

pantera
CLUB OF NORTHERN
california



A Chapter of POCA

news

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com

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Minutes of Meeting 28 Jan, 2016

The meeting was called to order a bit late, at 8:10 p.m. The scene was quite chaotic, as our longtime meeting location, Coco's Restaurant, had closed down, so we were trying out a new restaurant for the first time. Our new hosts were less than thoughtful, when they chose to give away the banquet room we had booked, to another group. As a consequence, we were all just shoved into the main part of the restaurant, initially making it impossible to conduct any business whatsoever.

Most were resigned to just eating dinner with friends, and that was actually quite successful. Fortunately for us, the people in the banquet room left relatively early, and we were able to reposition ourselves in order to conduct the business portion of the meeting.

All officers were present except for Bob Benson, Denny Morse and Bud Millard. Greg Taylor

has agreed to step up to take the place of Darryl Johnson as the club's vice president. There were 28 members present (or at least, 28 members signed the roster) and two Panteras in the (very congested) parking lot.

New Members/Guests: The club welcomed **Ed Dossen**, who was profiled in the Membership News segment of last month's newsletter. It turns out that the car he had purchased had formerly belonged to Byron Hight. It was purchased by a fellow who apparently realized that the significant challenge of its restoration was going to be beyond his capabilities, so he sold it to Ed, who is eager to take it on. Quite a few parts were missing as the car traded hands, but fortunately Ed was able to go back to Byron's house where he found all sorts of pieces of the car just littering the ground, amidst a bunch of other old cars, parts and debris. He has also had to buy seats from Larry Stock, and traded a set of 17-inch wheels and tires for original 8- and 10-inch factory Campagnolo wheels. He has two engines being rebuilt at the moment, and will soon start working on dealing with the various rust issues.

Ed said that the car has an interesting, if unverified history as the 1975 De Tomaso show car (for either the Turin or Geneva shows, or perhaps both?). It has a factory sunroof. The bellhousing was chromed at some point, which was a dismal failure as it's impossible to properly chrome aluminum, so the chrome is flaking off. Apparently at one time the engine had a clear plexiglass cover instead of the traditional screen.

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

Club Treasury Report: Our two main events (the Monterey weekend and Christmas Party) are designed to more or less break even; we lost a minuscule amount of money on them last year. However, income from the POCA reimbursements keeps our treasury slowly growing. Expenses are generally limited to namebadges, annual website registration fees, and a small amount of state taxes. Speaking of which, the state tax filings for 2015 are complete now.

Club Store Report: Irene and Marcus Smith brought a substantial amount of club store inventory with them, although the venue made it all but impossible to display or sell anything. Irene said the store had tremendous sales as the Christmas party, but has a fairly substantial inventory problem (that is, too much inventory!). Among other items for sale, she has long and short sleeve T-shirts, polo shirts, sweat shirts and hoodies. We have small bags with the club logo, ideal for holding car detailing kits. She has recently produced some placemats and napkins, and even has a handful of Mangusta items in stock.

She asked if there was interest in resurrecting the "Mama Mia" T-shirts, which were last produced almost 20 years ago, and there was much positive feedback on the idea. People also suggested small bar/golf/hand towels with the club logo.

The store will be going to the Super Bowl party, and to the Las Vegas Fun Rally, where hopefully sales will be substantial.

Club Membership Report: Lori once again asked members to send her photos for the PCNC Facebook page. This page now has some 200 'likes', mostly from Pantera owners who are outside the club.

The club roster, which traditionally is mailed in January, won't be produced until the end of March this year, because Denny Morse is an integral part of its production, and he and Bonita are on a fantastic and lengthy trip to Indonesia, where they are chasing eclipses!

Club Library Report: Forest said that the contents of the library are starting to suffer from exposure to moisture, as they are kept in his garage. He will be buying plastic tubs soon in order to prevent any further deterioration.

Club Motorsports Report: Bob Benson is attempting to help organize a track day in Las Vegas to be held in conjunction with the Fun Rally, but so far participation seems to be falling far short of the minimum number needed for the event to be financially viable. The requisite number is 36, and as of the meeting he only had 22 commitments.

Club Website Report: The latest newsletter has been uploaded to the website. Hopefully Denny will be able to upload the February issue while he's on vacation, but if not, it may have to be e-mailed to everyone as an attachment, as part of the E-blast.

There is a direct link to the PCNC Facebook site, from the club's website.

Past Events:

Christmas Party: Dennis and Liz Valdez were given a well-deserved round of applause for their tremendous effort in staging the Christmas party. The party went off without a hitch, and the raffle was very successful as well, with Garth Rodericks doing a terrific job standing in for Brent Stewart. Dennis and Liz cheerfully volunteered to stage this year's party as well.

Upcoming Events: Bud said that he has several events in the planning stages, but doesn't have any firm details yet.

Club Business:

Club Elections: All incumbent officers were re-elected for the 2016 term. Greg Taylor has taken over for Darryl Johnson, whose extensive work commitments made it impossible to continue in his role as the club's vice president.

Club Meeting Location: The entire Coco's restaurant chain shut down with absolutely no notice in December, just before Christmas. Workers showed up to discover their restaurant was shuttered; they were given their last paycheck and sent home, just before Christmas. We only learned of it by accident, as Lee Scales happened to drive past and notice that it was shut down.

Forest engaged in a huge scramble to find us a suitable substitute meeting location. The goal was to find a car-friendly place in roughly the same area, one that had decent parking, would allow us to order off the menu, and wouldn't charge us for the privilege of using their dining room. To that end, he consulted with numerous other local car clubs and came up with multiple possibilities, including David's Restaurant, Marie Callender's, and Harry's Hofbrau. The board decided to try several of them in successive months, to allow us to try them on for size.

Forest asked all members to submit any viable suggestions for alternate locations. Jim Kuehne suggested a Round Table Pizza place that has a separated room large enough to hold our group, and somebody else mentioned a Sizzler's in the area. Selecting a new permanent home will be a work in progress for the next few months.

Too, there is always the prospect of another restaurant opening up in the old Coco's location, which might be the best solution.

See the back page of this newsletter, and the club website for information on this month's meeting location.

POCA Chapter Presidents Conference Call: Forest reported on a conference call he took part in, with the members of the POCA board and a number of other chapter presidents. The new POCA President, Michael Shortt, had a 30-item list of changes he wanted to make to the club, most of them contentious.

The Hilton Head Concours in South Carolina will be having a Pantera class, and POCA will be paying for Tom Tjaarda to fly out from his home in Turin, while the hotel will comp his lodging.

Michael suggested adding some new POCA board positions (which will require an amendment to the club's bylaws), and also suggested creating a De Tomaso Hall of Fame. He was completely unaware that Jack DeRyke had, on his own, instituted an informal version several years ago. In any case, he seeks to formalize it, with nominees selected by the POCA board.

He believes that POCA is too west coast-centric, and proposed having *four* Fun Rallies each year, scattered around in different parts of the country.

By far the most disagreeable proposal was one to completely change the structure of membership in the club. Unlike now, where each membership includes a spouse or significant other who have equal rights as full members, his proposal would limit membership to a single individual only, who would retain voting rights. If a spouse or significant other wanted to join, they could do so for half price, but they would have *no* rights or privileges, including the right to participate in club elections (and presumably, to hold club office). Forest was very deeply opposed to this scheme, and everyone in the room shared his feelings on this issue.

News, Clues and Rumors:

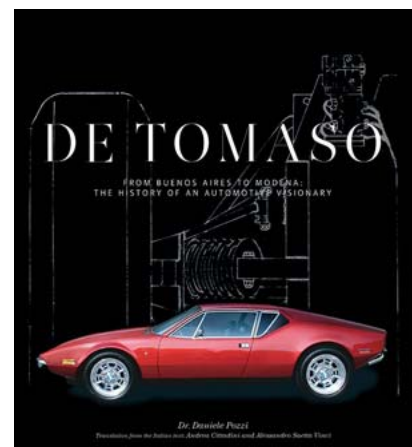
Larry's Car On The Road To Recovery: After comprehensively remodeling the front of his Pantera by hitting a Subaru head-on last fall, this month Larry Finch trailered his Pantera up to Denny Finn's shop in Oregon. Denny is a POCA member who has a body shop, and has taken to specializing in Pantera restoration work at a reasonable cost. Denny feels the damage to Larry's car looks worse than it really is.

Larry had already purchased some NOS sheetmetal pieces, but then a few weeks ago, he was able to buy the entire front clip from Erik Belter's wrecked Pantera (he backed it into the wall at Sears Point many years ago and demolished the rear end, leaving the front end in perfect shape). Erik bought a straight body from Axel Rolf a few years ago, and will be transferring his car's parts over to that body to get it on the road, leaving his old body surplus to the cause.

Larry therefore has too much sheetmetal now. Denny is going to analyze the NOS parts, the front clip, and the damaged car to identify which parts will be used in the restoration, and which will be resold.

New De Tomaso Book: Mike Drew showed off an absolutely beautiful new book on the De Tomaso family, written by an Italian college professor. The photography and quality of printing are simply stunning, and the book features a lot of interesting photos never before seen, taken directly from the De Tomaso family scrapbooks. Mike was intimately involved in its creation, helping write the English translation and fact-checking the contents.

Unfortunately, in order to secure the cooperation of the De Tomaso family, the author had to agree to some pretty onerous conditions, not the least of which was to purposely omit any



references to any De Tomaso activities after Alejandro's 1993 stroke. Thus the story as told is woefully incomplete, and arguably the missing chapters could be considered lies of omission. One can only speculate if everything else in the book is the unvarnished truth, or if the story as published shades the truth there somewhat as well.

Nevertheless, it is a truly fantastic addition to any De Tomaso owner's library, and at \$79.95 with free shipping, it's a terrific bargain.

It can be had here:

<http://www.daltonwatson.com/DE-TOMASO-From-Buenos-Aires-to-Modena-p/detomaso.htm>

PCNC Calendar?: The PCNC calendar has been long-delayed due to technical issues. Zazzle, the company that produces it, insists that one or more images are of insufficient resolution and thus they won't print it in the large size. Unfortunately, they won't state which of the images is problematic. Mike will likely have to scrap it and completely rebuild it, an effort he hopes to undertake soon. Once it's ready for sale, a blurb will appear in the newsletter and on the club's website.



Driving For Dinner Raffle: The winners were Mark and Linda Bailey.

Raffle Results: A now-healthy Brent Stewart and Brett Santos passed the hat, with the following results:

PCNC Calendar — Steve Liebenow
Screwdriver kit — Ed Dossen
Pantera keychain — Brett Santos
Wine — Diane Silven (twice!)
Selfie stick — Judy Goodhart
Pantera Parts Connection shirt — John Tomlin
Jumper cables — Lou Brizzolera
California duster — Steve Liebenow
Portable cell phone power pack — Cell phone power pack
Meguiar's car detailing kit — Jim Kuehne
Pocketknife — Brett Santos
Drill bit set — Jim Kuehne

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m., as the restaurant was closing and the proprietors wanted to go home! So we were somewhat urgently ushered out to the sidewalk.

Next month's meeting will be at David's Restaurant in Santa Clara. See the back page, and the club website, for all the info.

Membership News

New Members for January:

The club is pleased to welcome **Steve Schefsky** from Burlingame. Steve is actively on the hunt to find and buy a Pantera.

January Membership Anniversaries:

James Dursi and Lyn Murray: 26 years
Charles and Nancy Rosebrook: 7 years

Larry and Dee De Laino: 22 years

2016 Club Roster:

The creator of the Club Roster, Denny Morse, is on an extended vacation (lucky guy!). Denny will be able to generate the Roster after he returns in late February. Once that happens, the new 2016 Club Roster will be mailed out to the members sometime in March.

PCNC Facebook Page:

Our PCNC Facebook page now has 195 'likes' which translates into 195 fans of our club who would like to see what we are up to! If you have been out and about in your De Tomaso, and have some photos to share, please stop reading this newsletter NOW and send them to cloridrew@gmail.com so we can post them on Facebook and give our fans some love!

Coco's is GONE!

About a week before Christmas, the employees of Coco's restaurant, which has served as PCNC's meeting location since the 1980s, arrived at work to find out that the restaurant was permanently closed! Apparently the holding company that purchased the Coco's chain a few months ago has decided to shut down the entire chain, nationwide. One presumes that they have a vision of opening a new brand in the many Coco's locations they own.

This still leaves PCNC without a place to meet. President Forest Goodhart has been scouring the south bay looking for suitable venues. It takes a special place offering secure parking, a convenient location, and a willingness to allow us to order off the menu individually. At this point there are several places in contention. We will likely try several different spots before settling on a final location. ***See the back cover for January's meeting info.***

One has to wonder what the new restaurant will be in the old Coco's location; it may well come to pass that our meetings return there once things have settled down. Another big unknown is the fate of Tony, our loyal waiter who had served us with distinction for at least the past 25 years....

Pantera For Sale

1974 Pantera L #7355
27K miles, asking \$75,000

PCNC member Ken Painter is putting his Pantera up for sale. This car was seen at the 2015 Super Bowl party and will also be in attendance at the 2016 party, where it can be fully inspected. Originally green, now silver with black trim, the car was purchased by Ken's father in 1995 with 19,000 miles, and the engine was rebuilt less than 500 miles ago.

It has 8- and 10-inch Campagnolo wheels with new tires, and the interior boasts a LeCarra wheel, oversize shift knob, Hall Pantera center console, and stock seats recovered in fabric and vinyl.

For more information, contact Ken at (831) 295-2142, or PainterK@stifel.com



Super Bowl Funday

Story by Mike Drew

Photos by Lee Scales and Mike Drew

Traditionally the PCNC events calendar starts each year with a gathering to watch the Super Bowl. Although it is held in the height of winter, we have historically been extremely lucky with the weather, and this year was no different, as we were blessed with light winds, unseasonably warm temperatures and sunny skies.

While historically the party has been held at someone's home, last year it was held at Bob Benson's workshop in Campbell, which proved to be a surprisingly hospitable location. Besides having a big TV and plenty of sofas and chairs, it also has lots of room for tables for dining, and significantly, a number of lifts and piles of tools to accommodate those more interested in working on Panteras than watching people chas-



The only things louder than the Panteras were the Blue Angels, who flew right over the shop!

ing after a funnily-shaped ball.

Bob once again kindly volunteered his place, but there were some concerns about traffic. After all, unlike in previous years, this time the actual Super Bowl was being held just a few miles away. Celebrations had been

taking place up and down the peninsula all week long and there was concern that traffic would be distinctly unpleasant.

Fortunately, nothing could have been further from the truth. Simply put, the number of people who drove to the



Some folks positioned themselves strategically to be surrounded by all the food! The PCNC store was on display too

stadium is only a tiny fraction of those who populate the region's freeways during the week, and furthermore, most people were already established somewhere in front of a TV set, and as a result, traffic was absolutely nonexistent.

We were delayed due to work commitments, and thus when we arrived the party was well under way. Over a dozen Panteras, plus a Mangusta, were either parked alongside the building, or inside (some being actively worked on). The tables were absolutely groaning with food, as seemingly everyone

present had taken it upon themselves to bring enough food to feed the entire group!

The game was just starting as we were arriving, but there were lots of people to talk with, and cars to look at, and food to eat! Along with a host of regulars, we were pleased to see some rarely seen faces, including the incredibly elusive Mark McWhinney, who is still burning the midnight oil to help

make the Obamacare website function as advertised, an immense responsibility that sadly has kept his Pantera stationary in the back of the shop, for many years.

We were even treated to a flyover by the Blue Angels, who buzzed the nearby stadium before landing back at nearby Moffatt Field.

Rich Boschert's Pantera was in the back room of the facility, and he was

happily showing off his new lightweight fiberglass decklid, made by Maier Racing in Hayward using a mold that Rich had supplied. Brent Stewart's Pantera was on a lift, with a big brake system upgrade nearing completion. In the front portion of the garage, Garth Rodericks boldly pulled out his stock fusebox and installed a new, modern replacement from Pantera Electronics. Along the way, he discovered a



Some club members were utterly transfixed by the game (and the commercials!) while others seemingly had no idea a game was even taking place!



Mark McWhinney's Pantera, looking forlorn and sorry for itself. It only needs to have the intake manifold, carburetor and one valve cover installed to be a runner!



Gary Kono's Pantera looks more formidable each time it comes out. The front splitter is practically on the ground; fortunately he has an air-jack system to clear steep curbs

kludged-in circuit breaker, which a previous owner had installed, apparently because the overloaded fan circuit sizzled the fuseholder. Amazingly, after having disconnected and reconnected virtually every wire in the car, it fired right up and everything worked just as it had before!

Terrific smells wafted through the building as people would step outside to toss their meat on the gas grille. There was truly something for every taste, as the available food ranged from tasty salads, to several

different kinds of chili, to tri-tip steak, various sausages, and even donuts!

Ken Painter brought his Pantera (featured in a 'for sale' ad in last

month's newsletter) and Mike took it for a test drive on behalf of an interested buyer in another state. The Drewsaster curse struck almost imme-

diately, as the headliner (which was already falling down, and held up with electrical tape) collapsed on top of both of them, completely blocking the view



Brent Stewart's Pantera was up on blocks, getting a new brake system installed. Underneath is a full-race 351 Cleveland that he bought just for the hell of it. Now he's looking for something to put it into!



Bob Benson's Pantera had pride of place, alongside Steve Liebenow's Mangusta



XXX XXXXX's Pantera is rarely seen south of the Golden Gate Bridge, but light traffic easily justified bringing it



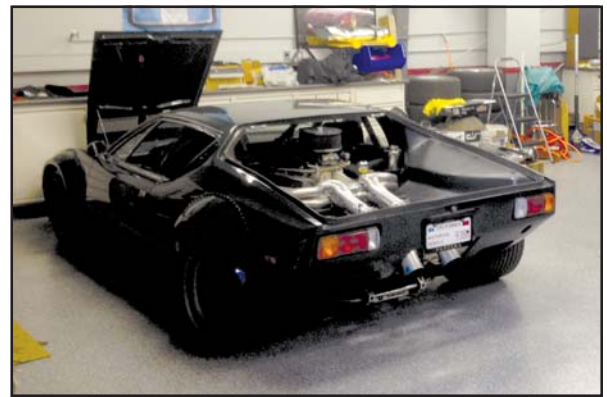
Garth Rodericks boldly disabled his car by ripping out the fusebox, but amazingly it all went together flawlessly

to the rear unless Ken held it up with both hands. A strange clicking noise/feel from the steering system was worrying, but after several people investigated, it was determined that the wheel itself was rotating slightly within the hub, apparently because the mounting screws weren't tight enough—a simple fix!

The car ran nice and strong (other than an odd tendency to stall out when coming to a stop, attributed to a recent partial carb rebuild with insufficient follow-on tuning), and once the minor

niggles are dealt with, it promises to make its new owner a very happy bunny indeed.

All too soon, the last seconds ticked down and the game drew to an end. Slowly people started gathering up their dishes and crock pots and heading for their cars, while others banded together to



Rich Boschert's GT5 conversion was undergoing a fiberglass decklid swap



XXXXX XXXXX and Steve Liebenow, with Bob's weapons-grade Firebird in the background

wield an array of brooms, paper towels and cleaning sprays, folding the tables and chairs, pushing furniture back into place, and loading the trash bags into the back of Bob's truck.

When we left, there was absolutely no indication that a party had even been held, a testament to the cooperative nature of PCNC members.

Our collective thanks go out to Bob Benson once again, for inviting us into his space and making the necessary arrangements for all of us to spend an enjoyable afternoon together!



Lori Drew
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NEXT CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY, February 25th, 2016
7:30 P.M.**

**DAVID'S RESTAURANT
5151 STARS AND STRIPES DRIVE
SANTA CLARA, CA 95054**

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Watch this space for upcoming events info next month!

REMINDER — NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY 15th OF EACH MONTH