



news

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com

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Minutes of Meeting 30 January, 2008

The meeting was called to order by new club president Peter Kovacs at 8:05. About half the officers were present; Diane Dean, Larry Finch, the Renshaws, Mike Drew and Rich Boschert were absent. Due to the driving rain, there were no De Tomaso cars in the parking lot, but 25 people signed the roster.

New Members/Guests: The club welcomed Steve Cichy, who is the new owner of a white '74 Pantera. He had never even driven one before he bought his. He had an idea of what kind of car he could build, but then discovered the Pantera, and all thoughts of building his own car went out the window!

Later in the meeting, **Chuck Banks** entered the room. He said he had been 'stalking' the club

for some time, examining our website and reading our newsletters online. He's been looking for a Pantera for some time. He was lassoed by Russ Britishchi and joined the club after the meeting.

Changes to Last Month's Minutes: There were no changes noted.

Club Store Report: As Rich was absent, there was no report this month.

Club Treasury Report: New Treasurer Steve Liebenow gave a rundown of the recent club financial activities. We received \$150 from POCA after coming in third place in the article writing competition. POCA awards \$500 to the chapter whose members make the most contributions to the POCA newsletter and *Profiles*, with \$250 for second place. Although Mike Drew and Jack DeRyke are both PCNC members, the rules of the contest specifically exclude them from participating, unfortunately! So collectively the rest of us have to sharpen our pencils (metaphorically speaking) and get to work for 2008!

Steve also wrote checks to pay for the newsletter printing/ mailing, and also for the annual website registration fees.

Club Membership Report: Russ reported that things have been rather quiet on the POCA membership front, as POCA membership chair Judy McCartney, who is an earnest and tireless worker, had to throttle back for a few weeks while she underwent two surgeries for cancer! She is now recovering and the prognosis is good, thankfully!

Club Motorsports Report: Although he was absent, Larry Finch e-mailed a report. Things are progressing smoothly, drivers are signing up and sponsorship is rolling in as well.

Club Website Report: Mark has updated our events page through October of this year. There was a glitch in the PayPal system for processing online track payments, but that has been fixed, so now registrations *and* money are both coming in. Due to delays in the printing of the track flyer in the POCA newsletter, the early bird track registration deadline has been extended for one month.

Mark was also congratulated on winning the election for POCA president!

Past Events:

PCNC Christmas Party: The ice sculpture of a Pantera was a big hit with the crowd. The assembled members gave a hearty round of applause and thanks to Diane Dean, Tom Galli, Roger and Pam Sharp and everyone else who contributed to the party.

Upcoming Events:

Fluid Flush Fest II — 23 February: Chuck Melton will be hosting a small tech session at his home in Mountain View, with a focus on draining and flushing out engine and gearbox oil, coolant, brake fluid and clutch fluid. He will have all the necessary tools to perform the jobs, plus drain pans to capture the old fluids. Other small jobs, such as changing window motor gears etc. can also be accomplished in the company of friends. There will be a potluck BBQ lunch (i.e. bring your own burgers) as well.

See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter, and please RSVP. In the event of inclement weather the event will be pushed back to the following weekend.

Pre-Las Vegas Tech Session — Date TBD: Although the particulars have not been finalized, there will be a tech session sometime in April to prepare those cars going to Las Vegas at the end of the month.

Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show — 27 April: This is the biggest and arguably the best car show of the year. Held each April at the Half Moon Bay airport, traditionally it has conflicted with the Las Vegas event and thus PCNC participation has been limited. However, this year the Las Vegas event is a week later, so this show now is a viable option. Over 2500 vehicles of all types participate; besides cars of all stripes, the show features airplanes, motorcycles, farm equipment, tanks and armored fighting vehicles, steam engines, and on and on!

The show is a benefit fundraiser for the Coastside Adult Day Health Center. Entry (which includes two admission tickets) is \$30 before April 15, and \$35 thereafter.

A flyer appears elsewhere in this newsletter; more information can be found by surfing to: <http://www.miramarevents.com/dreammachines/index.html>

The club needs a volunteer to organize group parking for the De Tomaso clan. If you are interested in taking on the job (which involves getting a head count of potential attendees, then getting to the show early, staking out an appropriate amount of parking space and fighting to the death to prevent anybody from muscling in!), contact our new events director, Garry Choate.

Las Vegas Fun Rally — 30 April-4 May: As of this writing, no decision has been made regarding our convoy routes. Because we have had a relatively mild winter, it should be possible to take a scenic drive over the Sierras with an overnight stop in Bishop, perhaps including a brunch stop at the home of Marcus and Irene Smith on the way. There are also scenic routes possible further south. Discussions are ongoing and the various possibilities will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

For sure, one group will be leaving on Tuesday, overnighting somewhere and arriving in Las Vegas on Wednesday just after lunch, while another group will depart on Wednesday and blast straight through. As of now there are no plans for a scenic return; although we have gone to Paso Robles for an overnight stop once, most of the time we just blaze straight home on Sunday.

Track event registrations are picking up, which is good news. It's too early to tell if the event will be profitable or not however.

A block of discounted rooms has been set aside for 2008 Fun Rally participants. Mention "POCA" when you contact The Orleans for accommodations. Our rates start at \$60 per night Sunday through Thursday and \$120 for Friday and Saturday, excluding tax. These special rates expire on **MARCH 27, 2008** when the unreserved rooms in our block revert back to the hotel. Therefore, arrange for your accommodations as soon as possible. You can always cancel your reservations with a full refund up 4:00 pm of the third day prior to your scheduled day of arrival. The toll-free number for reservations is 1-800-675-3267. The Orleans' web site www.orleanscasino.com will give you descriptions of its guestrooms and suites.

There is a sign-up form for the event in the POCA newsletter, or you can register by going to the POCA website at www.panteraclub.com. Send in your registration to POCA before February 15th and you will receive an additional discount of \$25.00!

CHPIE is attempting to stage a car show on Fremont Street on Thursday. They need to get 25 cars signed up by March 1st in order to stage the show; so far they have substantially less than that. You can download and print the registration form here: <http://panteraclub.com/fremont2008.doc>

Concorso Italiano — 15 August 2008: Although the Concorso Italiano website

(www.concorso.com) states that the event will be held in “Monterey Bay”, the actual location has yet to be finalized. Apparently negotiations are underway with several potential venues.

PCNC will once again be hosting a gathering at the Las Laurales Lodge; specific information will be forthcoming later in the year.

News, Clues and Rumors:

Making Bugatti Owners Envious: Ron De Maderios was out driving his 32V Mustang Cobra-powered Pantera in Redwood City, and revved the engine while going under an overpass, and he was approached from behind by a very enthusiastic driver in a new Bugatti Veyron (which costs a cool 1.3 million dollars). The Veyron driver was most impressed with the Pantera, issuing a big thumbs-up and shouting that the Pantera sounded great!

Sketchy Pantera For Sale On E-Bay: Chuck Melton reported on a Pantera that has recently come up for sale on E-bay. It is purported to be a 1973 European Pantera, but it has a number of weird features, not the least of which is a patently false VIN. Parts of the VIN are from 1971, while the actual number is from 1973, and the total VIN is too short by one character. The photos of the VIN stamping show it to be completely wrong. The car has GT5-S inner wheel houses, British Pantera turn signal housings, and L-model bumpers have been retrofitted (badly; the rear bumper is a couple of inches too short). Run away, run away!!!

Alfa VIN Woes: This story prompted Peter Kovacs to reveal the problems he is having with his '74 Alfa Romeo Spyder. He has had it registered with the wrong VIN for the past 14 years; when the paperwork was processed, two digits were transposed. Changing the VIN back to match the car resulted in two cars with the same VIN, both located in California. He got a three-month extension on his registration, followed by another extension, and another. Of course the state can't reveal any information about the other car so that the owners could work it out among themselves, for privacy laws. The DMV says “we're working on it”, and advise him to just renew the temporary tag, that he can't hang anywhere, because it's a convertible with a rear window that can't be seen through. So he puts it in the windshield and endures the periodic traffic stops....

More VIN Problems: Curt Hall reported that the “U” in his VIN was turned into a “V” when he bought it, but after several months he was able to get it fixed.

Driving For Dinner Raffle: As it was raining, there were no cars in the parking lot and thus no winner this month.

Raffle Results: Garth Rodericks has taken over from Roger Sharp as the club's rafflemaster; he ran the raffle with a bit of tutelage from Roger and Brett Santos, with the following results:

Bottle of wine (donated by Curt Hall) — Jim Kuehne
Edelbrock hats — Garth Rodericks, Chuck Melton
Flex Grabber — Mark McWhinney
McGuire's Quick Detailer — Mark Tumbarello
Craftsman Beer Bottle Opener — Mark McWhinney
Set of stock A-arm bushings (originally donated to the PCNC raffle by Steve Wilkinson and won by Brett Santos, who re-donated them to the club) — Bob Benson

WD-40 — Nick Jenkins
3D Dragon Kite — David Van Deren

Additionally, Dennis Quella of Pantera Performance Center donated three \$50 gift certificates to the club for use at our Christmas Party Raffle, but they weren't received in time. Roger elected to give them out to people that needed them!

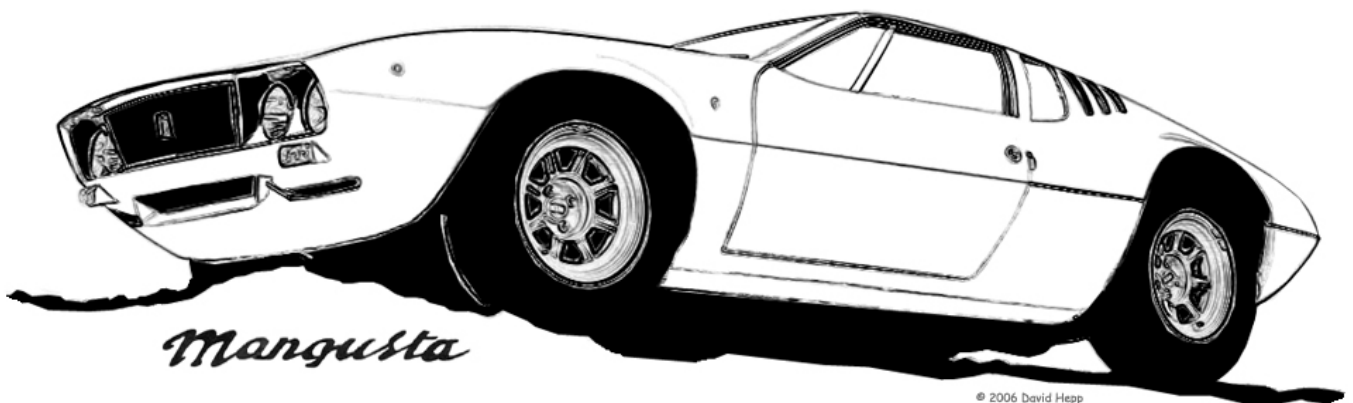
The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m., one of the shortest meetings on record. The traditional parking lot post-meeting chatter was confined to the meeting room due to the rain, and the last members went home a couple of hours later.

*To all of my dear Pantera Club
friends:*

*Thank you so much for the get-well
card. I loved reading all of your
get-well wishes and appreciate it so
much. With four broken ribs my re-
covery has been slow, but I am hop-
ing to be back in the Pantera saddle
again with Garry some time in
March.*

Thanks again and best wishes!

Sue Choate



PCNC Board Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2008

The members of the 2008 PCNC Board of Directors were scheduled to meet at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Pam and Roger Sharp, at the start of the Super Bowl party. The start of the meeting was delayed by 45 minutes due to major accidents on the freeway leading to the Sharp's house.

The meeting finally began, with almost all members of the board present. New club president Peter Kovacs opened by asking, "Okay, so what are we doing here?" Fortunately, outgoing president (and now vice-president) was armed with a tentative agenda of items for discussion and action. (Gary will be acting as a mentor and coach until Peter gets the hang of this whole club presidency stuff).

Among the tasks of the board each year is to appoint individuals to occupy those club offices not filled by election. The existing volunteers for the club store, motorsports coordinator, webmaster and librarian all volunteered to continue serving for 2008. However, the board needed to name replacements for Diane Dean and Roger Sharp, who asked to step down from their positions as Events Coordinator and Raffle Chairman, respectively.

Garry Choate has volunteered to take over the job of Events Coordinator. He was unfortunately unable to attend the Super Bowl party, as he was tending to his wife's broken ribs. But he spoke by telephone with Peter and confirmed his commitment to take on the job. Diane Dean will once again stage the Monterey event this year, then will want to divest herself of that responsibility for 2009.

Garth Rodericks was also absent, but had already begun working in the role of Raffle Chairman. The board unanimously appointed both people to fill the respective positions.

A proposal was made to buy a portable microphone/PA system for use at the Christmas party; it would also be useful at the track event. Such systems can be had for under \$200. Steve Liebenow will conduct research (meaning: he will go to Fry's!) and report back to us shortly.

Some track event sponsors ask us for our federal Tax ID number, which we don't currently have. There was talk of registering the club as a 501(c)7 organization, which is how POCA is chartered. Steve will contact Bob Reid to find out whether this is necessary, and if so, what is required.

There was much discussion about the track event. Everything is going smoothly, contracts have been signed, etc. We reiterated our long-standing policy of no refunds; the track event incurs the same expenses regardless of the weather etc. and thus we can't issue refunds when people sign up and subsequently choose not to run. Track entries are transferable, however, and if somebody has signed up and decides not to run, they are free to sell that slot to somebody else.

The mechanics of printing the track event T-shirts are very complicated, as the design is made in Oklahoma, sent to California, then to Wyoming where the shirts are printed, and sent back to California. For the sake of (relative) simplicity, Larry is going to have the shirts printed locally this year.

The members of the board reiterated the desire of many club members to have more events each year; the number and duration of club events had gone down dramatically over the past few years. It is hoped that more volunteers will step forward and agree to host driving events, especially weekend trips.

After speaking for an hour and a half, the board hadn't covered all the agenda items, so arrangements were made to hold a telephone conference call (which Mark McWhinney can host for free) at 7:00 p.m. on Feb 24th. The board meeting then adjourned to the football game!

Membership News

New Members for February:

Chuck and Lorie Banks of Santa Rosa: Chuck and Lorie had decided that this could very well be the year of the Pantera. Chuck has been reading some of our stuff on the internet and drove down to our January meeting at Coco's. The traffic and rain held him up a little so he got there in the middle of the business meeting. The rain also kept all the Panteras at home so there weren't any in the parking lot to look at; what a shame. He says he has looked at Richard Agioni's car. That's a good start, as this car was in very good shape the last time I saw it. Its engine also has been built up nicely. Well, find one you like and go after it. And welcome to the club.

Steve and Huyen Cichy of San Carlos. Steve was also at our January Coco's meeting and told about one-upping his boss by parking his well-used Sunbeam Tiger next to the boss's latest state-of-the-art Mercedes and having everyone who came in ask questions about the Tiger. After all, you can see new Mercedes all over the place, but a Tiger is something rare. Steve and Huyen are in the process of purchasing a white stock Pantera. As soon as the paperwork on the out-of-state title gets straightened out, we should expect to see it at one of our meetings. Welcome aboard.

February Membership Anniversaries:

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

Kay Schwartz & Doug Abadi: eighteen years

Lyn Murray & James Dursi: eighteen years

Michael & Roxanne Fertitta: fifteen years

Larry & Dee Dee Laino: fourteen years

Roger Whiting: ten years

John & Merv Bentley: eight years

Dennis Turrin: eight years

Hans Schulz: three years

Dennis & Mary Ann Antenucci: one year

Lee Farrell: one year

Michael & Sue Rockich: one year

New Membership Rosters:

The 2008 Membership Roster was printed in time for distribution at the January membership meeting and the Super Bowl Party. At those two events I handed out 30 copies to club members. For the remaining 121 members their copies have been mailed. If you are a full club member and have not received your new roster, please let me know. I am Russ Britschgi, your friendly Membership Coordinator, and can be reached by mail, phone or e-mail at 143 Carlyn Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008 or 408/866-1677, or RnDBrit@earthlink.net .

An Open Letter to Glenda Perrucci On the Death of Joe

Dear Glenda:

I was saddened to hear of the loss of your husband on February 3rd. I would like to say I know how you must feel, but I can't. Actually no one really knows how someone feels upon the death of a good friend, a family member, a spouse. They can only say I am there if you need me. I am there if you want someone to listen to you. I am there if you need a shoulder to cry on.

Someone recently told me that a death is just weird. All your emotions are swinging from one point to the next, and your head is full of thoughts with your mind just racing from one to the next. It is almost as if a great energy has been released and it is swirling about you tossing all your thoughts about, heightening your sensitivity and disturbing your sense of order and calmness. Denial, hopelessness, guilt, giddiness, remorse, anger may all come into play from time to time, all being part of the grieving process.

At this time, undoubtedly, you are surrounded by many good friends. They are there for you. Use them, lean on them, talk with them, embrace them, cry on their shoulders, give them a chance to listen to you. The people of PCNC are there for you also. Perhaps not in the same room as you are, but nonetheless they are standing by. For they too have suffered a loss.

This I can attest to, for when I attended my first meeting of PCNC at the Coco's on Mary in Sunnyvale, you and Joe were there. I remember a tour to Lake Tahoe that you, Joe, and Linda and Jim Moore put on. What a fun trip that was, cruising up Highway 50 to South Shore with you and Joe in the lead, the virtually new rooms at Harrah's new hotel, the cruise and dinner on the Tahoe Dixie. I remember that lovely black Pantera, the one that Joe built up to his own specifications. Wider and lower than most, a bit faster, and of course a bit blacker.

I remember Joe's meticulous attention to detail: everything was just right, and if not it was redone till it was right. It was one of the last Fremont Street car shows, and I did not see his car on the street. I saw him later and asked why. His reply was he was ready, in the car, and still in the parking lot when in the mad rush to get out another Pantera on Joe's left turned right across Joe's bow. Joe was not moving at the time but the sharp right turn by the other car caused its rear quarter panel to slice across the foremost left corner of Joe's bumper. The hit was not hard. The offending car got a slight black crease just behind the door and ahead of the wheel well and Joe's bumper was moved slightly to the right. I looked at that bumper and the movement seemed to be imperceptible, but Joe knew where it should be and it wasn't there any more. I don't know how Joe acted at the time of the incident, but when he related the story to me a couple of hours later he was quite calm but was resigned to the fact that he didn't want to play that game any more with that kind of drivers.

I remember Joe as having a friendly, sharing, helpful personality, determined but yet approachable, not demanding or arrogant. I was having a braking problem with my Pantera. Joe loaned me a brake booster he had salvaged from a wrecked Pantera so that I might determine if the problem was with my booster or something else. The substitute booster made no difference. I returned it after cleaning it up a little, and thanked him.

Joe Perrucci: a good man, and one I am glad to have known.

Russ Britschgi

Winter Mini-Tech Event: FluidFlushFest II!

Date: Saturday, Feb 23th, 10am – 5pm+ (HEAVY rain alternative is 3/1)
Location: Melton's Garage, 897 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale
Directions: www.mapsonus.com, or call (408) 306-3989

Food: Potluck and BBQ Burgers, etc. Bring what you like!

Have you changed your brake fluid in a year? Coolant? Have you changed the engine oil or ZF fluid?

The Plan: At this “ProvaMo” event, we’ll focus on maintenance of the fluids. This includes a general check-up, coolant change, a flush of the brake fluid or engine and ZF oil change.

Parts & Supplies: Several parts stores are near by, including Pepboy’s, and Kragen’s, but arrive first as there is an inventory on hand for convenience.

Tools: I have everything necessary, including a new vacuum bleeder and ZF drain plug tool.

Target Tasks: Engine Oil Change, ZF Fluid Change, Coolant etc...
(I can dispose of old fluids.)
Check & Repack front wheels bearings
Track Event Tech Inspection (bring the form)

Spare Parts ? You can bring any DeTomaso parts you care to sell !

Stop by for the day, or just a little while to bench race !

For further information, call Chuck Melton at the number above



NEXT CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY, February 28, 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 23 ————— FluidFlushFest II (Chuck Melton)
April TBD ————— Pre-Las Vegas Tech Session (Roger Sharp)
April 27 ————— Pacific Coast Dream Machines (POC TBD)
April 30-May 4 ————— Las Vegas Fun Rally (John Taphorn/Judy McCartney)

REMINDER — NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY 15th OF EACH MONTH
www.PanteraClubNorCal.com



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