



# news

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## Minutes of Meeting 28 July, 2005

The meeting was called to order by president Bob Benson at 8:03. Terry Morofsky and the Renshaws were the only missing officers. There were 34 people present and seven De Tomaso cars in the parking lot, including Steve Liebenow's Mangusta.

**New Members/Guests:** The club welcomed **Mark Savage** and his father, **Bill**. Three weeks previously, Mark had purchased a '72 Pre-L Pantera, #3461. It was a completely original and totally stock one-owner car with 31K miles indicated on the odometer, but the car looks as though it has seen much more use than that. It sat for 15 years prior to Bill taking it home. In the first three weeks of ownership, he has already installed a Crane cam, Edelbrock intake manifold and a new

Holley carburetor, as well as a set of PIM wheels! Mark works at Vic Hubbard (which, if you don't know, is a mail-order speed parts warehouse similar to, and predating, Summit and Jeg's) so it wasn't difficult for him to find these new parts!

Also present was **Rick Blackman**, who brought a car most of us had never seen before, a black pre-L #1937.

Finally, **Elio Komacho**, a friend of Rich Boschert, came to the meeting to meet up with Rich, but Rich never showed up! Elio is interested in buying a Pantera of his own.

**Changes To Last Month's Minutes:** It was pointed out that a mid-year transition has been made, and Bill Santos has taken over from Charlie Puckett as Motorsports Coordinator, and Roger Sharp has taken over from Larry Stock as Rafflemaster. Also, the track committee discussed the 2005 and 2006 track events, not the 2004 and 2005 as had been reported.

**Club Treasury Report:** Jim Kuehne reported that Nancy and Mike Haney sold all their back issues of the POCA newsletter and *Profiles* on E-bay, then donated the \$100 proceeds to the PCNC track event, a very generous gesture indeed!

**Club Store Report:** John got all the club's inventory back from Las Vegas. Bill brought the last two track event t-shirts for sale, in size XXL, for only \$10 each.

**Club Membership Report:** Russ reported that things are moving smoothly.

**Club Website Report:** Mark has set up provisions to pay for the PCNC dinner at Monterey via the website using PayPal. The site is continually being updated with information regarding the Monterey event. Also, if you aren't getting occasional PCNC E-news announcements, we don't have a good e-mail address for you, so please contact Mark.

### **Past Events:**

**Reno/Tahoe/Capitol Panteras Brunch Run:** Larry reported that the combined club event was a great success. As it was unusually hot on the day, all the Capitol Panteras members chickened out and drove their regular cars, but quite a few Reno/Tahoe Pantera owners drove their Panteras. The two groups met up at a restaurant midway between the two cities for a nice big brunch.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Monterey Historic Races/Concorso Italiano — 18-21 September:** The chances are, you will receive this newsletter after the Monterey event has taken place. Nonetheless, if you happen to get this before Friday and still want to attend the dinner on Friday night, contact Diane Dean on her cell phone at (408) 930-2418 and she *may* be able to accommodate you.

**Fun Ford Sunday — 11 September:** The annual Fun Ford Sunday will again be held at the Solano County Fairgrounds, at the intersection of I-80 and Hwy 37 in Vallejo. This is the northern California counterpart to the Fabulous Fords Forever show at Knott's Berry Farm in April, and this fall event draws upwards of 1,000 cars. Steve Liebenow will be organizing the PCNC contingent, so please let him know if you plan to attend so he can save you a spot. You can find out more at [www.funfordsunday.com](http://www.funfordsunday.com); see the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Other Upcoming Events:** Greg Jacobs is working on a date for a PCNC Go-kart event. The cost will be \$35-55 for a 15-minute qualifying heat followed by a 20-25 minute race. It will be held at a different location from our previous event a few year ago, although it will still be in Santa Clara. Also, Bob Lucas is working on a weekend trip to the Gentrys for wine and partying, sometime in October. He is working on getting a group rate at a local motel.

**Track Event News:** The 2006 POCA Fun Rally will now be held the first week of May instead of the last week of April; we have secured the track on the appropriate days. The track management wants to charge all spectators and drivers \$5 to enter the grounds; PCNC is working on negotiating a flat fee to avoid spectators being charged.

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

**Bill Santos' Pantera On The Mend:** Bill happily reported that his bent Pantera arrived safely at Kirk Evans' shop in Ohio. Bill successfully negotiated to get the car repaired without it being formally totalled, so it won't have a salvage title. The car was destined for the frame machine as it has been rather tweaked and needs to get straightened out before any bodywork can ensue. He said that he was hoping to get the car back in two or three months, which was met with a chorus of laughter, especially from those members whose cars had languished in body shops for months or years! Bill is happily keeping the car in its original orange hue, and is taking advantage of the opportunity to throw a little more money at the car, in the form of low-profile headlights, a bulkhead reduction kit, a low-profile wing incorporating a third stop light and antenna, and a set of PIM wheels.

**Spreading De Tomaso Awareness Through Europe:** Mike reported on his most recent trip to Europe, in which he joined Johnny Woods for a fast trip to France in Johnny's Pantera, to attend the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Running late for the ferry, Johnny dialed it up to 11 and Mike got numerous photos of the speedometer and tachometer buried! Eventually it got to the point where they were going 160 mph so often that it was pointless to even document it any more!

Following the race, they went to Stephane Bergeron's house north of Paris, where Mike helped organize a first-time gathering of French De Tomaso owners. A half-dozen Panteras, a Mangusta and two Corvettes were in attendance, for what was supposed to be a dinner but



*Johnny Woods behind the wheel of his right-hand-drive Pantera, rushing down the M-27 motorway approaching Portsmouth, England. By this point they had learned that their ferry had been delayed so there was no longer any reason to be rushing, especially not at 140 mph!*

in fact turned into a 12-hour long social gathering!

**Le Chat Avec Le Gendarme:** Mike was behind the wheel of Johnny's Pantera in the town of Arnage during the 24 hour race, and responding to encouragement from a thousand drunk Brits in the sidewalk cafés, he performed a nice little burnout, failing to notice that there was a police officer standing in the road just a few hundred feet ahead of him!



***Panteras, Corvettes and a Mangusta in the Bergeron's driveway outside Paris***

Mike was then invited to surrender his driver's licence and follow the officer over to his little patrol car for a sound bollocking. After a great show of paging through the vehicle code book and scribbling furiously in his ticket book, the officer summoned Mike over for a chat. Speaking no English, they instead spoke in a combination of high school French and pointy-talky.

"This is the road" the officer said in French, pointing at the street. "That is the racetrack" he said, pointing towards the race, which could be heard but not seen from that point. "Oui, j'ai compris" (Yes, I understand) was Mike's reply. Then, surprise of surprises, he discovered that instead of getting a traffic ticket (with its on-the-spot cash fine), instead he just received a warning!

The thing is, the Gendarme gave an Oscar-caliber performance, and the spectators were all thoroughly convinced that Mike had been well and truly 'done'!

**Some Guys Have All The Luck:** Bob Benson reported that he went to the car show at Vic Hubbard's, met up with another club member, and they did a two-car length burnout under the overpass, right in front of a cop, but he didn't even stop them! Later on, he punched it on the freeway onramp, and was going so fast that he actually got fully airborne at the top!

**Another Big Save:** Larry Finch was exercising his Pantera on the back roads outside of Fresno, and was about to pass a sluggard when his Valentine One went off. He backed down, rounded two corners and there sat a CHP with his radar trained on the blind corner—had he made the pass, he would have rounded the corner at the speed of heat and certainly would have been nailed. The Valentine paid for itself right then and there!

**Driving For Dinner Raffle:** And the winner was Chuck Melton.

**Raffle Results:** Although Larry was present, new rafflemaster Roger Sharp did the honors, ably assisted as ever by Brett Santos.

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And the winners were:

POCA Posters — Jim Kuehne, Mario Azuza Summit Hat Jim Cain Larry Stock  
12-piece angle grinder kit — Larry Stock  
Car wiping towels — Steve Liebenow Mark McWhinney  
Hand cleaner scrubs — Bob Benson Bob Benson  
WD-40 — Curt Hall Mark McWhinney  
Inspection mirror — Jim Kuehne  
Bonneville posters — Jim Cain, Garth Rodericks

The meeting adjourned to the parking lot at 9:40.

## Membership News

### New Members for August:

**Mark Savage** and his dad, **Bill Savage** of Fremont. Mark owns a grabber blue '72 Pre-L Pantera. Mark was at our last PCNC meeting and although he has only had his car for a couple of weeks, he hasn't wasted any time in getting to know its ins and outs. He also works for Vic Hubbard's Speed Shop in San Leandro. Vic Hubbard's has been around for at least 40 years that I know of, and is highly respected. Now that we have a Pantera owner working there, they should be even more knowledgeable in the best combinations of add-ons to get your engine running at top performance. Mark is really enthusiastic about the car and we can expect to see him at many of our meetings and events. Welcome to the club, Mark.

### August Membership Anniversaries:

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

**Jack & Judy DeRyke:** twenty-five years  
**Forest & Judy Goodhart:** seventeen years  
**Jim & Anita Kuehne:** sixteen years  
**Charlie & Karen Puckett:** thirteen years  
**Guy Dellavecchia:** six years  
**Cal Eustaquio:** six years  
**Tom Galli:** five years  
**Rich Mathews:** five years  
**Ken Roberts:** five years  
**Paul DaCruz:** two years

# To Reno and Back: Part 2

*Story By Russ Britschgi*

*Photos by Jim Murch*

For Reno in July, the weather was really quite cool when we arrived at the Kart track situated on the northern side of the Hilton, in the low to mid 70s. Even by the time we finished, it could not have been more than 80. We had the track reserved for ourselves for about an hour and a half, but we actually got another 15 minutes of free running time.

We chose the slick track, the one with the polished surface that offered little adhesion.

Why would anyone want a track where you couldn't get any bite coming off the corner? It didn't sound good to me until I tried

it. For low-powered, moderate-speed karts, the feel was that you were driving at the limit through every corner. Understeer was abundant. The slightest nudge from the kart in back of you resulted in violent oversteer and a visit with the outside guardrail. The best way to pass was to drive down

the inside without slowing. The kart being overtaken would pinch you into the inside rail slowing you down to make the corner but pushing the other guy wide to the outside.

Another technique that I saw Larry Stock use was to reach out with his right hand and press on the brake pedal of someone who was overtaking him on his right. What would have happened if the other driver stomped on the brake pedal full force, mashing Larry's fingers and holding them to the pedal? With Larry's cart going full speed and the other cart slowing rapidly, Larry could quickly have had one arm about a foot or two longer than the other. (Anyone remember the old Plastic Man comics?)

Well, the karting was divided into ten-minute segments with about ten drivers each time. At first people were a little hesitant to get in line, but by the end of our time people were running from the exit gate to the entrance gate so they could get another chance just to bump the driver into the guardrail who knocked them off the track last time. To put it short: this was really fun, and everybody got a chance



*Doris Britschgi wearing her race face!*



*"No Bumping" it says on the back of the kart. Yeah, right!*

to drive.

The karting was followed up at 1:00 p.m. with a docent-led tour of the National Automobile Museum. The guide was raised in the Reno area and has been with the museum for many years. As a kid he was well aware of Bill Harrah's passion for car collecting and even admitted to a few hot rod street contests of his own. He even has had the opportunity to drive several of the cars on display. We got to see the car the Reno-Tahoe Pantera Club sponsored; 1912



***Ken Levin leads the pack. The racing became very competitive!***

Wentworth (or something) that was not much more than a horseless buggy with a go cart engine, but they chose it because it's mid-engined. It seems that the guys up there wanted to pick out the simplest car they could to keep clean. That's what sponsors do; they keep the car on display spider web and dust free on a regular basis.

At 5:30 p.m. we walked down the street to have a buffet dinner at the Silver Legacy. This was followed by a 7:00 p.m. show at the Comedy Club. The Host/M.C./Piano Player also did some singing. He was very personable and interactive with the audience. Ken Levin's mother, Zelda, drove him nuts by using a pair of opera glasses from the second row to see what he was doing. When he found out that Sydney & Zelda were celebrating their 68th wedding anniversary, he couldn't believe it. After getting us warmed up with some songs and humor, he introduced the first act which was a guy doing some redneck humor. This was followed by the main act, another solo performance given by a multi-talented come-

dian who could not only deliver a good joke but also do monologues and voice imitations. His best part was when he did the facial and lip movements from a stereotypical Japanese B-rated movie but the words coming from his mouth were typical English voiceovers, that is to say the visual and the audio were not in sync. This guy must have spent hours in front of a mirror working on this part of his act. It was good, very good.

Saturday morning was the time for the Continental Breakfast and Dust Bowl Concours hosted by and on the site of The Pantera Parts Connection. Larry and Shari had a



***The Dust Bowl Concours was held in front of Larry Stock's shop***

nice spread laid out for us when we arrived a little after 9:30. There was quite a showing of Panteras across the parking lot. Concours judging sheets were handed out to all who showed up and the categories ranged from best fit and finish to biggest bug spot on windshield.

Aside from eating, socializing, and perusing everyone's cars, there was also some corner weighing going on. Not many people wanted to get their corners weighed till it was stated that it was cars' corners that were being checked, not theirs. Jack DeRyke was disappointed that Judy's (not his) Pantera came in around 2,900 pounds. He was looking for 2,850 pounds as I recall. Even so, this is not bad for cars that seem to be averaging 3,250. Jack has done a pretty good job of putting that car on a diet. If he can find a way to get rid of another 350 pounds, watch out.

With the judging over, it was back to Harrah's and the afternoon Pantera display in the Plaza. Again the weather was pleasant. A couple of years ago it was 98°; this year it was 20° cooler. It was a good time to get a chance to talk with Peter Kovacs, seldom seen PCNCers like Eddie and Lisa Pavlu, many of the Reno-Tahoe members, and even a pair of couples from the Arizona Pantera Owners Club. Even Brian Bernard came by, but I think he was in between casinos at the time and was in a hurry. Or was that Rich Walling? Both are really into the gambling thing and both seem

to do well from time to time. Good luck to both of you, the house shouldn't be the only winner.

After the car show broke up, we had a couple of hours to get cleaned up and ready for the closing Banquet and Raffle. Harrah's provided us with a nice private room and lots of food. The awards from the Dust Bowl Concours were handed out with Jerry Brubaker taking most of them (The Biggest Bug category being one of the exceptions).

The raffle went well. A local Kragen's store kicked in quite a few items, one of which was a shop stool that was won by Forest Goodhart and in turn donated to our very own PCNC raffle. So if you are ever in Reno, stop by that Kragen's and give them a double thank you.

I figured that since I was seated next to Joe Perrucci and that since Joe has always had good luck at these club raffles, this would be a good time to buy some extra raffle tickets hoping that some of Joe's luck would fall on me. It didn't work. Neither Joe nor I won anything.

Come to think about it, most of the prizes did go to the Reno-Tahoe members. It does seem to be a disproportionate ratio since over half the people there were from PCNC. Oh well, better luck next year.

This was a great event and well-planned. Our thanks to Jim and Connie Nowlin and the Reno-Tahoe chapter for all the work that went into this weekend!



*The Panteras were put on display on the plaza in front of the Harrah's casino*



*Fun Ford*  
*Sunday Flyer*

# NEXT CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY, August 25, 2005  
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

August 18-21 ————— Monterey Historic Races Weekend (Diane Dean)

August 19 ————— Concorso Italiano (Diane Dean)

September 11 ————— Fun Ford Sunday (Steve Liebenow)

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

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



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