



news

A Chapter of POCA

www.PanteraClubNorCal.com

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Minutes of Meeting 27 February, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by the president. All officers were present except for Bob Benson, Larry Finch, Irene Smith, Denny Morse and Lou Brizzolara. There were 19 members present, and three Panteras in the parking lot.

New Members/Guests: There were no new members present.

Changes To Last Month's Minutes: Mark Bailey's Mach 1 project is a 1970 Mustang, not a 1969. The red Mustang pictured wasn't the convertible owned by Brent and Bev Stewart; it belonged to a non-PCNC member who was also attending the party.

Club Treasury Report: There has been relatively little activity this month; we paid our monthly website charges, and received our quarterly rebate from POCA. The treasury remains healthy.

Club Store Report: There was no report this month.

Club Membership Report: Brent said the 2020 roster would be published soon, and urged everyone to look at their entries in the 2019 roster to ensure there are no errors. If corrections need to be made, please send them to Brent soon. He joked that he might just randomly make his own changes just to make people mad!

Club Motorsports Report: Brent issued a report on Bob's behalf. He said there was no new news about the POCA Fun Rally track event. He has tried to get updated information from organizer Kevin Hubby but received no response. Reportedly NASA will be providing the cornerworkers, and likely some NASA members will also be participating in the event. He also said the Corvette club was having an autocross at the Cow Palace and we were invited. The Marina airport autocross pad has been closed permanently because they are building a factory there.

Checkered Flag Racing Association is hosting an event at Laguna Seca on 28 March, but it is noise-restricted to 92db. Hooked on Driving is having a Pantera-friendly 102db day at Laguna Seca in June. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Club Website Report: The basic core skeleton of the website has been built, but it needs to be populated with content. The creator is uploading old newsletters, and seeks photos from past events. She is working to put club store functionality there as well.

Club Library Report: The library is safe and sound in Forest's garage.

Past Events:

PCNC Super Bowl Party: The weather was beautiful, turnout was great, and it was actually a great game for a change. The betting pool saw different winners each quarter. Mark and Linda unveiled a plan to remodel the house and make the location even better suited to hosting a party. Watch for an article in next month's newsletter.

Upcoming Events: (Note: all the following information is OBE, Overcome By Events. All the events described below have been postponed indefinitely, although they will still occur once the pandemic has passed)

Alfa Romeo Club Santa Cruz Mountains Tour — 21 March: The Alfa Romeo club has issued an open invitation for us to attend all their events. Their next one is a tour of the Santa Cruz mountains.

Al Engel Collection Tour — 11 April: This tour is not just of a car collection. Al has created a museum filled with all sorts of stuff, including airplanes, models, pinball machines, even a genuine Venetian gondola! In all, there are six giant buildings (once used to build ships!) full of exhibits. An RSVP is required.

Cobra Experience Tour And Lunch — 9 May: There is an absolutely fantastic museum dedicated to the Shelby Cobra (and to a lesser degree, other Shelby products) located in Martinez. We will be afforded a private tour costing \$15 each; the \$15 each lunch tab will be picked up by PCNC.

PCNC Pizza Party at Giovanni's Pizzeria — 6 June: We have had great success with our PCNC pizza parties, so are planning another one. Watch for more information in an upcoming newsletter.

Monterey Weekend — 12-16 August: The featured model at Concorso Italiano is the Lamborghini Urraco, and Greg Taylor and Bud Millard are committed to bringing their car to the display. Watch for more information in the upcoming months.

Ironstone Concours Weekend — 25-27 September: As of the meeting date, 92 of the 107 rooms at the Murphys Inn and Suites are already taken. (Update: all rooms are now taken, and the hotel has been closed down by the county until at least June to discourage tourism in the area).

All-Italian Car Show In Alameda — 11 October: This low-key “Concorso Italiano Lite” is a favored event, and despite past rumors of its impending demise, will again be held at the Lakeside Elementary School in Alameda. There will likely be a PCNC breakfast preceding it.

San Francisco Italian District Culinary Tour — Fall TBA: We are considering scheduling an 8-block walking/eating/drinking tour of North Beach in the early fall. This would naturally be a non-Pantera event. Watch for further details in the summer.

Cars And Coffee Fundraiser At Safeway — November TBA: Details still have to be worked out, but we plan to participate in a car show at the Safeway where Brett Santos works; Brett is helping to organize the event.

Club Business:

Cobra Experience Subsidy?: The tour of the Cobra Experience museum costs \$15 each and lunch is an additional \$15. A motion was made for PCNC to subsidize the event by picking up the lunch tab. It passed unanimously.

Club Speakers: Mark Bailey was the managing director of the Vector Aeromotive company, which produced a futuristic supercar in very small numbers in the 1980s before collapsing. He is interested in giving a 30-minute presentation on the history of the company and the project at an upcoming meeting. There is also an insurance agent who would like to come and give a presentation on the ins and outs of specialized collector car insurance. Both are date TBA.

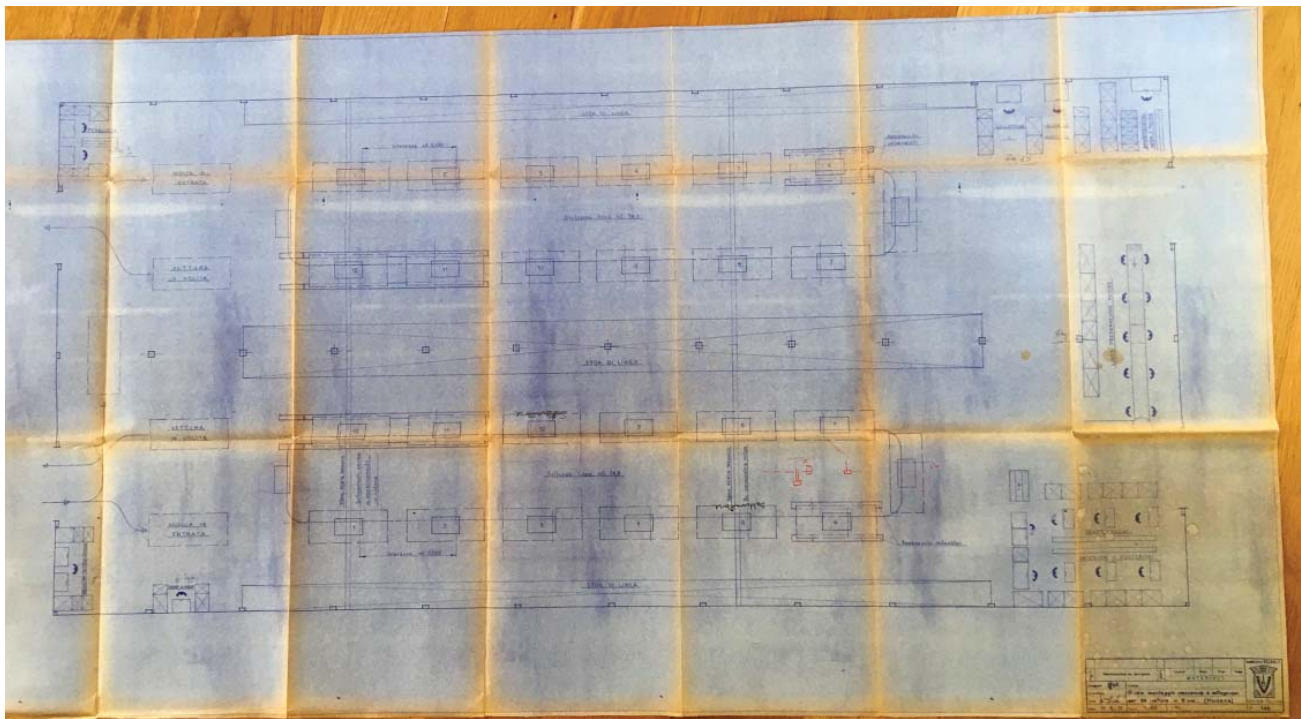
Buy/Sell/Swap:

Recovered Shift Knobs: Ron Southern was present and brought examples of his recovered shift knobs (both original and aftermarket). After the meeting he gave a detailed description of the mechanics of the work, and several club members committed to sending him their shift knobs for recovering.

News, Clues and Rumors:

Modena Factory Blueprint: Literally during the meeting, Mike Drew got an e-mail from a European Pantera owner who had pre-





viously looted the abandoned site of the De Tomaso facility in Modena, scooping up hundreds of pounds of documents and blueprints which he is still going through. He is constantly finding new and different things, including architectural blueprints of the Canalgrande hotel, and most recently, the original Modena Pantera assembly line!

The drawing is produced and sourced by Vignale, the business wholly owned by Alejandro de Tomaso that actually physically produced the products that De Tomaso Automobili then sold.

There were 24 car workstations where Panteras were finished, divided into two 12-car lines, both with their own entrance and exit. The painted and trimmed bodies were trucked down from the Vignale assembly plan in Turin to the Modena facility where the suspension, drivetrain etc. were installed. In the periphery of the assembly lines, there were separate small workstations for engines, suspension assembly (the suspension A-arms, uprights, brakes etc. would be assembled as a unit there then brought to the main assembly line for installation).

The drawing is dated May 10, 1971. By 1972, as Ford's influence began to increase, the entire production of the cars from start to finish was undertaken at the Turin Vignale plant, and only "De Tomaso" Panteras (that is, those cars that De Tomaso purchased from Ford for distribution outside North America, such as the European GTS and European Pantera L) were brought to Modena for completion.

I Hate It When That Happens: Over a year ago, Mike discovered what appeared to be a crack in the paint of one of his 10-inch Campagnolo wheels. Initially dismissive, he began to grow concerned as it slowly started migrating and growing. When it crossed over one of the 'windows' and began propagating on the other side, he knew he was in trouble, and after he removed the wheel and discovered it ran all the way through to the back side, he knew he was doomed. Repair would be impossible; the only solution would be replacement.

10-inch wheels don't exactly grow on trees, and invariably they are sold in pairs, making for a horrendously expensive undertaking. By a miracle, after a few months of quiet searching, he was directed to a fellow in Italy who has a business selling individual examples of wheels from Italian exotic cars, and by happy circumstance he had a single 10-inch wheel available! The price was rea-



sonable too; 1300 Euros including shipping. It's now safely in Mike's house and will soon be on the car, along with new tires (he's gotten his money's worth out of the existing tires which were installed in 1993!). So, a happy ending to an otherwise sad tale.

Interestingly, the wheel apparently failed all by itself, not as a result of some insult. The failure was likely caused by a casting flaw that took 30 years to materialize. Although people have often put forth the theory that old magnesium wheels are prone to failure, this one was relatively new (circa 1989) and is only the second one he has ever known to fail (apart from wheels that were involved in accidents).

Driving For Dinner Raffle: The winner was Erik Kolstoe.

Raffle Results: Erik and Brett passed the hat with the following results:

Bottle of wine — Lori Drew, Brett Santos
Turtle wax car deoderant — Ron Southern
Pack of 8 mini flashlights — Brett Santos
Craftsman 50-piece drill/drive set — Mark Bailey
Craftsman 8-piece metric wrench set — John Tomlin
Craftsman 1/4 metric ratchet set — Forest Goodhart
Craftsman 1/4 standard ratchet set — Greg Taylor
Craftsman 3/8 metric ratchet set — Garth Rodericks
Craftsman 3/8 standard ratchet set — Brent Stewart
Redline funnel — Garth Rodericks
McGuiars Gold Class car wash — Dennis Valdez

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Membership News

New Members for March:

We have no new members this month.

March Membership Anniversaries:

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

Lindsay and Estelle Crawford: 45 years

Carl and Judy Kaufmann: 33 years:

Eddie and Lisa Pavlu: 30 years

Doug Kelm: 23 years

Chris and Susan Clark: 20 years

Bob and Dena Lucas: 18 years

Mathew and Caroline Frierman: 8 years

Richard Meisels and Leux Felsher: 4 years

Diane Dean: 44 years

Eddie and Lisa Pavlu: 30 years

Richard Dean: 27 years

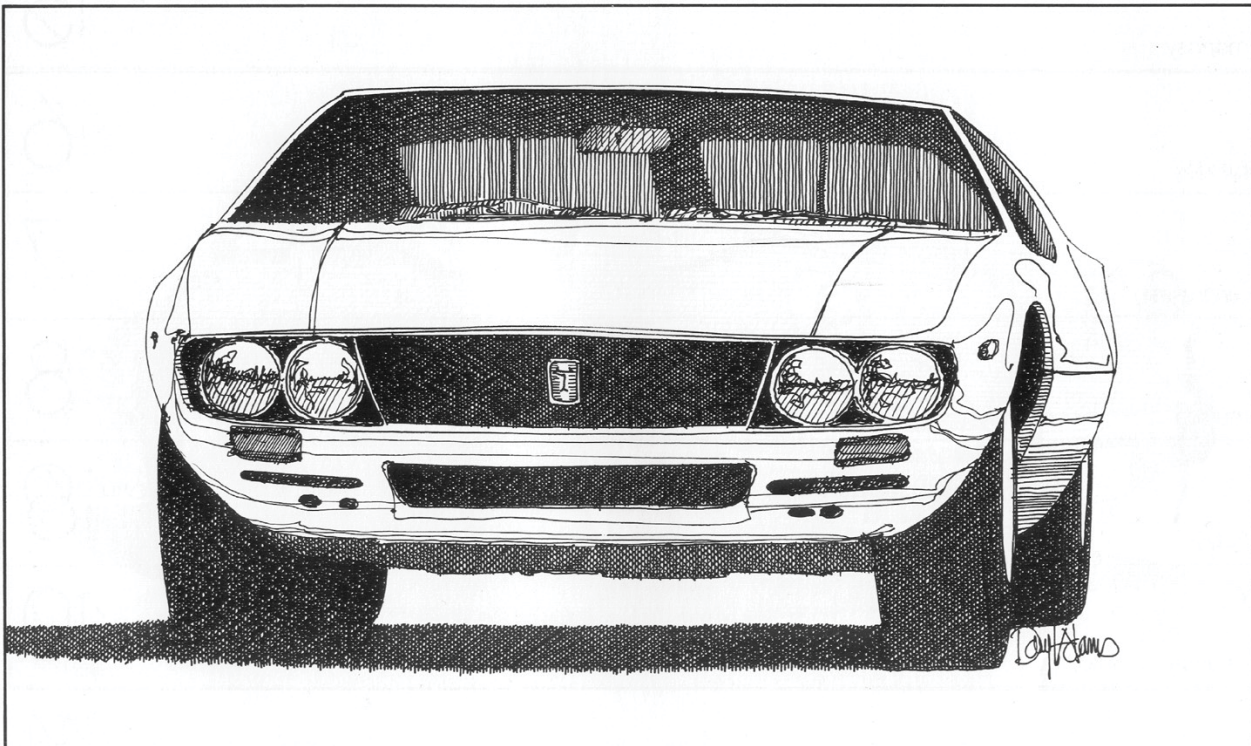
Richard Boschert: 21 years

Darryl Johnson and Connie Martin: 18 years

Dennis Franks: 15 years

Bayani Panis: 6 years

Gregg and Kat Meissner: 4 years



PCNC Christmas Party

Story and Photos by Mike Drew

December seems like so long ago now, doesn't it? In those innocent days before Covid19, we would routinely get together with our friends to celebrate our fellowship, whether it was at a club meeting, an event, or at our year-end Christmas party, traditionally the best-attended event of the year.

Thanks once again to the tireless efforts of Dennis and Liz Valdez, we once again gathered in early December to share an evening together and look back on another successful year. They have figured out this Christmas Party stuff pretty well, so they had all the details sorted out months in advance, from the facility (once again in San Mateo) to the food to the entertainment. This year, they added an interesting touch—a selfie camera setup that allowed people to take their own holiday photos.

Before the party started, incoming Membership Chairman Brent Stewart sat down with Lori Drew to learn the ins and outs of the job and find out exactly what he had got himself into by volunteering!

Pantera parts vendors, as well as several automotive-themed businesses and some public-spirited club members all donated prizes to the raffle,



Liz Valdez makes some adjustments to the Selfie Cam for Randy and Linda Welch's portrait

which augmented the prizes that rafflemaster Brent purchased with proceeds from the monthly meeting



Lori Drew and Brent Stewart conducting the changeover of the PCNC Membership Chairman's responsibilities



During the cocktail hour, we were serenaded by beautiful Italian music



Brent secured a vast array of raffle prizes from vendors and club members



We all took an opportunity to bid a fond farewell to Randy and Linda Welch. Hopefully we will get an opportunity to see them again soon!

raffle take.

Irene and Marcus Smith made sure our Christmas shopping could be completed, by bringing a substantial amount of the club store contents to sell to the assembled crowd.

The room was filled with club members, both old and new. Although generally it was a joyous event, it was tinged with a bit of sadness as we were bidding farewell to longtime members Randy and Linda Welch, who sold their

Pantera and everything else they own, and pulled up stakes and moved to a new life in Hawaii. We are certainly sad to see them go, and hope they will maintain their ties to the club even though they no longer live here or



The dining room was filled to capacity with PCNC revelers celebrating the holiday season



Dennis Valdez was the event co-organizer and Master of Ceremonies for the evening

own a Pantera. Reportedly they are shopping for a Cobra replica, which hopefully would withstand the tropical climate better (although guarantee them a shower whenever it rains, which is frequently!)



Steve and Linda Liebenow, enjoying themselves as always!



Garth and Leslie Rodericks, and Linda and Mark Bailey



Mark Bailey conferring the Most Active Member awards to Garth Rodericks and Steve Dalcino (with Mike Drew behind the lens)

Throughout the evening, Mark Bailey would call up the organizers of the various events we enjoyed throughout the year for recognition for their efforts on our behalf. Also recognized were the three most active members of the club, who this year were Garth Rodericks, Steve Dalcino and Yours Truly.

Mark presented the President's award to Erik Kolstoe. While traditionally the award has gone to a member of long standing in recognition of years of service to the club, Mark



Merry Dalcino once again created the raffle grand prize, this fanciful fish sculpture



After all the event organizers and award winners were recognized individually, they were all brought up together to be recognized as a group

correctly pointed out that Erik has done more for the club in just his six months or so of membership than most people have. He joined the club to learn about the cars, bought an excellent example, volunteered to take over the PCNC raffle, and will likely start helping to

organize driving events going forward. That makes him an excellent choice for the award!

Brent Stewart is handing the raffle reins over to Erik for 2020, but he and raffle fixture Brett Santos carried on the tradition one last time, handling the raffle

throughout the evening.

As ever, the grand prize was a whimsical sculpture by Merry Dalcino, this year won by a Linda Liebenow, who is now a repeat winner!

The evening finally drew to a close, and most of us retired to our rooms, to then gather once more for a sumptuous buffet breakfast in the morning. After several hours of enjoying the vast breakfast spread, and the conversations with our friends, one by one we headed for home.

We must once again give thanks again to Dennis and Liz Valdez for orchestrating this terrific party, and to everybody who made the effort to come join in the celebration.

Although we are all locked down at the moment, hopefully this will give us a renewed appreciation for what we have all likely taken for granted—the ability to gather together and socialize with one another. I hope this will inspire more people, once it becomes possible, to venture forth from their homes and join us at future events!



Brent Stewart and Brett Santos again performed admirably in the rafflemaster roles



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NEXT CLUB MEETING

**Your Guess Is As Good As Mine, 2020
7:30 P.M.**

**HOLDER'S COUNTRY INN
998 S. De Anza Blvd, San Jose**

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

All Upcoming Events Postponed Indefinitely....

REMINDER — NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY 15th OF EACH MONTH