

# news

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**Volume 32**

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**PRESIDENT**

Bob Benson  
(408) 402-9806  
RCBSons1@aol.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Terry Morofsky  
(916) 984-1713  
tmorofsky@comcast.net

**SECRETARY**

Mike Drew  
(707) 452-9284  
MikeLDrew@aol.com

**TREASURER**

Jim Kuehne  
(408) 244-7095  
JKuehne@kuehneconstruction.com

**CLUB STORE**

John Hansen  
(307) 732-1818  
jhansen@bresnan.net

**LIBRARIAN**

Sharon Renshaw  
(925) 372-7021  
KittyLuvr480@aol.com

**RAFFLE CHAIRMAN**

Roger Sharp  
(408) 463-9442  
PPRSharp@aol.com

**NAME BADGES**

Doris Britschgi  
(408) 866-1677  
RnDBrit@earthlink.net

**WEBMASTER**

Mark McWhinney  
(650) 906-6275  
msm@portata.com

**MEMBERSHIP  
COORDINATOR**

Russ Britschgi  
(408) 866-1677  
RnDBrit@earthlink.net

**EVENTS  
COORDINATOR**

Diane Dean  
(408) 683-4861  
deandm@sbcglobal.net

**MOTORSPORTS  
COORDINATOR**

Bill Santos (RIP)  
(408) 732-6468  
BSantos@flash.net

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## Minutes of Meeting 27 October, 2005

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:02 by president Bob Benson. All officers were present except for John Hansen (still living in Wyoming), Mark McWhinney (working in Las Vegas) and Mike Drew (who was racing his Shelby GT-350 clone at the Nurburgring and Spa, and was ably filled in for by Steve Liebenow). There were 26 members in the attendance, but only one Pantera, belonging to Brian Bernard.

(Mark Tumbarello and Peter Kovacs showed up very late, after the meeting had ended. Apparently they had fuel filter problems, but were able to diagnose it and effect a repair to get back on the road).

**New Members/Guests:** The club welcomed **Don Baul**, who has owned his '72 Pantera for 20 years and is just now putting it on the market. It needs some mechanical work, including a rear axle/bearings replacement before it can be sold.

Don donated several years of back issues of Pantera International, including issues from PI's first year in existence, long since unavailable anywhere else!

Also attending his first meeting was Joe **Cloutier**. He has an all-aluminum Boss 429 motor and is looking for a Pantera to stuff it into! With him was his support team in the form of **Byron Reynold**.

**Corrections To Last Month's Minutes:** Bill Santos noted that Brett's name was misspelled in the Membership News column.

**Club Store Report:** John is working on track event T-shirts for next year's event. He is also hoping to attend the November PCNC meeting.

**Club Website Report:** Mark McWhinney was absent, but Bob reported that Mark has been sending out club news e-mails to remind members of upcoming events, etc.

**Club Membership Report:** Steve Liebenow's September newsletter finally arrived! It has been returned to Russ and Doris twice, so it's been well-travelled! Although Steve hasn't changed anything, nevertheless Russ reminded everyone to keep him posted with any address/phone/e-mail changes.

#### **Past Events:**

**Comedy Day In Golden Gate Park:** Bill and Brett attended the previous two Comedy Day events (sponsored by the Ferrari club). He wasn't planning on attending last year because he didn't have his car, but then changed his mind and went anyway! He brought a pumpkin and a photo of his car to display. This year he went with Dianne in her car. Four Panteras joined up with the Lamborghini crowd, and the owners received VIP seating at the front of the stage, free food, and entertainment by 20+ comics. The headliner of the event was Robin Williams!

**Capitol Panteras Brunch Run:** Capitol Panteras had a brunch run in the town of Isleton, near Rio Vista on the Sacramento river, which was well-attended by PCNC members as well. About ten Panteras (including one fellow who just bought Rod Pack's old car!), a Mangusta and a few other sports cars filled the streets of the otherwise sleepy little river town.

**Apex Performance Car Show:** The show featured three Panteras, who easily won the first, second and third place Pantera trophies! There were more older cars this year, with



***Rod Pack's old twin-supercharged Pantera has surfaced in the hands of a new owner from the Sierra foothills***

some old Shelbys, a 428CJ Mustang, some Boss Mustangs, and a plethora of new Cobras, Saleens and a Roush or two!

**Tour To The Gentry's:** There were nine cars in caravan from the McDonald's in Morgan Hill. All went well except for one mishap; Roger characterized the weekend as a 'smashing event'! (see below). There were 42 people for dinner, which consisted of tri-tips and chicken. On Sunday, those who could still drive their cars (!) continued on and did some winery tours. At least one tour was cut short because the docents wanted to look at the cars!

### **Upcoming Events:**

**November PCNC Meeting — ONE WEEK EARLY — 17 November:** Due to the conflict with Thanksgiving, the November PCNC meeting will be held one week early, at the normal time and location.

**PCNC Christmas Party — 9 December:** The club Christmas dinner will be held at the Crown Plaza Cabana, in Palo Alto on Friday, December 9th. The cost is \$47.50 each, \$95 per couple. There are three choices for dinner, and you can simply indicate the choice on your check. We also have successfully negotiated room prices at the Hilton in Santa Clara for \$59 a night (same as last year). The club currently has ten rooms reserved, but they will be released if not reserved by December 5th. Call and mention PCNC. See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Super Bowl Party — 5 February:** The Sharps will be hosting this year's Super Bowl party; watch for a flyer in an upcoming newsletter.

### **Club Business:**

**Club Elections:** Nominations are still open for the club elections, and everyone is invited to step forward if they would like to contribute to the administration of the club. Gary Kono was nominated and seconded as a presidential candidate, and Bob Benson has withdrawn his nomination. Steve Liebenow was also nominated to be the secretary and newsletter editor, but declined the nomination, preferring to continue in his existing role as assistant.

Each of the remaining current members of the board was nominated to serve another term. The election will take place at next month's meeting; an absentee ballot will also be included in this newsletter.

### **News, Clues and Rumors:**

**Bubbas Bend Sheet Metal:** Jim Murch had a slide show on his laptop showing some of the scenery on the Gentry run, as well as the not-so-subtle reshaping of two Panteras. Several people at the meeting wanted to know what happened. Basically, Jimmy rear-ended Roger Sharp at about 55-60 mph. They came to a 90-degree turn just as Jimmy's cassette ended. His old-school tape deck requires the tape to be ejected and flipped over, so he was looking down attending to that matter when Roger braked for the turn. Jimmy looked up and found Roger practically stopped right in front of him, locked up the brakes, and slid right into the back of him, sliding under Roger's left quarter panel.

Jim was able to pry his damaged fender off his front tire and get up to the Gentry's, where he

borrowed a tire from Brian, came back and installed it on Roger's car to get him up to the house, perhaps five miles away.

Roger called Steve Wilkinson to ask about getting a new wheel. "Which wheel do you have?" "Uh, I don't know! Where do I find the ID numbers?" "We don't put any number on our wheels!"

DOH!

Wilkinson will probably cut the center out of Roger's existing wheel and install a new hoop.

Jim Cain of Atascadero volunteered to haul Roger's car back home on a car trailer, and then return to the party. Jim Kuehne was able to drive his car home after hammering the sheet metal out.

It was noted that when Bill had his accident, he was driving solo, and when Roger and Jim had their accident, they were both solo as well! Hmm!

**Christmas Raffle:** Roger is busy soliciting and buying gifts for the Christmas party raffle. He described several of the items he's already purchased with proceeds from this year's monthly raffle ticket sales.

**Bob Benson In The Wheel:** Bob Benson's Pantera was featured in the October issue of the San Francisco Region of the SCCA's newsletter, *The Wheel*. There was no mention of him personally, just a photo of a wicked-looking bewinged Pantera!

**Driving For Dinner Raffle:** As Brian Bernard was the only person who drove his Pantera to the meeting, by default he won!

**Raffle Results:** Roger and Brett passed the hat with the following results:

Car towels — Mark Savage  
Cold heat soldering iron — Mark Savage  
Circuit tester — Bob Benson  
Nichols pickles — Rich Boschert  
Glass cleaner — Steve Liebenow  
Tie-wraps — Brian Bernard  
28" Sport bag — Barry Hosier

The meeting adjourned to the parking lot around 9:20 p.m.



## 2005 PCNC Proxy Ballot for the Election of Board Members to serve during calendar year 2006

You may vote either by the use of this Proxy Ballot or in person at the November 17, 2005 membership meeting (see this newsletter for time and exact location of the meeting).

- 1) If you choose to vote by Proxy, you must sign the ballot so a ballot will not be given to you at the meeting.
- 2) If you vote by Proxy and also attend the meeting, you may reclaim your proxy prior to the distribution of regular ballots and thus be allowed to vote then.
- 3) Each Member and each Associate Member is entitled to vote. For write-in candidates there is a line and box for the Member and a line and a box for the Associate to use.
- 4) Select one candidate for each office.
- 5) Ballots may be hand delivered to the meeting or mailed to: Steve Liebenow, 765 Orkney Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95054, in time to be brought to the meeting.

	Memb.	Assoc.		Memb.	Assoc.
President:			Treasurer:		
Gary Kono	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Kuehne	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary:			Membership Coordinator:		
Mike Drew	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Russ Britschgi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature & date:

PCNC Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Charities Vote

*By Russ Britschgi*

It is time again for you, the members of PCNC, to decide which charities should be the recipients of the chapter's benevolence funds. The benevolence fund is derived from a set percentage of the gross revenues received from the club store sales at the Las Vegas Fun Rally. This year the amount available for charitable giving is about \$500.

A ballot will be available at our November meeting for you to make your selections. The benevolence funds will be divided equally between the two with the most votes.

Six of the following seven charities have been on the ballot in the past. There will be a blank space for write-in charities. The charities are:

**New Horizon School for Homeless Children:** (A donation was made in 2004.)

This charity was new last year. It is located in Santa Cruz and serves the needs of those kids who's parents may be out of work and out of a home in the areas of Santa Cruz and Watsonville. For children, homelessness is well beyond their control. They are the ones who suffer the most and understand the least.

**Beating the Odds Scholarship Fund:** (Placed on our list for the first time two years ago.)

Beating the Odds is a scholarship fund for high school seniors or college freshmen. All recipients must be either on government assistance or living below the poverty line. They cannot already be receiving a 4-year scholarship. Other guidelines for selection are: character references, lack of family support, a 3.0 or better grade point average, have fallen through the cracks, parents cannot be professional or managers, and parents cannot have attended college. In general the fund hopes to address the needs of students who have the talents and desire to further their education but do not have the financial backing from their families. It is beating the odds.

**Canine Companions:** (A donation was made in 1996 and '01.)

Based in Marin County, this organization provides dogs trained to assist people with what for most of us is just normal living.

These dogs may be used by paraplegics or quadriplegics for such tasks as opening doors or for retrieving items that have been dropped. They may serve as the ears for someone who cannot hear such things as doorbells and audible warning devices.

**The American Cancer Society:** (Donations were made in 1995, '97, '98, '99', and '00.)

As a national organization, the Cancer Society has long been at the front in the fight against cancer. It is dedicated to the elimination of cancer through prevention, the saving of lives, and the diminishing of suffering through research, education and service. Cancer can be a slow and insidious disease which puts a great deal of stress on both the victim and the victim's family and friends. While our small donations may not appear that big when it comes to funding of a research project, it can certainly help to pay for a support group or to supply someone with needed medical equipment. (The 1998 donation was actually made to the cancer research program at Stanford University Medical Center in honor of Ellis Woummnm.)

**The Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation:** (A donation was made in 1998, '99 and '02.)

The Make-A-Wish Foundation was founded as a non-profit organization in 1980 in response to the wish of a terminally-ill boy who wanted to be a policeman. Officers of the Arizona Department of Public Safety granted Chris Greicius his wish with a custom-made uniform, a helmet, a badge, a ticket book and a helicopter ride. This one child's delight in having his wish come true provided the impetus for the creation of a national organization.

Since the Greater Bay Area Chapter was formed in 1984, well over 1,500 wishes have been granted to kids and children not expected to survive to age 18.

**Guide Dogs for the Blind:** (Donations were made in 1990, '91, '93, '94, '96, '00, '01, '02 and '04.)

This San Rafael based charity was incorporated over 55 years ago. It has been breeding, raising and training dogs to serve as the eyes for blind people ever since. Last year, over 1,000 puppies started the process of learning to assist those without sight.

**The Bay Area Chapter of the ALS Association:** (A donation was made in 2002.)

A few years ago amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, claimed the life of former PCNC member, Chuck Brown. This cruel disease slowly takes away your ability to walk, stand, use your arms and hands till finally you can't talk or breathe. Its progress is slow and steady. Both the victim and the family members can see its progress week by week. The ALS Association is the only national not-for-profit voluntary health organization whose sole mission is to find a cure, and to bring hope and comfort to people living with ALS, as well as their families and care givers. It also provides referral services, support groups, and respite care, and lends equipment.

Please give these few charities some thought and make your choices wisely.

## Membership News

### **New Members for November:**

None this time around.

### **November Membership Anniversaries:**

We congratulate the following persons for the indicated years of continuous membership in the Pantera Club of Northern California:

**Rod Pack:** 24 years

**Erik Belter:** 13 years

**Mike & Cheryl Harper:** 11 years

**Keith & Cindy Gilmore:** 8 years

**George & Rose Selby-Hele:** 7 years

**Jason Eaton:** 6 years

**Donna Dye:** 4 years

**Byron & Jean Hight:** 17 years

**Roger & Elana Thomas:** 12 years

**Ken & Beth Ingels:** 9 years

**Steve & Linda Bogart:** 7 years

**Todd Glycer:** 7 years

**Bob Benson:** 4 years

**Mike & Lisa Stauber:** 4 years

**Greg & Mia Jacobs:** 3 years

### **New Membership Rosters Will be Printed the Second Week of January:**

- 1) If you do not wish to have your address, phone number(s), and/or car information listed, you must notify the PCNC Membership Coordinator.
- 2) If the data in the current Roster has changed, please be sure the Membership Coordinator has the correct info on file.
- 3) Your E-mail address can be included if you give it to the Membership Coordinator.
- 4) The Membership Coordinator is Russ Britschgi, 143 Carlyn Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008. You may call and leave a message at 408/866-1677, or send E-mail to: <RnDBrit@earthlink.net >.

# Bill Santos Passes Suddenly

Bill passed away on Friday, October 28, the day after the PCNC meeting. He was at the store and had a massive heart attack. As we all know, Bill was one of the pillars in the Pantera community and has owned his Pantera for over 28 years. His work with the PCNC track event, club store and many other functions of the PCNC group has been a great asset to the Pantera community.

The Memorial Service was held Sunday, November 6, at Bill's house.

Bill is survived by his sons Brett (a long-time and extremely active PCNC member himself) and Todd.



# Some Thoughts on Life and Death

*By Russ Britschgi*

A long-time friend of mine died recently. Well, I guess you can make that two friends. One you would barely know and the other you have known as long as you have been in this club. Though they were not related in any way, they did seem to be leading parallel lives. One had just turned 60 while the other was 66. Both died due to heart problems. Both had dealt with alcoholism problems, and both had left dependent adults behind. Also both were car guys. Both deaths were sudden and unexpected.

My friend Paul's wife is suffering from a disease called Huntington's Chorea. It is a genetic disease, and they knew that Judy had a 50% chance of it taking hold at about the age of 45. This disease is slow and insidious. It attacks the motor control center of your brain and begins to rob you of your coordination. Your limbs no longer function as you would have them. You begin to stumble not only while walking but also when you speak as your mouth, tongue, and breathing become less and less coordinated. In time you can no longer speak for yourself, care for yourself, nor feed yourself. Judy retired about 10 years ago and Paul shortly thereafter to attend to his wife. Last June Paul found it just too hard to be the caregiver for Judy, and after much thought, soul searching, and with a certain amount of guilt decided that the best place for his wife of 38 years was in a care facility where she would receive the care and monitoring she needed.

Paul would visit Judy every day and feed her at least one of her meals. The pain and suffering he was going through must have been tremendous, for soon his friends noticed that he had begun to drink to the point of being a danger to himself and others. He was beginning to get this problem under control through the urging and watching of his friends and family. I got him to attend the tank tour with us and he even attended one of our club meetings. Within two weeks he suffered a massive heart attack and died while watching TV.

I need not go into such detail about my other friend, Bill. Most of you knew Bill Santos as the PCNC Treasurer, the PCNC Store Manager, the PCNC Track Event coordinator, Bill the father of Brett, Bill the driver of the orange Pantera, Bill the organizer, and Bill the detail person. Bill too died from an apparent massive coronary failure the day after our last PCNC chapter meeting.

There were over 100 people at the service held for Bill in the back yard of the house he lived in and cared for so many years. Many of the 100 spoke of Bill's open and inviting nature. They spoke of his willingness to reach out to a new-

comer and welcome them to the group. I am not sure whether he taught that nature to Brett or Brett taught it to Bill. You can probably remember your first event or tech session and that if not the first person to greet you, Brett was the second or third. Is not the sign of a good father a good son?

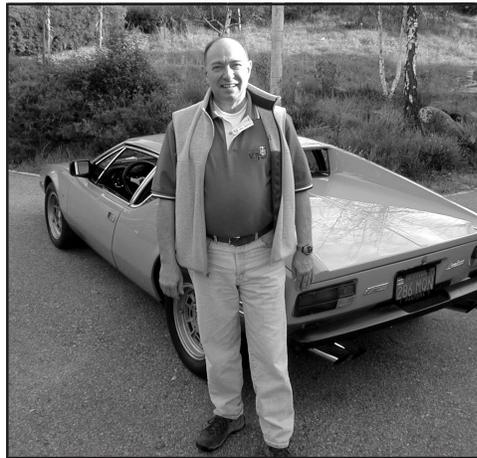
It was at Bill's service that someone said we have laid Bill's soul to rest. But have we? What is one's soul? This is the exact question I heard a few guys debating several days ago. One said it is the great connector that connects us to everything, the universe and beyond. Another said the soul is the center of all that is good about someone. And yet another said I have known people who don't have a soul. I think we all can expound on the platitudes of honesty, morality, generosity, and humanity, etc., of an individual and say that it comes from his or her soul, and I think we might be right. Thus the second person made a very good statement. However, something might be said for the first statement that the soul is some kind of great connecting tissue, almost a spiritual equivalent to string theory in the world of theoretical physics; thus it is a kind of unification theory that brings everything together. It might be nice to think there is a reason

for liking the trees and the stars for some reason other than we don't have anything else to look at.

But as for the statement about some people lacking a soul, I disagree. If you can remember ever watching very small children at play, there are no ethnic barriers, no gender differences. There are no color separations, there are only children having a good time during their age of innocence and trust. Yes, everyone has a soul and little children really let theirs show. It is only as we grow older that we learn to be care-

ful about what we do and say, and how we act around others. We learn to distrust. It is like those lines from a song by Barbara Streisand and Gordon Lightfoot about a failed relationship in which Barbara sings: "...I learned how to cheat and I learned how to lie." We learn a lot about covering and hiding our souls as we experience life. A person can bury his or her soul so deep within that they may appear not to have one at all, but I would submit that everyone has a soul.

It is by being willing to risk the possible pain inflicted by others that one can exercise one's soul. And every time someone lets part of his or her soul show, a little bit of it rubs off and becomes a part of someone else. I really believe that each of us is the sum total of all the people we meet and all the books we read. Has Bill's soul been laid to rest? I think not, for by knowing Bill, some of his soul lives on in all of us. And as for Paul's soul, a little bit of it lives on in me also.



# Larry Stock's Friend Bill

Whew, I have been having mild chest pains since I heard the news.

He had his bypass surgery just last year; I would think that he of all people would have insisted on getting a warranty to cover this sort of thing.

## BILL WAS A FRIEND OF MINE

I kept his number on my cell phone speed dial, and called him occasionally on my way home from work. I am proud and honored that Bill is my friend.

"Emilio" I would call out as he answered his phone, "Que Paso", he would reply and our conversation would begin. You see, Bill's real name is Emilio.

## BILL WAS AN EMPLOYEE OF MINE

Between his second and third retirements back in the mid-'80s. He ran our warehouse and worked his butt off. His W-2 was made out to Emilio Santos, but everyone just knows him as Bill.

## BILL WAS A COLLEAGUE OF MINE

Bill took it upon himself to start and run the PCNC Club store. After many years of making it a success he turned it over to others to propagate. He was first PCNC Club Treasurer for many years, and then retired to just tweak the Club Store for others to run when he retired from that. He most recently took over the reins of the Las Vegas track committee, but only temporarily to iron out some kinks and then to retire to turn it over to others.

You see Bill ran his life that way, like his car, tune it, tweak it, retire, and let it run itself with just an easy grip on the wheel. Bill was very thrifty but had a lot of investments that he tuned and tweaked not for himself but for Brett and Todd's future benefit for when he would not be there for them. He has left them well taken care of financially if they can follow his examples and keep an easy grip on the wheel.

Bill was very remorseful, for he had some demons that destroyed his happy home some years ago. He spent the rest of his life repenting for his earlier mistakes, hoping that Todd and Brett would not follow his demons. Not many knew that Bill was an alcoholic. We never knew him to drink, and that is why. He knew that if he ever took another drink that he would let the demons rule him again. He had to demonstrate to you, Todd, and you, Brett, that these demons can be overcome. And he showed us all that firmly but quietly.

## BILL WAS A FRIEND OF MINE

I am proud to say. He would quietly wait his turn in meetings and then demanded your attention. I remember just a couple of years ago when the Vegas Track event came up short of budget in Vegas, he stood up there before all the Pantera Clubs and I am not sure if that was begging or whining, but he moved fellow club members to donate checks right there on the spot for several thousands of dollars to bring the event into the black and return the next year with more support and confidence than ever before. THAT WAS BILL, a true De Tomaso EVANGELIST

## BILL WAS A CUSTOMER OF MINE

He would only buy something if he also could get something else for free also. I would tease him about being so anal. He would laugh and simply say, "That is why I am so good at what I do" In his second retirement, he moved to California from Washington DC and headed up the procurements at the US Geological Survey in Menlo Park, After 20 or so years of tuning and tweaking he retired and turned over his reins. He was a government contract administrator, for Boeing, Varian, and Ford Aerospace and others. You have got to be an anal NIT for details to do that job he admits, and he did them well. And he worked for Polymer Plastics with me. AND HE HAS BEEN QUIETLY WORKING FOR ALL OF US HERE TO FOLLOW HIS PATH. WE WILL ALL MISS THIS PATHMAKER.

## MY FRIEND BILL

# **Christmas party flyer**

# NEXT CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY, November 17, 2005**

**8:00 P.M.**

***ONE WEEK EARLY!***

**COCO'S RESTAURANT**

**1209 OAKMEAD PARKWAY**

**SUNNYVALE, CA**

**(Take Lawrence Expressway South Exit off Highway 101)**

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## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

November 17 ————— PCNC Monthly Meeting (**ONE WEEK EARLY!**)

December 9 ————— PCNC Christmas Party (Diane Dean)

February 5 ————— PCNC Super Bowl Party (Roger Sharp)

**REMINDER — NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY 15th OF EACH MONTH**

**[www.PanteraClubNorCal.com](http://www.PanteraClubNorCal.com)**



Russ Britschgi  
143 Carlyn Ave.  
Campbell, CA 95008