



Happy Valentine's Day



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

The Official Publication of Ark-La-Tex Packards

Volume 11, Issues 1, 2 and 3

January, February, March 2009

Mea Culpa! My sincerest apologies for not getting a newsletter out before now! Between Jim' surgery and my numerous health issues, just have not had the time, nor have I felt like composing or doing justice to this publication. Thank you for your understanding – I shall attempt better efforts in the future.

Phyllis Taunton, your editor.

2009 Officers

- President: Nelson Bates
President: Russell Chandler
Secretary/Webmaster: Terry McKnight
Treasurer: Gene Brewer
Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair: 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

These members were elected at the November Meeting and sworn in at the Christmas Party, after which Nelson Bates presided and presented David Stewart a gift in appreciation of all his hard work in leading our club so well during his tenure.

In a future issue, the addresses and other contact information will be furnished for our officers.

Note from the President

We ended the year with a wonderful Christmas party hosted by the Villyards. Thanks so much, Jean and William. It was truly delightful! Your home is a perfect place for a Packard event. This is your club and I welcome your ideas. We will need a lot of help (spark plugs) to continue the Ark-La-Tex Packards. Nelson

The Christmas Party was a rousing success! Sincerest thanks to Gene and William Villyard for being such gracious hosts – the house was decorated beautifully, inside and out – there were even hosts outside welcoming everyone and directing to our parking places – talk about class! There were sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and an open bar preceding a delicious dinner; some of which was furnished by some of our members but most of the meal was Gene's creation. All in all, a delightful evening and those of you who could not attend really missed a grand time! Unfortunately, our photographers were too busy enjoying themselves to get many photos, but trust me, everyone was decked out in their Christmas finery but nothing outshone the array of Christmas collectibles that were displayed in every room of the Villyard's lovely home. Again, "thank you" to Gene and William. Phyllis



Our hosts, Gene and William



Handsome David and Lovely Ember

Meeting Notes 1-24-09

Thanks to Phyllis and Jim Taunton for the use of their home for our meeting.

The meeting opened with Nelson Bates thanking the Villyards for the use of their home for the wonderful Christmas party.

This meeting is to discuss what we will do for this next year for meets and club activities. Activities mentioned are:

**1. Salado in March**

2. Letourneau auto Show- \$20.00 per person February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>
3. Lindale Show- October
4. Lone Star –fall tour at Sam Rayburn- 45 minutes from Nacogdoches, Texas.
5. North Texas Club – join them in a tour, no date yet
6. Oil Belt Classic club on May 13, 14, 15, 16
7. Sweet Hearts / Orphans Valentines at Weatherford 19,20,21 February
8. John O'Quinn Collection in Houston
9. Gilmer Airport Veterans Day in November 7
10. (April – this is on the list for spring) Tatum, Texas Sam Adams near Hwy. 43 Martin Creek Reserve – he has historic things, all of it is for sale, and there are cafes in the area for us to eat at.
11. Visit Dick Nelson at Greenwood he has Chryslers and many parts
12. National Meet at Branson \$1000.00 to do activities June  
Mid America Packards are sponsoring the event – they are being emailed to learn details
13. Cruse Night at What-A-Burger the third Thursday of each month

Financial Report

Mr. Brewer: \$1050.00 is in the bank. Membership is paid at the Christmas Party. There are 24 paid members in the club. Some members have not paid; Mr. Brewer presented a list of those who owed dues. Terry McKnight paid.

Membership Report

Garth Hill and Charles Major were contacted for membership. They have not returned any contact.

The idea of making Kilgore College- Letourneau auto shop students junior members of Ark-La-Tex Packard's was mentioned. Kilgore College instructor likes hot rods and would be not interested.

A \$250.00 scholarship to one or more local colleges , perhaps honoring Wendell Hawkins, to draw interest in our club was mentioned.

Legislation:

TVCC and SEMA watch for legislation that will affect the old car hobbie. Ph.D. Spreadbury will get minutes from the TVCC meeting. The club has not yet sent in dues to the TVCC.

Hide cars or be taxed for them says Ph.D. Spreadbury.

Speaker Pelosi has produced a clunker-junker bill into congress that would lead to the crushing of all old cars, he added. We need to write letters or send many emails at one time to make our feelings known about Pelosi's efforts, said Ph. D. Spreadbury.

Parts and Technical:

Nelson Bates says we need to be concerned about parts quality. He says the timing chain on his car with 3000 miles on it needs to be rebuilt. He says we need to be concerned about quality of parts we are buying. We need to talk with SEMA about the situation. This is a problem that keeps happening more and more often. We need to ask where our parts are made. It was discussed that we need to take those parts back to the supplier and prove they are the parts that were sent. The engine might have the original parts and not new ones.

List of this year's tours/ trips:

**1. Salado-March 27**

2. Letourneau February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 1
3. John O'Quinn collection – April
4. Classic Car Club-May 13-16 Billy Vaticalos
5. National Meet in Branson Mo.- June 21-26
6. Chuck Conrad's Place - July
7. Gilmer Air Show – November

The meeting is adjourned. Refreshments were served.

Memorable quote: "I was like a one-eyed dog at a sausage factory!" Chuck Conrad said while describing Sam Adams collection!

Photos from the January Meeting at the Tauntons: Thanks to John Bazzell and Terry McNeill for photos.



John Bazzell

Wendall Spreadbury

Chuck Conrad and David Stewart on Couch  
Back of Phyllis' head



Billy Vaticalos

Phyllis Taunton with Nelson Bates in background

More Photos from the January meeting:



William Villyard

Gene Brewer



Wendall Spreadbury

Chuck Conrad

David Stewart's head!

Still more photos from the January meeting, which you can see was well-attended



Gwyn Bazzell

Gene Villyard

Norma Bates



Tobi Chandler

The LeTourneau Car Show included representation of Ark-La-Tex Packards by virtue of the display of Chuck Conrad's car, which won an award; Terry McKnight also displayed his car as did Russell Chandler, with David Flack's car and David Stewart also had his 25 there. The following is a report received from Terry McKnight, together with some photos – thanks, Terry!

The LeTourneau University Car Show

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>

Submitted by Terry McKnight 03/15/09

I got word late to bring my car out. Mr. Ayers phoned at 7:15 PM Friday night. I had been playing phone tag with Mr. David Ayers, who is a very nice guy. Because we were late getting our forms in David was not sure if he had room for the Packards. There's a lesson there; always get your form in early!

Nelson had been trying to coordinate getting the car moved with me, but it had not worked out like we thought. David said, "Sure bring the car out now we're putting the cars in position." There were two concerns: I have not driven the Packard much at night and my family was not happy about leaving home again. We had just gotten home and it had been a busy day. Melanie did not want to follow me in the Buick.

Nelson had a commitment in Tyler and was gone. I called David Ayres and he said sure I can get you a ride back. Well, I was going to drive the Packard in the dark to the fair grounds. It was simple he said just go Maude Cobb Activity Center and follow the signs. I was looking forward to the drive, but I was concerned about the other people on the road; I mean I know what I am going to do, but you never know what the other guy might do.

I got in the car and the dash lights were not on. I got to get that worked out. I had the flash light and I made do. I got cranked and started backing out. Next, I had to dodge one tree backing out in the dark. That was not a problem.

Highway 2011 is not that busy at night and so I got on it. Next stop, the fair grounds. All went well until I got to the two lane bridge on highway 2087. As I started across the bridge an eighteen wheel truck started across from the other side. The bridge appeared to get real small, really quick in the dark. I got past the eighteen wheel truck with no problems, but it seemed real close!

I pulled in to the Maude Cobb parking lot. On the right were signs like David had said. The car show signs were easy to see and all I had to do was follow. Off to the left was the building with lights. I pulled up and they motioned me to park end to end with Chuck Conrad's brown car. I had just washed my black car and it was not as shiny as Chuck's but I had a plan. I had a bottle detailer and I made the car shine.

The ride back home was fun. I rode in late model Chevy Camero with pipes that made the car sound like it had a huge engine. Nathan Dix, my driver, said he wanted to put a bigger engine in later.

I did not get out to the car show till Sunday. Nelson said people had wanted to see my engine so I raised the hood. Russell Chandler, Nelson Bates, David Stewart, Chuck Conrad and I stood around and talked. We did not have a "meeting" but we did talk about the cars. We were a minority. Seventy-five percent of what was there was so modified that no car looked little like it did when it was originally built.

The Prizes were handed out. David Stewart won with his 1925 Sr Packard. Chuck Conrad won with his 41 Packard. I didn't get squat. I thought it was strange that the car from the 30's era that won was actually a replica that was built in the 80's.

When they concluded everyone was ready to go. I picked up my signs that Nelson had put around the car and got the mat from under it. Cars were already leaving and the last award was given out only minutes before. Gordon Finner was waiting in his early Ford Woody and watching me because I had to move before he could. Everywhere cars were starting and my black '50 Deluxe did too. Soon, I was home.






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David Stewart sent the following invitation to all our members for a Saturday morning get-together – sounds like fun for those of you who are “early birds”! Please try and attend.

“I am starting a coffee and doughnut get together on Saturday mornings at my shop at 8 AM till we get tired of shooting the breeze. All car enthusiast are welcome, this is not a club function, ladies are welcome also. If you could get this out to Ark La Tex members I would appreciate it. The LeTourneau car show was well attended, Chuck Conrad won an award for his 47 Packard. My 25 was there, Terry McKnight’s car was there and David Flack’s car as well as Chuck’s.”

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This note came from Bill Shipp – It might be something for our club to consider attending.

Thanks Phyllis, want to let you guys know of a show in Bossier City April 11th. Put on by Red River street rod. Website is [www.RedRiverStreetRod.com](http://www.RedRiverStreetRod.com). It will be at I-20 & Airline drive. Wendell Brooks is the Secretary at 318-797-2905 or 318-470-5669. I will be there with my 51 Packard.

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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 ArkLaTex 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

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**This was received in conjunction with the Salado Tour – Early birds take notice!!!!**

We have a great tour this year, to nearby Ft. Hood. My Congressman (John Carter) has arranged for us to be met by a General Officer for an orientation briefing and tour of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Museum, then lunch in the dining hall with the soldiers. Ft. Hood is a scenic 35 miles from Salado, and on the return I have two routes mapped out...one a bit shorter than the other depending on how long we are at Ft. Hood. We will gather at the Stagecoach Inn parking lot next to I-35 as usual at 8:30, plan to leave promptly at 9 AM. We should be back in Salado by 2 PM.

Let me know if you plan to go on the tour so I can let the Public Affairs Officer know how many to expect. Hope we have a large group this year!

See you in Salado! Gordon Logan 512.635.6070

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2009 FEATURED MARQUES: FERRI & PACKARD



**For those not going to Branson, this is worth thinking about! Let me know if you're interested!**

**Our member, David A. Flack sent this to me several weeks ago and I feel it is definitely worth consideration by anyone who has a car that is fit to display. Please contact David if you're interested.**

Psst....Got an extra Packard to spare? Buddy can you spare a Packard?

I visited with Lori Hughes at the soon to open North Texas Auto Museum on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. The building is being set up to host more than Automotive events, however, the main focus will be the display of Automobiles. There is an opportunity for space to be available to display (behind railing) several Packards at no cost to our members. What is requested is a couple photos of what is offered, along with a brief summary of the auto's history or unique features as well as how long you would be willing to loan the vehicle for. Additionally, the opportunity exists for the display of Packard items. My recommendation is for our club commit to a display of 4-6 cars, along with a (secure) display case of memorabilia and/or suitable background(wall hanging) items. Anyone interested in loaning a car or memorabilia is asked to contact me for further details to put together a submittal package. Approximate time for delivery is before the end of February.

DAF

That's all for now, folks. Hope your 2009 is shaping up to be a wonderful year – Happy New Year, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and any of the other holidays I may have missed – maybe Groundhog Day comes to mind as well as President's Day and upcoming First Day of Spring.

Hope y'all enjoy Salado – Vice President Russell Chandler will be conducting the meeting – time to be set by him.



*Happy Saint Patricks Day to all the Irish \*  
even though who are only Irish for the Day!*