



news

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com

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No Meeting Minutes!

Due to the fact that there was no monthly PCNC meeting in December, there are no minutes to report, and thus (hopefully!) no corrections that will have to be made in next month's newsletter!

The club's first event will be the annual Super Bowl party held at Roger and Pam Sharp's house in Morgan Hill; see the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for all the details.

Here's looking to a great 2006!

PCNC Christmas Party

Story by Russ Britschgi

Photos by Paul DaCruz

This is going to be a great night. I can feel it in the air, plus I got all the things related to the Most Active Member awards done and settled early in the day. Keeping track of the accumulated points for each member requires a very large spreadsheet that lists 192 names, all the events and meetings, the points applied to each member for each activity, and a total column. Actually the system works fine in spite of it being a bit cumbersome. But as things tend to go, my computer decided to eat the entire spreadsheet at about mid-year. I needed to go back to the beginning and reenter all the data for the first half of the year and then catch up to the current time. Well the fact is, all was done and correct, and in plenty of time to get the awards ready for Bob Benson's signature before the party got under way.

But enough about me; let's get on with the PARTY! The roads were dry and the air was crisp this December 9th evening. The place was The Crown Plaza Cabana, in Palo Alto. It was a beautiful setting for such a sight as the lovely silver Pantera of Larry & Donna Finch sitting under the portico at the hotel's main entrance.

Inside, the dining area was set up and decorated by Diane Dean and her trusty crew of volunteers, without whom it would be just like eating at any restaurant you might pick from a phone book. Raffle Master, Roger Sharp, must have needed a big U-Haul van to bring all the prizes he had laid out for the evening raffle. It was clear that the set-up crews had been there for some time as Jim Kuehne and Roger were



Howard and Sharon Renshaw were feeling Empty Nest Syndrome after selling their Pantera to Howard III to fund the purchase of a new Chevy Edsel, er, SSR. They both remained active PCNC members, and they have just rectified their situation by purchasing the Pantera of the late Bill Santos! The car is currently undergoing restoration

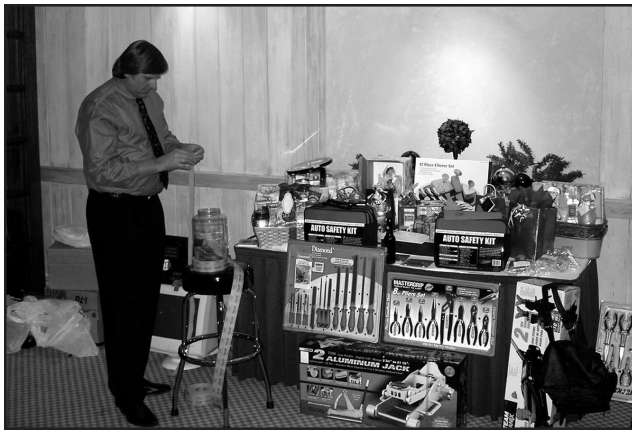
standing by a small collection of empty beer bottles.

(Let me see, at a rate of one beer every thirty minutes, two drinkers, and seven empty bottles, that would mean they arrived about an hour and 45 minutes before I did. I have no idea if the empty beer bottle clock is accurate or not, but I may be on to something. Perhaps this could be the subject of some sort of college thesis, or some type of worldwide contest to find the beer drinker with the most consistent rate of consumption, not the highest rate, but the most consistent over say several two or six-hour periods. Can a good drinker, without looking at a clock, pace him or herself consistently enough so that time could be told by the number of empty bottles? I can see it now: "National Observatory chucks Atomic Clock in favor of Beer Clock". NASCAR fans, the line forms on the right.)

Stupid theories aside, the room soon filled with the rest of the attendees: there were the Haneys and Howard the second & Sharon Renshaw, over there the Dalcinos and the Goodharts. But what's this: former members Marcus & Irene Smith? They have just re-joined after many years where they just sub-



PCNC members came from far and wide to enjoy the traditional end-of-year fellowship. The tables were all decorated and everyone received a gift box filled with chocolates and Christmas card holders



Bob Benson prepares to hustle more raffle tickets, as the table (one of two!) was literally overflowing with fantastic raffle prizes, some of which were purchased by PCNC from previous raffle proceeds, and others donated both by Pantera vendors and various PCNC members. Thanks to all!

scribed to the PCNC newsletter.

Soon we were told it was time to take our places at the tables as the dinner was now being served. What was your choice: chicken Wellington, filet of beef, or the grilled sea bass with Dungeness crab? It seems that everything was good. I know mine was. And unlike last year, Doris did not come down with an illness just before the event. She did attend, and I only had to eat one dinner.

However, the same was not true with the Stocks. Larry and Shari were getting ready to leave from Carson City when their son Richard suddenly developed some kind of digestive tract flu. Shari had to stay home, and this year Larry got to eat two dinners. All went well until Larry's second dessert. It was short a little thin wafer type cookie and Larry felt cheated all the rest of the evening. He would have raised



Diane Dean graciously accepted the President's Award

a complaint with the manager, but he couldn't get up from the table to go find him.

The awards were presented at various points, and this year Diane presented event awards to all those who helped make the 2005 events go so well. This year's list of recipients included in alphabetical order: Doris Britschgi, Diane Dean, Mike Drew, Larry Finch, Brian Gentry, Kathy Gentry, Mary Ann Kono, Jim Kuehne, Bob Lucas, Mark McWhinney, Charlie Puckett, Karen Puckett, Brett Santos, Pam Sharp, and Roger Sharp. It should also be noted that several received multiple awards. Thanks to all of you, because the events really make the Club fun and interesting.

Jack DeRyke presented the Antonio Bondo Award for Creative Metal Work During Off-Track Driving. During Jack's build-up to the presentation, one could see both Roger Sharp and Jim Kuehne looking much like a couple of old hound dogs that just got caught with egg all over their faces. But soon Jack announced his selection and the award went to Jim alone. Nice work Jim, and anyone in the club would say, "Better you than me." Roger, being the puntee in their little game of Pantera football, only got a symbolic can of Bondo. It would have to be closer to a 50-gallon drum if it



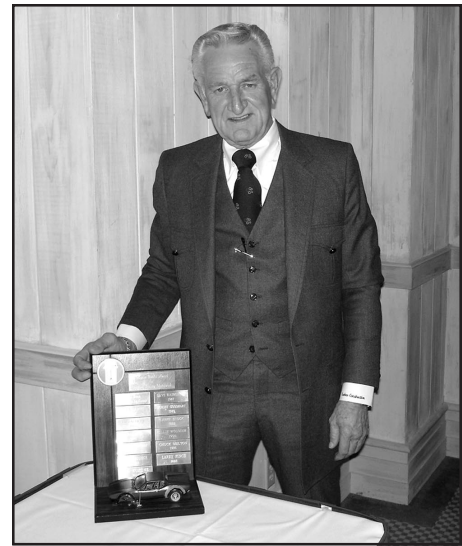
Marcus and Irene Smith haven't been seen at a PCNC event (other than the ones they host!) for many years

were meant to be more practical than symbolic.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, I handled the Most Active Member Awards. The policy is to total all the points received by each member for participation in the various activities of the Club, and the three with the highest totals are recognized as the Most Active Members. The only exception to this is that a member cannot win the award two years in row. This kind of breaks things up a little and prevents one or two very active members from monopolizing the award. This year the separation between the third and fourth points total was only 1.3 points or only slightly more than one half of one percent. Well it was Christmas time and this wasn't an autocross, so how could I deny some recognition by a half of a percentage point? This year there were four Most Active Members and they were, again in alphabetical order as always for there is no first, second and third, just the top four: Russ Britschgi, Diane Dean, Pam



The track committee members accepted their awards with some wistfulness, as Brett Santos accepted on behalf of his recently departed father, Bill



On a lighter note, the Antonio Bondo Award winner was Jim Kuehne

Sharp, and Roger Sharp. Remember, you could be one of next year's Most Active Members. Just write a few articles for the paper, host an event or two, and attend almost everything. Good Luck!

Each year the President has a chance to recognize one member for outstanding service or dedication to the club. This may be a behind-the-scenes person who would slip through the seams of the points policy, or someone who is seldom seen at club events but is out there campaigning his or her Pantera in track or concours events and thus giving both the marque and the Club public recognition. During Bob's presentation speech he said it was not an easy decision, as there were so many people who worked so much to make the Club function. He acknowledged a lot of soul-searching before making his final decision. The winner of this year's President's award was Diane Dean. In her acceptance comments, Diane noted that it was an honor to be included on an award that had in the past been won by Bill Santos. Yay, Diane! And Yay, Bill!

And now for a summary of the real spirit of Christmas, for it is as Lucy Van Pelt has said, "The Spirit of Christmas is getting. Getting while the getting is good." On with the raffle. Doris and I tried to keep track of the prizes and winners, and there should have been at least 75 of them as things got going hot and heavy from time to time. Several of the Pantera specialty parts and service suppliers donated gift certificates ranging from \$25 to \$100 in value and numbering 12 in all. Thank you to Don & Bobby Byars (Precision Performance), Larry Stock (Pantera Parts Connection) and

Steve Wilkinson (Panteras by Wilkinson). The Club appreciates your generosity and support.

Besides the many prizes Roger supplied from the raffle fund, a lot of prizes were donated by Club members such as Bob & Sue Benson, Paul DaCruz, and Todd Glycer. (I'm in trouble here, because I cannot remember everyone and have already given some people credit. Perhaps I should just say I would like to give credit to the Benson's, Paul and Todd, but can't because I don't remember the others. Would that be better?) With all these prizes the raffle could have gone on for an hour or two more than it did, but Roger, Terry Morofsky and Brett Santos worked pretty well as a team and kept things moving quickly. It seemed at the time that Paul DaCruz won every third or fourth time, but a review of the records show six wins for him and five for Mark McWhinney. The interesting thing was that perennial big-time winner Brian Bernard almost got shut out, and past Raffle Master, Larry Stock, did. Oh well, life is funny that way. With the last prize being collected, the official party broke up and many of us said our good-byes and departed. Some gathered for the unofficial continuation in Todd and

Lewisa's room or other places as it may have been.

And, as ever, it couldn't be a proper PCNC event without a tech session! Larry Stock was one of the last to leave, and when he got to the parking lot, he found his minivan had a flat tire! So out with the jack and the spare, for he had to drive over the hill to Carson City that night!

Thus officially, and unofficially, the PCNC year of 2005 was closed out. Next event: the Super Bowl Party at the Sharps'. See you there.

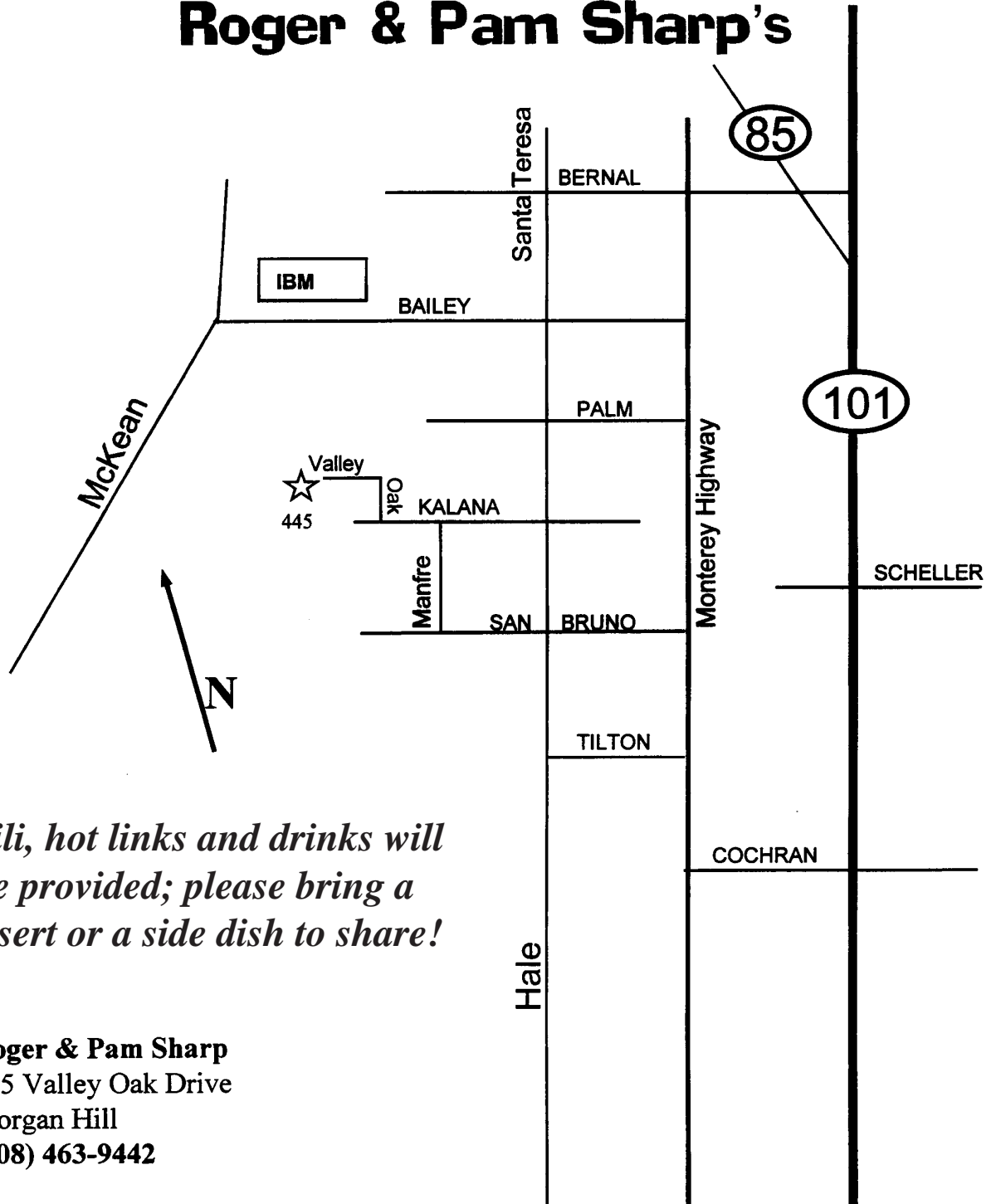


It's not a PCNC party without a tech session! In this case, it was Larry Stock changing a flat

PCNC Superbowl Party and Tech Session

Sunday, February 5, 2004
12:00 noon to ?????

Roger & Pam Sharp's



*Chili, hot links and drinks will
be provided; please bring a
dessert or a side dish to share!*

Roger & Pam Sharp
445 Valley Oak Drive
Morgan Hill
(408) 463-9442

NEXT CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY, January 26, 2006
8:00 P.M.**

**COCO'S RESTAURANT
1209 OAKMEAD PARKWAY
SUNNYVALE, CA
(Take Lawrence Expressway South Exit off Highway 101)**

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

February 5 ————— Super Bowl Party (Roger Sharp)

***If you have an idea for a club event, please contact
Diane Dean, the club's Events Coordinator!***

REMINDER — NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY 15th OF EACH MONTH

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com



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