

The
Pious
Pelican

2015



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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PIOUS PELICAN

Editor, Bud Juneau	925-634-3730	cbjphoto@dslexreme.com
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The Pious Pelican
March - April 2015
Volume 54, No. 2
Director's Report

With the Spring touring season upon us, your Nor-Cal Packard club is busy planning opportunities for us all to get together and enjoy our fine Packard automobiles. A few of us are crazy enough to have signed up for the Lincoln Highway Association/Henry B. Joy tour from the Packard Proving Grounds to San Francisco. In fact, I will be joining the diehards on a portion of the tour commencing in Salt Lake City. There is an opportunity for the Nor-Cal Packard club to have a meet and greet at the Blackhawk Auto Museum on Wednesday July 8th. Bud Juneau & George Beck will be hosts and more details will be sent. The touring group from will be stopping at Blackhawk and we would love to have a strong turnout of Nor-Cal Packard members to say welcome to the weary drivers and exchange stories of the adventurous tour. We will display our Packards on the Plaza by the front door and members will be given free admission to the Museum.

Board Member and Historian Fred Hill is leading a Martinez-based tour on June 28th which includes a stop at the John Muir Historic Estate in Martinez, after which Fred is also taking us to a great lunch spot. Look for more information at the Nor-Cal Packards website.

On July 26, we hope you'll join us for the Packard Picnic which is in conjunction with many other car clubs in the area and hosted by Cadillac/LaSalle Club. This is the easiest picnic ever—you don't have to pack a lunch or a picnic basket; it's being packed for you! Our group will have our usual display area, silly prizes, and an opportunity to see our cars.

Planning way ahead to July of 2016, I want to put a bug in the ear of all members for a multi-day Packard adventure. The Oregon region is hosting the Packard National Meet and this is the best of all possible worlds for us in Northern California: close enough to drive to but we don't have to plan the event! At the last board meeting, an idea was tossed around to have a slow-and-easy drive to Portland over three days. We would choose roads so as to avoid busy interstates and average around 200 miles per day, stopping along the way for meals and interesting sights. Arriving at our destination, we would then experience 5 or 6 days of all Packards, all the time at the National Meet. If you've not attended a National Meet before, it's much more fun than Disneyland or Europe or anything else I can think of. Cars are everywhere, parts are everywhere, and people who can shed light on your Packard problems are there for inquiry.

I'm heading out to the garage now to work on my NEW Packard, a 1934 Packard Eight coupe, thanks to the encouragement of Milton Wheeler. Unfortunately, it will not be a permanent member of the family, but I get to enjoy it for the short term. Looking forward to seeing you with your old or new Packard at one of the upcoming events soon.

Jeff Mihaly

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Technical Advisors

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.

Chairman: Bob McCoy, 925-518-5909, email: r-mccoy@sbcglobal.net

'32-'39 Senior: John Kilkenny, 408-779-6777, email: jkilkenny@juno.com

'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



2015 EVENTS

- May 15-17 Western Regions Tour
- Jun 28 John Muir House-Martinez
- Jul 8 Lincoln Highway tour arrives at Blackhawk
- Jul 12 Board Meeting-Blackhawk Automotive Museum
- Jul 12-18 2015 Packard Club National Meet - Reading, PA
- Jul 26 Annual Picnic, Portal Park, Cupertino
- Aug 11-16 Pebble Beach Concours events
- Sep 6 Packard and Classic Car Swap Meet - Vallejo
- Sep 26 Ironstone Concours at Murphys
- Oct 17-18 Mt. Lassen Overnighter
- Oct 25 Board Meeting (TBA)
- Nov 8 Marin county cheese tour
- Dec 6 Annual Holiday Luncheon - Zio Fraedo's in Vallejo



Tesla tour report starts on page 8

Where We've Been Napa - Yountville Tour

March 22 , 2015

Text by Steve Weir

Photos by Joe Munsch



Forty-three hearty Packard fans showed up for the March 22, 2015 Napa Tour hosted by Steve Weir and Milt Wheeler. We gathered under threatening skies at "Just Packards" (Steve Messenger's quality Packard restoration facility located on Cuttings Wharf Road.) There, we saw cars and engines in various states of rebirth (including a spiffy Packard 12 engine fresh from John Rankin's shop in Martinez.) Steve was a gracious host walking us through various restoration projects. Alas, the sky cleared and no rain!

For the tour to our luncheon at the Red Hen Cantina, Jerry Wuichet took the lead in his beautiful '50 Super Deluxe sedan, followed by 11 Packards as well as other cool cars including a Vette and a rag top Caddy. We arrived in time to fill a banquet room where we enjoyed our choice from a Mexican menu. (Wayne Parsons joined us for Lunch in his '56 400 hardtop...Wayne is a founding member of the Packard Club). We made quite a vision motoring along HWY 29. (The Munsch group of 4 attended in Joe's

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Becks' '37 left and Sears' '41 at Steve Messinger's shop.



The Stephensons' '37 115 C.

(Continued from page 6)

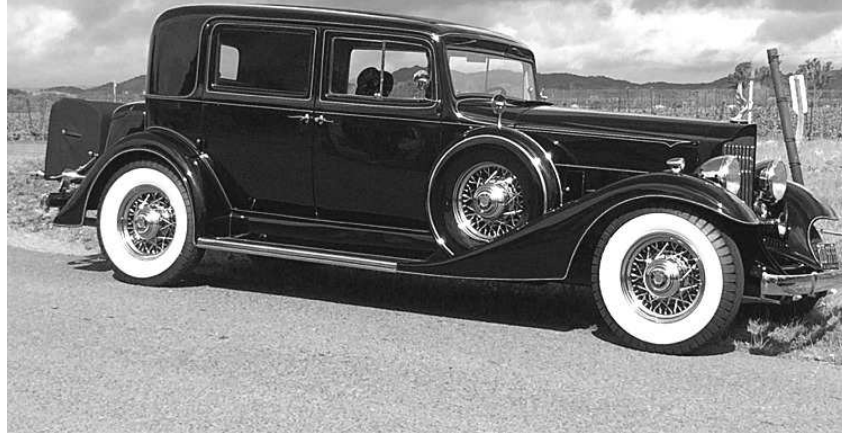
1940 110; a car facing restoration. Joe and company had this car trailered to his brother's home nearby so they could join us. The 110 had a top end of about 40 mph and performed like a champ.) We had to break up while some were just finishing their lunch so that we could go to our next appointment.

This time, the Vette lead us some 5 miles north to the California Veteran's Home. We traveled along Solano Avenue and again, what a sight we made. Arriving just in time, we wandered the grounds until finding a group of veterans waiting our arrival. We displayed our cars along The Alameda, adjacent to the Lincoln Theatre. Many veterans came out to greet us and to tell us the stories of their lives. The cars were a hit! While we were scheduled to leave at 2 pm, there was so much interest that we stayed until 2:30.

We were a hit with the Vets and we have been asked to repeat this event by the Veteran's activity department.

Those attending included:

Joe Munsch, Pat Shriver, Pat & Em Munsch ('40 110)
George & Julie Newhall ('38 Super Eight)
Tim & Kathy Toland (Corvette)
Jerry & Linda Wuichet ('50 Super DeLuxe sedan)
George & Eddie Beck ('37 touring sedan)
Steve Weir, John Hemm & Tony Butey ('66 Caddy cloth top);
Milt & Carolee Wheeler, Roy & Elaine Brett (Wheeler's '47 Custom Super Eight)
David LeCount & Stan
Paul Williams ('33 club sedan)
Fred & Pam Hill
Bill & Carol Norton
Irina D'Amato and children
Bill Young ('54 Clipper)
John Kilkenny & Don Sears ('41 LeBaron Sport Brougham)
Chip & Denise Flor ('37 convertible coupe <Welcome new members!>)
James Laughlin & Nesly Kaelin
Roark Diters; Tom Charleston & Matt, his son joined us at Steve's
Ladd Stephenson ('37 115-C)
Wayne Parsons & friend Jim ('56 400 hardtop)
Ed Behen



Paul Williams' '33 Eight club sedan



Kathie Toland & Linda Wuichet talking shop in the shop.



Chip & Denise Flors' '37 120.



*Jerry & Linda Wuichets' '50 Super DeLuxe
(Formerly owned by Warren Lubich)*



George & Eddie Becks' '37 Super Eight.



A Packard being worked on at Steve Messenger's shop.



The tour group in front of the main Tesla factory building.

Where We've Been

Tesla Tour

April 23, 2015

Text by Tourmaster Phil Sherman
Photos by Clint Moore & Bud Juneau



Doug Moore's '46 limousine at the Tesla factory.

On April 23, 2015, 25 members of Northern California Packards were treated to a tour of the Tesla Automobile Factory in Fremont, California. This was a tour that we hoped to have for several years now, since Tesla is the only car that is currently produced in Northern California, and the Tesla electric car, like our Packards in their day, is considered to be one of the most state of the art and advanced luxury cars that is being produced. We met at the factory at 12:00 PM, where we were met by Adam Slusser, the Tour Program Manager for Tesla Motors. The tour began at 12:30 P.M., when all club members were present and accounted for at the Tesla Factory tour reception office.

We walked with Adam where he showed us some of the features of the cars, by virtue of having some Tesla vehicle chassis prototypes where we could see the floor plans of the cars along with suspension components, electric drivetrain, and battery packs. Adam described the advanced features of the cars, and answered many questions from our knowledgeable Packard enthusiasts. After the viewing of the prototype cars, we

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The Model S is the Tesla current production car.

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were led to a tram to give our group a one hour drive through of the Tesla plant. During this drive through, Adam described to us the various manufacturing processes that we were witnessing.

The only way to tour the factory is by tram, as the factory is 4,000,000 square feet, being a former General Motors Plant and later a combined General Motors and Toyota operation known as New United Motors. (NUMMI) When General Motors went through its bankruptcy in 2009, the plant was closed and then sold to Tesla in 2010. At that time Tesla's future was highly speculative, but the Tesla Model "S" was recognized as a seminal advancement in car design when it came out in 2012, and Tesla has succeeded in doing the nearly impossible task of developing and successfully marketing an entirely new American car. Since that time 65,000 Teslas have been sold, which is impressive for a very high end electric car.

Interesting facts from the tour include the fact that most of the car's components, including the aluminum chassis, body panels, and the electric motors are all made in-house at the factory in Fremont. The tour took us through the various stages of production, including the shaping and forming of the aluminum in gigantic presses, the gathering of all the components, and following the assembly line as the parts are assembled into new Teslas. Much of the work is done by large robots for precision, which is the way most modern automobiles are assembled these days. The factory has

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The long and the short of it. An early Tesla roadster next to Doug Moore's '46 limousine.

(Continued from page 14)

been rendered as employee-friendly as possible, with open rest areas and company provided food and recreation in these rest areas. The robots that assemble the cars are named after Marvel comic book characters, per the wishes of Tesla's famous CEO, Elon Musk. As we went through the tour, some people thought they saw Mr. Musk at the factory, showing the plant to some visiting businessmen. Many Tesla workers waved to us as our tram drove by. Adam Slusser is a great tour host, with immense knowledge of the factory, and a very energetic and humorous presentation. He particularly enjoyed showing the sights to club members Bob and Mary Jane McCoy, who will soon be take delivery of a new Tesla, to be built on the assembly line of our tour. Others who attended the tour include:

Phil and Susan Sherman
George Beck
Tim and Kathy Toland
Allen and Vonda Breed
Jerry and Linda Wuichet
John Ulrich and Blanche Komacher

(Continued on page 16)



A Cormorant's-eye view of the Tesla visitor's center.

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Bud Juneau
Lew Dobbins and his son in law
Ron and Mary Carpenter
Clint and Doug Moore
Warren Lubich
Mark Barchas
Fred Hill
Jim and Lynda Campbell

The only Packard on the tour was Doug Moore's 1946 Custom limousine. After the tour many of us had a great seafood lunch at the Market Broiler in Fremont.



Packard NEWS



It has been years since we have seen Doug Moore at a Packard event in his '50 Super DeLuxe convertible, but he was seen at a local meet in San Jose recently with the car looking great. It has new paint, chrome, wheels and tires. It needs interior and top, but maybe we will see it out at a Nor-Cal meet one of these days soon.

TECH TOPICS

WITH BOB MC COY

Car batteries are like piggy banks. If you keep taking out of the battery without putting back in, at some point you will have nothing. That is why some batteries last two years and others last as long as eight years.

Sulfation is what kills batteries. That is the white material that builds up on the plates and reduces the current flow coming out the battery. The current flow is often referred to as cold-cranking amps.

Some new battery chargers have microprocessors, i.e. computers, which can pulse the current going into the battery. This helps to reduce the sulfate build-up on the plates.

Reducing sulfation is difficult once it has started which is why battery maintenance is important. Charging frequently is helpful. Cheap trickle chargers are adequate but they don't have the pulse technology to reduce sulfation.

I recommend one battery charger with maintainer and pulse technology at around 5 amps and a second high-amp charger with 20+ amps (with boost capability) to start a car with a dead battery.

My most embarrassing moments with antique cars have been when I was going to an event or at a stoplight and the car won't start.



A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW INTO THE PAST...



In 1964, Nor-Cal region members met in Golden Gate Park for a magazine shoot for the Sunday section in the SF Chronicle. Above: Maxine Wilson, Rita Snodgrass, Lil Ferreira, Bill Snodgrass, Pat Stoermer, & Bev Ferreira by his '25 '226.

That same day, a photo was taken of your editor, Bud Juneau, assisting Maxine Wilson in a lady-like exit from the rumble seat of Bud's '32 903 coupe roadster (now owned by Bill Ramsden in Carson City, Nevada.)





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APPLICATION TO JOIN

It is not necessary to own a Packard to join, but membership is required in the National Club. New members may include National dues of \$40 with first years Regional dues of \$25.

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Name(s) for Name badge(s) _____

Address _____

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E-mail address: _____

Home Phone () _____ Work () _____

May we list the following in our directory?

Address (Y/N) _____ Phone Number (Y/N) _____

Your Packards (Y/N) _____ e-mail (Y/N) _____

The Packards you own: (See National Handbook for #s)

Year Series-Chassis# Body style# Body type descrip.

1. _____

2. _____

If you own more than two, please list on separate sheet.

I am already a member of the National Club, PAC. (Y/N) _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Mail to: Membership Director
Bill Young
2512 Simas Ave.
Pinole, CA 94564

