

Flyer

FREEWHEELERS



Freewheeler Andy Smith smiles for the camera in his 1988 Alpha Romeo Spider Veloce during February's Super Drive Sunday.

February Super Drive Sunday

– by Andy Smith

The *California Mille* is an annual, multi-day road rally through the back roads of Northern California each September. There are only 50 participating cars selected out of many applicants, so the entrance rules are strictly limited to “pre-1976 sports or GT cars”. Even then, many cars are turned away by the organizers for a number of more subjective reasons.

Strict rules don't apply, though, to their annual, one-day driving tour, “Super Drive Sunday,” which always happens on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7 for 2016. This event is open to “any and all” vintage vehicles...with a preference for pre-1980 cars. The drive is now celebrating its tenth year, and has grown tremendously, with an estimated 120 cars gathered at the Sea Bowl parking lot in Pacifica by 10:00 a.m.

Most of us got there early to kick some tires, and I had the pleasure of meeting fellow Freewheeler members Luis Sosa and Cody Brownell who each brought their beautiful Thunderbird convertibles, tops down, to soak up the 70-degree sunshine. The types and varieties of cars present were too numerous to mention, but ranged from early 1950s Oldsmobiles to Citroen 2CVs, to many rarely-seen models by Lotus, Alfa Romeo, Jaguar, Lancia, English Ford, Porsche, Fiat...and even a late 1950s, American V8-powered Bristol with right-hand drive!

The drive followed a meandering route, leaving Highway 1 onto Stage Road. From there we never left the two-lane twisties until the lunch stop at Boulder Creek. En route we drove on La Honda Road, Skyline Drive, Highway 9, and a very narrow Highway 236 that took us right into the redwoods and the gates of Big Basin State Park.

(continued on page 5)

President's Message

By the time you read this hopefully you will be registering for West Coast Meet 2016! I can't begin to tell you how excited the board is for this year's event! All the volunteers have been working so hard to bring you another fabulous Freewheelers production. Lots of surprises, fun activities and tours are in the works. Having the event at the new Marriott Springhill Suites is just the icing on the cake. As with anything new, there is always some trepidation, but it looks like it's going to be a lot of fun.

In the coming months, I'll be announcing some of the new things we have planned for the weekend. If you're not on the Freewheelers or West Coast Meet Facebook pages, please do so. You'll be able to get up-to-date West Coast Meet information on all our Social Media sites. And if you'd like to volunteer, we could use all the help we can get. So get those tie dye shirts out because it's definitely going to be a summer of love, full of cars, camp and camaraderie! Peace!

Peter Escobedo

President, Freewheelers Car Club



Board of Directors 2016		Member Information		
President/Webmaster Peter Escobedo, 408-886-8225 webmaster@thefreewheelers.net Vice President/Newsletter Marty Hanson, 916-202-2011 flyereditor@thefreewheelers.net Secretary Tom Ortiz, 916-424-1963 tomchrysler@att.net Treasurer Jay Remick, 831-601-8080 jayremick@me.com Membership Director Brian McCann, 650-815-8220 brianmccanninteriors@yahoo.com Photographer Bill Peachee, 925-525-5863 bpeachee@hotmail.com	Promotions Director Chris Slater, 408-599-9103 gladstone.cottage@gmail.com Registration Director Gregg Cannella, 925-899-5167 glamgfc@msn.com Members at Large Sueko Takahashi, 925-373-1667 sueko.tbert@gmail.com Geoff Caccamo, 925-580-4444 sacrebleu35@yahoo.com Eric Whitney, 415-902-5165 ewhitney@me.com Michael Amodt, 408-202-8041 mickeyamo90@gmail.com	Freewheelers Web Site www.thefreewheelers.net Advertising As a benefit of member-ship, Members may run classified ads (for sale) in the Flyer/on the website at no charge. Send information to the Newsletter Editor. For rates for non-members and business solicitations, contact the Promotions Director. To place an ad, please contact the Promotions Director or Treasurer.	The Freewheelers Flyer is published monthly by the San Francisco Historical Automobile Society, C/O Jay Remick-Treasurer, 1588 Willow Oaks Drive, San Jose, CA 95125 Articles and/or photographs related to club events and/or vintage car happenings may be emailed to, and used at the discretion of the Newsletter Editor at flyereditor@thefreewheelers.net Submissions should reach the Newsletter Editor or Webmaster by the 15 th of the month prior to publishing. Contributors to this Issue: Andy Smith, Peter Escobedo, Ted Downer, Bill Hall, Jay Remick and Frieda Freewheeler. Photos by Bill Peachee and Andy Smith. This hard-copy issue of the Flyer provided courtesy of Mark Tomey.	
Advertising in the Flyer				
Type of Ad	Members: Non-Commercial	Non-Members: Non-Commercial	Members: Commercial	Non-Members: Commercial
Ad for car, equipment, etc.	3 for Free, then \$10/insertion	\$20 per insertion	n/a	n/a
Business Card Size	n/a	n/a	\$30 per insertion,\$250/yr. (11 issues)	\$35 per insertion, \$300/year
Quarter Page Size	n/a	n/a	\$60 per insertion, \$500/yr. (11 issues)	\$70 per insertion, \$600/year



The Donna Reed Pot Luck Picnic and Drive Tour

—by Ted Downer



Bring your favorite 1950s recipe to share with your fellow Freewheelers for the “Donna Reed Picnic” and drive tour on Sunday, April 24! The actual 1958 Edsel Bermuda station wagon used on the first season of The Donna Reed Show will be there—its first time ever being shown— and who knows, Donna herself may show up!

We’ll meet in the Hobby Lobby parking lot off Cochrane Road exit in Morgan Hill (directions below) at 10:30 a.m. for coffee, donuts and tire-kicking. We’ll depart around 11:30 and take a beautiful 28-mile country drive tour via the Uvas Dam.

Our final destination will be Ted Downer’s and Marc Williamson’s home in Morgan Hill for the Pot Luck Picnic. Plates, cutlery, napkins and drinks will be provided, and of course the Donna Reed Show will be playing at the party! Donna herself will judge the food!!

At-a-Glance:

What: The Donna Reed Pot-Luck Picnic and Drive Tour

When: Sunday, April 24, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Meet at the Hobby Lobby parking lot in Morgan Hill (directions below)

Fee: \$5 event fee payable via Eventbrite; bring your favorite 1950s recipe to share for the pot luck lunch at Ted and Marc’s

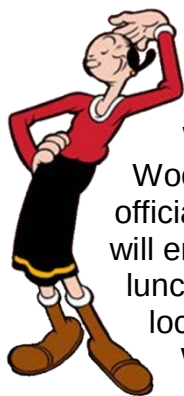
RSVP: Via the Eventbrite electronic invitation or contact Ted Downer (415) 706-4288



DIRECTIONS TO HOBBY LOBBY:

- Take US-101 S toward Los Angeles
- Take exit 367 for Cochrane Road
- Continue on Cochrane Road to Cochrane Plaza
- Use the left lane to turn right onto Cochrane Road
- Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Cochrane Plaza
- Destination will be on the left:
- Hobby Lobby, 990 Cochrane Plaza, Morgan Hill, 95037

Save The Date



Sunday, May 22 for Olive Oyl's Green Valley Drive and Olive Tasting Tour in Solano

We'll meet in Vichy Springs in Napa County for a back roads country drive tour through Wooden Valley, over the Vaca Mountains and down into Gordon Valley which is part of the officially designated Suisun Valley American Viti-cultural Area in Solano County. The drive will end at the Il Fiorello Olive Oil Company with food pairings tastings, followed by a catered lunch prepared by Chef Marvin created just for us based on our choices! There are several local wineries that may be of interest individually afterwards for anybody who is interested. Watch for details in next month's Flyer!

Sunday, June 19 for the Sacramento Railroad Museum Tour and Lunch

We'll meet at the Sacramento Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento for a tour of the California State Railroad Museum. Throughout the six original buildings, we'll see 21 meticulously restored locomotives and cars and numerous exhibits that illustrate how railroads have shaped people's lives, the economy, and the unique culture of California and the West. Included are a Pullman-style sleeping car, a dining car filled with railroad china, and a Railway Post Office that visitors can actually step aboard. The tour will be followed by a prepared lunch at the nearby home of Scott Mikkelsen and Todd Darling in Sacramento. Details to follow!



Other Freewheeler Events in store for 2016:

-  *July – The 32nd Annual West Coast Meet (see page 6)*
-  *August – Our annual pool party in the South Bay*
-  *September – North Bay Tour*
-  *October – A tour of the Ramshead Collection in Sacramento, followed by lunch on the river*
-  *November – Another Fabulous Freewheelers Event...stay tuned!*
-  *December – Our annual Holiday Party at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Pleasanton*



(continued from page 1)

The tour was very much “self paced” in that drivers who chose a sane pace on these roads needed not be intimidated by the Juvenile Delinquents in sports cars who treated it more as a timed event. That said, no car seemed quicker or more maneuverable than the early-1960s Lotus Seven with the Honda S2000 engine. It and its two drivers decked-out in vintage helmets and goggles, (ala Red Baron), passed several of us as though we were standing still...and we weren't! Fortunately some of the more considerate participants resisted the Siren Song of speed, and pulled off to take photos, some of which I am sharing here.

At lunch, the crowd effectively took over downtown Boulder Creek, with participant cars forming a mini car show on both sides of the street. Many of us answered questions and opened hoods, giving “tours” of our vehicles.

After lunch, the drives home were much less formal, with the official route going through Pescadero and Stage Road, and then branching off to wherever. Most of us peeled off and took even more scenic routes to get home, making the gorgeous day last as long as possible.

Next year I want to encourage every Freewheeler to join this tour! It's great exposure for our cars and our club, and the drive itself need not be more demanding than any vintage car can tolerate (ask the guy who drove the 1958 Imperial!). And, in a small twist of irony, the event is scheduled to finish in time to allow viewing of the game it was originally meant to supplant, so it can be a case of having our cake and eating it too!



The **Super Drive** is in no way a speed competition. Please obey all traffic laws and be respectful of the areas we travel through as well as your fellow participants.

All mileage is approximate in some cases possibly even wrong.

Exit Sea Bowl Lot and turn Left onto Fassler Ave.

Left onto Hwy 1 (South)

Left on Stage Rd.

Left on LaHonda Rd. Hwy 84

Right on Skyline Dr. Hwy 35

Right at Hwy 9

Straight at Stop Sign onto Hwy 236

(this road takes you through Big Basin State Park so please be extra careful)

Right onto Hwy 9 Park. Welcome to Boulder Creek!

odo 22Mi.

odo 23Mi.

odo 38Mi.

odo 50Mi.

odo 56Mi.

odo 74Mi.

LUNCH STOP

Return North onto Hwy 9

Right at Hwy 9/236 intersection. (stay on Hwy 9)

Left onto Hwy 35

Left on Alpine Rd.

(Beware! Self Righteous Cyclists!)

Left at Pescadero Rd.

Right onto Stage Rd.

(Be cool... People live on this road)

Right onto Hwy 1

Left onto Rockaway Beach Ave.

odo 85 Mi.

odo 93Mi.

odo 98Mi.

odo 105Mi.

odo 116Mi.

odo 125Mi.

odo 146 Mi.

FINISH

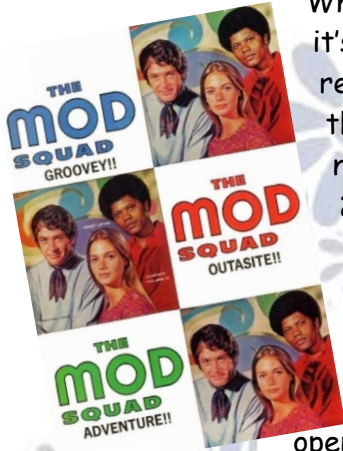
Join us at Nick's for celebratory drinks and mooch from the Super Bowl Buffet! Stay as long as you like, but remember to get home before all of those drunk football fans hit the road.



.More images on pages 8-9

This is the Dawning of West Coast Meet 2016!

– by Frieda Freewheelers



When the moon is in the seventh house, and Jupiter aligns with Mars, you'll know it's time to sign up for West Coast Meet 2016! You can find the event registration form in this issue of the Flyer as well as the electronic version on the website! And when making hotel reservations, be sure to use the 805 number listed and let them know you are registering for **West Coast Meet 2016!** The Springhill Marriott in Atascadero has a room block already reserved for us with special rates for Thursday through Sunday! Be sure to be part of the "Mod Squad" first 100 to register for lots of perks and preferences!

The fun in Atascadero will begin as early as Thursday, July 7...registration will open at 3 p.m. for you early birds and there a lots of interesting venues nearby for you dining pleasure...or you can just hang out at the hotel and enjoy their "Union & Vine" restaurant – and Happy Hour is 4 to 6 p.m. with special pricing on well drinks!

We're expecting balmy summer evenings and have lots of outdoor activities planned for the weekend. So you can dine al fresco in the evening and on Thursday night we'll even feature a classic outdoor movie "on the green" of the hotel's back entertaining area which includes a pool, fire pit, and outdoor access to the bar!

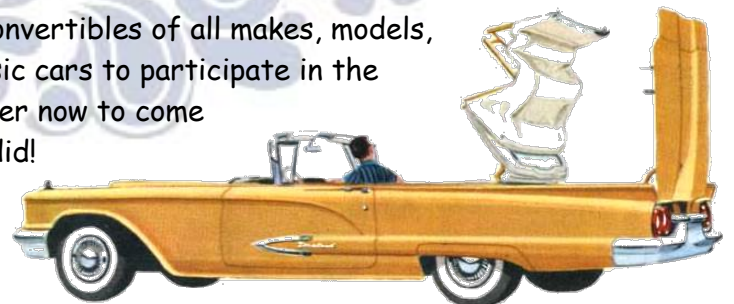


If you're the gambling sort, we'll also be running Drag Queen Bingo in the west end of the Grand Ball Room on Thursday night, where a bevy of beauties will entertain and amuse you while spinning their balls! There'll be opportunities for fun, camaraderie and you could win some great prizes too – maybe even the cash prize – baby needs a new pair of stilettos!



Stay tuned for next month's run-down of all the fun and exciting events planned for Friday, July 8. We're hoping to entice you to sign up for the drive tour and luncheon, as well as the Friday dinner and show!

The Summer of Love 2016 (July 7 - 11) will feature convertibles of all makes, models, and vintages; but we welcome any and all of your classic cars to participate in the show! Even if you don't have a classic to bring...register now to come on down and enjoy the fun anyway...you'll be glad you did!



California Dreamin'

Featuring Convertibles

32nd Annual West Coast Meet, Atascadero, CA
Thursday July 7 - Sunday July 10, 2016 Atascadero

Applicant Information

Name _____ Co-Applcant _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Tel. Number Before Event _____ Cell Phone at event _____
Email _____ Car Club affiliation FW , G.A.Y. , other _____

Be among the first 100 and be Part of the Mod Squad

Registration fee _____ Tickets x \$109 = \$ _____
includes Commemorative Pin and Saturday Awards Banquet
Late fee of \$25.00/person after June 5, 2016; \$50.00/person at the event \$ _____
Friday Dreamin' Drive Tour _____ Tickets x \$20.00 = \$ _____
Friday Night EBay Price is Right Dinner _____ Tickets x \$40.00 = \$ _____
Polo Shirts ☐ sm ☐ med ☐ lg ☐ xl ☐ xxl _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Hotel Info

SpringHill Suites by Marriott
900 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA (805) 462-3500
When you call say: **I am making a reservation for West Coast Meet. Rooms will be held for group until June 5th then released to public.**
Rooms are \$186/ night + tax

Vehicle Information

Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ Body Style _____ Name _____
(as you would like on Placard)
Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ Body Style _____ Name _____

Meals

Meal Choices for Applicant

Sat. Night Banquet ☐ Beef ☐ Chicken ☐ Veg
Friday Dreamin' Tour Lunch ☐ Chicken ☐ Veg
Friday Night Dinner ☐ Southwest Buffet includes Veg.

Meals Co-Applcant

Meal Choices for Co Applicant

Sat. Night Banquet ☐ Beef ☐ Chicken ☐ Veg
Friday Dreamin' Tour Lunch ☐ Chicken ☐ Veg
Friday Night Dinner ☐ Southwest Buffet includes Veg.

Registration deadline is Sunday, June 5, 2016. Any registration forms postmarked after that date will accrue a \$25 late penalty per person, added to the registration fee. NOTE: Registrations received at the event are subject to a \$50 late fee per person. Space is limited, so register now!

CANCELLATION POLICY: 100% refund if cancelled by June 5, 2016, less a \$10 administration fee. A 50% refund if cancelled by June 30, 2016. NO REFUNDS after June 30, 2016. **Questions?** Contact: Jay Remick at 831-601-8080; or email jayremick@me.com.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT: The undersigned desiring to enter and participate in West Coast Meet 2016 to be held July 7, 8, 9, and 10, 2016 at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott in Atascadero, California, does hereby tender his/her application to participate. If this application is accepted, the undersigned and registrant, having suitable automobile insurance, and his or her guests assume liability from and shall indemnify and hold harmless The Freewheelers Car Club and its members, officers, directors, employees, agents, servants, invites and assigns from and against any and all liabilities arising from said event. The undersigned holds the aforementioned harmless and indemnifies them against judgments whatsoever arising, directly or indirectly, out of or in conjunction with participation in said event. Event registration required for SpringHill Suites stay.

Signed _____ Date _____

Send signed and completed application with check made out to The Freewheelers Car Club
Mail to: The Freewheelers c/o 1588 Willow Oaks Dr., San Jose, CA 95125-4452



The California Mille's "Super Drive Sunday" features quarter-century-old-or-older vehicles that take to the back roads of Marin County for the semi-celebrated Anti-Football Run.





Visit www.californiamille.com for more about the California Mille and their events.

John Lennon's Psychedelic Rolls-Royce

– by Miss Cellania of the NeatoShop Blog



"I always wanted to be an eccentric millionaire." ...so stated John Lennon in his first official Beatles biography. And thus, after achieving this wish, John set about accumulating all the trappings that he assumed come along with the package. On June 3, 1965, a brand new Rolls-Royce was delivered to John Lennon. The Phantom V model had been fitted with a limousine body and was finished in Valentines black. The car's license plate was FJB111C. A guarantee was issued to John on June 10, 1965. The car was 19 feet long and weighed three tons.

A notoriously bad driver himself, John seldom drove the plush car himself, instead preferring to employ a chauffeur. John had two different chauffeurs during his Beatle years – Bill Corbett and (more frequently) Les Anthony. John and his fellow Beatles were driven in the vehicle to the premiere of their second movie *Help!* in July of 1965. On October 26, '65, a very ambivalent John and his three comrades were chauffeured in the car to Buckingham Palace to receive their MBE medals from the Queen. While being driven, John loved to lie on his back and play with the car's various control buttons with his feet.

In 1966, John had the back seat converted to a double bed. Later, a Sony television, a portable refrigerator, and telephone were installed. A "floating" record player (with perfect balance so it could be used without being effected by stops and bumps while driving) was also fitted inside. An interior and exterior sound system was included. John added blacked-out windows and was the first person in England to have this feature in his car. In September of '66, when John went to Spain to film his first solo movie *How I Won the War*, he had his beloved Rolls driven to Spain. "We were in Almeira, which was very sandy, and the local kids would write 'el Beatle' on the car," recalled Les Anthony.

In early 1967, Ringo Starr suggested to John that he should have the car painted in psychedelic colors. "We were passing the fairground one day," remembered Les, "and they were admiring the fairground decorations and gypsy caravans.

Ringo said "why not have the Rolls painted the same way." John thought it was a great idea. It was painted all yellow first, then hand painted (with bright blue and red flowers and psychedelic designs). The first time I drove it, I was followed by hordes of photographers and Pathe news." John later told a story of a woman rushing at him and attacking him with her umbrella when she saw his car, shouting, "You swine! You swine! How dare you do that to a Rolls-Royce!" The psychedelic paint job was done by a group of Dutch artists who called themselves "The Fool". John had previously employed The Fool to paint a gypsy caravan he kept on the grounds of his home. The paint job cost around \$4,200 (US).



In 1970, after John had married Yoko Ono, the couple moved to the United States and had the car shipped to America. John loaned the car out to several rock stars, including the Rolling Stones, the Moody Blues and Bob Dylan. John hardly ever used the car himself anymore and eventually had it put in storage. In 1977, when John and Yoko were having some tax problems, it was handed over to the nation -in the form of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum at the Smithsonian Institute- in lieu of the \$250,000.00 tax owed. A year later, the museum produced postcards of it. John sent one of these postcards to his uncle Norman in 1979. ("Dear Norman, Happy '79, Cheers, love, John & family.")

In 1985, the Smithsonian decided to sell the car to Sotheby's for auction. It fetched \$2.3 million dollars, making it the most expensive car in history. It was bought by the owner of the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum in South Carolina. By 2011, it was being exhibited at a museum in British Columbia.

Welcome New Members!

Kent Kenney

P.O. Box 502
Atascadero, CA 93423
(805) 466-7035
1959rollsroyce@gmail.com

Cars: 1954 Cadillac Sedan DeVille 4-door Hardtop
1957 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz 2-door Convertible
1958 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham 4-door
1959 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud II 4-door Steel Saloon
1965 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible
1985 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz Convertible

Alan Phair & James Lee

433 Eucalyptus Road
Nipomo, CA 93444
(562) 433-1426
alanphair@aol.com

Kirk Southwell

215 Hanns Lane
Vallejo, CA 94590
(415) 336-2455
kirk@kirksouthwell.com
Car: 2006 Toyota 4-Runner SR-5 SUV



APRIL 2016

Sunday, 04/10: Board of Directors Meeting at the Rainbow Community Center in Concord at 11 a.m.

WEST COAST MEET 2016 Planning Meeting
immediately following the board meeting

Sunday, 04/24: The Donna Reed Pot-Luck Picnic and Drive Tour in Morgan Hill. See page 3 for details!

MAY 2016

Sunday, 05/08: Board of Directors Meeting at the Rainbow Community Center in Concord at 11 a.m.

WEST COAST MEET 2016 Planning Meeting
immediately following the board meeting

Sunday, 05/22: Olive Oyl's Green Valley Drive and Olive Tasting Tour. See page 4 for more information!

JUNE 2016

Sunday 06/05: Sacramento Pride. For more information, visit www.sacramentopride.org.

Sunday, 06/12: Board of Directors Meeting at the Rainbow Community Center in Concord at 11 a.m.

WEST COAST MEET 2016 Planning Meeting
immediately following the board meeting

Sunday, 06/19: Sacramento Railroad Museum Tour and Lunch. See page 4 for more information!

Saturday, 06/25 – Sunday, 06/26: San Francisco Pride Weekend. Visit www.sfpide.org for more information.

JULY 2016

Thursday, 07/07 - Sunday, 07/10 – The 32nd Annual West Coast Meet in Atascadero! See page 6 for more information...registration form on page 7 and on the website!



NOTE: Calendar listings subject to change without notice.





The Freewheelers Car Club
San Francisco Historical Automobile Society
c/o 1588 Willow Oaks Drive
San Jose, CA 95125-4452



In this issue of the

Flyer

February's Super Drive Sunday	1
President's Message	2
The Donna Reed Potluck Picnic Tour	3
Save the Date for Upcoming Events	4
West Coast Meet 2016.....	6
West Coast Meet 2016 Registration Form	7
John Lennon's Psychedelic Rolls Royce	10
New & Returning Members/Calendar	11

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