



# FLYER

July 2026

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## President's Message

Dear Freewheelers,

What a wonderful Pride Month it has been! One of the greatest joys of belonging to Freewheelers is seeing our members show up—not just for each other, but for our larger LGBTQ+ community. Whether you drove or marched in a parade, displayed your car, volunteered at a festival, or simply came out to celebrate, thank you. Everywhere I turned this month, it seemed another Freewheeler was flying a rainbow flag, polishing chrome, or sharing a smile. You made me incredibly proud. Pride Month may officially come to an end, but the spirit behind it doesn't have an expiration date. Every time we welcome a new member, lend a hand, admire someone else's latest automotive acquisition, or spend an afternoon laughing together over lunch, we're doing exactly what community is supposed to do.



Now it's time to trade rainbow confetti for jelly beans! On July 19, we'll gather for our Drive Tour and visit to the Jelly Belly Factory. Somehow this seems like the perfect Freewheelers outing. We already appreciate colorful classics, so why not colorful candy? It'll be another chance to enjoy scenic roads, great conversation, plenty of laughs, and perhaps discover that your favorite Jelly Belly flavor may say more about your personality than your favorite car ever could.

And while you're filling your calendar, go ahead and circle August 23<sup>rd</sup> as well. We'll be heading south for the "Donna Reed" Drive Tour in Morgan Hill. It's another wonderful opportunity to get out on the road with friends, enjoy some beautiful scenery, and make the kinds of memories that seem to happen so naturally whenever Freewheelers gather. More details are coming soon, but trust me—you won't want to miss this one.

It's also remarkable to realize we're already halfway through the year. We've explored museums, conquered winding back roads, enjoyed what many are calling one of the best West Coast Meets ever, and proudly represented our club throughout Pride Month. The second half of the calendar looks every bit as exciting.

One thing our old cars have taught us is that the things we love need attention. We change the oil, keep the batteries charged, tighten a loose bolt before it becomes a bigger problem, and occasionally remember that strange little squeak we've been ignoring for six months.

Life isn't all that different...the truth is, many of our beloved cars may outlive us. That's part of the magic of preserving history. We're simply the current caretakers of these wonderful machines until it's time for someone else to enjoy them. The same might be said of this remarkable club. None of us gets to be the caretaker forever, which makes the time we spend together all the more precious.

So drive your cars. Show them off. Let someone else sit behind the wheel, if you dare! Tell the story about how you found that impossible-to-find wheel cover one more time. Eat the jelly beans. Hug your friends. Volunteer for an event. Make another memory. Someday someone else will be caretaking your favorite old car.

Let's make sure they inherit a car with a great story—and a club that's even better. I'll see you on the road. Until then, keep the shiny side up... and if your fingers happen to be stained bright red, purple, or lime green from too many Jelly Bellies, consider it a badge of honor. Warmly...

*Eric Whitney*

President, Freewheelers Car Club

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## JULY EVENT

### “Jelly Roll” Drive Tour and Jelly Belly Factory Tour



Join us in July for the Jelly Roll Drive Tour and Jelly Belly Factory tour and lunch! We'll meet in the Safeway parking lot in Fairfield for requisite tire kicking and camaraderie, before heading out on the “Jelly Roll” Drive Tour through Green Valley. The tour will end up at the Jelly Belly Factory where we'll be able to take a self-guided tour of the plant and museum. You can also take a ride on the Jelly Belly Train (weather permitting)! Lunch (salad or turkey sandwich, water, and chips) at Jelly Belly (please indicate your choice when you RSVP).



#### ***At-a-Glance:***

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What: The July Jelly Roll Drive Tour and Jelly Belly Factory & Museum Tour

When: Sunday, July 19, 2026

Where: Meet at the Safeway parking lot at 5051 Business Center Drive in Fairfield at 10 a.m.

If you wish to skip the drive, meet at Jelly Belly at One Jelly Belly Lane, Fairfield, at 11:30 a.m.

Fees: \$25 includes lunch and factory & museum tours

RSVP: Watch for the event registration emails – be sure to indicate your lunch selection so we can prepare accordingly.

Questions? Contact Bill Hall at [williamhall1234@yahoo.com](mailto:williamhall1234@yahoo.com)

## JULY EVENT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Freewheelers August Event: The “Donna Reed” Drive Tour & Picnic Lunch

Mark your calendar **Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>** for the return of the “Donna Reed” Drive Tour and Picnic Lunch in Morgan Hill! Will we see Donna in her famous 1958 Edsel Bermuda Wagon? Join us and find out!

We’re planning a very scenic and leisurely drive tour through beautiful country roads and meadows around Uvas Dam – feel free to take all the dam pictures you want! The tour will wind up at the Morgan Hill Community Park where we can enjoy a picnic lunch on the green (please bring your own picnic lunch, drinks, and chairs). Hope to see you there!!



## FREEWHEELERS FAVORITES

### The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, Sunday, August 16, 2026



The Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance is the flagship of Pebble Beach Automotive Week. Begun in 1950 and now considered to be the world's premier celebration of the automobile, this is a can't-miss event for every car enthusiast.

Each year, the finest collector cars gather on the 18th fairway of Pebble Beach Golf Links to compete to be named Best of Show — the ultimate award for automobiles. Experts critique their elegance, technical merit, and history. And crowds come from all corners of the globe to cheer their favorites. In tandem with the competition between extraordinary historic automobiles, the Concours also serves as host to some of the most anticipated concepts and new car debuts.

### The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Ironstone Concours d'Elegance, Saturday, September 26, 2026

For 29 consecutive years the Ironstone Concours d'Elegance has been held on the 1100-acre estate of the Ironstone Vineyards Winery and Historic Museum in Murphys, California; in the heart of the famous 1849 California Gold Rush. The show features over 300 period-correct automobiles through 1973 including classic, vintage, antique and race cars, vintage trailers and commercial/military vehicles as well as agricultural engines and a display of modern exotic cars. Unique to Ironstone is the Pre-1920 race car rides on a dirt track, Amphicar rides in the lake and a race car engine start. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event held in 2026 will feature a new addition of speaker forums for both race cars and classic cars with industry leadership addressing the spectators.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# FREEWHEELERS CELEBRATE PRIDE

## Small Town, Big Splash!

By Eric Whitney



The Freewheelers made a fabulous return to the Pride parade circuit on May 31, making our first-ever appearance at the Clayton Pride Parade and Festival—and what a debut it was!

Clayton may be a small town, but it knows how to throw a celebration with a heart as big as California. The parade route covered just three charming blocks of Main Street and lasted little more than an hour, but the cheers, waves, smiles, and enthusiastic support seemed to go on forever. From the moment we arrived, we felt genuinely welcomed and celebrated.

Our colorful lineup of classic and modern automobiles turned plenty of heads, but it was the warmth of the Clayton community that truly stole the show. Throughout the afternoon, parade organizers stopped by the Freewheelers outreach booth simply to tell us how excited they had been when they learned our club would be participating. Time and again we heard the same message: "We're so glad you're here!" Those simple words reminded us why showing up matters.

Leading our contingent, Keith Cambra piloted his elegant 1964 Thunderbird, while Gregg Cannella and Laurence Morgan-Kihs followed in their beautiful 1957 Thunderbird, giving the crowd a pair of timeless personal luxury cars to admire. Dave Gilbert and Sueko Takahashi proudly cruised in their magnificent 1958 Edsel Citation. As if one trip through the parade weren't enough, they happily made a second pass—this time chauffeuring the delightfully named drag personality Pristine Condition, whose stage name couldn't have been more fitting for such a glamorous ride.



Bill Peachee represented classic American luxury in his handsome 1960 Buick LeSabre, while David Schnitzer added a contemporary touch in his sleek 2022 Ford Mustang convertible, reminding everyone that automotive enthusiasm spans every generation. One of this writer's personal favorites was Glen Taber's striking 1972 Buick Skylark Custom Convertible. With the top down on a perfect spring day, Glen's Skylark looked right at home gliding *(continued on next page)*

## FREEWHEELERS CELEBRATE PRIDE

through downtown Clayton and drew plenty of appreciative smiles from the crowd. One of the day's most delightful pairings belonged to Terry Vargas and Johnny Zych, who arrived in their sporty 1978 Datsun 280Z wearing coordinating outfits that perfectly captured the Prideful spirit—and style—of 1978.




Gui Velez and Bob Krambuhl were simply radiant in Gui's gorgeous 1983 Cadillac Eldorado, looking every bit as elegant as the car itself. Rounding out the lineup, Richard Bae and Eric Whitney enjoyed the beautiful weather with the top down in their 1986 Mercedes-Benz 560SL, adding one more touch of open-air elegance to an already spectacular collection of rolling automotive eye candy.

Together, our cars represented nearly seven decades of automotive history, but more importantly, they represented who we are as a club: welcoming, enthusiastic, and proud to share our love of automobiles while supporting our LGBTQ+ community.



The celebration didn't end when the parade did. Thanks to the thoughtful planning of the organizers, all parade participants were able to park together and spend the afternoon enjoying the Pride Festival. Our outreach booth stayed busy as we visited with old friends, introduced the Freewheelers to new people, and welcomed plenty of curious visitors who stopped by to learn more about our club. Judging by the conversations we had, we may have even inspired a few future Freewheelers.

A sincere thank you to everyone who brought a car, volunteered at the booth, or simply came out to support the Freewheelers. You represented our club with style, enthusiasm, and community spirit, and together you made our Clayton Pride debut one to remember. If our first Clayton Pride taught us anything, it's that you don't need a long parade route to make a lasting impression. Three short blocks were all it took to fill Main Street with beautiful automobiles, fabulous people, and enough Pride to last all year. We have a feeling this won't be our last trip to Clayton—and judging by the warm welcome we received, we don't think the folks in Clayton would have it any other way. 

# FREEWHEELERS CELEBRATE PRIDE



# FREEWHEELERS CELEBRATE PRIDE

## ORPHAN'S CORNER



Let's shift gears from last month and look at a brand that was revolutionary in concept and design and remains one of automotive history's most compelling and tragic stories, encapsulating post-war American optimism, ambition and the perils of challenging powerful industrial incumbents. Conceived as a revolutionary sedan that would reshape the industry with advanced safety features and innovative engineering that Detroit's Big Three had yet to embrace, the Tucker was introduced in 1947 as the "Car of Tomorrow."

Preston Tucker was obsessed with cars from an early age and having grown up in and around Detroit, he was fortunate to be immersed in the epicenter of automotive design and manufacturing. At age 16, he began purchasing late model automobiles, repairing and refurbishing before selling them for a profit. Dropping out of high school he took a job with Cadillac, then moved to Ford while selling Studebakers on the side before moving to Memphis to sell Chrysler and Stutz vehicles. While living in Memphis he made contacts at Pierce-Arrow and made a decision to move to Buffalo, New York to work as regional sales manager for P-A before eventually landing back in Detroit to work for Dodge.

Tucker was a go-getter and built many personal contacts over the years in the automotive, defense and aeronautics industries but in 1943 he decided to build his own car company. After the war, the public was ready for new car designs, but the automobile industry had not developed any new models since 1941 and was in no hurry to introduce them, providing great opportunities for new small, independent automakers that could develop new cars more rapidly than the huge legacy automakers. Using his own funds and those of investors, he accumulated some of the best automotive engineers and designers and by 1947 he had designed and prepared to start building the Tucker in a converted Chicago aircraft factory.

The Tucker featured ground-breaking, unusual elements like a rear-mounted horizontally-opposed six-cylinder engine producing 166 horsepower, four-wheel independent suspension, a centered third headlight that pivoted with steering input to provide better visibility and a perimeter frame designed for crash protection years before the industry adopted such standards. A padded dashboard, disc-brakes, a roll bar integrated into the roof and safety-focused architecture reflected his conviction that automobiles could prioritize occupant protection without sacrificing performance.



After production of their own proprietary engine design penned by Ben Parsons proved troublesome, Tucker selected a 334 cubic inch, air-cooled six-cylinder originally designed for helicopters and built by Air Cooled Motors of Syracuse NY. Once converted to a water-cooled, automotive format, the flat-six engine performed beautifully so to ensure a steady supply, he bought the company.

Unveiled publicly for the first time in June 1947 and listed at a projected cost of \$2450 the Tucker had a top speed of 120 mph and did 0-60 in 10 seconds which was respectable for the time. Ironically, many of the features Tucker pioneered became automotive standards within a couple decades. Only months after the unveiling however, negative publicity including false claims that the vehicle couldn't reverse began circulating. An influential columnist reported that the car was fraudulent, irreparably damaging its reputation. At the same time, the War Assets Administration refused to grant Tucker access to a critical steel mill, the SEC launched an investigation into his stock-offering practices and the company faced federal scrutiny that, although ultimately resulting in Tucker's acquittal on fraud charges, came too late to save the company. Whether fate, ill-will, bad management or a combination only 51 Tuckers were produced before the company collapsed in March 1949.

The downfall was swift and devastating leaving the Tucker as a momentary flash in the world of orphan brands but the vehicle endures as a symbol of American entrepreneurial ambition and the formidable barriers facing disruption in the world of what if.....?

– Bill Hall

## ORPHAN'S CORNER

# PRIDE IN SACRAMENTO

The Freewheelers also represented in Sacramento's Pride March on Sunday, June 14, 2026. Many thanks to Scott Mikkelson and Todd Darling for providing the vehicles for the Grand Marshalls:

Todd Darling in their 1967 Amphicar 770 convertible, escorting Grand Marshall Rosanna Herber, a trailblazing public servant and the first openly LGBTQ+ person elected to the SMUD Board of Directors.



Scott Mikkelson in their 1991 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster, escorting Grand Marshall C-yah Envy, a powerhouse local entertainer, musician, and community leader recognized for creating inclusive spaces and fostering local talent.



Marty Hanson in their 1963 Ford Thunderbird Convertible, escorting Grand Marshall Rob Roberts, honored for his decades of work as a champion of queer culture, cult cinema, and community connection.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JULY 2026

Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> – Jelly Belly Drive & Factory Tour in Fairfield – see page 3 for details.

## AUGUST 2026

Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> - The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, Pebble Beach

Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> – the “Donna Reed” South Bay Drive Tour – see page 4 for more information.

## SEPTEMBER 2026

Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – the USS Potomac Tour in Oakland – details to follow.

Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> - The 30th Annual Ironstone Concours d'Elegance in Murpjsy.

## OCTOBER 2026

Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Benefit Car Show at the California Auto Museum in Sacramento – details to follow.

## NOVEMBER 2026

Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car Hop & New Members Lunch – details to follow.

## DECEMBER 2026

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – Freewheelers Annual Holiday Party in Concord – details to follow.

*NOTE: Event dates and times subject to change.*



### ATTENTION: Special Rate for Club Members!

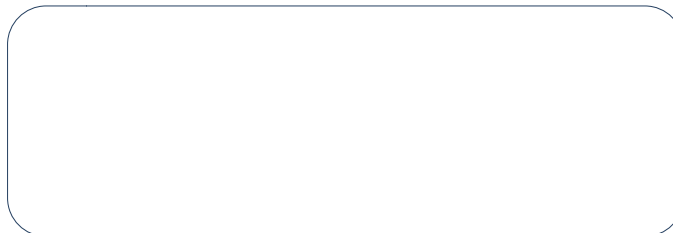
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Ad for car, equipment, etc.	3 for Free, then	\$20 per insertion	n/a	n/a
Business Card Size	\$10/insertion	n/a	\$30 per insertion, \$250/yr. (12 issues)	\$35 per insertion, \$300/year
Quarter Page Size	n/a	n/a	\$60 per insertion, \$500/yr. (12 issues)	\$70 per insertion, \$600/year



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*Enjoy Your Summer!*