



news

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com

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Minutes of Meeting 26 January, 2006

The meeting was called to order by the new club president, Gary Kono. All officers were present except for John Hansen, Bob Benson and Howard Renshaw. Turnout was light; there were 27 people at the meeting and only two Panteras were in the parking lot.

New Members/Guests: The club welcomed **Johnny Woods** who was visiting from England. Johnny is one of the world's most well-known Pantera owners, as he is a regular at the Las Vegas event, and his self-restored Pantera has been featured in numerous British magazines. He came to the Bay Area to escape the dreadful British winter weather, and ostensibly to help Mike Drew work on his Pantera (although it didn't turn out that way, as they were too busy visiting other club members to actually bother working on the car!)

Rich Taylor, a friend of Rich Boschert, just bought Don Baul's 1972 pre-L Pantera, #3539. The car had some critical maintenance issues (such as a terribly worn rear axle) but now that they have been overcome, Rich is using it as a daily driver!



Changes To Last Month's Minutes: Gary Kono's e-mail address was listed incorrectly last month; the correct address appears on the front page of this newsletter (and hopefully all future ones as well!)

Club Treasury Report: Jim wrote a couple of fat checks this month, paying the restaurant for the remainder of the Christmas party expenses, and placing a deposit with Spring Mountain Motorsports Park for our Las Vegas track event.

Club Store Report: The store is just about set for the Las Vegas event; John Hansen has already placed his orders to re-stock needed items, and will probably have them drop-shipped directly to the hotel. As this is the 25th anniversary of the Las Vegas Fun Rally and the 35th anniversary of the car, there was much discussion regarding the contents of the track event t-shirt and whether or not it should incorporate either of those themes. The general consensus was that the resultant shirt would be too 'busy', so we will be designing a second shirt to celebrate the aforementioned anniversaries.

Club Membership Report: Russ handed out the club's membership directory to those members who were present at the Super Bowl party (and also at the meeting); the remainder will be included with this newsletter. If you receive this newsletter without an enclosed roster, and you have not already received one in person from Russ, please contact him and he'll get one to you right away.

Club Website Report: Mark had no significant updates to announce, other than the fact that registration for the track event as well as all the event information is available on the club's site. Participants can also elect to pay for the event via PayPal when they register on-line.

Past Events:

PCNC Christmas Party: The overall consensus was that the party was a terrific success! The raffle was huge almost to the point of being ridiculous, which meant that virtually everyone walked away with a prize (although some of the usual, traditional 'big winners' got skunked). See the story in last month's newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

Team Pantera of Orange County Willow Springs Track Event — 4-5 March: This TPOC Open Track event will be featuring Panteras and Ferraris on the track that is widely known as "the fastest track in the West". It is often used by magazines for performing evaluations of cars, and is also regularly used in television commercials. This event is for pro and novice alike

with four different run groups. For information contact Jim Saxton at (626) 285-2024.

Pre-Las Vegas Tech Session — 22 April: Roger and Pam Sharp will once again open their homes to us and host the traditional pre-Vegas tech session. Larry Stock will be attending and will be bringing many parts down from Reno, but if you have any specific jobs in mind, please contact him ahead of time to ensure that he brings the parts you need. You must pre-coordinate for air conditioning service, otherwise he will not bother dragging his stash of R-12 and R-134.

Las Vegas Fun Rally — May 3-7: The ‘early bird’ deadline for a \$20 discount on the cost of the event has now passed. Even if you’re unsure if you will be able to attend, *now* is the time to be picking up the phone and making your hotel reservations, and putting pen to paper and filling out your registration form and sending your check to Kent Snyder. You can always back out for a full refund if you need to.

Be advised when making your hotel reservations that you need to spell out P-O-C-A in order to get the proper discounted rate. By coincidence, there is a *polka* group holding a convention at the hotel at the same time, and their rooms are all sold out! Kent Snyder found this out when he called to make his own room reservation for his own event and initially was told that they had no rooms remaining for his group!

Marcus Smith was at the meeting and volunteered to host an enroute brunch at his home in Pine Grove, so that is the probable ‘scenic route’ that we will take, but of course it is all dependent upon the weather. Stay tuned for updates in the next few months.

Las Vegas Speed Trials — May 4-5: Larry Finch is fine-tuning the track event arrangements. This year’s t-shirt design is courtesy of Chuck Engles in Oklahoma City. We will be running on the same track as last year (the ‘short’ track), but will hopefully have access to the full 3.7 mile long course for the lunch time drive-around. Our cost to run the longer track would increase by \$2250 each day, which means the participant registration cost would go up by \$150 (for both days), so for now, we’re sticking with what we have. We will take a poll of the drivers this year and ask them what their thoughts are; if enough of them are willing to commit to running the long course, we will seriously explore expanding the event for next year.

The caterers that we used last year are unavailable for us this year, so Larry is hunting down alternate food and beverage sources. The track workers and ambulance service are both dialed in; we are importing our track workers from the Los Angeles area this year, but even including the hotel expenses we are incurring on their behalf, we are actually saving money compared to the cost of the local workers last year.

There was discussion about having a no-kidding fire truck from the local fire department positioned at the track, but doing so would add \$1500 to the cost of the event, so that idea was rejected as unnecessary and impractical, given that the town fire department is just a mile away from the track.

There will be *no* tech inspections conducted at the track this year; instead, drivers will be required to have their cars inspected prior to the event. A list of approved inspection site will appear in the next POCA newsletter, and is also featured on our website.

Monterey Historics Races/Concorso Italiano — 17-20 August: Last year, a few people got confused and accidentally registered with Pantera International, thinking that they were registering with us! When they became aware of their mistake, they were told there were no refunds, so they were forced to stay in downtown Monterey. To alleviate this problem, we will

generate much more advance publicity for the event in the POCA newsletter. Also, instead of tightly holding onto the rooms for PCNC members only until a relatively late date, we will instead only offer an exclusive arrangement until the end of February, at which point registration will be opened up to all POCA members. A \$100 deposit is required to hold your room; the event costs are still being worked out but will likely be very similar to last year.

One of the themes of the Concorso Italiano is the 35th anniversary of the Pantera, so it stands to reason that there will be a higher-than-normal number of De Tomaso devotees present, so plan accordingly!

Club Business:

New POCA Publications Manager?: Gary Kono reported on the results of a conference call with the other POCA chapter presidents and the POCA president. Among the items discussed was a proposed plan to combine *Profiles* and the POCA newsletter into one bi-monthly publication. To facilitate this, the club is looking for a single individual who would be willing to physically construct the new publication, leaving the current editors free to concentrate on generating and soliciting material to go into it. The job would require considerable desktop publishing experience and a fair time commitment, and could possibly be a paid position. Contact John Taphorn if you are both interested and qualified.

Buy/Sell/Swap:

Pantera Service Platforms: Johnny Woods showed photos of a dedicated service platform that he has invented; it fits into the engine compartment and gives a comfortable perch from which to perform various engine-related service tasks. Anybody who has spent hours hunched over the engine with the ZF ribs digging into their knees will appreciate this! You can contact him at JohnnyRWoods@aol.com or visit his website at



<http://www.woodsautomotive.co.uk/> for more information.

Mirrors For Sale: Chuck Melton had some rear view mirrors for sale, although they came out and were hidden again so fast that most of us didn't get a chance to see what kind they were!

Garage Clean-Out Sale: Darryl Johnson is cleaning out his garage as his Winchester Mystery Pantera restoration begins to draw to a close. Among the things taking up needed space are a very healthy and very hot 351 Cleveland, a pair of nearly-new Pirelli P-Zero 345-35/15 rear tires, some used matching 285/40-15 front tires, and lots of original stuck stuff, including brakes,

shocks, etc. If you have needs, contact Darryl and perhaps he can help you out!

News, Clues and Rumors:

Happy Reunion: Marcus Smith shared the amazing story of how he came to once again be a Pantera owner! He originally bought his car in the '80s and restored it himself down to the last screw. He and Irene enjoyed the car for years, and only sold it under duress in 1996 when financial pressures became too much to bear. The person he sold it to eventually became an American Airlines pilot, who subsequently lost his job after the 9/11 attack and is now having to change careers entirely.

Meanwhile, Marcus' financial fortunes have turned around, and the two of them had maintained contact all this time. So over the winter, quietly a deal was struck, and Marcus was able to re-purchase his old car! The interim owner had only driven it 3000 miles in ten years.

Marcus drove out to Texas in his RV and towed it back home, and after a little TLC including a carb overhaul, it's now fully up-to-speed.

Marcus initially put a limited amount of mileage on his car insurance, but he's having so much fun with it that he's nearly consumed his annual mileage allotment in the first two months! So he's getting ready to call his agent and increase the allowable mileage limit....

Johnny Woods Whirlwind Tour: Johnny Woods was looking just a bit bleary-eyed, and Mike Drew explained that he was helping ensure that Johnny got the most from his short vacation to the Bay Area. The day before, Johnny had departed his home in Devon (in the west of England) at about 1:30 a.m., took a bus up to Heathrow, waited six hours for a flight and then flown 11 hours to San Francisco, arriving mid-afternoon. Mike picked him up, and immediately drove him to Larry Wu's house where they held an in-depth technical conference on HID headlight conversions.

From there, they drove across the bay to Doug Abadie's house where a tech session ensued, removing Doug's decklid in preparation for an engine swap to take place in March/April.

After that, it was back on the road to Harbor Freight Tools where Johnny loaded up on all sorts of goodies, and then they made another stop at the home of a local racer, before finally arriving at Mike's house late that evening.

After being awake for a day and a half, Johnny was ready for a good night's rest! He woke up Thursday morning at a reasonable hour and subsequently suffered no jet lag at all!

Driving For Dinner Raffle: The winner of a free dinner was Marcus Smith.

Raffle Results: Roger Sharp and Brett Santos again passed the hat with the following results:

Angle grinder — Gary Kono
Hand cleaning towels — Mark McWhinney
Cigar cutter — Chuck Melton
Mustang book — Gary Kovacs
Bottle of Wine — Mark Savage (twice!)
Note pad — Curt Hall
Calendar — Curt Hall

The meeting adjourned at about 9:20, although due to the cold many preferred to remain inside and chat, with the final departure just shortly before midnight.

Membership News

New Members for January & February:

Richard & Lisa Taylor of San Jose: Richard was at our January dinner meeting and enjoyed our company so much that he joined right after the meeting. Richard and Lisa have several Chrysler muscle cars from the '60s and '70s as well as a Viper. They just bought a light blue Pantera that looks as if it could use a lot of TLC. This club is the place to come to for advice and even a little help from time to time if the beer is cold. Nice to have you as members.

David and Rose Lee Sandlin of San Jose. This couple joined thru POCA and are looking for a good drivable Pantera. I was hoping they could find some time to drop in on the Super Bowl Party but I guess that just didn't happen. In any event, I am sure one or both of them will make one of our upcoming meetings at Coco's. Welcome to the club.

January Membership Anniversaries:

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

Philip Miller: thirteen years

Steve & Linda Liebenow: nine years

Larry & Nowassa Henley: three years

Curt Hall: six years

Lincoln Auperin: three years

Joel & Sheryl Montero: three years

Chris McAllister: two years

Jay Leone: one year

Barry & Kimberlee Muller: ten years

Kris Hearn: seven years

Dave Baxter: one year

Terry & Sheri Morofsky: six years

Gerald & Carole McGinness: three years

Carlo & Carol Bertocchini: two years

Doug & Terri Braun: one year

February Membership Anniversaries:

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

Kay Schwartz & Doug Abadie: sixteen years

Michael & Roxanne Fertitta: thirteen years

Roger Whiting: eight years

John & Merv Bentley: six years

James & Linda Rosenburgh: five years

Hans Schulz: one year

Lyn Murray & James Dursi: sixteen years

Larry & Dee Dee Laino: twelve years

John & Connie Hansen: seven years

Dennis Turrin: six years

Pat & Becky Dolan: one year

New Membership Rosters:

The 2006 Membership Roster was printed in time for distribution at the Super Bowl Party. At that time I handed out 34 of them to club members. The remaining 116 members should have received their copy with the mailing of this newsletter. If you are a full club member and have not gotten your new roster please let me know. I am Russ Britschgi, your friendly Membership Coordinator, and can be reached by mail, phone or e-mail at 43 Carlyn Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008 or (408) 866-1677, or RnDBrit@earthlink.net .

PCNC Super Bowl Party

Story and Photos by Mike Drew

Roger and Pam Sharp once again opened up their home to the members of the Pantera Club of Northern California for an all-day get-together and tech session timed to coincide with some sort of sporting event that was broadcast on TV. Club members came from as far away as Reno and Minden, Nevada to join the proceedings.

The weather was spectacular and thus the turnout of fine cars was assured. Almost a dozen Panteras and one Mangusta graced the Sharp's expansive driveway, joined by such esoteric machinery as a painstakingly hand-crafted perfect replica of a 1954 Jaguar D-type race car, and a Triumph-based Rat Rod featuring with a Mustang motor under the hood!

As everyone had brought a dish to share, the kitchen was filled to the point of bursting with different types of foods and desserts. The grill was going almost from the start, and periodically somebody would circulate with a platter of spicy



Gary Kono hosted his first board meeting as the new PCNC president, and numerous issues pertaining to the administration of the club were discussed at length

sausages on toothpicks, feeding the crowd.

There were various technical projects underway. Garth Rodericks Assumed The Position and crawled under his dash

to replace a faulty turn signal switch, while Shelly Monfort attended to a few minor issues on her Pantera as well.

Dianne Dean's Pantera was having taillight issues, which are normally fairly easily sorted out (such problems are almost always due to either a poor connection at the wiring harness junction block, or a faulty ground). Tom Galli spent a fair bit of time trying to sort things out, with no success unfortunately. As an in-depth probing was outside the scope of this party, the problem was left to be dealt with another day.

Steve Dalcino was having rear wheel bearing issues; he had shipped his uprights to Larry Stock to have new bearings installed, but felt that there was undue play remaining on one side.



Guy Dellavecchia's Rat Rod Triumph exuded...well, it certainly had personality!



The Sharp's driveway was absolutely packed with Panteras (and Steve Liebenow's Mangusta). Club members had come from far and wide to enjoy the first formal event of the season.

So he brought his carrier to the meeting, and Larry duly pressed it apart again, installed another new set of bearings, and the play remained. New axle time, perhaps?

Guy Dellavecchia's Triumph drew a lot of curious onlookers as well as admirers. This decidedly anti-establishment ride is a hodge-podge of parts from various sources; the basic Triumph shell has been equipped with the independent front suspension from a Mustang II, which also donated its 302 V-8 and transmission to the cause. The side-pipes were cobbled together from scraps (as, indeed, was the entire car), and the home-made roll bar is merely resting in place, neither bolted nor welded (same for the driver's seat). The tires are dry-rotted and bald, and the brakes? Well, let's just hope it has some.



Larry Stock mans the press, removing perfectly good wheel bearings and replacing them with another set of perfectly good wheel bearings. New axle, anyone?

And yet, the car just exudes charisma and a sense of reckless abandon and fun that has virtually disappeared from our sanitized-for-your-protection lives.

Similarly celebrating bygone days, yet at the complete opposite end of the collector car spectrum, Mike Stewart and Chuck Melton arrived driving a Temporo recreation of a 1954 short-nose D-type Jaguar, one of the world's most desirable automobiles. Painstakingly accurate, the car was created by hand in New Zealand and features a hand-made aluminum body and chassis, with drivetrain based on the Jaguar E-type. The hotbed-up motor generates more than 300 horsepower and the car weighs around 1900 pounds, so it certainly scoots right along, capable of top speeds in the 175 mph range.

Mid-afternoon, the club's officers gathered in the dining room for a board meeting, during which numerous items were discussed, principally surrounding the various upcoming events being planned for the year. Additionally, there was some discussion regarding the idea of separating the club's newsletter editor and secretary functions, so that a full-time secretary/note taker could be tasked with those chores, leaving the newsletter editor free to compile articles and information to create the newsletter. Such a move would require a change to the club's bylaws, so if it indeed goes

forth, it will require a vote of the club members and won't take effect until next year.

Larry Finch had lots of information to share about the track event, and various details were discussed at length.

During the entire day, televisions were on all over the house as some people became engrossed in a sporting contest of some type. Periodic glances at the screen revealed images of armored men bashing into one another and periodically running with or tossing an oblong-shaped ball of some sort. The point of this exercise eluded many of us, but others seemed to have had some sort of grasp of what was happening, as periodically there would emit a great cheer or gasp of disappointment from those who were following the proceedings. Additionally, a rather complex-looking matrix was circulated with various numbers and Xs on it, and periodically small amounts of money were exchanged in what appeared to be some sort of quasi-religious ceremony.

After the contest ended, some people began to filter away while others remained behind to continue enjoying the company. The last guests (save those who were spending the night) left sometime around 11:00 p.m.

Once again, it was another successful club party, thanks to the generosity and kindness of Pam and Roger Sharp!



It takes a truly sick man to have this much fun while working in such an uncomfortable position! Here Garth Rodericks tackles a faulty turn signal switch on his beautiful daily-driver pre-L Pantera

NEXT CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY, February 23, 2006
8:00 P.M.**

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

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

March 4-5 ————— TPOC Open Track at Willow Springs (Jim Saxton)

April 22 ————— Pre-Las Vegas Tech Session (Roger Sharp)

May 3-7 ————— Las Vegas Fun Rally (Kent Snyder)

May 4-5 ————— Las Vegas Speed Trials (Larry Finch)

REMINDER — NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY 15th OF EACH MONTH

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