



FLYER

November 2026

Vol. XLVIII, No. 11

President's Message

November Events

December Holiday Party

Benefit Car Show Recap

Membership Club Express

Orphan's Corner

Classifieds

Calendar of Events



Presidents Message

Dear Freewheelers,

As October comes to a close, I want to begin with a big thank you to Scott Mikkelson and Malaise Motors, Inc. for producing our Benefit Car Show at the California Automobile Museum on Sunday, October 25. A special thanks, too, to all the Freewheelers who turned out to support the event, whether you brought a car or simply came to enjoy the show. It's always good to see our club represented at these gatherings, and we appreciate everyone who helped make the day a success.

With November upon us, the weather is beginning to cool, the car show season is winding down, and some of our beloved automobiles are preparing for their winter hibernation. But before anyone tucks their rolling beauty away for the season, we're making one more call to get those cars out of the garage!

Our annual New Member Lunch and Car Hop is coming up at the Hangar at Concord Airport, and we hope to see a terrific turnout. This has become one of our favorite gatherings of the year, giving us a chance to welcome newer members, catch up with old friends, admire one another's cars, and enjoy a relaxed afternoon together. You'll find more information elsewhere in the Flyer, and be sure to watch your email for the sign-up link.

And then, before you know it, we'll all be wishing one another Happy Holidays at our annual Holiday Party in Concord. Behind-the-scenes intelligence suggests that our production elves are already hard at work, and from what I'm hearing, this year's festivities are shaping up to be another can't-miss occasion. I'm not at liberty to reveal what they're cooking up, but I suspect we'll have a wonderful time finding out!

Our transition to ClubExpress is also moving right along. Production of our new website is underway, and preparations for handling membership renewals through the new platform are progressing nicely. Members will begin seeing some of these changes very soon as the team prepares to introduce ClubExpress over the coming weeks. There's more information elsewhere in this issue of the Flyer, so be sure to have a look. We're looking forward to putting these new tools to work for the club!

The new year will bring us back together for our Annual Business and Planning Meeting, where we'll review the past year, discuss the current state of the club, and begin planning our events and activities for 2027 and beyond. It's an important meeting, and one where every member has an opportunity to contribute ideas and help shape what we'll be doing in the coming year.

It's remarkable how quickly another year has passed. We've enjoyed some wonderful drives, visited interesting places, admired an extraordinary variety of automobiles, and spent a lot of good time together. And we're not quite finished yet!

So let's make the most of these last couple of months. Bring out those cars while the weather cooperates, join us for the Car Hop, and save some room on your calendar for a little holiday merriment. There's still plenty of Freewheelers fun ahead before we put 2026 in the rearview mirror. Until then, keep the shiny side up!

Warmly...

Eric Whitney

President, Freewheelers Car Club



2026 Board of Directors

President

Eric Whitney, 415-902-5165
ewhitney@me.com

Vice President

Bill Hall, 510-612-3300
williamhall1234@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jim Finley, 707-208-6678
jamesj.finley@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Jay Remick, 831-601-8080
jayremick@me.com

Membership Director

Sueko Takahashi, 925-373-1667
sueko.tburt@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Marty Hanson, 916-202-2011
sac65tbird@aol.com

Photographer

Bill Peachee, 925-525-5863
bpeachee@hotmail.com

Members at Large:

Glen Taber, 510-316-3021
glentaber@rocketmail.com

Keith Cambra, 925-202-9665
mrbouge62@gmail.com

Gregg Cannella, 925-899-5167
glamgfc@msn.com

Club Information

Freewheelers Web Site

www.thefreewheelers.net

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 on page 15. To place an ad, please contact one of the Board Members.

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 by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Contributors to this Issue: Eric Whitney, Peter Anning, Keith Cambra, Marty Hanson, Christopher Bunthoff, and Bill Hall. Event photos courtesy of Marty Hanson and Gabriel Ionica.

Cover: Gabriel Ionica's 1975 Datsun "Lil Hustler" 620 Pickup

NOVEMBER EVENTS



Car Hop 2026 and New Members Luncheon!

Have you ever wanted to ride on the “way back” jump seat of a 1967 Citroen DS station wagon? Or perhaps you wonder if the convertible hardtop Lexus SC430 is a model you might like to purchase? Maybe you just want to see for yourself if there really is a back seat in a Fiat 500. Then again, you may want to know if a Mustang Mach I is really as fast as your friend has told you it is. There is only one way to find out — come to Car Hop 2026!*

Patterned after Great Autos “Sign and Drive,” event, Car Hop 2026 is an event where people with cars they’d like to show off and share with Freewheeler members spend the day with Freewheelers wanting to ride in those cars. If you have a car you’d like others to experience, or if you just want a chance to ride in some really fabulous vehicles, this is the event for you. Passengers will be treated to a brief ride of 5 to 10 minutes which is totally at the discretion of the vehicle owner.

Our lawyers and insurance agents require all participants — both drivers and riders, to sign a form releasing the Freewheelers Car Club, each car owner, and each passenger from liability. Car owners determine how many people they are willing to give rides to and there is no reimbursement for fuel. At the meet, once your form has been signed and submitted, you’ll be issued a wrist band to show you are ready to participate.

We’ll also be celebrating our new members of 2026 at the airfield with Chef and veteran Freewheelers Glen Taber manning the grill! Lunch is FREE for new members, so bring your car, your appetite, and your own chair to enjoy the day!



At-a Glance:

What: Car Hop 2026 and New Members Lunch

When: Saturday, November 14, 2026, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Where: Hangar 9 Parking Lot Buchanan Air Field 288 Sally Ride Drive, Concord, CA

Fees: \$10 event fee includes lunch (no fee for new (2026) members) – **bring your own chair!**

RSVP: Watch for the forthcoming event invitation emails to RSVP

Interested in bringing a car? Have questions? Contact Peter Anning at p.anning@att.net for more information and to receive a copy of the release form. It is going to be fun!

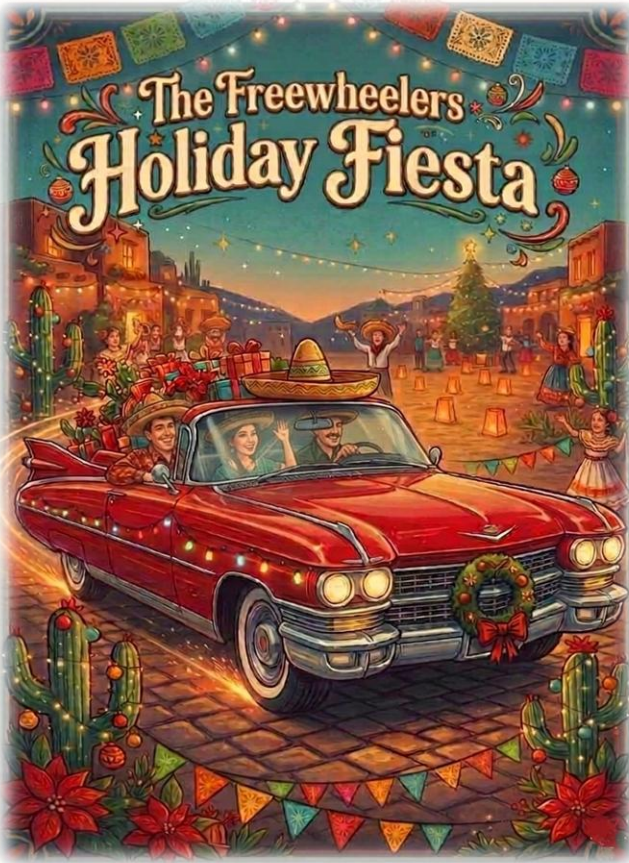
**Note, there is absolutely no guarantee that a Citroen station wagon, Lexus SC430, Fiat 500 or Mustang Mach I will be represented at this meet. Consider it a mysterious “Car pot luck!”*



NOVEMBER EVENTS



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY



Get ready to spice things up this holiday season! Dust off your sombreros, dress in your brightest fiesta attire, and prepare for some festive fun! It's time for the Freewheelers Annual Holiday Fiesta on Sunday, December 13th at the Concord Senior Center. This year, we're hosting a vibrant Mexican-themed celebration, where our talented chefs Scott Mikkelson and Todd Darling will be serving up a delicious Mexican feast that's sure to delight! Dress festively for a chance to win a special prize for best outfit. And yes! The much-loved raffle returns, so start searching your casa for those "special" items to contribute. Please see the raffle details below. But wait—there's more! We're keeping the event fee the same as the last two years, so you can enjoy all the flavor and fun without any extra cost.

Don't miss this joyful fiesta filled with great food, an exciting raffle, best dressed contest, and wonderful company. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 13th and keep an eye out for an email in early November to register for a day packed with Mexican flair and fun! ¡Esperamos verte allí! (We look forward to seeing you there!)

At-a-Glance:

- When:** Sunday, December 13th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 pm
Where: Concord Senior Center; 2727 Parkside Cir, Concord, CA 94519
Event Fee: \$40.00 event fee which includes a fabulous Mexican feast!
RSVP: Watch for an email in November to register!

Questions? Contact Keith Cambra at mrbouge62@gmail.com



Raffle Details

The raffle requires a lot of advanced planning, so if you would like to donate items, the sooner the better.

Please email Sueko at, sueko.tbert@gmail.com with a brief description and, if possible, a photo of the item(s).

If you'd like, you can bring items to the November 14th club event, but please contact Sueko first as her Honda CR-Z has limited space.

***** Important ** Sorry, due to venue rules, we cannot have any alcohol on the premises.***

OCTOBER BENEFIT CAR SHOW

Malaise Motors and the Freewheelers Put on a Show!

—By Marty Hanson

What threatened to be a wet Sunday turned out to be a mild and sunny Sunday...the perfect combination for an autumnal car show! The Malaise Daze NorCal Car Show was hosted by Malaise Motors and the Freewheelers at the California Automobile Museum (CAM) in Sacramento. Over 20 cars filled the front parking lot for the show...mostly malaise era cars, along with some welcome outsiders!

Both the Freewheelers and the Malaise Motors contingent were represented at the show which made for a diverse mix of vehicles, my personal favorite being Gabriel Ionica's 1975 Datsun "Li'l Hustler" 620 pickup which was clearly a true survivor of over 50 years of service.**

Freewheeler and CAM alumnus Scott Mikkelson arranged for the show to be held at the museum. Malaise Motors alumnus (and honorary Freewheeler) Bryan Raab Davis joined us all the way from Baltimore to handle the car show logistics. Both Bryan and Scott coordinated the trophies, placards, and ballots for the show; as well as the coffee and pastries that were also on hand for all to enjoy.



In addition to those showing cars, there was a good attendance of folks, both Freewheelers and otherwise, enjoying the cars and camaraderie...as well as the glorious weather! Those showing cars had the special treat of being served a hot lunch on the premises provided by Scott Mikkelson and Todd Darling...all-you-can-eat pulled pork sliders, baked beans, and your choice of coleslaw or green salad (why not both?), followed by delicious home-made brownies for dessert!

In the meantime, Bryan and his team collected ballots submitted by the viewers around noon for tabulating and determining the award winners.

(continued on next page)

OCTOBER BENEFIT CAR SHOW

Around 1 p.m., Bryan gathered everyone together to give thanks to all involved in putting the show together and to announce the winners of the cars show:

- Favorite Interior – David Schnitzer’s 1976 Cadillac Coupe de Ville
- Favorite Color – Scott Mikkelson’s & Todd Darling’s 1977 Cadillac Eldorado Coupe
- Favorite Wagon – Keith Lind’s 1988 Oldsmobile Custom Cruiser
- Favorite Convertible – Dave Gilbert’s 1995 Ford Mustang GT
- Favorite Coupe – Jeremy Sanford’s & John Woodward’s 1981 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz
- Favorite Sedan – Brian McCann’s 1987 Lincoln Continental Givenchy Edition
- Biggest Gas Guzzler – Tom & Terry Machado’s 1972 Cadillac Commercial Chassis Hearse
- Best in Show/Golden Smog Pump Award – Brian McCann’s 1981 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham
- Honorable Mention & Meguires Car Detailing Kit awarded to Gabriel Ionica and his 1975 Datsun 620 pickup

A fun and delightful time was had by all...again, many thanks to Scott and Bryan for coordinating the show and making everything run smoothly, as well as to those who helped set up and break down. And of course, many thanks to all of those who entered their cars in the car show...Bryan estimates about \$1,000 in proceeds were generated to benefit the Maliase Motors Group and the California Automobile Museum.

WINNERS



OCTOBER BENEFIT CAR SHOW

**"Gabriel Ionica brought out his 1975 Datsun 620 truck that he rescued from scrap. Installed a fresh-ish bed and spray painted it (4 cans to be exact) in Nissan Forklift Orange. For many, that would have been enough, but not for Gabe. He outfitted that little beast with Malaise correct accessories including a 40-channel Realistic CB Radio, an 8 track to Cassette adapter, a vintage "Super Buster" radar detector, and a glorious vintage looking afgan seat cover, crocheted or knitted by his GF. There were also period brochures and a Polaroid One-Step Camera to complete the vignette.

As much as we all love an all original or nicely restored car, this is what we are about. No one cared that it wasn't the original color or even near perfect. It is about the memories and experiences that a well-worn car gives. Unlike some clubs that focus on minutiae like whitewall width, or matching numbers, we focus on the fun. Thanks, Gabe for showing us all what it is about!" —Christopher Bunthoff 



(continued on next page)

OCTOBER BENEFIT CAR SHOW



MEET THE MEMBERS

Welcome New Members!

Allen Jessen & Craig Lee

Benicia, CA

1952 Austin Devon Sedan

Steven Abbott & Jim Stephens

San Francisco, CA

2004 Subaru Forester SUV



Drop In, Have a Drink, Stay Awhile!

We're trying something a little different! The Freewheelers will have a Drop-in Happy Hour on the first Friday of every month from 5:00–7:00 PM at Club 1220 in Walnut Creek.

This is in addition to our regular monthly events, and there's nothing formal about it—no registration, no agenda, no tire-kicking required! Just drop in when you can, have a drink, catch up with friends, and perhaps meet a few Freewheelers you don't already know. Stay for twenty minutes or stay for two hours. And feel free to bring friends!

Club 1220 is also fairly close to Walnut Creek BART, so you can leave the car at home and completely disregard the awfulness that is Bay Area Friday traffic.

It's simply another opportunity for those of us who enjoy seeing each other to do it a little more often. We hope you'll join us!

Club 1220 - (925) 938-4550 - Club1220.com

1220 Pine Street

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

OCTOBER BENEFIT CAR SHOW

MEET THE MEMBERS

ClubExpress Update: Getting Ready for Our New Website and 2027 Membership Renewals

—By Eric Whitney

Work continues behind the scenes on our new Freewheelers website and membership management system through ClubExpress! We're currently designing the website, developing its content, and preparing the many features that will make it easier for members to stay connected with the club. One of our biggest priorities is making the transition to the new system as simple and straightforward as possible, particularly when it comes to logging in for the first time and renewing your membership for 2027.



Before we introduce the new system to the full membership, we'll be conducting a pilot test with a small group of members. They'll walk through the entire process, from receiving their welcome email and establishing their new login credentials to reviewing their membership information, renewing for 2027, and paying their dues. This will give us an opportunity to identify and resolve any issues and make sure everything works the way we want it to before inviting everyone aboard.

Watch your email for your ClubExpress invitation! Once we're ready to launch, you'll receive a welcome email containing a link to our new website, along with a temporary username and password. This will be your invitation to access your new Freewheelers membership account.

Here's what to expect when you sign in for the first time:

Follow the link in your welcome email to visit our new Freewheelers website and sign in using the temporary username and password provided.

Create your personal login information. You'll be prompted to establish your own password, and you'll have the option to change your username to something easier to remember. **Write down your username and password!** Keep them somewhere safe so you'll have them handy for future visits.

Review your membership information. ClubExpress will guide you through your existing membership profile, giving you an opportunity to verify your contact information and make any necessary updates.

Renew your membership for 2027. Once you've completed your account setup and reviewed your information, you'll be guided directly into the membership renewal process. You'll be able to review your membership details and annual dues before proceeding.

Pay your 2027 dues. Complete your renewal with a secure online credit card payment. ClubExpress partners with **Stripe**, one of the world's leading online payment processing companies, to handle transactions securely. ClubExpress is fully compliant with Payment Card Industry (PCI) security standards, and credit card transactions are encrypted to protect your financial information. Once your payment has been processed, you'll receive confirmation of your renewal.

That's it! One visit, one straightforward process, and your Freewheelers membership will be renewed for 2027.

There's no need to register as a new member or start from scratch. Your existing membership information will already be in ClubExpress, waiting for you to review and confirm. And if you forget your login information in the future, ClubExpress has a convenient username and password recovery feature.

We're looking forward to introducing a website that will make it easier to register for club events, manage your membership, and stay informed about everything happening at Freewheelers. There's still work to be done, and we're taking the time to get it right before opening the doors to everyone.

Keep an eye on your inbox for your ClubExpress invitation! We'll have more information to share as website development and pilot testing progress. We're looking forward to welcoming everyone to our new online home!

ORPHAN'S CORNER



Last month we finished up our article on Packard, the undisputed king of orphans. Let's shift gears this month to a far more obscure orphan and look at a short-lived brand that most of us most likely know little about yet the brand was characterized by brilliant engineering, daring design and resilience during economic turmoil. Founded by three brothers from Indiana just off their string of manufacturing successes in glass manufacturing (founding a company that later became Libby Owens Ford) and building highly successful commercial trucks, the trio decided to strike off on their next adventure. In 1927, they decided to buy the failing Paige-Detroit Motor Car Company and make their own vehicles along with a line of farm equipment under the new moniker of *Graham-Paige*. Brothers Joseph, Robert and Ray founded the company that would go on to manufacture some of the more stylish automobiles from the 1930s so this story is about the innovative and daring *Graham* brand. Never heard of it? Read on....



Over the short life of the company, the *Graham* Motor Car Company advertising described the models as daring new designs and encompassing the spirit of motion. The new models offered dynamic sweep design fenders and new headlights that were built flush into the fenders. Some consumers admired the aerodynamic, stylish new look and as you might expect with any new daring design, some did not. The models were produced as solid steel bodies with innovative hydraulic brakes and safety glass windows for the consumer market. Production began in 1927 and by 1928 Graham sold 73,195 units setting a sales record for a new brand in its first year. As the Depression took a severe toll on luxury and mid-priced brands, the brothers fought back through pure technical and visual innovation. By 1930 they dropped the Paige name and in December 1931, introduced the 1932 Graham Model 57 Blue Streak styled by legendary designer Amos Northrup. The Blue Streak became one of the most influential automotive designs of the decade. It pioneered the use of skirted fenders which hid the messy undercarriage of the car and gave it a sleek, unified appearance. It also featured a lower-slung "banjo frame" that significantly improved handling and safety and to further differentiate itself from competitors, Graham introduced an affordable supercharged engine to the mid-priced market in 1934.

In 1938, Graham unveiled its most radical design yet as the Model 97, widely known as the "shark nose" front end radiator. Featuring a forward-thrusting grille and headlamps flush-mounted into the sweeping fenders, the vehicle looked like it was speeding even when standing still. The Graham Supercharged models were conceded to be one of the world's most effective gas-savers on the consumer market. Not all of the motoring public however, accepted the new age design and some consumers felt that the styling was just a little too radical for the buying public when it came time to purchasing a new automobile. Despite its poor reception, Graham had taken a bold step forward in automotive design by introducing a radical vision of what a consumer vehicle could look like. The models were big and luxurious, sporting a 120-inch wheelbase with a high-powered economy engine. The most expensive model Graham offered for 1938 was the Custom Supercharger 4-door Touring sedan offered for \$1,225.



While avant-garde, the design proved a bit too polarizing for conservative and value-minded Depression-era buyers and sales continued a downward trend. However, the 1938 collapse of the Cord automotive empire (the Auburn Automobile Co.) resulted in the tooling and dies for the acclaimed and admired 1936-37 Cord 810 becoming available so Graham snapped them up. The intention was to release a new car using the body of the Cord on their existing chassis and drivetrains. That idea proved to be a very expensive exercise because they had to refigure the front wheel drive layout into a rear wheel drive set up. Looking for ways to survive, they proposed a partnership with Hupmobile, where both companies would use the same body but with their own engines and underpinnings. The new overall design impressed the American Federation of Art which gave it an award in 1939 for being "cleanly and unflatteringly designed." The Hupmobile was named the Skylark and the Graham was called the Hollywood. With more than 6,000 orders by mid-1939, there were still only 35 virtually hand-built cars assembled. Buyers started to drift away due partly to Graham's lack of a strong dealer network and the fact that the six-cylinder car, though the most powerful on the market, cost more than some eight cylinder competitors. Both companies would offer the cars for roughly \$1,100 and during the last week of July when 1940 production stopped only 291 Skylarks had gone down the assembly line and 1,860 Grahams. Hupmobile filed for



bankruptcy in October 1940, while Graham continued building its Hollywood through September with its 1941 models. Graham called it quits for automobile production, instead focusing its efforts on defense contracts it had. In August 1945, the company announced plans to resume production under the Graham name but the plan never materialized. On February 5, 1947, stockholders approved the transfer of all the automotive assets to Kaiser-Frazer and while the Graham vehicle line vanished from assembly lines, its legacy endures as a shining example of pre-war American ingenuity and fearless styling in the land of what if...?

ORPHAN'S CORNER

CLASSIFIEDS



LONE OAK
REAL ESTATE

exp
REALTY

MATTHIAS REZZATO

CA DRE #02082767

RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL | RENOVATION &
PRE-SALE STRATEGY

831-435-8735

www.loneoakrealestate.com

rezzato@loneoakrealestate.com

@LoneOakRealEstate

ATTENTION: Special Storage Rate for Club Members!

Safe, reasonable, secure storage in Concord. Insulated, fire suppression sprinklers, stays warm in winter and cool in summer and available for long-term storage. Many amenities, such as in and out privileges, lifts available, electrical outlets for charging, clubhouse, kitchen, ceiling fans, vented, and service tools for simple needs. \$195/month. For further details, please call: Richard Fredrick, 925-212-0931 or Gregg Cannella, 925-899-5167.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1963 Lincoln Continental Convertible

Freewheeler Tim Finnegan is unfortunately in a memory care facility with his husband George, and his family is looking to sell his cars to help pay their medical bills. His Lincoln is stored in the garage at his house in Hayward (formerly late Freewheeler Rod Billings' car that Tim had restored).



If you are interested or would like more information, contact **Cherise Khaund** (Tim's niece and PoA) at cherisemk@gmail.com, cell: [925-818-4857](tel:925-818-4857)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2026

Saturday, November 14th – the **Freewheelers** 3rd Annual Car Hop & New Members Lunch in Concord – details on page 3.

DECEMBER 2026

Sunday, December 13th – **Freewheelers** Annual Holiday Party in Concord – see page 4 for more information.

JANUARY 2027

Saturday, January 23rd – Freewheelers Annual Business & Planning Meeting in Concord – details to follow.

APRIL 2027

Sunday, April 11th – Charles M. Schulz Museum tour in Santa Rosa – details to follow.

MAY 2027

Thursday, May 13th – Saturday, May 15th: The 41st Annual West Coast Meet in San Luis Obispo – details to follow.

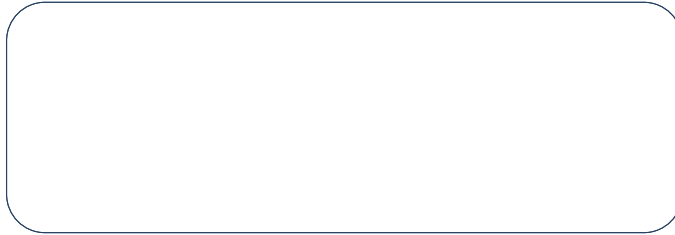
NOTE: Event dates and times subject to change.

Advertising in the Flyer

Type of Ad	Members: Non-Commercial	Non-Members: Non-Commercial	Members: Commercial	Non-Members: Commercial
Ad for car, equipment, etc.	3 issues for Free, then \$10/issue	\$20 per issue	n/a	n/a
Business Card Size	n/a	n/a	\$30 per issue or \$250/yr. (12 issues)	\$35 per issue or \$300/year
Quarter Page Size	n/a	n/a	\$60 per issue or \$500/yr. (12 issues)	\$70 per issue or \$600/year



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



Happy Thanksgiving!