

The
**Pious
Pelican**

2014



Northern California Packards

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

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Technical Lead, Bob Mc Coy	925-518-5909	bobmccoy3@gmail.com
Tour Director, Joe Munsch	831 234 0802	jmunsch@slvsoft.com
Website, George Beck	925-827-1255	beck1584@astound.net
Historian, Fred Hill	925-939-4455	echohillpackards@comcast.net

PIOUS PELICAN

Editor, Bud Juneau	925-634-3730	cbjphoto@dslextreme.com
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The Pious Pelican
May - June 2014
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Director's Report

We've had quite a spring in the events calendar of Nor-Cal Packards. The Petaluma Garage tour, Western Regions Tour and most recently, the Marin Headlands tour were all hugely successful. Thanks to all the organizers and thanks to you for participating. Two of these events are covered in this issue of *The Pelican*.

Now that summer is here, the car events just keep coming and Nor-Cal Packards has plenty in store for you. We hope to have a strong turn out for our annual picnic which is a shared event with Cad-LaSalle and many others. I think of it as an ecumenical picnic. All Packards park together but there are lots of other cars to see at Portal Park in Cupertino. Please mail in your reservations now so the organizers can plan.

In August, we have a rare opportunity to visit the Carolands Mansion. Here's the link if you'd like a preview of the day: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolands> Please note that this tour is on a Wednesday as that's the only day that the Mansion is open for a visit. Since school is still out for most, this may be a great opportunity to bring kids or grandkids to visit this stunning site located in Hillsborough.

While not a Nor-Cal Packards event, the Monterey week which culminates in the Pebble Beach Concours is considered by many to be the premier Concours in the country. You will see cars here that you just don't see anywhere else and there is usually/always a Packard class at Pebble Beach with stunning cars to see. With many auctions taking place in Monterey over the week, you may want to bring your checkbook and add a Packard to your growing collection!

At the end of the summer, there are three events I wish to highlight here. One is our Packard parts swap in Vallejo, a long-standing club tradition. The second is the Gatsby Days Vintage Picnic at the Dunsmuir Estate in Oakland put on by the Art Deco Society who is always looking for cars from the Gatsby era (1925 – 1939). And lastly, one final Concours at the Ironstone Vineyards in Murphys, CA. All three events are different and all are great. I hope to see many of our members there.

I spoke too soon! The Niello Concours in El Dorado Hills is holding their Concours on October 5, 2014 and Packard will be the featured marque. The website is <http://www.nielloconcoursatserrano.com/> I've talked with the organizer who promises it will be a great event and is looking for more Packards. Contact Brian Moore to sign up.

Get those Packards and picnic baskets ready for Portal Park and we'll see you on the road!

Jeff Mihaly

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We thank the fellow club members listed below who have offered to try to help solve problems encountered by others when working on their Packards. If you can help with a certain area of expertise, please let Chairman, Bob McCoy know, so he can add your name to the list. Although they will do their best to help, neither the club nor the advisor can accept responsibility for or guarantee the accuracy of suggestions.

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'38-'50 Junior: Ron Carpenter, 925-933-1486, email: RCarp1940@aol.com

'55-'56 V-8: Fred Hill, 925-934-3471, email: echohillpackards@comcast.net



2014 EVENTS

- Jul 11, 2014 - Board Meeting - Blackhawk Automotive Museum
- Jul 13, 2014 - Annual Membership Picnic - Portal Park Cupertino
- Jul 15-20, 2014 - PAC National Meet at Warren, Ohio
- Jul 20 - Hillsborough Concours
- August 6, 2014 - Carolands mansion tour
- August 9, 2014 - Cars & coffee at Canepa
- August 12-17, 2014 - Pebble Beach Concours
- Sep 7, 2014 - Packard and Classic Car Swap Meet - Vallejo
- Sep 27, 2014 - Ironstone Concours at Murphys
- Oct 5 - Niello Concours at Serrano
- Oct 19, 2014 - Board Meeting - Auto Vino
- Nov. 8, 2014 - Lafayette to Sunol driving tour
- Dec 14, 2014 - Annual Holiday Luncheon, Mountain View

2015 EVENTS

- Jan 11, 2015 - A Day at the Movies - Blackhawk Museum

Where We've Been
Petaluma Garage Tour

April 27, 2014

Text by Tour Director, Joe Munsch

Photos by Bill Young



*The VanSpeybroecks in their '37 Twelve club sedan
enjoying country touring at its finest.*

They needn't have worried. Those who left their Packards at home on Sunday, April 27, 2014 for fear of rain never had such fears materialize. It started with gray skies, even a little precipitation, in places but it turned into another beautiful spring day in Marin and Sonoma counties.

We all met at our usual haunt, the *Starbucks*, in Novato. 'We all' included Tour Leader, Jeff Mihaly with son Lukas and wife Beth Eng and their '37 Super 8 sedan; a very original car. They were kind enough to let me and their friend Sam Medina ride along. Bill Young brought his '54 Clipper and Fred and Pam Hill had their '55 400 Hardtop. Come on Fred, they weren't really that clean from the dealer, were they? David LeCount and friends Stan and Gail arrived in a gorgeous '49 Buick Roadmaster. John and Nancy VanSpeybroeck brought their '37 12 Club Sedan from Arcata. It was

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*Tourmaster Jeff Mihaly's '37 Super 8 sedan next to
Bill Young's '54 Clipper.*



*Glenda Sears (Mitzi on leash), Barbara Gapoff, Pam Hill,
Linda Wuichet, and Barbara Henretty.*



(Continued from page 6)

great to meet them. Larry Nannini brought his '40 Super 8 Sedan and his friend David. Milt and Carolee ran up through the south bay rain in their '66 E Type Jag, another super cool brand X. Ron and Mary Carpenter drove their '49 club sedan. Strange to see them in a car with no wood. Steve Weir, and John Hemm, and friend Tony brought their '40 120 sedan. Paul and Flo Williams brought their '33 1002 club sedan, a stately representative of that era. My brother, Pat and wife Em and their son Austin joined us from Sebastopol with their (almost) restored Karmann Ghia convertible. The following dodged raindrops in brand X: Bill and Barbara Henretty, George and Eddie Beck, George Newhall, Don and Glenda Sears, and John and Lorraine Kilkenny. Keith and Susannah Williams came all the way from Paradise. Jerry and Linda Wuichet, Mike and Kris Golomb, Neal and Barbara Gapoff, and Richard and Linda Mann rounded out the group of 48 folks on the tour.

Starting out on Novato Blvd we rapidly came to the rolling hills west of 101 and connected with Pt. Reyes/Petaluma Rd. We then made a quick trip past the Nicasio

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Steve Weir's '40 120 sedan.

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Reservoir, through the Nicasio Creek canyon, and up the Lagunitas Creek canyon to Pt. Reyes Station. Up Hwy 1 we went and soon we were running along Tomales Bay—very picturesque. We cruised on through very small towns like Marshall, and places that aren't even towns like Millerton and Blakes Landing. Much of this area along the bay is parklands now and remains as it has been for many years. Folks were commenting on how they came here as kids, and it still looks the same. The road turned inland at Nicks Cove, near the mouth of the bay, and continued through the town of Tomales, a real town as it has the local High School. Just north of Tomales we took Fallon-Two Rock Road east, once again into the rolling hills. It's really cool; the unique road names give you the image of having once been trails from farm to farm. Then we turned on the not-so-lyrical Smith Road. Here we found an example of altered topography between Marin and Sonoma counties. When you suddenly find yourself bouncing around on the patched potholes, and dodging the not patched ones, you're in Sonoma County. The garage of this trip belongs to a good friend of Jeff's. The collection is an eclectic mix of motoring and memorabilia. We enjoyed checking out his machines and material and then it was off up to Valley Ford Rd. More small towns rolled past till we got to Bodega Hwy, and then Bohemian Hwy and into the redwood forest around Occidental. More great place names.

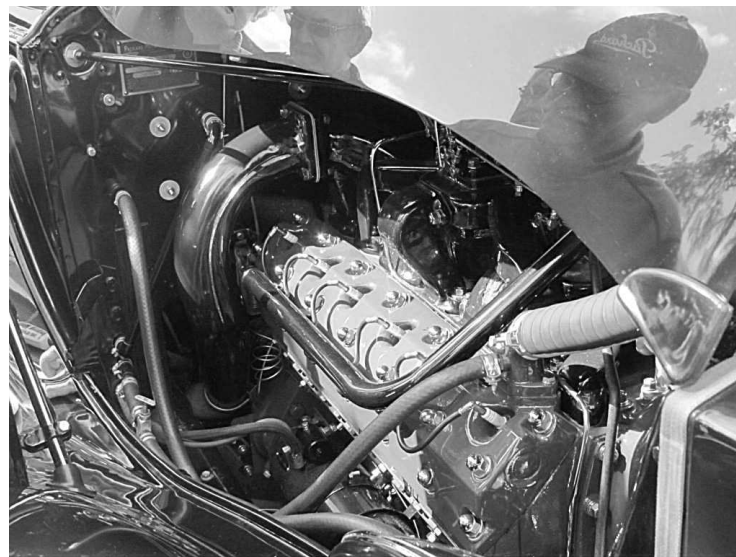
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Paul Williams' '34 Twelve club sedan always looks like new.



John & Nancy VanSpeybroeck brought their '37 1508 Twelve club sedan all the way from Arcata.



The VanSpeybroeck engine compartment is beautifully detailed.



Larry & Susan Nannini's '40 160 touring sedan.



Fred & Pam Hill's '55 400 HT.

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Eventually the passel of Packards found their way to the *Union Hotel* where a fabulous feast was waiting. For many years the *Union Hotel* has served locals and tourists alike with family style Italian cuisine. Maybe cuisine is too stuffy a word for the laid-back ambiance, but it sure is great grub. The Packard people all enjoyed the chatting and soon it was time to head back to 101 and on home.

Thanks to our garage-tour host, the folks at the *Union Hotel*, and to Pat Munsch for hints on back roads with cool names.



Ron & Mary Carpenter's '49 club sedan.



Tourmaster Jeff Mihaly and son Lukas.

Where We've Been
Western Regions Tour
Monterey Peninsula

May 16-18, 2014

Text by Tour Director, Joe Munsch

Photos by Bud Juneau



Point Sur lighthouse, 361 feet up on a rocky point, as seen over the hood of Andrew Wallace's '51 Patrician. The car ahead is Robert and Barbara Needham's '51 200 DeLuxe sport coupe.

This year, from May 15 to 18, Nor-Cal Packards hosted the Western Regions Tour in Pacific Grove, on the beautiful Monterey peninsula. The great thing about this event is getting to meet folks from three western regions, Earle C Anthony in southern California, Silver Circle based in Reno, and Nor-Cal, and having time on multiple occasions to chat with folks we don't see often, and to get to know better our own club members.

On May 15 I putted down via Santa Cruz and Monterey county back roads in my '40 110 smoke bomb sedan to the host hotel at the Light House Lodge and Cottages. My wife, Pat Shriver joined me Friday evening. I found Doug and Clint Moore already there with their '46 2126 1650 Custom limousine; very

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Mark & Kay Barchas in their '40 160 touring sedan.



Fred & Pam Hill brought their '55 400.



Crowds of tourists whipped out their cameras and mobbed our Packards when we stopped at Seal Rocks.





*Bob & Barbara Needham by their '51 Deluxe sport coupe
at the Laguna Seca raceway.*



Clint & Doug Moore at the timing stand at Laguna Seca.



Joe Munsch, Nor-Cal Tour Director and Milt Wheeler, Tourmaster of the event, with Monterey harbor in the background.

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comfy for touring. Bud Juneau rode along. Julie Moore showed up the next morning. Tour Leader, Milt Wheeler and Carolee soon arrived in their '34 1101 718 rumble-seat coupe, an evergreen set of wheels that was restored in the early '50s at Stahl Motors in Monterey. As we were waiting to head to our first tour stop, several other intrepid tourers arrived, including Jay and Tina Hubbard from Reno in their 1917 Studebaker touring. Pat and I got a ride and found a window to a different time. Jay has lots to do when driving, with normal brake and clutch, spark advance and throttle on the steering wheel, and heavy steering. The sounds are unlike more modern cars, with mechanical meshings, wind and exhaust notes mixed in. Neat car!

Jim and Liz Chase drove their 35/36 Sedan (to be formal - 1936 1400 Touring Sedan) from Reno. This is a gorgeous tan jewel that Jim built from a '36 body found in a field in Montana, and a '35 frame and running gear sourced closer to home. It's a testament to perseverance and the liberal application of elbow grease. I ramble. Suddenly there was a great group of participants, and a wonderful collection of cars. About a dozen cars headed around the corner, via

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the 'coast route', bound for the Monterey Museum.

Heading for the museum, we got a taste of 'tourists entertaining the tourists' meme. Everywhere we went this weekend, there were folks along the road waving and taking pictures. It was obvious that folks were getting introduced to vehicles they don't see much of. The Monterey Museum is an expansion and re-orientation of what was the Monterey Maritime Museum. The maritime exhibits, including the old light and Fresnel lens from the Pt. Sur Light are now on the second floor. The exhibits have been organized into a cohesive maritime history of the central coast. The lower floor has art from local artists, very tastefully displayed.

That evening we were on our own, so of course we banded together with other attendees and invaded the *Fishwife*, a very nice restaurant around the corner and down the street from the host lodge. I joined George and Eddie Beck and Jerry and Linda Wuichet. The Beck's '37 sedan is still at the shop in Idaho, hopefully to be seen at Portal Park. At the *Fishwife* we found Fred and Pam Hill with their 1955 5580 5587 400. It never ceases to amaze me how

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Julie Moore and Stella Pyrtok-Blond by the Moores' '46 limo.



Jim & Liz Chase with Jay & Tina Hubbard by the base of the Fresnel lens from the Point Sur lighthouse.

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pristine this car is, and it's driven. Mark and Kay Barchas were there with their '40 1803 1362 160 touring sedan. Up from L.A. were Earl Rubenstein and his friend Wendy. They brought a '51 "Police Car" from the *Automobile Driving Museum* in El Segundo. The story is that Earl (museum curator) found the car in the L.A. area and the museum owner thought it would be cool as a cop car. Earl found the period correct accessories, had the car painted and lettered and got all the parts working. Caravanning up with Earl was Andrew Wallace with his excellent '52 Patrician.

Friday morning we were scheduled to visit Stahl Motors in Monterey, originally a Packard dealer and more recently dealing in Mercedes. Several cars on the tour had connections to Stahl Motors. In addition to Milt's '34, John and Yvonne Fuller had their '50 2332-S 2379-5 convertible victoria that had been a showroom star for Stahl and had every conceivable option installed. The car was then used as a personal vehicle for the Stahl family. John has kept the car in pristine shape. Robert and Barbara Needham brought their 51 2401 2498 200 Deluxe sport coupe which was originally sold by Stahl. Tim and

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Kathie Toland brought their '40 1389 110 convertible coupe. James and Julie Lemen drove their '51 Patrician. Bill and Barbara Henretty were looking elegant in their '37 120C 1092 sedan with its beautiful burgundy paint job. Stella Pyrtek-Blond and Charlie Peters joined us from New Jersey for a short vacation. Troy and Martha James also came down from the Silver Circle region. Bill and Lynn Butterworth came down from Soquel, still without their '40 club sedan. It'll be that much sweeter when it's finally back on the road.

After a short tour through town to Stahl Motors, we met Bill Stahl who gave us the grand tour and told us the history of the dealership. It's one of the oldest continuously operating auto dealerships in the country, having been owned by the Stahl family since the '20s. Bill's dad, William, started by buying out the previous Packard dealership – for \$3,500. First thing William did was take inventory, finding that he had \$5,000 worth of Packard parts. Great move! William had an ethic of providing the best service possible to his customers and the dealership prospered. In the mid '50s Packard was going south and William took up an invitation to consider the, new to the U.S., Mercedes. The connection was the Mercedes importer, Max Hoffman, was also a major player

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Milt & Carolee Wheeler by the top of the Fresnel lens from the Point Sur lighthouse, now on display at the Monterey Museum.



Barbara & Bill Henretty (left) with Linda and Jerry Wuichet at the timing stand at Laguna Seca raceway. Ferraris were screaming by at 130 to 135 mph during their time trials.

(Continued from page 20)

in Packard distribution. William immediately signed up and the rest is history. The family still operates the dealership out of the original building, and others added since, at the corner of Fremont and Abrego in Monterey.

Leaving Stahl Motors, we took our convoy down Hwy 1 to Carmel Valley Rd. and the *Baja Cantina* restaurant where Pat Phinny, the owner, welcomed us. This was great fun as we were one of two vehicle-oriented clubs there for lunch. The other was a large motorcycle club. So we were looking at the bikes and they were looking at the Packards. More tourists entertaining tourists. The *Baja Cantina* is car themed with tons of motive memorabilia decorating the place. Pat Phinny is a Packard enthusiast and brought his '40 Woody Wagon. Someone from the neighborhood dropped by with his '57 Studebaker/Packard.

After lunch it was on down Carmel Valley Road to Laureles Grade Road, a scenic route over to Hwy 68 and Laguna Seca. The Ferrari Club was using the facility for a track day but welcomed the Packards when they heard we were in town. Again tourists entertaining tourists. We parked in the paddock where the

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Ferrari folks checked out the Packards and we checked out the Ferraris. After an afternoon of watching and listening to Ferraris hot lapping on the track, it was back to the Lodge and on our own for dinner. That means most of the club descended on *Gianni's Pizza* in Monterey. The folks there were up to the task and provided great dinners for the mob. "The mob" provided the chat and camaraderie.

We were joined Saturday morning by James Laughlin and a couple of his friends with his '41 convertible coupe. Down Hwy 1 we went, over Bixby Bridge and on to the Point Sur Lighthouse. Along the way we entertained the tourists who all seemed to have cameras aimed at the Packards. The lighthouse is a California State Park that is well run, solely by volunteers. We heard lots of history on the point, an outcrop of rock on a treacherous rocky coast. It is still an active lighthouse, run by the Coast Guard. At one time the light-keeper and crew and their families lived and worked at the lighthouse. The installation evolved through the years, from an oil-fired light to electric, using the Fresnel lens to amplify the light. A foghorn and, when the technology came along, a radio beacon were also used. When the Coast Guard took over, they

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Group 1 poses for a photo after the 300 ft. climb up to the Point Sur lighthouse.





The Tolands' '40 110 convertible, Henretty's '37 120, Rubenstein's police car replica, and Moores' '46 drawing a crowd at Laguna Seca.



Everyone took their turn at playing around with the police car replica from the Automobile Driving Museum. Here we see Earl Rubenstein arresting Andrew Wallace

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converted the light to a modern beacon, removing the Fresnel lens. That was an opportunity for the Monterey Museum, which now exhibits the lens. The buildings on the station are all stone because of the unbelievable wind and era they were built, but the furnishings were updated as time went on. A neat glimpse of how things used to be done.

In the afternoon we met Mike O'Connor with his '37 120C 1099 convertible coupe with right-hand drive. Mike has a house in Pebble Beach and led the tour through the *17-Mile Drive*. We traced the old Del Monte Forest - Laguna Seca Raceway, passing numerous golf courses, and finally ending up on *17-Mile Drive* on the coast. We pulled into the Seal Rock vista point and found enough parking places in a row for the Packards. At the same location there were some tour busses loaded with Asian tourists; a wild and crazy group. They were delighted with the Packards and everyone posed for pictures with their favorite Packard. Of course Earl's Police car was a big hit and Earl did his best to promote the fun!

Saturday evening we gathered at the Lodge dining room for a great banquet and a last chance to chat with friends old and new. George Beck had taken pictures of each car and printed and distributed them to all the participants, along with a group photo. It was a very nice memento of the trip. Thanks George! And thanks to Tourmasters Milt and Carolee, Mike O'Connor, Bill Stahl, Pat Phinny and all those who made the Western Regions Tour a memorable adventure.



Mike O'Connor, tour leader for the 17-Mile Drive tour.



Long-time PAC members John and Yvonne Fuller drove their '50 Super DeLuxe convertible from Reno, Nevada .



James & Julie Lemen by their '51 Patrician at Laguna Seca.



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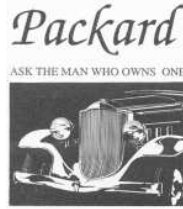
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