



Photos by Bill Harris Archive



www.ocpanteras.com

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Gondola There is something very special about all those who joined to celebrate a frosty tour of the canals of Naples. An accompanying group added a great deal of cheer to the night. I am uncertain as to its source --- be it the wine or the natural comradeship of a group of like interests.

The lights sent a repeated message of joy and peace. The variety of colors offered a very wide spectrum: those in white and blue struck a subtle tone that conveyed a special message. Themes presented an outstanding array of animals and objects to recall differing views of the Holidays. Trains, sleds, reindeer, elves, dolphins, stars, palms, birds, and other barn finds gave us quite a show.

Our two gondoliers were indeed notable. The first competed in Italy and gained some recognition there. The second was from New Zealand. Both sang Italian songs to add a just little more romance to an extremely memorable evening. (Think of it as Opera over the water.)

It may be strange to have ended the night at a Mexican restaurant. But, that is exactly what we did. A steak fajita filled my ever-expanding belly while my date enjoyed the shrimp enchiladas. Flan was the dessert choice. All in all, it was fitting to end on a warm note.

Willow Springs Jim and Cherie Saxton, long time TPOC members, host this open track weekend twice a year. The first is scheduled for March 6 and 7 at Willow Springs Raceway in Rosamond, California just north of Lancaster. Here you can run your car regardless of make or model at speeds on a closed course known worldwide. Big bore machines of the CanAm series were right at home here so our Panteras are well suited with their big torque engines to power out of the high speed turns and onto the long straights.

The Saxtons' West Coast Racing offer a weekend of fun for only \$245. Just contact Jim at 626 285-2515 Jim@westcoastracinginc.com for details and an application. An optional performance seminar is offered for personal instruction including how to make setup changes to your car like tire pressure, shock and spring adjustments.

I've written extensively of past events in our newsletter. So, you already know how you can benefit as a driver or help support the club by being a volunteer at an event.

New Year We enter a new year with renewed expectations. Our Board is a mixture of experienced and fresh members. The intent is to provide some stability, continuity and guidance while also bringing about new ideas and approaches to liven up the entire group. Dave Rudderow remains as President. Ron and Linda White take on the roles of VP and Treasurer respectively. Bill Wright retains his post as Secretary. John Schirmer joins old-timers Gary Mitchem and Rod Kunishige to the "at large" roles. Many many thanks go to each of the retiring Board members for their outstanding service. Their contributions have guided us through the years and, with their aid, will help the club to grow and prosper.

The calendar is bereft of entries and I beseech you to host or direct an event. Any function or sight that may be of interest to club members is a candidate. Even past ones warrant consideration again should you wish to act as sponsor. We sorely are in need of your participation.

There is ample room for you to write a newsletter article. Any and all suggestions are much appreciated as I am finding it harder to come up with new topics for you. If you do not want to write an entire article, simply submit an outline or a series of photos that tell a story. How about a story on how and why you bought your car?

Driving Standards are adopted by the Board for Team Pantera of Orange County (TPOC) driving runs:

1. Traffic laws will be followed at all times. This includes, but not limited to SPEED LIMITS.
 2. The lead car is the lead car. Please don't pass the lead car.
 3. The driver of the lead car will do his/her best to keep the group together.
 4. The last car will have contact (by phone or radio) with the lead car.
 5. We will do our best to keep all of the Panteras together.
 6. If you are not driving a Pantera, please follow behind the pack, (unless you are the lead car) or drive along side the group.
 7. If your car has problems, signal the others in the group and pull off the road in a safe manner.
 8. If another car in the group is having problems, pull over and see if there is anything you can do to help.
- These standards are to keep each drive a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Dyno Run was a suggestion from two members. How many of you would be interested in placing your car on a dyno? It has been a good number of years since the last one. Let's discuss this at the next meeting.

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

Feb 10 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Mar 6-7 **Willow Springs** Open Track days where we mix it up with Porsche and F cars. Jim Saxton at 626 285-2515.
Mar 10 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Apr 14 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Apr 14-17 **LB Grand Prix**.
Apr 24 **Seal Beach Show** by the Chamber of Commerce call 562 799-0179 or sealbeachchamber.org.
May 12 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Jun 2-6 **POCA Fun Rally**
Jun 9 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Jul 14 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Aug 12-15 **Monterey Show**
Aug 11 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Sep 8 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Sep 16-19 **Silver State Race**
Oct 13 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Nov **Willow Springs** Open Track days where we mix it up with Porsche and F cars. Jim Saxton at 626 285-2515.
Nov 10 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Dec **Christmas Party**
Dec 8 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
Dec **Gondola Tour**

Long Beach Swap Meet: Feb 14 Mar 14 Apr 11 May 9 Jun 13 Jul 11 Aug 8 Sep 12 Oct 10 Nov 7 Dec 12 --- 8am at Veterans' Stadium.