



news

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com

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No Meeting Minutes!

Due to the fact that there was no monthly PCNC meeting in December, there are no minutes to report, and thus (hopefully!) no corrections that will have to be made in next month's newsletter!

The club's first event will be the annual Super Bowl party held at Roger and Pam Sharp's house in Morgan Hill; see the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for all the details.

Here's looking to a great 2008!

Membership News

New Members for January:

We received no new members this month. It looks as if we are starting off the year like the stock market, but not quite as badly.

January Membership Anniversaries:

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

Philip Miller: fifteen years

Steve & Linda Liebenow: eleven years

Curt Hall: eight years

Lincoln Auperin: five years

Joel & Sheryl Montero: five years

Jay Leone: three years

Richard & Lisa Taylor: two years

Richard & Beverly Traxler: one year

Barry & Kimberlee Muller: twelve years

Kris Hearn: nine years

Terry & Sheri Morofsky: eight years

Gerald & Carole McGinness: five years

Chris McAllister & John Dilena: four years

Mario R. Sousa: one year

Diane Silven & Greg Taylor: one year

The Pantera Club of Northern California Annual Membership Report December 31, 2007

Number of Memberships December 31, 2006.....	135
Number of Memberships received in 2007.....	21
Number of Memberships removed in 2007.....	< 5 >
Number of Memberships December 31, 2007.....	151
Net Membership gain in 2007.....	16

The Pantera Club of Northern California Annual Mailing List Status Report December 31, 2007

Of the one hundred sixty-eight mailings of our December newsletter, one hundred fifty-one were to members, one was to a paid subscriber, eight were to suppliers (who have supported our Annual Christmas Raffle or the Las Vegas Track Event), one was "other", two were to POCA officers, and five went to POCA chapter presidents (or assignees).

A Little Information on PCNC's Points and Most Active Member Awards

by Russ Britschgi

As promised in last month's Christmas party article, the following is a little information on the Club's policy and practice for choosing the Most Active Members each year. As keeper of the points tally, please let me explain the mechanics of that operation first.

During the past year, 119 members and associate members received points for participating in the life of the Club. There are a total of 206 names on the list. The difference is some names are from previous years. The highest total number of points received was 308 and the lowest was 3. The median was 32. All of the data is kept on a very large spreadsheet crammed into a tiny window on my computer. I trust the computer to be giving me the correct total as more data is added from month to month.

When an event is held and the event host sends me a list of the members attending, I make the entries in the spreadsheet. When there is no list, I resort to the backup system of recording what is entered from the Meeting Sign-in Sheets. Using the backup system means that only those who attend meetings are getting credit for attending events, so it is very important for event hosts to let me know the names of all those who attend.

Regarding points for articles written and published in the PCNC News, the POCA Newsletter or the Profiles magazine: I receive no points for writing the monthly Membership News article as that is part of my job as Membership Coordinator. The same is true for Mike Drew's "From the Driver's Seat" editorial article in Profiles and for Jack DeRyke's "Jack Stands" article in the POCA Newsletter. Basically, if it can be seen as part of your job as an officer and you get points for be-

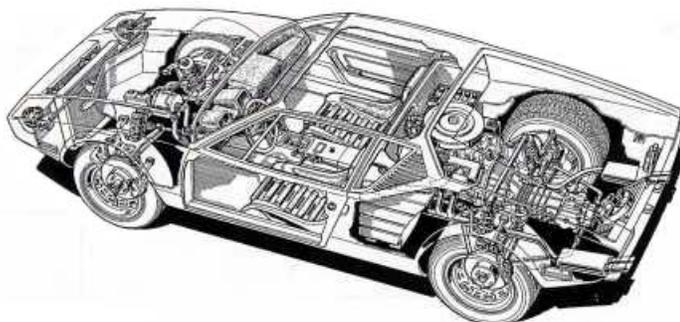
ing that person then you already received those points. And likewise I see the writing of additional articles as being extra work and being much the same as that submitted by any other member. Thus points are given for this additional work. This seems like a fair and just way to approach this dilemma. I review all three publications to get the articles and names of the authors before assigning these points.

Hopefully you now understand a little about the mechanics of the process and some of the reasoning behind it. The rest of the points system lies in the written Points Policy. This policy delineates the number of points given for each of the listed activities. This policy has been reviewed and updated from time to time since it was first written in 1988. As part of the Policy any member being recognized as one of the most active members one year is not eligible to be so recognized in the following year. This is intended to prevent one or two very active members from having a lock on the award year after year after year. It was the intent of the Policy to spread the recognition around as much as possible within reason.

Now for the real reason for my writing of this article. Since I keep the points and make up the awards, I am sensitive to any feelings of mistakes in entry and totaling of the points, or misapplication of the rules, or misunderstanding of the

process. My sensitivity seemed to pick up some doubt that Mike Drew should have been one of the Most Active Members this year or even that Jack DeRyke should have been so recognized last year. There was no chorus of boos, nothing was thrown at me, and the tires on my car were still fully inflated after the party was over. As I said, I am sensitive to your reactions, perhaps overly sensitive. But the simple fact is that these two people write a lot of articles. When you consider the majority of members in PCNC and POCA may never attend a meeting or event and that all they get are the publications, then those publications have to have content. Without articles, what is a newsletter or magazine? Thus while it may seem strange that people who are seldom seen at meetings or events are recognized as being active, there are other things being done that make the Club work and honor our dedication to the De Tomaso marque.

With all this said, I predict many more questions will be raised and suggestions on how to modify the Policy will be forth coming. I for one welcome your input, but remember in theory there is really no way to please everyone. If we can come up with such a way then can world peace be far away? And can Panteras be free to move at speed freely upon the roadways of the world? Ah, now that would be the key to true happiness.



Fuse Follies

Story and Photos by Mike Drew

Last week, I spent the better part of a day locked in mortal combat with my VW Scirocco. There is Pantera relevance to this story, so bear with me.

After years of driving it everywhere, I decided to treat it to a tune-up (although arguably it probably didn't really 'need' it). New plugs, wires, cap and rotor, and it ran just as well as before. For no particular reason I decided to ops-test the electric radiator fan, so I let it sit and warm up in my driveway while I put the various tools away (itself an almost unheard-of condition).

I was in the back of my garage merrily organizing my wrenches and sockets when I heard a great SPLOOOSH!!!, turned around and saw a geyser erupting from my radiator!

Sure enough, the radiator fan never turned on. With visions of blown head gaskets in my head, I did a dance worthy of Baryshnikov through the piles of parts and debris on my garage floor to race to the Scirocco and shut it off.

Okay, so now why didn't the fan work? It is actuated by two independent means—either by the thermostitch in the radiator, or automatically anytime the interior

heater/blower fan is turned on.

Neither method would get any action from the fan. The first thing to do, of course, was to check the fuse. I opened the fuse box and all the fuses were visibly good.

I then proceeded to do some basic troubleshooting. Disconnecting the connector from the back of the fan, I rigged up some jumper wires and ran them straight to the battery—VAROOM! Okay, so the fan motor itself works. I then got out my voltmeter and tested the connector; with the fan switch on the dash turned on, there was 12.7 volts.

Okay, so let me get this straight? I've got power at the plug, and the fan motor runs when you give it power, but when you plug the plug into the fan, it doesn't work?

Electricity is my weak area and I quickly call for backup when I get in situations like this. I keep SOBill Taylor's phone number on speed dial for just this sort of occasion. I called him up and explained the scenario, then scanned the factory wiring diagrams and e-mailed them to him.

Together we conjured up several likely scenarios; I would hang up, spend a few minutes testing/

troubleshooting, eliminate that potential cause, and then call him back for another potential lead.

Eventually every wire and connector had been tried and tested, and everything was checking out good. The last possible problem area was confined to the fuse box itself.

A couple of hours (at least) had passed by this point, and then I physically removed the (Pantera-style) fuse from the fuse box, and this is what I found:

My 'good' fuse was anything but! Sure, it was good where a fuse is supposed to go bad when it does go bad, but hidden from view under the prongs of the fuse box, the fuse was totally wasted!

Simply popping another fuse into the holder instantly fixed the problem!

During the course of my troubleshooting I cleaned all the various connectors in the system, so hopefully any excess resistance has been resolved. But the lesson learned here is that 'checking the fuse' doesn't mean merely *looking* at it sitting in the fuse box. It means removing it, inspecting it and then reinstalling it!

By the way, some people have suggested replacing these old-fashioned fuses with glass fuses. But I have had poor luck with glass fuses, because when a circuit goes bad (but not terminally bad), they would heat up and melt internally, completely out of view. Instead of blowing, they would simply stop working, but even when looking at it in your hands, there would be no visible indication of failure. At least with these ceramic fuses, when they go bad, it's visible evident.

That is, assuming you take the time to actually *look* at the thing!

Sheesh.....

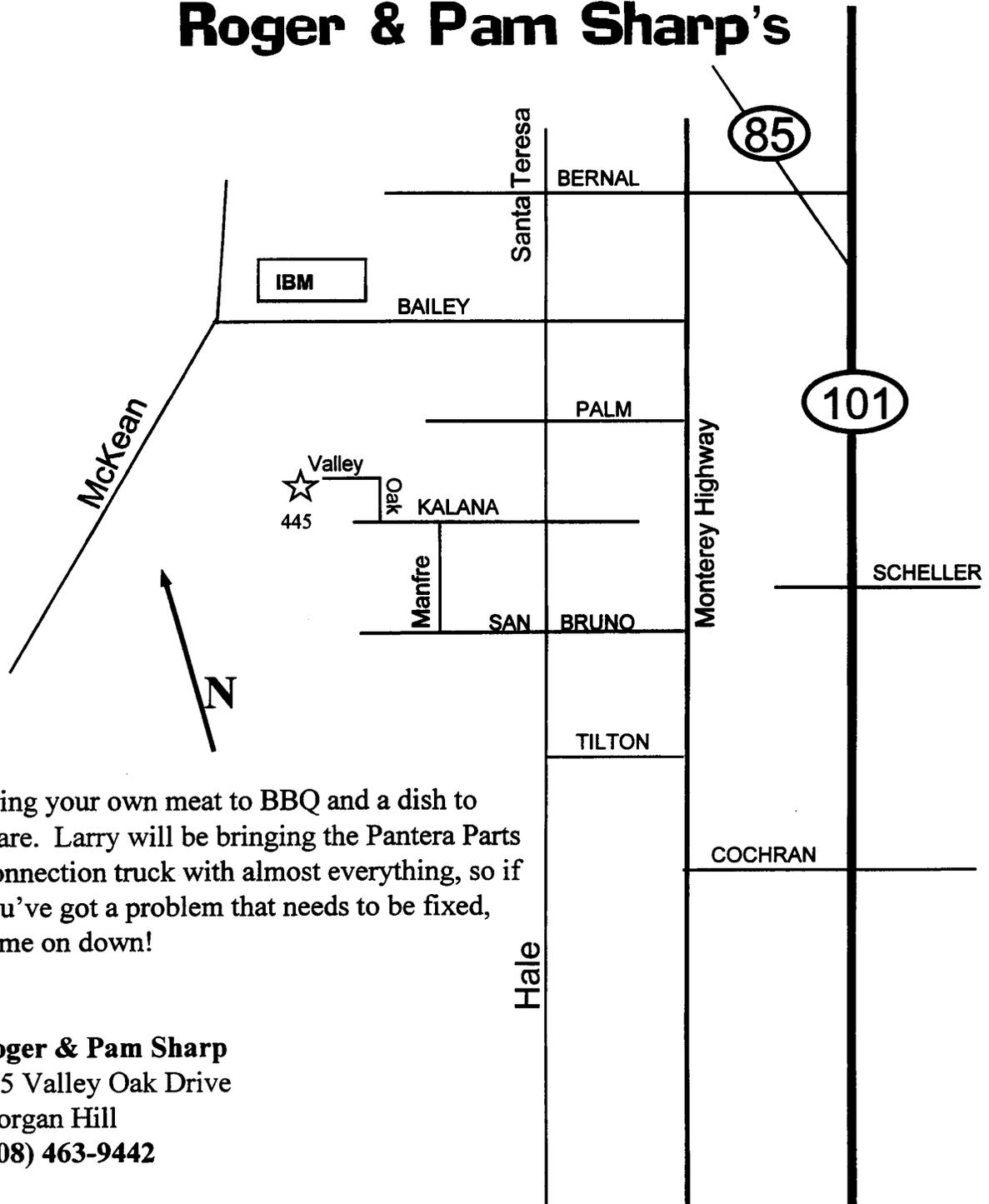


This fuse appeared fine when it was in the fuse box, but closer inspection revealed that both ends were seriously melted and it was barely making contact

PCNC Superbowl Party and Tech Session

Sunday, February 3, 2008
12:00 noon to ??????

Roger & Pam Sharp's



Bring your own meat to BBQ and a dish to share. Larry will be bringing the Pantera Parts Connection truck with almost everything, so if you've got a problem that needs to be fixed, come on down!

Roger & Pam Sharp
445 Valley Oak Drive
Morgan Hill
(408) 463-9442

NEXT CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY, January 31, 2008
8:00 P.M.**

**COCO'S RESTAURANT
1209 OAKMEAD PARKWAY
SUNNYVALE, CA
(Take Lawrence Expressway South Exit off Highway 101)**

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

February 3 ----- Super Bowl Party (Roger and Pam Sharp)

REMINDER — NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY 15th OF EACH MONTH

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