

# news

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com

#### Volume 39

Issue 2

#### February 2012

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## Minutes of Meeting 26 January, 2012

The meeting was called to order by the new president Forest Goodhart at exactly 8:00 p.m. All officers were present except for Mark McWhinney (he arrived a bit later) and our rafflemaster, who has yet to be chosen. There were 34 members and two De Tomaso cars present according to the sign-in roster, although it seemed there were more than two Panteras in the parking lot.

<u>New Members/Guests</u>: The club welcomed **Curtis Fischer** from Santa Clara. He used to have a '65 Sunbeam Tiger, and now he's looking for a new car to have fun with. The Pantera is on his short list of potential candidates.

Brian Welch was a PCNC member since way back in 1978. His Pantera is stripped and just

went to the body shop; he hopes to have it back on the road in two years.

John Columbero brought his son Joel, who brought his X-Box with Forza Motorsport, a projector and a screen. It's the latest generation of video games with graphics that will blow your mind. He set everything up after the meeting and several people engaged in races. Sadly, there's no Pantera in the game!

<u>Changes To Last Month's Minutes</u>: Irina Pack's name was misspelled as both Irena and Irene in the Christmas Party story. There were no other changes noted.

<u>**Club Treasury Report:**</u> New treasurer Tom Galli gave a quick run-down of recent treasury activity. He just reimbursed Russ Britschgi for two years worth of expenses. He stressed the need for more timely submission of expenses so that they can get paid and on the books. He is in the process of trying to create full financial accountability for all our financial affairs, and is putting everything on Quicken. The treasury is quite healthy, but he wants to tighten up controls so we can more accurately track income and outgo.

He has yet to receive any of the money, or accounting, from Trevor Fougere for the 2011 raffle income/expenses; he hopes to have that settled by the next meeting.

<u>**Club Store Report</u>**: Rich is about to place an order with the embroidery shop. He's ordering club jackets (either with or without hood). If you're looking for a special garment (shirt, vest, hat, whatever), please contact him. He says he plans to photograph club store items and build an ad for the newsletter.</u>

<u>**Club Membership Report</u>**: Greg Taylor gave his first membership report, and discussed our newest member, Ron Southern. He has owned his Pantera since 1976! (The photo shows it on the right, alongside a race Pantera at Sears Point, where he worked as a Bondurant Racing School instructor for ten years).</u>

He also reported on some sad losses that struck our club over the holiday period. **Todd Rodericks**, Garth's brother, lost a valiant battle with cancer that lasted only a few months. Even more shocking, **Denis Doute** passed away suddenly in his sleep a week or so later. Some PCNC members attended each of the memorial services that were held on their behalf. Both will be sorely missed.

Greg made a motion to send flowers to the loved ones of each of them, which was passed unanimously. He also plans to establish a formal policy for this sort of thing, as undoubtedly it will crop again at some point in the future.

<u>Club Name Badges Report</u>: Bob will be placing an order shortly; if you need a replacement badge, let him know.

<u>**Club Motorsports Report</u>**: Larry was pleased to announce that he didn't have much to announce, because for the first time in many years PCNC is not staging the POCA Fun Rally track event. He did share some details about the event which will be hosted by the Arizona POCA chapter, as a one-day event (Thursday) at Firebird Raceway. The track is very flat, safe, with a fair amount of runoff and a very long straight. Participation will initially be limited to POCA members, but at some point the remaining spaces will be offered up to local NASA racers, so sign up early!</u>

Larry will be organizing the De Tomaso corral for the Monterey Historics Races. The featured marque is the Shelby Cobra (celebrating its 50th year) so plan on being there!

<u>**Club Library Report</u>**: Forest will be 'dual-hatted' as both the club's president and librarian for the indefinite future. He reported no change to the library's contents since his last report.</u>

<u>**Club Website Report</u>**: The website is up-to-date with information on upcoming events, and the latest club newsletter.</u>

#### Past Events:

**PCNC Christmas Party**: Diane Dean once again put on a terrific party, with help from several other club members, and was greeted with a much-deserved round of applause.

Anti-Football Rally: Every year, the well-known local car guy Martin Swig organizes a January 1st rally through the hills of Marin county; this year three PCNC members took part. See the story elsewhere in this issue.

#### **Upcoming Events**:

<u>**Pre-Arizona Tech Session**</u> — 10 March: Bob Benson will be hosting a tech session at his wellequipped workshop in Campbell. Besides space and tools for working on cars, the workshop also has decent amenities for Significant Others who might not be overly inclined to spin wrenches. See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

**East Bay Tour** — **May TBA**: Matt Kelleher is putting together a tour of some East Bay automotive hot spots, including a stop at noted exotic car showroom Fantasy Junction for coffee, a tour of the legendary Patrick Ottis restoration shop (Pebble Beach class-winner), and also a tour of a fantastic classic spin-dizzy collection (spin-dizzys were gas-powered model cars which were tethered to a post and raced in a circle). Watch for more information in next month's newsletter.

#### Club Business:

**<u>Raffle Master Needed</u>**: Diane Dean has stepped up to serve as events coordinator for one more year, but we still are looking for a volunteer to serve as the club's raffle master. Although the hope was to nail down a volunteer no later than the Super Bowl party, no names had been put forth at the time of the meeting. If you're interested in the job, please contact Forest.

#### Buy, Sell and Swap:

**The Good Stuff**: Mike Drew brought along a supply of longer studs, necessary for mounting an aftermarket starter to the Pantera bellhousing, along with a quantity of super-ginchy ARP 12-point metric flange nuts. While a normal M10 x 1.5 nut needs a 17mm socket, he had some hardened flange nuts that use a 15mm socket and the ARP nuts which only need a 12mm socket; this makes access much easier. They are very expensive when purchased individually but cheaper when purchased in bulk, so he bought a dozen. Surprisingly, he was mobbed after the meeting and sold out!

He also brought along examples of Fel-Pro's super-duper thermostat housing gasket. While the normal gasket is simple paper and lacks durability, Fel-Pro's top-of-the-line offering is made of steel-impregnated silicone, and is reusable. He said it was made of 'compressed wonderfulness'. When Charlie McCall asked him to buy one at the local parts store, he learned that supplies had all but dried up, so he bought every one that Summit Racing had (five). He sold out of those as well!

**Blocks For Sale**: Steve Liebenow has several good 351C 2-bolt and 4-bolt blocks for sale, most original bore.

#### News, Clues and Rumors:

**Don't Pick On Pantera Guys!**: Greg Taylor told the tale of longtime PCNC member Jay Leone, who is 90 years young, and isn't the type to be pushed around by thugs. When a habitual criminal kicked in the door of his Greenbrae home and held him at gunpoint and ransacked his home, Jay managed to excuse himself to use the bathroom, where he retrieved a .357 magnum he kept there for just such an occasion. When he returned, the intruder opened fire and shot Jay once in the face (the bullet entered his cheek and exited through the back of his neck!). Jay returned fire and hit the assailant three times. They then wrestled and the intruder tried to shoot Jay with his own gun, which thankfully was empty by this time. He then escaped, drove a short distance away and then called for help, claiming he had accidentally shot himself (three times!)

Jay and the wounded intruder were both treated in the same hospital. Doctors called Jay a 'miracle man', and kudos have come in from across the country. Chuck Melton spoke with him the night of the meeting, and he told Chuck he was mad as hell, and rather uncomfortable, but understandably glad to be alive.

Jay recently had to sell his Pantera, because after he fell out of a tree (!) he injured his foot and couldn't operate the clutch any longer. Greg made a motion that PCNC recognize Jay with a one-year membership to POCA/PCNC; the motion passed unanimously.

**Russo & Steele Auction**: Doug Johnson attended the auctions in Arizona and saw several Panteras cross the block. A white '73 which was very original, looking a little tired, with a bit of a door sag issue, sold for \$39K. A very clean, fully restored yellow '74 Pantera sold for an even \$50K; after the auction Doug spoke with the seller and discovered it was Les Gray!

There were cars for sale in the parking lot as well. A '74 GTS with only 800 original miles (it was damaged in an accident when new, and never repaired until recently) was offered for \$80K, and a beautiful red Pre-L which had been extensively restored, including \$7K spent just on the leather seats, was offered for only \$66K.

**Panteras Down Under**: Mike Drew flew a C-5 to Australia, and brought with him a full set of original Gr4 Campagnolo wheels for an Australian Pantera/Deauville owner. While there, he was taken out on the town by the POCA president (Pantera Owners Club of Australia, http://www.australianpanteras.com.au/), a fellow named Joe Nardo. Joe has the bug bad—he owns a Pantera GT5, a GT5-S, a GT/4 and a Pantera Si, as well as a Longchamp Spyder! The Sydney-area owners rolled out the red carpet and they enjoyed a nice dinner together that evening.

**Big Banner**: Mike and Lori received a present from Mark Charlton in Canada; it's a six-footlong banner of the De Tomaso corporate logo. It's being mounted and will hang above Lori's closet!

Johnny Woods' Pantera Featured in Classic & Sports Car Magazine: Britisher Johnny Woods cooperated with the editors of C&SC magazine to produce a Pantera Buyer's Guide, and his car was extensively photographed for the shoot. Mike provided reams of data to the author, much of which didn't make it into the article, but they were good enough to then print an addendum in the form of a letter to the editor.

**Driving For Dinner Raffle**: The original intent of the driving for dinner raffle was to get people to bring their Panteras to the club meeting. The winner would be entitled to have *only* his dinner paid for by the club. Unfortunately, some people were abusing this and the club was paying for dinner for two instead of just one, sometimes with wine, etc. etc. so instead of the intended \$15-20, some people were

getting as much as \$60 from the club each month. So Forest has decided to suspend it unless people start buying many more regular raffle tickets, enough to cover the costs.

**Raffle Results**: As the club has yet to appoint a new rafflemaster, and the former rafflemaster wasn't at the meeting, there was no raffle for the first time in many, many years.

The meeting adjourned to the parking lot at 9:00 p.m. with the last people leaving sometime around midnight, as usual....

### **Membership News**

### New Members for February 2012:

We have three new members this month!

- **William Asbury** Fresno, CA: William purchased his Pantera, #6027, new in 1974. It has 18,000 original miles on it. I will gather more information from William after he returns from a trip.
- **Ron Southern** Sonoma, CA: Ron purchased his Pantera, # 4744, in 1976. His car has been sitting for a while but his new membership has energized him to "get going" and he was sharing stories of the corrective measures he's taking with his car, during his visit to the Super Bowl Party. He is obviously quite dedicated to the cause, as evidenced by the detailed tattoo of his Pantera that he has on his arm!
- <u>Steve Solipasso</u> Los Osos, CA: I just learned about Steve a few days ago so I sent him a welcome letter and will be following up with a phone call to gather more information.
- Unfortunately four Members appear to have dropped their membership: Dennis Antenucci, Donald Lima, Rich Mathew and Steve Neff. That makes it a net loss of one member. I plan on sending each of these "past members" a note asking what we could have done to keep them as a member. I will also ask if they have sold their cars, and if so, to whom. (Yes, I would like to pursue the cars!)

### February Membership Anniversaries:

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

Doug Abadie and Kay Schwartz:22 yearsMichael and Roxanne Fertitta:19 yearsLee Farrell:5 years

James Dursi and Lyn Murray:22 yearsLarry and Dee Dee Laino:18 years

Greg Taylor, PCNC Membership Coordinator

## **The Anti-Football Rally**

#### Story by Mike Drew Photos by Mike Drew and Matthew Kelleher

Martin Swig is widely known as an elder statesman of the historic car scene in the USA. A 40-year career in the retail automobile business (initially as a Fiat and Alfa Romeo salesman at European Motors on Van Ness avenue in San Francisco, later owner of his own Japanese and European import dealerships, and eventually the inventor of the "Auto Mall", where multiple, often competing marques are sold under one roof), he retired and started his new career as a vintage racer and historic automotive event organizer.

He is best-known for the California Mille, the salute to the legendary Italian event which features ultra-wealthy owners driving ultra-valuable historic 'Cars of Distinction' for four days through Northern California back roads, for which the participants pay a healthy \$6000(!), but he also hosts events for the less well-heeled automotive connoisseur.

Among them is the Anti-Football Rally, held each year on January 1st, when most ordinary people are glued to their TV sets watching the games on TV. This means the roads are cheerfully clear of traffic, so Martin and a few likeminded friends gather each year to celebrate the start of the new year with a fine drive through Marin and Sonoma



The Alfa Romeo 6C-2500 Mille Miglia Spyder received special CHP attention

county back roads.

PCNC member Matthew Kelleher has been active on the Northern California sports car scene since the 1950s, and has long historical connections to the Swig family. He is a regular participant on this run, and this year he invited PCNC members to come along.

While most were keenly intent on watching TV, a few took advantage of the spectacular weather and fired up their Panteras for the run.

The day starts with a gathering in the parking lot in downtown Sausalito, and coffee in the fantastic Italian bistro, called Poggio. Trevor Fougere lives right up the road, and he's always eager for seat time in his Pantera, so it was almost a given that he would be there. Lori Albino and Mike Drew came in Lori's red '71 Pantera. Matt's Pantera is still undergoing restoration, so he came in his trusty '72 Porsche 911 instead.

The parking lot was filled with the most eclectic mix of cars you could possibly imagine, ranging from classic sports cars (think 1960s and 1960s Alfa Romeos, MGs, Triumphs etc.) to exotics (Ferrari Daytona Spyder, F360 Modena, Lamborghini Miura), European



Trevor Fougere's Pantera parked alongside a Ferrari 328 GTS, a flared Mini Cooper, and a Porsche 911. Note the flagfestooned Peugeot wagon across the street



Lori Albino's '71 Pantera is in good company, parked next to Euro-bumpered Ferrari 308 GTS and an earlier Ferrari 308 GTB



Both the 1951 Tatraplan 600 and the 1954 Talbot-Lago T26 Grand Sport Coupe attracted lots of attention. One would be fortunate to spot such cars in museums, but on twisting backroads? Unheard of!

luxo-barges (Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Jaguar 420G), Japanese sportsters (Datsun 240Z, Mazda Miata), American tanks (1950s and 1960s Cadillacs and Buicks) and some truly weird and wonderful things, including an old Peugeot station wagon (French flags flying from the luggage rack), an MGB pickup truck, a pair of Saab 96s (one of them an early twostroke!), and several pre-war Citroen Traction Avants.

Certainly the most elegant car present was the 1954 Talbot-Lago T26 Grand Sport Coupe. Fresh from a complete restoration, it dripped with elegance and style. Possibly the most exciting car was a 1939 Alfa Romeo 6C-2500 Mille Miglia Spyder, a competition version of the top Alfa Romeo of the day, used for open-road racing. And without a doubt, the most unusual car was a Czechoslovakian Tatra, a 1951 Tatraplan 600. With a highly aerodynamic body, and a rearmounted air-cooled flat-four engine, it was beyond avant-garde when new, and even more surprising considering that it came from behind the Iron Curtain.

After a brief driver's meeting, the 100+ cars set off on a pleasant back roads cruise, up Hwy 1 through Olema and Point Reyes, then inland towards Petaluma. The sunshine sparkled on the waves of the Pacific, and everyone was clearly having a good time. Many stopped in Olema for a snack, while others continued on to Petaluma.

The pace was relaxed and gentle. Rather than a fangs-out sports car assault



Lori and Mike lead a convoy of classic cars along Hwy 1, arguably one of the most beautiful roads in the USA

on twisty back roads, this was a pleasant cruise, as drivers took the time to enjoy the scenery and the views of the other cars.

Upon reaching Petaluma, we stopped for a tour of the Petaluma Creamery, and many enjoyed another cop of coffee. By this point, Trevor was having some noticeable issues—his left exhaust pipe was falling off! The weld between the tailpipe flange and the tailpipe itself broke, leaving the muffler and tailpipe hanging precariously by the rubber exhaust hanger. His headers also had a fairly noticeable crack in them. So he wisely decided to bail out of the tour and return directly home, which fortunately was not far away.

Eventually the rest of us returned to our starting point in Sausalito. The Alfa Romeo Mille Migla Spyder proudly displayed not one, but *two* driving awards from the CHP on the windscreen, for passing on the double yellow line and failure to display a license plate (although to be fair, the car *did* have its vintage Italian license plate). Whoops!

We enjoyed a fantastic lunch in Poggio (no spaghetti and meatballs here; the Italian fare is all very authentic and highly eclectic) and then made our way home by the middle of the afternoon.

It was a great day out, and the Panteras garnered innumerable positive comments from the other participants. Most remarked that they hadn't seen Panteras underway on the road for quite some time, and all appreciated their terrific looks and great sound.

Next year, TIVO the games and come on out and join us!

## A Day To Remember

Story by Mike Drew Photos by Chuck Melton and Mike Drew

The members of PCNC have suffered some great losses in the past few months, including the untimely passing of Todd Rodericks. Although not a Pantera owner himself, and by his own admission, not especially interested in Panteras, Todd became a fixture at our meetings and events, attending with his brother Garth (whose passion for the marque runs as deep as anybody else's).

Todd's big, garrulous laugh and kindhearted nature immediately endeared him to all the members of PCNC, from the first time that he tagged along with his brother to attend a monthly meeting. He soon became a fixture on the PCNC scene, never missing the opportunity to give his brother a gentle jab over the fact that his Pantera engine rebuild has been taking years and years.

The last time we saw Todd at a meeting, just last fall, there was no indication that anything was amiss—indeed, he had no idea himself. But what he thought were minor problems were later diagnosed as being advanced stomach cancer, which apparently had been going on for some time.

Todd immediately was hospitalized,



We enjoyed the opportunity to meet and socialize with some of Todd's friends, and learn much more about this special man

and Garth and the entire Rodericks family rallied by his side. Through surgeries and further treatment, there was always hope for at least a short-term recovery, but it was not to be, and he passed away in December, just a few weeks after his 46th birthday.

Numerous PCNC members came out to mourn with the Rodericks family on January 7th. The memorial was made



In their Sunday best, club members surrounded the Pantera and offered up theories and advice to help get it ready for its overseas journey

more bittersweet by virtue of the fact that we were also mourning the recent passing of their father. The church was filled to overflowing with family, friends and coworkers of both men. Through testimonials and later conversations, we were able to get a much deeper insight into the person that Todd was, which made the loss feel that much greater.

But it was a beautiful, sunny day, and Pantera owners are, by nature, a cheerful folk. Rich Boschert had kindly agreed to fix up a Pantera purchased by a Norwegian fellow, before it was shipped overseas, and he was having some difficulties with it. As he spoke of it, ears perked up and people's natural instinct to help came to the fore. Before you know it, the memorial service ended and a tech session broke out, as a whole bunch of cars trooped over to Rich's house, where ideas were exchanged, tweaks performed, and test drives taken.

I have to think that this is how Todd would have liked this day to end. While the sadness persisted throughout the day, it was at least tempered somewhat by the friendship and fellowship that is endemic to this special group of people.

Godspeed, Todd. We'll all miss you....

## PRE- PHOENIX TECH SESSION at BOB BENSON'S GARAGE MARCH 10th SATURDAY STARTING at 10:00 A.M.

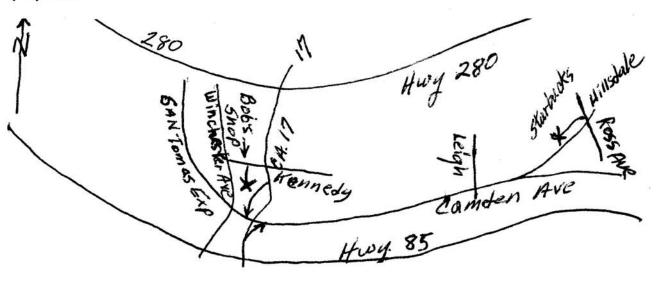


For the early Auto Enthusiasts, an option: COFFEE at STARBUCKS. Car Show Starting at 8:00A.M. See Directions Below:

Bob will have a BBQue and Kitchen with refrigerator and sink. Bring your choice of meat and utensils. Bring your own drinks and a dish or snack to share.

Bob has plenty of tools (of Course) If you need a special purpose tool for your job, bring it along. We will have a 110 amp wire welder on site.

Let us look forward to Phoenix with the comfort of knowing that we did our best to be prepared.



Regardless of where you are coming from, you will need to get to Hwy 17 (AKA Hwy 880) and get off at Camden Ave. NOTE THE OFF RAMPS. To join the doughnut & coffee crowd, at 8:00 a.m., proceed EAST on CAMDEN AVE and PAST LEIGH AVE. Bear to the LEFT & TAKE HILLSDALE AVE. When you come to ROSS AVE, make an IMMEDIATE "U" TURN that will put you in the TARGET PARKINGLOT. STARBUCKS ADDRESS: 1815 HILLSDALE AVE. Bob's garage facility will open at 10:00 A.M. GET BACK on CAMDEN AVE, cross UNDER Hwy 17 (AKA Hwy 880); TAKE WINCHESTER AVE, NORTH proceed a few blocks to KENNEDY, make a RIGHT & another RIGHT on INDUSTRIAL. Bob's shop is on the LEFT, near the end of the street – ADDRESS – 442 Industrial Ave, Campbell. Bob's cell phone number – (408) 209-7677.

Any further questions please call John Colombero or Diane Dean – phone numbers in your new 2012 Club Roster



2012 ENTRY APPLICATION

SCCA Sanctioned Event.

800 San Antonio Road, Suite 6, Palo Alto CA 94303 650-813-1100 · 650-857-0483 fax www.paconcours.com

OFFICE USE ONLY	BUS OFFICE
Received     Entry     Photo	Dinner 💭 Pat Pav 💭 Drive 🖸 Binder 🗇
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Date

Entered into Data Book by?\_\_\_\_/

Section/Class Assigned By\_\_\_\_\_

#### ENTRANT INFORMATION Owner Address State ZIP City Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: Email Have you participated before? Have you participated before? What Year VEHICLE INFORMATION Insurance Carrier CONCOURS Year\_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Trailered Trailer Length To Be Judged Exhibit Only For judged entries, please list any modifications to engine, body, chassis, or interior and any historical significance of your entry. THE DRIVE Year Make Model Color Driver's Name\_\_\_\_\_\_Passenger's (Guest) Name\_\_\_\_\_\_ CORRAL Color Model Year Make \_\_\_\_\_ Year\_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model Color CARS FOR SALE Year Make Model Color Year Make Model Color I have read and am aware that 1 must provide

one certified fire extinguisher for each vehicle.

FEES Check All Events You Plan to Enclose a photo of your car and return th Palo Alto Concours Attention: Entries 800 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303 NON CAR EVENTS	is form with payment to:	550-81	CONCOUR DELEGANCE ALSTANFORD 3-1100 • www.pacond	Cours.com
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In consideration of acceptance of this Application 1. Accept the risks inherent in the event, and here Leland Stanford Junior University, the City o howsoever caused to the Participant or to the	by releases the Palo Alto Concour	ibition Committee, the und s d'Elegance, Palo Alto Lion	ersigned Participant ("Participan ns Club, Palo Alto Charities, Inc and all, liability for personal in	., Stanford University, njury, loss or damage
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#### www.PanteraClubNorCal.com



Greg Taylor 730 Walnut Ave. Burlingame, CA 94010

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

THURSDAY, February 23, 2012 8:00 P.M.

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

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

March 10 - - - - - Pre-Fun Rally Tech Session (Bob Benson)

April 25-29 — — — — — — — — POCA Phoenix Fun Rally (John Taphorn)

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