



Old Square Lights



www.ocpanteras.com

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Modern Headlights is the **CHANGE** that some of you can make with us this year. Dave Rudderow and Bud Williams made the conversion to the small rectangular lights a bunch of years ago. But now, Dave wants to have a Tech session to install an even smaller unit of about 2x5 3/8 inches. H4351 low (H4352 high beam?) sealed Halogen 50x135mm is for the 1995 Saturn SL. The esthetics means a lower profile when the buckets are raised that is more in keeping with the silhouette of the Tjaarda design. Some say that these were used in GM trucks but I think they were used in the late Firebirds and some Saturns. A disadvantage is that we must choose between just a high or low beam. Bud told me last year that the DMV code does not require high beams. So, we are planning to configure the low beam unit into a modified bucket. Carey Foster is trying to locate a wiring diagram and we are worried about taxing the old wires with the added 55-65 watts. Do we need to use relays to reduce the load on the switch? Perhaps the engineer types can advise us. Hopefully, Bud can guide us too on how to form the covers. I checked the proposed headlight height on my car with that which is required by the CHP and found that we are barely legal at 22 inches. We have four members willing, thus far, to make the modification to their cars. Call Dave 714 969-1301 to join in and to suggest a scheduled date to meet at my home. We need your help with both hands and ideas so please call him. He wants to make a single discounted bulk purchase for the lights and hardware --- also to reduce the last minute runs to the store.

The covers may be a potential problem area. If we need to create forms for the covers, we should do so well in advance of the installation date. I am assuming that the covers are more than simple straight pieces. Perhaps Art or Bud can guide us all through this one.

Christmas Party was a bit different this year. The normal parking lot show of 11 Pantheras, Ford GT and Bill Wright's GT40 drew huge crowds. Continuous chatter delayed the lunch as we renewed friendships and shared stories of the years' events. It was great to have all the area chapters together highlighting the need to have more participation as a combined group. Lunch was a much more casual than prior years with its 'home-style' servings. As the dishes were presented, there ensued a mild mele at our table reminding me of my siblings reaching for the food. Empty platters were promptly renewed as we devoured the offerings repeatedly. My fondness for traditional vegetarian pizza served cannot be overstated. Prior to its creation before the Italian Royalty, pizza was a peasant dish with just tomatoes as topping. The presentation of a flat bread garnished with tomatoes, cheese and basil represented the Italian flag. Later, it was brought to New York to become an American tradition (and eventually a TPOC Tech Session one). I noted too that the glasses were replenished frequently enough that I worried needlessly about the condition of the drivers in the gathering. The annual Davey awards were given to the contributors of the year's events. We certainly are blessed with a particularly creative President. A very special award was set-aside for Cherie and Jim Saxton in recognition of their support but they were not present to accept it. Missing too was that guy with a big heart, Gary Hirschberg. Tradition dictates that we hold no raffles; instead, we have door prizes. If you are breathing, you are eligible. But, alas, I must report that I did not win a single prize. I fear that there were simply too many other winners that day. Perhaps fortune will shine on me next year.

One final note...I show no pictures here for two reasons. First, I forgot my camera and have no pics. Second for those who did not attend, it serves as encouragement for you to join us next year to witness it yourself. So, buy a 2009 calendar and be ready to mark it with the next party date when it is set.

Gondola Ride brought to a close the year's events. I was bundled in layer upon layer of clothes and wrapped by a hoodie down jacket complete with muffler and gloves. As with last year we were blessed with NO wind. Others found warmth from the bottles of wine, blankets and loved ones. Each bridge we passed meant a kiss for me as demanded by tradition. Our party of 34 was split among two large and a very intimate boat. Talk to the Wrights about the goings on within the latter. The swim platforms were transformed into lighted Christmas trees and most of the homes along the canals were alight with cheer. This made for a great backdrop for the singing Gondoliers. One home had its pirate standing at the corner of the house peaking at the rotund stranger dressed in red, sporting a white beard, at the pirate's usual spot in front. Another home had a display of both a Santa and Rabbi offering peace to the World. Dinner was

buffet style with TPOC picking up the bar tab and a portion of the meal. The evening ended with the promise to do it again in 2009.

A/C Thanks go to Tom Gorny and Art Stephens for helping me with my air conditioning unit. This is exactly what makes this club an outstanding one. I am nearing a point where I'll have air conditioning once more. Phyllis says thanks too.

TPOC logo items may be ordered including blue denim long sleeved shirts, white polo shirts and white hats. Sign up at the next meeting or call Dave Rudderow (714) 969-1301. Price is near break-even to encourage displaying our chapter logo with pride. It is time to open the wallet and place that order for stuff you can use.

Badges make this writer look smart. Help my failing memory problem by requesting your free badge and pin it to a prominent place for me to read. My partner is tiring of answering, "Who is he again?"

TPOC Roster is an idea suggested by Larry Montgomery so that we may easily contact one another. The proposed content is the same as in the POCA roster but limited to just TPOC members. Content include email address, phone number and city of residence. Please email me at rkunishige@hotmail.com or call 714 374-8177, if you'd like to be included in the chapter roster. Remember that this information is for your private use and will serve as contact for special events hosted by TPOC members. I plan to have it in the glove box for easy access.

Events from below need to be logged into your 2009 calendar. Your participation helps the club. So, fill your calendar today. Finally, won't you plan an event for next year to your favorite spot? How about a ride, then lunch? Missing this year is the annual Superbowl Party. Our perennial host is attending a LeGrand event unless another host steps up, we will miss it this year. The calendar is woefully remiss in scheduled dates.

Larry Montgomery is willing to have a run to that Los Alamitos Winery again. Give him a call if you'd like to help or have a suggested date for the event. Last event was huge with an impromptu show and plenty of food (& drinks). I need dates for HB Concours and the Wing n Things (or whatever they call it in Los Alamitos). This year I'd like to feature the airplane stuff. Has anyone heard of the Chino museum? Host a lunch there? Who will tell when these events are scheduled?

Missing too are the Tech Session dates that you'd like to see. So, call me at 714 374-8177 to gather the gang for your project to get your ride on the road.

Let's fill the calendar with an event each month.

Reminders: from rkunishige@hotmail.com. Everyone with an interest in DeTomaso cars is always welcomed.

Jan 11 **LB Swap Meet** at Long Beach Veterans' Stadium 6am-1pm.

Jan 14 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Mel's Drive-in 12241 Seal Bch Blvd, Seal Beach 563 431-7951.

Feb 8 **LB Swap Meet** at Long Beach Veterans' Stadium 6am-1pm.

Feb 11 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Mel's Drive-in 12241 Seal Bch Blvd, Seal Beach 563 431-7951.

Mar 1 **LB Swap Meet** at Long Beach Veterans' Stadium 6am-1pm.

Mar 7-8 **Willow Springs Open Track** by Jim & Cherie Saxton's West Coast Racing 626 285-2024 features both Pantera and Ferrari clubs. In recent years, professional racing teams have joined the sessions to exercise their skills. This offers a learning experience by following their line. Our Panteras have sufficient power and suspension to at least remain on the same lap as Larry Stock proved last year. What we need is simply both the desire and the funds to prep our cars. The average "Joe" in his street car can choose from the other three classes as well as take advantage of the many instructors who freely donate their time to ride with you or even drive your car to show how they'd approach the racing line. Car control is what you gain as a result.

Mar 11 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Mel's Drive-in 12241 Seal Bch Blvd, Seal Beach 563 431-7951.

Mar 22 **LB Swap Meet** at Long Beach Veterans' Stadium 6am-1pm.

Jun 6-7 **HB Concours** is for two days, Saturday for Hot rods & Sunday for us. See <http://www.hbconcours.org/>.

Jun 10-14 **POCA Fun Rally** held in Reno, NV for the first time. Plan to join fellow members on our ride to the rally. Experience the Reno-Fernley Raceway 4.3 mile track and test your skills safely on the longest USA road course. Thursday and Friday are scheduled but be sure to attend the Friday exhibition race. Once again, PCNC will allow \$20 noontime tours as in LV.

Aug 14-16 **Monterey Historics** Laguna Seca.

Oct 25 **Wings, Rotors and Wheels** on Sunday Oct. 25th is a \$30 planned event. Check out <http://www.wwexpo.net/>.

Nov **Willow Springs Open Track**

What do we need to do to get more of you attending our meetings and events?

Send comments to Rod Kunishige, 1107 Main St. Huntington Bch, 92648 714 374-8177 rkunishige@hotmail.com.