

Packard Power



The Official Publication of Ark-La-Tex Packards

Volume 11, Issues 4, 5 and 6

April, May, June 2009

Another publication begun with offering up my apologies for not having gotten a newsletter out to our membership in a timely fashion. For those of you who don't know – Jim and I have moved and will soon (maybe in six months!) be settled into the new location – our new address is: 17 Marguerite Drive, Longview 75601. All other information, phones and e-mail address remain the same. In addition to the move, which just about did us in, Jim had a cancerous growth removed from his face and has required a little more attention than usual. (He's recovering nicely and got good reports on the successful removal of all suspected tissue.) The newsletter will reflect my diminished time available and for this, I sincerely apologize. Our club has had a rather slow year, having only two meetings thus far but have had good participation in both the January and the June meetings. I look forward to seeing all of you at the **July meeting scheduled for the 25th at 1 p.m. at the Gregg County Historical Museum, centrally located at 214 North Fredonia Street in beautiful downtown Longview!**

Phyllis Taunton, your editor

2009 Officers

President: Nelson Bates
Vice President: Russell Chandler
Secretary/Webmaster: Terry McKnight
Treasurer: Gene Brewer
Newsletter Editor/Membership: Phyllis Taunton
Newsletter Ass't.: Norma Bates
Photographer: John Bazzell
Assistant Photographers:
Terry McKnight & Tobi Chandler
Director at Large: Wendell Hawkins
Immediate Past President: David Stewart
Director Emeritus: Wendall Spreadbury

All contact information for the officers can be found
In your current directory



As there is no President's message this quarter, I shall attempt to fill people in on some of what's been happening with our club. If something has been forgotten, so be it!

In March, the following members attended Salado:
Gene Brewer, Cliff Bayer, Herman Van Os, Dan Hall, Jimmy Blackburn, Charles Amie, Jim Hollingsworth, Peggy and David Stewart, Tobi and Russell Chandler, Robert Vaticalos, Don Schuster, Billy Vaticalos, Cleburne McAllister, Wendall Spreadbury, Kathy and Don Rook, Melanie and Terry McKnight, Jim Hollingsworth with the following winning trophies:

Class F - Senior 1951-1954

1st - Blackburn, Jimmy '54 Pacific Hardtop

Class D - Post-War Senior 1946-1950

1st - Brewer, Gene '50 Custom 8 4 dr. Sedan

Class C - Pre-War Junior 1935 -1942

2nd - Hollingsworth, Jim '41 Clipper 4 dr. Sedan

Hard Luck Award

Blackburn, Jimmy (you need to ask Jimmy why he won this award – maybe he'll tell you – I'm not going there!!!)

I received numerous photos from Terry and Tobi from Salado – perhaps we can see some of those at a future meeting – will check with our President about his future meeting plans.

Don't recall what happened in April – In May, Billy Vaticalos and Cleburne McAllister hosted a meeting of the Oil Belt Region CCCA which began with a delightful dinner at Billy and Cleburne's home and continued with tours of various sites in East Texas, concluding with a trip to Texarkana and a tour of Jimmy Blackburn's collection, a museum visit where Wendell Hawkins gave a talk about his years as a Packard dealer in Houston and dinner at one of Texarkana's nicest restaurants. Members of Ark-La-Tex Packards were invited to join all or part of this event and several of our group joined them for dinner, which was delicious! A number also took part in all phases of the tour. Congrats to Billy and Cleburne for planning and organizing such a successful event! Sorry there are no photos to share with you on this one!

June saw a several of our members attending "Alley Fest" in downtown Longview at which we had a prime location in front of the beautiful old court house. Participating with their cars were: David Stewart, Norma and Nelson Bates, Terry McKnight, Tobi and Russell Chandler with their precious little granddaughter, David Temple and Phyllis and Jim Taunton. Russell is to be commended for bringing David Flack's convertible, Billy Vaticalos' Cadillac and David Temple's Ford. A lot of people showed genuine interest in our Packards and several were sent information about joining our group. After a quick lunch, our club's meeting was held; minutes of which follow later in the newsletter. In addition to the above-listed members, also attending the meeting were C. L. Stinnett; Wendell Hawkins, Billy Vaticalos and Cleburne McAllister.



More good photos from Alley Fest on next page – thanks to Tobi for sharing these!



Is Tobi's little granddaughter a doll, or what? She was the most beautifully-behaved child all day long; just a true pleasure to have around and displayed such good manners – my kind of girl!



A reminder from previous newsletter – do we want to discuss this at July meeting?

Gentlemen:

Lone Star Packards has asked me to coordinate the 2009 Fall Tour for our chapter. We are going to have an East Texas venue, probably centered around the Lufkin-Nacogdoches metroplex, somewhere in early to mid November of 2009. I know it is early, but these things take time. Has Ark-La-Tex Packards an interest in a joint tour? Or at least a meetup somewhere in the Piney Woods perhaps of a Saturday? Possibly at the Rusk depot of the Texas State Railroad? I have heard that this has been done before.

Let me know if this strikes anyone's fancy in your chapter and I'll clear it through our directors and board. Thank you. Steve Wanderman Cell: 281-460-2407

If you have any other ideas for discussion, it might not be a bad idea to call Nelson Bates and share with him prior to the meeting so he could add them to the agenda.

Meeting 6-6-09 at the Gregg County Historical Museum in Longview during Alley Fest

Goals of the meeting: To plan what we will do as a club for each quarter, tours etc. Each quarter will have a meeting at the Longview Historical Museum, due to its' central location and for continuity.

Phyllis presented the suggestion for meetings to be quarterly in the meeting room at the Longview Historical Museum. We will meet on the fourth Saturday in July, October, January and April. Meetings in 2009 will be July 25th and October 24th. Meetings in 2010 will be on January 23rd, April 24th, July 24th and October 23rd. Discussion was held, motion was made, seconded and voted to accept this suggestion. The museum will be paid \$100 annually for the use of this space. Terry McKnight will call Gene Brewer with a request for a check for \$100.00 for today's meeting as well as the next two meetings. Phyllis will send Gene the museum's contact information they can be paid. We will pay \$100.00 for the rest of '09 and another \$100.00 for 2010.

Membership Report: There are 35 members in the club.

No finance report

Activities/ Trips discussed:

1. Billy wants to visit Mena Ark.. Billy will check on the tour. It was suggested the tour be done in September.
2. The North Texas Packard group will meet with us November 6th for the Gilmer Air Show and drive in east Texas. Suggestions were offered for the North Texas Packards tour. After some discussion, it was decided to get with David Flack, President of North Texas Packards and get their ideas before committing to anything definite. In its final form, the tour would include Friday dinner at a location to be determined; Saturday would be the air show in Gilmer with everyone on their own Saturday night and conclude with Sunday brunch at Billy and Cleburne's. This will be discussed further at our July meeting.
3. There will be quarterly Newsletters.
4. Lone Star Packards in Houston want us to join them for a tour of East Texas in November. Mr. Steve Wonderman wants to organize a meet with us.
5. The North Texas Christmas Party held theirs in January. Our Christmas party might be in November.
6. Tech session at Chuck Conrad's this January. Nelson will check on this.
7. August 22 at Chuck Conrad's this will be Wendell Hawkins' birthday. Norma Bates will check on this.
8. September tour activity – tabled.

Nelson says a rally book would be good to do for our tours. They would take time and planning. The rally book includes stories about how each car was restored. Nelson may show pictures of his Australia trip.

Ausies have a wonderful website for information. (I need this website.)

I requested Todd Bates' help with our website.

A 1936 right front fender is needed.

As of today \$100 should be paid to the museum. (I phoned Mr. Brewer about this on or about 6-10-09, TM.)

Submitted by Terry McKnight 6-26-09

That's all folks – see you July 25th at 1:00 p.m. At The Gregg County Historical Museum!!!!