



news

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com

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Minutes of Meeting 30 October, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the president at 8:03 p.m. All officers were present except for the Renshaws, and Doris Britschgi. There were 33 club members present, but due to the rainfall outside, there were no De Tomaso cars in the parking lot. Tony Blevins brought his TVR however; given that it's from England, it's undoubtedly used to rain!

New Members/Guests: There were no new members this month.

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

Club Treasury Report: Steve reported that 'we have beans'; in fact the treasury is reasonably robust right now.

Club Store Report: In light of the inclement weather, Richard brought various Pantera hats (available for \$20). He also has club sweatshirts available, either with or without hoods.

Club Motorsports Report: Larry Finch reported that the PCNC board has formally approved the funding for the track event in Reno in conjunction with the POCA Fun Rally. We will be running on a much longer and better track than we were used to running in Pahrump, but this comes at a price. The track rental fee is higher, ambulance fees are much higher, and we will need more corner workers. On the upside, there will be some savings because we won't have to buy hotel rooms for the corner workers.

The overall cost increase to stage the event will result in the entry fees being raised slightly (\$50 per day). The proposed budget is based upon entry and sponsorship levels similar to what we experienced this year, and the projections have us not quite breaking even, i.e. incurring a slight loss.

Jim Kuehne and Roger Sharp would like to retire from their duties as pit marshalls, and so we are looking for volunteers (or perhaps a team of volunteers) to take on their duties. On-the-job training will be provided! If you are going to be at the track, but won't be driving your car, why not volunteer a half-day to help out?

Club Membership Report: Russ reported that yes, in fact, we have club members! However, he had nothing new to report this month.

Club Website Report: Mark reported that the PCNC website has been updated with information about the latest upcoming events; he also took the opportunity to herald the arrival of the new POCA website, which now includes photo hosting among its many features. Check it out at www.poca.com

Past Events:

Dyno Day: The Dyno Day at the Sharp's was a resounding success. We ran 26 cars on the dyno, with none of them suffering any problems (other than a Corvette that sucked in a starter shroud, which had been defective to start with).

Roger had a friend run his Pantera for him, and he spun it all the way to 8000 rpm! Due to fairly profound inaccuracies with the dyno, all the numbers are suspect, but undoubtedly Roger and Darryl Johnson posted the biggest numbers of the day. Darryl's printout showed 578 ft/lbs and 440 hp, but for a variety of reasons, those should be taken with a healthy grain of salt.

Roger had a lot of help running the dyno, so he was able to attend to other matters, and he thanked the group of volunteers who pitched in. In turn, the group thanked Roger and Pam for hosting yet another terrific event. Due to a bit of optimism regarding attendance, Roger said that they will be eating hot dogs for the rest of their lives!

See the article elsewhere in this issue.

Comedy Day In The Park: Although historically this event is characterized by abundant sunshine, this year was different, with a thick fog and cold wind blowing across Golden Gate Park. PCNC was the only car club represented at the car show, with three Panteras and two Mangustas on display. Vandalism was kept at bay by virtue of the fact that the San Francisco police department recruiting tent was positioned immediately alongside the car display!

See the article elsewhere in this issue.

All-Italian Car Show In Alameda: Tony Blevins reported on this very low-key car gather-

ing of Italian cars. He said there were about 150 cars, including three seriously significant Ferraris which had been displayed just a few weeks earlier at the Pebble Beach Concours. The Italian food was great, but the cars weren't parked by marque, so it was a bit haphazard.

An article on this event will be printed in next month's newsletter.

Chuck's Clutch R&R Tech Session: Chuck Melton's clutch has been bad for many years, and after the dyno day he finally decided to do something about it. He drove it to Jim Kuehne's shop, where they were joined by Roger Sharp. Jim and Roger made short work of pulling the gearbox, revealing a thoroughly toasted clutch. After some conversing and speculation regarding the state of Chuck's engine (reportedly on the verge of self-destruction), it was decided to install a good, used, stock clutch from Jimmy's parts stash—in fact Jim had retrieved the clutch from his dumpster just a few weeks earlier, wisely having second thoughts about throwing it away!

Upcoming Events:

PCNC November Meeting — 20 November (ONE WEEK EARLY!): Due to the conflict with Thanksgiving, the November PCNC meeting will be held one week early at the usual time and location.

PCNC Christmas Party — 19 December: For the past several years, we have been chasing a particular chef (Henri) from one location to another. We made our reservations at Trader Vic's when he was still there, but he has since moved on, so this will be our first non-Henri dinner in as long as we can remember. It should still be great though! See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

Super Bowl Party — 1 February: The club is looking for somebody to volunteer to host the annual Super Bowl party. If you're interested, please let Garry know as soon as possible.

Alignment Shop Open House — Date TBA: Some of the former employees of Custom Alignment have opened their own shop in Gilroy called Performance Art (<http://www.performanceartonline.com/>) and have invited PCNC to join some other car clubs when they host an open house and shop tour, sometime in the early spring.

Club Business:

POCA Fun Rally Moving To Reno: After counting the ballots, the members of POCA have voted to move the Fun Rally to Reno for the first time, by a two-to-one margin. Arrangements have already been made to host the track event, and all the other events are lining up nicely as well.

PCNC Elections: It is once again time for the club to elect a slate of officers. Currently, all candidates are running unopposed. Garth Rodericks has stepped forward to run for PCNC president. See the absentee ballot elsewhere in this newsletter. A vote will be held at the November meeting and the results announced at the Christmas party.

POCA Elections: Four offices are up for grabs in the POCA elections as well. Three of the incumbent candidates are running unopposed, while Mike Thomas (president of the Panteras Northwest chapter of POCA) is competing against Judy DeRyke to serve as POCA VP.

PCNC Charity Vote: At the November meeting, we will be voting to decide which charities will receive a donation from PCNC's benevolent fund. A listing of the candidate charities can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. If you can't be present, please let Russ Britschgi know your wishes.

Christmas Party Donations: Mike Drew will soon contact all the Pantera vendors, as well as numerous other aftermarket parts suppliers, seeking donations to the annual PCNC Christmas Party Raffle. If you have items you would like to contribute, please contact Garth Rodericks.

Buy/Sell/Swap:

Group 4 Taillights: Larry Finch is widely known as the preeminent source for these hard-to-find taillights. He brought a restored pair of Altissimo lights (which differ very slightly from the more normally encountered Carello lights), which look and function as new, on offer for \$375.

News, Clues and Rumors:

Nearing The Finish Line: Gary Kono's new 351C is nearing completion. His old motor was absolutely astounding, but short-lived in terms of mileage. His new motor has a 30 less power, a bit more torque, 1000 less peak rpm, and hopefully will last a lot longer! Now he needs to get a crew together to help stick it back into the car.

His motor was equipped with a large-cap distributor, never a good idea in a Pantera. The cap had worn against the back of the firewall, causing one of his plug wires to slice open (and that wire to ground against the firewall, perhaps leading to a miss which contributed to the demise of the engine). His engine builder discovered the problem when he started the new engine for the first time and was comprehensively zapped!

Needless to say, his engine now has a proper small-base distributor!

Can't Win For Losing: Peter Kovacs just got his Pantera out of a shop, and decided to drive it to work. He came out at the end of the day to find a big tire scuff from an SUV (with resultant dent) in the middle of his door. DOH!

Driving For Dinner Raffle: Although there was no winner by virtue of the fact that there were no De Tomaso cars present, Tony Blevins was again given recognition for braving the elements in his TVR!

Raffle Results: Garth and Brett passed the hat once again, with the following results:

Head light — Brett Santos
Pepper spray — Jim Kuehne
Stethoscope — Mario Sousa
Matchbox Pantera — Ron Demaradios
ZF drain plug tool — Roger Sharp
LED flashlight — Darryl Johnson

The meeting adjourned (not to the parking lot this time) at 9:14.

Charities Vote

By Russ Britschgi

It is time again for you, the members of PCNC, to decide which charities should be the recipients of the chapter's benevolence funds. Last year the benevolence fund was set at \$1,000. The bulk of this fund comes from the club store sales at the Las Vegas Fun Rally. But additional funding comes from the club raffles and other activities.

A ballot will be available at our November meeting for you to make your selections. The benevolence funds will be divided equally between the two with the most votes.

Six of the following seven charities have been on the ballot in the past. There will also be a blank space for write-in charities.

The charities are:

New Horizon School for Homeless Children: (A donation was made in 2004 and '05.)

This charity is located in Santa Cruz and serves the needs of those kids whose parents may be out of work and out of a home in the areas of Santa Cruz and Watsonville. For children, homelessness is well beyond their control. They are the ones who suffer the most and understand the least.

Alzheimer's Association, Northern California & Nevada: (Placed on our list for the first time this year.)

Alzheimer's is a very slow degenerative disease of the mind for which there is no known cure. It can easily take over 10 years for it to run its course and end in death. Alzheimer's is often the subject of humor with jokes about forgetfulness and repetitive actions, etc., but for the victim and those family members and friends who support and care for the victim there is little humor at all.

The Alzheimer's Association serves as a support group for those bearing the burden of caring for and attending to the needs of the victim, and also as an advocate for funding for research into the cause and the finding of a cure.

Alzheimer's is just one of the forms of premature senility that can start as early as age 40. If you have not yet had experience with these diseases, you will. Perhaps an aunt, an uncle, a friend, a parent, a spouse, or even you.

Canine Companions: (A donation was made in 1996, '01 and '05.)

Based in Marin County, this organization provides dogs trained to assist people with what for most of us is just normal living.

These dogs may be used by paraplegics or quadriplegics for such tasks as opening doors or for retrieving items that have been dropped. They may serve as the ears for someone who cannot hear such things as doorbells and audible warning devices.

The American Cancer Society: (Donations were made in 1995, '97, '98, '99, '00 and '06.)

As a national organization, the Cancer Society has long been at the front in the fight against cancer. It is dedicated to the elimination of cancer through prevention, the saving of lives, and the diminishing of suffering through research, education and service. Cancer can be a slow and insidious disease which puts a great deal of stress on both the victim and the victim's family and friends.

While our small donations may not appear that big when it comes to the funding of a research project, it can certainly help to pay for a support group or to supply someone with needed medical equipment. (The 1998 donation was actually made to the cancer research program at Stanford University Medical Center in honor of Ellis Woummn.)

Guide Dogs for the Blind: (Donations were made in 1990, '91, '93, '94, '96, '00, '01, '02, '04, '06 and '07.)

This San Rafael based charity was incorporated over 55 years ago. It has been breeding, raising and training dogs to serve as the eyes for blind people ever since. Last year, over 1,000 puppies started the process of learning to assist those without sight.

The Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation: (A donation was made in 1998, '99, '02 and '07.)

The Make-A-Wish Foundation was founded as a non-profit organization in 1980 in response to the wish of

a terminally-ill boy who wanted to be a policeman. Officers of the Arizona Department of Public Safety granted Chris Greicius his wish with a custom-made uniform, a helmet, a badge, a ticket book and a helicopter ride. This one child's delight in having his wish come true provided the impetus for the creation of a national organization.

Since the Greater Bay Area Chapter was formed in 1984, well over 1,500 wishes have been granted to kids and children not expected to survive to age 18.

The Bay Area Chapter of the ALS Association: (A donation was made in 2002.)

A few years ago amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, claimed the life of former PCNC member, Chuck Brown. This cruel disease slowly takes away your ability to walk, stand, use your arms and hands till finally you can't talk or breathe. Its progress is slow and steady. Both the victim and the family members can see its progress week by week.

The ALS Association is the only national not-for-profit voluntary health organization whose sole mission is to find a cure, and to bring hope and comfort to people living with ALS, as well as their families and care givers. It also provides referral services, support groups, and respite care, and lends equipment.

Summary:

Please give these few charities some thought and make your choices wisely.

Membership News

New Members for November:

Because of the quick turnaround for the printing of this newsletter, the meeting being held a week earlier than usual due to Thanksgiving, there has been no time to process any new memberships. Thus we have no new members this month.

November Membership Anniversaries:

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

Rod and Irina Pack: 27 years

Erik Belter: 16 years

Mike and Cheryl Harper: 14 years

Keith and Cindy Gilmore: 11 years

Todd Glycer and Renee LoVette: 10 years

Bob Benson: 7 years

Paul Bowden: 2 years

Robert and Theresa Jones: 1 year

Byron and Jean Hight: 20 years

Roger and Elana Thomas: 15 years

Ken and Beth Ingels: 12 years

Steve and Linda Bogart: 10 years

Jason Eaton: 9 years

Mike and Lisa Stauber: 7 years

Patrick King: 2 years

Kim and Craig Kuenzinger: 1 year

New Membership Rosters Will be Printed the Second Week of January:

- 1) If you do not wish to have your address, phone number(s), and/or car information listed, you must notify the PCNC Membership Coordinator.
- 2) If the data in the current Roster has changed, please be sure the Membership Coordinator has the correct info on file.
- 3) Your E-mail address can be included if you give it to the Membership Coordinator.
- 4) The Membership Coordinator is Russ Britschgi, 143 Carlyn Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008. You may call and leave a message at 408/866-1677, or send E-mail to: RnDBrit@earthlink.net.

Dyno Day Tech Session

Story and Photos by Mike Drew

On a beautiful fall day, the members of PCNC once again gathered at the spacious home of Roger and Pam Sharp for a truly spectacular tech session. While historically these sessions have focused on sharing labor to solve technical problems, this event was special.

A couple named Al and Deb Cox, of Cox Performance Motorsports (www.coxperformance.com) hauled a portable chassis dyno down from their shop near Clearlake and set it up in Roger's driveway!

By 9:00 a.m., Panteras were already rolling in, and soon John Columbero was the first to take to the rollers. Leaving nothing to chance, he donned his Snoopy leather flying helmet and put the pedal to the metal!

Steve Liebenow and Jim Kuehne worked all day, strapping cars down and then releasing them after they were finished, while Mike Drew took on the cat-herding responsibilities, getting each driver ready to take his turn on the dyno.

Unfortunately, the dyno was not



Jim Kuehne used the dyno to try to find an elusive vibration—without success unfortunately.

the industry-standard Dynojet, but rather a Brand X model. Furthermore, Al and Deb seemed rather unsure as to exactly how to operate it correctly, and as a result, many of the results seemed rather dubious. Each car would get two pulls, and while most of the time, the results were similar, in some cases they would vary wildly from one pull to the next, leaving the accuracy of the results very much in doubt.

Nonetheless, it was clear that some cars were substantially stronger than others, led by Darryl Johnson's monster 460-based stroker. Even if the calculated numbers of 578 ft/lbs and 440 hp at the wheels aren't accurate, they are at least indicative of the fact that his car has a lot of power!!!!



Steve Liebenow's Mangusta shed a fair bit of smoke, but sounded great!



John Columbero did everything possible to get the best numbers, including wearing his leather flying helmet!





A little bit of technical work was undertaken, as Peter Kovacs' Pantera rattled some rocker arms loose, and Garry Choate had a water hose split—fortunately the hose was long enough to allow him to cut the end off and slide it forward

Jim Kuehne's Pantera has a fairly pronounced vibration problem, and he's had a heck of a time trying to find the cause. The dyno was an excellent tool; he stood with his nose in the engine bay as the operator ran the car, but couldn't see anything visibly wrong. It's likely to be a fundamental engine/clutch balance problem, unfortunately.

Although the dyno was the center of attention, there was a lot going on elsewhere on the property. A car detailing company had set up a display booth on the far side of the lawn, and had three of their classic Chevys on display. A couple of Mopar drag racers brought their race cars out onto the



The Sharp's lawn was absolutely covered with Panteras

lawn, one of which boasted a 2000 horsepower hemi! He lit it off several times during the day, much to the crowd's delight, and he autographed the driveway at the end of the day as well!

Music of a more traditional nature could be found nearby, as a six-piece blues band played all afternoon.

Of course, Todd Glycer was

beaver away behind the grill. Roger wanted to keep things simple this time, so instead of tri-tip etc., he just bought hot dogs for everybody. He had anticipated crowds in the hundreds and had shopped accordingly; the Pantera gang came but the local hot rodders didn't, meaning that Roger and Pam will be eating hot dogs for the next 40 years!



This monster Mopar drag car lit off with over 2000 horsepower blasting through straight zoomie headers!



Spectators took up position under a large shade tree and watched the action on the dyno



A six-piece blues band played all afternoon



Meanwhile, the kids splashed around in the pool

A beautiful Corvette with a full-race high-compression engine was one of the last cars on the dyno, and it was the only mechanical casualty of the day. Vacuum from the spinning flywheel sucked in the tin starter shield (which had a defect), which struck the ring gear and made a hell of a noise! It was worrisome at first, but fortunately easily diagnosed, and fixing it will be as simple as popping the transmission out and replacing the shield.

One of the last vehicles to get on the rollers was Barry Hosier's classic Ford Bronco. After ensuring that it was in two wheel drive only (!), he romped on it and came up with 130 horsepower or something like that. He then took Russ Britschgi next door, where some kids had flooded a field, and proceeded



Roger's buddy took the wheel of his car and spun it to 8000 rpm for him!

to fly back and forth through the mud. (What he failed to recognize at the time was the fact that the entire field consisted of many years of compressed cow dung! So when he got the truck home, it stank up his garage something awful!)

Overall, this event was a resounding success. The dyno operator ran 26 or 27 cars, with Treasure Steve collect-

ing enough from each driver to cover Roger's costs, more or less. Every Pantera drove home under its own power, and a great and memorable time was had by all. What more could you ask for?

Thanks again to Roger and Pam Sharp for both hosting the event, and doing all the coordination necessary to pull it off!



Barry Hosier ran his Bronco on the dyno, then took Russ Britschgi for a wild ride through a pile of soaked horse dung!



Comedy Day in Golden Gate Park

Story by Mark McWhinney

Photos by Mike Drew

Comedy Day has been a fantastic event for us for the last few years. It is a “battle of the bands” style event with 30 comedians from around the country doing 5 to 10 minute sets over the course of five hours. It is held in an open field in Sharon Meadows in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park. It is open to the public with thousands of people gathered around the main stage. Of course, what is comedy without a collection of exotic Italian cars? So naturally, we have a car corral next to the stage with De Tomaso and other Italian rolling art.

On September 28th, as in the past years, we started a caravan to the event from a spot near the house of the late, great Bill Santos. Though Bill is no longer with us, we have continued that tradition.

The group departed at 9:30 and headed up highway 280 then popped over to the coast to take the Great Highway directly into the park. As can happen in the San Francisco area, heavy fog blanketed the highway so that we could only see the frog-eye headlights of the next car behind us. Fortunately we got through that without incident.

After the jaunt along the coast we entered the park and wound our way through to the staging area. The cars were arranged in a line alongside the audience, so everyone in the audience could get a good view of the cars as well as the performers.

Some years we have a good mix of Italian exotica. This year, it was all Panteras and two Mangustas. I think we wore out a lot of people at the dyno-day party the day before, so attendance was modest this year.

Once the cars were placed, we collected our backstage passes and our meal tickets and headed

backstage to mingle with the performers. We were given special VIP seating in an enclosed area right in front of the stage, and also enjoyed a fantastic catered lunch and drinks, all free of charge. What a deal!

This year we had comedians Will Durst, Will Franken, Diane Amos, Brian Copeland and, of course, Doug Ferrari and 30 other comedians. San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano also did a comedy routine. (The SF Board of Supervisors provides plenty of material for local comedians much like President Bush does for Leno, Letterman, and Stewart.) Unfortunately we lost Comedy Day founder Jose Simon this



Tony Blevins’ recently purchased European GTS was on display, but the park’s homeless residents seemed more intrigued by Steve Liebenow’s Mangusta

year, so there was a touching tribute to him.

We had a good day, but the unseasonably cold weather sent some people packing early. (As I write this in mid-November, it is pushing 80 degrees, so my efforts to increase global warming by driving Panteras and trucks appears to be working.)

I look forward to next year’s event with more sunshine and Panteras!



Security was assured by the fact that the cars were parked directly alongside the SFPD recruiting booth!



Nationally known political pundit Will Durst was a featured performer



2008 PCNC Christmas Party and Awards Banquet

When: Friday December 19th 7:00 to 11:00 PM.

**Location: Trader Vic's / Dinah's Garden Hotel
4261 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, Ca. 94306**

Dress: Holiday dressy

Cost: \$55.00 per person, make checks payable to PCNC.

RSVP: Menu choice and Payment by Dec. 13, 2008.

**Send to: Garry Choate
2523 Dos Rios Dr
San Ramon, Ca. 94583**

**Menu Choice: Filet of Beef, Macadamia Crusted Mahi Mahi
or Roast Chicken Murat.**

No Host Bar

**Overnight: Those wanting to stay overnight at Diana's Garden
Hotel can call, 800-227-8220 to make reservations. Ask for the
Pantera Club room block.**

**special room rates per night are: Garden Room \$95.00
Deluxe Room \$120.00**

For a Suite contact Enree Smith at (650)798-1308.

Breakfast not included

Questions: Email garryc15@comcast.net or call 925-837-2873

NEXT CLUB MEETING

THURSDAY, November 20, 2008

8:00 P.M.

ONE WEEK EARLY!

COCO'S RESTAURANT

1209 OAKMEAD PARKWAY

SUNNYVALE, CA

(Take Lawrence Expressway South Exit off Highway 101)

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

November 20 ----- PCNC Monthly Meeting (One Week Early!)

December 19 ----- PCNC Christmas Party (Garry Choate)

REMINDER — NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY 15th OF EACH MONTH

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