

Flyer

FREEWHEELERS



Inclement weather didn't stop Jim Finley from bringing his lovely 1987 Lincoln Continental to the Annual Holiday Party.

Second Storm of the Century Breaks Just in Time -or- "El Niño tries a No-No!"

— by Jay Remick

Remember the wind and rain of the December 2012 Holiday Party in Half Moon Bay? Well it happened again. El Niño tried to replay it but lost steam in the early afternoon. It did make for a wet arrival for most, but allowed some outdoor time as the afternoon went on.

This year the Holiday Party was held in Pleasanton at the Veterans Hall there. There was a over-booking at John McCue's house which is our traditional venue, so we decided to try something different. One of the consequences of the success of our events is the amount of space we need for each event. The Veterans Hall was perfect for a rainy day and having 115+ people all inside. It is large enough for all to be seated at tables, has a huge stage, and a commercial kitchen. (When I took Todd Darling, our five star chef on a tour of the kitchen, he was so overwhelmed at the facility, I thought he would need a cigarette after seeing it).

The morning started out with a bunch of us meeting at Roger's and Geoff's to pack up cars and trucks with decorations, raffle prizes and all the plates, tubs, bins, coolers and odds and ends one needs to feed 100+ people. Geoff prepared a great breakfast casserole for us. I counted down the time until we had to leave to be on time. We caravanned down the hill to Pleasanton to arrive at exactly 9:00 when the building was opened for us. The rain had not really started at that point so we raced to unload the trucks and cars.

I texted Scott, Todd, Marty and Jeremy that we were there and the doors were open. They texted back that since the weather was so bad, they we just going to continue on to Palm Springs. They arrived a few minutes later. We quickly unloaded all the food and then the rain started. At that point, Roger made a run to get ice and set up the soft drinks and water.

The main hall contained tables arranged at an angle to seat everyone. Geoff Caccamo and his crew put out the table cloths and table centerpieces, while others set up the serving tables to accommodate two serving lines. A third crew set up the decorations on the stage all of which had to be taken out of boxes and assembled.

We had a spectacular and wonderful table of hors d'œuvres displayed by Todd in the foyer of the building. While on the other side of the foyer Gregg Cannella and Sueko Takahashi set up registration. Guests could have their picture taken with Santa Claus (you know, like a cruise ship).

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President's Message

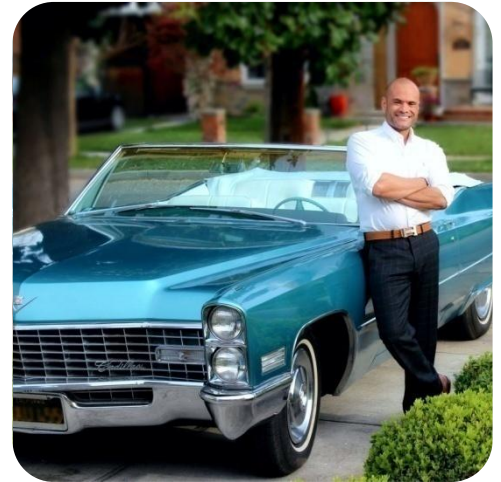
On behalf of myself and your Freewheeler's board I want to wish all of you a happy New Year. Looking back, 2015 was another banner year for the club with record attendance at our tours, new venues for West Coast Meet and Holiday party, and some great new club members joining as well as some warmly welcomed returning members.

One thing I can't stress enough is the importance of club involvement. All of the events that the club puts on don't just happen by themselves. Hard work and dedication by a few core members organize and oversee the events that we all enjoy so much, but we cannot just rely on a select few. As I've stated in the past, I encourage all members to participate and volunteer your time and ideas. Make it a New Year resolution to become more involved if you haven't done so already. This year the Freewheelers will also be hosting West Coast Meet in Atascadero. A fantastic new venue and another opportunity to showcase your skills, whether it be performing, working behind the scenes, decorating or just helping out with odds and ends. It'll be fun and rewarding! And if you've never been, this is the year to attend!

This month is also our Annual Business Meeting. We will be discussing the status of the club, past events, discussing ideas for future events, voting on board positions and having a great brunch just to name a few. Remember, it's all of you, the membership that make our club so great. Together we can make 2016 and even better year! Until then, happy motoring!

Peter Escobedo

President, Freewheelers Car Club



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Freewheelers 2016 Annual Business and Planning Meeting

Join your fellow Freewheelers and your Board of Directors on **Sunday, February 7th** for our Annual Business and Planning Meeting at the beautiful **Vallejo Yacht Club**. You come join your fellow Freewheelers as we recap 2015's accomplishments and talk about our plans for 2016. We will also be looking for nominations for open board positions as well as ideas for 2016 events.

The day will begin at 11:00 AM as we gather in the parking lot for some tire kicking and socializing before convening in the Yacht Club to enjoy a delicious lunch before getting down to business. Or you can join us for the meeting after lunch at 1 PM. So come on out and join us to discuss the state of the club and help us develop a calendar of fun events for the coming year. Hope to see you there!



At-a-Glance:

What: 2016 Annual Business and Planning Meeting

When: Sunday, February 7, 2015 at 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Lunch will be served Noon - 1PM, Business Meeting will be held 1 - 3PM

Where: Vallejo Yacht Club, 485 Mare Island Way, Vallejo, CA 94590

Fee: \$20 event fee which includes a delicious catered lunch!

\$5 event fee if you wish to attend the Business Meeting ONLY

RSVP: Upcoming Eventbrite Invitation or contact Jay Remick, 831-601-8080 by Monday, February 1st. You are encouraged to register and pay in advance using the safe and secure Eventbrite Invitation.

Because we need an accurate head count for food, please RSVP BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1. We may be unable to accommodate RSVPs for lunch after this date. Thank you for your understanding!

DIRECTIONS TO THE VALLEJO YACHT CLUB

From the East:

Merge onto I-80 W. Take exit 33B to merge onto CA-37 W toward Novato/San Rafael. Take exit 18 for Wilson Ave. Turn left onto Wilson Ave. Continue straight onto Mare Island Way. Destination will be on the right. **Vallejo Yacht Club, 485 Mare Island Way**

From the West:

Merge onto I-80 E, 27.7 mi. Take exit 29A for CA-29/Sonoma Blvd. Merge onto Sonoma Blvd. Turn left onto Curtola Pkwy. Continue onto Mare Island Way. Make a U-turn at Harbor Way. Destination will be on the right. **Vallejo Yacht Club, 485 Mare Island Way**



Freewheelers Membership 2016

– by Brian McCann

It's the most wonderful time of the year! No, not the holidays. It's time to join or renew your Freewheelers membership! Many new and returning members have already signed up for 2016 so don't miss out on a single moment with your fantastic club.

Membership is still just \$35 for your online flyer and roster or \$50 to receive hard copies of both in the mail. You can 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) and mail it in with your check. So many ways to join and you can pick what is right for you!

After another banner year of events and attendance, we continue to ogle over more and more classic car candy. In the last few years, we have seen a significant increase of members at our events. More members means more information and resources to be shared with your fellow car enthusiasts. The more you partake in your club's events, the better chance you will have of connecting with others that share your specific interests.

Joining by February 15th insures your cars will be listed in our roster and you will not miss a single fabulous Freewheelers Flyer. The password to our website will also be changed soon, so don't miss out. I look forward to seeing your applications and welcome back for 2016!



Save the Date

It's still early in the year and we've got a lot of planning to do, but we've saved the date of **Sunday, March 20th** for the next fun-fill Freewheelers event! We've got some ideas already and look forward to your contributions at this month's Annual Business and Planning Meeting!



(continued from page 1)

Lunch was served at 1:00 and was a delicious dinner of Turkey, Tri-tip, stuffing, and all the fixings. It was delicious and occupied many, many chafing dishes and serving platters. Again our compliments to the chefs Todd Darling and Scott Mikkelson, and Marty Hanson and Jeremy Mikkelson for their outstanding work. After dinner Peter Escobedo welcomed everyone and Brian McCann introduced new members.

This year, in our continuing effort to change things up, we had a raffle rather than a white-elephant gift exchange. Christopher Slater, Geoff Caccamo, and Sueko Takahashi organized it. Instead of donating presents to a gift exchange, people were given a raffle ticket when they arrived and the option of purchasing more if they wanted. Each person could put as many tickets as they wanted in a small bag in front of any or all of the 20 items on the table at the stage. The prizes were all donated and the grand prize was registration for two at West Coast Meet 2016. Peter Anning camouflaged as a Christmas tree acted as Master of Ceremonies for the raffle. (he didn't fool anyone-we all knew it was him) Jim Finley was the grand prize winner and I won a custom designed Freewheeler blue jean jacket by Bill Neill.

Many thanks to all those who volunteered to make this the great success that it was: Christopher Slater, Geoff Caccamo, Sueko Takahashi, and Michael Amodt for setting up the raffle. Todd, Scott, Marty, and Jeremy for the fabulous meal. Roger Emmett, Glen Taber, and Bill Peachee for transporting and setting up and Dave Gilbert for parking and assembling decorations. Finally Peter Escobedo for music and Peter Anning for being master of ceremonies. What a great day!



ABOVE: Heavy rains blew through in the morning stranding Bill Peachee's 1989 Colony Park wagon in the parking lot. Dave and Sueko Gilbert exercise patience as they assemble the stage decorations. A wonderful crew of volunteers made the event run smoothly and fun for all. LEFT: Dave and Sueko's '58 Edsel Citation arrived appropriately bedecked.





PREVIOUS PAGE: Teamwork resulted in a fun and festive backdrop to the tables of gifts up for raffle. Todd Darling's beautiful Crudités platter tempted guest at one end of the foyer while at the other Gregg Cannella and Sueko Gilbert help guests as they arrive. The Pleasanton Veteran's Memorial Hall's generous size easily accommodated over 100 attendees.

THIS PAGE: Guests had an opportunity to view the gifts before selecting their favorites for raffle. Mark Culbert and John McCue pose with "Santa." Host Peter Anning in Christmas Tree attire was assisted by Head Elf, Christopher Slater. Sueko Takahashi-Gilbeert helped with presentations while Junior Elf Geoff Caccamo talked Morgan Von Rueden into more tickets. Everyone got one ticket and could buy more. It was all smiles as friends gathered reconnected at the annual event. Jay Remick greets the Sacramento contingent upon their arrival.



The 2015 Formula 1 Season Final and a look ahead to 2016

- by Andy Smith

My great thanks to the Freewheelers for their support this past year! And what a year it was! Let's take a look, and then a look ahead to the 2016 season just around the corner!

The 2015 FIA Formula One World Championship finished at Abu Dhabi on November 29, and it now becomes part of the historical statistics that fans will compare forever. Will it be considered a great year like 1976, when the (cinematic) Lauda/Hunt rivalry came to an amazing conclusion? Will it be remembered like the 2010 season where Sebastian Vettel became the youngest-ever world champion at age 21? Or will it compare with my personal favorite, the 1950 Grand Prix season with Nino Farina driving Alfa-Romeo to a definitive championship? Probably "no" is the answer, but it has certainly been a series of great highs and lows. What will we remember?



- The tragic passing of the young talent, Jules Bianchi, the first driver to be killed in a race-related accident since 1994.
- A 2015 calendar without a race in Germany, the first time without a Grand Prix there, F1's "heartland", in 55 years!
- A reinstated Grand Prix in Mexico, to a capacity crowd of screaming fans! Nico Rosberg called his win there "the greatest podium of my career"!
- Honda's return (with mixed results) to Formula 1 as the providers of the McLaren Power Units
- The return of the first American driver since 2007 as Alexander Rossi drove three races for the Manor team
- The Briton Lewis Hamilton becoming a 3-time World Champion, an exclusive club with members the likes of Niki Lauda, Jackie Stewart and Ayrton Senna.

Lewis Hamilton became the 2015 Formula 1 World Champion after winning the US Grand Prix. Love him or hate him, there have been few other winners (except possibly his countryman James Hunt) who made it all look so easy! He can be out celebrity hobnobbing in LA one weekend, and then taking a commanding Grand Prix win across the globe the subsequent Sunday...all the while maintaining a very high-profile Social Networking presence. His talent is truly unique.

Since his win Lewis has made quite the Charm Offensive in the USA, appearing on a 60 Minutes segment with Charlie Rose, and then on two different US talk shows. No doubt the FIA would love to see greater interest in Formula 1 here in the USA, (where interest is still minimal) and they suspect that the handsome and amiable Lewis Hamilton could be the man to create that interest. Did I mention that the media loves him?

The Final Top-Five points leaders for the year were:

1. Lewis Hamilton (GBR)/Mercedes: 381
2. Nico Rosberg (GER)/Mercedes: 322
3. Sebastian Vettel (GER)/Ferrari: 278
4. Kimi Raikkonen (FIN)/Ferrari: 150
5. Valtteri Bottas (FIN)/Williams: 121



Nico Rosberg in Mexico

The 2016 season begins at Albert Park, Melbourne, Australia, on March 20, with tests beginning a month earlier in Barcelona...that's exciting for impatient fans! What can we look forward to in 2016?

- A resurgent Honda/McLaren team as they can't remain at the back forever with champion drivers like Button & Alonso
- A new "works" team as Renault buys the assets of Lotus. Look for French-blue cars at Barcelona!
- Ferrari being MUCH more competitive with their Mercedes rivals, perhaps ending the dominance of the Silver Arrows.
- A(yet-to-be-confirmed) American driver on a Manor team under more-competitive Mercedes power....and
- An AMERICAN Formula 1 team in the form of Haas Racing! What a great year for the Yanks!

So 2016 promises to be an exciting year in this, the pinnacle of motor racing known as the Formula One World Championship. Looking forward to watching and sharing next year, especially with an American team out on the grid!

WEST COAST MEET 2016 – Featuring Convertibles

The Official Car of Summer!

– from an article by Mo Rocca, CBS News

There's nothing better on a summer's day than driving with the top down, wind in your hair, in a Mustang convertible. And while the lure of a convertible might be its sex appeal – just think of Cary Grant and Grace Kelly cruising along the Riviera in "To Catch a Thief" – the convertible's beginnings were decidedly less auspicious.

The earliest cars were ALL convertibles. The Model T had a top available, but it was mostly driven without – plus there were no windshield or side windows, hence the protective gear was a requirement. Matt Anderson, curator of transportation at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich., says the convertible has had more ups and downs than the car's top on a partly cloudy day.



"In the beginning open cars are about affordability," said Anderson. "But you start to see things change as enclosed cars get mass-produced and become more affordable. And then the convertibles become more the domain of the rich. So everything kind of turns around 180°."



By 1936, the open-top car accounted for less than one percent of automobile sales. By then, the convertible was essentially dead. "Dead or on the way out," said Anderson. "There's still wealthy drivers who could afford to get whatever they want." And what kind of convertibles were those? At that time, said Anderson, they were big cars: "These are the luxury automobiles with the 8-cylinder, 12-cylinder in some cases engines. Expensive vehicles, not cheap." They may not have been cheap, but they were useful for politicians, like President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who toured around in a Lincoln convertible, also known as the Sunshine Special.

The next shift in the popularity of the convertible came when many young Americans went to Europe during World War II. "They see in England and France and other countries these little roadster cars with soft convertible tops," said Anderson. "They're cars just for fun." In fact, by 1950, every American car maker had a convertible in its lineup – 33 models in all. And from 1962 through 1966, convertibles accounted for six percent of car sales.



But by the 1970s, convertibles hit the skids in popularity because of three reasons, says Anderson: safety, security, and the faster pace of life. "People aren't cruising down the road at 35, 40 miles anymore; they're going 55, 60, 70 miles an hour," said Anderson. "And that gentle breeze in your hair becomes something like a hurricane when you're moving at that speed."



Nowadays, only a tiny number of convertibles are sold in the U.S. annually. But the convertible will never go away, will it? "I don't think the convertible will ever truly die, replied Anderson, "because there will always be this segment of drivers that just want to drive for the sheer fun and thrill of it." As long as there's one man going through a midlife crisis, there's one convertible to be sold – there's your customer!

FREEWHEELERS NAME BADGE ORDER FORM

Freewheelers Car Club



YOUR NAME

Just 3 easy steps!

1. Fill out this order form.
2. Make your check payable to:
Freewheelers Car Club - Badge Order
3. Mail to:
Freewheelers Car Club
c/o: Jay Remick
1588 Willow Oaks Drive
San Jose, CA 95125-4452

Please place my order for the following name badge(s):

Name Badge 1:

Name Badge 2:

\$17 per badge x ____ badge(s) = \$ _____
(amount enclosed)
(Note: All name badges come with magnetic attachment.)

Please send my badge(s) to the following address:

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Delivery time is 4 to 6 weeks. For additional information please contact Jay Remick at jayremick@me.com or at 831-601-8080.

Welcome New Members!

Mike Miles & Randy Fischer

215 Main Street #104
Sausalito, CA 94965
(415) 407-5133
sfmikem@gmail.com
Car: 1973 Volkswagen Super Beetle Sedan w/Sun Roof

John Turano & Ken Stegmiller

4407 18th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 341-0176
johjt415@aol.com
Car: 1965 Ford Mustang Convertible

CLASSIFIEDS



FOR SALE: 1990 Buick Reatta with about 123,000 miles in 8-10 condition in all areas. Everything works, drives like a dream. Third owner. very original. \$4800. Contact Nowell at psmobilemechanic@aol.com for more information. (2)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday, 02/07 – The Freewheelers 2016 Annual Business and Planning Meeting at the Vallejo Yacht Club. See page 3 for details.

MARCH 2016

Sunday, 03/20 – The next fun-filled Freewheelers event. Stay tuned for more details!

JULY 2016

Thursday, 07/07 - Sunday, 07/10 – The 32nd Annual West Coast Meet in Atascadero! Watch the Flyer, website, and Facebook page for upcoming details and information!

NOTE: Calendar listings subject to change without notice.



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



Drop the top and let the sun shine in for West Coast Meet 2016!

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