



news

A Chapter of POCA

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com

Volume 49

Issue 6

June 2021

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Minutes of Meeting 27 May, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. In a first, at 7:30 a Zoom conference was set up to enable people to attend the meeting remotely. Of the club officers, only Mark Bailey, Erik Kolstoe and Brent Stewart were present (with John Tomlin joining in afterwards via Zoom, and Irene Smith arriving in person a few minutes later). There were 15 people physically present, and six more attending via Zoom, with four Panteras in the parking lot.

New Members/Guests: We were pleased to welcome **Mike Andrade**. He owns a Panoz Esperante, and saw Dennis Valdez' Pantera online and managed to find his phone number. It turns out he is a neighbor of Garth Rodericks, so the two of them were put in touch. He has been looking for a Pantera to buy for some time.

Changes To Last Month's Newsletter: There were no changes noted this month.

Club Store Report: Irene reported that it has been difficult to develop new merchandise, especially since we are so merchandise-rich and cash-poor at the moment. There is a thought of producing items such as hats commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Pantera, but currently there are no specific artwork proposals. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to Irene immediately, if not sooner!

Club Treasury Report: We have plenty of money in the treasury and there is a stated ambition to spend it down somewhat, benefiting the membership at large. We are once again considering making charitable donations to worthy organizations (something PCNC did regularly for the better part of 30 years, until just a few years ago). There is talk of perhaps having a sponsored dyno day. One thing that has been approved is hosting a free Saturday pizza party and meeting (see the details elsewhere in this newsletter).

Club Membership Report: Brent mentioned Ted Dobos, who recently joined the club; he was profiled in last month's newsletter. Membership numbers are generally holding steady as new members join and old members drop out.

Club Motorsports Report: There may be a Pantera track day at Laguna Seca in the days after the Monterey weekend; see below for more information.

Club Website Report: Our new club website has been built on a 'common platform' that isn't necessarily sexy, yet. It really will be reliant on inputs from club members to flesh it out. If you have contributions to make, send them to Mark Bailey or Garth Rodericks.

Club Library Report: The contents of the library are still in the Goodhart's garage, and available for checkout at any time. There is supposed to be listing of the library's current inventory on the PCNC website, but that seems to have disappeared for some reason? The librarian and webmaster need to get together to resolve that....

Past Events:

Breakfast Club Rallies: There were no formal club events, although several PCNC members continue to participate in the monthly Breakfast Club Rallies in the north bay.

Upcoming Events:

PCNC Pizza Party — 17 July: Although it appears everybody forgot to mention it at the meeting, information on the first club event of 2021 needs to be broadcast here.. In an effort to celebrate a return to normalcy and also chip away at our bank balance, PCNC will again host a free pizza party on Saturday, 17 July at Giovanni's Pizzeria. Watch for a flyer and all the info elsewhere in this newsletter.

Monterey Weekend — 12-15 August: Some events were prematurely cancelled but most will be taking place, including Concorso Italiano, the Pebble Beach concours, the vintage races etc.

Post-Monterey Event — 16-18 August: Mark Bailey is considering having PCNC host an

event in Monterey in the days following the traditional Monterey weekend. He is trying to organize a small-scale multi-day rally that would run for a few days starting on the Monday after the formal week ends. Among the activities would be a drive down Hwy 1 to the Big Sur River Inn for lunch, a seaside drive (perhaps on 17-mile drive), a BBQ lunch/car show at Los Laureles, and a 90db track day at Laguna Seca staged by the Nor Cal Racing Club. Right now Los Laureles has room availability that week for \$150 per night. If you are interested in attending, please let Mark know.

Mt. Hamilton Rally — 4 September: The Baileys will be hosting a scenic drive up Mt. Hamilton to the Lick Observatory, starting at their home in San Jose. The observatory is in an amazing location with terrific views and a fascinating history. There is a self-guided museum, and guided tours of the telescopes are also available. After touring the facility the drive will continue on fantastic roads down to Livermore, and as traffic is usually extremely light, there will be ample opportunity to let the cars stretch their legs a bit (although the road is very tight in places). The tour would continue around the south side of the mountain back to San Jose. Watch for a flyer in an upcoming newsletter.

Ironstone Concours Weekend — 24-26 September: The Ironstone weekend is on once again! We will print a flyer in an upcoming newsletter, but in the meantime, the Murphys Suites is the PCNC event hotel. Call now to make your reservations, as they always fill up. You can always cancel up to 24 hours prior to the weekend with no penalties. The rooms are \$208 per night.

Cobra Experience Tour — 23 October: Lou Brizzolara had originally set up a tour of the Cobra Experience museum in Martinez for 2020, but Covid put paid to all of that. Now that the state is opened up again, he has re-engaged and selected a date which works for everyone. The museum boasts one of the finest collections of Cobras, Shelby Mustangs, and GT40s in the world. We will be afforded a private tour of the facility, which will include a lunch. The cost will be only \$15 per person. Watch for a flyer with more information later in the summer.

PCNC Christmas Party — 4 December: Because our hotel in San Mateo (the Hilton Garden Inn) wasn't ready to commit because of uncertainty about Covid restrictions, Dennis and Liz Valdez have instead made arrangements to hold the party at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sunnyvale. The room rate is only \$89 but breakfast is not included.

2021 POCA Fun Rally: The POCA Board has managed to slide the event 12 months to the right, and it will be held at the same location and same relative time as originally planned for both the 2019 and 2020 Fun Rallies. Check the POCA newsletter for all the info.

Dyno Day?: PCNC is considering hosting a dyno day at Speed Element in San Jose. Depending on interest, we could have the dyno just for the afternoon, or all day. The board is seeking to gauge interest in this event; there is also a possibility that the club could offset some or all of the costs. Of course, it's possible to debate the notion of having the club pay for something that only benefits a handful of attendees, so please let your feelings on the matter be known.

Club Business:

Officer Elections: Due to Covid, as well as a general lack of awareness, PCNC didn't have officer elections last year, but we are committed to once again holding elections later this year for

the 2022 term. If you are interested in serving as either president, treasurer, secretary or membership coordinator, please contact Mark Bailey.

Buy/Sell/Swap:

De Tomaso Logo Hand Sanitizers: When it initially appeared that Covid restrictions would be lifted in time for us to have our traditional Christmas party last year, organizers Dennis and Liz Valdez arranged to get small hand sanitizer bottles with the De Tomaso logo to give away to the party attendees. Feeling that by the time the next Christmas party rolls around, we will be far enough along on putting the Covid virus behind us that hand sanitizers will no longer be routinely necessary, Dennis brought some to the meeting to give away, and will be bringing more to the upcoming meeting as well.



Custom 18-inch Wheels For Sale: Andrew Duafala's Pantera came to him wearing 18-inch wheels, fitted with Michelin Pilot Sport tires measuring 235/35-18 and 335/30-18. He is an old-school guy so chose to revert



back to the original Campagnolo wheels, leaving his 18-inch wheels surplus to the cause. He believes they measure 8.5 inches wide in front and 11 inches in the rear. They fit his L-model Pantera, with a 3/8" spacer on the rear to prevent the inside of the tires from rubbing the chassis. He says he is open to any reasonable offers....

Stainless Water Pipes: Andrew Duafala has changed his radiator configuration, which required the use of differently shaped front water pipes. So, he also has two used stainless steel radiator-to-undercar water pipes available. As with his wheels and tires above, no reasonable offer will be refused!



Nitto Tires: Brent Stewart has a full set of 18-inch Nitto NT555 tires for sale, sized 235/40 and 315/40. They only have about 40 miles on them. They were purchased as an experiment to fit taller 40-series tires to his car, but his wheels have the incorrect offset and won't comfortably accommodate taller tires, so he is stuck with his existing 30-series tires, and his nearly new 40-series Nittos are therefore available. If you have 18-inch wheels with the correct offset, give him a call! (Who knows, maybe Andrew's wheels and these tires would be a perfect match?)

News, Clues and Rumors: Oddly, there were none this month? That makes for a shorter than normal newsletter!

Raffle Results: Erik and Brett passed the hat with the following results:

Gojo hand cleaner — Walt Miranda

Flashlight — Erik Kolstoe

Grease Gun — Fonea Lam

Ghia patches — Garth Rodericks

PCNC T-shirt — Dennis Valdez

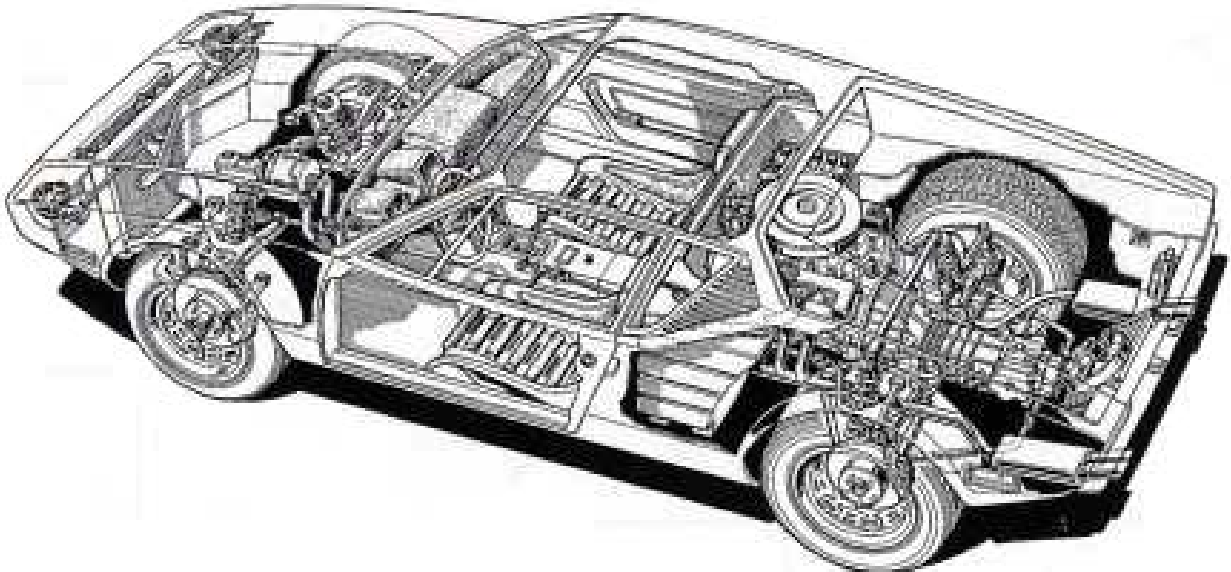
De Tomaso hat — Andy Duafala, who promptly installed it on Brett's head!

Bailey Malbeck 2017-2018 six-pack — Steve Liebenow

Graphite lock spray — Marcus Smith



The meeting adjourned to the parking lot at 8:27.



Membership News

New Members for June:

We have no new members this month.

June Membership Anniversaries:

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

Steve and Merry Dalcino: 22 years

Lysianne Doute: 10 years

Mark and Yasmine Charlton: 4 years

Patrick Campesi: 2 years

Matthew Kelleher: 11 years

Lou Brizzolara: 8 years

Jeff Gick: 4 years

We had three members who chose not to renew their memberships: **Brian Bernard, Rob McMullen and Greg Lazzerini.**



Tech Tip

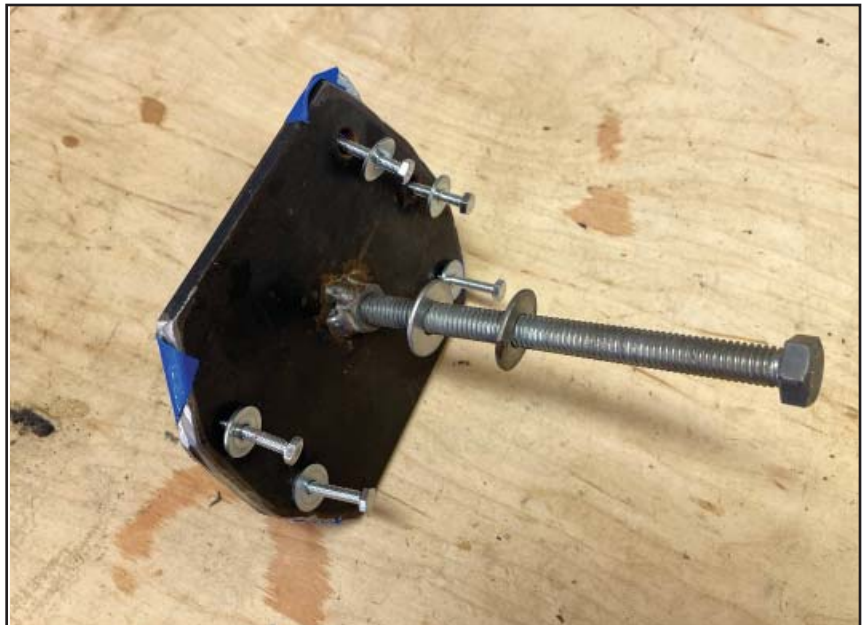
Removing Your Lecarra Steering Wheel The Easy Way

Story and Photos by Mike Drew

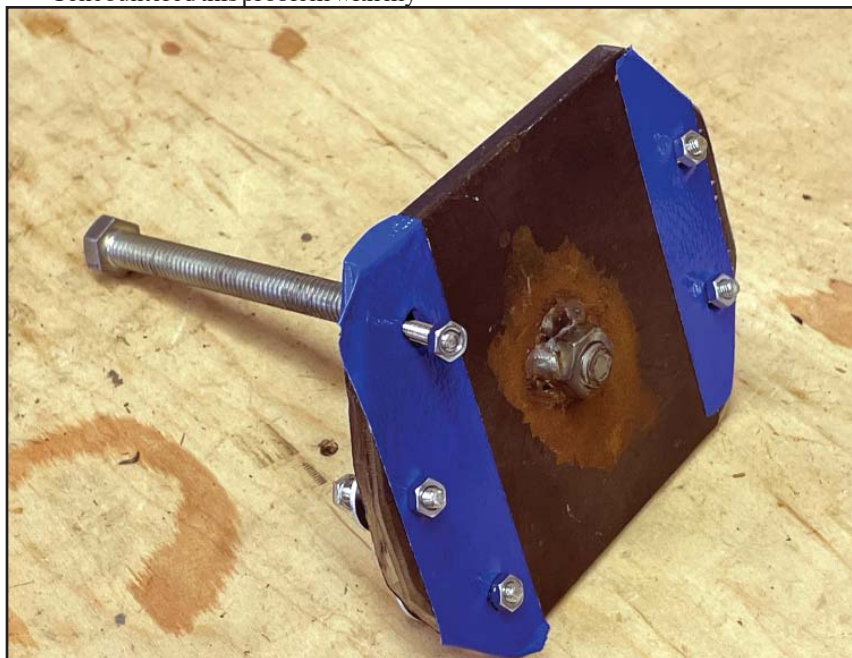
Over the years, a substantial percentage of Panteras have seen their stock steering wheels replaced with aftermarket Lecarra wheels. Although Lecarra no longer offers hubs to fit the Pantera's splined steering shaft, for the better part of 30 years they were the go-to choice, especially since all the Pantera vendors offered them with De Tomaso logo steering wheel centers.

Periodically, a maintenance issue will arise where the wheel and hub need to be separated from the shaft. Often this can lead to considerable frustration, because the hub is aluminum, and seems to distort slightly when the nut securing it to the shaft is tightened. Even after the nut is completely removed, and penetrating fluid is employed, often the hub seems to fuse itself to the shaft and it becomes next to impossible to remove.

I encountered this problem with my



The front side of the tool, showing the five bolts to mount it to the hub; heavy-duty washers are used to distribute the force



A pair of welded nuts in the center allow the rotational force of the bolt to impart a pulling motion upon the tool as the end of the bolt presses against the face of the car's splined steering shaft. Tape protects the wheel from the tool

own Pantera almost 30 years ago. The alignment was correct but the steering wheel was cocked off to one side; the solution was to remove the wheel and hub and re-clock them on the splined shaft. I was concerned that I would damage the wheel if I simply pulled on it hard enough to break it free, and even striking the shaft with a hammer and punch while pulling on the wheel wouldn't allow it to be removed. While it's possible to rent steering-wheel puller tools from the local auto parts stores, those often incorporate jaws which can damage the finish on the hub.

Then, I came up with a cunning plan.

I cut a piece of scrap 1/4 inch steel to roughly approximate the diameter of the steering wheel center, and drilled five oversized holes around the perimeter which roughly lined up with some of the bolts securing the wheel (and center cap) to the hub. Then, I marked the cen-

ter, drilled a larger hole, slipped a bolt through and had a pair of nuts welded on either side to give a fairly great threaded area for the bolt to engage.

Once all that was done, I removed five of the mounting bolts holding the wheel to the hub, and removed the plastic center cap, and removed the center nut holding the hub in place, then reinstalled it a single turn, just to keep things from flying apart. After padding the surface of the wheel, I threaded five replacement (longer) bolts through the tool, wheel and hub, and secured them to the back side of the hub with nuts in place of the standard bolts which normally hold the wheel to the hub. Then I carefully threaded the bolt in the center down until the end of it pressed against the face of the splined steering shaft.

I then used a 1/2 inch ratchet with an appropriate socket and slowly turned the bolt. The end of the bolt was hard up against the end of the shaft, and as the bolt turned, the threads exerted a pulling force upon the tool (and the wheel and hub to which it was affixed). After much resistance to turning further, suddenly POW! and the hub popped free. It, and the guts of the mechanism inside might



The tool is bolted in place, ready to do its job in an elegant, stress-free way

have launched all over the interior of the car were it not for the preventative measure of keeping the mounting nut loosely in place, which only allowed it to pop free about a half inch.

Once it was free, it was a simple matter to remove the tool, then slide the hub and wheel off the shaft, and reaffix it later in the proper position. Clever-

ness replaced brute force and preserved the integrity of all the components in the system.

I switched to a Momo wheel decades ago, but that tool has remained in the bottom of my toolbox all this time because I sometimes have to work on other people's cars where wheel removal is necessary. Most recently, my 1966 Shelby GT350 clone emerged from a 15-year hibernation period, and the steering was all out of whack. Coincidentally it wore a LeCarra wheel too, and it was a matter of a moment to pop the wheel off and re-clock it appropriately. Rather than using a hand ratchet, this time I used a small battery-powered impact driver to rattle it off; the shock of the impacts shook the hub free from the shaft a bit sooner, so less pulling force needed to be employed.

While it's simple to fabricate this tool, it's even simpler to borrow it, so if you ever have a need to remove your Lecarra wheel and don't feel like resorting to violence, I would be happy to lend it to you!



Once the end of the bolt touched the end of the shaft, a quick rattle was all it took to pop the hub and wheel free from the shaft

Come to the Family- and Kid-Friendly PCNC Pizza Party!

Saturday, 17 July at 12:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate a return to normalcy! PCNC will be hosting a free pizza party, with pizza and sodas provided by the club. This will be a family-oriented event, but there will also be ample segregated parking if you want to bring your Pantera. Come early to admire the cars and schmooze with everyone, and meet their families!



Location: *Giovanni's Pizzeria*
1127 Lawrence Expressway
Sunnyvale, CA

Cross street is Lakehaven, between Tasman and
Hwy 101 (one block east of Hwy 101)



There is no charge for anyone—it's free, folks!





Brent Stewart
1239 Valley Quail Circle
San Jose, CA 95120



NEXT CLUB MEETING

**Thursday, June 24th, 2021
7:30 P.M.**

**HOLDER'S COUNTRY INN
998 S. De Anza Blvd, San Jose**

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

July 10 ----- Breakfast Club Rally

July 17 ----- PCNC Pizza Party at Giovanni's Pizzeria (Lou Brizzolara)

12-15 August ----- Monterey Weekend (Steve Dalcino)

16-18 August ----- Monterey Pantera Rally? (Mark Bailey)

REMINDER — NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY 15th OF EACH MONTH