

The

Pious Pelican

**November—December
2024**



Northern California Packards

PAC's First Region
www.NorCalPackards.org



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

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Pious Pelican

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*Not an elected position

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

The Pious Pelican
November—December 2024
Volume 63, No. 6
Director's Report

We have reached the end of another successful year of events and activities in Nor Cal Packards, and I couldn't be happier with the continued success of our region!

Many thanks to Rod Dahlgren for welcoming us to his home and shop for our November tour. I know he put a lot of work into preparing for our visit. Thanks are also in order to Mike and Loretta Hayward for organizing the holiday party, continuing a successful tradition and raising much-needed funds for our club's coffers.

Looking forward to 2025, we are putting together a calendar that will include some fun new events accompanied by our beloved annual traditions. Get ready for a trip to Oregon for the Western Regions Tour, and if you've never been to a national meet, I encourage you to sign up for Kansas City. Whether you drive or fly, it's always a great adventure!

But first up will be a movie day in Niles on January 19 hosted by Mike Solomon. The town and deli are excited to have us back, so be sure to attend and, weather permitting, bring a Packard.

This is also a good time of year to work on those projects you've been putting off. I've included a brief article in this issue on how I am rewiring one of my cars. For the effort, I find it gives me quite a sense of accomplishment. You never know what you're capable of unless you try... but be sure to have an expert like Jeff Mihaly on speed-dial!

Happy New Year and
Happy Motoring!

Clint





January 5	Board Meeting—Blackhawk
January 19	Movie Day—Niles
April 6	Board Meeting—Blackhawk
May 15-18	Western Regions Tour—Oregon
May 31-June 6	PAC National Meet—Kansas City
July 13	Board meeting—Blackhawk
July 27	Portal Park Picnic—Cupertino
August 17	Pebble Beach Concours
September 27	Ironstone Concours—Murphys
October 5	Board Meeting—Blackhawk
October TBD	Garage & Shop Tour—San Jose
December TBD	Annual Holiday Party

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

Upcoming Event
Movie Day at Niles
Sunday, January 19



Join us as we return to the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum with our friends from the Horseless Carriage Club on January 19. We will enjoy coffee and donuts with some tire kicking to start the day, then lunch will be served before we watch a couple of movies *featuring Packards!* An exclusive opportunity will follow the films when HCA member Gary will lead a tour of several Niles buildings that contain antique cars.

A registration form to RSVP was sent by email. Please call Mike Solomon with questions 916-365-1887.

When: **Sunday**, January 19
 10am—Parking & Donuts begin
 11:30am—Lunch is served
 12 noon—Movies start

Where: Essanay Silent Movie Museum
 37417 Niles Blvd., Fremont

Cost: \$20/person, includes lunch.

RSVP: Send registration form or call Mike Solomon
 916-365-1887

Where We've Been **Rod Dahlgren Shop Visit**

Text & Photos by Clint Moore



Gerry Wuichet's 1950 Super 8 Deluxe Sedan in its new home next to a 1966 Oldsmobile convertible at Rod Dahlgren's home and shop.

Mother Nature smiled on our club as we managed to avoid the storms that rolled through the Bay Area in the fall. The sun shone on November 10 as the Packard Club descended on Napa along with members of the Classic Car Club and other sister clubs. Rod Dahlgren's home and restoration shop was the destination where the 48 participants were greeted by dozens of fresh donuts and coffee. Some people even had two... or three! We were also fortunate to have more than 15 vintage cars—including 10 Packards—to supplement what was already on display.

Rod's property is a treat to visit, and he took a few minutes to give us some background about his collection, shop and family history in the area. There were even a few tales of his younger days when it sounds as if he was quite the reprobate!

The multi-acre spread is covered with an A-to-Z of car makes with models ranging from race cars to ambulances. Conditions ranged from restored to rust bucket. While there is an emphasis on Cadillac, several Packards were among the cars waiting for attention. The shop buildings are equipped to do everything

from paint and body work to mechanical sorting, and there were a few projects in progress. It was easy to spend a couple of hours just wandering and wondering.

After rounding everyone up to give some loose directions, we piled into the cars and headed to El Rancho Grande. The restaurant was originally built as an A&W equipped with covered parking where car hops sporting roller skates would serve you in your vehicle. While a portion of the parking lot was set aside

(Continued on page 11)

Right: (l to r) Christopher Slater, Doug Moore and Bill Schoemann catch up in front of an Imperial.

Below: Ron & Sarah Simon are all smiles in front of their 1954 Cavalier.





Above: One of the buildings at Rod Dahlgren's property was filled with sports cars and race cars, some of which Rod himself had raced in his youth.

Below: Two magnificent 1920s Packards awaiting restoration in Rod's shop.



Where We've Been **Annual Holiday Party** Text & Photos by Clint Moore



Lined up for lunch at Zio Fraedo: (front to back) The Mihaly's 1937 1506 Twelve Sedan, the Moore's 1946 Custom Super Clipper Limousine, The McNamara's 1955 Patrician and Mike Solomon & Dee Webster's 1938 110 Six Sedan.

Unlike our last visit to Zio Fraedo in 2022 when we braved deluges of rain and pummeling hail, this year we enjoyed crisp sunny skies, and the fourteen (and a half) Packards that brightened the parking lot were a welcome sight for our annual holiday luncheon. More than 60 people arrived anticipating an afternoon of food, camaraderie and laughs on December 8 to commemorate an amazing year of tours and celebrations. The Italian eatery prepared a saucy and sumptuous meal for everyone to enjoy for our biannual Vallejo visit.

The silent auction was another big hit! Five long tables were filled with car parts, ephemera and holiday treats. While there may have been fewer items for sale than in previous years, there were a few "big ticket" items that more than made up for the shortage. Notably, Dave Grundman, who was unable to join the celebration, contributed an entire 1948 Deluxe 8 Touring Sedan ready to be restored, which alone commanded a high bid of \$750! All told, the auction raised more than \$1,200!



*Center:
Colorful East
the holiday
(l to r) Young
Clipper Deluxe
1937 1500 Su
dan, Dahlgre
Super 8 Delu
Hill's 1955 F
dred, Carpent
Club Sedan,
1948 Custom*

*Above: The Newhall's magnificent maroon
1938 1604 Super 8 Club Sedan in the
shade of the trees at the holiday party.*

*Below: The Natcher's 1941 120 Sedan is
beautifully offset by the fall colors in the
parking lot at Zio Fraedo's.*



enter:
Easter eggs at
holiday party:
Young's 1954
Deluxe, Beck's
1910 Super 8 Se-
ilgren's 1950
Deluxe Sedan,
55 Four Hun-
penter's 1949
lan, Martin's
stom 8 Sedan.



Above: Chris Bock's rare 1928 443 Custom 8 4-Passenger Coupe was on display at Rod's Shop even if Chris was unable to attend the event.

Below: At El Rancho Grande restaurant in Napa: (l to r) Stephenson's 1953 Patrician Touring Sedan, Buck's 1956 Clipper Super Sedan and Simon's 1954 Cavalier Sedan.





Above: A room full of happy Packard people enjoying the holiday luncheon at Zio Fraedo's restaurant in Vallejo.

Below: Mike Solomon and Jeff Mihaly discussing Packard parts in front of Jeff's 1937 1506 Twelve Sedan at Rod Dahlgren's property.



us, sadly(?) we had to exit out cars to sit at the tables reserved for our group. Traditional Mexican fare in ample portions was the order of the day, and not a single person left hungry.

Many thanks to Rod & Cindy Dahlgren for their hospitality! While it was unfortunate that we could not continue our tradition of visiting the Veterans Home in nearby Yountville, it was a wonderful and relaxing way to spend Veterans Day Weekend.



Rod Dahlgren gives the lay of the land to the group visiting his home and shop.

Nor Cal Members who brought Packards:

Gary Humecke	1936 1404 Super 8 Coupe Roadster
Jeff Mihaly	1937 1506 Twelve Sedan
Robin & Tim McNamara	1938 1600 Six Touring Sedan
Doug and Clint Moore	1950 Super 8 Deluxe Victoria
Ladd & Maggi Stephenson	1953 Patrician Touring Sedan
Ron & Sarah Simon	1954 Cavalier Sedan
Bill Young & Kirby	1954 Clipper Deluxe Sedan
Fred Hill	1955 Four Hundred
Pat & Chikako McNamara	1955 Patrician
Zane Buck & Miriam Katz	1956 Clipper Super Sedan

Other Nor Cal Members in attendance:

Henry Hopkins	Christopher Slater
Bill Price	Michael Solomon
Bill Schoemann	

The afternoon program started with introductions around the room, including new members the Natchers, who brought their 1941 120 Sedan. This was followed by reports from Membership Director Bill Young and Assistant Treasurer Kelly Monaghan. The program continued with a recap of the events of the year, including many concours and shows that celebrated Packard's 125th anniversary. When the question was put to the group, several ideas for interesting events during the upcoming year were proposed. And concluding the day after secret ballots were tabulated, the Event of the Year trophy was awarded to the Barchases for organizing last year's holiday party. Congratulations, Kay & Mark!

As the day wrapped up, people packed their cars with their new auction treasures and to-go containers, and headed off home to enjoy the rest of the holidays. Many thanks to main organizers Mike and Loretta Hayward for taking the lead on this smooth running event. Thanks also to Christopher Slater for the table decorations and George Beck for creating Packard chocolate bars for everyone. We are looking forward to a busy 2025!

*The display for the 1948
Deluxe 8 Sedan that Dave
Grundman donated to the
silent auction!*



Nor Cal Members who brought Packards:

Don & Glenda Sears	1937 1507 Twelve Conv. Coupe
The Mihaly Family	1937 1506 Twelve Sedan
George & Eddie Beck	1937 1500 Super 8 Sedan
Ladd & Maggi Stephenson	1937 115C Six Business Coupe
George & Julie Newhall	1938 1604 Super 8 Club Sedan
Mike Solomon & Dee Webster	1938 1600 Six Touring Sedan
The Natchers	1941 120 Touring Sedan
The Moore Family	1946 Custom Super Clipper Limo
Warren Martin	1948 Custom 8 Sedan
Ron & Mary Carpenter	1949 Deluxe 8 Club Sedan
Rod Dahlgren	1950 Super 8 Deluxe Sedan
Bill Young & Kirby	1954 Clipper Deluxe Sedan
Patrick & Chikako McNamara	1955 Patrician
Fred & Pam Hill	1955 Four Hundred
Ron & Sarah Simon	Packard-ish Roadster

Member Projects **Adventures in Wiring**

Text & Photos by Clint Moore



In the few years that I have owned Helen Twelvecylinders, the beloved 1937 1508 Twelve “Sedan for 5 or 7 Passengers” that was Bud Ju-neau’s pride and joy for 50 years, it has become increasingly obvious that the 87-year-old original wiring was, mildly putting it, a fire hazard. Bud was very fond of by-passes, running splices and electrical tape. Lots and lots of electrical tape!

So, conjuring up my experience having rewired 3 other cars and relying heavily on

Jeff Mihaly answering his phone at odd hours, I embarked on an electrical adventure, which is hopefully nearing completion. I say “hopefully” because I have yet to install the new battery cable...

Above: Helen at home in Clint’s garage.

Right: The headlight switch with no fewer than 11 posts and colored-coded wires so faded they look like they’re in grey-scale!

Below: The scary condition of the original frayed and damaged wires. Jeff Mihaly likens a new harness to a fire insurance policy.





Top: The beautiful new 8-foot-long main harness (dash board section in foreground) from Potomac Packards laid out on the workbench. Everything is clearly labeled, and the harness is pre-wired for turn signals and an electric fuel pump switch. So modern!



Middle: It's amazing what you find! This original hood limiting strap, which I thought was lost, had broken off and was hanging from the frame under the steering column.



Bottom: The dash "oval" after being cleaned, painted, re-wired and reinstalled. The radio head will be put back once I confirm the car runs without catching fire!

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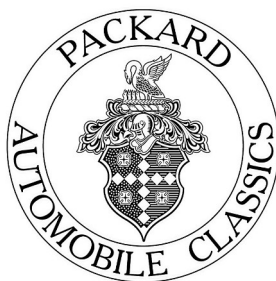
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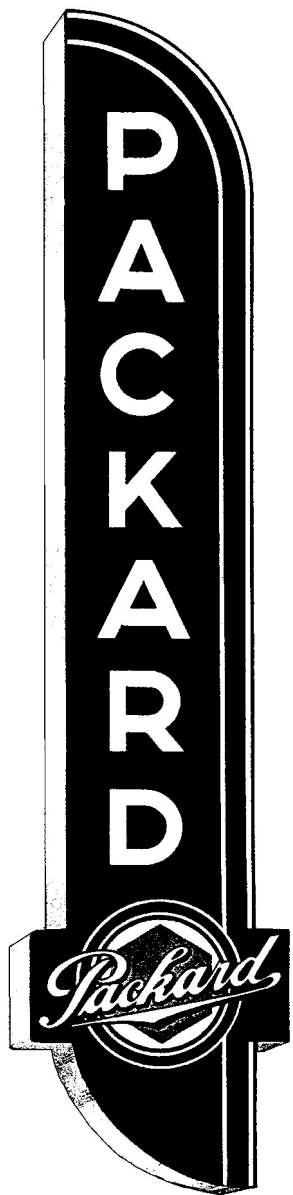
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