



Freewheelers Flyer



Vol. XXXIX No. 10

Driving our community since 1978

November 2017

NEW MEMBER LUNCH

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CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

TIME TO RENEW
MEMBERSHIP!

President's Message

This month, the Freewheelers will be joining the Packard Club for a Veteran's Day (Saturday, November 11) event at the Veteran's Home in Yountville where we encourage our members to bring their classics out for our veterans to enjoy and reminisce. You can find detail in this issue of the Flyer.



And mark your calendar for Sunday, December 10, for the Freewheelers' annual Holiday Party which will be held at the Veteran's Hall in Pleasanton. Come on out and enjoy the gift raffle and a fancy holiday dinner with your fellow Freewheelers as we wrap up another year.

Membership renewals for 2018 are now underway as well, and we hope to sign up for another year with us. We truly appreciate your membership and encourage you to participate in our club events to get the most out of your membership. You can renew on-line at www.thefreewheelers.net or contact our Membership Director, Sueko Takahashi-Gilbert...her contact information is in this newsletter.

And speaking of 2018, the New Year will soon be upon us and your Board of Directors is already planning our upcoming events calendar, including West Coast Meet in July. Join us for our Annual Business and Planning meeting – this time, in February of next year, to find out how your club is doing and what plans we have for the future. I hope to see you at an upcoming event or two, so until then...

Happy Motoring!

Marty Hanson
Club President

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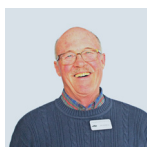
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Submissions should reach the Newsletter Editor or Webmaster by the 15th of the month prior to publishing.

Contributors to this Issue:

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

PAUL LAYNE

Mountain House, California

NIKO XANTHOPOULOS

Santa Rosa, California

JIM RICHARDS

Smartsville, California



Freewheeler's New Member Lunch

Text: Marty Hanson

Photos: Peter Escobedo



It was perfect autumn weather for an outdoor New Member Lunch in the aptly named town of Pleasanton. Freewheelers Roger Emmett and Geoff Caccamo opened their lovely hilltop home to host our event with a lunch buffet prepared and catered by their friend Dave Spot. After the rain earlier in the week, the panoramic view from their property was quite spectacular.

The club likes to acknowledge our new members at least one a year with the proverbial “free lunch” in recognition and appreciation of their membership. It also gives us veteran members a chance to meet and greet new members and make them feel welcome.

We had over 40 in attendance, including six new members: John Bryan, Michael Coyle, David Sacha and his partner Bruce Fowler, Paul Layne, and Kernan Coleman. Roger’s and Geoff’s large drive court accommodated many beautiful cars including those of our new members – John’s 1985 Mercedes-Benz 380SL, Michael’s 2002 Ford Thunderbird Roadster, Paul’s Cadillac CTS wagon, and Kernan’s 2000 VW New Beetle. Other first-on-tour

vehicles included Michael Amodt’s and Jay Remick’s 2006 Mercedes-Benz SL550, Gregg Cannella’s 1950 Dodge Pickup, and Edsel aficionado Dave Gilbert’s 1958 Edsel Bermuda wagon – the first Edsel he ever bought back in 1975 and he still drives it!

After requisite tire-kicking and appetizers, yours truly opened the event by welcoming and announcing our new members in attendance, after which Dave Spot began putting the finishing touches on the lunch buffet. The Mexican-themed buffet included build-your-own soft tacos with flour tortillas, your choice of beef or chicken, refried or black beans, a variety of fresh toppings, chips, salsa, guacamole and ceviche. An assortment of beverages was provided by the club and Scott Mikkelson provided home-made cookies for dessert.

In keeping with the Mexican theme, there was also a piñata hung by a nearby tree...Peter Anning and I took our turns giving it a few whacks with Peter succeeding at knocking it down and subsequently impaling it to



release the desired contents of candies and some miniature bottles of liqueur...those went quickly!

After lunch, some folks began heading for home while the rest of us stayed for an informal West Coast Meet 2018 kick-off meeting as Freewheelers prepare to host the annual event in Astacadero next July. Event Chair Scott Mikkelsen and I facilitated the meeting, outlining the theme and ideas already in the works, then opened it up to those in attendance for questions, feedback, ideas, and of course...volunteers! We'll be following up with an email blast to the membership outlining the areas where we'll need help for West Coast Meet, and those interested can respond to Scott or me.

Again, many thanks to Roger and Geoff for opening their home to the club for our event, and to chef Dave Spot for the delicious lunch buffet and of course Scott for the cookies! Also, welcome to all the new members...thank you for your membership and we hope you find many years of enjoyment being a Freewheeler. And thanks to our returning members as well...we're glad you decided to stay with us! 



OWNER'S PROFILE



AMC'S ENCORE PERFORMANCE

PHOTOS: Peter Escobedo

Words & Info: Wikipedia / Peter Escobedo

With increasing competition from the "Big Three," the rise of Asian import automobiles, new safety regulations, the 1973 oil crisis, and 1979 energy crisis, American Motors was left in a weak position in the U.S. marketplace. The company had three product lines: a profitable line of government vehicles, Jeeps, and passenger cars. However, sales dropped suddenly in 1979 with a declining economy meaning all four of the U.S. automakers saw their sales plummet, but this decline was especially dangerous to AMC's survival with only 2% share of the U.S. passenger car market.

Banks refused to provide AMC further credit to develop new products for the changing marketplace, so AMC turned to Renault for a \$90 million loan. As the U.S. economy entered the early 1980s recession, AMC signed an agreement with Renault giving a share in AMC's

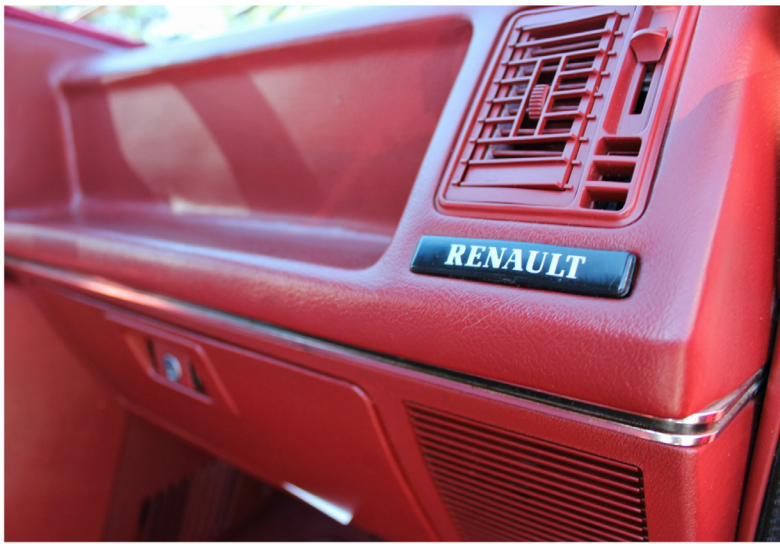
ownership in exchange for the rights to sell Renault cars in the U.S. By the end of 1980, Renault held a controlling interest of AMC which was sarcastically called Franco-American Motors.

Renault's objective was to build its newer models at AMC's existing manufacturing plants. The two automakers worked closely as each design studio developed spin-offs of cars created by the other. Originally only a four-door sedan body style, Richard Teague, AMC's Vice President of Design and AMC's design staff decided to mock-

up a two-door coupe which would later see production.

Production began in 1982, making Renault the second European automaker to build cars in the U.S. after Volkswagen. The cars were aimed at the lowest price range in the U.S. market with the two-door Alliance having a





sticker price starting at \$5,595. The Alliance used a Renault supplied OHV 1.4 L I4 engine from the Renault Le Car. The base engine produced 64 hp that accelerated the 2,030-pound Alliance from 0 to 60 mph in 14.3 seconds, and gave it an 89-mile top speed.

Known in Europe as the Renault 9, it was voted the 1982 European Car of the Year. It went on to become France's most popular car and Renault's best selling model ever.

The Alliance afforded AMC the opportunity to field a new compact car without the expense of its design and tooling, still the business relationship with Renault exacted a heavy price on the U.S. company. The auto-

maker was required to shed its profitable AM General line of commercial and military vehicles because of U.S. Government regulations prohibiting foreign companies from owning domestic military suppliers.

Freewheeler Kim Norback of Sonoma California is the proud owner of our featured car, a 1986 Alliance DL.. Purchased from an AMC collector this little runabout is still going strong.

The Alliance has the arguable distinction of being the car that had temporarily saved AMC. Ironically, the hatch-back version, named Encore, would reappear in the United States in 2013, this time on a Buick SUV.



YOUNTVILLE VETERANS EVENT November 11, 2017

Veterans Day is a time to thank our service members for the hard work and sacrifices they have made for our country, and this year The Packard Club and The Freewheelers are hosting a joint event at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville to share our cars with the residents and guests there. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 11 for a wonderful opportunity to give back to our nation's heroes.

We are very fortunate that the Veterans Home was not affected by the recent fires, however they did experience some evacuations making it difficult to finalize the details of the day. We are confirmed to have a display of cars at the home, but space will

be limited. We will be parked outside the cafeteria from 10am-2pm during the lunch time, and arrangements are being made for additional parking near by. At 2pm, the group will have a short drive to a local sandwich shop where we can enjoy camaraderie of both clubs for the afternoon.

Stay tuned for details and sign up sheet in your email boxes! Again, we anticipate space will be limited, so send in your reservation as





Application for Membership/Membership Renewal

Hello fellow auto enthusiast! Please complete the application, ***sign and date the bottom of the form*** acknowledging the club's liability policy, and return it with your check for or money order (includes access to our club roster, monthly newsletter, and privileged website access). You may also register and pay using your PayPal account or a **credit card** at www.thefreewheelers.net and clicking on 'contact us / join' which we prefer.

Membership Rates: The membership rate will increase to \$60.00 per year to more closely reflect actual printing and distribution costs. HOWEVER, for those wishing to receive the flyer and the roster digitally/online without a print version there is a \$25.00 discount. (\$35. per year, the same as last year) Note that all or part of the Flyer may be printed from the internet if you desire a hard copy.

Membership is for the ***calendar year from January 1 to December 31.*** **New** Members who join on or after October 1 will have the following year at no charge (up to 15 months).

Please include an e-mail address. We use these addresses for event registration and payment as well as notifications between Flyer issues. We will use only the 'Primary Members' email address for all communications. The optional occupational listing is for the Board's access only and is not available to the general membership. From time to time the Board seeks advice on subjects relating to the club's needs.

New Member ☐ Renewal ☐		Where did you hear about the Freewheelers?	
If Renewal then member since			
Name of Primary Member		Occupation (optional)	
Partner/Spouse		Partner's Occupation (optional)	
Address		Home Phone	Work Phone
City, State, ZIP		Cell Phone	Other training/talents/skills?
E-mail Address	Partner's E-mail Address		
Please list your vehicles below. Attach additional sheet(s) as required.			
Year	Make	Model	Body Style
It is the Freewheelers Car Club policy that all vehicles driven at Club events must have liability and property damage insurance. The Club assumes no liability for accidents occurring in connection with Club events and/or activities. Proof of insurance must be supplied upon request. Please sign below acknowledging this policy.			
Date	Signature		

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- ☐ Print Flyer & Print Roster Membership(s): _____ @ \$60 each = \$_____ (includes one Roster and Flyer per paid membership)
- ☐ Digital Flyer & Digital Roster: _____ @ \$35 each = \$_____

Please send this form and your check or Money Order (drawn in U.S. funds) to:
 Freewheelers Car Club C/O Jay Remick, 1588 Willow Oaks Drive, San Jose, CA 95125
jayremick@me.com/408-269-1899



Ask Connie is a segment we have just for club members who need expert car advice...from a feminine point of view! If you have a burning question about big blocks, little headers or any querie regarding your old ride, contact Connie at: askconniecoors@gmail.com

Dear Connie,

I was so embarrassed when my Vista Cruiser broke down while I was leaving the Mr. S store in San Francisco. After some people helped me push the car back into the parking lot, I felt like everyone was looking at me while I waited for the tow truck to arrive. What would you have done in that situation?

Signed,
Wagon Weary

WW, Well, I don't know who Mr. S is, but if his store is anything like WalMart, they have a whole department for situations just like this. There's an aisle packed with belts, clamps, rings, lube and more. Pretty much anything to jump start your motor! And the clerks are so courteous and helpful! Next time, try poking around inside to see if you can find what will get you going.

Kisses, CC

Dear Connie,

I was recently watching the classic Mel Brooks film "High Anxiety," and was taken by Madeline Kahn's stunning Louis Vuitton jumper that matches her Louis Vuitton designer Seville. Should I find an outfit to match my designer series car?

Signed,
Label Whore

LW, My my, do you sound fancy! I bought a rusty Pacer once with a Levi's interior, but I could only afford jeans from Mervyn's. Both the interior and my jeans had holes in them, and this was long before the kids started doing that on purpose. Did I look fabulous? It's debatable, but it made me feel like I had a real connection with that P.O.S. So yes, if you need a pair of fancy pants to go with your fancy-pants car, buy a pair!

Kisses,
Connie

☞ Connie Coors, the most d'elegant show queen in the entire mobile home community, is here every month to answer your questions on how to buy, sell, prep and show your car. If you have a burning problem, ask Connie! ☞



November 11 - North Bay
Yountville veterans event with Packard club
Yountville, California



December 10 - East Bay
Freewheelers annual holiday party
Pleasanton, California



**all events are subject to change*

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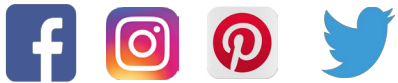
TYPE OF AD	MEMBERS: NON COMMERCIAL	NON MEMBERS, NON COMMERCIAL	Members: Commercial	Non-Members: Commercial
car, equipment, etc.	3 for Free, then \$10/insertion	Ad for car, equipment, etc.	n/a	n/a
Business Card Size	n/a	Business Card Size	\$30 per insertion,\$250/yr. (11 issues)	\$35 per insertion, \$300/year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



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