



Flyer

March 2019

Vol. XLI, No. 2

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President's Message

A hardy Hello to all you club members from your new president —ME! I've been a part of the board filling virtually every position so why not try my hand at presidenting!! I love that this club is about the love of cars... old, new, exotic and daily drivers. I also love the camaraderie that the members bring whenever we have an event. I'm all ears if you have an idea for an event or drive or even just a get together so feel free to contact me by phone, text or email!

I hope you all enjoyed our first tour of the year — The Cobra Experience! — I had not heard of this museum and was floored by the number and quality of the cars on display. The documentary was fun and enlightening as well.

The March tour promises to be great fun and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the trailer museum. Will there be any Lucy and Ricky lookalikes within the group?

Your board had also filled in some of the upcoming monthly events on the calendar but we are always looking for the clubs input so let's hear from you!

Shameless plug time: Todd and I are sponsoring the "Southwest Unique Little Car Show" on April 6 in Old Sacramento. We are being allowed to show on the greens outside the California State Railroad Museum, the first time ever! We are expecting 50 (FIFTY!!!) microcars to be displayed so if anyone wants to make a day of it, let us know, we'd love to see you!

Rumble on!

Scott Mikkelsen

President, Freewheelers Car Club

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Board of Directors 2019		Member Information		
President Scott Mikkelsen, 916-768-3465 rednblackgarage@aol.com	Newsletter Editor Marty Hanson, 916-202-2011 sac65tbird@aol.com	Freewheelers Web Site www.thefreewheelers.net	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. Submissions should reach the Newsletter Editor or Webmaster by the 15 th of the month prior to publishing. Contributors to this Issue: Scott Mikkelsen, Bill Rogstad, Michael Amodt and Marty Hanson. Photos courtesy of Brian, Kanamu, Bill Peachee and Christopher Slater.	
Vice President/Activities Bill Hall, 510-612-3300 williamhall1234@yahoo.com	Photographer Bill Peachee, 925-525-5863 bpeachee@hotmail.com	Advertising 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, see the schedule below. To place an ad, please contact one of the Board Members.		
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Treasurer Jay Remick, 831-601-8080 jayremick@me.com	Webmaster Christopher Slater, 408-599-9103 gladstone.cottage@gmail.com			
Membership Director Sueko Takahashi, 925-373-1667 sueko.tbert@gmail.com	Members at Large John Jung, 925-300-3765 retromobilia@comcast.net Michael Amodt, 408-202-8041 mickeyamo90@gmail.com			
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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



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 24** and prepare yourself for a leisurely drive from Los Gatos through the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains to **The Vintage Trailer Museum** just outside of the little town of Ben Lomond.

Our host, Steve Katkowsky has a fantastic collection of vintage travel trailers, classic cars and loads of vintage travel and camping gear and memorabilia. This may be our last chance to tour this delightful collection as Steve plans to move it out of state in the near future.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. behind the Starbucks at 442 N. Santa Cruz Avenue, just off Highway 17 for coffee, treats and the usual tire kicking. At 11:00 we will head over Highway 17 to Scott's Valley, then to Highway 9 to Ben Lomond.

After the museum tour, feel free to explore the area and enjoy lunch at one of the suggested eateries below. Here is a link to the museum's website: www.vintagetrailermuseum.com.



At a glance

What: Vintage Trailer Museum Tour

When: Sunday, March 24th, at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Los Gatos Starbucks at 442 N. Santa Cruz Avenue, just off Highway 17, then onto Ben Lomond

Fee: \$5.00 event fee; free admission to museum, lunch on your own (suggestions below)

RSVP: Upcoming email invitation or contact Bill Hall at 510-612-3300 williamhall1234@yahoo.com

EATERIES IN BEN LOMOND:

1. Casa Nostra - Italian, Vegetarian Friendly, Gluten Free Options, Vegan Options; *"Best Food in Ben Lomond"*
2. Tyrolean Inn Restaurant - German, Central European, European; *"Only German food in town"*
3. Ben Lomond Baking Company - Italian, French, Café; *#1 Dessert in Ben Lomond*
4. Spanky's - American, Diner, Café; *"Classic Diner for Breakfast or Lunch"*
5. Coffee Nine - #1 of 1 Coffee & Tea in Ben Lomond; Café; *"Cozy Small Town Coffee Shop"*
6. Masoods Liquor & Deli; *"Good inexpensive carry out food"*

Freewheelers Gather in Vallejo for the Annual Business Meeting



– by Frieda Freewheeler

On Sunday, January 27, Freewheelers gathered at the Vallejo Yacht Club for our 2019 Annual Business Meeting. The “ABM” is all important as the state of the club is discussed. Old and new business, and ideas for monthly events are presented, and changes in the board all take place. In addition and very importantly, contributions made by club members during the past year are acknowledged.

A catered lunch commenced at noon, followed by the Business Meeting. President Marty Hanson was our emcee for the action-packed meeting, beginning with a welcome message and a review of 2018 events. The membership learned that renewals are well on target for 2019 and per our Treasurer Jay Remick, the club is in excellent financial shape. Our healthy bank balance is due mainly to the generous donation of time, goods and services by club members including its all-volunteer Board. As a result we were happily in a position to provide financial support to causes that aid our LGBTQ community, including Frameline that distributes educational materials to schools and other organizations throughout the entire United States, and the Rainbow Community Center in Concord that hosted our club meeting throughout the year. Both were presented with checks in 2018.

Members were also acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to the Club – West Coast Meet 2018 in particular – and gasoline gift cards were awarded to the following: Clint Moore, Vicki Moore, Brian Kanamu, Bill Neill, Glen Taber, Patrick Johnston, Kim Norback, and Todd Darling; as well as our deepest appreciation for their time and talents.

Vice-President and Activities Director, Scott Mikkelson then reported on proposed events for 2019 and solicited ideas from the membership. We will be hosting West Coast Meet in 2020, so those with ideas for that event were encouraged to attend the February board meeting to present their proposals.

Freewheeler and California Automobile Museum (CAM) Board Member David Felderstein also presented to the membership regarding a club donation to the CAM for their youth program in 2019 which the new board will vote on in February.

(continued on next page)

Finally, nominations for the 2019 Board of Directors were made and the floor opened to any additional nominations. Current board and nominees then gathered for the “kitchen cabinet” – literally in the kitchen of the clubhouse – to discuss 2019 board positions before reporting back to the membership. Your 2019 Board of Directors is as follows:

President:	Scott Mikkelson	Vice-President/Activities:	Bill Hall
Treasurer:	Jay Remick	Secretary:	Brian Kanamu
Membership:	Sueko Takahashi-Gilbert	Newsletter:	Marty Hanson
Photographer:	Bill Peachee	Registration:	Gregg Cannella
Webmaster:	Christopher Slater	Members at Large:	Michael Amodt & John Jung

With no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned a little ahead of schedule, after which attendees resumed tire kicking in the parking lot and assisted with clean-up in the Clubhouse. We invite anyone with ideas for club events or who are open to hosting one to please contact the Board. The Club wishes to thank Jim Finley and John Kiszla, Vallejo Yacht Club members, for sponsoring the Club's gathering.



Andrew Gilmore & Kevin Holzmeister with their 1968 Chevy Caprice Coupe



David Felderstein extols the virtues of his all-original 1963 Dodge Polara



Ford aficionado Gregg McDowell's first on tour Chevy Corvette!?



David Schnitzer with his pristine 1976 Cadillac Coupe de Ville



Bob Krambuhl arrives topless in his 2004 Saab Arc 9-3 convertible



Requisite tire-kicking and camaraderie ensue in the parking lot



John Kiszla's 1961 Lincoln Continental convertible & Jim Finley's 1978 Lincoln Versailles



Members settle in before lunch



President Marty Hanson & Membership Director Sueko Takahashi-Gilbert prepare for the meeting



Current Board and 2019 nominees gather for the "Kitchen Cabinet"







It's never too early to start getting ready for West Coast Meet, July 12-14 in Atascadero!

- Design your costume for the "Private Dick Ball"
- Have your alibi for your whereabouts in case you need it
- Keep your eyes peeled, you may be a witness!

Watch this space for more information and registration form next month!

Freewheelers Experience the Cobra Experience!



– by Marty Hanson

Anticipating inclement weather in wintery February, we opted for an “indoor” activity, however as fortune would favor the Freewheelers, it was a bright and crisp day in Martinez for our first tour of 2019 at the Cobra Experience. Said sunshine prompted copious amounts of tire-kicking and camaraderie prior to touring the collection.

Host and newly elected club President Scott Mikkelsen had hot coffee and donuts on hand for over 50 arrivals...emphasis on “hot” coffee as it was still cold in the shade. Our tour immediately followed a “cars and coffee” type event at the museum, so there were still a few unique vehicles still in the lot when we arrived including a Thunderbird-esque Ranchero and a Corvette Sport wagon conversion! Of the Freewheelers cars, first-on-tours included Warren Martin’s 1950 Oldsmobile Futuramic 88, my 1986 Chrysler LeBaron 4-door Sedan, Melinda Lincoln’s 2013 Volkswagen Beetle convertible, and John Kiszla’s 2016 Honda CR-Z Hybrid (a virtual twin to Sueko Takahashi’s). How big John fits into that tiny Honda is beyond me!

A little after 11, Scott gathered everyone together to outline the details of the tour and to add a new feature to our monthly events – a raffle! Each attendee had a number on their name tag and Scott drew numbers to see who the winner of the miniature die-cast would be. After a couple of mishaps or no-shows, the venerable John McCue held the winner number!

We then entered the museum to view the collection of sparking Cobras and other Shelby variations including Mustangs, Dodges, and Sunbeams. At the entrance, there was a display case with every shape and size of Cobra die-casts imaginable. There was also a gift shop, a small dining area, and a

theater which ran the Carroll Shelby story at regular intervals...complete with Cobra rumbling sense-around sound. With our large group, some had to opt for the second showing.

When folks were done with the museum tour, Scott had lunches prepared for all to enjoy which included a turkey sandwich, your choice of chips and fruit, and home-made chocolate-chip cookies. Bottled water and more hot coffee were also on hand to drink.

All-in-all, a delightful day and a great start to the Freewheelers' 2019 season! Thanks so much to President Scott Mikkelson for organizing the event and to him and his partner Todd Darling for preparing all the lunches. We look forward to more fun-filled Freewheelers events in the months ahead.



First on Tours: Marty Hanson's 1986 Chrysler LeBaron 4-door Sedan, John Kiszla's 2016 Honda CR-Z coupe and Warren Martin's 1950 Oldsmobile Futuramic 88



President Scott Mikkelson addresses the crowd.



Dressed for the cold – Bill Hall, Tony Chisanthis and Glen Taber stay in the sun.



Warren Martin and Dave Gilbert enjoy hot coffee.



Calvin Craig arrived in his 1973 Jaguar E-Type Series III



John McCue wins the raffle!



Freewheelers admire the diversity of the Cobra Experience



Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore

— by Michael Amodt

What was your first car? Mine was a somewhat bedraggled 1958 Volkswagen Beetle but I was crazy about her. You see, *Alice* brought me independence! Though I had no clue how to drive a stick, especially a non-synchromesh 4-speed, I was so motivated that I mastered it on the first day. Dad had bought the primer-covered VW from the dentist that lived next door for \$150. I remember the dentist part because the ivory colored radio buttons had holes in them and reminded me of teeth with cavities.

Beetles in those days were extremely primitive. Just thirty-six horsepower, no gas gauge and a heater activated by kicking a lever on the floor were just some of its more “lavish” features. However she did have a sliding canvas sun roof which of course, was always open. I immediately set about prettying her up. I bought a nice used bumper from a local wrecking yard, new hub caps, trim rings, chrome trim for the rear vents, and added port-a-walls. Port-a-walls? They were fake white walls that were mounted under the rims of the tires.

Dad agreed we should have the car painted, so a friend recommended a guy who painted cars in his garage in Carmel Valley and for a very reasonable price. I chose a tasteful 1970 VW soft light blue and gave that info to the painter. The day it was ready dad and I drove out to pick it up. I shrieked as I could see my VW glowing down in his driveway from all the way up on the highway we were on. It just didn't look right and I soon learned that instead of VW paint he bought a cheaper, sickening baby blue Ford Econoline color. I decided not to make an issue of it as he began to complain about all the horrors he went through prepping the rusty little Bug for the paint. I got over it and used to it. It was after all...wheels and independence!



Alice Before



Alice After

Gas was cheap in the early seventies. My friends would all pile in to Alice and for a dollar we could terrorize the entire Monterey Peninsula all night long...two dollars covered a weekend. I may have made a mistake when I named the car because she really did seem to take on various personality traits. Should anyone say anything remotely disparaging about her, she immediately would stall out. All were forbidden to make any further negative comments.

A year went by and thousands of adventurous miles. The problems were adding up - we couldn't have the new tires aligned because the underside was so corroded, and then one day the engine just gave out. She was replaced by a green Plymouth sedan which, believe me, didn't help my popularity at school one bit. On the bright side, Alice went on to live with an enthusiastic young serviceman who had her engine rebuilt. I would imagine he may have a story or two about her as well.

And I'm pretty sure that many of you have stories to tell as well. We would love to hear from you!



MARCH 2019

Sunday the 10th, 2019 – Board Meeting at 288 Buchanan Airfield in Concord.

Sunday the 24th, 2019 – Vintage Trailer Museum Tour; see page 3 for more information.

APRIL 2019

Saturday the 6th, 2019 – The Southwest Unique Little Car Show in Old Town Sacramento.

Sunday the 14th, 2019 – Board Meeting at 288 Buchanan Airfield in Concord.

Sunday the 28th, 2019 – Sacramento Collections Tour; Ramshead & California Auto Museum; watch for details.

JULY 2019

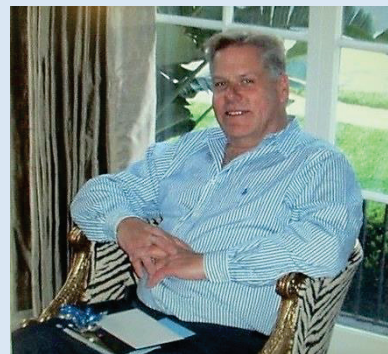
Thursday the 11th – Sunday the 14th, 2019 – the 41st Annual West Coast Meet in Atascadero; watch for upcoming details and registration information.

NOTE: Dates/events/locations subject to change. NOTE: Club Board Meetings are typically held the first Sunday of every month at 10 a.m. in Concord, and are open to all members. Contact a board member if you're interested in attending to confirm the time and place.



IN MEMORIAM

Long time Freewheelers and Great Autos club member, Bob Kruse, passed suddenly at his home in Seattle on Wednesday, February 27. Bob operated an auto repair shop and his knowledge of the workings of an automobile was simply limitless...he could fix anything. Bob probably owned a hundred cars during his life time, restoring a number of them. He always had a terrible joke to share and laughed louder than anybody at them. A favorite one involved his mother's cooking...he would say that at his house they prayed after they ate. Bob will be missed by his family and many friends.



– Michael Amodt

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100 Bush Street, Suite 1675
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 781-6300 | www.hankewealth.com



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



Get Ready for West Coast Meet 2019!