

# Country Roads

From

***Blue Ridge Packards***

*Celebrating Twenty-five Years*



***SERVING THE PACKARD ENTHUSIAST  
IN THE SOUTHEAST***



*Country Roads* is published periodically by Blue Ridge Packards, Inc., a Sec. 501(c)(7) non-profit corporation, a region of Packard Automobile Classics, Inc., and is included with membership or sent by subscription. Single copies are \$5 ea., postpaid domestically. Blue Ridge Packards primarily serves a one hundred and fifty mile radius of Asheville, NC, encompassing a six-state area along the Blue Ridge Mountains. Membership is open to all Packard enthusiasts, regardless of distance. A prerequisite to joining Blue Ridge Packards is membership in PAC (see below). We encourage membership in other regions and chapters as well.

Annual dues for Blue Ridge Packards are \$20 per family. Please mail and make checks payable to:

**Blue Ridge Packards, 136 Pinnacle Falls Drive, Pickens, SC 29671**

Packard Automobile Classics, Inc., is a Sec. 501©(7) non-profit corporation chartered in the state of Ohio. It has since 1953 served those interested in the Packard Motor Car Company. Please contact by mail or phone:

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# MEMORIAL

## Roland “Bush” Bushner

1920—2011

By Ron Althoff

We are very saddened by the loss of yet another friend and fellow member of BRP. Bush joined Blue Ridge early in the club’s life and was always a faithful member, attending every gathering. He also attended almost every board meeting, sharing his wisdom and experience.

He loved his 1926 Packard and in the earlier years, would drive it sometimes hundreds of miles to bring it to our tours. When our son, Kevin, was a teenager, he would attend all the tours with us. He always wanted to ride in the ’26 with Bush, probably for two reasons: Bush had wonderful stories about his career and Bush liked to drive fast. Kevin said it was a “white knuckle” ride.



Bush didn’t want to wear out those two-wheel brakes coming down the mountain roads.

Bush had a life-long career of service to his country throughout the globe. Born in Joplin, MO, he had a love for music and graduated from Kansas State Teachers College with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano in 1942.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Bush learned to fly in a civilian pilot training program and subsequently volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Force, where he served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division’s 466 Bomb Group. With his crew of nine men, Lt. Bushner piloted B-24 Liberator bombers on 35 missions over Germany and occupied France during 1944-45. Only one in four B-24 crewmen survived a full 35-mission tour. But rather than punching a ticket home, Bush volunteered to fly weather reconnaissance missions over Germany in an unarmed British-made deHavilland DH98 Mosquito. Made mostly of wood, with massive Rolls-Royce engines, the two-seat Mosquito was perhaps the fastest piston-driven aircraft of the war. Bush flew the equivalent of a half-tour in the Mosquito before the war came to an end.

One can hardly imagine making the transition from wartime pilot to classical

pianist, but Bush did it. Returning to the states in 1945, he attended New York's prestigious Julliard School of Music. But service to country once again beckoned, and after a single term at Julliard, he joined the U.S. Foreign Service. Thus began a long and distinguished career as a diplomat.

During the 18-year period immediately following the war, Bush served in a variety of settings and capacities. In Tokyo, he was assigned to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) U.S. Political Advisor's office, 1946-48. There followed a series of assignments where he served as political reporting officer at U.S. embassies in Bangkok, Thailand (1948-52); Pusan, Korea (1952-53); Tehran, Iran (1953-55); and the American Consulate in Khorramshahr, Iran (1955-56), where he opened the new U.S. Consulate. Returning stateside, he spent three years at the State Department as Thailand Desk Officer and one year at the U.S. Air Force War College in Montgomery, AL. His final assignment for the Department of State was as Counselor for Political Affairs at the American Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia from 1960 to 1963.

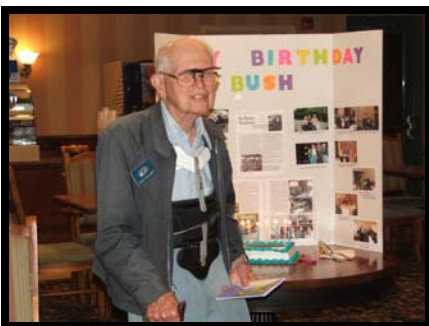
In 1963, Bush left the State Department to accept a position with the nonprofit, nonpartisan Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), considered to be the nation's most influential foreign policy think-tank, headquartered in New York City. As Director of Committees on Foreign Relations from 1963 to 1987, his job was to arrange for statesmen and foreign affairs experts to address some 36 CFR affiliated committees scattered across the nation. During this period, he earned a Master's degree in Government from New York University in 1976.

In 1987, Bush came across an article in a retirement newsletter that touted Tryon, NC as a good place to spend retirement. He bought a home there and lived out a happy retirement. Bush's Tryon home reflected his unique experiences. The baby grand piano, photos and awards from World War II, unique furnishings and eclectic artwork from across the globe, letters from dignitaries and heads of state, and his stunning collection of antique automobiles all stood

as a testament to a long journey on a road less traveled.

He was active even in his final months. In August, the Smoky Mountain AACA sponsored him on an Honor Air flight to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. In October, he drove, by himself, to the BRP Fall Tour in Moultrie, GA. He was determined to live life to the fullest, be with his friends, and enjoy doing the things he loved best.

Bush will be missed by scores of people throughout the world.



**Bush celebrated his 90th birthday with BRP**

## Editor's Desk

We hope you all had a good holiday and are looking forward to a happy "Packarding" new year. Now is the time to get our Packards ready for the spring tour. Linda and I have already started to make arrangements for the spring tour in upstate South Carolina. We have chosen a diverse selection of activities to, hopefully, provide something of interest for everyone. You will find more details for the tour in this issue.

We all have our stories to answer our affinity for Packards. Member, Rick Endler has shared his story with us in this issue. I discovered that his father worked at a dealership in Pittsburgh where I went as a kid to collect the sales brochures each year. You'll enjoy his personal experiences.

Eleanor Harper and Marilyn Glowacki are both doing well. Eleanor continues to have regular treatments for her cancer every third week. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

## Director's Directions

Happy New Year! This is the most important year in the rest of your life 2012. It is the first and will contribute to all the others. Make it a good one by planning a lot of fun things to do, like spending time in your faith, with family or extended family like car friends.

Let's have fun together at the Charlotte Motor Speedway during the Autofair on April the 19th thru 22nd. We need 15 Packards to get a reserved spot at the AACA show on Saturday and Sunday. Please commit and bring your car. We need a number so send me an email at [david\\_edge@yahoo.com](mailto:david_edge@yahoo.com) so I can start a list. I will have a space to hang out with some water and soft drinks etc for all days.

Be sure your calendar has our spring tour written in on May 17th thru 19th. Ron and Linda Althoff will be our host in Clemson SC.

I have acquired an old Model T child car like the ones that sometimes are used by Shriners in Christmas parades. I believe it was one built in the 50's, and the motor is going to need to be completely rebuilt. It has the original wood spoke wheels. My grandkids are excited about it and looking forward to working on it with me. My enjoyment is watching their excitement, three preteen boys growing up and loving their papa.

*David Edge*

# A Packard Family

## By Rick Endler

Packard automobiles mean many different things to different people. Some admire them for their design, engineering, and their place in American automobile history. Some have a special remembrance of Packards from their family association with the marque. And some admire them from both perspectives. I fall into the last group. My father, Al Endler, loved Packards, and as a consequence we were a Packard family in one form or another for many years. His first new car purchased after leaving the service at the end of WWII was a 1946 Clipper. He was one of the fortunate ones to be able to buy a new car, any new car, at that time, and personally knowing the service manager for a Packard dealership (Marfred Motors, Mt. Lebanon, PA) didn't hurt. The Clipper brought me home from the hospital in early March of 1947. Dad sold the Clipper in 1949, as it was an oil burner, a problem, according to him, due to "green" cast iron engine blocks in those early post war production cars. His next purchase was a used 1941 Custom Super Eight 180 sedan. It brought my sister home from the hospital in 1949, and served the family well until I decided to open the rear door and take a tumble onto a busy Pittsburgh street on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1950. As I found out firsthand, they didn't call them "suicide doors" for nothing! Needless to say, Dad sold the 180 in short order, and bought a two door Hudson Commodore 8.



Dad was recalled into the Air Force at the beginning of the Korean War, but before reporting to active duty, he had to sell his auto tune-up and service station business in Cheswick, PA. Having maintained his friendship with

several employees of the above mentioned Packard dealership, and having some time until he had to report to his first duty station, he was asked to be a Packard salesman. Dad apparently did well selling Packards, as he bought a new 1952 Patrician from the dealership following his employment. The car ended up being stored in a neighbor's garage during his first several years of

service, though it was driven periodically by a family friend, Mr. Ott Deutenberg, who was the dealership's service manager for many years. A 1940 Packard 110 business coupe then joined the family, primarily to take Dad between home and several temporary duty stations, including one with the family to Florida. As difficult as it may seem now, the Florida trip in the coupe included a family of four and its baggage. I recall my sister and me riding behind the front set sitting and/or lying on two footlockers somehow wedged into that space.

During Dad's absence in the service, we spent a number of weekends with the Deutenberg family. Ott was also a Packard owner, and had a '48 Deluxe Touring Sedan. The Pittsburgh area is noted for its hills, and since the standard 288 engine didn't perform to his liking, a 356 was installed, which solved the problem quite nicely. My sister has vivid memories of this car, as I accidentally closed the rear door on her fingers during one visit!

Following Dad's return from Korea in June of 1955, he received orders to California, and the family was loaded into the '52 Patrician for the first of several pre-interstate highway cross-country trips. In 1958, we returned to Pittsburgh on leave, and sold the Patrician to Ott. The car soldiered on as a service vehicle in his car repair business until the Pennsylvania winters finally exacted their toll.



**Rick's 1948 Deluxe Touring Sedan**

But tales of Packards never totally left the family conversation. In 1999 my Dad, a long time antique car hobbyist, called me and asked if I would be interested in a 1948 Deluxe Touring Sedan he had found. I immediately said yes (much to his dismay, as he apparently wanted the car as well!), and the family association was rekindled. Following several months of restoration work to get the car roadworthy, and the retelling of innumerable Packard stories, I drove the car home on Halloween, 1999. Dad's Packard appetite now whetted, we then started a search for one for him. In 2001 during the National Packard Meet in New York, he called me with the news that he had found a 1956 Patrician in Rochester, NY, and asked me to check it out. He purchased the car, had it transported to his home in Georgia, and the fun resumed.

We participated together in several car events and cruise-ins, often being the only Packards in attendance. One particular event saw us pitted against each other in the same (Packard only) class. To this day I don't know how I beat him, and he never let me forget it! The years of Packard family ownership passed quickly, with my ongoing restoration of the '48, and Dad enjoying his original, low mileage Patrician. In 2008, Dad passed away, and the Patrician was driven to its new home in South Carolina.



**Rick's Father's 1956 Patrician**

For me and our family, Packard has represented something truly special in our lives. The marque became an intimate part of who we were and are, defining

events, people, and relationships over many years. To some this relationship may seem strange, but if one ever has any doubt what it means to many of us, just “ask the man who owns one”.



## BRP Elections

January 30, 2012

Dear Blue Ridge Packard Member:

In accordance with the Bylaws, it is time to elect a new Board of Directors for 2012-2013. The following slate is presented with great pleasure for your approval.

**DIRECTOR: Susan (Sue) Shook**

Sue and Bill have been members of BRP for about 9 years. They own a 1949 Packard 2272 Super Eight Touring Sedan. In addition to the Packard Club they enjoy traveling here and abroad. They are active in the Holden Beach Sea Turtle Protection Program. Sue also served as the first President of their community Marina Association and held that position for 7 years. After living in 20 different homes and 9 states before settling in one place for the past nine years, they are happy to call Holden Beach NC home. Sue worked in the telecommunications industry for Ohio Bell, AT&T, Lucent Technologies and Telegent retiring as Senior Vice President of Operations. Bill retired from government ser-

vice as system analyst. They met and married while students at Michigan State University and have been married 43 years.

**DIRECTOR-ELECT:**

Open Position

**TREASURER:** Dudley Morrison

Dudley is a Charter Member of Blue Ridge Packards and currently serves as BRP treasurer. He has been a member of PAC for over 30 years, is currently serving as Treasurer of the National organization and has also served the National organization as VP Projects. Dudley has hosted several BRP tours. Being retired he is now free to enjoy his love of travel and Scottish dancing as well as Packard touring.

**SECRETARY:** Char Lee

Char & Bill have been BRP members since 1991. She was chairperson for food and entertainment for the Asheville National Meet in 1993. Along with her husband, Bill, has organized two tours and assisted with another. They are the proud owners of one Packard automobile, a 1949 Packard 2372 super 8 deluxe touring sedan. She has served BRP as secretary since May 2003. She works in the day-to-day administration of their renewable energy business, generating hydroelectricity, along side her husband Bill.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Open Position

**If you or anyone you know would like to be considered for either of the open positions please notify me at the address below.**

The following have volunteered to serve in these non-elected positions:

**“COUNTRY ROADS” EDITORS:** Ron Althoff & Curtis Easter

**PROJECTS:** Jed Sheehan

**HISTORIAN:** Ron Althoff.

**BRP WEBMASTER:** Drusilla Carter

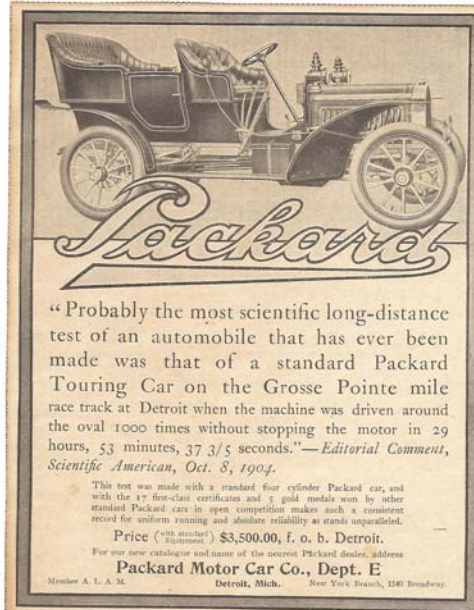
If you approve of the slate presented you need do nothing. If you would like to vote for a write-in candidate, please copy the page of slated candidates and write the name next to the position and mail it to: Char Lee, Secretary

Blue Ridge Packards  
PO Box 1459  
Asheboro, NC 27204

Remember, the person must be willing to serve before you write them in. All nominations for write-in candidates must be received by March 30, 2012.

The new Executive Board will be presented at the May 2012 Spring Tour in Clemson, SC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Char Lee, Secretary



“Probably the most scientific long-distance test of an automobile that has ever been made was that of a standard Packard Touring Car on the Grosse Pointe mile race track at Detroit when the machine was driven around the oval 1000 times without stopping the motor in 29 hours, 53 minutes, 37 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub> seconds.”—*Editorial Comment, Scientific American, Oct. 8, 1904.*

This test was made with a standard four cylinder Packard car, and with the 17 best-class certificates and 5 gold medals won by other standard Packard cars in open competition makes such a consistent record for uniform running and absolute reliability as stands unparalleled.

Price (with accessories) \$3,500.00, f. o. b. Detroit.

For our new catalogue and name of the nearest Packard dealer, address  
**Packard Motor Car Co., Dept. E**  
Detroit, Mich. New York Branch, 130 Broadway.

Member A. I. A. M.

# In the Foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains

## BRP Spring Tour

### May 17—19, 2012

Come celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blue Ridge Packards in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and skirting the shores of Lake Hartwell, Clemson, SC. Discover the rich history and experience the natural beauty of the Pendleton District in the northwest corner of South Carolina. Mountain peaks, waterfalls, rolling hills, streams and lakes create a picturesque backdrop for driving and exploring.

The Pendleton District, as it was originally named, comprised the counties of Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson. It was originally inhabited by the Cherokee Indian Nation. Following the Revolutionary War, the Cherokee Indians surrendered their claims to the land and early pioneers established farms. Later, wealthy plantation owners from across South Carolina began building second homes in the Upstate to take advantage of the moderate summer climate. John C. Calhoun, former Vice President of the United States, was among those who built a home in the area. His son-in-law, Thomas Green Clemson, later purchased the plantation and subsequently deeded it to the state of South Carolina to establish a college. Clemson University was founded in 1889.

Our tour will take us to the highlights of the many facets of the district: history, culture, natural beauty, energy and airplanes. We will visit a light aircraft factory, an 1830 plantation, a 5000 specimen geology museum, a 295 acre botanical garden, an 1845 grist mill, a winery, the tallest waterfall in the eastern US, and a tour of energy production. And as usual, fine food, good fellowship and Packards.

The host hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott at 201 Canoy Lane off of Hwy 93 in Clemson. The rates are \$99 per night plus tax for both king and double queen. Call the hotel for reservations at (864) 654-8833 and request the Blue Ridge Packard Club rate. Reservation deadline is April 25. Contact Ron and Linda Althoff at (803) 781-6309 or [ronalthoff@bellsouth.net](mailto:ronalthoff@bellsouth.net) for details.



# Calendar

## May 2012

4—5

All Packard Swap Meet and Show-Frederick, MD

17—19

BRP Spring Tour-Clemson, SC

## June 2012

3—8

6th Annual Henry Joy Tour-Spring in the Berkshires”

## September 2012

17—21

47th Annual PAC National Meet-Williamsburg, VA

## BRP Projects

Key Case—Brown leather with gold “Packard” script.

\$8.50 postpaid

Generator Caution Tags—Used on 1937-54. \$3 postpaid

Umbrellas—Golf size Totes, black with “Packard” script.

\$27 plus \$5 shipping

New Grille Badges—Chrome and cloisonné. \$65 postpaid



## **Executive Officers**

Director—David Edge, 1114 East Powersville Rd., Lumberton, NC 28358. (910)738-8003. email: david\_edge@yahoo.com

Director Elect—Sue Shook, 672 Valverda St., Supply, NC 28462. (910) 842-8164. email: shookw@msn.com

Secretary—Char Lee, P O Box 1459, Asheboro, NC 27204. (336) 629-5055. email: wlee4@triad.rr.com

Treasurer—Dudley Morrison, Villa 18, Springmoor Dr., Raleigh, NC 27615. (919) 637-2690. email: dmorrison10@nc.rr.com

Membership—Jack & Nan Gaughf, 136 Pinnacle Falls Drive, Pickens, SC 29671. (864) 878-4313. email: fabauntnan@aol.com

## **Other Officers**

Historian—Ron Althoff, 1321 Murraywood Ct., Columbia, SC 29212. (803) 781-6309. email: ronalthoff@bellsouth.net

Projects Chair—Jed Sheehan, 2751 Rutherford Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060. (540) 552-2562. email: gypsie11@verizon.net

Editors—Ron Althoff and Curtis Easter, 974 Old Chapin Rd., Lexington, SC 29072. (803) 951-3226. email: curtiseaster@gmail.com

Webmaster—Drusilla Carter, 308 S. Cedar St., Pageland, SC 29728. (843) 672-3339. email: packardgirl@hotmail.com

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