



*Packard*



# PELICAN PAPERS

FALL 2017



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF  
NORTH ATLANTIC PACKARDS  
A Region of Packard Automobile Classics, Inc.



# North Atlantic Packards

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## Pelican Papers, Fall 2017

The Newsletter of North Atlantic Packards, *published four times a year*

A Region of Packard Automobile Classics Incorporated

Editor: Drusilla Carter

<http://www.napackards.org>

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# North Atlantic Packards

## 2017 Activity Calendar

date ..... activity ..... coordinator .....

November 4



Tech Seminar

Parker Roaf

Parker's Packards, 789 Wachusett Street, Holden MA  
1:00PM

*Add to your technical knowledge with a seminar on Fuel Pump Rebuilding 101 by Arthur Gould Rebuilders. Then join us for a membership meeting where we'll plan activities for the coming year.*

December 10



Holiday Banquet

George Sweezey

Lafayette House, Foxboro MA  
1:00PM

*Celebrate the holidays with friends from NAP - Packards welcome if weather permits.*

*See invitation and registration form later in this issue.*





## A note from the Director:

It has been a good summer for North Atlantic Packards. Beginning with the very successful Dust-off Tour last April we had several good tours. In July we visited Vermont for a tour of the Connecticut River Valley. Although attended by only a few, everyone had a great time. I believe there is an article in this issue about the tour. Next was our annual meeting in Connecticut starting at the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks and then driving to Fran Mayer's house in Bristol for an excellent lunch and membership meeting. There were a number of members, mostly from the Connecticut/Massachusetts area.

Our last meeting of the year was a tech session and membership meeting at Parker's Packards on the fourth of November. After Parker's talk about fuel pumps and the different designs, we conducted the last membership meeting of 2017. We were able to sketch together a 2018 activity schedule, which will be in the next Pelican Papers and on the web page in a week or so.

We have the web page up, but it still needs updating; I am working on that as I can. The page is at [napackards.org](http://napackards.org). You will see a number of changes as time moves on. This week we are uploading these comments, the new schedule, the Banquet information and member cars.

The Banquet information is {DATE CHANGE} at 1:00 pm on December 10 at the Lafayette House in Foxboro between I-495 and Gillette Stadium. The Patriots are playing on Monday that week, so there is no conflict.

Last item on my list today is an announcement about a change to the Packard Automobile Classics membership system. At the Hershey meeting the National Board authorized a family membership opportunity. The regular annual membership, as you know, is \$40.00. Now, for another \$20.00 your spouse will have full membership to PAC. You will receive only one set of PAC magazines per family.

Do a good job winterizing your cars and I will see you in Foxboro on the 10th of December at the banquet.

*Dave*

*From the Desk of*  
**Drusilla Carter, Editor**

This issue of the *Pelican Papers* has been slightly delayed by your editor's absence on a road trip. A long road trip. An 8000-mile-long road trip, centered around historic Route 66, which I traveled with three dogs and some camping gear (and now you understand why I wasn't working on this issue along the way).

Never fear, I did see some Packards on the Mother Road, as you will see later in this issue!

As the motoring season winds down I hope you will be able to join us on December 10th for the holiday banquet, and one last chance to gather with fellow members before winter really sets in. And if you need a little Packard fix during the cold weather, why not check out our website at [napackards.org](http://napackards.org)? The new and improved site is up and running and ready for you to visit.

Also while you're snowed in this winter, why not work on your ideas for articles in the *Pelican Papers*? This newsletter is only as good as you make it, and I know you all have stories to tell.

*Drusilla*





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# North Atlantic Packard Summer Event & Picnic 2017

By Fran Mayer

The chosen day for the NAP Summer 2017 event, Saturday the 5th of August, dawned bright and sunny...  
NOT!

As a matter of fact, we would have been better off if we were also showing vintage boats. However, Mother Nature eventually did cooperate to a certain degree which I will elaborate on later.

Fifteen damp, but vigilant members of our club arrived at the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, CT at 10:00 Saturday morning. Drusilla Carter had arranged for a special tour of the museum with the emphasis on Packard. The aircraft items on exhibit include military as well as commercial examples. We spent 2 ½ hours touring the hangers and saw pioneer “aeroplanes”, helicopters, dirigibles, prop planes and jets. Our tour guide was most knowledgeable and entertaining, and I for one, discovered that there are a number of our members who know their automobiles and also know their aircraft!



*The gondola from a dirigible*



*A prototype double-shaft helicopter*

The museum has a number of Packard Aviation engines; from an engine used in the US Navy dirigible The Shenandoah in 1922 to the famous Merlin engine of WWII fame.



*The Merlin Packard Engine*



*NAP members gather behind the Packard engine from the Shenandoah.*

During our time in the museum, Mother Nature was trying to drown our Packards outside, but by 12:30 the rain had stopped. When we arrived in Bloomfield for the picnic, the skies were beginning to brighten somewhat and we were able to have our picnic outside. By this time we were joined by additional folks who swelled our ranks to 25. I believe we also got a few new members signed up at the picnic. Dave Robinson held the membership meeting during dessert.



*Slightly soggy Packards in the yard at the picnic.*

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the sun eventually broke thru to dry everything up a bit. By 3:30 the party started to break up. With just three members remaining at 4:00 Mother Nature sent down one last deluge. That cleared by 4:45 and all were on their way dryly!

In spite of the weather, methinks we all had a grand Packard day!

## Lesson Learned

by Bryce Howells

I have a 1949 Custom 8 Packard touring Sedan that I bought in 2001 . At that time I listened to some one who recommended putting radial tires on the car . As I remember , I was told that they would ride better and not develop flat spots from long period of storage . Of course these would smooth out after driving for a short time . I put on radial tires.

While driving over the last few years , I have noticed a few reoccurring small irritating conditions . When I would take the '49 out for a drive it would be very warm when I returned . The heat from the exhaust pipe would come up through the floor board on the passengers front side . A small amount of the antifreeze would always boil over past the radiator cap . I even increased the radiator cap lbs . There always seemed to be excessive engine heat to dissipate.

Last week I replaced the tires on the '49 . They were fourteen years old and I have a pretty much year round driving season where I live . I ordered the original Bias tires from Coker, black walls . When I arrived at the local Family Tire Store I turned the car over to them . As soon as they moved the car into the garage area , they had questions. At first they were a little nervous because the new tires were black wall and the old ones had white walls . They were concerned that they might have the wrong tires! The tires were also wrapped in opaque tape which made them look very much like the 23" tires I have on my '27 Packard Sedan . They were tall and narrow.

The owner and I agreed that we should mount one tire and see how it looks . They stood the new mounted tire next to one of the old mounted tire . WOW , there was about 6 - 8 inches difference in height . The new tire (OE ) was the taller . As I watched them mount and switch out the old tires , I tried to figure out what difference there would be . First of all the new tire/wheels would not have to go around as fast because they are bigger . I feel sorry for the old ones and how much faster they had to turn ! Next it would seem the engine and transmission would not have to work as hard . This will mean an increase in MPG . The engine may run cooler . Lastly the biggest noticeable difference is the height of the car and increase of the clearance by 3-4 inches .

I am sorry I had not used OE 14 years ago, but am very delighted how it looks and runs now .

# Packards on the Route

by Drusilla Carter

If you drive Route 66 through Afton, OK, and you happen to be interested in classic cars, a certain sign will be sure to catch your eye as you pass through town.



In 2009 former Eastern Packards member David Kane opened Afton Station in an old service station. There wasn't much in Afton (there still isn't), but he wanted to showcase his collection of classic cars and especially his Packards. The Station has grown over the years and now features a gift shop and two buildings full of cars and automotive memorabilia.







## **North Atlantic Packards**

### **Banquet**

**December 10, 1:00 PM**

## **Lafayette House, RT 1 Foxboro, MA**

This will be a buffet meal offering the following items

Garden Salad

Choice of three Entrees (Chosen by the members at the meeting in November)

1. Baked Scrod
2. Chicken and Broccoli Penne with Alfredo Sauce
3. Grilled Tenderloin Tips with Button Mushrooms

Oven Roasted Potatoes

Fresh seasonal Vegetables

Dessert Table of Cookies and Brownies

Cost will be \$27.00 per person.

Please respond by 1 December 2017

© Lafayette House, Foxboro MA

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Please fill out the form and send this and your check to the listed address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Robert Nuss

764 Route 6A

Yarmouth Port, MA 02675-2073

## OFFICIAL CONVERSION CHART

### HOW TO INTERPRET

### ANTIQUE CAR ADS

#### IF IT SAYS:

#### IT REALLY MEANS:

Rare model.....	Nobody liked them when new either
Older restoration.....	Can't tell it's been restored
Needs engine work.....	It's been frozen for 30 years
Uses no oil.....	Just throws it out
No rust.....	Body and fenders missing
Rough.....	It's too bad to lie about
One owner.....	Never been able to sell
No time to complete.....	Can't find parts anywhere
Needs interior.....	Seats are gone
Rebuilt engine.....	Has new spark plugs
May run.....	But it never has
Low mileage.....	Third time around
Many new parts.....	Keeps breaking down
29 coats hand-rubbed paint....	Needed that much to cover rust
Clean.....	It sat out in the rain yesterday
Best offer.....	About what I expect to get
Always driven slowly.....	Won't go any faster
Prize winner.....	Hard luck trophy 3 times in a row
Stored 25 years.....	Under a tree
Real show stopper.....	Orange with purple fenders
Easy restoration.....	Parts will come off in your hand
Ready to show.....	Just washed it
Top good.....	Only leaks when it rains
Good investment.....	Can't depreciate any more

*Courtesy of about six people on Facebook.*

# **N.A.P. General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Held August 5th 2017 at the NAP Summer Picnic 502 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002.

Meeting Called to order 1:50 PM.

Dave Robinson – Director - opened the meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT from the May 6th 2017 Membership meeting was posted in the Summer 2017 edition of the Pelican Papers. A motion was made to accept the Secretary's report as published and seconded. Membership voted to accept the Secretary's report as published.

- Dave reported that the club has had a successful summer so far. Some highlights were provided:
  1. The Spring Dust off at Cape Cod – Look for a future UTube video.
  2. The Vermont Tour in July was great fun
- The Fall tour will probably not happen this year
- The December banquet will be in Foxboro, MA at the Lafayette House.
- November 4th is the date for the Tech Seminar at Parkers Packards in Holden, MA
- Next Years schedule is in preparation
- There is the possibility for NAP to host a national meet in the Conway, NH area. This is looking out 3 – 4 years.
- Work on the NAP website continues
- The next Executive Board meeting - TBD
- The next Membership Meeting will be held at Parkers Packards in Holden, MA at the tech session November 4th.

A motion was made to adjourn the membership meeting. The motion was seconded.  
The business meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.



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