



Vol. XXXIX No. 5

Freewheelers Flyer



Driving the LGBT community since 1978

June 2017



Memoirs of a FREEWHEELER

Hakone Garden tour

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**MALAISE
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**1966 OLDS
CUTLASS**
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**ALSO IN
THIS
ISSUE:**

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

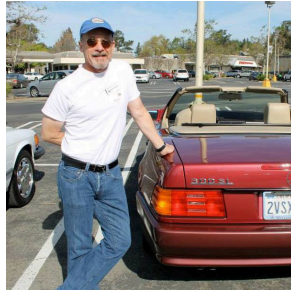
WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS

FRAMELINE FILM
FESTIVAL

CLASSIFIEDS
CALENDAR

President's Message

June is Pride Month...an annual remembrance of that historic summer of 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. The Freewheelers have historically been very active and supportive of our local gay communities and events, as well as within our recent partnership with Frameline.



And in these trouble times, visibility is more important than ever. Yes, we're here, we're queer...get used to it. I've even put a rainbow sticker on my daily driver just as a reminder that we will not be dismissed or oppressed again. I encourage everyone to be proud, be strong, be visible.

I also want to express my condolences to Freewheeler Tim Lawler, whose partner Ron Baumgartner recently passed away. It's funny how we remember our members in many cases by the beautiful cars they contribute to the club. You may remember Tim and Ron's 1992 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham d'Elegance 4-door Sedan and 2007 Jaguar X-Type Sports Wagon.

We've got another drive tour on tap for this month...see details in this issue. And of course, next month is the 33rd Annual West Coast Meet in Cambria...I hope you can attend...we Freewheelers have some shenanigans in store to add to the fun! Until then....
Happy Motoring!

Marty Hanson
Club President

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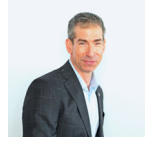
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Submissions should reach the Newsletter Editor or Webmaster by the 15th of the month prior to publishing.

Contributors to this Issue: Bryan Davis, Marty Hanson, Michael Amodt, Mark Reverdy
On the cover: 1972 Citroen SM owned by Chuck Swanson & Ilyd Prokopoff

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WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS!

Michael Coyle,
Brentwood, CA

Jake Tapia & Albert Santos
Oakland, CA

Christopher Reedy & CJ Kolb
Guerneville, CA

Rex Lewis
Redwood City, CA



Holiday weekends are usually very busy for club members. May itself is a pretty busy month as Mother's day, the start of car show season and spring itself get people out and about and the old rides out of the garage and into the streets. Despite the extended Memorial Day weekend almost forty Freewheelers came out to the south bay for the Hakone garden tour in Saratoga. A beautiful California morning greeted us amongst the redwoods and lush forests of the Santa Cruz mountains.

Hakone is a hidden gem in the Silicon Valley, so much so that even many locals do not know about it. At over one-hundred years old, it is a national historic preservation site and one of the oldest Japanese gardens in the Western hemisphere. It's authenticity gave it credence as the filming location of the 2005 movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

Club members showed up bright and early, many arriving before 10am for tire kicking and donuts. Many first on tours graced the parking lot including Ted Downer's lovely in lilac 1960 Edsel and new members Chuck Swanson and Ilya Prokopoff's amazing SM straight from planet Citroen.

Club members spent the early part of the afternoon strolling the grounds at their own leisure, enjoying the peaceful serenity that a Japanese garden tends to emanate. Following the morning at Hakone many club members enjoyed lunch in the quaint downtown village of Saratoga, no doubt conversing about cars, the day's events and what to expect from next month's tour!



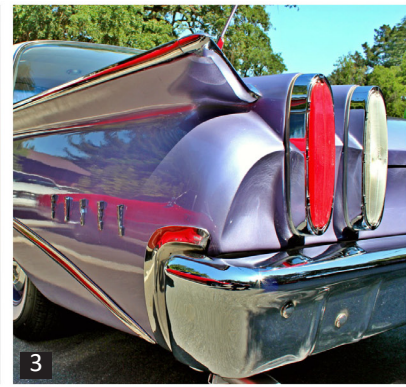
Above: New members Chuck Swanson and Ilya Prokopoff
Right: Ted and Marc Downer's first on tour Edsel.

Memoirs of a FREEWHEELER

By Peter Escobedo

Photos by Peter Escobedo





Above: First on tours, Bill Peachee's 1965 Rambler Classic, Scott Mikkelson's 1978 Oldsmobile Toronado, Mike Carney's 1985 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme Brougham, Mike Zampiceni's 2004 Mini Cooper S.

1) Hakone gardens 2) Carl Baum and Marty Hanson 3) Ted Downer's Edsel 4) Mike Carney and his lovely granddaughter 5) Mark Halesworth and Stephen Quirolo 6) Overlooking the gardens from the upper house 7) Freewheelers enjoying the sunny morning 8) Ralph Shuberts Corvette 9) Scott Prickett, David Estilow and Paul Baker

MALAISE DAZE

Freewheelers head to central California to celebrate the maligned malaise era.



*By: Bryan Davis
Photos: Mark Reverdy*

Pretty much dead in the center of California is the oft maligned city of Fresno. A flat sprawling burg whose only claims to fame are Audra McDonald, William Saroyan and a mock mini series featuring Carol Burnett and Dabney Coleman. Oh, and raisins, we got your raisins ! As of Saturday, May 13th 2017 this may all be history. One day in the near future Fresno may be uttered in the same breath as Pebble Beach and Amelia Island, for you see, on that date Fresno hosted the very first Malaise Daze car show.

The Malaise Daze car show manifested itself from the Malaise Motors Facebook group with which many Freewheelers are familiar. The group focuses on the also oft maligned vehicles built between 1972 and 1995. There has been some contention over what constitutes the “malaise era”, Malaise Motors employs a definition based on engineering criteria. In 1972 compression ratios were dropped across the board, in 1995 (most) cars were fitted with OBD engine diagnostics ushering in the modern era of electronic engine controls. Malaise Motors tries not to take itself too seriously, with emphasis on fun and mutual respect. This relaxed and supportive attitude was very much in evidence as 15 cars gathered at the Full Circle Brewing Co in downtown Fresno. The brewery is blessed with a large, fenced concrete lot normally reserved for roller derbies but also ideal for a modest car show. The first Malaise Daze show more than made up in heart and laughter what it lacked in quantity of

cars.

Mikey Ruck was the first on scene with his sleek 1988 Olds Toronado Trofeo. He travelled all the way from Phoenix Arizona and his arrival caused a moment of panic when the door locks on the Olds refused to respond to the key. Don't ask me how, but when I inserted the key and twisted it the door unlocked with ease, as if by magic. Soon after the other entrants began trickling in from all over the West Coast. There was quite a bit of variety amongst the entries with cars ranging from a lithe 1985 Mazda RX-7 to a behemoth 1979 Lincoln Continental. There was much laughter, conversation and oohing and ahhhing to be heard. But perhaps most delightful was meeting face to face under cerulean blue skies those people we previously only knew from Facebook. After everyone's conviviality was suitably enhanced by the superb beer and street tacos awards were announced around 2:00 pm. Malaise Daze is a car show, not a concours



d'elegance, inclusivity trumps exclusivity and with the exception of the Admin's Choice Award entrants vote on each others cars. There were three awards presented besides the Admin's Choice and they were; in Third Place, Mikey Ruck and his 1988 Toronado Trofeo who won the not to be sniffed at Bronze Dipstick. Scott Mikkelson took Second place, he and his '78 Olds Toronado XS left with the fiercely desired Silver Wheel Cover and Chris R. Green and his '76 Monte Carlo received first place and were thus able to embellish the mantelpiece with the coveted Golden Smog Pump. The Admin's Choice Award which consisted of a vintage leatherette tennis bag resplendent in a psychedelic paisley pattern, was presented to Tofer Pelly and his 1979 Lincoln Continental of maritime dimensions.

Co-Admin Chuck Sherman is a man of rare talent and often experiences genius level inspiration. To wit, his suggestion of "off idle drag races" following the awards presentation. The concept is a simple one. Two vehicles line up, engines idling and driver's foot on the brake. At the flag drop brakes are released and cars idle to the finish line with the slowest car winning the round. Any use of brakes and the car is disqualified. Scott's gorgeous '77 Olds Toronado swept the field laying waste to all comers with its impressive lethargy!

I don't think it any exaggeration when I say that a great time was had by all. I have no doubt that next year's show will see attendance multiply exponentially. In the meantime we're planning some other malaise era events to titillate the petrol-centric individual. ●

Right (top to bottom): Mazda RX-7, Marty Hanson's 300SL, Great Auto's members Chris Green and Vince Yue join Bill Rogstad, Bill Peachee, Eric Warren and Bryan Davis for some refreshments. Mark Reverdy's Lincoln Town Car.

Below: Freewheelers Bill Rogstad, Bill Peachee, Scott Mikkelson, Todd Darling, Marty Hanson and Glen Taber hold up the wall at the Malaise car event.



OWNER'S PROFILE

When executive secretary, Louise Gates, told the Pontiac salesman that she wanted a new convertible his response was, "You can't afford one!" Indignant, she marched out the door and straight across the street into the Oldsmobile showroom where she sat down and ordered a new Cutlass convertible. She took delivery of her "White Whale" on May 18, 1966.

Produced by Oldsmobile between 1961 and 1988, and again briefly in 1997-1999, the Cutlass not only became Oldsmobile's best-selling model but one of the most popular nameplates in the industry. Introduced as the top trim level in Oldsmobile's compact F-85 line, the Cutlass evolved into a line of its own, spawning numerous variants, including the formidable 4-4-2 muscle car in 1964, premium Cutlass Supreme in 1966, and outright performance Hurst Olds in 1968.

Miss Gates kept the Cutlass seven years trading it in on an ordered '73 Cutlass Supreme coupe (also blue and white). As a car-crazed teenager, longtime Freewheeler and board member Michael Amodt scoured the Monterey, California lots daily and spotted the '66 that Friday evening before its engine had even cooled off. "My wonderful and equally car-crazed father bought it first thing Monday morning. The Cut-

lass would then be with me during my teens, twenties, thirties, forties ... and so on. It is my Picture of Dorian Gray – it still looks the same but I know I don't".

Fast-forward to 2016. With the Cutlass' 50th birthday approaching, Michael contacted Miss Gates, now 77-years-old and suggested they get together to celebrate the occasion.

Michael and Louise have kept in touch via Christmas cards for forty-three years. She was enthusiastic about the meeting and a date was arranged in May. "My partner Jay and I drove the Cutlass down from San Jose to Monterey and we so enjoyed watching Louise as she saw her old friend for the first time in several decades". True to tradition, Miss Gates had dressed in blue and white to match the car.

"It was a spectacular, sunny day and we had lunch at the golf course over-looking the Monterey Bay". While there, they caught up on a life-time of old cars, thier families, life in Monterey and anything else they could reminisce about. "As we began to head back to her house I asked her if she wanted the top up or down to which she quickly replied: "Why, top down, of course!"

Of course!

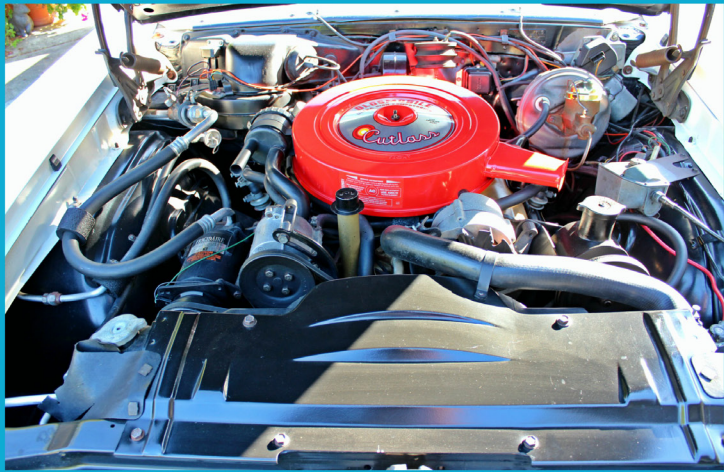


THE ENDURING ROCKET ACTION

Olds

By Michael Amodt & Peter Escobedo
Photos by Peter Escobedo





**1966 Oldsmobile
Cutlass convertible**

Weight: 3,349

Production: 9,410

Price: 2,965

Wheelbase: 115.0

Engine: V-8 330

HP: 320



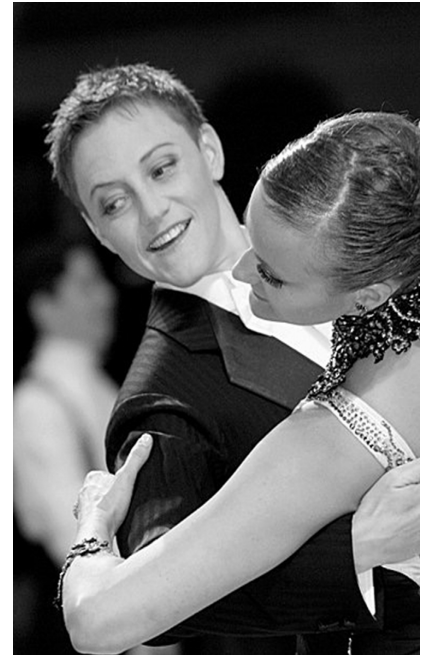
For a second year the Freewheelers are Signature Sponsors of **Frameline41, the San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival**. The Freewheelers annual sponsorship has helped to expand Frameline's year-round programming, like **Youth in Motion**, which creates safer schools for LGBTQ youth and allies. Youth In Motion provides free LGBTQ films and curriculum guides to Genders & Sexualities Alliances (also known as Gay-Straight Alliances) and educators in schools nationwide. Thanks to the Freewheelers, Youth in Motion now supports over 1,060 schools in all 50 states!

What's more, the Freewheelers will sponsor a film in the festival. This year, we are very proud to sponsor a wonderful new documentary:

hottotrot

Four international dancers go all out in the same-sex ballroom dance competition at the 2014 Gay Games. Their dedicated journeys include changing roles and partners, facing illness, affirming identity, and finding love—on and off the dance floor.

Same-sex ballroom dancing is a daring, elegant twist on an inherently heterosexist form. Here men dance with men, and women dance with women. Leader and follower roles are filled by the more suitable partner, which can change from dance to dance. Beneath fabulous costumes and makeup, same-sex ballroom dancing is radical as “a vertical expression of a horizontal desire.”



Costa Rican Ernesto loses a dance partner to illness and finds a new partner just months before the April Follies competition in Oakland. Russian Nikolai is more recently out and just entering the same-sex dance world after many years as a mainstream ballroom champion. They must navigate differences in their personal and cultural styles, as well as the legacy of homophobic upbringings and past drug abuse.

New Zealander Kieren and American Emily enjoy a simpatico commitment and trust from partnering over the years. Their main concern is managing Emily's type 1 diabetes, which strongly affects her mood and energy level. When Keiren is pulled away by career concerns,

Emily's less-experienced girlfriend, Katerina, steps in. The competition is fast and furious, inspiring them all to dance their way into life's next adventures with grit and grace.

There are a limited number of free ticket vouchers available for Freewheelers members who wish to attend one of the two screenings of *Hot to Trot*. Please email Eric Whitney at ewhitney@me.com, or call (415) 902-5165 to let him know which of the screenings you are interested in attending:

Sunday, June 18, 2017, 11AM at the **Victoria Theatre**, 2961 16th St. San Francisco, CA 94103

or,

Thursday, June 22, 2017, 7PM at the **Rialto Cinemas® Elmwood**, 2966 College Ave. Berkeley, CA 94705

See you at the movies!



**June 25th - Peninsula
"She sells sea shells by the sea shore"
drive tour
Pacifica, California**

Join us for a leisurely drive down the coast from Pacifica south to a few coastal stops and a sack lunch with a loop back to sea bowl. More details to follow!

**June 25th - San Francisco
SF Pride Parade
San Francisco, California**



**July 6-9 - Central California
West Coast Meet 2017
Cambria California**

An enchanting (Bewitching) event on the central California coast as West Coast Meet once again converges at the Cambria Pines Lodge. This year's theme car is Chevrolet.



**FOR SALE
1957 CONTINENTAL MARK II**

This car is in mostly-unrestored condition (except for some interior repair and an exterior repaint a few decades ago). Feels tight and reliable on the road, drives wonderfully. Contains 2 of the very-few Mark II options – A/C and color-keyed Seat-Belts. Starmist White with White Leather/Brown Welting interior. CA car with NO RUST. 92k miles, Almost \$5k recently invested. Contact Richard in Hayward at 510-538-3762. Asking \$60k

Gilbert (3)



SELL YOUR CAR HERE!

Have a vehicle you'd like to sell? As a benefit of membership, 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.

TYPE OF AD	MEMBERS: NON COMMERCIAL	NON MEMBERS, NON COMMERCIAL	Members: Commercial	Non-Members: Commercial
car, equipment, etc.	3 for Free, then \$10/insertion	Ad for car, equipment, etc.	n/a	n/a
Business Card Size	n/a	Business Card Size	\$30 per insertion, \$250/yr. (11 issues)	\$35 per insertion, \$300/year
Quarter Page Size	n/a	Quarter Page Size	\$60 per insertion, \$500/yr. (11 issues)	\$70 per insertion, \$600/year



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follow us on social media



Driving our community since 1978

thefreewheelers.net

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH. CELEBRATE ALL YEAR LONG WITH US.