



# news

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

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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**

Larry Stock  
775-841-0356  
LarryS@PanteraParts.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**

Charlie Puckett  
(707) 795-8274  
pantini74@sbcglobal.net

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## Minutes of Meeting 31 March, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Bob Benson at 8:00 p.m. All officers were present except for Larry Stock, Terry Morofsky and Charlie Puckett. 34 people signed the roster and there were six Panteras, one Mangusta and one Longchamp in the parking lot.

**New Members/Guests:** The club welcomed **Daryl Adams** to the meeting. Daryl has been on the scene since the start, and has provided some stunning illustrations which have been turned into posters and t-shirts over the years (an example of his work appears at the end of these minutes). Daryl has a beautiful silver Mangusta, and was in town to participate in a race at Laguna Seca; he arrived early to attend the meeting and chat with Steve Liebenow about various issues.

The club also welcomed **Larry Mendoza**. Larry is a friend of Garth Rodericks, and has served

as his navigator on a few rallies.

Some familiar faces graced the crowd, including **John Colembero**, a former member from way back (he says he remembers when Jack DeRyke was a young man!). He joined PCNC 18 years ago, but dropped out a few years back when work and other issues prevent his full participation. He promised himself that he would re-join once he retired again, and thankfully that day has arrived!

Another fellow who has attended a few meetings over the years but hasn't yet joined is **Rick Blackman**, whose '71 Pantera #1937 recently was reawakened and driven over the Easter weekend after a long slumber.

Later in the evening, **Al Chelini** from TPOC slid in the door. Al has stayed with PCNC at the Monterey event; he was in the area helping a friend move and decided to take the evening off to visit with us.

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

**Club Treasury Report:** Jim announced that the treasury is still healthy, with track event sponsorship money still coming in. However, he recently wrote some fat checks for the track event insurance, Christmas party expenses, and the production of the track event T-shirt.

**Club Store Report:** Gary reported that we will have lots of inventory in Las Vegas. The merchandise will be shipped to Peter Kovacs' office in Las Vegas, and then hand-carried from there to the hotel. A sign-up roster for club store sales representatives will make the rounds at the April meeting, and the tech session.

**Membership Report:** Russ had nothing significant to report, other than the numbers—we currently mail about 180 newsletters a month, of which 148 go to PCNC member households.

**Club Website Report:** Mark had no significant updates, other than that he had taped Larry Stock's interview taken at the Concorso Italiano and had it available to play back on his big-screen laptop computer.

### **Past Events:**

**Easter Tech Session:** Roger reported that the turnout was good, and the work undertaken was rather light by our standards. There were a few oil changes, and Doris Britschgi's Subaru WRX was treated to a new fart-can exhaust system so she can join the Fast and Furious crowd! There was a great Easter Egg hunt, and the kids practically tore the house apart. They were mostly successful, although Roger reported that he had just found an undiscovered egg that afternoon!

### **Upcoming Events:**

**PCNC Monthly Meeting — 21 April:** Due to the conflict with the Las Vegas Fun Rally, April's monthly meeting will be ***ONE WEEK EARLY!*** The meeting will be held at the same time and location.

**Air Conditioning Tech Session — 23 April:** The Sharps will host a second tech session just a few days before the Las Vegas event. The goal is to avoid any heavy labor during this event, and instead concentrate on minor details and air conditioning system servicing. Right now

Larry Stock doesn't know if he will be making the drive down the hill with his parts truck. So if you have any major jobs to undertake, you might want to plan ahead and have your parts in-hand.

**Capitol Panteras Tech Session — 24 April:** The day after the PCNC tech session, the Capitol Panteras gang will follow suit, with a similar get-together at Rick Carlile's shop in Sacramento. See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for all the details.

**Las Vegas Fun Rally — 26 April-1 May:** The various route options were very briefly discussed. Historically PCNC has organized a two-day scenic tour to the event, with a stop for Brunch at the home of Marcus and Irene Smith in the Sierra foothills, and an overnight stop in the high desert town of Bishop. Due to the ongoing inclement weather and unusually heavy snowfall this winter, it's possible that our chosen route won't be open and so an alternate plan has been proposed, departing south and visiting Brian and Kathy Gentry. A direct one-day blast down I-5 for Wednesday is also being considered as an alternative for those who can't take the time for a two-day drive.

A formal vote was taken and the assembled crowd decided to forgo crossing the Sierras this year. As of this writing, Diane is still coming up with a formal route, meeting locations, and overnight accommodations, but we are currently leaning towards Lake Isabella in Kernville, by way of a scenic drive down Hwy 25. Hopefully the information will be forthcoming in a timely fashion and a flyer will appear in this newsletter. But if not, be sure to contact Diane (her contact information is on the front of this newsletter) to get all the details.

**Las Vegas Speed Trials — 28-29 April:** The track event is shaping up in spectacular fashion. We haven't had any more signups in the past few weeks, but we are still on track to have a record level of participation! Furthermore, we have received a record \$8700 in sponsorship which guarantees that the event will be in the black this year.

**Tank Tour — May TBA?:** Diane is in discussions with our local neighborhood armored fighting vehicle collector for another tour of his amazing collection of tanks, halftracks, rocket launchers and other big giant machines of destruction. Her ambition is to put together a tour sometime in May; watch for further details in upcoming newsletters.

**Morofsky/Gerkin Wedding — 14 May:** PCNC vice-president Terry Morofsky will marry Sheri Gerkin on May 14th. It will be a small, private event, so if you plan on crashing the wedding you'll have to bring your own chair!

**Wine Country Classic Vintage Races — 3-5 June:** Steve Earle, who organizes the famous Monterey Historic Races, will be hosting a similar event at Sears Point Raceway in Sonoma. Nor-Cal Shelby Club member Lewis Downs is in charge of club parking and has secured the prime real estate for us, the grass parking lot at turn 11. This lot will be reserved for Ford-powered special cars (to include De Tomaso cars) only—no pickup trucks or non-Ford club cars. For \$35 you can receive a ticket good for all three days of racing, and a spot in the reserved lot. Phone Lewis at (510) 886-5522 to see if he still has any tickets remaining.

**Reno-Tahoe Fun Rally — 9-13 June:** Larry reported that planning is moving forward for this event. As in past years, it will boast similar attractions such as a track session at the Reno-Fernley racetrack, a dustbowl concours, breakfast at PPC, and some humorous car show awards.

Watch the POCA newsletter for more details.

**Speedring Karting Event?:** Greg Jacobs asked if there was any interest in repeating the Go-Kart racing event we had at Speedring (an indoor kart track) several years ago. Upon learning that there is indeed interest, he promised to investigate further and get back with a formal plan and dates later this year.

### **Club Business:**

**Digital PCNC Newsletter?:** Last month, Gary Kono proposed eliminating the paper hard-copy version of the PCNC newsletter as a way to cut costs. The topic was debated further at this month's meeting. Proponents of the idea argued that the monthly cost (which approaches \$200 a month) could be better spent elsewhere. Opponents pointed out that the paper newsletter is a 'trigger' which reminds people of the upcoming meeting, and claimed that if people were forced to retrieve the newsletter from the website on their own, participation in meetings and events would likely go down. Diane Dean also mentioned that even when a newsletter is e-mailed to her, she routinely ignores it as just another form of spam, whereas the paper newsletter gets her full attention.

After a few minutes of debate, the issue was tabled after most people expressed their desire to continue to receive paper newsletters.

As a reminder, all issues of the newsletter are also sent to Mark McWhinney, and a complete library of the past few years is available there for download.

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

#### **London Tech Session:**

Mike reported that he had just returned from England, where he had participated in (and indeed, organized) the longest-running tech session yet, one which lasted a full five days! A half-dozen people gathered to work on one Pantera, and in typical fashion it fought back at every turn. Due to a complete lack of decent hardware stores, appropriate nuts and bolts weren't available, and finally in desperation, some



antique Whitworth threaded rod was cut to length and then brutalized into SAE holes on the aluminum engine block in order to fasten the alternator! Also, some aftermarket wheel studs were much too long as delivered, and had to be shortened radically. And so on and so forth...

Still, great fun was had by all, and in all likelihood the event will be repeated in May, with an eye towards getting the car on the road in time to drive it to Le Mans in June (an ambitious, but not unrealistic goal).

**Roger Does Traffic School:** Roger Sharp recently had the privilege of attending traffic school for a recent infraction behind the wheel of his Pantera. He was by far the oldest person in the class, and sat quietly until the instructor sternly warned that anything in excess of 30 mph above the posted speed limit is an automatic 60 days in jail according to the vehicle code. Roger then raised his hand and asked what 100 mph over gets you, as that is what he does routinely.

The question tied the instructor in knots!

**Driving For Dinner Raffle:** Garth Rodericks took the prize this month.

**Raffle Results:** With Larry Stock absent, Jim Kuehne ran the raffle in conjunction with Brett Santos, and the winners were:

Track event t-shirt — Brian Bernard (twice), Connie Johnson , Pam Sharp, Daryl Johnson (twice)

PCNC Baseball hat — Mark McWhinney, Bob Benson

PCNC Mug — Brian Bernard

World's fastest cars video — Howard Renshaw

Throttle return spring holder — John Colembero

Small Pantera golf shirt — Mark Tumbarello

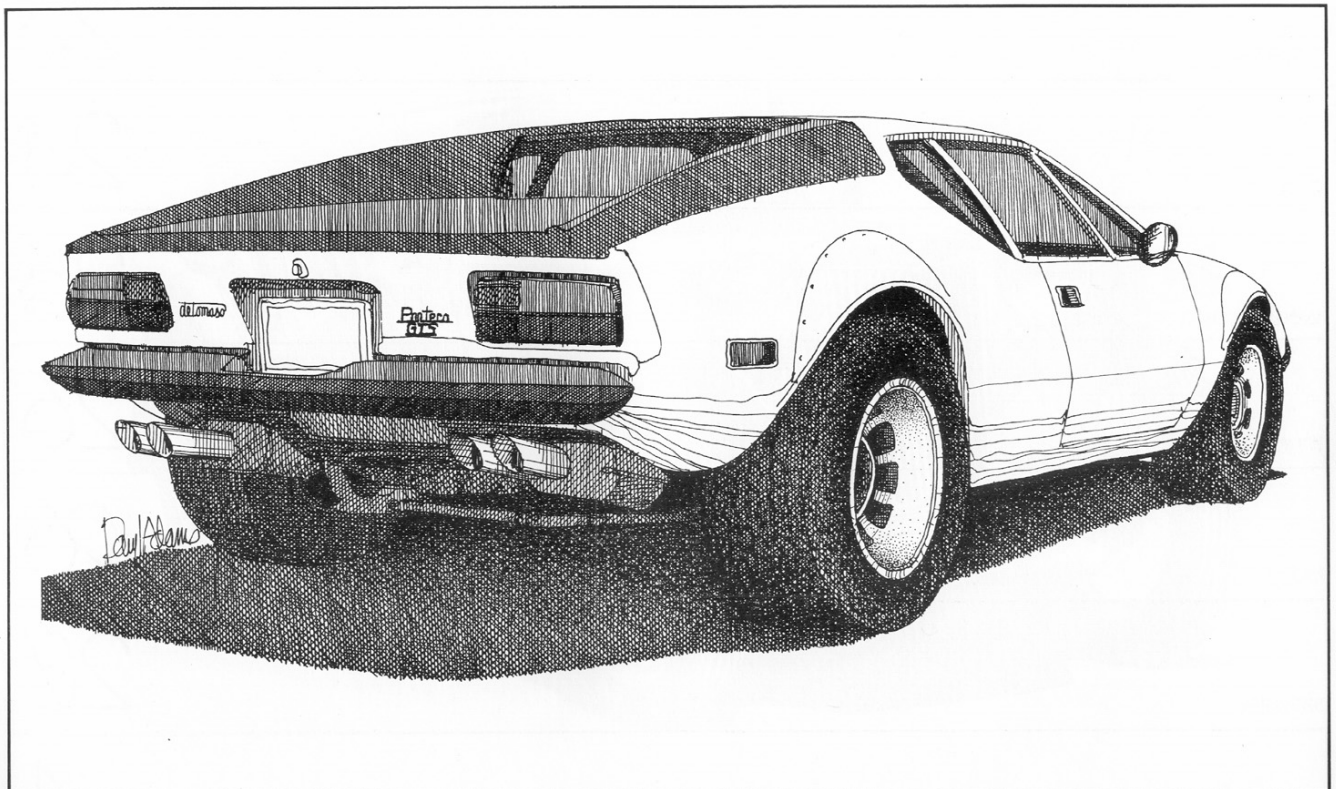
Latex gloves — Steve Liebenow

Wrench organizer — Al Chelini

Mother's Car detailing kit — Mark McWhinney

Gary Kono — Valve cover breather, fuel line

The meeting adjourned to the parking lot at 9:30, with the last members remaining there until almost midnight.



# Membership News

## New Members for April:

**Tim & Becky Haddad** of Santa Maria. Tim & Becky have just joined through POCA and are interested in road trips and social events. What a great time to join with the annual trip to Las Vegas coming at the end of the month. Get your car packed; we'll be heading your way soon.

**Dennis Franks** of Bozeman, Montana. How about that? Someone for John Hansen to hook up with for the drive to Vegas. Bozeman is only a couple of hours north of Jackson Hole, Pantera time. So why not throw the spurs in the back and drive on down together?

**Carl & Mary Schumaker** are back on the POCA list again. Now we can get the rest of the story about the truckload of Cleveland engines that Carl was trying to get unloaded and stored. If you recall the story seemed to combine the best of a Larry Stock story with embellishments by Mike Drew.

## April Membership Anniversaries:

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

**Mike Drew:** sixteen years

**Mike Coffel:** thirteen years

**Axel Rolf:** ten years

**Scott Bonneville:** seven years

**Perry & Brigit Strongin:** five years

**Steven Bechard:** four years

**Scott Martin:** one year

**Chris Wilson:** one year

**Lee Scales:** fifteen years

**Tom & Autumn Padula:** ten years

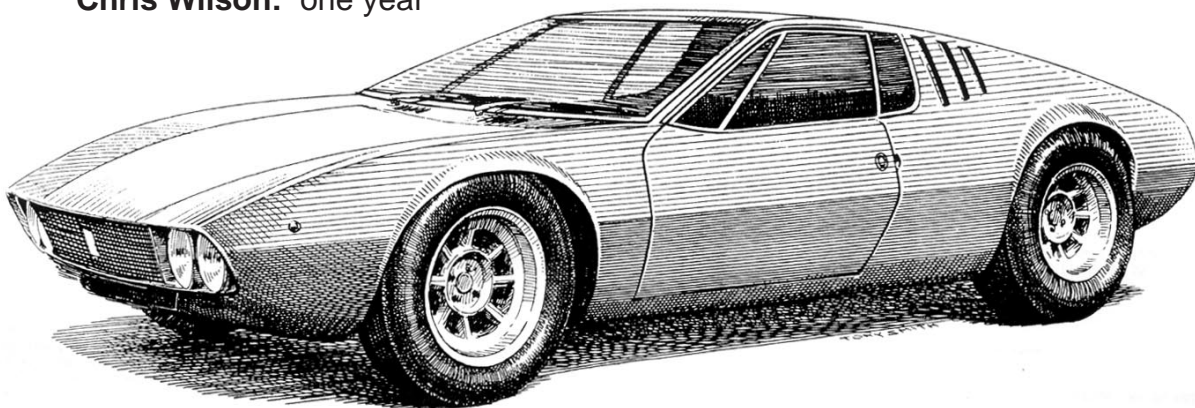
**Lee & Heide Hinckley:** nine years

**Russell Orzel & Ann Grigsby:** six years

**Michael Anderson:** four years

**Richard & Debbie Golino:** one year

**Wayne & Sharon Okubo:** one year



De TOMASO MANGUSTA

# New Guy's ZF Pulling Party

*Story by Mike Drew*

*Photos by Emilia and Jim Seiferling*

Sunday, April 2nd saw a small but dedicated group of PCNC members gather to help Terry Cox, a new owner from Stockton, sort out a clutch problem with his 1974 Pantera GTS. Recently purchased out of Texas, the car features tastefully modified bodywork with mild flaring of the steel fenders. Although it was purported to only have 21,000 miles, even a casual inspection revealed that it had seen far more use. But nonetheless it seemed to be a good, solid car.

Except for the clutch. It had never been all that great and recently had developed an awful chatter. So he pur-



*Terry's driveway was soon graced with a beautiful Jaguar E-type, Pantera and 427 Cobra replica*



*Marcus Smith first tackled the Cobra's inoperative wipers*



*Mike Drew, Jim Seiferling, Terry Cox and Curt Hall watch as Mark Tumbarello removes the flywheel*

chased a new clutch, pressure plate and throwout bearing, but needed help changing it out. Terry had done very mild work on cars in the past, but nothing nearly this ambitious.

PCNC to the rescue! Although he had never met another Pantera owner, through the internet Terry contacted me and Jim Seiferling of Capitol Panteras, and together we drew up a plan to get the car fixed. The plan called for the flywheel to be replaced as well, so Jim drove down to Greg Jacobs' house, where he picked up Greg's old flywheel, do-



*The clutch disc had absolutely zero friction material left!*

nated to the cause for a 12-pack of beer!

I hopped into my 427 Cobra replica and made the 80 mile drive to Terry's house in Stockton; upon arriving I saw Curt Hall and Mark Tumbarello who had driven in Curt's Pantera, as well as Mike Lamm who had driven his '63 Jaguar E-type. Jim and Emilia Seiferling soon arrived, followed shortly by Marcus Smith, PCNC's resident electrical guru.

Marcus set to work troubleshooting non-functioning windshield wipers on Mike's Cobra, while the rest of the



*With the gearbox out, changing the demolished throwout bearing was the next task*



*The sexy aluminum flywheel was badly scored by the rivets on the clutch disc, and had to be resurfaced*

gang went to work on the Pantera. Since Terry is new and inexperienced, we tried to make him do as much of the work as possible, so he could learn the ropes. Within a short amount of time, the gearbox was out of the car, and the clutch and pressure plate were removed.

Astonishingly, there was *no* friction material left on the clutch disc at all! The rivets on the disc had been digging into the aluminum flywheel, scoring it badly. And the



*While the disc was being dealt with and hardware was being fetched, the fellas devoured pizzas, beer and sodas*



*Holding his freshly turned flywheel, Terry was definitely one happy camper!*

throwout bearing was literally falling apart too.

Since the car had a high-dollar aluminum flywheel, we made the decision to have it surfaced rather than swap in the steel one. Terry went chasing across town to have the work done while Marcus and I went tearing off on a two-hour-long hardware run, to get some badly needed replacement nuts and bolts which proved surprisingly difficult to find in Stockton.

In the meantime, pizzas arrived and the rest of the gang took a much-deserved lunch break. Once all the new parts and hardware were reunited with the car, it didn't take too long for the crew to bolt everything back together again.

Marcus had solved the wiring dilemma with the Cobra, and turned his attention to the Pantera's various electrical





*The gearbox was carefully lowered back into position*

issues. Somebody had brutally hacked the wiring harness (why do people do that?) and Marcus was able to un-do some of the damage and restore instrument and interior lighting. But there is much more work yet to be done, which Terry fortunately can handle with the help of some local electrical mavens.

With the car all bolted back together, as darkness fell, Terry took the car for a spin and pronounced it profoundly healed!

All in a day's work—but the day was still young! While most people split for home, Jim and I bundled up and jumped into the Cobra and drove for an hour to Greg Jacobs' house. He had been working on his Pantera all alone all day long, a sad state of affairs, so we came over to lend some support. Greg had organized a long checklist of relatively minor jobs which needed to be attended to, and one by one we tackled them, working on the car until sometime after midnight.



*Later that night, Mike spent a good half hour on his back underneath Greg's dashboard, adjusting the clutch linkage to ensure proper pedal height and full clutch throw*

Feeling fairly spent after 14 straight hours of fixing cars, Jim and I finally left, and after dropping him off, an hour and a half later I pulled into my driveway, having driven close to 200 miles throughout the day.

All in all it was another unqualified success, with one owner able to drive his car once again and another that much closer to having his car on the road for Vegas! Terry's car still needs a lot of sorting, so it will be going to Sacramento for the Capitol Panteras tech session on Sunday the 24th of April, and then later will go to my house for a steering rack overhaul.

Hats off to the small but hardy group of volunteers who gave up their Saturday to help a perfect stranger get his Pantera back on the road where it belongs!

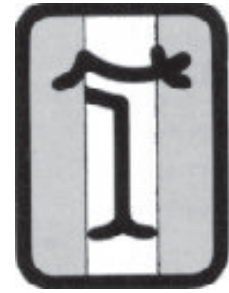


*Marcus found a rat's nest of wiring under the dash, and isolated several potential electrical fire sources!*



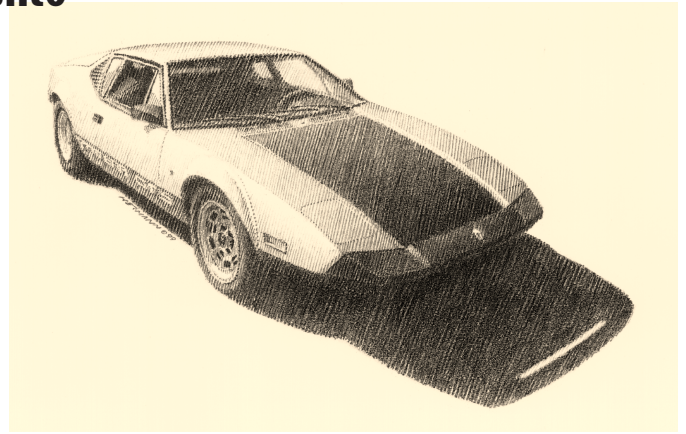
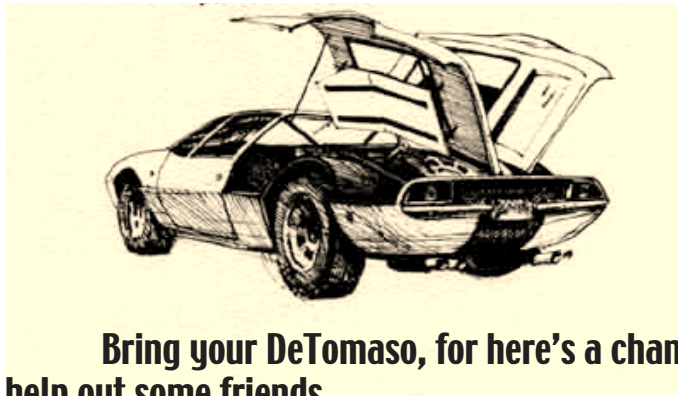
*Approaching midnight, with the temperatures rapidly falling, a weary pair attend to a host of minor tasks, each of which will help get Greg's car on the road soon!*

# ***Capitol Panteras*** **Spring Tech Session**



**When: Sunday, April 24, 9:00 a.m.**

**Where: Arktegraff (Rick Carlile's Architectural Firm)  
1800 27th Street, Sacramento  
(916) 736-6920**



**Bring your DeTomaso, for here's a chance to take care of repairs on your car and help out some friends.**

**Pantera owners, fans and wrenches (and good cooks) are welcome to join the members of Capitol Panteras for a Saturday of fun, friends, wrenching and good food. Rick Carlile has donated the use of his warehouse for the day, so we'll be working rain or shine. The barbecue will be fired up in the afternoon, so bring a side dish to share, and something to grill. If you care to bring a dish with an international flavor, all the better.**

## **Directions:**

- Take I-80 east towards Sacramento.**
- Follow I-80 Business/US-50/Capitol City Freeway towards Sacramento/S. Lake Tahoe.**
- Take the 15th St. exit.**
- Exit at bottom of ramp onto X street, parallel to the freeway.**
- Turn left onto 21st st.**
- Turn right onto S St.**
- Turn left onto 27th St.**
- 1800 27th St. is the last building on the left before the railroad tracks.**

**For More Information – Rick Carlile (916) 736-6920**

# Leaving for Las Vegas

## Tuesday, April 26th, 2005

We will leave Tuesday, April 26th at 9:00 AM from Morgan Hill, eat lunch in Visalia, sleep in Kernville, then head to Las Vegas the next morning. The route will consist of a combination of freeway and back roads driving.

Our meeting place for a 9:00 a.m. departure will be the parking lot of McDonald's in Morgan Hill. Take the East Dunne Ave Exit off Hwy 101; at exit light turn left, going back over the freeway; at the 2nd traffic light turn left & McDonald's is just behind the gas station on the left. You can see McDonald's from Hwy 101 before reaching the exit.

Rich James, former PCNC president and member now living in Visalia, has invited people to have lunch at his house. Members need to RSVP to Diane Dean at (408) 683-4861 so she can keep Rich apprised of how many to expect and prepare for lunch. It is approximately a four hour drive to Rich's house, which would be time for a lunch break.

We will be staying at the Kernville Inn. The rooms with king or double beds are \$82.10 with a AAA discount. You need to make your own reservations at (760) 376-2206. Identify yourselves as being with "Pantera Club of Northern CA" to get the discount. (See footnote below.)

The sign-up sheets will be available at Thursday's PCNC meeting and at Saturday's Tech Session, April 23rd at Pam & Roger Sharp's house. (Note: The PCNC meeting will be held a week earlier than usual on April 21st.)

If you cannot make the meeting or tech session but are planning to drive with the group on Tuesday, contact Diane Dean at (408) 683-4861 or DeanDM@sbcglobal.net, so we know whom to wait for Tuesday morning.

## Wednesday, April 27th, 2005

A second group will be departing early on Wednesday morning with the intent of catching up to the main body in Barstow at lunchtime, around noon. Larry Finch will be leaving Fresno Wednesday morning; if anyone wants to link up with him, please call his cell at (559) 281-3497. We also may have a couple of folks coming over from Central Coast (Paso Robles/Atascadero) on Wednesday morning to hook up with the Wednesday group in Bakersfield.

***Note: This is not an official PCNC event. This information is provided here just as a courtesy.***

# NEXT CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY, April 21, 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

April 21 ————— PCNC Monthly Meeting (***ONE WEEK EARLY!***)

April 23 ————— Air Conditioning Tech Session (Roger Sharp)

April 24 ————— Capitol Panteras Tech Session (Rick Carlile)

April 26-1 May ————— Las Vegas Fun Rally (Kent Snyder)

April 28-29 ————— Las Vegas Speed Trials (Charlie Puckett)

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

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Russ Britschgi  
143 Carlyn Ave.  
Campbell, CA 95008