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**Pious
Pelican**

2015



Northern California Packards

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www.Norcalpackards.org**



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

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PIOUS PELICAN

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The Pious Pelican

May - June 2015

Volume 54, No. 3

Director's Report

Greetings Nor-Cal Packard Enthusiasts!

I write these comments after a day of touring from Ely, Nevada to Reno with the Packard Club and the Lincoln Highway Association. Today was a 327-mile tour with several summits to climb with the Austin Summit at 7800 feet being the most challenging of the day. Fellow club and board member Milton Wheeler's '47 Custom 8 and the car I'm driving, a 1948 Custom 8, left the Nevada Hotel in Ely this morning at 6 in the hopes of traveling during the cooler part of the day. I guess our plans worked, for we made it the whole distance despite our temperature gauges keeping us nervous much of the time. By the time you read this, the tour will have ended and some of you will have greeted us at the Blackhawk Auto Museum.

We have a couple of great events coming up. Our annual Summer Packard Picnic, which is a combined event with many other clubs, will be on Sunday, July 26th at Portal Park. To register, go to the website and sign up. No need to pack a lunch as one is being packed for you! Then, on Saturday August 8th, George Beck is leading us on a tour of the Rankin Machine Shop in Martinez. I've been there once and John is a master machinist who does lots of work on Packard engines. Don't miss this special opportunity followed by a second treat of seeing a mystery car collection. Even your director does not know whose collection we are seeing! Come Saturday August 8th and find out. Casual lunch to follow. Download the form from the website, print it out and mail it in.

On Sunday September 6th, we have our annual Swap Meet in conjunction with the Nor-Cal CCCA and others at Buck Kamphausen's USA World Classics auto museum in Vallejo. You can buy or sell parts or a whole car! This has become a great social and practical event for our club over the years with donuts available, if you need a lift. No admission charged to shoppers at this swap meet; vendor spots are \$25 (\$20 for club members.)

Lastly, there are two events to which our club has been invited: The Forest Homes Historic Park event on October 24 where we've been asked to bring our cars for outreach and education for the public. More information will follow soon about this opportunity to spread the Packard news. Additionally, the Blackhawk Museum is asking for Packards of the Classic Era for a display and picnic at their site on Saturday, October 10th. Go to the Blackhawk Museum website for more information.

Next week, I will be attending the Packard Club National Meet in Reading, PA. This is promising to be a great National Meet. I hope to see many of our Nor-Cal members there!

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

- 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



The Hills' '55, Nortons' '49, Barchas' '40, Tolands' '40. & Henrettys' '37 at John Muir house. Story begins on page 12.

Where We've Been
Western Regions Tour
May 15-17, 2015
Text by Kathie Toland
Photos by Tina Hubbard & Kathie Toland



Andrew Wallace's 1951 Patrician sedan.

Earle C. Anthony Packard Motor Car Club hosted Silver Circle and Northern California Packards members in Santa Ynez Valley. Seven Packards included one from the Automobile Driving Museum in El Segundo. Earl Rubenstein and Andrew Wallace were co-tourmasters. Also from Earle C. Anthony MCC were Wendy White, Stanley and Myrna Zimmerman, Peter and Bee Kahn, Richard and Ruth Block, Jeff Block, and Alec Carlson. Silver Circle Packards was represented by Jay and Tina Hubbard. Northern California Packards members in attendance were Mark and Kay Barchas, Milt and Carolee Wheeler, Phil and Susan Sherman, Tim and Kathie Toland. Stella Blond from Keystone Packards rounded out our group to 22!

The "small but mighty group" was welcomed by Earl and Andrew at Pea Soup Anderson's in Buellton, home base for the 2015 Western Regions Tour. Our

(Continued on page 8)



Left to right: Bee & Peter Kahn, Ruth, Richard, & Jeff Kahn, Wendy White, Earl Rubenstein, Alec Carlson, Stella Pyrtek-Blond, Jay Hubbard, Andrew Wallace, Phil & Susan Sherman, Mark & Kay Barchas, Milt & Carolee Wheeler, and Myrna and Stan Zimmerman.



Lineup of Packards at Bradbury dam.

(Continued from page 6)

first adventure began at dusk as we drove into Mendenhall's Museum of Gasoline Pumps and Petroliana. Every wall, garage and roof was covered with auto-related signs, gas station products and other items from the past. We listened to Mark Mendenhall describe his father's passion for collecting. As darkness fell, neon gas station and Oil Company signs gleamed above our Packards. Richfield, the Flying A, Shell and others lit up the sky.

On Friday 7 Packards headed to Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum. Horse drawn carriages from local collections have been preserved and some restored. One open touring wagon from Yosemite National Park is on display. Other stagecoaches are restored. The addition of leather suspension straps between the coach and chassis improved the ride for passengers!

Heading north in the Valley, we passed scenic vineyards and horse farms on our way to lunch in Los Olivos. The 2004 movie "Sideways" brought fame to Los Olivos where numerous wine tasting venues are side by side. Earl had warned drivers and passengers not to be alarmed at steep and twisting Ballard Canyon Road. Nevertheless, all Packards successfully negotiated the hairpin turns with vineyards high above and below.

Final tour stop Friday was Figueroa Mountain Brewery where we tasted "flights" of beer and ale with salami and cheese appetizers. The close proximity of 5 towns in the Santa Ynez Valley: Buellton, Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard and Solvang made this a relaxing driving experience. Some members also had dinner that night at the Hitching Post II restaurant featured in "Sideways."

Saturday we drove to Bradbury Dam Overlook. Andrew Wallace, our co-host, explained the nature of an earth-filled dam although we wished the water level was higher. The reservoir provides water to Santa Barbara, but due to the current drought the water level was low. Lunch in Santa Ynez provided lots of options and time to walk through the historic western town.

On to Solvang and a stop at Quicksilver Ranch to see the miniature horses. Three foals had recently given birth to very tiny horses during March, April and May. When carrots were offered, the horses came closer in the pasture. From there we headed to the Solvang Vintage Motorcycle Museum. The Bit O' Denmark provided a generous smorgasbord of Danish foods. The dessert of Abelskivers with Lingonberry sauce culminated our day in the Santa Ynez Valley.

One highlight of our tour was the opportunity to meet and talk Packards with Andrew Wallace and Alec Carlson from southern California. Their enthusiasm for the Packard Motor Cars was apparent. Those of us who rode along with the

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Cars and their drivers at the Bradbury dam.



*Alec Carlson by the Driving Museums' '40 120 and
Earl Rubenstein by his '53 Caribbean.*

(Continued from page 8)

next generation of Packard drivers really appreciated their ability to maneuver on the winding Ballard Canyon Road!

Packards on the Western Region Tour 2015

Mark and Kay Barchas: 1940 – Packard 160 touring sedan
Richard and Ruth Block: 1940 – 120 Packard sedan
Peter and Bee Kahn: 1936 Packard V-12 7-passenger limousine
Earl Rubenstein and Wendy White: 1953 Packard Caribbean
Andrew Wallace: 1951 Packard Patrician
Milt and Carolee Wheeler: 1947 Packard Super Clipper
Automobile Driving Museum: 1940 – Packard 120 sedan (driven by Alec Carlson)



*The Automobile Driving Museum's '40 by
a scenic old-time service station.*



Milt Wheeler's '47 left and Andrew Wallace's '51 right.



*Jay Hubbard, Earl Rubenstein, Andrew Wallace,
& Stella Pyrtek-Blond enjoying after-dinner conversation.*

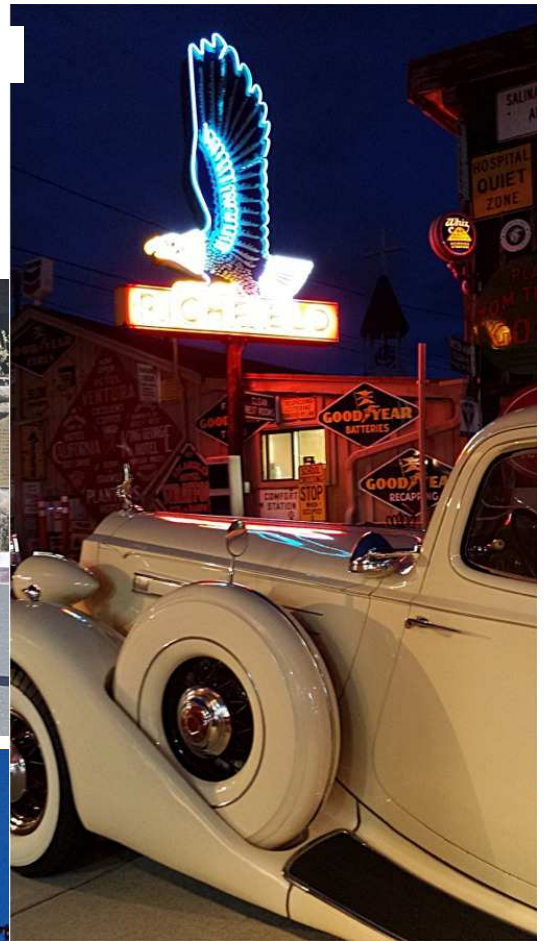


The Kahns' '36 V-12

The Henretlys' '37 120.



The Carpenters' '41 120.



Interior of John Muir home.



The Wheelers' '47 at Western Regions Meet.

Where We've Been

John Muir House

June 28, 2015

Text by Pam & Fred Hill

Photos by Joe Munsch & Pam Hill



Our June tour took us to the John Muir National Historic site, in Martinez, CA. John Muir was born in Scotland in 1838 and his family immigrated to the United States in 1849. Interested in nature since childhood, it was only natural that he would end up in California and be taken by its wonders.

It was California's Sierra Nevada and Yosemite that truly claimed him. In 1868, he walked across the San Joaquin Valley through waist-high wildflowers and into the high country for the first time. Later he would write: "Then it seemed to me the Sierra should be called not the Nevada, (Snowy Range), but the Range of Light...the most divinely beautiful of all the mountain chains I have ever seen." He herded sheep through that first summer and

(Continued on page 14)



Kay & Mark Barchas arriving at the John Muir house.

(Continued from page 13)

made his home in Yosemite.

Beginning in 1874, a series of articles by Muir entitled "Studies in the Sierra" launched his successful career as a writer. He left the mountains and lived for a while in Oakland, California. From there he took many trips, including his first to Alaska in 1879, where he discovered Glacier Bay. In 1880, he married Louisa Strentzel, and moved into the house in Martinez, California that his father-in-law had built. Settling down to some measure of domestic life, Muir went into partnership with his father-in-law and managed the family fruit ranch with great success. John and Louisa lived in the house until 1914 when he died.

Our tour began with a film depicting Muir's life, including his connection with the Sierra Club. A Park Ranger named Nate gave us a very detailed and informative tour of the house. We also visited an adobe on the property and enjoyed the grounds.

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The Becks' '37 Super Eight.

(Continued from page 14)

The Packards then caravanned to Zio Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill for a very nice lunch. We had a good turnout, including new members, Roberto and Jula Isola. This tour was also the first attended by the Butterworths in their recently restored 1940 One-Sixty club sedan.

Attending the tour:

Fred & Pam Hill, hosts	1955 The Four Hundred
George Beck	1937 Super 8 sedan
Gerry & Linda Wuichet	1950 Deluxe 8 sedan
Bill & Carol Norton	1949 Stand 8 convertible
Tim & Cathy Toland	1940 One Ten convertible
Bill Henretty	1937 One Twenty sedan
Ron & Mary Carpenter	1941 One Twenty Convertible
Mark & Kay Barchas	1940 One Sixty sedan

(Continued on page 16)



The Butterworth's '40 160 club sedan.

(Continued from page 15)

Bill & Lynn Butterworth 1940 One Sixty club sedan
Driving their Brand Xmobiles: Jack Holmes and guest, Bob and
Mary Jane McCoy, Joe Munsch and friend, and Roberto and
Jula Isola.



The Wuichets' '49 Deluxe Eight.

Packard NEWS



George Beck received "The Lorin Tryon Award" from the Blackhawk Museum for the year 2015. This award recognizes dedication and excellence among the docents who escort visitor and groups through the museum. George has been a docent at the museum since 2004 and is shown here beside his '37 Super Eight on the day we welcomed the Lincoln Highway Tour.



Doug and Julie Moore celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently and traveled with son, Clint and daughter, Vickie in their '46 Packard to a reception with friends and family.



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



The year was 2003 and Nor-Cal Packards was hosting the PAC National Meet in Santa Rosa, California. Jack and Merna Holmes were in charge of Registration Check-in and the projects sales. Here they are at The Flamingo Hotel.



Jack & Merna recently made a much appreciated donation of their rare and desirable '54 Pacific hardtop to the Packard Proving Grounds, an idea we could all consider in our estate planning.



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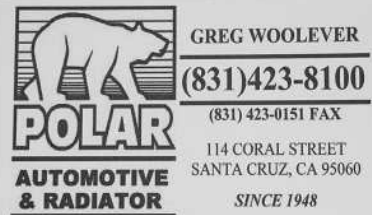
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APPLICATION TO JOIN

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.

Name _____ Spouse _____

Name(s) for Name badge(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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. _____

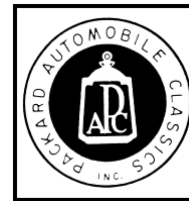
2. _____

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



Nor-Cal Packards

Early History

When the Packard Club was founded in 1953, in the San Francisco Bay area, it was a social club with members who owned older Packards. Keep in mind that the '54, '55, and '56 models were not even built yet. In fact, the Packard company in Detroit was contacted by the secretary to let them know of a club dedicated to the marque, and Packard wrote back to give their blessing to the new club.

There was no need for regional social clubs until 1960 when the club had become a national, even world-wide organization. At a meeting held at Morro Bay, California on October 1, 1960, the National Board approved the first two "Regions", the Northern California Region directed by John Algie of Oakland and the Southern California Region directed by Jim Hansen of Lake Arrowhead. There were no charters in those days, just approval by the board. The Southern California Region became inactive until Bill Lauer revitalized it in 1962, but it was dissolved by late 1963.

A new group, Packards - Los Angeles was formed by Bill Wilson and approved by the Board on May 8, 1970. In 1975 it became the Earle C. Anthony Region, serving southern California.

So, Nor-Cal Packards is PAC's first Region (that has been active since 1960.)



*Surprise snow on the June 1963 Sierra City tour.
Tom Goyne's '34 was lead car.*