



OCPanteras *Orange County*

Orange County Panteras
July 2024 Newsletter

Greetings
OCP members!

Board meetings are at 5:30 the first Monday of the month, and any member is invited to attend and speak.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84129769385?pwd=MDQ3aWR2YnUxa09zcGh4MkpsVGITZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 2976 9385

Passcode: pantera

Next month's board meeting will be 8/5/24!

If you want to sit in or speak, please contact:

Glen Chancellor racerglen@aol.com

If you wish to speak, we need advance notice to put you on the agenda.

Monthly OCP Board meetings minutes are now available on our website!

www.ocpanteras.com

Under the "about us tab".

[Board Meetings](#)

President's Message

Thank You all for your support of Orange County Panteras.

***The Pantera Palooza was a huge hit
and we are still getting acclaim from across
the Pantera world!***

***We had a great show and look forward to
more!***

Thanks to all who filled out the survey monkey. We had
some great feedback!

Yes! you want it back next year by a wide margin!

We'll make it bigger and better! Can YOU help?

***Our Christmas party is coming together!
Details coming soon!***

Post comments on OCP mailgroup -
OCPanteras@googlegroups.com

We need to hear from YOU!



July General Meeting

March general meeting will be Wednesday July, 17 at:

Denny's

2314 E. 17th Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

6-7pm social hour
7-9pm meeting

Upcoming Events



Please, Come Join us!

Here's a Palooza report from Mike Drew of PCNC!

WhatAPalooza!

Story by Mike Drew

Photos by Mike Drew and OC Panteras

The most senior members of the Pantera scene will remember with fondness the Newporter Invitational. This was an annual car show staged on the grounds of a resort hotel in Orange County (which has since been paved over and turned into a parking lot) started by Team Pantera of Orange County. Initially the effort was intended to simply be a place for local Pantera owners to show their cars off to one another (these events predated the first POCA Fun Rally), but as the event grew in success, some club members wanted to bring their other cars out instead of their Panteras (then, as now, often Panteras were incapable of attaining the locomotive state for one reason or another).

So the show grew in scope to incorporate other Ford-powered collector cars. This was the late 1970s and early 1980s, when fast living really came to the fore, and eventually the organizers decided to grow the show even further, envisioning it as a counterpart to the Pebble Beach Concours. While Pebble Beach's primary goal is to recognize the finest pre-war cars, the Newporter intended to be analogous but for post-war sports cars. Thus the later iterations featured all manner of Ferraris, Porsches, Maseratis, and other exotic marques, while still retaining a Pantera focus primarily.

It soon became extraordinarily im-

portant for some people to have their cars formally recognized at this show, and with all the money that was running around at that time, some people went really crazy, spending upwards of \$100,000 on a paint job (!) to win a \$15 trophy!

When the POCA Fun Rally launched in 1981, it provided an alternate venue for Pantera owners to gather. Additionally, the Newporter Invitational had grown so much that it was almost unmanageable for the small group of volunteers who were putting it on. It then seemingly disappeared overnight, never to be seen again.

Scott Couchman is a relatively new Pantera owner, having owned his car just over ten years, but his enthusiasm seems boundless, and in doing research about the cars, he learned of the Newporter tradition. He then decided it would be a worthwhile endeavor to resurrect the original Newporter Concours idea, which was to have a Pantera-only car show in Southern



This is the cover from the 1984 Newporter Invitational Concours d'Elegance. Although it retained its Pantera focus (as can clearly be seen here), by this time it had grown to be the most important post-war car show in the country

California. Wanting to keep it low-key and avoid the high-pressure aura that surrounds shows such as Pebble Beach, he purposely selected a whimsical name, calling it the PanteraPalooza.

The first iteration was several years ago, and was generally considered to



I advanced on the site and was amazed to see over 60 De Tomaso cars on display, doubling the previous record!

be a success. It was modest in scope, and really just represented an opportunity for owners to gather together and show their cars to one another, with the public only incidentally involved. The chosen venue was a nice public park located a few miles from the John Wayne airport. Subsequent years saw an initial increase in participation, followed by a slight decline, with less than 20 cars on display the past two years.

Working with the leaders of OC Panteras (the new name for the former Team Pantera of Orange County), this year they decided to really pull out all the stops, and heavily promote the event. Social media was bombarded with event flyers which promised a fantastic time, and appeals were made to the leaders of other POCA chapters, including those in Arizona and here in Northern California. A hard-working committee consisting of Greg Ford, Steve Buchanan, Jay Stewart, Larry Goodnough, Roger Banowetz, and Glen Chancellor each took on different roles to help pull everything together.

The people responded. Boy, did they! The organizers asked for people to register in advance so they could plan the logistics, and a whopping 62 Panteras were signed up by the time the event took place! What's more, many of them were coming from great distances, including San Diego, and Arizona.

I was fortunate enough to be between airline trips, which begin and



The morning dawned with leaden skies, but the sun came out by lunchtime and it turned into a perfect, and perfectly stereotypical Southern California day



Gil Mares of the Arizona club drove his beautiful 1971 Pantera to the show



Greg Ford, the director of the event, helps guide a Pantera into position



Steve Wilkinson, proud papa!

end in Los Angeles, so I rented a car on the Friday night and drove down to the Orange County airport and got a room at the cheapskate airline pilot favored hotel, the Atrium. Right next door was a slightly more swanky place, which was inundated with Arizona Panteras.

I slept in a bit the next morning, then got in my car and made my way the eight minutes or so from the hotel to the park. As I entered, I was amazed to see not a single solitary homeless encampment, drug addict, used needle or pile of feces anywhere, proving that it *is* possible for communities to pull together and maintain high standards of behavior. Coming from Northern California, the sight was almost surreal. The park was absolutely gorgeous, which just shows the good foresight and planning that went into its selection for this event.

The Panteras were all together in a somewhat secluded area, on the edge of the park, and there were also numerous portable canopies erected. As I parked up and walked over, I was really pleased to see not only the large number of cars, but also people present.

Besides the aforementioned Panteras, there were also two Mangustas, and even a Deauville! When was the last time you saw one of those? (One of



Although they live in the San Diego area, John and Kathy Buckman are also PCNC members, and show up to just about everything in their 1971 Pantera John bought new!



Jim Coyne photographing the underside of a fabulous Pantera



Dave and Linda Adler brought the two most exclusive cars at the event, their series 1 De Tomaso Deauville and their four-headlight De Tomaso Mangusta

the Mangustas and the Deauville were brought by Dave and Linda Adler).

One of the first people I saw was Mike Fontes, the only other PCNC member present, and one of the newest Pantera owners around, having just purchased his Pantera L a few months ago. Brimming with enthusiasm, he had flown down just to attend the event. He introduced himself and we chatted briefly before I was called away for some reason. I had hoped to spend a long time getting to know him but our paths sadly never crossed again. I hope he will make himself known at many future events, for our brief interaction showed him to be a terrific guy.

Come to think of it, John and Kathy Buckman were also there, and they are affiliated with PCNC also despite living in the San Diego area. I don't know if we received credit for their Pantera being present, or if that went to San Diego, but no matter—the important thing is they were there!

The first vendor display I saw was that of Steve Wilkinson, who has spent nearly a million dollars out of his own pocket to develop an improved substitute for the vaunted ZF 5DS25-2 gearbox found in our Panteras. For a variety of reasons, he felt the need to enter this market, and sought to address some of its perceived shortcomings. Although



Terri Lambert drove her fabulous Pantera Group 4 tribute Pantera, with husband Doug (whose leg has metal rods temporarily inserted after knee surgery) following along in a conventional car. When her father Ron Huff owned this car, it was famously used for a highly politically incorrect poster entitled Squeaky Clean. This is a family newsletter so it can't be reprinted here, but copies are available on Ebay...

most Panteras made do just fine with our gearboxes, some other applications such as GT40 replicas stretch them to their limits and sometimes beyond, so his ambition was to make his gearbox much stronger in the areas that needed strengthening. He said he has 50 orders in-hand from various replica GT40 builders, and a handful of Pantera owners have signed up as well, and he hopes

to start delivering completed gearboxes later this year.

Also on hand was Tara Hall and a crew of supporters from Hall Pantera. They brought a representative sample of the many, many wares from their shelves to put on display.

The regional representative of Hagerty Insurance, Jack Loughran, was also on-scene handing out information flyers.

Greg Warren, who worked at Full Throttle Panteras under Don Byars for many years before taking the business over after his untimely passing, also had a display booth. Knowing that I would be there, and knowing my perverse fondness for Campagnolo Pantera wheels, he brought an ultra-rare three-slot wheel to show me, similar to the one I was so fortunate to receive as a gift from Mike Mayberry last year. These wheels were only used on the first prototype cars, and it's likely that both his and mine were salvaged from the Pantera that was crash-tested back in 1970!

A massive grille was set up and at lunchtime, people lined up for burgers and Coney Island hot dogs with all the fixin's. The tables and chairs afforded people the chance to take a load off their feet after spending the whole morning wandering around looking at Panteras.



Tara Hall of Hall Pantera had a display with many different representative parts on display



The guys in the club thought of everything, including plenty of seating and tables, and tons of food. Club members manned the grille and filled everyone to the point of bursting with hamburgers and hot dogs



A small swap meet broke out behind the vendor displays, with several owners clearing out their garages in the hopes of earning a little cash and helping fellow owners in need of that last little elusive part

There was a DJ on hand playing music (not too loud, thankfully) the entire day as well.

Unfortunately not all the entrants were able to make it to the show, and at the end there were 60 Panteras on the grass (the official count was only 59, but one had left before the count was made). One person who could easily have been forgiven for not showing up was Matt Lipski from San Diego Panteras. He had the misfortune of crashing his own Pantera into his own house while backing out of the driveway that morning! He has a decorative fountain in his circular

driveway, and the restricted visibility out the passenger side resulted in him comprehensively scraping the whole passenger side against the unyielding edifice. While most people would have had a complete tantrum and thrown all their toys out of the pram, then gone back inside and sulked for the rest of the day, he took it all in stride. He shrugged his shoulders, got in and drove to the show anyway. While he wasn't going to be taking any trophies home that day, he personally got my vote for the single most committed Pantera owner present. Well done sir!



Greg Warren of Full Throttle Panteras, flanked by OC Panteras president Glen Chancellor, and me



Matt Lipski didn't allow a driveway mishap to spoil his good day. He got in, turned the key and drove up and had just as much fun as everyone else!

Although the entire event was purposely created with a low-key vibe, nevertheless there was some judging going on. One award was the "Best McGyvered" Pantera award, offered up to the car that displayed the most creative bodging and kludging. This was a no-brainer, as SDP member George "Home Depot" Bagdsarian had his beautiful car on display. This car is replete with a host of modifications, almost all of them completely fake! From the radical-looking fuel injection (which conceals a conventional carburetor underneath) to the host of gauges that aren't hooked to anything, and the "16-valve" valve covers atop the standard 8-valve heads,



I was fascinated by Steve Buchanan's European-market Pantera L #6973. In 1974 it was custom-ordered by Belgian De Tomaso distributor Claude Dubous, resplendent in Rosso Cordoba, and with a GTS-specification leather interior, but with a standard Pantera L dashboard with a leather-covered insert. It was equipped with US-market bumpers and side marker lights when it was imported to the USA, then sat for 20 years with a blown head gasket before being purchased by Steve in 2020. It has since had some light motor upgrades and suspension work but is otherwise totally original

this car is absolutely filled with gags intended to impress the ignorant. It's all done with a big, hearty grin, and almost every component added to the car was procured at Home Depot, and repurposed from its original intent.

There had to be a genuine winner of course. The Best of Show award was rightfully named in honor of Don Byars, and the trophy was presented in his memory by Laura Byers. Although some of Don's creations were strongly in the running, the ultimate winner was Martin Van Disteren, a new owner who bought a spectacular GT5 conversion from Texas just a few months ago. Unfortunately



Kelcey and Erin Sass drove their 1974 Pantera GTS from San Diego



George Bagdsarian created an incredibly over-the-top show Pantera filled from top to bottom with fakey-doo bling. The paint is spectacular, but the car boasts dozens of home-made innovations with parts sourced from toaster ovens and kitchen sinks and other similar things!



Glen Chancellor and Larry Goodnough presented Larry Benson from Arizona with the Christopher Columbus Award for the furthest distance driven to the event

he had to go home early, so his trophy was accepted by Marshall Smith, the president of San Diego Panteras.

Although the event was staged by Orange County Panteras, there were many cars from places further afield. The Chapter Participation award was given to San Diego Panteras which was represented by no less than 17 cars. The Christopher Columbus Award for the furthest distance driven went to Larry Benson from Arizona.

The show was slated to end around 3:00 p.m., and people started to filter out slowly a bit before then. Having absolutely nowhere better to be, of course I was the very last person to leave. Eventually I could justify remaining no longer, as literally everybody else was gone, so I made my way back to my hotel for a brief siesta.

The Arizona people had no intention of driving home at night, and so a plan came together to go out to dinner somewhere on Hwy 1. The Orange County people scrambled and came up with a suitable venue. They decided it would be fun to have a cruise on Hwy 1, and so at the appointed hour, a handful of OC members joined up in the parking lot of the swanky hotel next door along with the Arizona crew. I hopped the fence, figuratively speaking, and managed to talk my way into an empty passenger seat and tag along. We wound up in a terrific restaurant with outdoor second-story seating offering a commanding view of the Pacific.

I found myself seated next to a fellow named Jan Eddy Ottem from



When Martin Van Disteren drove into the show that morning, he had no idea he would win the Don Byars trophy for Best in Show. Unfortunately he had to leave early and wasn't present to receive the award in person, so Marshall Smith received it on his behalf from Laura Byars

Norway who was the undoubted winner of the Longest Distance Traveled award. He is a Longchamp and Pantera owner from Norway (!) who was in Mexico on business.

Learning of the event, he woke up early and skipped across the border, where he was picked up by Marshall Smith of SDP. He rode with Marshall to the event, and the subsequent dinner, before returning to his home, and the next day crossed the border back into Mexico, before returning to his home in Norway. His eyes were spinning all day, as he had never seen more than three or four De Tomaso cars together in one place at one time, so seeing more than

60 was more than a bit overwhelming! Needless to say, he enjoyed himself!

My hat is definitely off to the people at OC Panteras who worked together to put this whole affair on. It was a lot of work, no doubt, but their efforts were rewarded with tremendous participation, and great satisfaction among the participants. There were absolutely no hitches or glitches that I could see, and to a person, every participant I spoke with had nothing but great things to say about the day.

I'm hoping that next year, more members of PCNC can get together and make the journey down for the show. While it's admittedly a long drive, the logistics are pretty straightforward. For those who want to fly, things couldn't be easier as there are good hotels (and good cheap hotels) right across the street from the airport, and the show is a short Uber (or Pantera passenger seat) away. And for those who choose to drive, the hotel parking seems safe enough (see aforementioned comments about the lack of undesirable elements in the area), and the drive can either be reasonably fast if one takes I-5 to the 405, or alternately it can be beautiful and entertaining if one chooses Hwy 1.

I guarantee if you make the effort to attend next year you won't be disappointed!



The day was capped off by a delicious outdoor dinner on the coast



Within a week, we lost Rick Lorenzen and Willie Stroppe. Click picture for video of Willie and OCP.

***We lost a couple of friends in June.
Rick Lorenzen, founder of the Lion's Drag
Museum and Willie Stroppe both passed
away.***

***Rick was always a gracious host on our
visits, and Willie told us stories of prepping
new Panteras for US roads.***



LIONS ROAR OF LIONS
AUTOMOBILIA NITRO CAR SHOW
FOUNDATION + MUSEUM SATURDAY JUNE 22, 2024
EVENT HOURS 9AM TO 2PM

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S NEWEST AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM
GENERAL ADMISSION \$30.00

CAR SHOW PARTICIPANT
REGISTRATION IS ONLINE
WWW.LIONSAUTOMOBILIA.ORG

***This is the 5th Anniversary for the Lion's Museum.
Scott Couchman had us in for a tour a month before
opening!***

Click picture for video.

AUTO ADDICTION OC 2024 CARS AND COCKTAILS

SATURDAY MARCH 23RD

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH

SATURDAY MAY 25TH

SATURDAY JUNE 29TH

SATURDAY JULY 27TH

SATURDAY AUGUST 31ST

3pm - 6pm



26862 Vista Terrace, Lake Forest, CA 92630
949-299-2499 / autoaddictionoc.com

HAGERTY

***June 29 Tour of Autoaddiction OC and Car Show
Nice storage/service facility for collector hot rods!***

Click picture for video

Upcoming Calendar of Events.

***Working on this year's calendar. We are waiting for
YOUR suggestions!***

***July 13, Ed "Isky" Eskinderian's 103rd
birthday party at Lion's. Don't miss your
chance to meet the "Camfather"
Tickets online at lionsautomobilia.org***

***Summer Party at Gayle Huff's August 3rd.
OCP members should have received an email
invitation to this AWESME event. Don't delay,
attendance is very limited!***

International Drive Your Pantera Day August 24

SoCal POCA chapters will drive and meet up at
Cars & Coffee in San Clemente.
Center-stage parking for Panteras for great
photoshoot!
Afterward, we will drive up the coast to a location
TBA.

***Foothill Panteras will host "Panteras in the
Park" September 15***

***AZPOCA is hosting track days at INDE Ranch
September 27-28***

***Christmas Brunch is almost finalized, details
coming soon! Sunday December 8, 2024***

***Bob Singer Memorial Gondola Cruise
December 28, 2024***

Ticket info coming soon!

www.socalcarculture.com

Car shows, cruises, local events

The best way to get the word out about your
favorite event is to post it on our mail group,
ocpanteras@googlegroups.com
If not on the mailgroup, please join
You can also email me and I can sign you up



GAYLE'S SUMMER "FLAMINGLE PARTY"



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD, 2024

TIME: 6:00PM to 10:00PM

Save The Date!!

Registration is open !

**Payments will be made via RSVPIFY just like the
Palooza.**

Watch your email for invitation!

**Orange County
Panteras**



**"Bob
Singer Memorial Gondola
Cruise"**



**Saturday, December
28, 2024**

**5437 E. Ocean Bl. Long
Beach, Ca 90803**

**Cruise the canals and
waterways of Naples in a
gondola, enjoying the
sunset and holiday lights.**

Arrive - 5:30pm Depart dock - 6:30pm.

1 hour gondolier escorted tour with wine.

Cost is \$50 per person

Dinner afterward at Acapulco Restuarant

Registration info coming soon!

<https://racetostopsuicide.com/donation/>

**Race *to* Stop
Suicide™**



Cary Foster

Cary was a longtime member OCP and SDP POCA chapters. Please donate online in his memory.

Mention his name and POCA in the comment area.

We will get his name on the race truck in the NASCAR truck series!

GET INVOLVED.

**Race *to* Stop
Suicide**

Race to Stop Suicide is not a
suicide hotline.

**NEED HELP?
CALL or TEXT 988**

The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is
available 24/7.



**SCAN NOW USING YOUR
SMART PHONE'S CAMERA APP**

UNBEATABLE

 RARE CARS



E54

Interesting history piece. About 15 minutes.

Please join our google mail group. It is a great way to communicate with other member, get tech help, learn about events, etc.

Go to google.groups.com
search for and join

OCPanteras@googlegroups.com

You should already have received an email invitation to join the mail group. Please, join. If you did not get an invitation, check you spam folder, or contact me.

Please, visit the [Orange County Panteras FaceBook page](#).

Please, feel free to post and communicate via our FB page.

No Politics, please!