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THE OLD DOMINION

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Spring, 2013

Packards, People, Places

<http://www.olddominionpackardclub.org>

Packards in Mayberry—Our Spring Tour, held jointly with the Blue Ridge Packard Club
The tour group and their Packards in Mount Airy (Mayberry), North Carolina



Tom and Donella Inman planned one of the best organized tours ever, and all who participated thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you Tom and Donella!

2013 spring Tour - April 24th through 28th, 2013

Since our 2013 Spring Tour was hosted at the Hampton Inn in Mount Airy, NC, it had been suggested that we have the Blue Ridge Packard Club join us for a joint tour. It gave us a great way to meet new Packard owners and see new Packards, and a great time was had by all.

Tom and Donella Inman organized the tour and did a superb job! Here, George Duke accompanies Bob Woolfitt as Bob presents a thank-you plaque to Tom and Donella for all their work in making this a very successful and enjoyable tour.



Wednesday afternoon, the early birds were able to make a short trip to the world's largest open face granite quarry. The size of this place was amazing, and we had the opportunity to see how the granite is mined and cut into pieces for sale.

Following the quarry visit, everyone returned to the hotel for a Manager's Reception followed by some time to gather in our Hospitality Room for fellowship.

Dinner on our own allowed everyone to choose their own interesting place nearby after the reception.

Thursday morning, we visited downtown Mt. Airy (Mayberry). Each of us was able to browse the historic downtown area, visiting all the shops, stores and other places of interest. With lunch on our own, some were able to visit Snappy lunch and try their "famous" pork chop sandwich. Anyone interested was able to visit Floyd's Barbershop, Holcomb hardware, Andy Griffith's boyhood home, and many other places of interest.

After lunch, we all assembled and left downtown in a caravan and go to the Andy Griffith museum.

**For lots of pictures from previous tours,
visit our website listed on the cover
Of this newsletter and choose the Gallery.**

UPCOMING MEET NEWS - 2013

Sept 2-6, 7th Henry Joy Tour, Solomons, Maryland
October 9-12, AACA Hershey Fall meet, Hershey Pa
Oct. 24-27, ODPC Fall Meet, Fredericksburg, VA

Current slate of District Representatives

Lynn Rogerson - North of Virginia
Glenn Koogler - Western Virginia
Jon Hatfield - Central Virginia
Bob Woolfitt - Eastern Virginia
Blair Hildebrand - South of Virginia
Dick Stoltzfus - Pennsylvania

Next to the Andy Griffith Museum was the Bunker Museum. The Bunker twins, Eng and Chang, were a very famous pair of Siamese Twins joined at the chest who also lived in the area in their later years.

After visiting the museums, we all headed back to the hotel, and dinner on our own gave us another opportunity to try a new place for our meal.

Friday morning, we left the hotel for a very nice ride through the countryside South on route 601, driving about an hour through the beautiful Yadkin Valley that is known for its vineyards. Our destination was Jenkins Restorations. Jenkins is a restorer of beautiful automobiles as well as an upholstery shop for finer automobiles with leather and other fine materials. We browsed through a beautiful collection of Buicks and Cadillacs. Some of the automobiles are excellent originals while others have been totally restored by Jenkins Restorations. Several of the automobiles have won national awards, and some were very rare, such as a blue Cadillac convertible and a cream colored Cadillac roadster with a rumble seat.



We left Jenkins Restorations and headed back toward Mount Airy, stopping along the way at Cedarbrook Country Club where we had an excellent buffet lunch. After lunch, we continued on our way to Shelton's Vineyards where individual pictures of our Packards were taken. While at the winery, we had the opportunity to taste their award winning wines as well as take a tour of the winery. When we were finished enjoying our visit, we individually left and finished our journey back to the hotel for dinner on our own and camaraderie in the Hospitality Room.

Saturday morning, we lined up and left in a caravan headed toward Pilot Mountain, which was always called Mount Pilot in the Andy Griffith show. Along the way, we drove past Wally's Service Station where Goober worked in Andy's show. Shortly after Wally's, we past the Derby restaurant, which was a hot spot with the teens back in the fifties. Most of the time, lots of fifties automobiles were lined up around the building. It would kind of remind you or Arnold's Drive-in from the Happy Days TV show with a little older Opie from Andy's show as the star.

Our destination for the morning trip was the Petro museum in downtown Pilot Mountain. There are two floors just crammed full of everything to do with gas and oil, plus automobiles signs, neon signs a plenty and tons of other "stuff." In fact, there was



so much memorabilia in there that we had to split our large group into two with one group visiting the museum while the other group shopped. After a while, the groups swapped so everyone had ample time to do both. After everyone had the chance to browse through the museum, we caravanned to the Pilot Knob Park Country Club for lunch. There we enjoyed a sandwich buffet meal and some excellent views of the Pilot Mountain “Knob” as it is called. From the covered porch we could look directly up to the “Knob”.



After a great buffet lunch, we started out on the short drive to the top of the mountain (not the knob) we had been admiring. Along the way on Pilot Mountain Park Road, there were lots of opportunities for spectacular views of the mountain. At the top, we could park and walk several trails. One trail circles around the knob, offering great views in all directions.

As we each left when ready, we were warned to use lower gears and the driver was to avoid trying to look at the scenery due to the steep and winding road down. It was about a half hour drive back to the hotel where we could get spruced up for the closing banquet.



Left to right are Don Kahler, Lynn and Olivia Rogerson, Tamara Ridenour, Susan Myers, and Patrick Nolen.

A little before six, we departed the hotel in a caravan to the banquet at the nearby beautiful club house and golf course of Cross Creek Country Club. Several of us dressed up in

period dress as is our custom for these banquets. We all enjoyed the good food, dancing to the sounds of the band, and of course, the camaraderie with our friends, both new and old. Everyone looks forward to our next meeting in the fall, and many more to come after that. If you missed this tour, as I unfortunately did, you missed a great one!

Don't miss out on future ones!



The Old Dominion Packard Club also had a wonderful Fall 2012 Tour in late October last year. That tour was based in Orange, VA.

A note by George Duke:

Driving the old cars in an area like Orange is always a treat and this time was no exception. The thing that impressed me most was the genius of Madison. His ability to grasp the macro situation of world governance is astonishing. (If only we had him today!) It is also remarkable that the house at Montpelier was changed so many times and still kept in reasonably good repair until it's recent, total restoration.

Another big plus was the host hotel itself. It sat on a hilltop with the mountains in the background and a large lawn out back that hosted our show. The owner was there a good bit of the time and was very friendly and approachable.

Luckily, Sandy (the hurricane) held off on Sunday until most everyone got safely home. We didn't even get rained on!

A note by Kathy Duke:

Bob Robb decided to bring us back to a time when the Packard club toured some but also enjoyed many hours relaxing in a pleasing setting and enjoying the company of fellow members. On our first day of touring we rolled through the winding roads of Orange, VA lighted by the reds, oranges and yellows of the trees along the way. Being blessed with perfect weather, we were able to take our time and tour Montpelier, James and Dolly Madison's estate. We were treated by our exceptionally knowledgeable docents who regaled us with stories from the 18th and 19th century. Whether you were a history, architecture, horticulture or remodeling enthusiast, your interests were satiated. Lunch was then provided as we dined on our estate for the day with the magnificent scenery of mountains and fall foliage in the background.



At the right is a picture of the ODPC'ers on the tour on the front steps of Montpelier, home of James and Dolly Madison.



Kathy's note continued

We then went to the backwoods of Culpeper County to Belmont Farm, owned and run by Chuck and Jeanette Miller. It has the unique distinction of being the home of Virginia Lightning Whiskey, the first legal “moonshine” whiskey distillery. If you were to conjure up a caricature in your head of someone who made White Lightning, this would be your guy. He amused us as we toured the facility (This ain't Jack Daniel's Distillery) and purchased their goods. I know we later tasted the goods and he made mighty sweet whiskey.



That evening we dined in town at one of the fine restaurants in the area and later enjoyed ice cream at the hotel.

On Saturday we were treated to a lovely array of cars overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains and country that went on as far as one could see. The day was filled with socializing, touring the area, noshing and Relaxing, and later we reconvened for our Banquet. It was a perfect evening and end to a weekend only an hour from my home but a place that I never would've experienced if it weren't for the Packard Club and Bob Robb organizing our tour.



A note from Bob Woolfitt

Early bird dinner Thursday was at the French restaurant, Pomme, in Gordonsville, VA. Slow service, but good food. Friday, we caravanned to Montpelier, where we were divided into two groups, after touring the new visitor center. We had an excellent guided tour of the newly restored Montpelier.

Bob's note, continued

After our tour of the house, we had a group photo (see page 5) on the front steps of Montpelier. Afterwards, we had a nice box lunch at the visitor center, then drove to the Belmont Farms Distillery, the only legal still in Virginia. We had a tour of the facility and many made purchases at the gift shop. Photos of owners and their cars were taken at this location.

We returned to our host hotel, then most of us went to a group dinner at the Silk Mill Grille. After that repast, we returned to the hotel for an ice cream social with all the trimmings.



Craig and Mary Coulombe with moonshine samples at Belmont

Saturday was a gorgeous day for judging on the back lawn of the hotel. The cars were lined up by class. (See the picture on page 6) The judges went about their business and, in short order, completed their tasks. The afternoon was spent in exploring the area. The banquet that evening was a catered affair in our large hospitality room. Table decorations were made by Carol Robb, who could not attend due to a recent accident. New members were welcomed and note was made of the recent marriage of Jim and Tamara Ridenour and Orin and Ainsley Kerr. Congratulations to all! Period costumes were in evidence and explained by their owners. Hal Hermann, past Pres, presented the Jefferson Diffie Award to Rod Hobbs for his service as past President, past tourmaster and past newsletter editor. Following the awards ceremony, the meeting was adjourned.

A Note from our President following the 2012 Fall Tour

Hello Everyone,

George and I want to take this opportunity to thank Bob Robb for putting on an excellent tour for our sizable group of 20 plus cars and 40 plus people. The fall was raging and it was an excellent time of year to drive your Packard. We welcomed several new members to our Packard family – Craig and Mary Coulombe, Bill Haley, and a new old member Dwight Heinmuller.

George and I have so enjoyed being Co-Presidents that we ask other couples and individuals to consider the office or other offices of the ODPC. It gives you a chance to get to meet and know the many wonderful people in our club. We feel that we have had a richer experience by attending board meetings and working closely with a team. I know I enjoy hearing the history of our club from both Tom and Clare Brooks during meetings, working with the Vice-President Bob Woolfitt this year, the former President Hal Hermann and especially being humored by Miles White with his intelligence and wit through our exchanges of emails. Most clubs' offices require an inordinate amount of time, but with our club our focus is on the social aspect and not business; therefore the time required is minimal. What time we've spent during the period of Vice-Presidency and Presidency has truly been rewarding and memorable. Please consider getting further involved with our club in the future and Happy Motoring.

Kathy and George Duke

Old Dominion Packard Club Club Projects



This four-inch round, heavy, chrome-backed, four-color Cloisonné bumper badge is \$60 plus \$5 shipping.



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At only \$3.50 each (including shipping) these iron-on embroidered club patches can be put on hats, jackets, shirts, etc. Order several.

James Ward Packard
Old Dominion Packard Club

Name badge; \$9.00 including shipping.

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