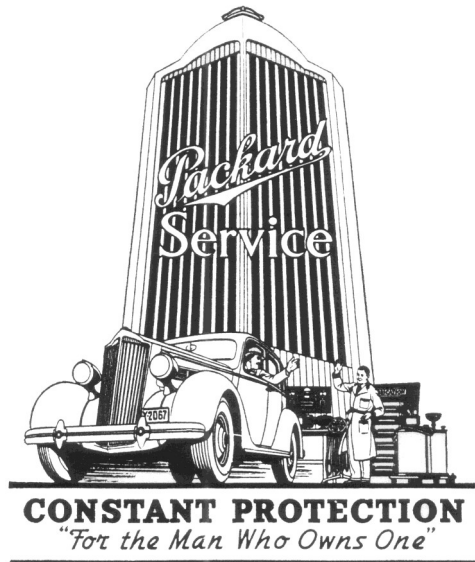


The  
**Pious  
Pelican**

**March 2021**



**Northern California Packards**

PAC's First Region

Our 60th Year!

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

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

***The Pious Pelican***  
**January—February, 2021**  
**Volume 60, No. 1**  
**Director's Report**

Well here we are: 2021! I think I'm still in shock over how life has changed over the last year. As a region, we had one event, and I'm cautiously optimistic about our ability to get back on the road this spring.

First, I want to thank Steve Weir for his many years of service as Director of Nor Cal, and I'm very pleased he has agreed to stay on as Assistant Director while I get used to my new role. Steve's tireless work kept the club running, and he helped us through some tough decisions last year regarding the national meet that we were supposed to host, among other things.

Speaking of the national meet, this year's meet in Wisconsin has been cancelled because the planners didn't feel enough people would be vaccinated and enough restrictions would be lifted by June to make the event safe. There's a letter from PAC President Craig Handley included in this issue that we were asked to reprint regarding a "substitute" national meet being planned, and I hope you will take its message to heart.

On the other hand, the San Diego Region continues to be full speed ahead with planning of the Western Regions Tour in May. They have had discussions with Craig Handley and have the blessings of the national club to proceed because of the safety protocols they have put in place. Most of the events will be outside with social distancing that will minimize exposure risk for those who do not yet have their vaccinations. Milt Wheeler is planning a caravan down US-101 that includes an overnight stop north of Los Angeles for those who wish to join him. Watch your email inboxes for details on that!

As you'll read on the next page, the rest of the calendar is filling up with events as we tentatively get back to "normal," whatever that will mean from now on. Personally, I can't wait to see all of you and admire *in person* all of those Packard projects you've been working on over the last year.

As soon as you feel safe to do so, let's get back out there and make up for a missed year of tours, shows and activities!

Happy Motoring!

*Clint Moore*





- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| April 12      | Board Meeting—Zoom conference<br>(contact Clint Moore for more info) |
| May 12-16     | Western Regions Tour—See article on<br>Page 12 of this issue!        |
| *June 13      | South Bay Reservoir Driving Tour                                     |
| Jun 13-19     | CANCELLED—National Meet  |
| *July 25      | Portal Park Picnic   |
| August 2      | Board Meeting—Format TBD   |
| August 8-15   | Monterey Car Week/Pebble Beach                                       |
| *September 5  | Swap Meet  |
| *September 19 | Antique Autos at San Jose History Park                               |
| September 24  | Ironstone Concours   |
| October 11    | Board Meeting—Format TBD   |
| *November 13  | Veterans Home—Yountville   |
| *December     | Holiday Luncheon   |

\*Tentative Event

For a complete list of events, please visit our website at  
[www.norcalpackards.org/calendar.php](http://www.norcalpackards.org/calendar.php)

## ***A Message from PAC President Craig Handley***



### **The Packard event that we hope you won't attend.**

Yes, you read it right. Let me explain. When we postponed last year's PAC National Meet due to the Covid pandemic, it was after thoughtful consideration by many people. It was a difficult decision, but we felt that the threat to the safety of our members was just too great. At the time, we sincerely hoped that we would be able to return to normal in 2021, but too many people have ignored the doctors and scientists and threw parties that turned into super spreader events. People ignored the recommendations to limit travel during the holidays and hospital emergency rooms filled to overflowing capacities afterward. I'm sure you've seen the news footage of refrigerated trucks being used to store bodies because there isn't room in hospital morgues. And now there are variants of the virus which spread even faster.

When the Wisconsin region came to me and expressed their concerns about holding the meet this year I conferred with a number of people, including medical and legal experts, and we came to the sad conclusion that June is too early to safely hold a PAC event that would include indoor activities. It was a heartbreaking decision because we miss gathering with our friends as much as you do, but we feel that simply ignoring the science and pretending that the pandemic no longer exists will endanger our members, help prolong the pandemic, and push the time when we can return to normal even further out. Now you might say, "What about the vaccines? I got my shots so shouldn't it be business as usual?" It's not that easy. There are things we don't know about the vaccines. We don't know if they will prevent the spread of the virus to someone who is not vaccinated. We also don't know if the vaccines protect us against the variant viruses. And the experts say that 70-80% of the population has to be vaccinated before we can reach herd immunity and life can begin to return to normal. That might happen in late summer or fall, or it may take even longer, but it certainly won't happen by June.

Once the decision to reschedule the Wisconsin Meet was made and announced, imagine my surprise when I heard that a "Packard family gathering" car show and swap meet was being planned in Gettysburg during the same week that we decided wasn't safe for the Wisconsin Meet.

The organizer, who will remain nameless here, is a member of the club and he asked me to attend and to hold a board meeting there. I told him no. I told him that it wasn't safe to host an event in June and that for the safety of our members, the Packard Club would not in any way participate, endorse or promote in his "family gathering."

I asked him to consider the safety risk to our club members, many of whom are high-risks for Covid-19 and not go through with this. I told him that a few days of fun is not worth the illness or death of even one person. I wouldn't want this event to lead to another family gathering in a funeral parlor. The organizer completely ignored my advice and already asked some regional newsletters to promote the event. Doing so can cause confusion as to whether or not the Packard Club sanctions it. We do not. Let me repeat so that there is no misunderstanding: **THE PACKARD CLUB WILL NOT IN ANY WAY PARTICIPATE, ENDORSE OR PROMOTE THIS EVENT.**

I am asking newsletter editors not to place ads or promotional articles in regional publications. We also resent the implication that the organizer makes that he is doing this because the Packard Club won't hold any events, as if we are no longer interested in hosting social gatherings. We would love nothing more than to meet with our Packard friends once again and look forward to the day when that can happen. But it would be terribly irresponsible to do so while the global pandemic continues to rage on.

That is why, for your safety and the safety of the people around you, we hope that you will not attend this event. It's your decision of course and if you do go, I hope that you remain safe.



*An interesting pair of photos of a post-war design study discovered by Christopher Slater in the Packard Proving Grounds archives.*

*The Packard Cormorant editor, Stuart Blond notes, "That's a Crosley—and I think it was just Ed Macauley having fun with Packard's money."*

*Your editor feels with a V-12 under the hood, they might have been onto something!*



## ***Packard Quiz!***

Compiled by Christopher Slater.

How much do you know about Packard history and lore? Look for the answers in the next issue of *The Pious Pelican!*

1. What is the first year of the Packard Twin-Six?
2. How was Henry Joy involved with chasing bandits?
3. What year did Charles Nash and James Starrow (both recently retired from GM) offer to buy Packard?
4. The Packard Twin Six was the basis for the design of which famous aviation engine?
5. What was the last year of Packard Truck production?
6. What is a common way that Packards were reconfigured and re-used in the 1920s and 1930s?
7. What is the last year of Packard Twelve Production?
8. When was air-conditioning first offered by Packard?
9. When was the first automatic transmission available in a Packard?
10. What was the last year for a Packard limousine?
11. Which public works projects can lay claim to Packard influence?
12. What was the name of the Packard push-button transmission, available with 1956 Packards?
13. How many ways were Packard powered vehicles involved with racing?
14. Which Italian sports car manufacturer admitted inspiration from Packard for the basis of their V-12 engine design?
15. Was Packard ever involved with NASCAR racing?



## **Member Spotlight** **Recent Restoration**

Text and Photos by Pete Phelps

I have been a member of Nor Cal Packards for several years though I admit not a particularly active member. As I was just putting my dues check in the mail, it occurred to me that just this past September I finally finished my total restoration of my prized 1936 120 Touring sedan. It came out beautifully and I'm most proud of it. My car looks almost identical to a car pictured in a recent issue of the *Pious Pelican* that had apparently been

the first car to cross the Golden Gate Bridge in 1937. It was extremely cool to see how similar it look to mine. Anyway I thought some members of the club would enjoy some pictures. Please excuse the lack of hub caps in the photos. I'm still working on detailing them.





## ***Out and About Members on the go!***



*Above: New member Paul Tatterson submitted this photo of his gorgeous 1955 400. We hope to see it at an event very soon!*

*Below: Ed Soss writes: Got a new "mask" for my hot rod Packard, replacing the oil bath for a modern chrome cover one so my Packard wont get any diseases, has a 1940 super eight so with the later engine and chrome air filter it is really a "hot rod!"*



## ***Upcoming Event*** **Western Regions Tour**

“Packards by the Bay”  
San Diego—May 12-16, 2021

The San Diego Packard Club is honored to host the Western Regions Tour in 2021 and invites you to a four-night, three-day tour of Packard automobile nostalgia in beautiful San Diego!

Lodging is at the iconic Island Palms Best Western Hotel & Marina on Shelter Island. To reserve a room call 619-222-0561 and ask for the Packard Club block of rooms. Reservations require an advance deposit for the first night; subject to cancellation within

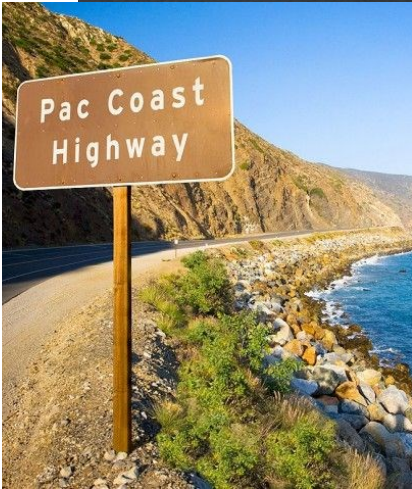


48 hours notice. Money will be refunded if COVID-19 is still an issue. Island Palms will honor the special room rate for extended stays. Underground parking will be set aside for Western Region Tour guests. Register before March 29, 2021 to lock in the special rate!

Visit [SanDiegoPackard.com](http://SanDiegoPackard.com) for more information!

This is a sanctioned event by the national club. The organizers have given a lot of thought to the safety of those who choose to participate. An additional COVID waiver has been added to the registration. Social distancing protocols will be in place, and guests will be asked to wear masks and wash hands frequently. The majority of the events and dining will be at outdoor venues or with limited indoor capacity. Guests should only participate in those events where they feel comfortable.

For those people wishing to caravan to San Diego either in a Packard or a modern car, the plan is to leave San Jose on Tuesday morning, May 11 for the drive down US-101. The group will stop for the night somewhere north of LA before continuing to San Diego on Hwy 1 Wednesday morning, hoping to arrive in time for the first event that afternoon.



### Planned Events:

- Tour the USS Midway Museum on beautiful San Diego Bay
  - Relax and shop at the historic Hotel Del Coronado
  - Enjoy a breathtaking water tour of San Diego Bay on Hornblower Cruises
  - Drive your Packard on specially designed tours through exclusive Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, and along the Pacific Coast Highway
  - Visit the Balboa Park Automotive Museum
- Show your Packard at Cruisin' Grand, Escondido, the largest community outdoor car show west of the Rockies
  - Enjoy a banquet at the beautiful Southwestern Yacht Club, San Diego
  - And much more!

(Guests wishing to do so may request a ride in a Packard during all tours)

*Facing Page: Our host hotel for the weekend, the Island Palms Best Western.*

*This Page*

*Top: The USS Midway Museum includes an extensive collection of aircraft.*

*Middle: PCH awaits!*

*Bottom: The historic Hotel Del Coronado*



***Nor Cal Club Business***  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

January 11, 2021—4:30pm

Submitted by Milt Wheeler, Secretary

Members Present: Steve Weir, Clint Moore, Milton Wheeler, Christopher Slater, Jeff Mihaly, Ladd Stephenson. Tom Beidleman, Bill Young, Phil Sherman, George Beck, Orin Kerr, Michael Solomon, Bob McCoy, Dave Wooldridge.

Guests: Rob Guzzetta

Voted: To confirm the Board Minutes of October 12 meeting.

Voted: To confirm election of Board Members and Club Director. New Club Director is Clint Moor. Board members listed above.

Moved: To give Bob McCoy a \$93.00 Reimbursement check.

Membership: Bill Young reported 172 members with 2 Honorary members and 275 Packards.

Health & Welfare: The question was raised, should we do something for Wayne Parsons since he died? Yes! We will send a \$500 donation to the Proving Grounds in His Name & Honor.

Projects: Chris Slater said he is working on selling things this fall. Over all things are going well.

Technical: Bob McCoy asked if we could make a list of mechanics who work on Packards? Yes! Bob will work on the list.

Tours: Clint Moore is working on an April tour with another car club. Western Regions Tour to San Diego is in May and the National Meet in June.

Voted: We will give \$200 to support the Antique Auto Club Show in San Jose History Park this fall.

Website: Chris Slater is putting car activities on our website. There are some problems but he will work with Mark Wheeler.

Pious Pelican: Clint Moore will continue to work on the Pious Pelican for this year.

Old Business: Jeff Mihaly is working on the 2023 National Meet that we will be doing. Chris Slater is resigning as our Publicity Director because he is the new National Club Publicity Director.

Audit Report: George Beck is working on the report of the Club finances.

After some discussion, the Club will be putting on a ZOOM Presentation for all Club members in February of 2021.

Next Board Meeting will be April 12, 2021

Adjournment: 6:00 pm.



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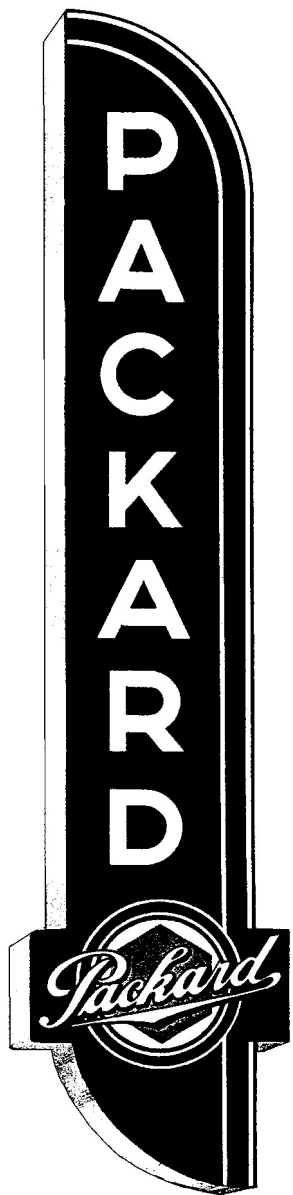
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