is hosting the tour for the first time! You will find details about this fantastic event in these pages, and I encourage you to make your reservations now. If COVID is still a problem, your money will be fully refundable.

And finally in this issue, we remember PAC and Nor Cal founding member Wayne Parsons, who passed away at the beginning of December at the age of 96. His zest for life and contribution to the car hobby will be truly missed.

After having served as your Director for the past four years, it is time to pass the gavel to a new generation of leadership. I plan to stay on the Board and participate in our driving and social events.

A special thanks to the members of the Board. You have stayed engaged and have provided leadership and direction to keep our club vital.

Happy Motoring!

Steve Weir





PACKARD SERVICE

2021 EVENTS

- January 11 Board Meeting—Phone conference
(contact Steve Weir for more info)
- May 12-16 Western Regions Tour—See article on
Page 12 of this issue!

For a complete list of events, please visit our website at
www.norcalpackards.org/calendar.php



This vintage street scene submitted by Bruce Cumming shows a Packard starting up one of San Francisco's many hills. What other cars can you pick out?

Where We've Been **East Bay Driving Tour**

Text by Clint Moore



Enjoying their one outing of the year were (left to right) Bill Young's 1954 Clipper Deluxe, Steve Weir & John Hemm's 1940 120 Sedan, Fred & Pam Hill's 1955 Four Hundred and John & Judi Higgins' 1940 1800 Sedan.

(Photo: Clint Moore)

Our first and final chance to get our Packards out as a group in 2020 began on a crisp, sunny morning at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. Nine Packards graced the start of the tour, including Doug Moore's 1950 Super Deluxe Convertible Victoria fresh from the upholstery shop. It hadn't been on the road in nearly 25 years! Warren Martin piloted his 1955 Nash Ambassador Custom Country Club, which almost counts as a Packard because of its Packard V-8 and Twin Ultramatic transmission, and Ron and Mary Carpenter stopped by the start to say hello in their 1951 Ford Woodie. While it was a little awkward having to wear masks and turn in extra COVID release forms, the mood was light as we all got a chance to chat and catch up in person! Unfortunately, Henry Hopkins had trouble with his 1947 Club Sedan and arrived too late to join the group, ultimately deciding to play it safe and return home.

The day warmed quickly, and a few people put their tops down for the 30-mile tour planned by Steve Weir. We left the gardens behind and headed for a meandering road around the base of Mt. Diablo. The drive afforded us the chance to give the cars a good run while staying away from the heavy Bay Area traffic, and the natural surroundings and beautiful vistas were wonderful to take in.

Finishing with a brief spin through downtown Brentwood – definitely a place

(Continued on page 4)



*One of these things is not like the others: Doug Moore's 1950 Super Deluxe and Milt Wheeler's 1948 Deluxe Victorias flank the Toland's Thunderbird.
(Photo: Clint Moore)*

to come back and explore once the pandemic is in our rear-view mirror! – participants placed their cars in the ample parking lot of Hannah Nicole Winery on the outskirts of town where we were joined by 2 more Packards. Specially reserved, socially spaced tables were set aside for us, and Phil Sherman had arranged for lunch from local restaurant Sticky Chicken & Ribs. The sizeable portion included both fried chicken strips and BBQ ribs along with several sides. Many people packed up leftovers to take home!

A darkening sky prompted most people to make a hasty departure after they were done eating, and it's a good thing they did! Some were treated to



*Beautiful prickly pears at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens where our day began.
(Photo: Pam Hill)*

a storm that even Noah would have blanched at with thunder, lightning, torrential rain and even hail! Suffice to say Doug Moore's car may have been mostly new, but it wasn't waterproof! Fortunately, no damage was done once it dried out. Besides, even the weather on the way home couldn't have dampened our spirits for the one occasion we had to see our Packarding friends in person in 2020, and we give many thanks to Steve Weir and Phil Sherman for making it possible!

Members who brought Packards

Orin Kerr & Family	1935 1207 Twelve Coupe Roadster
Bob & Karen Reed	1937 1502 Super Eight Touring Sedan
Jeff Mihaly	1937 1500 Super Eight Sedan
Michael Solomon & Dee Webster	1938 1600 Eight Touring Sedan
John Higgins	1940 1800 Sedan
Steve Weir & John Hemm	1940 1801 120 Sedan
Milt & Carolee Wheeler	1948 Super Convertible Victoria
Doug & Clint Moore	1950 Super Deluxe Convertible Victoria
Bill Young & Kirby Wiley	1954 Clipper Deluxe
Fred & Pam Hill	1955 Four Hundred
Phil Sherman & Susan Watson	1956 Four Hundred

Other members who participated

Tim & Kathie Toland	Christopher Slater
Tom Beidleman	Warren Martin
Ron & Mary Carpenter	Henry Hopkins (almost!)



*The new normal: Steve Weir, John Hemm and Clint Moore try to sort out the extra paperwork at the start of the tour while John Higgins and Bill Young look on.
(Photo: Christopher Slater)*



Above: Steve Weir (with John Hemm behind), Tom Beidleman, and Milt & Carolee Wheeler chat while waiting for lunch.

Right: Jonah and Levi Kerr take a break from laughing and horsing around to snap a photo with dad Orin.

*Below: Hail builds up on the windows of Doug Moore's 1950 Super Deluxe on the drive home.
(Photos: Christopher Slater)*



*Right: Fred & Pam Hill's 1955
400 in front of the vineyard..*

*Below: Bill Young & Kirby Wiley
enjoy the opportunity to catch up
with Fred & Pam Hill.*

*Bottom: John Higgins' 1940 Sedan
shows off its bright, polished trim..*

(Photos: Christopher Slater)





*Above: Jeff Mihaly smiles from behind his mask next to his 1937 1500 Super Eight Sedan at Hannah Nicole Winery.
Below: Doug Moore waves from inside his freshly restored 1950 Super Deluxe Convertible Victoria while the storm clouds gather
(Photos: Christopher Slater)*





*Above: Dan Shanahan's 1933 1004 Super Eight Convertible Sedan graces the lawn at Silverado, overshadowing Rod Dahlgren's 1947 Cadillac Fleetwood.
(Photo: Tom Beidleman)*

Below: Remembering Wayne Parsons. Here he waves from his beloved 1938 1605 Super 8 Limousine. See Obituary on Page 14. (Photo: Richard Zais)



Where We've Been **Silverado Car Show**

Text by Ed Holloway
Photos by Tom Beidleman

The NorCal Region of the Classic Car Club hosted their last activity of 2020, the "Silverado Get-Away," which was a great success. The weather was perfect and the mixture of cars through the years satisfied every level of interest. With much appreciation to John Evans, General Manager of the Silverado Country Club, in allowing us the use of the facilities and a very special appreciation to Rod Dahlgren for his extraordinary detailed-planning of the event and for his video walk-through of the cars on display. Over thirty cars brought well over fifty people to the event.

Nor Cal Packards Members who brought Packards

Dan Shanahan	1933 1004 Super 8 Convertible Sedan
Bob & Karen Reed	1937 1502 Super 8 Touring Sedan
Michael Solomon	1938 1600 Eight Touring Sedan
Eugene Justus	1946 Eight Clipper Deluxe Touring Sedan

Other Packards at the event

Adam Simms	1929 640 Custom Eight Phaeton
Lauren Ackerman	1953 Caribbean

Other Nor Cal Packards Members who participated in the event

Henry Hopkins	1941 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible
Rod Dahlgren	1947 Cadillac Fleetwood
Cindy Dahlgren	1961 Rambler American Convertible
Tom & Leslie Beidleman	1967 Pontiac Firebird



Eugene Justus' 1946 Clipper Deluxe sparkles in the sunshine under the palm trees.

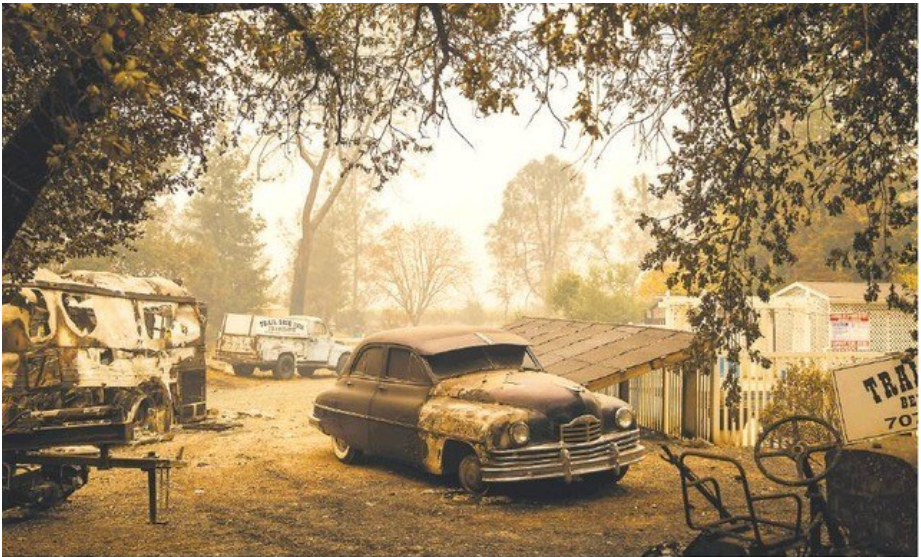
Out and About Members on the go!

In the absence of regular events, some members have been taking drives on their own or attending to needed repairs. Send us your photos if you're "out and about!"



Above: Fred Hill submitted this photo showing the progress he is making on his 1955 Caribbean. We hope to see it at the national meet here in 2023!

Below: John Brennan shared this haunting photo of a 1950 Super Eight Sedan that was caught in the recent California wildfires.



Upcoming Event
Western Regions Tour
“Packards by the Bay”
San Diego—May 12-16, 2021

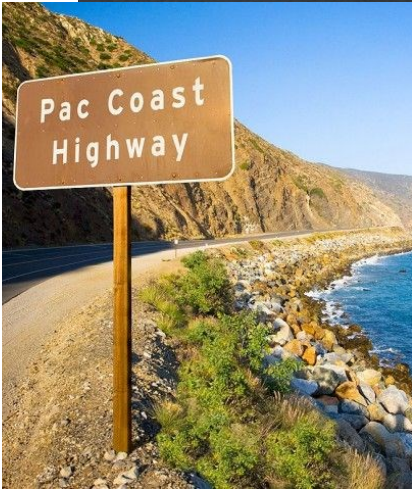
The San Diego Packard Club is honored to host the Western Regions Tour in 2021 and invites you to a four-night, three-day tour of Packard automobile nostalgia in beautiful San Diego!

Lodging is at the iconic Island Palms Best Western Hotel & Marina on Shelter Island. To reserve a room call 619-222-0561 and ask for the Packard Club block of rooms. Reservations require an advance deposit for the first night; subject to cancellation within 48 hours notice. Money will be refunded if COVID-19 is still an issue. Island Palms will honor the special room rate for extended stays. Underground parking will be set aside for Western Region Tour guests. Register before March 29, 2021 to lock in the special rate!



Visit SanDiegoPackard.com for more information!





Planned Events:

- Tour the USS Midway Museum on beautiful San Diego Bay
 - Relax and shop at the historic Hotel Del Coronado
 - Enjoy a breathtaking water tour of San Diego Bay on Hornblower Cruises
 - Drive your Packard on specially designed tours through exclusive Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, and along the Pacific Coast Highway
 - Visit the Balboa Park Automotive Museum
- Show your Packard at Cruisin' Grand, Escondido, the largest community outdoor car show west of the Rockies
 - Enjoy a banquet at the beautiful Southwestern Yacht Club, San Diego
 - And much more!

(Guests wishing to do so may request a ride in a Packard during all tours)

Facing Page

Top: Our host hotel for the weekend, the Island Palms Best Western.

Bottom: The Balboa Park Auto Museum features a wide variety of vehicles.

This Page

Top: The USS Midway Museum includes an extensive collection of aircraft.

Middle: PCH awaits!

Bottom: The historic Hotel Del Coronado



Remembering Wayne Parsons

May 1, 1924—December 9, 2020

Submitted by Wayne's Nephew, Richard Zais

Beverly "Wayne" Parsons passed away at the age of 96 on December 9, 2020 in Carmichael California.

Wayne was born on May 1, 1924 to Henry and Marian Parsons in Fort Dick, Del Norte County, California. He was the oldest of his siblings and graduated from Del Norte County High School in June of 1942. He excelled in his classes and in shorthand speed writing.

He was inducted into the US Navy in April 1943, where his office skills and shorthand expertise were valued throughout World War II. He received an honorable discharge from the Navy in June 1946, and enrolled in the Business School at the University of CA at Berkeley, graduating with honors with a BS in Business Administration in 1947.

That same year Wayne met Arthur Gravatt in Carmel, CA. They became fast friends that grew into a lifelong relationship as partners that lasted for 63 years until Art's passing in 2010. They shared a common interest in art, music, opera, classic cars, travel, family gatherings, and interior design. Wayne and Art helped to establish the Packard Automobile Club in 1953 to honor the legacy and history of the Packard Car Company, and to preserve classic Packard automobiles. The inspiration for the Club was Wayne's purchase of a classic 1938 Packard Super 8 Limousine in 1951, which he owned and kept in concours condition for 70 years.

Following graduation from Berkeley, Wayne was hired by the Western Electric Company in San Francisco as a Management Trainee in 1947. Wayne held increasingly responsible positions throughout his tenure there, including in 1979 when Wayne served as the Sponsored Executive for the United Way, helping to increase corporate and individual giving by more than 10% from the prior year, or nearly \$3.2 million dollars. Wayne retired from Western Electric as a Senior Executive after 35 years of service.

In his later years, Wayne became an independent financial advisor and investor and pursued a lifelong interest in the stock market.

Wayne was a true "Renaissance Man" with a keen intellect and diverse interests in business, the stock market, politics, the arts, playing classical music on his 1904 Steinway piano, attending Packard Club classic car events, and traveling throughout the country and overseas. Wayne's greatest interests centered around life with Art, driving and showing off his 1938 Packard Limousine, and attending family and friends' weddings, graduations, anniversaries, retirements, and especially Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. He was especially devoted to caring for Art, his parents and his beloved siblings in their final years.

Wayne Parsons was genuinely loved and respected. He was a man of great character, honesty, integrity and kindness. He loved his family deeply and gave generously of his time, talents and resources to them. He was a loyal and devoted friend that could always be relied on for help, advice and wise counsel.

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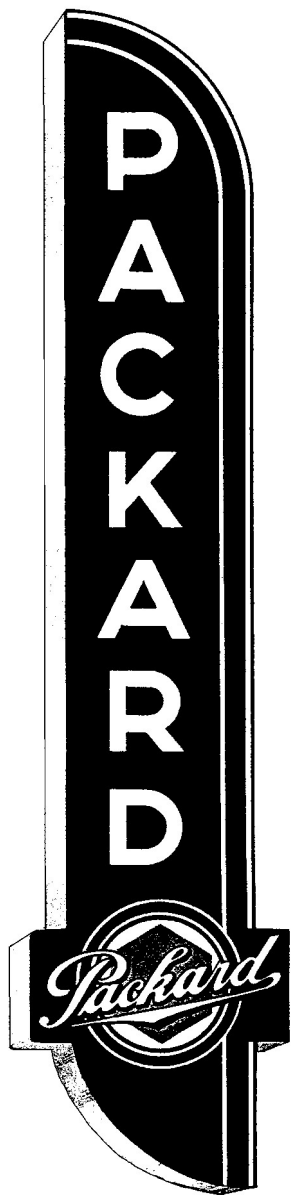
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