

The Packard Virginian

The Newsletter of Packards Virginia - Winter 2014

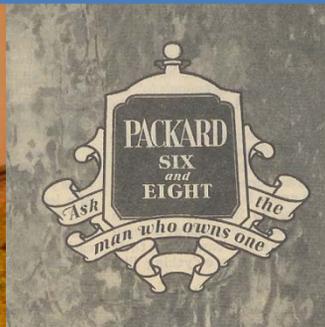


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Start your engines!



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Editor's Message



Greetings Packards Virginia -

Have faith, good friends. This winter of our Packard's discontent will pass soon enough and the daffodils and dogwoods will bloom. Snow and ice will recede and our wheels will thunder(bolt) down the road again!

The new year holds great promise of drive-ins, picnics, and tours. Starting with our Jump-Start next month at the Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, we'll chart a new year of activities. With activity comes the promise of a vital and enthusiastic membership.

Packards Virginia... talk about it.... make friends.... The best way to grow the hobby is by being out there in the community with our cars, thus piquing curiosity about these Packard people. New interest can be sparked and a potential new member might come up to you and

Ask the Man Who Owns One!

Tim English

Deputy Director and PV Newsletter Editor 2013

PACKARD



Notes from the Board



OFFICERS FOR 2013

Director: Orin Kerr

Deputy Director and newsletter editor: Tim English

Treasurer: Hal Hermann

Membership and activities coordinator: Tom Brooks

Update: Spring AACA Tour will not affect Frederick Swap Meet

We had noted a possible conflict of dates with the AACA Spring tour in VA with the Frederick Swap meet. George Hamlin has spoken with and confirmed AACA WILL NOT be touring on May 9 - 10th. Therefore, our date for the Frederick Swap meet will not be impacted.

FREDERICK SWAP MEET - MARK YOUR CALENDAR - MAY 9 - 10, 2014 ! ! ! !

PACKARDS VIRGINIA IS ON FACEBOOK!

In the interest of spreading the word of our hobby, we now have a presence on FaceBook. If you are a FaceBook member, please "Friend" us and share the hobby. Either we are growing and recruiting new members, or we're not. That is the choice.



Our FaceBook
"Photo"

Visit our page: <http://www.facebook.com/packards.virginia>

A THOUGHT FROM THE EDITOR

You know the best way to share the hobby? Talk about it! Drive your car! Better yet, invite a friend or 3 to an event?? If we want our club to thrive, the best way that we can do that is with a little retail marketing. Press the flesh and tell folks about the club. And maybe, just maybe, invite a friend to an upcoming event? Might I suggest the club picnic on June 1st?

Email your editor at VirginiaPackards@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events



JUMP-START BRUNCH

When: 2 MAR 2014 at 12:00Noon

Where: Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Rd
Alexandria, VA



Cost: \$35 / person

RSVP : Paul Delaney at [703-768-0367](tel:703-768-0367); or Hal Hermann at [703-978-8690](tel:703-978-8690).

19th ANNUAL ALL-PACKARD INDOOR SWAP MEET

When: 9-10 MAY 2014 – 8AM to 5PM daily

Where: American Legion - Francis Scott Key Post 11
1450 Taney Avenue
Frederick, MD 27702



HOTEL: Hampton Inn (301) 696-1565

Special rate: \$129.95/ night for “The Packard Club” – by April 9th.

Exciting dining options are planned for each evening at several of Frederick's finest dining spots – including closing banquet at the Monocacy Crossing.

**Attendee or vendor information, please contact
Bill Johnson at [301 384-4433](tel:301-384-4433) or billnsuer@aol.com**

Sponsored by: The Packard Club, Packards Virginia, and Mid-Atlantic Packards.

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS ON PAGE 17

Upcoming Events



Old Cars & Toy Train Day!



When: 23 FEB 2014 at 12-5PM

Cost: FREE*

A favorite appetizer, finger food or dessert brought for sharing would be gratefully appreciated.

Where: The Clement Home
12106 GARY HILL DR
FAIRFAX VA 22030

RSVP : Clem & Sandy Clement at
[703-830-5597](tel:703-830-5597) or clem.clement@cox.net

ODPC Spring Tour

When: 24-26 APR 2014

Where: Bird-in-Hand Family Inn & Restaurant
2740 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505

RSVP : Dwight Heinmuller at
410.329.3022 or dheinmuller@gmail.com



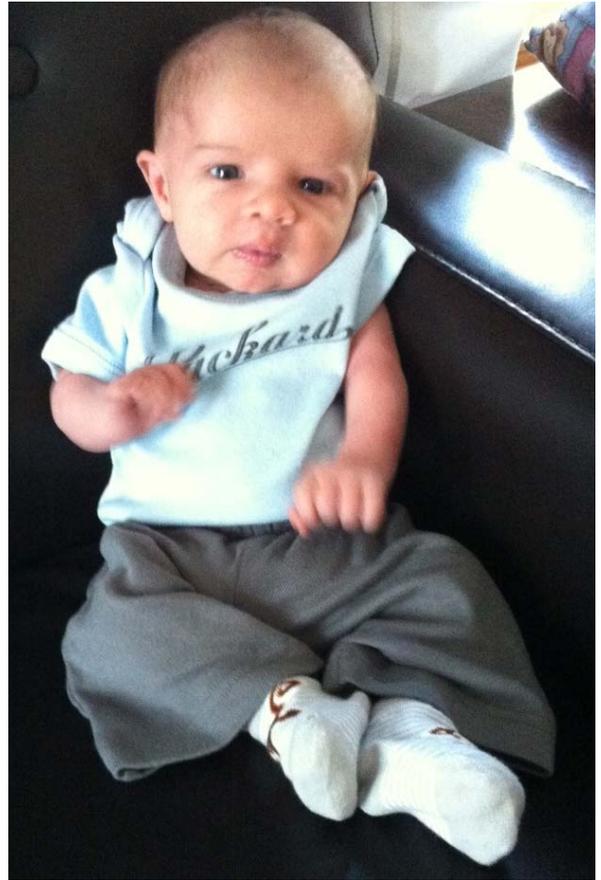
Images courtesy of the ODPC website

New Member of Packards Virginia



On January 22, Packards Virginia welcomed a new member.

A very new member, actually. This little guy is already sporting appropriate Packard attire, and he looks forward to introducing himself to everyone at the Jumpstart Brunch!



Barn Find!

One mile from the DC Metro



By Tim English

You know the call. You are the local “car guy” amongst your friends. The call comes on a Tuesday in early January. Your buddy says, “I just bought the property and there’s barn in the back.... Inside, there’s a Packard!” Really? Now most of your under-50 year old friends wouldn’t know a Packard if it was in their driveway, and anything with running boards is instantly a “gangster car” and *definitely* a Packard. So, you are dubious, but you listen further.

As the tale unfolds and your friend insists, not only is it a Packard, but there is a Rolls-Royce in there too! What? Where is this Valhalla of barns? Just a mile up the street from the Ballston Metro in Arlington Virginia on an empty lot. Well, that’s too close not to at least take a closer look.

On Friday afternoon I have an extra 10 minutes on my way to my fiancée's house and our trip out of town, and so I stop by. The lot is vacant. There’s a barn. And a lot of bamboo. Walking back, I slide the plywood door and peer inside. An MG? MGA, about 1960? I look around. I’m surrounded by bamboo. To my right, more bamboo. I don’t have the time to dally, and so I leave. No barn. No hidden classic gems.



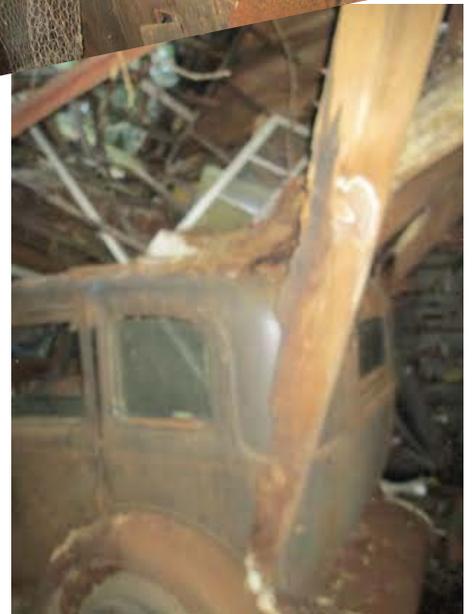
I call my buddy. I found no Packard, no Rolls. Of course, my visit was short and just a glance around. He says, “You gotta go further back in..... Through the bamboo.” I meet him at the property the following Saturday, and this is what I find...

Barn Find!

One mile from the DC Metro



What is left is a broken barn. A once-lovely barn adorned with gables and attic space is now a cinder block shell and a collapsed roof. The load-bearing 4x8 beam is broken and now partially supported by a 1938 (ish) P-III Rolls. The body of the 1934 Packard is not touched. And that is the good news?



Barn Find!

One mile from the DC Metro



Neither car has moved in 30 years. The vehicles, for what they are, have been sold to a Rolls-Royce shop in Front Royal Virginia. The shop owner, Walt Moyer, visited this enclave of Arlington over many years with his parents. He's been asking about these cars for 25 years. He recalls when the house still stood and the garage had a 2nd story. Unfortunately, the owner of the house, barn, and the cars, for whatever reason, did not sell and left the place to rot. He is still living. His affairs are being settled by professional men.



Maybe this is a lesson for us all. Part of the love you share for the Packard name is in the legacy of your car. What will come of yours? Mother Nature is a powerful woman and time even more so. This is a cautionary tale.

All of this, just a mile up the road, from the Orange line of the Washington DC metro. Of those barn finds we can say, yes, they are out there. And sometimes, it's not so pretty.

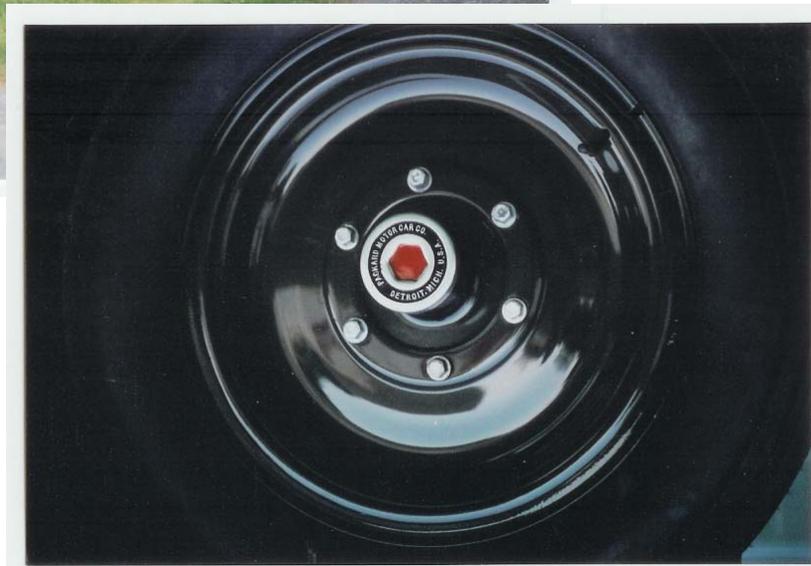
It's All About the Wheels!

A brief tutorial



By Dave English

I have always been fascinated by wheels - usually those mounted on some neat looking car like a PACKARD! If the wheel size is of the “right” proportion and fits within the body contour, the wheels just visually, pull things together. The height of the lower bodyline off of the ground is important as well. I have often wondered about the vehicle designers and what they had to do to select just the correct size...Was it on esthetics, gear ratios or both!? Shown here is a 1924PACKARD Model 143 with 23” wheels.YES folks, that is right, 23”! Can you see that on the close-up of the 20” wheel that the lug bolts are marked for reverse thread? Continued...



It's All About the Wheels!

A brief tutorial



Looking at Packard models, beginning in early 20's, the wheel size varied. I believe that it was done for esthetics as well as function. The table below, from a 1964 Veteran and Vintage Magazine, shows the wheel sizes on Packard models from 1921 to 1937. Wow, the tire manufactures must have loved it!



Last, the picture of the car with a jack in front of it below, is of a 1st Series 1924 Sport phaeton owned by Steve Babinski. It is standing on 23" wheels. Sorry I do not have a better picture - but the wheel size and body contour just are great in my opinion and really begin the CLASSIC designs for PACKARD! I thought that you might enjoy too. And P.S. I prefer discs, less maintenance!

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5th Issue
Emailed

Packard

January-February-
March 2014

T R U C K O R G A N I Z A T I O N N E W S L E T T E R

1196 Mountain Road, York Springs, PA

packardtruckdave@embarqmail.com

Feature 1909 Packard in process of restoration



Chain Drive 1909 Packard in Canada

Paul Carter of Vancouver, Canada purchased this chain drive Packard truck previously owned by Tracy Kroon. The truck, a 3 ton Model TC had previously been displayed in the Hayes Historical Truck Museum in California (picture below). Paul spoke to a Hayes Museum representative and learned that the truck spent its entire working life at a mine in Nevada before being accessed by the museum. The museum had cleaned the truck and had painted the chassis before Paul had bought it.



The museum also built the wooden seat structure and fire-wall to make the truck more presentable. Tracy had gotten the engine started and Paul was able to hear it run, albeit with lots of smoke, knocking and clattering, before he bought it. What impressed Paul the most about the truck was the almost complete lack of rust pitting and the completeness of the chassis and power train. The restoration began with the engine which turned out to be absolutely worn out. It would seem that the mine mechanics had done whatever was necessary and used whatever materials were at hand to keep the old girl running! - right down to using old tin cans to shim behind the babbitt bearings to reduce the knocking. The makeshift shims had pounded into the aluminum crankcase making it necessary for us to have the main bearing seats line bored. We then made bronze liners to receive modern shell bearings and had the crankshaft ground to suit. A major reason for going this route was because the three main bearing caps are integral with a perimeter girdle making it impossible to individually fit the main bearings using shims. We used the same technique for the connecting rod bearings and in both cases we found modern shells that required less than .010" to be ground off the crankshaft journals. The cylinders were bored .020" oversize to receive a set of Ford truck engine pistons, pins and rings. A local cam grinding shop made masters for both the intake and exhaust lobes and re-ground both cams to the original profiles. We adapted modern diesel engine valves and machined new valve guides to suit.

1909 Packard—continued

We then made bronze liners to receive modern shell bearings and had the crankshaft ground to suit. Major work was required to salvage the aluminum intake manifold which had received some pretty awful welding back at the mine. Mines are gritty places and anywhere sand or dust could enter was abraded beyond belief. One example was the water pump shaft having worn itself completely through the side of the housing. The attached pictures show the truck as purchased (cover) and then a series of during and then the completion of the engine rebuilding process.



Picture immediately below was taken before the engine work began. More to tell at a future time...



I would like to personally thank Mr. Peter Trant, friend of Mr. Paul Carter for the pictures, text and his enduring patience for reviewing this article before going to press. I sincerely appreciate Peter's ongoing dealing with my incompetence in proofreading.

- Dave Lockard, Editor

2014 EVENT CALENDAR

JAN



FEB

23 Train & Old Car Day
(Fairfax, VA)

MAR

2 Jump-Start Brunch!
(Alexandria, VA)

APR

24-25 ODPC Tour
(Lancaster, PA)

MAY

9-10 All-Packards Indoor
Swap Meet
(Frederick, MD)

JUN

1 Packards Virginia
Picnic at the Virginia
State Arboretum
(Boyce, VA)

7 Orphan Car Tour
(Parkton, MD)

13-15 Elegance at Hershey

JUL

15-20 PAC National Event
(Warren, OH)

AUG

2 Wax & Relax
MAP Event
(Parkton, MD)

SEP

1-5 Henry Joy Tour
(Cooperstown, NY)

OCT

8-11 HERSHEY!
12 Packard Truck Show
(York Springs, PA)
18 The Rockville Show
(Rockville, MD)

NOV

DEC

**HAPPY
PACKARDING!**