

Flyer

FREEWHEELERS



Freewheelers gather together at the Old Car Picnic and Car Show in Golden Gate Park.

Freewheelers Make a Showing at the Old Car Picnic

— by Eric Whitney

It is really dark at 6:30 on an October morning in Golden Gate Park. It is not, however, too early to be the 40th car in line to enter historic Speedway Meadow and stake out an area for a bunch of Freewheelers. While we waited for the gate to open at 7:00 we wandered up and down the line of cars, as did many of the other early arrivers, to say good morning and see what vehicle they'd brought to the Old Car Picnic.

"I see you've brought some class to our show," chuckled one of the registration volunteers as I signed in our '86 Mercedes-Benz, "you may be the only one here today!" It turns out he was almost correct as I only saw one other Mercedes-Benz for the rest of the day. But this is not to say there was any shortage of cars. Previous years' shows have seen upwards of 700 cars, and while I don't think we hit that number on October 17th, it wasn't too far off. It is definitely a show for fans of American cars, but the occasional European, British, Japanese or other exotic car will also garner lots of attention. Honestly, I think that's one of reasons why this event is so much fun. There's something for everyone, and our Freewheelers' cars were a welcome addition to field.

Jay Remick and Michael Amodt were the first to arrive in their gorgeous silver mink '62 Thunderbird convertible. Never to turn up empty-handed, they had boxes of doughnuts to accompany the Starbucks coffee Richard Bae and I brought to feed the other hungry Freewheelers as they arrived. And arrive they did! No sooner had I poured a cup of coffee that I see Bill Hall with a carload of folks (and a couple of canines) show up in his beautiful '67 Olds Delmont 88.

Soon on their heels were Keith McLaughlin and Jim Skiba, all the way from Guerneville, in their stunning red and white '58 Buick Special. And special it is, as Keith has lovingly restored it over the 32 years he's owned it. It was hard to miss Scott Brown and Alex Fitzpatrick when they turned up in their recently acquired 1977 Lincoln Continental Town Car. Parked next to Scott and Alex's beauty was

(continued on page 5)

President's Message

Well faster than you could say Cadillac Biarritz it looks like the holidays are once again upon us. I don't know where this past year has gone, but it went! Before we all engage in stuffed turkey and pumpkin pie, I want to remind you we have a great north bay tour this month. Hopefully many of you will be able to join your fellow Freewheelers at the USS Red Oak Victory in Richmond. We'll take a fascinating look at how the north bay was a critical part of the war efforts by touring this magnificent war ship and Rosie the riveter museum.

December is going to be a great month as well. This year our club is holding our annual Holiday party at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Pleasanton. Lots of changes and surprises are in store so I'm sure you're not going to want to miss this event. It's a fantastic new venue so be sure to watch your email for the information or check out our website for more details.

December's Flyer will be our last one until next February. With the new year quickly approaching that can mean only one thing: Renewal Time! If you haven't done so already be sure to renew your membership. Next year is going to be another banner year with some fantastic events already in the works, and of course we'll be hosting West Coast Meet in Atascadero. So far it looks pretty fantastic and we have some pretty awesome surprises in store for that as well. So on behalf of your board, I want to wish all of you a happy and safe Thanksgiving, and remember, only 54 more shopping days until Christmas! Oye Vey in a Manger!

Peter Escobedo

President, Freewheelers Car Club



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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

NOVEMBER TOUR: SS RED OAK VICTORY & ROSIE THE RIVETER WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT NATIONAL PARK

– by Eric Whitney



We hope you can join us on Sunday, November 19, for a fun and interesting tour of a part of the City of Richmond's history! The SS Red Oak Victory is the last surviving ship built in the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards during World War II. Today, the Red Oak Victory remains a monument to the men and women who worked in war-related industries as part of the World War II Home Front. In 1998, the ship was saved from the Naval Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay and has been under restoration since that time.

The Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park is a short drive from the SS Red Oak Victory Museum in Richmond. It is the flagship national park for telling stories of the home front efforts across the United States.

We'll meet at 9:30 AM in the parking lot of the SS Red Oak Victory for coffee, doughnuts, and tire-kicking, then board the ship at 10:00 AM for a docent-led group tour of the ship. Please be sure to put the name of each person on the tickets as we need to provide the ship with a "boarding list" of those attending in advance. Please purchase tickets promptly; space may be limited and we cannot accommodate late RSVPs. It is likely to be chilly, maybe even cold, and possibly rainy (we can only hope!) so dress accordingly.

AT-A GLANCE:

When: Sunday, November 15, 9:30AM tire-kicking, in the parking lot of the SS Red Oak Victory Tour starts at 10:00AM. Lunch is on your own.*
1:30PM film + tour begin at Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Park

Where: SS Red Oak Victory Museum, The Richmond Shipyard, 1337 Canal Blvd. Berth 6A, Richmond, CA 94804; Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Park 1414 Harbour Way S #3000, Richmond, CA 94804

Fee: Tickets are \$15.00 each which includes entry to both venues.

RSVP: Tickets must be purchased in advance through the Eventbrite email no later than Thursday, November 12. **Important**—Please specify on each ticket the name of the person attending. Space may be limited; no late RSVPs, please.

Please note: Access to the SS Red Oak Victory Tour requires walking up stairs and then a gangplank of approximately 40 steps. There are few places to sit onboard, so expect to be standing and walking for about 1.5 to 2 hours.

*After the ship tour, lunch is on your own. There are many restaurants in and around Richmond for lunch, and you're encouraged to research and plan ahead. If you wish to have lunch at Assemble (a restaurant right next door to the Rosie the Riveter Museum), you are advised to call ahead to make reservations (Assemble Restaurant, 510-215-6025, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA 94804.)

Any questions? Contact event host, Eric Whitney: (415) 935-5890; hitneywebworks@yahoo.com



Freewheelers Holiday Party Moves to a New Venue!

— by Scott Mikkelson & Christopher Slater



Lets put the HO HO HO back into the HOLIDAY party! Come one, come all! The times they are a changin' so we are changin' as well! The Veterans Hall in Pleasanton is the site for this year's holiday gathering. If the weather is nice bring one of your classics and receive a special parking space. We'd like to assemble a lot full of classics and create our own Holiday Concours.

With this venue we will have plenty of tables and seating so everyone will be able to enjoy their meal together. There is even a stage where one of you might want to do a little entertaining! ("Hey gang! Let's put on a Show!!")

Todd and Scott have revamped the menu this year to make the meal truly lavish and beyond fabulous! You may want to wear your "pantalones d' buffet." I can smell that turkey already! Bring your appetite BUT do not bring any alcohol-- this is a booze-free event!

Save the Date December 13, 2015, 11 a.m., Veterans Hall, 301 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA

We've even changed up the white elephant gift exchange into a fresh new concept.....

Santa has lost control of his Elves! For years they've heard Santa tell stories about the Freewheeler's Holiday Party - the fantastic dinner, the outrageous holiday outfits, and the beautiful collector cars. So they've escaped the North Pole and are partnering with the Freewheelers to help make this year's Holiday Party the best party of the year!

The Elves have moved the party to Pleasanton with a sleigh full of decorations, and are already preparing a feast fit for a King and a Queen. But before leaving the North Pole, Santa's Elves decided to shake things up this year with a BRAND NEW gift raffle. That's right, there's no gift exchange this year because the Elves are bringing a mountain of highly desirable gifts, all of which you can win!

Santa says that you've been very good this year. So bring lots of your well-earned cash to the party so you can participate in this year's Freewheelers Holiday Gift Raffle. The Elves don't want you to go home empty handed so come prepared to purchase lots raffle tickets, and win, win, win!

(Paid for by the Committee for a Fabulous Holiday Party. Santa approves this message.)



**Watch for further details in the upcoming
EventBrite Invitation and the December Flyer!**



(continued from page 1)

new Freewheeler Jeremy Morrissey's '78 Thunderbird Town Landau, resplendent in Chamois, and loaded with Quadrasonic! Larry Camuso and Kirk Wentland glided into the park in a sparkling '72 Eldorado that was so quiet you'd swear they coasted in. And while we're on the subject of Thunderbirds, Luis Sosa (with his Mom visiting from Miami) brought his stunning '66 convertible. Jim McCarty and Andrew Ehrenfeld helped us to populate the European car contingent with their '66 Volvo 1800S (there's a great story about this car you'll have to ask Jim about the next time you see him). And Bob Pullum brought his 1970 Barracuda Gran Coupe convertible to ensure that Mopar muscle was tastefully represented.

Time slipped by as we wandered the enormous meadow to view all the wonderful cars. It's nearly impossible to see all the cars, there's just too many. There's also dozens of car clubs represented at this event, from hot rods and brand-specific clubs, to neighborhood and regional clubs.

One group had an impressive collection of VW vans and campers; another was Cougars in all stages from stock to full custom. Mustangs were everywhere, as were Skylarks and Chevelles. A trio of all original late '50's Dodge Coronets was a real treat to see, and when compared with the DeSoto Firedome nearby, it was easy to see that the design apple didn't fall far from the tree. The sun almost never came out from behind the clouds, and we did have a few sprinkles, but all in all it was a lovely day in the park with a bunch of wonderful guys.



Jimmy's Old Car Picnic is now just "Old Car Picnic." Jay Remick's and Michael Amodt's 1962 Ford Thunderbird was a popular icon for photo ops. Freewheelers brought everything but the kitchen sink to make for a fun and comfortable day at Golden Gate Park.



TOP: Jeremy Morrissey's 1978 Ford Thunderbird Town Landau joins the crowd. CENTER: Eric Whitney & Jay Remick check for updates while Keith McLaughlin & Jim Skiba posed with their 1958 Buick Special. BOTTOM: Bill Hall's 1967 Oldsmobile Delmont 88 is always a favorite.



TOP: Jim McCarty 's & Andrew Ehrenfeld's 1966 Volvo 1800S joined Eric Whitney's & Richard Bae's 1986 Mercedes-Benz 560SL on the field.

CENTER: Freewheelers wine and dined in style! Bob Pullum brought his 1970 Plymouth Barracuda Gran Coupe convertible.

BOTTOM: Among the many muscled-up Chevys was this lovely 1969 Buick Wildcat convertible.

Birds of a Feather Flock Together ...At the Wharf in Santa Cruz!

– by Jay Remick

Only once in a while do the Classic Thunderbirds 'little birds' and the Vintage Thunderbirds 'big birds' get together and mingle. One of those times is the annual Birds on the Wharf put on by the Monterey Bay Classic Thunderbird Club. This club actually extends the event to all Thunderbirds with a special class of 'retro birds' (2001-2005)! I think all these birds are kept in separate clubs so we won't end up with the automotive equivalent of the cockerdoodle's/cockapoo's!

We hadn't been in a couple of years and were looking forward to it. We arrived a little early at the meeting place in Los Gatos in our 1962 convertible. "So, I guess we are the first to get here." As time passed on, "I wonder where everyone else is?" and finally as more time passed on "Maybe we should call someone." That didn't work very well as we got the "voicemail is full" message on the ones we called. So into the car where we eventually spotted some little birds crisscrossing though the streets and alleys of Los Gatos. We stopped next to one and they asked us if we knew where we were going.... More driving around town and we spotted the jewel like paint colors of a flock of birds in the parking lot of the Diner of Los Gatos. We landed!



About fifteen of us caravanned to Santa Cruz on Route 17 to the Wharf. We were the only Vintage bird, so we went last. I couldn't keep up! The weather was beautiful and the drive through the woods spectacular.

I have to say the Thunderbirds owners are a fun and welcoming bunch and we had a great time. They arranged coffee and donuts, a scavenger hunt, lots of raffle prizes as well as music and swag bags. The best part is looking at each other's cars and catching up with old friends. We brought a tent since shade is scarce on the wharf and immediately became very popular. It's a great way to meet people.

The Freewheelers were well represented there with Nell Richmond and her 1956 Peacock Blue bird, Michael and me with a 1962 Convertible, Luis Sosa his cousin Reynaldo with a 1966 Convertible, and Garry Grainger and his mother Cindy with his 2002 Retro Bird. As it turned out our group managed to be awarded prizes for the Classic and both Vintage birds.

The day came to a close with a parade of birds leaving the wharf. This is a really fun event, but it is always held on the same weekend as Iron Stone so there is always that conflict. If you can't get out of town for Iron Stone, come on down to the Wharf for the day. It is always cooler here!



ABOVE: Michael Amodt and Jay Remick with their 1962 Thunderbird convertible; LEFT: Luis Sosa and cousin with his 1966 Thunderbird convertible; RIGHT: Gary Grainger in his 2002 retro-bird

Formula 1 2015 Season Update 2V

– by Andy Smith

A big update today as there have been lots of races leading up to the season finish at the end of November. While there have been some exciting outcomes on the track, just as interesting are the changes and updates related to drivers, teams and power-units as we begin to position for the 2016 season.

We start with Red Bull Racing. For the past two seasons this team has been in an almost constant battle with their engine provider, Renault. In spite of their history of winning four years' successive Constructors' Championships together, the Renault engines have not been competitive since 2014, lacking the pace of their Mercedes rivals, and keeping them off of the podium. The battle became open last month, with Renault officially exiting the engine-provider business...while at the same time buying-out Lotus Racing to make it a full Renault manufacturer team (again). While this means that Renault will be back on the grid in 2016, nobody knows where this leaves Red Bull as currently they have no power-unit for 2016, and no provider in sight. Further complicating the issue is that their “savior” (e.g. potential buyer), Volkswagen Group, has backed away from doing an F1 deal while they attempt damage-control following DieselGate. To quote team principal, Christian Horner, that deal went “up in smoke!”



From the back-marker team, Manor-Marussia, comes an interesting development as they have decided to share Spanish driver, Roberto Merhi's seat with the American driver, Alexander Rossi, who will race in five of the remaining races this season, including the US Grand Prix in Austin, TX. Alex becomes the first American driver in Formula 1 since 2007!! And, when Alex isn't racing with the Manor team in F1, he finds time on the off-weekends to win GP2 races for the Racing Engineering team. With Alex, and with the new contract to source their engines from Mercedes in 2016, I think we will see a much more competitive Manor team next year!



Romain Grosjean

The new Haas F1 team, poised for 2016, has just signed French driver, Romain Grosjean as their lead pilot for next year. Signing a top driver and contracting to use Ferrari engines means that Gene Haas plans to be as competitive in Formula 1 as he has been in NASCAR. Speculation on the second driver has Ferrari test driver, Mexican Esteban Gutierrez as the leading candidate, although there are several great drivers out there, all with F1 experience, so it's a Buyer's Market for talent!

And while all of this is going on, Mercedes (rather quietly) won the Constructors Championship at the end of the most recent race in Russia. This is their second year with this honor and a real tribute to their superior cars and engineering! So, with all of that intrigue and drama, a quick catch-up on the races and points:

Belgian Grand Prix – Spa Francorchamps: One of the season's most beautiful and historic venues saw Lewis Hamilton winning, Nico Roseberg, second, and favorite in this French-speaking region, Romain Grosjean rounding out the podium.

Italian Grand Prix – Monza: This great race at one of the very fastest circuits saw Lewis Hamilton again on the top position with Sebastian Vettel in second and local favorite, Felipe Massa in third.

Singapore Grand Prix: The season's only night race, and the only street circuit outside of Monaco saw Mercedes off their pace for the entire weekend with Sebastian Vettel winning, Daniel Ricciardo second and Kimi Raikkonen third.

Japan Grand Prix: This almost always-momentous venue delivered a surprisingly predictable race and result with Hamilton, Rosberg and Vettel in the familiar positions of 1-2-3.

Russia Grand Prix: This post-Sochi Olympic venue sees its second race, and a last-minute battle between Finns, Valtteri Bottas (Williams) and Kimi Raikkonen (Ferrari) made room for Force India's Sergio Perez to take the third spot on the podium behind Lewis Hamilton (1), Sebastian Vettel (2). This is exciting as Perez now heads to the reinstated Mexican Grand Prix at the end of October with great momentum.



Sergio Perez with Vladimir Putin

Finally, the 2016 preliminary race calendar has been released, with a schedule conflict that violates the “gentleman's agreement” that an F1 race is never scheduled on the same weekend as the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Not only does the conflict detract from the worldwide viewership of both events, but it makes it impossible for an F1 driver to participate at Le Mans, which, in the past, has produced some interesting racing, like seeing F1's Nico Hulkenberg and teammates win the 24-hour race for the Porsche Team just this year. My suspicion that there will be pressure to amend this calendar, but, for now this glaring conflict remains.

Top Ten Driver Standings/Grand Prix Championship Points as of 10/15/2015:

1. Lewis Hamilton	302	6. Daniil Kvyat	76
2. Nico Rosberg	236	7. Daniel Ricciardo	73
3. Kimi Raikkonen	123	8. Sergio Perez	54
4. Valtteri Bottas	111	9. Romain Grosjean	44
5. Felipe Massa	109	10. Nico Hulkenberg	38

Next up is the US Grand Prix in Austin, followed the next week by the Mexican Grand Prix near Mexico City. Lots of good racing ahead before we close the 2015 season. Until next time....

Former Freewheeler and Club President Passes Away

– by Todd Jackman



D. David France, long-time Freewheeler and Club President, lost his battle with cancer on September 30 in Palm Springs, California. He was 83.

David served on the Freewheeler board for several years and was our club's President in 1988 and again in 1990.

David was also a member of Great Autos of Yesteryear joining after his move to the Desert around 1998. Those of us who knew David early on remember that he enjoyed racing cars. This led to his diverse collection of automobiles over the years. Two of my favorites: a 1940 Packard Darrin 4-Door Convertible; a 1987 Ferrari Testarossa-12.

After my move to Palm Springs I had the opportunity to get reacquainted with David (and his partner Harry Warr who passed in 2010). David will always be remembered for his gentle demeanor, kind soul, friendliness, and his passion for our shared hobby, ***The Automobile***.

It is time to renew your membership with your club, the fabulous Freewheelers!

Joining now will cover your membership for the remainder of this year for new members and all of next year. Our 2015 events have been very well received and attended. Our 2016 line-up promises to be excellent as well.

A record number of members have switched to our online Flyer and interactive online Roster. Members who choose this option pay just \$35 annually. You can also pay \$50 to receive hard copies of both the Flyer and Roster in the mail.

Feel free to fill out your application online, or use the application included in this issue of the Flyer. You may also download the application from our website (www.thefreewheelers.net). Payment options include PayPal which will allow paying with your bank account or using a credit card if you have a PayPal account. Still not crazy about paying online? No problem! Mail your application with a check (mailing address on the form).



CLASSIFIED



FOR SALE: 1979 Lincoln Continental Town Coupe. 41K original miles. Dark Champagne with Tan Leather. All original local San Jose car. Third owner. Asking \$5,000. Message me for more info. at Peter95111@att.net. (1)



FOR SALE: 1960 Ford Thunderbird. Original California car, rust free, engine rebuilt, runs well. Many options, originally came with leather interior, A/C not working. Asking \$12,500. Contact Jamie Thigpen at (415) 203-4264, jathig@yahoo.com. (3)



FOR SALE: Matching Set of 3 Grey 50s Samsonite Suitcases + one Alligator Men's 2-Suitcase. Excellent condition...would look fabulous in the back of your Country Squire or Colony Park. All keys and Pan Am baggage tags included. \$135 for all. Adair Roberts (510) 213-0738, fairlane500@earthlink.net. (3)



NOVEMBER 2015

Saturday, 11/07 - The Greater Bay Area Metropolitan Club's Appreciation Car Show of our Wounded Warriors at the VA Hospital in Livermore (see below).

Sunday, 11/08 - Board of Directors Meeting, 11 am, at the Rainbow Community Center in Concord

Sunday, 11/15 - Save the date for our November event - this year the Freewheelers will be touring the SS Red Oak Victory in the Richmond Shipyard! See page 3 for more information.

DECEMBER 2015

Sunday, 12/13 - The Freewheelers Annual Holiday Party in Pleasanton. See page 4 for more information.

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday, 02/07 - The Freewheelers 2016 Annual Business and Planning Meeting at the Vallejo Yacht Club. Watch for details.

NOTE: Calendar listings subject to change without notice.

THE GREATER BAY AREA METROPOLITAN CLUB IS PROUD TO HOST AN

APPRECIATION CAR SHOW

for our
WOUNDED
WARRIORS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

TO CARAVAN TO THE EVENT TOGETHER WE REQUEST EVERYONE MEET AT 9AM SYCAMORE GROVE PARK, 1051 WEIMORE ROAD, LIVERMORE FOR A 9:15 DEPARTURE TO THE VA HOSPITAL, 4951 ARROYO ROAD, LIVERMORE 10AM - 1PM

HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, CHIPS AND WATER WILL BE SERVED BY THE GREATER BAY AREA METROPOLITAN CLUB FOR ALL VA PATIENTS AND PARTICIPANTS • DJ MUSIC PROVIDED BY JARED ORTIZ

A \$5.00 DONATION IS REQUESTED PER PARTICIPANT

ALL CAR CLUBS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

WWW.NORCALMETRS.COM • BCOTARI@IX.NET



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



Will El Niño put the kibosh on convertible weather this November?

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