

Volume XXXVIII No. 3 March 2008



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
OF LOMA PRIETA REGION -  
PCA • <http://lpr.pca.org>

# PRIETA POST

This Month: St. Pat's ala Morgan • Hit the Trail  
Tour • Electric Tech • Easter Parade • AX #1  
Reporting: Tacos & Tequila • Costa Rica Caper  
This issue in full color on the web at <http://lpr.pca.org/post/>

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## March

Thursday the **6th** - **Board meeting** at Round Table Pizza at Camden & Union in San Jose.

Saturday the **15th** - **Electric Tech Session**. See the ad on page 15.

Saturday the **15th** - **St. Patrick's Day ala Morgan**. Karen's corned beef and cabbage. Need I say more? See the ad on page 16.

Saturday the **22nd** - **Easter Parade & Lunch**. Plan on decorating your Porsche, driving in the parade through downtown Campbell then meeting for lunch. Details on page 14.

Saturday the **29th** - **Hit the Trail Tour**. Join the Vanacores on a trip to the deep south. See the ad on page 9.

Sunday the **30th** - **LPR Autocross #1**. Bring out Baby and challenge the cones as your Autocross Committee begins the 2008 AX season. See the ad on page 19.

## April

Thursday the **3rd** - **Board meeting** at the Round Table Pizza at Camden & Union in San Jose.

Saturday the **5th** - **One Day Vacation with the Hallocks**. Golf, swimming, tennis, BBQ & more. All the info on page 18.

Saturday the **12th** - **Pinnacles Tour**. California in the spring! Check out the details on page 17.

Sunday the **13th** - **LPR Autocross #2**. The 2008 AX season is in full gear. See the ad in the next issue.

Saturday the **19th** - **Tech Session** at Don's AutoWerks. Don Wise will fill your heads with knowledge on a subject to be determined. Watch for details in the April POST.

**26th - 27th Clear Lake Tour**. Those Jedi Masters of the tour are at it again with a visit to Northern California and a historic hotel. Details on page 46.

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March 2008

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**Cover Photo:....**  
White faced monkeys stack for effect and bear their fangs, apparently feeling threatened by the LPR tourists visiting Joe & Cheryl Pruss in Costa Rica.

Photo by Gary Lieber



# Hye Notes

*Ed Tefankjian, President*



Winter is ending and spring is just around the corner. Get your Porsche out of the garage and get ready because there are numerous activities on the LPR Calendar for March.....there is a Tech Session, a Good-Time-Gathering, Drivers Ed at Laguna Seca, the Campbell Easter Parade, the Hit the Trail Tour and the first autocross at Marina. Check the LPR calendar and the POST for details.

For those of you that autocross, the Car Classification Point System has been revised for 2008... an e-mail will be sent to you in early March with the revised point methodology. This will give you time to review and properly classify your car for the 2008 Autocross Season.

Hope to see you at some of these activities.



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# **POST POSITIONS**

*Kevin Bennett, Editor*



I was out walking to the bank the other day when I noticed some interesting “for sale” signs along the way. They were posted in front of some relatively new condos whose construction and sale had been a gradually unfolding side bar to my often weekly walks to visit with my money. In only two years these properties had gone from “New Home Sale” to “short sale” and “property owned by bank.” It’s kind of sobering to see this dose of financial reality visited upon Silicon Valley. During the thirty plus years that I have lived here, the area has always been somewhat of a real estate Never-Neverland, with almost constantly soaring values resulting in entire neighborhoods of million dollar tract homes.

I came of age in the 1970s and my first real job was working for a bank in Reno, Nevada. I was aware of the importance of real estate in any estate building portfolio and I, along with my wife, Debbie, managed to purchase our first home at the age of 23 and 22 respectively. Being alert to financial affairs and trends, I can vividly recall how the financial institutions of that period were roundly castigated for their denial of home loans to all but the most credit worthy. Complaints were commonly floated by self appointed protectors of the poor about how the banking industry was guilty of collusion in keeping the financially underprivileged masses from participating in the American dream of home ownership. Accusations of red-lining and discrimination were made by crusading journalists and the perceived “problem” was embraced by politicians as another that they just had to fix.

Debbie just happened to work as a real estate loan processor at a Reno based savings & loan during this period and her recollection was that it was rare to have loan values as high as ninety percent of the purchase price... and on those loans, the applicants were forced to practically walk on water in order to secure them. Lending standards gradually began to decline, however, as federally chartered institutions such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac facilitated the lending institutions selling off their existing loans so that they could essentially keep lending out the same money. In essence, the banks income shifted from interest on their loan portfolio to fees generated from constantly selling off their loans and making new ones. Just as the government didn’t foresee the banking crisis of the 1980s,

precipitated in large part by the FDIC guarantee, the regulators didn't see the danger in the relaxation of lending standards by the banking industry when the lenders realized that they were no longer retaining any risk for making questionable loans.

The champions of the poor in essence got their way as more and more of those whom the banks, in this age of political correctness, would label as "less credit worthy," received creative loan packages that allowed them to buy into the American dream. Of course, we all now know that an effervescent real estate market cannot go on forever and so we are seeing the downside of this financial exuberance in the form of short sales and bank foreclosures in our own, once impregnable, bastion of real estate appreciation.

I heard a man, a notary and freelance writer, on the radio the other day, talking about how he and his wife lost their home to foreclosure thirty years ago. They now live in Sacramento, in a home that is currently worth thirty thousand dollars less than their loan balance, and he is resolved to the fact that they are about to lose this one to the same process. I walked around in the doldrums for days after hearing this story, thinking about this sad couple, in their fifties, with no financial assets and clearly little hope on the horizon.

I don't claim to be any financial savant. I made some good investments and was able to retire young, but I realize that in many ways I was lucky... maybe my timing was just better than the Sacramento couple. But I can't help wondering if this real estate melt down would have happened without the aid of the do-gooders in Congress. Maybe, with the almost explosive growth of the economy and financial institutions, the mechanisms that facilitated the lenders' lack of exposure to the risk, and thereby enabling the recent home ownership crisis, would have still been created. It is probably even likely that the financial markets lobbied Congress for the changes that helped create this mess. But it proves to me once again that legislators are out of their element when they are regulating business with an additional goal of creating a social good. The capitalist wizards and their all-powerful profit motive always seem to find a way to turn the changes to their own benefit and the rest of the world be damned.

Rich Bontempi's

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# HIT THE TRAIL TOUR



**SATURDAY, MARCH 29**

Come out and join Tony & Kris Vanacore as they lead LPR on another incarnation of their tour of the "deep south". The tour will wend its way southward from south San Jose to the Morgan Hill environs. We will visit the Clos la Chance Winery for a tasting before continuing on to another taste of the exquisite barbecue to be had at the Trail Dust Barbecue Restaurant in Morgan Hill.

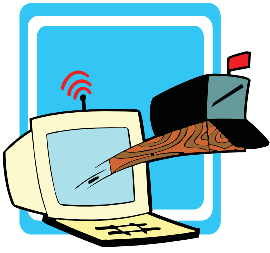
**Plan on arriving at 9 A.M. Drivers meeting will start at 9:10 and the tour will leave promptly at 9:30.**

The tour will leave from the Country Inn at 6484 Camden Avenue, at Camden Avenue & Almaden. Those who wish to breakfast or buy gas should arrive early enough to complete those tasks before the start.

There will be a \$5 per car tour fee and a \$5 tasting fee (collected at the winery.)



**RSVP to Tony or Kris by Friday, March 23, at 408-978-1101 or email [tonyvan@mac.com](mailto:tonyvan@mac.com)**



# LPR gets mail

January 28, 2008

Porsche Club and Affiliates,

Thank you for supporting the Bower's Computer Lab. Through your generosity I was able to purchase a site license for K-5 Curriculum software. The software covers a multitude of standards and is being utilized in all grades. I also purchased five of the new Starfall Speedway games which are currently being enjoyed in K, 1st and 3rd grade classrooms. The students were so thrilled when they saw the colorful games that reinforce phonics and spelling. The games will be circulated throughout the school wherever the need is greatest. In addition to the five games, I purchased five chapter book sets of Folk Tales, five chapter book sets of Fables, ten Reading and Writing Journals and ten Cut-Up Take Home books that contain fifteen Starfall level 1 books each.

Again I wish to thank you in behalf of the students and staff of Bowers Elementary School for you support and generosity.

Sincerely,

Kris Javi  
Computer Lab Technician  
Bowers Elementary School



## Leguna Seca March 19th

Join us in this rare opportunity to drive at this world class track with lots of track time at a great time of year. This event will fill quickly, so register sooner rather than later.

- \* Full instruction is available for Novices
- \* Cost is \$290 \* Lunch
- \* 90 dB Sound Limit in effect
- \* Closed wheel cars only

Event contacts: Chris Murray – 510-538-3800 or  
[registrar@coastaldriving.org](mailto:registrar@coastaldriving.org)

\*\* Please login online for registration and event details at  
<http://coastaldriving.org>\*\*

# MEMBER NOTES

*Les Schreiber,  
Membership Director*



Just a reminder for a long range plan, we are going to have a Mother's Day Brunch at Bargetto Winery, Soquel on May 11th. We are still working on maybe having a little tour before/after the brunch, so mark your calendars now, and bring your mothers along.(Wives can also be mothers, so bring them too)

Below are the new members that have joined us this past month, and also included our total membership. If you know of someone that has a Porsche, and doesn't belong to our club, get them to join, and enjoy the fun.

New members from PCA (5)

- Michael Ballou & Chris Morse (Affiliate) (Monte Sereno) 1999- 911
- William Jhun (San Jose) 1994-911Speedster
- Douglas Stewart (Santa Cruz) 2000 -911 Millennium
- Mark & Julie Quale (Wife) (Santa Cruz) 2005 Turbo
- Nicolo Maffeis (Varese Italy) 2007-997

Transfers in (3)

- Ted & Nancy Fischer (Wife) from Golden Gate (GGR)
- Donald Sohn from Monterey Bay (MBY)
- Glenn McGovern from Golden Gate (GGR)

Transfers Out (1)

- David Parker to Orange Coast (ORC)

New Duel Membership

- James Warriner (Grants Pass, Or)

Duel Membership Awaiting Renewal (1)

- John Chakel

Membership that Expired Last Month (1/31/08)

- Eight (8)

Reinstated Members (renewal > two months) (1)

- Tom Livingston

Total Renewal's this month (18)

LPR Membership

- 1-3-08 Total = 564 (Primary = 311, Affiliates = 253)
- 2-7-08 Total = 566 (Primary = 313, Affiliates = 253)

Across

4. English Trunk
6. The biggest GTG
7. Engine part (or what John's shoes often are)
9. Red nosed reindeer, familiarly
11. She's stuck with him now
12. Juanita's or Linda's lover
13. Engine twist
15. What autocrossers want
16. Tom's main squeeze
18. LPR's most popular event
20. One of der factory's latest, or island dweller
24. Region of renown
26. Steam? No, but power behind the RR nut
27. Color, or velocity phobia perhaps?
31. Horny pair?
34. Stop juice
36. Temptress, but Eve she is not
38. Porsche expected it
39. '07 charity gal
44. Famous Ferdinand
45. '07 veep
47. Rain cover
49. Editor's a.k.a.
50. Bare wine cellar?
52. '07 money minding maven
53. Monthly meeting
55. Specific purpose lubricant
57. Tour communicator

Down

1. Tour stop often
2. Heinmiller winner
3. P/Prez or British sports car
5. Dash dial sometimes
7. Tour pause (or subject of John's humor)
8. Disc companion
10. Tom's main squeeze
14. Starving Amenian?
15. Rev. adder-upper
17. Always happy teacher
19. Leadfoot leader
21. Infamous/famous number
22. Julie's '07 wash-and-shine guy
- 23 British bonnett
25. LPR's raison d'etre
28. dist. adder-upper
29. Joe's babe
30. Always carry a spare one
32. Pneumatic tire inventor
33. Works with oil or air
35. The gnashing of teeth
37. '07 blonde bombshell newcomer
40. Knowledge (believe it or not)
41. techtechie
42. Double trunker
43. Box of sparks?
46. P/Prez's better half (much better)
48. Italian 912 stallion
51. LPR's Shrek
54. May be stepped on, put in (or passed when john is around)
- 56 Member minder



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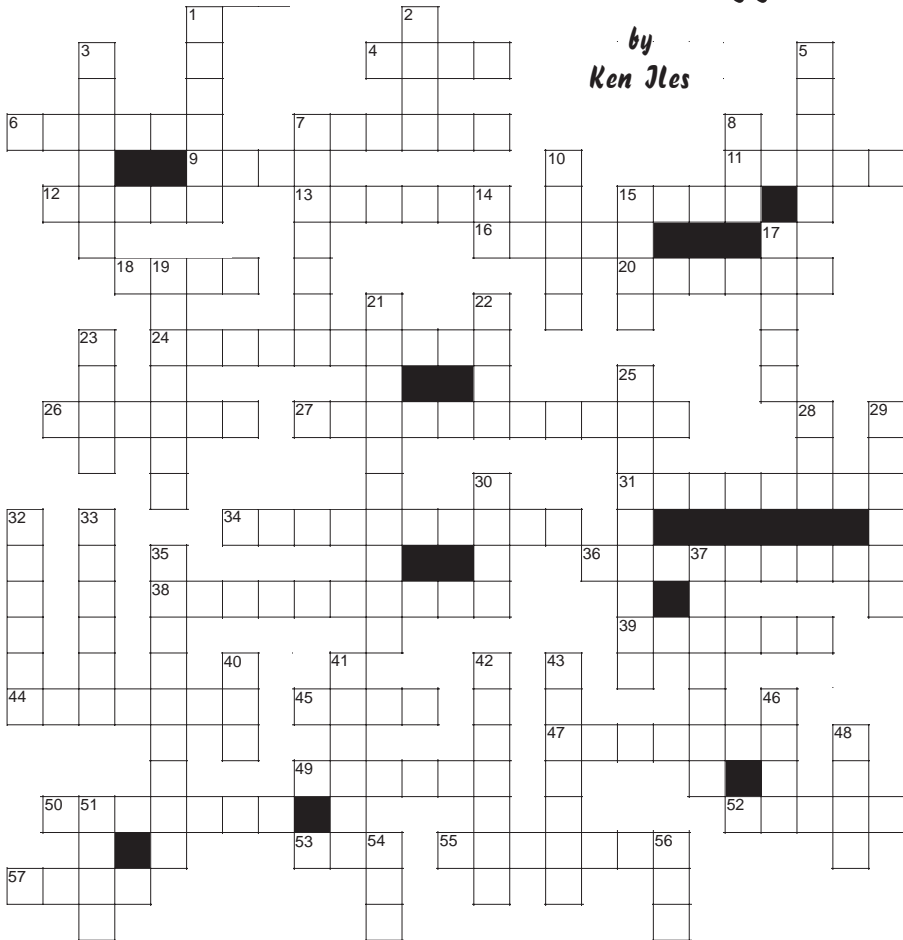
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# Loma Prieta's Porsche Puzzle

by  
Ken Jles



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IN SUNOL  
SATURDAY,  
MARCH 22**

Put on your Easter bonnet, wash your car, decorate it and drive it in the infamous Campbell Easter parade. The theme is “bunnies and bonnets.”

After the parade we'll take a wild flowers tour to Sunol for supper and the opportunity to observe Bosco, the Mayor, serve beer as only he can.

**To participate in this affair, Call Rudi Herz at (408) 559-1731 or John Reed at (408) 371-1965 between March 13th and March 18th.**

We will meet and decorate our cars on Orchard City Drive near Railroad Ave. at 11:00 A.M. The parade starts at 12:00 noon.

First and second place prizes will be awarded for best Porsches showing in the parade during our supper in Sunol.

**The Cost is \$5.00 per car and \$16.00 per person for your supper which will include soup or salad, coffee or tea, plus your choice of a crab sandwich, French dip or ravioli. Please advise John or Rudi of your meal selections as you RSVP.**

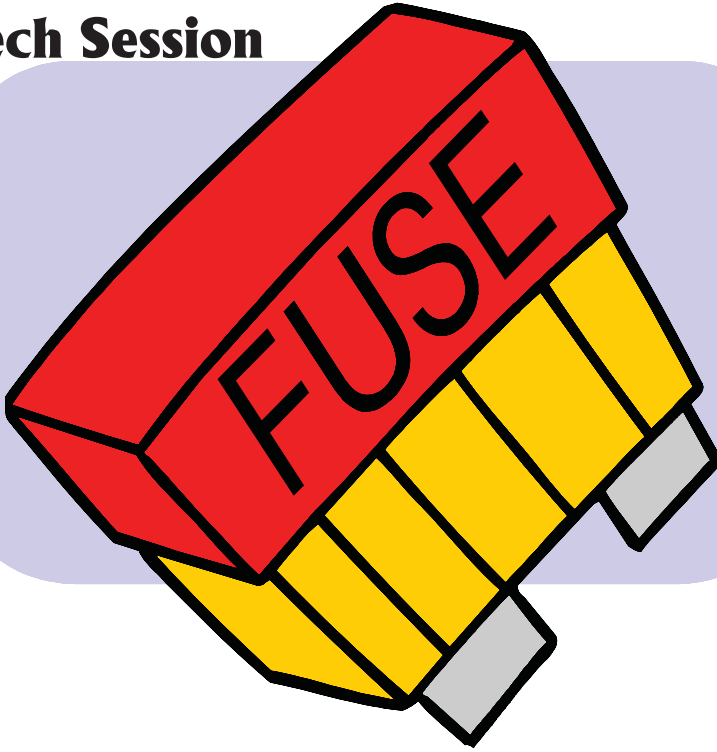
There will be a tour of the Pacific Locomotive Association in Niles Canyon after supper for those interested. For those with limited locomotive interests, there are nearby wineries and antique shops plus the scenic Nile Canyon drive that may answer your need for further diversion.

All of Campbell is awaiting the opportunity to once again ogle our beautiful

Porsches. Don't miss this opportunity to delight the parade goers as well as visit with your LPR friends.



# Tech Session



## Headlights to Tail lights; Porsche's electrical systems.

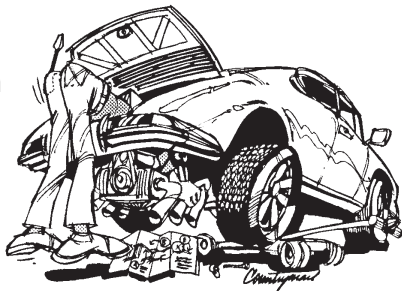
Come out to RMG on March 15th to learn about Porsche's electrical systems. Hosted, of course, by Bob Grigsby. Bob will be talking about electrical systems from Headlights to Tail lights for engine management and creature comfort.

Date : Saturday, March 15th

Time : 9:30am

Address : 960 W. El Camino  
Sunnyvale

Phone : (408) 738-2060





**Saturday,  
March 15**

# **St. Patrick's Day with the Morgans**

Karen Hennessy Morgan will be putting her full Irish heritage on display as she cooks up a huge pot of corned beef and cabbage for you to enjoy.

Plan on bringing an appetizer, dessert or side dish for others to enjoy, and  
**bring your own beverage.**

**The cost will be \$5 per  
person.**

The fun can be found at:  
6068 Marla Court  
San Jose 95124  
beginning at  
6 P.M.

Please RSVP to  
Karen (or Bob)  
by  
Saturday,  
March 8 at  
408.267.8224.



A suggestion:  
Karen has been known to cook up a trivia test or two, so study up on your Irish culture.

Wash and Shine Judging for Vintage Pre 1976 Porsches

# Picnic at the Pinnacles

## Saturday April 12, 2008



*Experience the winter beauty  
of twisting roads through budding vineyards,  
rolling hillsides of newly sprouted grass  
and the ranchlands of the California's quite past*

Tour starts in beautiful San Juan Bautista  
9:00 am - Mission State Park  
Wash and Shine Judging for Vintage Pre 1976 Porsches

Noon - Pot Luck Picnic at Pinnacle State Park

Tour ends in San Juan Bautista  
no host refreshments at  
Joan & Peters German Restaurant

**PCA Members: \$5.00**  
**State Park Entry Fee: \$5.00**  
**Tour open to all Porsches**

**Hal & Diana Hallock present**

# **A One Day Vacation in Boulder Creek Saturday. April 5th**



Grab your golf clubs, your tennis racket, your walking shoes, your tasting glass, your swimsuit, your hiking boots, or a great book. Saturday April 5th has something for everyone!

The day begins with a golf tournament through the redwoods at the Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club, weekend home of Hal and Diana Hallock. Golfers will meet at the Hallock's at 10:00am sharp for coffee and a breakfast snack before a day on the course.

Not a golfer? There are lots of options while your sweetie is on the course...

- Explore the tiny funky town of Boulder Creek (3 miles)
- Take a hike through the redwoods in Big Basin Park (3 miles)
- Play tennis on one of six tournament courts
- Swim in the pool or explore the rocky creek
- Visit a local winery; David Bruce, Byington and Ahlgren (10 miles)
- Doze by the creek and enjoy a good book
- Play croquet by the pool

**Golfers check-in at Hallock's 10:00 a.m.**

**The party begins 2:30 p.m.**

- RSVP**
1. Golfers send \$50 check to Lowell Hallock by March 15th (18 holes w/ cart) Make check to BCGCC (Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club)
  2. Just coming for the fun and BBQ? Plan on bringing a salad, dessert, or appetizer to share and **call or email Hal by April 1st**

\$10/person donation to club. Make check to LPR/PCA.

**Hal and Diana Hallock 650-365-4098**  
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# Loma Prieta Autocross #1

Sunday,  
March 30

at  
Marina  
Airfield



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Windows**

**Don's  
AutoWerks**

## Information:

- Registration: 7:30 - 8:30 AM
- No pre-registration
- Limited loaner helmets available
- Drivers must work for sessions run
- Snell 1990 or better helmet required

For more information contact:

**Allyson Pickard**

**408-370-3331 allysonpickard@hotmail.com**

Take Highway 1 south toward Monterey and Laguna Seca Raceway. Take the Reservation Road exit south toward Marina. After one short block, turn right in order to stay on Reservation Road. Follow the road through Marina approximately two miles south of town. Turn left at (Imjin Road) signal into Marina Airfield. Turn right after the first large building on the right and follow the cones to the autocross site.

# The Costa Rica Caper



*photos by Gary & Julie Lieber, John & Angie Reed, Bill & Emily Highley, Rudy & Joanna Herz, Ken & June Iles, Ed & Rosemary Tavares, Ernie & Mary Tavella, Tony & Kris Vanacore, Ashley & Allyson Pickard, Ed & Karen Tefankjian, Joe & Cheryl Pruss*

by *Emilie Highley*

The beginning... The limo picked us up at 9:30 p.m. and off we went to fetch Karen and Ed... the luggage was loaded, champagne in hand... the vacation had officially begun. Costa Rica... HERE WE COME!!!!

We chatted all the way to San Francisco Airport – what we brought to wear, how many pairs of shoes, what we planned to do and how we were all looking forward to the vacation – not necessarily the long trip ahead of us!

We landed at the airport at roughly 10:45 – checked into the American Airlines International Terminal and headed toward the gate. Kevin & Debbie Bennett and Mary & Ernie Tavella were already there... soon came John & Angie Reed – At this point, thanks to Bill, he figured it was time to have a celebration toast... the nearest bar was just across from our gate (how convenient was that). We gals grabbed tables and the men went off to round up some food. Drinks ordered – the usual, beer, Cosmopolitans, Margaritas... more LPR'ites arrived – the Iles, Herzes, Tavares, Liebers... more drinks, more food. Allyson and Ashley Pickard soon joined us... the party was in full swing and the airport was filled with laughter in the usual LPR style. The Vanacore's were the last to arrive, making up the remainder of the group... The excitement mounted as the time drew near for us to board our 1st leg of the trip, a 3.5 hour flight to Dallas. Before we took off, I passed out 'goodie' bags to each couple filled with candy and pretzels – just a little snack to tide us over!



*The shenanigans started early with Emilie Highley goofing off in the airport with June Iles and Joanna Herz.*

We were spread out on the flight – mostly in groups – some in the back of the plane, some in the middle and some a little further up. It was a pretty quiet flight – after all, it was 1:00 a.m. when we took off. The group slept or read – I read while Bill caught a few hours of sleep. Arrival time in Dallas – 6:00 a.m. – daylight was now upon us as we all sleepily stepped off the plane looking for a place to have some much needed coffee and a bite to eat. During breakfast and our 3 hour layover we had a chance to chat – for some of us, it was a time to get better acquainted with Allyson, Ashley, Gary, Julie, Ernie and Mary... It didn't take us long to figure out that Ashley was quite a 'hoot' and would soon entertain us throughout our time in Costa Rica! This trip was her graduation gift (she will be graduating from San Jose State this spring) – Congrats Ashley!

(NOTE: I hope that Ashley will write about her experiences on this trip... afterall, a 22 year old needs that night life... Allyson you were quite the sport!)

We all gathered at the gate – that's where the real fun began... as people 'dozed' we were taking pictures... June, Angie, Bill, Tony – heads hanging down, a bit of snoring going on! Of course, this continued on the plane – now catching couples as they slept! I decided that there was NO WAY that anyone would catch me sleeping – I probably would drool or something stupid like that!



*Ken Iles also found something to play with during the Dallas layover.*

Our flight to Liberia, Costa Rica was almost 4 hours – pretty smooth for the most part, although the Captain does need to work on his landing skills! The sun was shining as we came down the stairs of the plane and into the modest terminal. We headed for the carousel to collect our bags. My bag was virtually the first one off – as luck would have it, everyone picked up their bags except Bill! Somewhere between San Francisco and Dallas, it was LOST!!!!



*The airport facility was definitely third world but got the job done. Ed & Rosemary Tavares and Ashley Pickard hit the tarmac.*

While we were filing the lost bag report, Joe Pruss came in and joined the group. We all cleared customs and had our 1st group meeting where Joe and Cheryl welcomed us and directed us to the two buses that would take us either to Casa Orquidea or the Golf Suites at the Hacienda Pinilla property. The luggage was loaded and tied onto the top of the bus... I think many of us doubted that it would take the bumpy ride to the Hacienda... However, we were proven wrong, because our guide Jeffrey had a handle on everything and the luggage was secured...

Off we went – Joe rode on the bus with the 8 couples that were headed to the Golf Suites. Joe and Jeffrey chimed in on what we were about to experience over the next 7 days and talked about the countryside that we saw during the hour trip... We approached a gated entrance... we have arrived at our 'home' ... WOW, those suites were 'sweet'! Nella, our hostess took over introducing us to the facilities and assigning us our rooms. The rooms were incredible – tile floors,





*Joe & Cheryl Pruss' Casa Orquidea is a vacation home but is also available as a rental. It was built to allow 4 couples to co-habitate nicely, with two huge bedroom suites separated by a great room on each floor.*

## **The Costa Rica Caper**

*Right: Ken Iles, Joe Pruss and Bill Highley at the 15th on the Haceinda Pinilla's golf course.*



*The Casa Orquidea's patio and pool. Many LPR folk had been concerned about tropical bugs, but even in these evening gatherings the only ones seen were the occasional Costa Rican super grasshopper.*



*The Costa Rican Super G.*

sitting rooms, walk in closets, large baths, bright and sunny! I could get used to this life! We all quickly unpacked, got comfortable and regrouped in the 'hospitality room' that was equipped with wine, beer, water and soda... The bus came back to pick us up at 5:30 and drove us over to Joe and Cheryl's Casa Orquidea (which means orchid) where we joined with the other couples for an evening of appetizers, drinks, socializing and relaxing.

At this point, I need to say that Casa Orquidea was absolutely beautiful – built by Joe and Cheryl with all creature comforts of a custom built home in the States... granite counters in the kitchen, beautiful cabinetry, home video system, large bedrooms and baths, fabulous pool, hot tub... I could go on and on – but, seeing is believing!!!!!!

Cheryl introduced us to a drink which they 'concocted'... let's see, vodka, sprite, pineapple juice... Cheryl wanted us to help her name it – I think that Kris Vanacore came up with a name of "Costa Rickie", others suggested "Pruss' Pineapple Passion 'tini"... whatever the name, it was pretty tasty... needed to pace myself or they would 'sneak up on me' (by this time, I had not slept in about 30 hours).



*Joe & Cheryl Pruss hosted this little party at their spanking new "Casa Orquidea" in Costa Rica. This is the downstairs kitchen/great room.*

Cheryl and Joe prepared fabulous appetizers and they were quickly devoured by us all (airplane food just does not make the grade)... the evening was truly an LPR GTG, but with no Porsche's and we were about 3000 miles away from home! Joe rallied the troops so he and Cheryl could review with us what we were about to experience over the next week... zip line, horse back riding, spa day, sailing, snorkeling, river boat ride, trip to Tamarindo, etc... . We were joined by our guide Jeffrey and his wife Cynthia who further explained what was available. So many things to do, so much to explore... how could 7 days possibly be enough time!



*The planning meeting for the week's activities took place in the Casa Orquidea's second floor electronics/entertainment oriented great room. You can believe me when I say, "Both great rooms were great!"*

The evening was drawing to a close... 8, very tired couples headed off to the Suites to settle in. Before we hit the bed, Bill needed to borrow clothes from the guys... thanks Ken Iles for lending Bill your underwear! Actually, if anyone had to lose their bag, I am a 'little' glad that it was Bill's... you know how vane we woman can get!

Well, it's time to close my eyes, get some sleep and be ready for our Costa Rica adventure... The best is yet to come...

Pura Vida...



# The Costa Rica Sunset Cruise

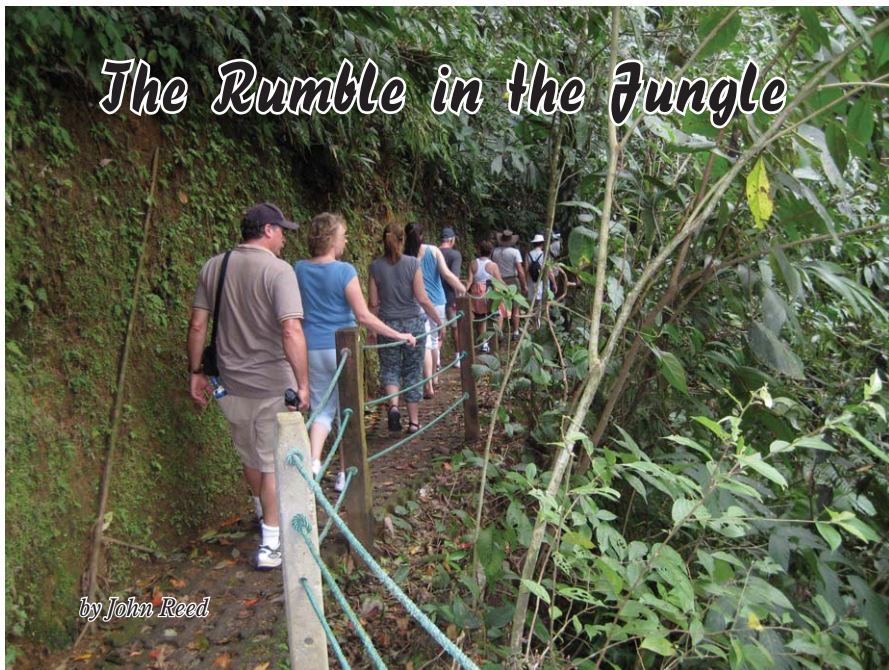


Left: Captain Tony & First Mate Kris pose with the Jolly Roger. Above: The long boat approaches the catamaran Marlin del Rey with this trip's passengers. Below: Kris Vanacore reporting for snorkel duty. Below Left: Rudi Herz does the kayak thing.



Above: Tony Vanacore, Angie Reed and Debbie Bennett waded out to the longboat and are ready to brave the breakers on the way out to the catamaran. Left: Joanna Herz, Debbie & Kevin Bennett, Angie and John Reed. What's this? Did the camera catch Kevin's halo?

# The Rumble in the Jungle

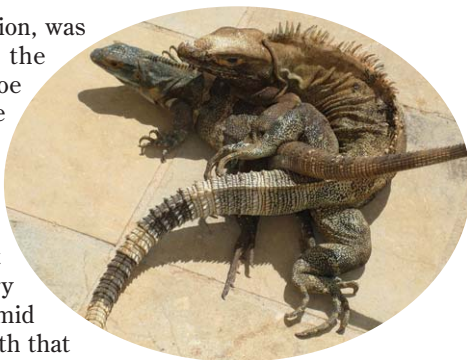


by John Reed

Hacienda Pinilla, Costa Rica, Tuesday, January 15th 6:00 a.m. ---The phone rings in golf suite # 17 , the voice on the other end sweetly chimes, “This is your wake up call buster, now get your butts out of bed!” The lovely voice of Emilie Highley, at our request the night before, is doing her wake up duties involving several of the rooms and must move on to the next victim. I thank Mizz Sunshine for remembering us, awoke my bride then ran head first into the bathroom door jam...Eureka! The day trip to Lake Arenal has begun.

Our journey was to begin at 7:30 a.m. The masses assembled downstairs in the breakfast room around 7 a.m. and munched down cereal, assorted fruits, toast and the ever yummy Armadillo on the half shell, a local favorite. As the old saying goes, when in Rome do as the Costa Ricans.

The big bus, our means of transportation, was right on time. The smaller van with the folks staying at Casa Orquidea, a.k.a. Joe and Cheryl’s place, arrived as well. We assumed all were aboard the little van; its blacked-out windows lent it an air of intrigue. From inside the muffled voice of Kevin Bennett was overheard saying, “Hey, Tony, you do have an air about you!” We carefully stepped over two very large Iguanas torridly mating in the humid morning sun and boarded our ride. With that vision dancing in our heads the big bus, followed by the little van, departed on our long day’s journey into night.



*Birds do it and bees do it. In Costa Rica, iguanas do it too...*



Our tour guides for the day were Jeffrey and Harold and, at times, our host Joe Pruss. Jeffrey drove and Harold provided lively commentary about everything from the trees to the flowers to the farm land and the cows. When asked about the Iguanas and their passionate demonstration of amour, Harold shrugged his shoulders and said they had to do it somewhere so what's the big deal? Back in the little van Kevin yelled out, "Hey, Tony, see the iguanas? Kinda remind you of the '60s in California, huh? " Oh, the little van people were having fun. And the big bus rolled on.

Meanwhile, while bouncing along the ever changing road surface (or lack thereof) we were enjoying Harold's banter. When asked about the skinny white cows Harold said they are Brahmas and that's how God made them. These beasts were plentiful and grazed all along the expansive farm land, much to our enjoyment. Harold pointed out a tree called the Conddon, this, of course, brought out howls of laughter from the back of the bus, obviously referring to something else. These gringos were a barrel of laughs alright. OK, the Conddon tree has a romantic legend and the legend says that when someone from Argentina dies in Costa Rica they are buried under this tree, their souls travel to the top branches where flowers bloom in the spring. We were in awe at this tale until Prez Ed shouted out, "You should see how they bury people in Armenia!" And the big bus rolled on.

After a brief pit stop at a local gas station and a short sojourn on the world famous Pan American Highway, our next stop was a wide overlook overlooking Lake Arenal; a perfect photo op and another chance to work out the kinks from the back massage the roads provided.



*Ernie & Mary Tavella, Kris Vanacore, Rudi Herz, Gary & Julie Lieber pose with Lake Arenal in the background.*

Created in 1974 this lake is the largest man made endeavor in Costa Rica and is spread out, both width and length, over several miles. With the background of the lush green mountains and clouds drifting by in the dazzling blue sky, it seemed everyone wanted their photo taken. Finally, tapping his watch, Joe said it was time to move on to our lunch location, the Volcano Café at the Volcano Lodge at the base of one of the 62 Costa Rica volcanoes.



*Lunch during the volcano adventure was exquisitely presented and, best of all, delicious!*

Arenal Volcano, or as we affectionately christened it, "Big Mama," is still quite active. Someone asked Harold when was the last time "Mama" erupted (more laughter from the back of the bus) and he replied, "Yesterday!" Oh, boy, the thought of eating lunch while this volcanic beauty just might spit out a boulder the size of a Boxster was exciting to say the least. Since Ken Iles is a former English Channel submarine watcher during WWII, he was asked to keep a keen eye peeled

for flying Boxster boulders. He was his usual good sport and said that we all could go jump in the channel and look for our own Boxster boulders.

With lunch completed (an excellent epicurean delight), the big bus, followed by the little van, headed out for our next adventure, the Hanging Bridges at Arenal; a two hour hike across suspension and fixed bridges in the rain forest. Narrow winding trails amongst the lush forest would add to the excitement of the hike.

Once again Harold was our guide and he was very knowledgeable about the forest and its inhabitants; monkeys, exotic birds, and leaf cutter ants everywhere amid flowers of vivid beauty. The ants seemed to amuse most everyone with their unending back and forth travel carrying their treasure of leaves to wherever they were planning to leave them. When advertised as “hanging bridges” it was meant as just that. These long, narrow single file bridges did a wonderful swing and sway as the forest party took their time crossing, I brought



*The intrepid LPR explorers cross one of the hanging bridges in the Costa Rican rain forest.*

up the rear along with Joe just to make that nobody fell off into the vast unknown. This club togetherness brought the forest troops a warm and cozy feeling, besides, if someone did plunge into the unknown what were we suppose to do about it, we were walking and hanging on for dear life! Warm and cozy, indeed.

The pinnacle of the hike was literally a hike to the pinnacle. We were on one of the stationary bridges when, looking straight up, discovered another bridge hovering in the clouds above. I asked Harold if were going that way because it had to be at least 5,000 feet up and he said, “Of course, El Tonto Grande.” Tonto? I remember he told another story earlier in the drive about Costa Rican’s love of the Lone Ranger and his sidekick Tonto. Somehow I didn’t hear the entire story, much to my chagrin later on.



*Some pose, some take pictures on a non-hanging bridge in the jungles of Central America.*

Now the real walk began. Switchback rain-soaked stairs led this way, then that way, then this way again. Up, up the valiant forest folks walked...and walked...and walked. Host Joe and El Tonto Grande finally caught up with the pack, many huffing and puffing and crying “uncle!” The bright side: It was all downhill from here.

Gathering our wits and wind we descended from the clouds trying our best not to slip on the rain-soaked stairs. More birds, monkeys and flowers greeted us along the way, the

ants put on another show of solidarity. As we neared the end of this rain forest adventure the air became suddenly very still. Know why it’s called a rain forest? Because it rains! The skies let loose! Most everyone was back under or near cover, but host Joe and El

# The Rumble in the Jungle



*Allyson & Ashley Pickard.*



*Although almost every meal was outdoors, essentially no insects were seen... amazing!*



*Julie Lieber negotiates one of the hanging bridges.*



*Above: Our guide, Harold, briefs the jungle trekkers on the local flora.*

*Below: There was fauna to be seen, too.*



*Joe & Cheryl Pruss, seemingly almost as pleased as all of the LPR folk whom they are escorting on this excursion.*



Tonto Grande was not so lucky. Being last to emerge from the forest we got hammered with a torrential downpour. We walked briskly (okay, we ran) and finally ended up under the men's room overhang next to the parking lot. Figures. "Oh, look," a voice yelled out, "El Tonto Grande's back." Tonto? At this time the Iles, Highleys and Joanna Herz joined us from their gondola ride to the top of the forest. This was an alternate adventure for those not wanting an arduous trek up and down the forest. Sporting bright blue raincoats provided by their guides (El Tonto Grande and host Joe Pruss got squat) this group looked chipper and ready for more action. If going to dinner is action, so be it. The big bus and little van rolled once more.

Our dinner stop was a restaurant overlooking Lake Arenal. Unfortunately it was dark when we arrived so we used our romantic imaginations and pretended the lake was calling us to a romantic moonlight cruise. Tony Vanacore immediately came out of his stupor and volunteered to drive the boat. Thank the Gawds this was only imaginary; one lake adventure with Captain Tony was enough! Once again the food was outstanding. The wine was excellent. The beer was cold.

The big bus and little van rolled towards home as nightfall begged us all to rest and relax. But, the roads of Costa Rica

said otherwise. The big bus rocked; The big bus rolled; The big bus bounced. The masses aboard were in good spirits (literally) and cheerful one liners flew back and forth and front to back as we rocked, rolled and bounced for another three hours.

This was the longest day en masse. Beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. The big bus let us off at the Golf Suites while the little van continued on to Casa Orquidea, a.k.a. Joe and Cheryl's place. We thanked Jeffrey and Harold for their attention to detail during the looong day and night. As we stepped off the big bus we had to hurdle the iguanas mating in the moonlight. These two provided many hours of entertainment during the week. We came to believe that they never slept.

There were at least two items I needed to clear up from the trip: I consulted a well known Sierra mountain hiker, Kevin "Mr. POST" Bennett, about the exhausting climb to the suspension bridge in the sky. Was the climb really 5, 000 feet? "No, Tonto", he replied, "It was more like 200-300 feet." Guess when one's body isn't used to this punishment it only seems a staggering height.

Next was the Tonto thing. I asked Gary Lieber what gives with the name and he said that if I paid more attention to Harold in the first place I would have heard that "Tonto" to Costa Ricans means "stupid." I should have known my reputation preceded me here. Although, El Tonto Grande does have a dashing ring to it, maybe I'll change my e-mail address to this Costa Rican honor and send the iguanas love letters.

Hacienda Pinella, Costa Rica, Tuesday, January 15th 10:30 p.m.--Good night and good luck!



*The raincoats provided to the tram riders provoked a certain amount of jealousy in certain jungle trekkers. Bill & Emilie Highley, June Iles, Joanna Herz and Ken Iles.*

# The Costa Rica



*Rudi & Joanna Herz won the hat competition on the Sunset cruise.*



*Mary & Ernie Tavella*



*Julie Lieber & Emilie Highley*



*Bill Highley and his horse, Biscuit.*



*Kevin Bennett lolls at Lola's.*



*Julie Lieber lolls at Lola's, too.*

*Right: Some more of the local fauna that kept the tourists entertained.*





# Caper



*Ed & Rosemary Tavares.*



*Karen Tefankjian.*



*Ashley Pickard makes friends with one of the locals.*



*Bill Highley salutes you!*



*Gary Lieber, bummin' on the beach, headed for Lola's.*



*Ashley and Allyson Pickard. Ashley's the one making best use of the red-eye flight.*



*These white faced capuchin monkeys don't monkey around. He doesn't just want a bite... "Gimme the whole thing!" Kevin Bennett & friend.*



*Cheryl Pruss brought a lot of over ripe bananas from Casa Orquidea. The monkeys were ecstatic, the passengers amused and the rangers irate.*



*Left: I wonder if the group would have so cavalierly piled onto this "bridge" to their boat if they had known about the crocodiles?*

*Below: Some of the crocodile bait seen on the river*



*Above: These egrets took flight as the tour boats approached.*

*Right: "Please, sir. I want more!"*







## Swimming with Crocodiles

*The Palo Verde Boat Trip on the Tempisque River  
and the Santa Cruz Festival and Rodeo*

*by Julie Lieber*

Late in the evening on night 3, a tiny skunk (with lifted tail) sniffed its way onto the patio outside the Casa de Golf's downstairs hospitality room. As Ed Tavares rushed to the door to catch it on film, the wine-drinking, wide-eyed crowd collectively held its breath: the skunk scurried under the outside patio table and off into the dark, a potential disaster averted. As we quickly learned in Costa Rica, nature demands your attention and will not be ignored.



Angie Reed asked Harold about the green iguana that lords it over other iguanas in the landscape around Casa de Golf. Harold responded to us all saying yes, the green one is male; you can tell by the spikes on his back and that the brown ones are the females: by the way did you all know that the male iguana has two male organs? The silence was deafening as LPR attendees strained to hear more about this Enquirer-like headline. It's true, said Harold.



*This little fella boldly climbed into the boat and stood on the boat's rear view mirror, waiting for a piece of fruit.*

Harold explained the passing Costa Rican landscape: the expansive, iconic Guanacaste tree (growing 25-35m), the bare limbs of the Cortez tree, lush with yellow orchid-like blooms and the Coyol Palms, whose fronds are used during Holy Week and where Coyol wine comes from. The thing about Coyol wine, Harold said, is that it gets stronger every day: when you drink it, you feel strong today \*and\* tomorrow. Harold avoided mentioning how you feel on the third day, but it may be the way Ed Tefankjian felt the morning after "Tacos Y Tequila" night at Casa Micele.

Joe Pruss joined our bus when we stopped to buy watermelons. As is also true of Cheryl Pruss, Joe is a generous supplier and a wealth of Costa Rican information, so much so that he almost lost his voice halfway through the week's tour. Joe shared that before Costa Rican turista industry was prominent, the Dole banana and pineapple

❖ Swimming with Crocodiles..

operation \*was\* the economy in Costa Rica. But in 2000, the Dole ex-patriots closed the operation over trade union disputes, leaving the entire Costa Rican work force without jobs. Countless families were affected. The government then relied more on the growing tourism and technology industries and now grows fewer banana crops because they deplete soil resources quicker than pineapple or other exports.

Harold pointed out that cantaloupe and watermelon are also cultivated, but that the larger-sized fruits in each crop are always exported. He smiled as he said that's ok as the smaller fruits kept in Costa Rica for the locals are much sweeter. Both cantaloupe and sugar cane require difficult hands-on work from laborers. As we passed a sugar cane field, Jeffrey stopped the bus and Harold jumped out, cut and peeled several sugar cane stalks for us to taste (slightly sweet). Since by now Harold understood this LPR group very well, he mentioned that from sugar cane comes Casike (pronounced kah-see-kay), the vodka-like liqueur made from cane sugar. Casike is produced and controlled by the government and 12% of the proceeds are given to the Catholic Church. Gary Lieber noted that historically, this isn't the first time indulgences (cash payment for sins) have been accepted by the Church.



*Julie Lieber's strong sense of etiquette kicks in as she offers a napkin to a recently fed croc.*

We finally reached our embarkation point and boarded the two boats taking us along the Tempisque River, which Jeffrey stated is the longest river in Costa Rica and empties into the Pacific. As we pattered along the Tempisque, we saw small and great egrets, pizotes (coatimundis), several kinds of storks and herons, bats, white-faced and howler monkeys (monos), and crocodiles. Jeffrey, who guided our boat, mentioned that there are also javelinas (wild pigs) in the undergrowth that will eat anything they find on the ground, including monkeys. He also said the river supported catfish and tilapia.

As our boats pulled close to the brush-lined shore, white-faced monkeys rushed aboard to take fruit from our hands. Jeffrey mentioned that the monkeys bear young every two years. Kris Vanacore, seeing several cute monkeys climb on top of the boat, reached up to feed them and got her hand grabbed by one of our guides, who had climbed on the boat roof (and who was actually reaching for something lower than her hand). As everyone rushed to the monkeys on one side of the boat, the author and the guide moved quickly to the opposite side: for although many rules do not apply in Costa Rica (like traffic laws), Newton's third law of motion (for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction) is true ergo: fall in the water = crocodiles get you.



*Another capuchin monkey "does lunch" with the LPR Faithful.*

❖ Swimming with Crocodiles..

When we saw crocodiles eyeing us from the distance, Rudi Herz, the crocodile whisperer, leaned carefully over the side of the boat and whispered near the water: the crocodiles came closer to the boat. As several LPR members were now concerned about our safety, Cheryl Pruss reassured everyone by recounting a recent news story: a crocodile had attacked a teenager leaving only a few body parts for the family to find. The family and friends of the boy, so incensed with anger and wanting revenge, returned to the river. The next newspaper article showed the families with a picture of a large crocodile they had killed. Everyone was then very much reassured that our impending deaths would be appropriately avenged.

As the crocodiles cruised our vicinity, our guides tossed them chicken parts while we marveled at their jaws, size, power, and stealth. Unfortunately, just then, John Reed slipped on a banana peel and fell into the water with the crocodiles, only to frighten them all away. Despite Rudi Herz's desperate attempts to call them back, the crocodiles would have nothing to do with John Reed, who was perhaps the only thing in the river bigger than they were.

Then it was our tour boat's turn to play "Hide the Fruit from the Ranger." Unfortunately, we lost the game, as even the monkeys could see we had fruit and were purposely hiding it from them, and were so angry with us that they made horrendous faces at us so we would leave. Ashley Pickard broke into tears as she had become attached to the smallest of the monkeys that she was feeding. (Little did she know that on Zip Line day, she would experience little monkeys crawling all over her, hanging from hair, and reaching into her pockets. Inside the cage that day with Ashley, Cheryl Pruss would laugh as the monkeys climbed under her tank top and peeked out the top.)

Harold then joined our boat and pointed out that crocodiles could hold their breath underwater for an hour and the only way to tell male from female was to take their temperature. Harold said the river



*The abuelita in her outdoor kitchen prepares the chicken... no bugs to be seen anywhere!*

also has caymans. Gary Lieber asked how can you recognize the Cayman? Harold says caymans have two rows of spines. Gary Lieber says, oh I thought it was that the Cayman's tailpipes are trapezoidal.

We disembarked and boarded the bus to lunch at Bilson's premier Soda (small diner specializing in typical, local food). The lovely outdoor dining area was perfectly suited to the authentic food we were served, family style. Earlier, we had all watched the *abuelita* (little grandmother) cutting up the chickens for either our (or the crocodiles') meal (right next to the stand-alone toilets--the ladie's toilet seat dressed with a bright-red gingham/lacy cover). During our meal, with the mid-day heat at its warmest, the "automatic" air conditioner



*Our lunch stop was a relatively primitive outdoor "soda" and, once again, the family style meal was excellent.*



❖ Swimming with Crocodiles..

on the patio roof came on (misted water wafting down on either side of the dining area, cooling our skin). After dessert, Ed Tefankjian stood and presented LPR's gift to Harold; peals of laughter and applause reinforced our gratitude.

Joe Pruss then stood and asked who needed to stop to exchange dollars for colones for our upcoming trip to the Santa Cruz Festival and Rodeo. As several members needed to exchange money, the bus stopped at the next available ATM. We all watched as Tony Vanacore stood at the ATM pushing buttons; then, he pushed more buttons, then more. When Joe Pruss joined him, we knew something was wrong. Later, we learned that Tony had broken the bank as he tried to exchange too many dollars for colones (his favorite Costa Rican beer, Imperial, would be served at the Festival). Back on the bus, the setting sun radiated heat through the west windows of the bus, and Karen Tefankjian changed seats, only to find that the sun followed her no matter where she sat. This proved the title of the time-honored song "Ain't no sunshine when she's gone," because now we understood that Karen took the sun with her wherever she went.



*It wasn't just the marimba clubs on display. The festival is a big social occasion and the people came out to play, too.*

After a short respite in our various homes away from home, we reboarded the bus for a short cut to Santa Cruz for the Festival and Rodeo. On arrival, we found the city streets filled with marimba music, dancing, native costumes, loud bands and drum corps in a parade (one band from Cornell University). The street vendors sold pupusas (appetizers), (h)elotes (roasted corn on the cob), chorreadas (potatoes with cheese and onion), tamales wrapped in banana leaves, beer, coyo wine, casike, and helados (ice cream). In the dark, the street with the tall church tower was alive with people eating, dancing, and window shopping the store display styles, which featured amazing mannequins. The mannequins, modeled after the local mujeres (women), demonstrated that the muchachas from Santa Cruz are muchachas mas muchachas (women most womanly).

After the parade, with the near equatorial half moon and Mars burning redly



*The canton of Santa Cruz apparently has a large number of marimba clubs, many of whom were set up on the main street and displaying their prowess during the festival.*

overhead, we stood in line to get into the rodeo. As we carefully climbed to our seats in the crowded, woodstand arena, fireworks burst so brightly and closely that the ashes fell on us and the smell of sulphur repelled all nearby insects! The safety squad in the middle of the arena had several wooden boxes of fireworks and were carefully lighting the fuses with a cigarette. Golden, red, and green stars exploded and fell, whistling spinners, and glowing tiers of explosion after explosion! We understood that this charitable festival and rodeo were a big deal for this area of Guanacaste and many colones had been spent on it.

The fireworks ended and the arena filled with men, young and not so young; some who had been drinking. They paraded their brave manhood about the arena, and strutted over to one side or the other, where sat the girls of their fancy. These men would try to run near the bull and touch the bull's horns or slap his behind to prove their bravery. Soon the throng was joined by three men who performed the duty of rodeo clowns in the US: distracting the bulls to allow someone else to escape. These brave men carried big, leather scraps of material to pound in the dust to distract and get the bull's attention. Cheryl Pruss noted that we shouldn't worry about the men too much as help was quickly available: there were three "slots" in



*Several in the tour thought it would be fun to join the locals down in the arena... ideas that were quickly quashed by their spouses.*

the side of the arena, where three ambulances were backed up and waiting to rush injured parties to the hospital.

The first bull exploded from the gate black and feisty and rushed around at the men, angrily shaking exposed horns back and forth. A large "OOHHHH!" emanated from the crowd and men ran both toward and away from the bull. When the bull rushed toward the stands, Ticos hanging on to the stand sides quickly climbed up out of the way or rolled underneath the stand. When the bull tired, three Sabaneros

(Costa Rican cowboys) rode out on beautifully trained horses with traditional saddles to rope and guide the bull out of the arena. Both Debbie Bennett and Julie Lieber had to make "special" promises to be redeemed "later" to prevent their husbands from rushing to join the brave men. The several bulls who tired of the audience before we tired of them walked out of the arena by themselves. Then, bull riders burst into the arena; one hombre stayed on an incredible amount of time, and seemed to take his time planning his exit from the bull. The local paper reported that only one man had to use the ambulance that evening because the best and favored bull for these performances, named El Malacrianza (the rude one), was indisposed and did not attend.

We picked our way out of the arena, found the bus, and headed home, as culture can be exhausting. Suddenly, red lights flashing! Jeffrey's father, who was driving the Casa Orquidea bus, was pulled over by a Policia. Jeffrey pulled up behind them, exited the bus, and "talked" to the Policia. When Jeffrey returned, we continued on our way peacefully, as we were in Costa Rica, where all was well in the universe, and we were living *la Pura Vida*.

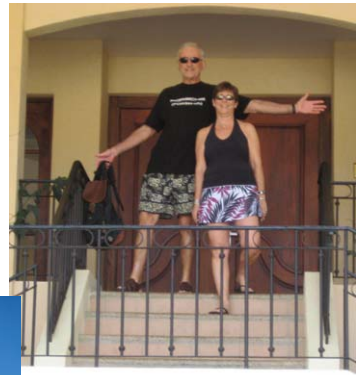


*These two gringas were seen cruising the streets of Santa Cruz, looking for action. June Iles & Joanna Herz.*

## Golf Suites were sweet!



*Julie Lieber drinks in the Costa Rican sunset.*



*As Ken Iles & John Reed play "Hail to the Chief" on their nose flutes, Ed & Karen Tefankjian descend the staircase.*



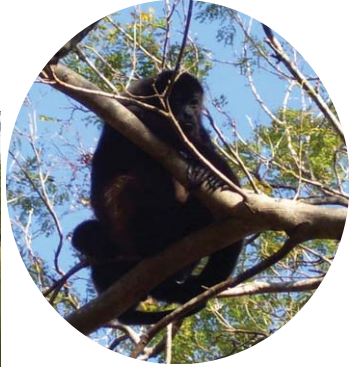
*Above and left: Some of the wildlife seen around the Casa de Golf. Ignacio Iguana, Ken Iles, Rosemary & Ed Tavares, Ed Tefankjian and Gary Lieber.*



## Horsing around at the Hacienda



*Below: The best views of howler monkeys seemed to be found on the horseback rides available at Hacienda Pinilla.*



*Left: Allyson & Ashley Pickard. Below: Debbie & Kevin Bennett and Bill Highley. The performers on horseback were also the staff at the stables and, sans costumes, worked as guides for the LPR equestrians.*





*by Ashley Pickard*

Saturday was unlike most of the mornings LPR had encountered on our Costa Rican adventure. There was no rumbling of tour busses in the driveway, beckoning last minute stragglers. No laughing and giggling was heard from the pool behind the suites; it was quiet and peaceful. This was a nice change for me considering the past few days had begun at 7:30 a.m., a time of day I have not embraced in many years.

By the time ten o' clock rolled around I decided that I better get up, after all it was shopping day! I headed into the common area and much to my surprise... most people were still in their rooms! Determined to not miss a moment of my coveted shopping time, I quickly gathered a team of women and their husbands to join my mother and me for a day of shopping in the scorching streets of Tamarindo. Karen, Ed, Julie, Gary, my mom and I took off around 11:30am for our final trip into Tamarindo...

"Where should we start?" Karen and Julie asked as they turned to my mom and me. "You guys are the locals in the group!" Which was practically true considering my mom and I had spent two of the seven nights partying at the local bars and shopping at whatever stores we could find open. As soon as I spotted the familiar TCBY and Pizza Hut (which really was a hut) I suggested we begin there. Upon exiting the car, Julie and Karen headed into the first store with shiny baubles in the window. The men stayed outside and probably made bets about what the ratio of time spent in a store to items bought would be for that day.

It was not long before we came upon Yeffery's surf shop; no wonder he had such cool clothes and awesome sunglasses! "Oh! We have to go in here!" Karen exclaimed. "Nella's flip-flops are here! You know the ones with the grey and the snakeskin that Emilie and I both loved!" Now, I had heard previously that Karen had a nasty reputation for snatching the last of many coveted items from the stores on other LPR trips. However, I must say she redeemed herself and her reputation when she ripped apart Yeffery's stock room searching for the last size seven in all of Costa Rica, so that she and Emilie could both have a pair.



After a few hours of shopping we decided that it would be best to grab a bite to eat so we could refuel for the rest of the day. The place recommended to us by Yeffery was right on the beach fully equipped with everything paradise has to offer: a beautiful ocean view, palm trees, margaritas and yes, a mariachi band. Over lunch Gary read the local paper and found an article about the Costa Rican festival everyone had attended the night before in Santa Cruz. (Everyone except my mom and I, we had to get one more taste of Tamarindo nightlife before heading home!) The article claimed that attendance had decreased from previous years due to the absence of “the rude bull.” Apparently this “rude bull” had severely injured and killed a number of people in the past and was not invited to return this year. The gang that had gone found it hard to believe the attendance was down considering the stands were overburdened with spectators.

Following lunch we continued shopping for a while, but it was not long before the men were adios, and left to grab a drink. Somehow the lure of the beach, beer and bikinis overpowered that of pooka shells, purses and picture frames. Go figure! So the women carried on. Ernie and Mary looked so relaxed and happy as they strolled down the street and we saw Angie and John head to the beach for a romantic stroll. We ran across Tony and Kris as we all tried to stake out the recommended stores. As time



*While the town of Tamarindo certainly isn't large, it seemed strange to see that none of it's streets were paved.*

passed by we saw more and more familiar faces in town, and it was not long before the entire LPR group was in Tamarindo and ready for the night life. The destination for dinner was “Pachanga” where the meticulous chef/owner Shlome and the delectable food had become the favorite of Joe and Cheryl; and boy were they right!! All around me I heard the sounds of pleasure, as people ate their food. We were all separated into different tables, so it was difficult to keep up with everything that was happening as the food disappeared and more alcohol was ordered. But before I knew it, Ken Isles was dancing out of his chair and Gary was catching it all on film. We did miss Bill Highley who was back at the Golf Suites taking care of mis-step from the previous day. I did my best to stand in for Bill and acted as Emilie’s date, feeding her spoonfuls of dessert and helping her create as much havoc as possible. It was a great night full of loud laughs and true friends. I was just grateful that we all had enough money left over from shopping to pay the bill; otherwise, Ed might have had to W-A-R-S-H the dishes for everyone.

On the ride back to Hacienda Pinilla, the LPR group shifted their focus to serious social questions like: “What exactly is a hoochie mama?” Why is it called “the bird?” and most importantly, “Why would you put peanut butter on ice skates?”

After such an exciting week of adventure, fun and hard laughs I have nothing but gratitude to everyone that made this such an awesome trip. I know everyone enjoyed this trip, but I especially did, thanks to all of your wonderful senses of humor and friendship. Pura Vida...

# Lunching at Lola's

Right: Emilie & Bill Highley assume the position after a couple of Lola's margaritas. Below: Julie Lieber and Karen Tefankjian find some beach front shopping.



Above: "Hey John, pull my finger!" That Ken Iles is such a card...



Above: Joe Pruss, Kevin Bennett, Rudi Herz, Debbie Bennett, Kris Vanacore, Ken Iles and Tony Vanacore loll at Lola's. Right; Gary Lieber lolls at Lola's.



Some locals seen out for a drive on the way to Lola's.



Kevin Bennett lolls with Lola, the pig for whom this beach front restaurant oasis is named. Try that in the ole U.S. of A.



## Ziping through the Jungle



*Left & below:  
Julie Lieber...  
Zipper  
Specialist!*



*Above: Ken Iles. Below: Rudi Herz.  
Both men put some zip in their lives.*



*Left: If Ken Iles would just take his hands  
off his hips he'd look pretty macho.*

*Below: Allyson Pickard and  
Julie Lieber pose with a snake. Maybe  
they should try tying it into a boa! Below  
left: Cheryl Pruss chose to zip a little, too.*



## More Costa Rican Adventure



*Is Julie Lieber grumpy or just playful? With red-eye flights it's hard to tell.*



*The employees at Hacienda Pinilla were all about making our visit a memorable one.*



*Debbie Bennett, Joanna Herz and Angie Reed pose with the galley crew on board the catamaran Marlin del Rey.*



*Ken Iles offers another take on the term "trouser snake."*



*Left: An orchid named Kennyllas Titsbidium, in honor of Ken Iles, whose peccadillos are renowned throughout LPR=land. Above: Ken & June Iles, Joanna Herz and Emilie Highley chose a gondola ride through the jungle... easier than walking and they got raincoats, too!*





*You too can enjoy your own  
Costa Rican adventure!*

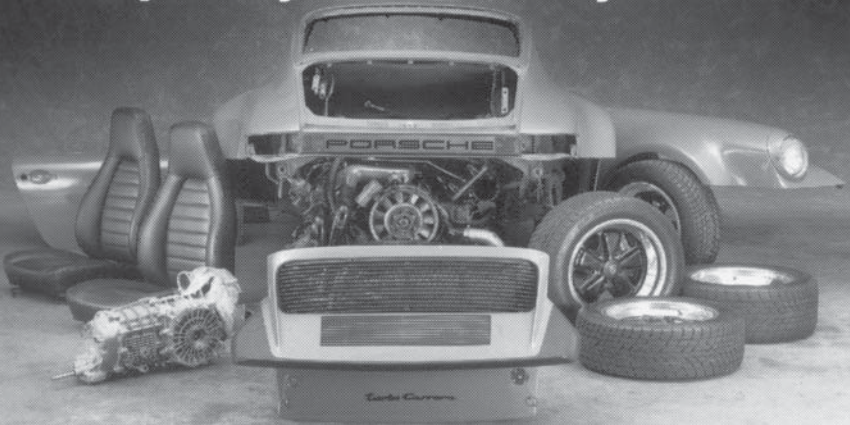
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A Iles & Reed (very) limited production. Some assembly required

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The 2008 Good Time Gathering season got off to a bang up start on January 26th at the Gilroy home of Tom and Donna Micele. The theme was Tacos & Tequila and the novice hosts (well, for LPR anyway) pulled the event off like a couple of seasoned vets.

Debbie and I had a minor glitch right out of the gate in that we had some difficulty finding the Micele manor. It turns out that Yahoo maps' driving instructions actually can be wrong, at least where distances are concerned, such that the Bennettmobile retraced steps, drove around in circles and, believe it or not, finally stopped and asked for directions before we discovered that our destination was directly ahead, just at a much greater distance than indicated in our printed driving instructions. I guess that this is just one more reason to pony up the bucks and get a GPS navigation unit.

When we arrived, the shindig was in full swing. I have to congratulate the Miceles for their astute planning in setting up their home for the LPR horde. The kitchen/family room, of course, was the location for all of the food, starting with the mostly Mexican themed appetizers which naturally tended toward a lot of bean, salsa, avocado dips and lots of corn chips. Jen Bryant brought a novel offering built around little half-pie shaped, soft corn tortillas with a diced avocado based filling. The texture of the soft corn made this an interesting contrast to all of the corn chip alternatives and Sandy Provasi and I made a big deal out of our tasting. Kudos to the Canadians!

After munching in the kitchen a while, it dawned on me that everyone seemed to have a drink in their hand... everyone except me, that is. So I went off in search of a beverage and



VP Barry Pangrle (l) and Prez Ed Tefankjian (r) present a thank you gift to hosts Tom & Donna Micele (c).

❖ Tacos & Tequila..

here is where the Micele genius became apparent. It turned out that the garage was Tequila Central. Unlike some garages (like mine, maybe?) this one was finished and painted white, with neat storage cabinets and clean as a whistle. It was on the same level as the rest of the house and if it weren't for that fact that there was a car parked in it you could have mistaken it for just another big room in the house. Tom & Donna had a huge table on one side with a large array of different tequila brands set out for tasting.

Near the door was a counter with a ladle and a plastic bucket full of blended margaritas and off to the side was a supply of less potent beverages for those wishing to abstain, or at least temper their alcoholic intake. This ingenious layout of resources split the party into to groups, the drinkers and the eaters, and effectively kept any one area of the home from being overwhelmed by the crush of people in attendance.



*Tequila tasters Bill Highley, Steve Crane and Jeff Tucker.*

The Costa Rica trip, from which

Debbie and I had recently returned, was a big topic of inquiry. Interestingly, those who asked as to whether we were participants didn't really seem to be interested in hearing about our many adventures in that foreign milieu, so I could only conclude that they had either already heard from others about our groups' experiences, or, and this is probably the most likely reason, they were just trying to identify toward whom they needed to direct their envy.

Dinner was announced and, not being shy about such things, I managed to be the first through the food line. True to the theme of the evening, salads, chicken, soft tacos, and beans were the staples of this meal and it was as tasty as Mexican food is wont to be. I sat at a table with Don and Leslie Orlando along with Les Schreiber. I have never spent a long time in conversation with Don, but I have to say I got a belly full this time. He is so upbeat, gregarious and enthusiastic he is almost larger than life. I freely admit to folks that it is almost paradoxical that I am so involved in a car club because I am really not that much into cars. Don is clearly on the opposite side of the spectrum. He talked about



*Ed Tefankjian and Tom & Mary Ann Legan.*

cars that he had owned, cars that he would like to own, how he bought cars, how he sold cars, modifications he made to cars, how he got his wife involved in these car decisions; and all the time, his pretty wife, Leslie, was sitting there, smiling and nodding her head. I resolved that at some time in the future to at least make the attempt to separate Leslie from her husband long enough to hear her views on this car fixation of Don's.

# Tequila Central



*Bill Highley, Joanna & Rudi Herz.*



*Jackie Mitchell.*



*Greg & Sue Sickal.*



*Sandy Provasi.*



*Jim Bryant.*



*Amy & Stephen Caron and Steve & Jackie Mitchell pose in Tequila Central.*



❖ Tacos & Tequila..

After the meal, Donna Micele took me aback by coming over and apologized for asking me to do this write up. Apparently, she had heard from Debbie about some of the trials and tribulations of being editor of the POST and she was feeling some chagrin over adding to my POST oriented work load. I thought that her reaction was kind of cute and reassured her that it wasn't that much of a burden and that I had agreed to do it in order to support Tom and her in their inaugural GTG effort. It was in my mind a moment of mutual appreciation and one of the reasons that LPR is such a successful social entity.



*Joanna & Rudi Herz and Angie Reed. Rudi looks right at home, doesn't he?*

President Ed Tefankjian held a brief meeting, in which he announced upcoming events and, along with VP Barry Pangrle, made a presentation of a thank you gift to the Miceles for hosting the evening's festivities. Strangely, on a Mexican themed evening, the gift featured Italian Chianti, the movie "The Italian Job" and other Italian oriented products. Barry granted attribution for the gift to "the vice, vice president", his wife Suzette. I think the choices had something to do with the host's last name ending in a vowel.



*Tom Provasi is in a hurry to taste the tequila... in volume.*

The partiers began to trail out of Casa Micele as I ate my dessert and talked with Greg Sickal about his programming job with the start up company for whom he is working. I was just finishing a tasty slice of chocolate cake when Dearest Debbie advised me that it was time for us, too, to join the departing tequila tasters in their journey homeward. As we neared the Casa's front door, Donna Micele joined us to say goodbye and advised us that Sandy Provasi was prodding everyone to do shots back in Tequila Central. With the vague feeling that we might be leaving

just as the real party was getting rolling, we hugged and kissed and bid a fond adieu until next time to our generous hosts.

Heartfelt thanks on behalf of LPR to Tom & Donna Micele for their efficient presentation of this wonderful event. I'm sure a fun time was had by all and we'd be perfectly happy to do it again next week.



*Karen & Bob Morgan have done the tequila and it's time for tacos.*



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## Loma Prieta Region PCA

### Minutes of the February 2008 Board Meeting

The board meeting was held on February 7, 2008 at the Round Table Pizza on Camden Ave, San Jose and was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Ed Tefankjian. Board members and chairpersons present at the meeting were: Ed Tefankjian, Les Schreiber, George Jansen, John Reed, Karen Morgan, Allyson Pickard, Ken Iles, Kevin Bennett, Cheryl & Joe Pruss, Don Orlando, Jim Bryant and Pete Siemens. Other members in attendance were Angie Sharp-Reed, June Iles, Karen Tefankjian, Harlan Pester, and Suzette Pangrle.



Les Schreiber moved to approve January meeting minutes and John Reed seconded the motion. January's minutes were approved.

### Directors' Reports

#### President: Ed Tefankjian

Ed could not attend the Zone 7 President's Meeting, so Barry Pangrle and Les Schreiber attended in his stead. Les Schreiber reported on the meeting. The importance of Insurance and Waivers was discussed and LPR was recognized for doing such a great job at turning in the Observers Reports. Ed thanked John Reed for his efforts in that regard. Kurt Gibson, VP PCA, attended the Presidents' meeting and encouraged the Regions to invite the National Board to our events. Our annual Region Forms were sent on time to PCA. There will be a Concours Judging School in April. Ed reminded us to apply early in the morning of March 11 if you want to go to the Porsche Parade in Charlotte this summer. Ed circulated a memo from PCA regarding Regions serving Alcohol is not prohibited at events but it should only be served AFTER driving events. Good judgment and risk management is the key to preventing incidents and accidents. PCA will be rebating \$2 per member back to the Regions. The Region Procedures Manual (RPM 2008) is available on the PCA website. The Zone 7 Calendar is available on the Zone 7 website.

#### Vice-President: Barry Pangrle

Barry was not present, but Suzette reported that Barry was able to reserve the covered pavilion at Vasona Park for our picnic on 8/2/08 (he called in at 12:28 am on 2/4/08 to get the reservation).

#### Secretary: Bob Morgan

Bob was not present, but Karen Morgan took the minutes.

#### Treasurer: George Jansen

George presented the report for January. Income was \$1043.00 and expenses were \$1464.52 so we were \$421.52 over budget for January. All but four POST advertisers have paid for 2008.

#### Activities: John Reed

February: Soup Night will be at the Glathe's on 2/16, and there will be a New Members' Social on 2/22. March: there is a Tech Session and a GTG on 3/15. There is a Driver's Education at Laguna Seca on 3/19. The Campbell Easter Parade and Tour will be on 3/22, and the Vanacore Tour on 3/29. LPR Autocross #1 at Marina on 3/30.

April: Board meeting is on 4/3, the GTG at the Hallock's will be on 4/5. Ken Schipper will be on 4/12, and Autocross #2 will be on 4/13. The Clear Lake Tour will be on 4/26-27.

❖ Minutes..

## **Membership: Les Schreiber**

New members from PCA (5)

- Michael Ballou & Chris Morse (Affiliate) (Monte Sereno) 1999- 911
- William Jhun (San Jose) 1994
- Douglas Stewart (Santa Cruz) 2000 -911 Millennium
- Mark & Julie Quale (Wife) (Santa Cruz) 2005 Turbo
- Nicolo Maffeis (Varese Italy) 2007-997

Transfers in (3)

- Ted & Nancy Fischer (Wife) from Golden Gate (GGR)
- Donald Sohn from Monterey Bay (MBY)
- Glenn McGovern from Golden Gate (GGR)

Transfers Out (1)

- David Parker to Orange Coast (ORC)

New Dual Membership

- James Warriner (Grants Pass, Or)

John Reed moved and George Jansen seconded the motion to accept the new members.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Editor: Kevin Bennett**

The cut-off for the March POST is Sunday, Feb. 10. Kevin reminded everyone that when you host or sponsor an event you need to arrange a writer for the event. The next event is Soup Night at the Glathe's.

### **Advertising: Bill Highley**

Bill was not present, but Ed reported that he is personally visiting all the POST Advertisers. He and Bill Highley visited Performance Art in Gilroy in January.

### **Safety: John Reed**

John mentioned that he submits the Observer's Reports for all Tours and Autocrosses as they occur.

### **Tours: Don Orlando**

Don noted the Vanacore Tour and the Iles/Reed Tour both have submitted their ads to the POST. Don will continue to follow-up with Ken Schiffer to make sure his first tour (to the Pinnacles) is successful. There was a motion by Les Schreiber, seconded by Karen Morgan, to approve a \$1,000.00 deposit to the Bass Pines Resort for the Bass Lake Tour.

### **Tech: Jim Bryant**

The next tech session (Porsche Electrical systems), will be on 3/15 at RMG Enterprises. On 4/19 Don's Autowerks will host a tech session (topic TBD), and on 5/17 Fremont Porsche will host a session on the Porsche Information System. The 19th Annual PartsHeaven Swap Meet & Concours will be on 6/1, Gary Lieber has agreed to be the contact person for the Concours.

### **Autocross: Allyson Pickard**

Marina Motorsports has confirmed the scheduled dates and the receipt of our deposit. All 8 Autocrosses are on Sundays, and there is no LPR AX in July. Allyson has board approval to schedule one in July if it opens up. The Zone 7 AX (GGR) is on Saturday, 8/2, but it conflicts with the LPR Family Picnic. LPR is hosting the Zone 7 AX on



❖ Minutes..

Sunday, 8/3.

**Goodie Store: Joe & Cheryl Pruss**

Joe & Cheryl deposited \$82, and need to pay Racesetter Designs invoices for \$133.11. There are no orders awaiting delivery.

**Charity: Sue Sickal**

We received a Thank You note from Kris Jarvi (Computer Lab Tech at Bowers Elementary School), for software and book contributions. The note was forwarded to Kevin for inclusion in the POST.

**Public Relations: Ken Iles**

Ken submitted an article on the Costa Rica tour to Panorama. It contains a photo of LPR in front of a Volcano.

**Drivers Education: Pete Siemens**

Pete reported on the financial status of Coastal Drivers School. They are maintaining a positive balance. The March 19th event at Laguna Seca still has a few slots left for advanced drivers. GGR includes a D/E as part of their Time Trial Weekend. One can do the D/E and not participate in the Time Trial portion (check the GGR website for requirements). Pete is looking at the 5-point harness & seat requirements adopted by GGR and how Coastal Driving wants to integrate that safety requirement.

**Old Business:**

Karen Morgan will chair the Region of the Year application committee.

**New Business:**

Karen distributed business cards for the board members. Some of the chairpersons requested cards as well.

The next Board Meeting will be on March 6 at the Round Table on Camden. The Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 PM

# Goodie Store

(Shown Here) **LPR Car Badges \$30.00 each**  
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Order from Joe Pruss with checks made out to LPR PCA. The Goodie Store will be at most Good Time Gatherings with Joe and Cheryl or you may contact Joe at [joepruss@hotmail.com](mailto:joepruss@hotmail.com)  
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# Unclassified Ads

**FOR SALE** Beautiful 1984 Porsche Carrera For Sale. 92K original miles. Asking \$15,500. Burgundy with burgundy leather interior. Excellent mechanical condition & very well-maintained; very energetic. Very clean. In storage many years. In family since 1992 (second owners). All maintenance records since 1992. New 205/225 Dunlop Sport 5000 tires at 89K miles. AC, power moonroof, bra, fitted cover, Porsche factory workshop/service manual (5 volumns), etc. Car is in Santa Clara. If interested, please call Diane at 408 243-9835 or 415 972 3480 for more details. Or e-mail me at Fleck.Diane@yahoo.com. (3)

**FOR SALE** For Sale: 1982 911SC Targa, 158k miles, Wine Red Metallic/Burgundy, freshPorsche(R) leather Sport Seats, new Sliver(R) Carpet and rebuilt top by Jeda Generations. Some bodywork & paint needed. Cert of Auth. numbers match. All receipts since purchased 4 years ago. \$15,000. contact Bob Morgan, (408) 410-3209 (cell) or e-mail for photos rjmorgan@aehr.com. (3)

**FOR SALE** 1997 BOXSTER. 1997 Pastel yellow, Black interior, Tiptronic, has 53,000 miles on it and is still in beautiful condition, well maintained with all records. Asking \$14,950 Paul Aarens, 831- 239-5350. (1)

**FOR SALE:** This is a genuine Porsche silver finished hood emblem 996.559.211.01. A perfect fit with the original rubber gasket. A great addition for your Porsche to help make it more unique and classy versus the gold colored emblem. Contact Mike at mike@detailingdynamics.com or call 408-249-1017. (1)



**FOR SALE:** 1976 Porsche 911S, , 2.7 Eng. 73E Cams, 40MM Webers, New Clutch, \$10,500.00, Rodley Moser (775)741-1199, E-mail Darn2tin@aol.com. (12)

**Unclassified ads** are available at no charge to PCA members. All ad copy must arrive by the 8th of the preceding month. Ads will run for 3 months on a space available basis. Please notify the editor when you sell your item, or if you want to re-run your ad after 3 months. Non-members fee is \$10 / month per ad. Checks should be made payable to LPR / PCA. Send ads to: Kevin Bennett, email:badass@ix.netcom.com.



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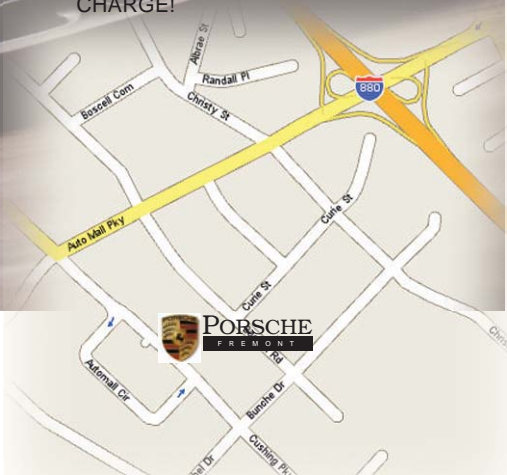
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