

JANUARY 2017

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Celebrating the holidays, whether Hanukkah or Christmas, always seems to be THE time that families get together and celebrate what they have. It is a time to give to others and receive the love that others wish to gift. [Pants Off Racing's Sentry Club program](#) hits max effort come the holidays to help to add to the spirit. Each year we have so much to be **thankful** for, and we want to remind others of the **spirit of the season**.

This year was no different. People from **around the country** helped to organize a holiday that wasn't likely expected by any of the families that we have met over the years. Families in Ohio, California, Texas and North Carolina all were surprised in person or by mail with some great gifts. It is really amazing what people commit to doing for people they have never met before. The families can't believe it when the **surprises** start to pour in!

I suppose that is the best part about POR. The surprise that **keeps on giving**. Who would ever imagine a group of people that refer to each other as meerkats would really look out for each other. That they would continue to support those that have dealt with the pain of loss. That is the part we are good at, we don't disappear. **Maybe we are really like dogs**, ones that know that you may need a lift in life and don't ask for anything in return.

We have met some great people through our POR community and unexpected gifting is part of the fun. Thanks to all those that helped this year, you made it **memorable** to many families. The word on POR will be a good one because **you all are so selfless & loving!** Although it's belated, **HAPPY NEW YEAR MEERKATS!**



Last month, the POR Meerkats, Lori, Christina, Adam and Katie delivered a sac full of presents to the Browns. We played Monkeying Around and Pop the Pig, and the highlight was the **impromptu dance party!** So excited to bring so much **holiday spirit** to the family.

Also, we all know that Meerkats love a **good concert**, even the older Meerkats. For Hanukkah we took Sentry Club member Geoff Fischer to the 40th anniversary concert of [X. the legendary Los Angeles punk band](#). (The Blasters were the opening band!!) Geoff's date for the night was his sister Jody, it was awesome getting to know her! We had dinner beforehand at Night+Market, if you haven't been yet, go! It was super yummy and different. All in all, it was an **epic** night. We ate, danced and realized that we are kinda old and we kinda like it! By next month our hearing should return to normal.





[Sky Zone](#) is usually where we go to play pick up dodge ball games with interns and cousins. In December we decided that maybe we should introduce some of the **highest energy POR meerkats** to the genius of wall to wall trampolines.

The kids did not want to leave and basically were thrown out since the bouncer saw their time run out. But that was enough time to hit the foam pits, get double bounced a few times, and joust each other like **gladiators!** As the pics show, we had a **super decent time**. When kids, and big kids, can just be kids.





The 5th Annual POR Almost 10k/5k will be held at Malibu Creek State Park this year on **Saturday November 4th!** Make your plans to spend the day running and the night celebrating with the Meerkats. It's football season so expect to watch some games between the race and after party. Hope you can make it as we have pushed this back a little to accommodate some **Meerkats getting married this fall – Congrats Mark Nagle and Julianna Pesce, as well as DR Amato and Amrita Cheema!** Can't wait to have you all married up for the 5th Annual!



Ljubica "Luby" Stankovic

One of the strongest meerkittens out there, Ljubica "Luby" Stankovic, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on December 16, 2016 at 9:00 pm. She was an inspiration to others that have pancreatic cancer, and a great mother and grandmother. Luby and her family will always be part of the POR community. Her story and the family's positivity and passion are all part of what we admire about her.

Jelena, Luby's daughter, shared these words regarding her mother, "Her grace, courage

and strength were evident from beginning to the dignified end. She lit up our lives constantly, especially over the past few weeks: laughing with her grandchildren by her side, comforting us instead of us comforting her. She was always thinking of everyone else in her generous and loving spirit. She is and will always be our dear Jaka Baka (Brave Grandma).”

The funeral service was a very traditional Serbian service. Only the Serbian meerkats really understood the prayers and chants by the minister, but this was a good experience for all involved. It was fitting to feel the rain as we left the service. There were plenty of tears, some of sadness and some of joy.

In traditional Serbian fashion a blessing and toast was held after the funeral. Team Luby paid its final respects, for now. She will always be the family’s guiding light. A lady that left an imprint on anyone that met her, including the large medical staff that tended to her over the last 3 years. She was a great lady, and Nancy Pants could have no better dance partner joining her as they look over us all!



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