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PACKARD MOTOR CAR FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE

MAY 2025

PACKARD PULSE

HONORING HISTORY, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS



Calling all Twelves!

Neal Porter's newly restored 1934 Packard Twelve Victoria heard the call. He is first in line for the big event at the end of the month.

Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site

Calling All Twelves

A Salon Special Showing

May 27-29, 2025



We are delighted to revive the spirit of the automaker salons of the Classic Era with a unique Salon Special Showing at the historic Packard Proving Grounds site, exclusively for 1932-1939 Packard Twin Six and Twelve automobiles.

There is nothing quite like the feeling of driving your Packard on the parkways of the original Proving Grounds and experiencing the most significant surviving Packard Motor Car Company property firsthand. Join us as we recreate history, and honor these magnificent Packards, at the Proving Grounds this May.



49965 Van Dyke Ave.,
Shelby Twp, MI 48317
Call or text (586) 739-4800

PackardProvingGrounds.org/2025Salon



CLASSIC CAR CLUB OF
AMERICA MUSEUM
Art in Motion

2025 CCCA Museum Experience
May 30-June 1, 2025
Hickory Corners, Michigan



Packard Automobile Classics 58th National Meet
May 31-June 6, 2025
Kansas City, Kansas

2025 Salon Specifics

Wednesday, May 28th

Wednesday Salon Display:

\$20 per person admission, children free (entry begins at 1:00pm)

Wednesday Banquet Dinner:

\$100 each or \$600 for a table

2-Day All Access Pass:

\$265 per person, includes admission to the following (limited number available)

- Early admission to the Salon Display @ 11:00am
 - Wednesday Lunch
 - Wednesday Banquet Dinner
 - Thursday Lecture Series
 - Thursday Lunch
 - Thursday Bus Trip to the Ford Estate and Packard Assembly Plant
-

[Click here to purchase event tickets](#)

Thursday, May 29th – Salon Lecture Series

[Purchase Tickets – Click Here](#)



Scenes from the 2024 Salon that featured 1931 classic Packards to recreate the original event that took place on the PPG grounds.

Last call for Salon sponsorship opportunities - contact
Jeannine@PackardProvingGrounds.org

2025 PPG Upcoming Events

Sat, May 17 th	Opening Day of Shelby Farmers Market
Wed, May 28 th	PPG Salon - Calling all Twelves
Thu, May 29 th	PPG Salon - Lectures & Lunch
Sun, Jun 1 st	Simply Unique Handmade Market
Sat, Jun 7 th	Packards & Pints
Fri, July 18 th	Simply Unique Night Market
Sun, July 20 th	Easy Rodders Car Show
Sun, Aug 24 th	PPG Wedding Garage Sale
Fri, Sept 12 th	Simply Unique Night Market
Sun, Sep 14 th	Cars 'R' Stars Car Show

[Click here to register for the 2025 farmers market season](#)

Shelby Farmers Market

*at the Packard Proving Grounds
Historic Site*

EVERY SATURDAY

May 17 - Oct 18, 2025

9am-2pm

☁ Rain or Shine ☀

Well behaved dogs on a leash are welcome!



**FREE Packard Proving
Grounds Historical Site Tours
@ 10am & 11am**

PackardProvingGrounds.org

Tours start at the info tent - sign up
online, then check in when you arrive.



***SHOP FRESH. SHOP LOCAL.
SHOP IN SHELBY TOWNSHIP.***



Proud member of the



49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp, MI 48317 | Call or text (586) 739-4800

PackardProvingGrounds.org/Shelby-Farmers-Market

Reminder - vendors can pre-register on Friday, May 16th:

- **Click on this link** to view what vendor spaces are available
- Text us at **586-739-4800** with your name and vendor space # you'd like
- We'll check to make sure it's open and then if so, we'll text you a link to pay \$30 via credit card
- Once payment goes through, we'll text you 'confirmed' and then you're good to go for the Saturday market - you can skip the line and go straight to your assigned vendor space to set up

Vendors that wish to pay \$25 for their space on Saturday mornings need to line up in their vehicles in the SE corner of the market - look for the registration table - registration starts at 7:30am.

Full season vendors go directly to their assigned vendor space and set up.

One car per vendor space, all others need to park in the grass parking area behind Independent bank.

Volunteer Spotlight



A Lifelong Journey with Packard – Dave Dolby's PPG Story

For more than 53 years, Dave Dolby has been a driving force behind the preservation and restoration of the Packard Proving Grounds (PPG), generously volunteering his time, skills, and passion to ensure its legacy endures. He began volunteering for car shows and after a 47-year career with General Motors, Dave retired in 2001 and has devoted himself fully to the PPG ever since, serving in many

capacities. His deep commitment has left a lasting impact—not only through his involvement with car shows and restoration projects, but also in his leadership roles and tireless educational outreach. Dave's engineering expertise, knowledge of the automotive history, and gift for storytelling have made him an irreplaceable presence at the PPG, where he continues to contribute several days a week. As a Packard Motor Car Foundation Board Trustee and Collections Director, his dedication is both remarkable and inspiring.

His journey with Packard began during his professional career, where he rose through the engineering ranks. After years of frequent travel, he eventually moved into a desk role that offered more time at home. But that newfound freedom didn't go unnoticed. Dave jokingly says after trying to teach his wife how to do the laundry more effectively, she gave him a playful ultimatum: "You better find something to do, or they'll find you in one of the machines!" That advice was the spark that ignited his lifelong volunteer career at the PPG.



Encouraged by his boss to restore a classic car, Dave settled on a 1935 Packard 120. It wasn't just a mechanical project; it became a passion. His first show was the Carnival of Cars at the PPG in 1972. That marked the beginning of a decades-long association with the site. He soon took charge of managing the event's swap meet, a role he still holds today under the event's modern name, Cars 'R' Stars.

From the beginning, Dave was driven by a vision to preserve history. He recalls the early days at the PPG, when the site was overrun with wildlife, filled with broken windows, leaking rooftops, and obscured by thick overgrowth. Through years of hard work and commitment, he helped revitalize the historic buildings, supervised the care of the Packard automobile collection, and played a central role in transforming the Proving Grounds into a beloved hub of local and automotive history.

As Collections Director for over five years, Dave has overseen the acquisition and preservation of the Packard vehicles and related artifacts. He has also served as a docent for the last decade, offering tours that bring the site's legacy to life for visitors. With his engineering background and captivating storytelling style, Dave educates the public on the profound impact of the Packard Motor Car Company and the Proving Grounds—not only on automotive history but also in helping defend the free world during World War II. He loves leading historic tours and watching the faces of the group as the stories of the buildings and cars on display are revealed to them.

One of Dave's most unforgettable memories from his years of volunteering at the PPG came in the late 1970s, when he helped restore a 1947 long-wheelbase Packard limousine. After completing the restoration, he took his then 12-year-old daughter, Christina, for a lap around the historic 2.5-mile test track—recreating the thrill of the original Packard test drivers!

Today, Dave continues to help shape the future of the PPG through his roles on the board and in strategic planning. He encourages new volunteers to take their time, explore different roles, and find what they love. His devotion has inspired not just the broader PPG community but his own family as well.

His daughter Christina now works at the PPG in the Collections Department, while his other daughter Sherrie joins Christina—along with six grandchildren and two great-



Larry Telles and Dave Dolby

grandchildren—in volunteering. Each year they all support the annual swap meet, turning their shared involvement into a family tradition.

When he's not at the PPG, Dave, an amateur artist, enjoys painting. He lives in New Baltimore with his wife Maureen, balancing his passion for preservation with an ever-growing "honey-do" list at home he says.

Reflecting on over half a century of service, Dave sums it up simply:
"It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

Thank you Dave for all your work, dedication and passion!

Explore Volunteer Opportunities @ the PPG

Gems from the Vault



Packard Scores in Fast Getaway

by P.H. Connell

When Harry Kendall Thaw, famous millionaire slayer of Stanford White, escaped from the Matteawan, State Asylum for the Criminally Insane in Beacon, NY, he did so in a Packard.

In 1913, Packard produced a Model 38 that was equipped with a newly designed 415 CID six cylinder engine advertised at 60 horsepower, 1,720 RPM. This was an L-head six, cast in three blocks of two cylinders each.

In dashing for the Connecticut border, where he was temporarily immune from extradition, Thaw and the two confederates who aided him outdistanced a vast array of guards, attendants and policemen in various types of cars.

In passing through the hamlet of Stormville, NY, the Packard went 80 miles per hour, a remarkable speed for 1913.

Frank Eastman then editor of the Packard Magazine, reproduced a few of the newspaper clippings of the affair. On a page beneath the headlines, he wrote:

“When dependability is vital,
When high speed is necessary,
When a fast getaway is absolutely imperative,
As the man who owns one.”

After Harry Thaw’s legal difficulties were finally ended, he spent much of his last years on long automobile trips - again in a Packard.

Included are photos of a 1-38 touring car with the top down and a 1-38 phaeton with the top up and side curtains on. Either could have been used by the high-speed getaway guy!



Every picture tells a story. History is wonderful. these photos are on file in the vault at the Packard Proving Grounds.

Speaking of wonderful, this is a photo of **Pat Connell** with his late wife **Carolyn** who was also a PPG volunteer and an integral part of the PPG Vault project. She had a love of research and a knack for digging up some of the most interesting facts.

How special it is that **Carolyn's** legacy lives on in these special stories that **Pat** can now share.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 25, 2026 - when we will celebrate the 6th annual Great Gatsby Gala!





Great Gatsby Gala

We're still re-living fond memories from the **2025 Great Gatsby Gala** which was extra special due to the 100th anniversary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's book plus all the amazing vendors that supported our efforts.

Click this link to check out a copy of our program book. If you have an occasion to reach out to these vendors for any reason, please let them know where you heard about them!

View some images from the Gala.

Flyers for Upcoming Events at the PPG

Shelby Farmers Market
at the Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site

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☀️ Rain or Shine ☀️

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Cars'R' Stars @ PPG
Proceeds from this event help us to preserve & restore the Historic Packard Proving Grounds

Shows can enter the PPG by way of the SEBETH Detachable. Pre-registered cars will be granted separately and free entrance. Cars of interest have your \$25 (deductible \$25) (show only) money ready. **--- \$25 MILE & BUS ENTRANCE IS CLOSED ---**

Register now to be eligible for prize drawings. Prizes will be awarded at the show only.

Adult General Admission \$10
(Under 12 FREE with a paid adult)

14th year at the Historic Packard Proving Grounds (PPG)

NEW DATE FOR 2025 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- 2025 Feature -
Jaguars

A limited group of Jaguars will be presented by the Jaguar Club. Feature Jaguars selected and shown by invitation only.

PackardProvingGrounds.org/Cars-R-Stars

ALL MAKES, MODELS & YEARS ARE WELCOME ON GENERAL SHOW FIELD

Car Show/Swap Hours
8am - 3pm

49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp, MI 48317
(586) 739-4800 | PackardProvingGrounds.org

BJI FOOD! GIFT SHOP!
Gift Shop located in REPAIR GARAGE

CRAFT/SPICE REGISTRATION FORM ON BACK

Portions of Proceeds have been given to:

- *Vets Returning Home
- *Police One Tech
- *Oakland County Sheriff Search and Rescue Unit
- *Macomb County Sheriff's Unit
- *Humane Society of Macomb
- *Paw Plus Making Miracles
- *American Legion Hall - Ypsilanti

48th ANNUAL EASY RODDERS OF MICHIGAN

Check us out on FACEBOOK Easy Rodders of Michigan

CHARITY CAR SHOW, SWAP MEET & CRAFT SHOW

Sunday, July 20, 2025
9am - 3pm (Awards Start at 2:30 P.M.)

PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS
49965 VAN DYKE AVE., SHELBY TWP. 48317
BETWEEN 22 & 23 MILE RD.

SHOW VEHICLE REGISTRATION \$15 BEFORE 6:30am \$20 DAY OF SHOW

Swap Meet Registration
Pre-Registered \$15 / Day of Show \$20 / Car Corral \$20
One FREE 10x20 Swap Space until June 30th

Craft Registration
Pre-Registered \$15 until June 30th / Day of Show \$20
8x10 Craft Space, some sales available

CAR SET-UP 7:30a.m. / SWAP & CRAFT SET-UP 7a.m.
Show opens to the public at 9:00 a.m.
Walk-in admission \$5 / Children under 12 FREE

Awards
TOP 40 Awards
Club Handcrafted AWARDS

Prizes
\$200 to the Club with the Most Participation

Goody Bags for Pre-Registered Vehicles Only

Pre-Registered Vehicle Drawing Prize \$100

Mail this for Pre-Registration to: Easy Rodders of Michigan, 27386 Townsend Rd., Warren, MI 48097

Packards & PINTS

- BEER, WINE, COCKTAILS & CARS -
THE HISTORICAL PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS (23 E. VANDYKE)

Please include a self addressed stamped envelope for return confirmation.

For information Contact: Mike Bayer 586-752-1022
 Swap Meet info call: Tony Laudaro 810-300-5720 sgueman14@yahoo.com
 Crafts info call: Dawn Hall 248-635-2480
 Make checks or money orders payable to: Easy Rodders

(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Signature _____
 Address _____ Email for E-flyer _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 Make & Model of Car _____ Year _____
 Club Name (if any) _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____
 I herewith Reserve Advance Car Registration _____ Swap Space(s) _____ Car Corral space(s) _____ Craft Show _____

Participants hereby assume any and all risk for injury or damage to or caused by themselves, their family and others on Sunday, July 30, 2023 Car Show, Swap Meet, Craft Show and does release Easy Rodders Michigan its members and volunteers and the Packard Proving Grounds and Packard Motor Car Foundation from any damages...



SAT 6/7
7:00PM (6:00PM VIP)

EXPERIENCE AN EVENING OF GOOD DRINK, GOOD FOOD AND MUSIC AT THIS UNIQUE HISTORICAL LOCATION!
 BEER, WINE & COCKTAIL SAMPLES LIVE ENTERTAINMENT KEEPS-AKE PHOTO
 COMMEMORATIVE PINT GLASS FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
 TOURS OF THE PACKARD COLLECTION & HISTORIC BUILDINGS
TICKETS FROM • \$55 GA • \$70 VIP
Packard & Pints will make restoration funds for the main gallery & historic water tower
PACKARDSANDPINTS.COM

Click on the flyer images to save a .jpg file to share with your friends & family!

THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS GIFT SHOP

THE COOLEST CAPS UNDER THE SUN

New Era Structured Cotton Caps



Gift Shop purchases directly support the Packard Motor Car Foundation.

Shop at our online Gift Shop

Historic Speaker Series

The PPG Historic Speaker Series is gathering some momentum thanks to the efforts of the PPG Education Committee and the efforts of Deborah Remer and Chuck Ryntz plus volunteers that assist with these events, open the gift shop and provide historic tours - Katy Wojtaszek, Pat Prisbe and Donna Lombus have been especially helpful.

Mark your calendar for these fall dates:

- **Sunday, Sept 7th - Emblems that Moved us - Todd Carlson**
- **Sunday, Oct 26th - The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald - Charlie Shelton**
- **Sunday, Nov 9th - Connections between Jay/Packard and Selfridge Field - Steve Mrozek**
- **Sunday, Nov 23rd - How the Packard Proving Grounds was Saved - John MacArthur**

Stay tuned, more details will be available soon.

We recorded the three most recent Historic Speaker Series events, and you can view them on the **PPG YouTube channel** along with various other PPG related videos that we have gathered.

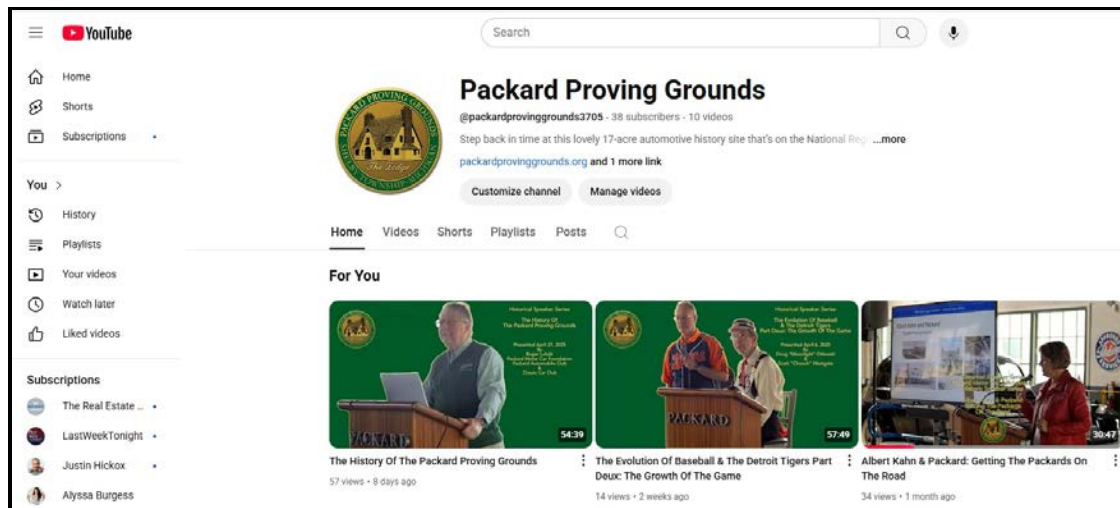
Here are some links:

The History of the Packard Proving Grounds - by Roger Luksik

The Evolution of Baseball & the Detroit Tigers part deux - and the Growth of the Game by Doug Otlewski and Scott Westgate

Albert Kahn & Packard - Getting the Packards on the Road by Heidi Pfannes

If you would like to suggest an upcoming speaker, or volunteer to assist in the PPG Education Committee, we'd love to hear from you!



SUPPORT THE **PMCF** MISSION.

Preserve the past.
Fuel the future.





[Click here to make a donation to the Packard Motor Car Foundation](#)



Have a question?

You can call or text us at the PPG main phone
586-739-4800



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Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site
49965 Van Dyke Ave. Shelby Twp, MI 48317

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