



Freewheelers Flyer



Vol. XXXIX No. 6

Driving our community since 1978

July 2017



**OUT
AND
ABOUT**
FREEWHEELERS
ARE OUT AND
PROUD
AT
SAN FRANCISCO'S
2017 PRIDE
CELEBRATION
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**RECENT EVENT:
PENINSULA
DRIVE TOUR**
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**OWNER'S PROFILE:
1932
PACKARD**
PAGE 8



**ALSO IN
THIS
ISSUE:**

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

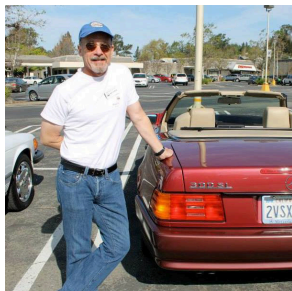
**SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST TOUR**

**ASK
CONNIE COORS**

**CARAVAN TO
CAMBRIA**

President's Message

Ah...July! Can't take the heat...well, come on down to West Coast Meet...this will be the 33rd Annual meet, this year hosted by Great Autos of Yesteryear at the Cambria Pines Lodge in cool Cambria! And while Great Autos will be our hosts, your fellow Freewheelers have some shenanigans in store for the weekend as well – including some surprise appearances by yours truly – so I hope you'll be able to join us for the fun!



We also have an exciting event in August at the Chabot Observatory, hosted by the venerable Bill Hall...details in this issue of the Flyer. We're planning a pool party in September and another drive tour in October, so mark your calendars! And we'll be joining the Packard Club in November to honor our veterans on Veteran's Day. Before you know it, our 2017 Holiday Party will be upon us...we'll be returning to the Veteran's Hall in Pleasanton (where the 2015 party was held)...so I hope you can make it to some or all of these events.

We'll also be organizing planning meetings for West Coast Meet 2018 soon, so let me know if you'd like to be involved in this fun and rewarding event...we're always looking for new ideas and of course, volunteers! Also, if anyone is interested in attending our regular monthly board meetings...they are open to all members...just contact any board member to get the time and place. And don't miss our new feature in this issue of the Flyer: "Ask Connie!" She's providing sassy advice to inquisitive Freewheelers! Until we meet again...happy motoring!

Marty Hanson

Club President

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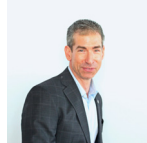
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Submissions should reach the Newsletter Editor or Webmaster by the 15th of the month prior to publishing.

Contributors to this Issue: Mark Reverdy, Cody Brownell, Luis Sosa, Marty Hanson, Bill Hall, Clint Moore.

On the cover: Kent Johnson, Luis Sosa, Allen Nixon, Alvin Hasin, Cody Brownell, Christopher Reynolds, Peter Escobedo

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SAVE THE DATE - EAST BAY DRIVE TOUR & BBQ

Join us Sunday, August 27 for a fun filled opportunity to learn something new and enjoy all of what the Chabot facility has to offer. Founded in 1883 and nestled in the Oakland hills, Chabot offers the latest in hands-on, interactive exhibits and displays as well as Planetarium shows that explore the mysteries of the universe and life on earth.

We'll meet at 10am in our reserved on-site parking lot for coffee, doughnuts and an hour of tire kicking before heading inside to explore the facility at our individual pace and interests(see just a few of the available exhibits and displays below). Later we'll settle in for a 25 minute film presented in the dome-shaped 360 degree view Planetarium. Here's an example of just a few things to choose from that we'll have at our disposal:

ILLUMINATED SPACE The Bay Lights project on the Bay Bridge is the world's largest LED light structure.....1.8 miles wide and 500 feet high.

TOUCH THE SUN A near-real time interactive full color extreme ultraviolet animation of our dynamic and stunning star. Zoom in on hot spots or catch a solar flare!

DESTINATION UNIVERSE Explore stars of every size and color, venture into a black hole and be dazzled by vast nebulas.

BEYOND BLASTOFF Get a glimpse into the life of an astronaut and experience the mixture of exhilaration, adventure and confinement that is living and working in space.

Afterward, we'll take a short 15 minute drive through the Oakland hills to a Burgers and Beans BBQ at Bill and David's house.



OUT AND PROUD

WITH THE MAGICAL WORLD OF DISNEY

By Peter Escobedo

Photos by Mark Reverdy,
Peter Escobedo, Cody Brownell, Luis Sosa

June is pride month and it's not only a time to reflect on the accomplishments that we've made as a community but to remember all of those who fought and struggled so hard to make those rights a reality. This year the Freewheelers were asked by the Walt Disney company to drive the cast of the ABC miniseries, *When we rise* in their parade contingent. The biopic chronicles the stories of San Francisco gay rights pioneers and the real-life personal and political struggles, setbacks, and triumphs of those who played integral roles in the civil rights movement.

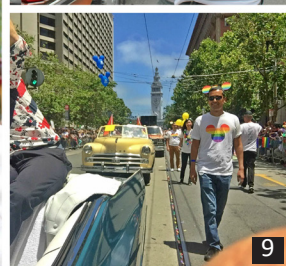
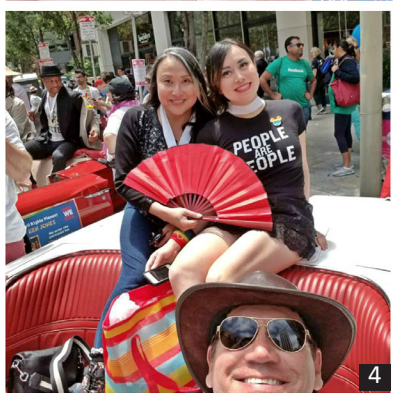
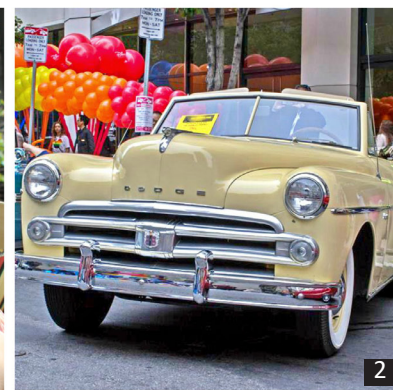
Long a pioneer of equal rights for their LGBT employees, it was an honor to partner with a company at the forefront of recognizing and celebrating diversity. Along with your author, fellow club members Luis Sosa, Robert Allen Nixon, Alvin Hasin, Guillermo Velez, Christopher Reynolds, Kent Johnson and Cody Brownell all took part in driving their classic vehicles in the parade.

The day started in typical San Francisco fashion-cloudy and overcast-but soon enough the clouds disbursed and it turned into a beautiful sunny day, perfect for showing pride in a downtown parade. The cast and their real-life counterparts

were excited to be chauffeured down Market street in the classic cars. Notable gay rights advocates included Roma Guy, Ken Jones and Cecelia Chung. Actors Guy Pierce, Austin McKenzie and Ivory Aquino were just some of the stars also taking part in the drive down the parade route to the roar of thousands of adoring fans.

Dustin Lance Black, who won the Academy Award for best original screenplay for *MILK* in 2009 rode with fellow producer Bruce Cohen in my 1967 Cadillac. *When we Rise* came to fruition because of his passion for this project and wanting to tell the story of those who fought for many of the rights that we enjoy today.

Pride, to many, may symbolize dancing on floats to thumping club music, wearing rainbow short-shorts and the freedom to express who we are but it's also important to remember how we got here. More important is to remember those who got us here. By telling the story of *When we rise* Dustin reminds us not only how far we've come as a community but how much further we still need to go. With the current political climate maintaining progress is a daily fight, albeit a fight we can definitely now do in go-go shorts and pretty cars. 



1) Actors Kevin McHale and Austin McKenzie admire Kent Johnson's Dodge 2) Kent's 1950 Dodge Wayfarer 3) Luis Sosa's Tbird on parade 4) Luis takes a selfie with Cecilia Chung and Ivory Aquino 5) Allen Nixon's Bentley Azure 6) Cody Brownnell escorts activist Ken Jones and actor Johnathan Majors down Market street in his 1965 Thunderbird 7) Actor Guy Pearce and Oscar winner Dustin Lance Black 8) Christopher Reynolds tries on his Mickey shirt 9) Kent Johnson drives down Market 10) Allen Nixon and Alvin Hasin 11) Christopher Reynolds in his 1980 F150 is in charge of parade music 12) Peter Escobedo's 1967 Cadillac DeVille 13) Luis Sosa's 1966 Thunderbird 14) Gui Velez's 1959 Impala

Special thank you to Suzanne Larusch for organizing the contingent.



Pacifica Drive Tour

Freewheelers First Drive Tour of Summer

By Marty Hanson

After surviving the “great heat wave of 2017,” Freewheelers were greeted with the chill of a foggy mist as we gathered in front of the vintage “Sea Bowl Lanes” in Pacifica for our first drive tour of summer! An intimate group of some 22 people and a dozen cars warmed up to coffee and donuts provide by event host Scott Mikkelsen. Despite the smaller crowd, we did have some first-on-tours show up, including Suede Beradino’s 1997 Custom Chevrolet Pickup, probationary member Melinda Lincoln’s 2006 Porsche Boxster roadster, and Clint Moore’s recently acquired 1932 Packard which received a lot of well-deserved attention. When someone asked if the car had a straight-eight engine, Clint corrected us as it was an “in-line” eight.

Around 10:30, Scott gathered everyone for a summary of the tour and to hand out directions...then as the fog began to lift, we piled into our vehicles and headed out onto Pacific Coast Highway with Scott’s hard-to-miss 1978 Toronado XS leading the pack. The drive along the coast will still a bit gray and overcast but the sun was doing its best to burn through. Many surfers were in the water but duly covered it wet-suits due to the cold.

At our first turn at the La Honda turnoff, Scott pulled over and allowed the caravan to catch up and regroup. It also offered some of us an opportunity to relieve ourselves after too many cups of coffee. We all breathed a sigh of relief when Clint’s Packard rejoined the group as we were concerned with how the car would perform on the drive, but it seemed to be doing just fine. Once we were all reunited and relieved, we resumed our drive toward Alice’s Restaurant in La Honda.

Once we arrived at Alice’s Restaurant, we decided there was insufficient parking for us to stop for lunch, so some of us simply continued on the tour while others made a quick pit-stop. It was a beautiful drive under dappled sunlight of the majestic trees along the winging highway, and upon reaching the turn-off to Highway 92; we decided to do another pit-stop so those who stopped in La Honda could catch up. It was also the perfect opportunity to stretch our legs, take in the view of the Crystal Springs Reservoir, and snap some photos.

Once all together again, we then proceed east on Highway 92 and then onto Highway 280 for a brief jaunt to our final destination at the



Vista Point rest stop where we gathered for a brown-bag lunch. By then, the sun was shining in all its glory, so we found some welcome shade to enjoy our sandwiches. Other travelers at the rest stop enjoyed our mini-car show and we even had a visitor from another event stopped by in his 1958 Imperial. And while several of us admired his car, he admired our classics and was especially intrigued by the Toronado XS.

Since it was warming up, Clint Moore decided to recruit some help to put the top down on the Packard for the drive home...a very manual process, but after a few mis-steps and plenty of help, they managed to fold the top down and install the canvas cover. A lovely day and a beautiful drive were enjoyed by all on the tour. Many thanks go to Scott Mikkelsen for putting the tour together and for providing coffee, donuts...and lunch for everyone!

STOP

Previous page: Ralph Shubert's 300ZX and Glen Taber's Buick bring up the rear for the first drive tour of the summer. This Page from top: Bill Hall's 68 Thunderbird, Jack & Bill '59 Fleetwood, Melinda Lincoln's 2006 Porsche Boxster, Ron Lenker's '74 TR6, Suede Berardino's '97 Chevy, Cruising in the Clint Moore's Packard, John McCue's '68 Eldorado, Andy Smith's '89 Porsche



OWNER'S PROFILE

1932

Packard

903 CONVERTIBLE SEDAN

Ask the man whose childhood dream became a reality

When I was six years old, my father bought his first classic car, our 1946 Packard limousine that I have brought to many events over the years. I fell in love with it instantly and have had a passion for cars ever since. When we first started taking it to shows and events, I couldn't help but be drawn to the pre-war classics, and I never imagined that I would ever be able to own one. None the less, I started saving my money, and as the savings account grew, so did my list of requirements: 1) Top must go down. 2) Wheel base must be longer than 140". 3) Must be CCCA recognized. 4) Must be in touring condition, not a project or

beater, and so on, and so on.

Fast forward to 2016 when I heard through a friend of a friend that a potential car was not only a few miles away in Los Gatos, but also was owned by someone I know! In recent years I had only seen her at shows driving her 1947 Cadillac convertible because it was, according to her, "a guaranteed round-trip ticket." I had no idea what else was squirreled away in her garage. When I first saw this Packard under a plastic tarp, I knew it was the one. It checked all the boxes, and after 6 months of negotiations, patience and prayer, I drove it home on June 3rd and named it Marlene.

KEEP
RIGHT

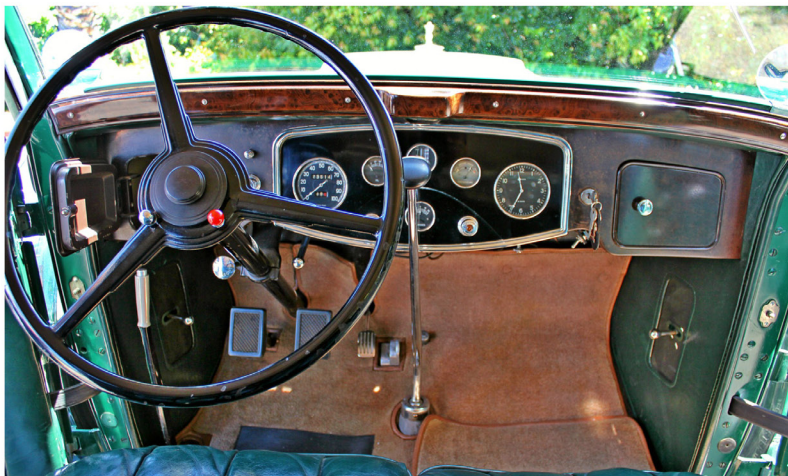


Words Clint Moore

Photos Peter Escobedo

In the depths of the Great Depression, Packard was doing anything to stay afloat. Production of their high-end cars was down 90% from 1928, and so they introduced the 9th series with its improved styling and luxury 6 months early in June of 1931 to replace the floundering 8th Series. Packard contracted with Dietrich to supply the bodies for its convertible sedans, and as such they were priced at \$4,550, the most expensive offering of any "factory" car. Packard did not keep records of how many of each body style they produced, but considering its hefty price and lack of utility, the convertible sedan could not have been a popular option. There are fewer than 10 known to exist today.

STOP





Dear Connie,

I'm new to the car hobby and recently purchased a car like the one my mother totaled when I was a child, a 1977 Buick Apollo. Hers was loaded with bucket seats and console shift, but I was only able to find a plain one with very few options. Should I have waited until I found the perfect match?

Signed,
Buyer's Remorse

B.R.,
Awww, a virgin! Listen, honey, just because you blew your wad too early in the process doesn't mean you can't make the best of the situation! No one expects you to get it right the first time, and hopefully you'll have lots of practice containing your excitement in the future to satisfy even the fussiest of aficionados with your next vehicle. In the mean time, take your new machine out as much as possible and beat it mercilessly. Get to know how to handle it through the curves and how to open it up without blowing it up, so when the perfect car comes along, you'll be able to put it through its paces without disappointment.

Kisses, CC

Ask Connie is a new 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 recently at a show where my Studebaker Lark was positioned between an Imperial and a Fleetwood. The poor little thing looked so boring flanked by those fins and all that flashy chrome. Needless to say, I didn't win anything. I don't even think the judges noticed it was there! What should I do?

Signed,
Feeling Inadequate

F.I.,
There's nothing wrong with your car, honey. If size truly mattered, no one would collect microcars! I know it's hard not to compare yourself to the automotive equivalents of porn stars, but those cars have their drawbacks. Has anyone ever told you that you'll never fit that giant thing in their garage? Have you ever been stuck in a situation when your power top motor just couldn't get it all the way up? Of course not! All you need to do is spend a little extra time on polish and presentation. Sure, a big set of fins will always turn heads, but in the end, the judges will appreciate how you handle it more than its size.

Kisses, CC 

☞ 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! ☞



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.

Caravan to West Coast Meet!

It always alleviates some of the stress of the drive to Cambria if you travel with a group of people who can laugh and waive as they speed past your broken down heap on the side of the road. Just kidding!

Start the weekend of fun early by joining the caravan to An Enchanted West Coast Meet! Clint Moore invites anyone interested to meet at his house on Thursday morning for coffee and sweet treats before hitting the road south as a group. Tradition holds that we stop for lunch along the way and arrive at our destination in plenty of time for happy hour. See details below and please RSVP to let Clint know if you will be participating in the fun so that he can buy enough treats and know to wait for you if you're running late.

At-a-Glance:

What: West Coast Caravan!

When: Thursday, July 6. 9am Tire kicking; depart for WCM at 10am SHARP!

Where: Clint Moore's Casa de Kitsch. 661 Trace Ave., San Jose 95126

RSVP: Call (408-426-0741) or eMail (batbuick@yahoo.com)



August 28 - East Bay Chabot Science center & BBQ Oakland, California

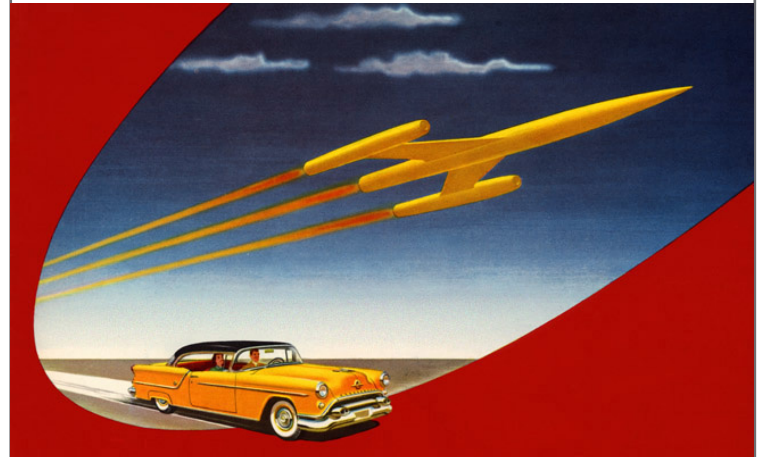
At-a-Glance:

What: Chabot Science center & BBQ

When: Sunday August 27 @ 10am

Where: 10000 Skyline Blvd, Oakland, CA 94619

*See page three for more information.



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.

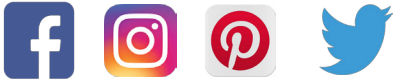
TYPE OF AD	MEMBERS: NON COMMERCIAL	NON MEMBERS, NON COMMERCIAL	Members: Commercial	Non-Members: Commercial
car, equipment, etc.	3 for Free, then \$10/insertion	Ad for car, equipment, etc.	n/a	n/a
Business Card Size	n/a	Business Card Size	\$30 per insertion, \$250/yr. (11 issues)	\$35 per insertion, \$300/year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



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Driving our community since 1978



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