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**Volume 25**

**Issue 10**

**October 1998**

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## Minutes of Meeting 24 September, 1998

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by vice-president Michael Fertitta. All officers were present except Ed Kornegay. Attendance was somewhat slight, with 27 members signing the roster. There were seven Panteras in the parking lot.

**New Members/Guests:** One fresh face joined the crowd, that of **George Selby-Hale**. He found out about PCNC via the internet, and decided to come check us out. George has been considering the purchase of a Pantera for awhile, and plans to come to the PCNC tech session to learn more about them.

**Changes to Last Month's Minutes:** Larry Stock wanted to officially state that he didn't consider the black car he'd recently sold to be a 'beater.' He was appropriately razzed by the crowd for

his obviously wishful thinking. However, as the car is being stripped and painted, and electrically sorted over the next few months, it should be a fine car indeed when complete!

**Club Library Report:** Sharon for once did *not* leave the library contents in the trunk of her car, but instead brought everything into the meeting (for which she received a round of applause.) She told the crowd they could root through the contents and see if they wanted anything, and for the rest of the year, the library will stay at her home unless she has a specific request to bring something.

**Club Treasury Report:** Anita let us know we're still solvent, but we'll have to be shelling out some serious bucks for next year's Monterey event fairly soon. Since many of us know we're planning on attending, to ease the burden on the club treasury, it might be a good idea to make a deposit now, both to ensure you get a room and to make the club's financial life easier.

**Club Store Report:** Bill reported that he *had* left the contents of the store in his trunk, which elicited a round of laughter. He did bring some new jackets for us to see however.

### **Past Events:**

**Craig Breedlove Tour:** Mike spoke for a few minutes about this five-club event. About 140 members of the Nor-Cal Pantera and Shelby, and Sacramento Pantera and Shelby clubs, as well as Gary Berger and a bunch of his NSX club buddies converged on Mike's house in Vacaville on a Saturday morning for coffee and donuts. There was quite a car show on Mike's street, which his (surprised) neighbors actually seemed to appreciate!

From there, the group drive in a convoy to the town of Rio Vista, where another 40-50 people had proceeded direct. Craig Breedlove and a few of his crewmembers were on-hand to give a comprehensive tour, in which he described not only the mechanical aspects of running a land speed record car, but also the myriad and complex business details that happen behind the scenes.

Following the tour, most of the participants, include the whole Breedlove team returned to Mike's house for a big ol' BBQ. The temperature was scorching (105°), and Lee Scales performed heroically in front of a blazing BBQ to whip out hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone. The BBQ's were so hot that they burned holes into the lawn underneath! Roger Sharp's sunshades were put to good use, and water misters helped keep the heat down in the backyard.

Out front, people were crashed out underneath shady trees. Breedlove's girlfriend had previously dated an L.A. POCA member, and was wild about Panteras! She convinced Bud Green to let her drive his Pantera around the block, and she proceeded to take a few hot laps, returning the keys with great reluctance.

Mike quelled some naysayers by starting his Pantera, putting it in gear and driving it forward (about three feet) then back again. It runs! This feat was rewarded with a round of applause from all assembled.

**Fun Ford Sunday:** Dave Crego reported that this year's car show had a 50% greater turnout than last year's inaugural event, with three Panteras included. Among the people present was a local Pantera owner who didn't know about the club. Dave gave him all the info and is hopeful

we've recruited a new member.

**Silver State Classic Challenge:** Dave once again spoke on the Silver State race, held the previous weekend. He and Dianne had teamed up with Larry Stock and Mike Drew to convoy to the race. Larry stopped the tow rig for fuel and decided to check the oil, and found himself a gallon and a half low! The pull was long and arduous, but they eventually arrived in Ely.

The next day was a car show and tech, with a record 168 entrants, including a tiny Legends racecar, and a full-on racing semi-tractor boasting 1100 ft/lbs of torque. This truck had just won its class at the Pike's Peak hillclimb.

Thanks to the efforts of Dennis Antenucci, there was lots of press coverage for this event, and Dave's car was the subject of an extensive photo shoot that will appear in the February *Car and Driver* magazine.

Although his stated purpose for attending was to sell parts, Larry had also Pulled A Sneaky and brought Shari's Pantera, with the intent of running it in the race. The morning of the event, he was convinced that perhaps it would be a good idea to check the oil. It took two quarts just to get a reading on the stick, but with no more oil available, he grabbed a free bottle of Prolong and threw that in too! It would have to be good enough.

In recognition of his legendary neglect of his various vehicles, Dave presented Larry with the Big Dipstick award, a wood plaque with a chrome-plated dipstick affixed!

The road condition was fairly grim, with the Nevada DOT working around the clock to make it even remotely passable. There was one section with defective pavement, so the 91-mile length was changed to a 20-mile section, followed by a 10-mile section with an 80 mph speed limitation, and then the racers could go all-out the remaining distance.

Those participants equipped with GPS managed to do a fairly good job of arriving on-time, but the best finisher of the day was Pantera driver Curt Toumanian, who came within .0008 of a second of his desired time, armed with nothing but a stopwatch and luck!

The Pantera bunch had issued a challenge to the other marques to field teams of drivers. Although initially it had been reported that the Viper and Corvette teams tied for first and the Pantera guys came in behind, later it was discovered that a timing error had been made against one of the Pantera drivers, and with that new figure factored in, the result was a three-way tie for first place!

There was only one incident of note: An unlimited-class Corvette hit the nitrous at 217 mph and spun the rear wheels, losing control and barrel-rolling across the desert, whereupon the car caught fire and exploded. Due to the extensive safety precautions taken, the driver suffered only a minor burn on his hand.

One of the sponsors of the race was the Green Lantern Saloon (a House of Ill Repute) which was offering a special Family Nite Three-Way deal! No word if any Pantera families took advantage of this offer, however!

Mike Trusty from Arkansas suffered a terminal motor failure about halfway down the course. He was in dire straits indeed, as his car trailer was all the way back in Las Vegas. It would have taken all night to drive to retrieve the trailer, then come back to pick up the car, then drive back to Las Vegas. Fortunately for him, Charlie Puckett happened along, and no sooner did he hear of Mike's dilemma than he backed his Pantera off the trailer, and Mike's was loaded on-board. Charlie's crew hauled Mike and his Pantera all the way to Las Vegas while Charlie drove his full-race (no mufflers!) Pantera behind.

Larry reported that Shari walked into the garage the day after the event and found her Pantera covered with race numbers and stickers, thus learning that her car had entered and finished the event!

### **Upcoming Events:**

**PCNC Tech Session — 10 October:** Once again the Sharps are opening their home to us, to enable us to not only enjoy some terrific BBQ, but also to work on our Panteras. A flyer appeared in the last newsletter (and may again in this one as well.) Contact Roger for all the details.

**All-Italian Car Show In Alameda — 11 October:** This show, sponsored by the Alfa Romeo Owners Ass'n, is a charity benefit for the Alameda Special Olympics. It's very low-key, but usually has over 100 Italian cars and motorcycles. A flyer appeared in the last newsletter, and Doris Britschgi will honcho the PCNC contingent.

**Planes, Trains and Automobiles Part II — 18 October:** Michael Fertitta announced a special short-notice event to be held on the following Sunday. We'll meet for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Classic Diner in Fremont, then caravan through the town of Niles to the Niles Depot Railroad Museum. From there, we'll ride the Niles Canyon historic train, then take a scenic drive along some east bay backroads and finally end up in Jack London Square in Oakland for an early dinner. He hopes to have us through with dinner and on the road for home by 6:00 p.m. See the flyer at the back of this newsletter for all the details.

**PCNC Christmas Party — 4 December:** The date for the Christmas party has changed to Friday, 4 December, so mark your calendars appropriately.

### **Club Business:**

**Charity Donation:** As we do every year, PCNC decided to donate a portion of our club store proceeds to charitable causes. The amount was substantially higher this year, because a vendor made an error on t-shirts and donated the lot for Bill to sell with the proviso that all proceeds would go to charity only. Among the choices given, the crowd was allowed to vote and decided to split the donation between the American Cancer Society and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

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

**Chuck Melton Runs Into An Old High School Buddy:** Literally! Chuck was taking his

Pantera for a bit of a caning on Highway 9, when an out-of-control motorcyclist came shooting across the center line, glanced off the side of a stopped Toyota, then smashed head-on into Chuck's beautiful Pantera! The rider wound up trapped under the nose of the car while the bike flew completely over the top, thankfully not touching anything except the nose (and a minor scratch in the roof.) Chuck had to gingerly back the Pantera off the rider's head, and then was surprised to discover that he was an old buddy from high school!

Damage to the Pantera is in the \$14K zone, and it has been delivered into Larry Stock's capable hands for repairs. Chuck was surprised to discover that his car had about a zillion coats of paint on it, representing a whole spectrum of different colors. It will be stripped down to bare metal and repainted, the exact hue is yet to be determined.

**Las Vegas Track Event:** Charlie Puckett made a long trek from his home in Petaluma strictly to address the crowd regarding the PCNC track event in Las Vegas next year. He is eager and enthusiastic and is hoping to drum up additional club support for the event. He has several ideas in mind, including an inter-club challenge similar to the one Dennis Antenucci proposed for the Silver State race. He is also hopeful that POCA will agree to help underwrite some of the expenses, which would allow us to keep the entry fee very low and thus gain additional participation. An autocross is also planned. The track event committee consists of Ed Kornegay, Charlie Puckett, Mike Drew and Jack DeRyke. If you have any additional ideas, please contact them!

**Wheel Show-And-Tell:** Larry Stock showed off one of his reconditioned Campy wheels. The process was long and involved (and expensive), and Larry will be selling them for about \$325 each with exchange. The results were certainly impressive however, with a wheel that is substantially better than new.

**Raffle Results:** Larry once again did his thing, with the following results:

Nat'l Sprint Car Museum Seat Cushion — George Selby-Hale

*Profiles* Centerfold Poster — Chuck Melton

Mela Magic — Anita Kuehne

Larry Buys Your Dinner — Ken Levin

Knoxville Speedway Poster — Judy DeRyke

The meeting then adjourned to the parking lot, where it was discovered that Larry The Big Dipstick had no oil in his white Pantera either! After raiding numerous trunks, three and a half quarts were dumped in before he even got a reading on his dipstick; that would be enough oil to get him home at least!

# NEXT CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY, October 29, 1998**

**8:00 P.M.**

**COCO'S RESTAURANT**

**1209 OAKMEAD PARKWAY**

**SUNNYVALE, CA**

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

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## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

October 10 ————— PCNC Tech Session and BBQ (Roger Sharp)

October 11 ————— All-Italian Car Show in Alameda (Doris Britschgi)

October 18 ————— Niles Canyon Train Tour (Michael Fertitta)

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