



Bill Wright's GT40



More at [www.ocPanteras.com](http://www.ocPanteras.com)

February 2014

**GT40** article penned July 2011 follows because I had no news to share this month. It is also likely to be the same for next month as time pressures increase. In any case, here it is.

Phil Hill 81 passed away last month in Salinas Calif. of complications from Parkinson's after participating in the Monterey Historic Races. He was America's first World Champion and is the only USA born champion. He began with MGTC in 1949, Maserati in 1958 French GP, won 1961 Le Mans, earned Formula One Championship for Ferrari, drove that famous Ford GT40 (that took wins in 1966 through 1969) and ended his career with wins for Chaparral in 1967.

We have our own famous GT40 driver, Bill Wright. His silver replica is as close as anyone can get to a real MK II. Ninety percent of its parts are interchangeable and are manufactured to the original specs. It is considered a continuation series and can be in the registry. Ford sold the name and is now owned by a trio (Safir GT40 Spares Ltd. based in Cincinnati Ohio) who each own real GT40s. The ZF (RBT) is used as the original 1964-5 289 cars but they were considered too weak for the 1966 427 FE engines of the MKII so Ford developed the T44 transaxle from the venerable 4 speed toploader sacrificing the 5<sup>th</sup> gear. But, Bill selected an aluminum Dart block based on the 351 Windsor with a 4.125 bore on a 4" stroke built by Roush. It yields a heart thumping 578hp to propel the 2310 pound silver bullet to 194mph at 6,500rpm. I don't think that he will limit the revs to that ultra safe number.

Superformance license produces the steel monocoque chassis and roof for strength. The full racecar suspension is used since no improvement was deemed as warranted for the MKII. Its performance kept a level that went well beyond the norm - for even today's streetcars. Remember that the cars went above the 200mph mark down the Mulsanne Straight at Le Mans. Changes to the car bring a thoughtful weight loss of 150 pounds. So each horse need only pull less than 4 pounds. This, of course, helps its launch times so benefits occur at both the top and bottom ends of the speedo. Note too that the 0-60 times are hindered by the same 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> shift as in our Panteras. 60 should be in the 4-5 second range but look out as you top 2<sup>nd</sup> gear at over 80mph as in the de Tomaso. Nevertheless it screams like our cars especially like those cats with 180 degree exhaust piping (see Dave & Gary).

Few concessions are made to modern standards. The most important being the A/C unit that looks like the original oil dry sump tank, no roll down windows and a speedometer. The dash is largely original and I love the HVAC control panel. Removable steering wheel is a must. Even the Gurney bubble is optional for those of you with a higher stature. My preference would be to redesign the outrigger gas tanks to a single central location like the Ford GT or that of my own Fiberfab Avenger. Climbing over the tanks was a pain for the Le Mans drivers - remember they used a standing start then. And, I mean standing outside the car, across the track. Just ask Cherie Saxton if you don't believe me. Bill recounted that there is a small gas transfer tube similar to the old Jaguar sedans giving it the same filling station problem.

My recollection is that a real GT40 car number 1139 sold for \$950,000 some years back. I'd rather have Bill's. The question for you is what other car is sitting beside your Pantera? Don't be shy, tell us about it.

Comparison	GT40	Pantera
Chasis	Monocoque	Monocoque
Weight	2310	2860
Length	163	167
Width	70	67
Height	40.5	43.5
Track f/r	57/57	57/58
Wheelbase		98.4

**Riverside Raceway Museum** event is one that needs some report and pictures. If you have this ready for me, I would be pleased to publish it so all the members may benefit from your impressions.

**General Meeting (Reminder)** is at Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719 at 7:30PM on the third Wednesday of each month except December. Scott is likely to have a video treat for us all.

**POCA Fun Rally** is scheduled for May 28 through June 1, 2014. Our many thanks goes to those who bring this vital event to our DeTomaso community. The gratitude goes to the Rally Committee, POCA Board and to both past and future host Chapters. San Diego will host 2014 and will direct us to the wonderful features there. This close proximity offers the California chapters a unique opportunity to participate in numbers that underscore our support of the international organization while expressing our appreciation of the effort made by our host brethren. We have plenty of time to block the dates and prep our cars for all to see.

**Picture of Your Car** is needed for our web site. Email one to Greg Ford at [tpocwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:tpocwebmaster@gmail.com).

**Badges Available** once again. You and your associate may wear either a pin or magnetic style TPOC badge simply by asking any Board member. Their lettering is a very fashionable black to match everything you wear.

**Reminders:** from [rkunishige@hotmail.com](mailto:rkunishige@hotmail.com). Everyone with an interest in DeTomaso cars is always welcome.

Feb 19 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Feb 22 **Riverside Intl Auto Museum** is the destination once we gather at C&C. See the many photos and displays of the events held there. Lunch together and be prepared to be photographed too.

Mar 19 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Mar 22 **TPOC Tech Session** at Rod's house but those arriving prior to 8:30 are not likely to find him awake. Items we are considering include speedo repair (NOT the swimwear), clutch master cylinder (again), or A/C conversion. Other repairs on your Pantera will be addressed as time allows.

Apr 16 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

May 21 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

May 28-1**POCA Fun Rally** San Diego.

Jun 1 **HB Concours.**

Jun 18 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Jul 16 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Aug 18 **Concorso Italiano** featuring Maserati once owned by DeTomaso.

Aug 20 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Sep 17 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Oct 15 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Nov 19 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

**Long Beach Swap Meet** @ 6am – 1pm at Veterans' Stadium \$8. Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 6, May 1, Jun 8, Jul 13, Aug 3, Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Nov 30, Dec 14

**Weekly Events:** Friday: Garden Grove Main St, Saturday: HB Donut Derelicts, Irvine Cars n Coffee, Sunday: Woodland Hills Supercars, Topanga Canyon & Erwin St 7-11am.