

OLD  
DOMINION



*The*

OLD DOMINION

Packard CLUB

Summer Newsletter

May/June/July 2018

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

# Edenton delivers history, beauty during Spring Tour



ODPC members pose at for a photo at Hope Plantation



## Our 60<sup>th</sup> year ...

The Old Dominion Packard Club was founded in 1958 to preserve and enjoy Packard automobiles, as well as the interesting and diverse history of the Packard Motor Car Company. The idea sprang from the mind of Herb Hulvey. Postcards were sent to all known Virginia Packard owners proposing the establishment of a club devoted to the Packard marque, since it was clear that Packards would no longer be built.

The Old Dominion Packard Club is independent and not affiliated with any other organization. The Club holds two functions each year — a Spring Tour held during the fourth weekend of April and a Fall Tour during the fourth weekend of October. Cars are judged every other year during the Fall Tour. Dues for the Old Dominion Packard Club are \$20 annually.

Our website is: [olddominionpackardclub.org](http://olddominionpackardclub.org)

## Old Dominion Packard Club Officers

Richard Obenschain

Jed Sheehan

Craig Coulombe

Steve Shirey

Lynn Rogerson

Bob Woolfitt

Craig Coulombe

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary & Registered Agent

Membership

ODPC Webmaster

Newsletter Editor & Projects

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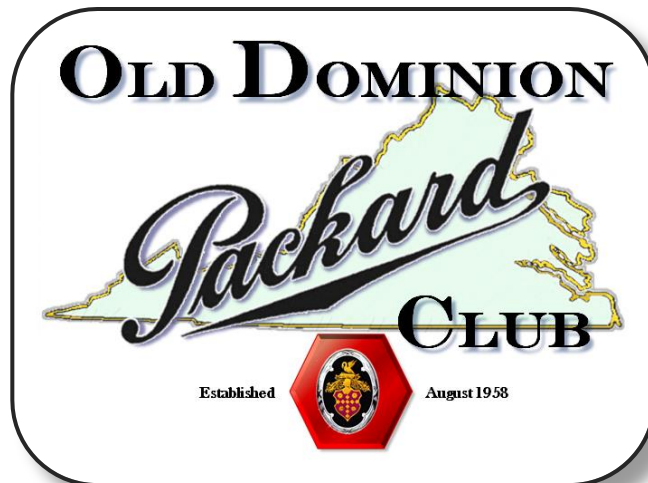
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[lrogerson@asiexhibitions.org](mailto:lrogerson@asiexhibitions.org)

[rwoolfitt@cox.net](mailto:rwoolfitt@cox.net)



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### District Representatives

Glenn Koogler

Blair Hildebrand

Jon Hatfield

Western & Southwestern Virginia

South of Virginia

Central Virginia

Bob Woolfitt

Lynn Rogerson

Andrew Rosen

Southeastern Virginia

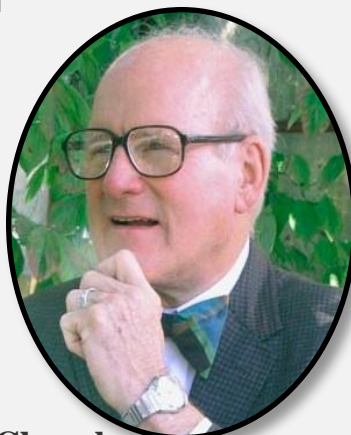
Northern Virginia & Maryland

Pennsylvania

### C. Dudley Brown

It is with deep regret that we must inform you of the passing of our friend, Dudley Brown, on April 18. Dudley was an ODPC member since 1997.

A memorial service will be held for him in the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC on Sept. 22, 2018 at 1 p.m.



### Editor's Note:

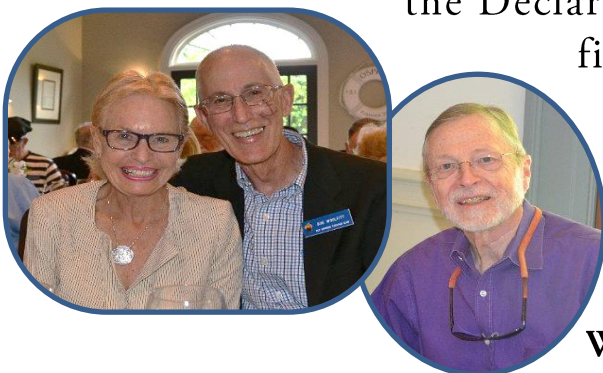
In the coming year, the ODPC Newsletter will be published four times a year in March, May, August, and November. Our newsletter costs our club more than \$1,000 a year in printing and mail costs. One way we could save the club a lot of money is for you to receive our newsletter by email. If you would like to do so, please send me an email at [coulombe@cox.net](mailto:coulombe@cox.net).



## Old Dominion Packard Club Spring Tour

Edenton, North Carolina ~ April 25 to 29, 2018

About 35 ODPC members and friends enjoyed the hospitality and charm of Edenton, once an important Southern port city and home to 2 signers of the Declaration of Independence signers and one of the first U.S. Supreme Court justices.



**Our Hosts,  
Susan & Bob  
Woolfitt and Bill  
Wilcox**

**Cover: Group photo at  
Hope House**

**Above: The Cupola  
House, built 1758.**

Those members who arrived early on Wednesday had the opportunity to visit the Washington County Historical Society's Port O' Plymouth Museum.



The museum features a 3/8<sup>th</sup>-scale replica of the CSS Albemarle iron-clad Confederate warship that participated in the 1864 battle of Plymouth, NC.



From left, Bob Woolfitt's 1956 400, Chris and Denise Overcash's 1946 Clipper, and Chris Harris-Evan's 1941 Cadillac Fleetwood sedan in the museum parking lot



The first evening of the tour, ODPC members were treated to a Country Boil of crawfish, sausage, potatoes, corn, and other delicious items at the Inner Banks Bed & Breakfast.

# Places We Visited ...



The Iredell House (1776) in Edenton was the home of James Iredell Sr., one first U.S. Supreme Court justices.



This teapot commemorates the October 1774 women's Tea Party protest in Edenton, led by Penelope Barker.



Downtown Edenton



Interior of the Cupola House



Hope Plantation House



At the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo

Photos by Bob Woolfitt



Club members' cars parked in front of Wessington House in Edenton



Somerset House

# People We Like ...



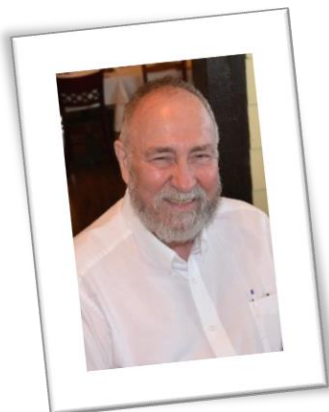
**Richard & Claudette Obenschain**



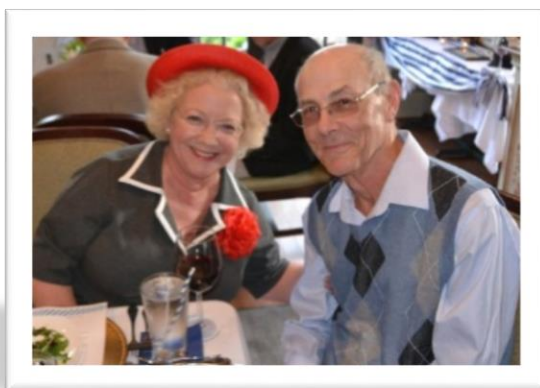
**Chris & Denise Overcash**



**Donna & Jon Hatfield**



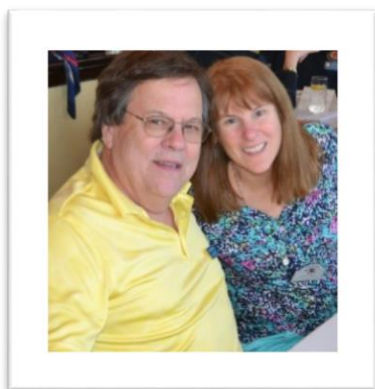
**Emerson Duke**



**Newlyweds Fara & Chris Harris-Evans**



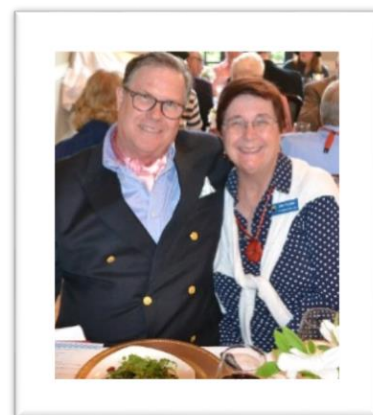
**Robert Scott**



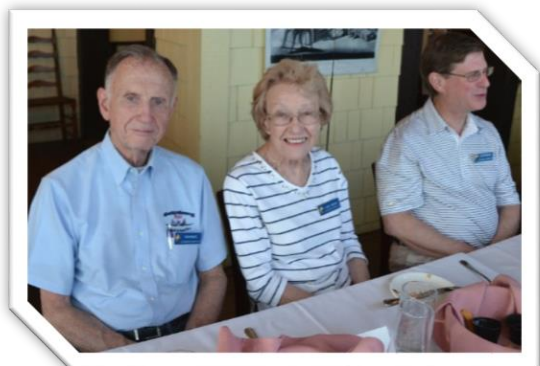
**George & Kathy Duke**



**Christopher & Paul Teets**



**Craig & Mary Coulombe**



**Tom & Clare  
Brooks and  
Jim Ridenour**



**Don Kahler, Lynn  
& Steve Shirey**

# Cars on the Tour ...



Bill Wilcox and Robin Burnham with Bill's 1932 convertible sedan

Photos by Bob Woolfitt



Richard Obenschain's 1940 160 touring sedan



Bruce Sedel's 1949 Super Deluxe sedan, left, and Paul Teets' 1950 Custom convertible



Jim Ridenour's 1939 120 convertible sedan



Barry Lowe's 833 convertible coupe

# The Packard That Ferried in The Atomic Age

*(From the Albuquerque Journal,  
February 15, 2009)*

This Packard Army staff car was the 66<sup>th</sup> 1942 Clipper Six, Twentieth Series, produced, and was assembled sometime between Aug. 25, 1941 and Feb. 7, 1942 at the Packard Grand Boulevard in Detroit, it was then sent to the Fitzjohn Coach Company in Muskegon, Michigan to be modified into a limousine.

Fitzjohn cut the car in half and created a 6-foot section using ash wood for door frames, roof beams, and part of the flooring. With no steel available for the stretch's skin and interior panels, they were covered with Masonite — compressed sheets of wood fiber.

Fitzjohn added three bench seats and passenger side doors, giving the limousine seating for 15 persons. Of the few thousand 1942 Packard Clippers produced before automobile production was halted February 9 for the duration of World War II.

This Packard was owned by the U.S. Army and used during the war by members of the Manhattan Project, which developed the first atomic bombs. The car was



assigned to then Brig. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officer who was the director of the Manhattan Project.

National Museum of Nuclear Science & History in Albuquerque, New Mexico, curator David Hoover researched the limousine and determined that it was almost certainly used by luminaries of the once-top-secret Manhattan Project, including physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, who Groves selected as leader the Los

*[See Next Page]*

## Leslie R. Groves

**Lieutenant General U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**Director of the Manhattan Project**



Leslie Groves was born in Albany, New York in 1896. He graduated from West Point in 1918 and briefly served in France during World War I.

In September 1942, Groves was placed in charge of the Manhattan Engineer Project, with the rank of brigadier general. Under his direction, the basic atomic bomb research was carried out primarily at Columbia University and the University of Chicago.

He oversaw all phases of the project — scientific, production, security and planning for use of the bomb. Under his direction project plants were established in Oak Ridge, Hanford, and Los Alamos. As a major general, after 1947 Groves was named Chief of the Army's Special Weapons Project. He retired in 1948 as a lieutenant general.

Groves died in 1970 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



## Los Alamos Limousine

Alamos, New Mexico laboratory, where the first atomic bomb was constructed and detonated.

Hoover said he believes the limousine carried Oppenheimer and senior Manhattan Project scientists to Trinity Site in the central New Mexico desert for the July 16, 1945, detonation of the first nuclear bomb. Deceased junkyard owner Joe Yursic told his grandson that the limousine had been used to transport people from the Lamy, New Mexico railroad station — a transportation hub for the clandestine Manhattan Project — to Los Alamos.

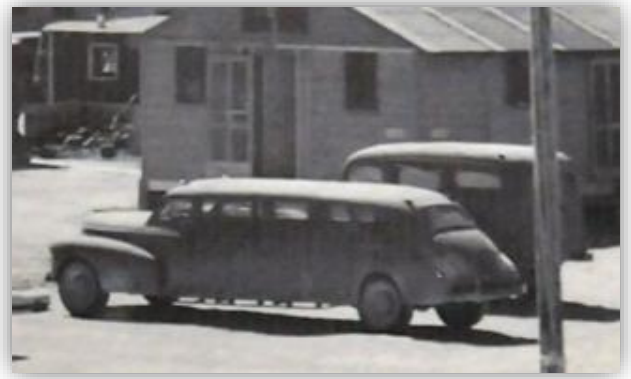
After the war ended and activities at the Los Alamos laboratory ran down, the Packard was apparently acquired by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and sold to Yursic at a BIA auction near Los Alamos on April 2, 1952. After that, the car remained in a Gallup, New Mexico junkyard until it was discovered and rescued in 2005 by Dan Dolan, an Albuquerque lawyer and a member of the Roadrunner Convoy of the New Mexico Military Vehicle Preservation Association.

"It was buried underneath a ton of stuff," Dolan said. "I mean there were tires, hoods and sheet metal thrown over it." After he and some fellow collectors moved enough junk to see the Packard better, Dolan knew they'd uncovered something unique.

"The chrome grille was painted green, which is a dead giveaway for a military vehicle of that era," he said. "The grille, which was pristine, had some markings on it that you can still see, which I immediately identified as Manhattan Project stuff."

Steve Haney runs a restoration shop in Albuquerque and has restored vintage cars for 30 years. He first saw the green hulk last summer at the museum's storage building on Kirtland Air Force Base after other restorers had passed on the project.

"Luckily, most of the major pieces were still there, even though some were in really bad shape," Haney said. "When you have



**Above, the Packard at Los Alamos in 1945**



**Left, leaving the junk yard in 2005**

**Below, undergoing major restoration**



**The restored Packard limousine at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History in Albuquerque**

parts, you can usually fabricate the pieces you need."

Haney said Fitzjohn's woodwork proved particularly challenging because only the door frames and one ceiling beam were intact. Mike Garcia of M&M Woodworking in Albuquerque made templates from the remaining pieces — and 250 board feet of ash — to replicate the stretch.

To keep the limousine as close to original as possible, the Masonite panel had to be replicated. But with today's materials and coatings, they'll last far longer than the originals.

Although the Packard's original inline six-cylinder, 120-hp engine sits under the hood, it was not restored, Haney said. "It's a museum piece, so it doesn't really need to run." The limousine's three-speed manual transmission still bears its stamped manufacture date — Dec. 9, 1941 — two days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

*(Special thanks to Mark Salansky)*

## The PERIOD CLOSET

This Fall Seet marks the **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ODPC**, so the Period Packard Committee agreed that a great theme for the banquet would be **The Year 1958!** We are delighted to report huge participation at the Edenton banquet! Thank you, ODPC, for *Getting your Packard On!*

There are a series of on-line sites providing **Style Guides** that we have found very interesting and useful, and we share them with you here. They include practical advice as where to shop for vintage, reproduction and decade-inspired clothing. Because they are broken down by distinct decades, ODPC members may find these particularly valuable (even in matching your banquet attire to a specific Packard in your stable!).

- For 1900-1910  
<https://vintagedancer.com/category/1900s/>
- For the 1920s \_  
<http://vintagedancer.com/1920s/1920s-style-guide-series/>
- For the 1930s  
<https://vintagedancer.com/category/1930s/>
- For the 1940s  
<https://vintagedancer.com/1940-style-guide-40-days-of-1940s-fashion-history/>
- For the 1950s  
<https://vintagedancer.com/category/1950s/>
- A general overview, from late Victorian to the 1970s --  
<http://vintagedancer.com/blog/>

An enticement awaits all Period Dress participants at the October banquet in Loudoun County! So, ODPC, *Get Your Packard On!*

### The Period Packard Committee

Lynn Rogerson Shirey, Tamara Ridenour, Susan Myers, Charlotte Koogler

## Fall Meet 2018 – Gainesville/ Loudoun County, VA



**Wednesday, October 24:** Arrive and register at the Springhill Suites in Gainesville, VA. Early bird dinner.

**Thursday, October 25:** We take a scenic drive from Gainesville to Middleburg, VA. We first visit the National Sporting Library and Museum, followed by lunch at the Red Fox Inn & Tavern (established in 1728). After lunch we drive through the historic town of Aldie, then on to Oatlands Plantation outside of Leesburg, VA for a tour of the home and the gardens. Dinner to be determined.

**Friday, October 26:** We leave Gainesville and drive the Snickersville Turnpike to Purcellville, VA where we will have lunch at Magnolias at the Mill. Following lunch members can visit shops. We then drive to the Stone Tower Winery near Leesburg. The Board meeting is at 4 p.m. at the hotel. We will have dinner on our own.

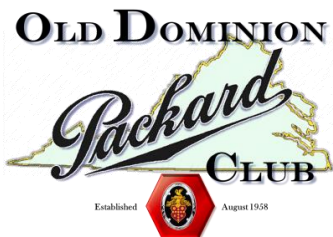
**Saturday, April 28:** Following breakfast we will hold a car judging in the Springhill Suites parking lot. Following the judging, members can chose to go out on their own or they can visit the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in Chantilly, VA. The final banquet will be held at Out of the Blue restaurant in Gainesville, which is very close to our hotel.

**Sunday, April 29:** Depart for home.

**Accommodations:** Springhill Suites Gainesville Haymarket, 7921 Gateway Promenade Place., Gainesville, VA 20155. 703-753-0121

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/iadgv-springhill-suites-gainesville-haymarket/>

This hotel provides breakfast and meeting room facilities. The group rate for ODPC is \$154 per night.



# 2018 Membership Registration/ Renewal Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Packard(s) Owned – For Membership Directory (Packard ownership not required for membership)

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Body No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Model No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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Year that you joined the Old Dominion Packard Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: (These are for calendar year & include spouse) \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.<sup>00</sup>

Member Name Badge with Packard Crest Number of badges: \_\_\_\_\_ Price per badge: \$9.<sup>00</sup>

Badge Total Due: \$ .<sup>00</sup>

Name on badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on badge: \_\_\_\_\_ Sub-total: \$ .<sup>00</sup>

Cloisonné ODPC bumper badge: \$70.<sup>00</sup> No. ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due: \$ .<sup>00</sup>

Shipping (ea.) \$5.<sup>00</sup> Sub-Total: \$ .<sup>00</sup>

Date of 2018 Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \$ .<sup>00</sup>

Make check payable to: Old Dominion Packard Club

Mail this application & check to: Craig Coulombe, 3148 Borge St., Oakton, VA 22124

The Old Dominion Packard Club holds two overnight events per year — Spring Tour on the fourth weekend in April and Fall Meet & judging held on the fourth weekend in October. Meet locations vary. Our ODPC Newsletter is published quarterly and contains information on club activities. Please join us!

# Old Dominion Packard Club Newsletter

Spring Issue 2018

3148 Borge St., Oakton, VA 22124



## FIRST CLASS



Paul Teets stands with his son Christopher next to his 1950 Custom convertible at the Spring Tour.



Paul and Shirley at the 2017 Spring Tour

**Paul S. Teets Sr.**, a long-time Packard Club member, passed away May 11, 2018. We are thankful that we got to spend time with him at the Spring Tour in Edenton. Our sincere condolences to Shirley and their family.