



On list of 51 coolest in 50 years



More at www.ocPanteras.com

March 2014

Road & Track magazine was a welcome sight upon my return to these United States. This month's issue rewarded me with an article listing "The 51 Coolest Cars" and among them was our favorite, the Pantera. This reaffirms our appreciation of this fine automobile. However, its praise is somewhat back handed in that it is described as "Ford V8, ZF five speed, basically a GT40 for the middle-class, knocked as a redneck supercar, but a good one is more riot than you'll ever need." It is true that many dislike its mixed origin as lowly. And, perhaps it is why it is considered as undervalued by some.

It is its rich heritage that makes this a remarkable car in its own right. The Argentinean De Tomaso and his American wife were racecar drivers who started the Italian company. The midships configuration was quite familiar to them while others maintained older layouts through most of the 60s with the French firm Matra (D'Jet) being the exception. (I recall fondly the drives through the Alps in my own superb handling Matra 530.) He used the Mustang V8 along with the German ZF in the Mangusta with great acclaim and success. That example stands today as one of the prettiest cars ever. The Pantera continues that theme with a more powerful Mustang 351C engine and ZF transaxle combined with a chassis designed by the famed F1/F2 designer Giampaolo Dallara. He is credited with the mid-engined transverse craze. For the body, deTomaso commissioned a bright American, working for the Italian firm Ghia, whose father designed the Chrysler Aeroflow. Tom Tjaarda's styling stands very well today as it did in 1971 with so many of its cues remaining in modern supercars. His early experiences gave him a fresh perspective including the hunched rear arches, implied rear fastback window, sloping front, radically raked windshield, and diminutive quarter glass. These are themes carried today. I still get comments regarding the early complaints of overheating whenever I display my Pantera.. Ford, of course, fixed these. Most of us modified the engine to gain "a few more horses": additional cooling mods are recommended for those pushing above 400hp. Wide tires now fill every bit of space in both front and rear wheel wells. They add to both traction and the attitude of being fully functional. In fact, exercising the car at the fast Willow Springs track shows that it can perform admirably amongst Cobras, Ferraris, Porsches, Cameros, Mustangs old and new. And yet, it remains a good Grand Touring car with street manners and the ability to move smoothly over long trips.

Riverside Intl Auto Museum remains a mystery to me. I was not able to attend but look forward to seeing any videos or pictures Scott may have for our next meeting. In fact, if you have some please bring them to the next meeting for all to enjoy. Be sure to tell me your experience with the museum.

Tech Session is planned to help get more Panteras on the road. Join us as we do minor repairs and periodic maintenance in preparation for the run to San Diego. These are scheduled each year for the Rally and as projects are identified. You are invited to give a hand or just to watch as we apply our limited knowledge. Remember that our time history has proved that it takes us nearly four times as long to accomplish the work as compared to the Pantera vendors. (But, I think we have more fun doing each task.)

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.

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. Everyone with an interest in DeTomaso cars is always welcome.

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. Check your POCA newsletter for details.

Jun 1 **HB Concours** is always a favorite but it conflicts with those going to San Diego. Do consider it if you are not going to the Rally. Here is your chance to pick up a trophy from the 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.