

ALFACIONADA

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017



Summer Day Drive, pages 12-16
Summer Party, pages 20-24

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NEWSLETTER OF THE

Alfa Romeo
Owners of Southern California

Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California

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Submissions

Please send classified ads, articles, letters and photographs to the Newsletter Address above, to arrive no later than the 25th of the month prior to publication.

Changes of Address

To keep your newsletter arriving after a move, please send your change of address information to AROC, P.O. Box 92155, Portland, OR 97292.

If you're a nonmember subscriber, or receive the newsletter on a complimentary basis, please send change of address information to the Club Business Address above.

About This Newsletter

Alfacionada is the publication of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California, a chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club, Inc., a national

non-profit organization of Alfa Romeo enthusiasts. Affiliation with AROSC and a subscription to this newsletter are included in your annual \$78 AROC dues. Non-members may subscribe to *Alfacionada* for \$20 per year, and attend meetings and events. See the inside back cover for a membership application form with rates and contact details.

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Meeting Information

General Meetings are held monthly, on a weekend day, at various locations in Southern California. A full listing of activities is on our website, arosc.org; a four-month calendar of events is on the outside back cover of this newsletter, and detailed information is in Previews. Check all three; email any questions to info@arosc.org, and a Club director will respond.

Our Cover This Month

Top: After the group panorama photo at the summit, the Summer Day Drivers roll back out onto Glendora Ridge Road. Photo by Steve Edelman. Story and more pics on pages 12-16. Below: Il Presidente Mike leads a brief and low-key General Meeting at yet another near-perfect Summer Party, hosted again by those indefatigable Cline folks. Photo by David Waelder; much more to see and read on pages 20-24. And yes, Alfacionada IS going digital-only in January.

AROSC Board of Directors, 2017

Your entire Board is available at one point of contact: info@arosc.org. We welcome and encourage your thoughts and feedback. This central email address will allow us to respond, at home or on the road, through our computers and smart phones. Leave your telephone number and request a call-back if you wish; we will be happy to contact you personally.

Don't forget to check our website: <http://www.arosc.org>

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Previews ...*What's coming up and when.*

August 14-20 – Monterey Weekend: Monterey Motorsports Reunion, Concorso Italiano, Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, Concours/Tour d'Lemons, auctions, parties, and more!

September 9-10 – DE, TT & Race, Willow Springs.

September 16 – Galpin Premier Collection Tour, and lunch at the Horseless Carriage Restaurant. See page 17.

October 8 – Note date change! Huntington Beach HS Classic Car Show. Club Concorso #4.

November 2 – 2018 Board Election notice.

November 5 – Best of France & Italy, Woodley Park (non-Club). See page 25.

November 11-12 – Driving School, Streets of Willow.

November 19 – 2018 Board Planning Meeting.



Note: Board of Directors meetings are generally held on the last Sunday of the month. Anyone with business to bring before the Board is requested to please contact Il Presidente Mike Riehle.



Summer Day Drive participants relax in the woody calm of the National Forest Interpretive Center. Susan, Chris, Mike, Elyse, Steve, Tina, Jim. David Waelder photo.

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FROM THE TOP ... *the Word from Il Presidente*

The Summer Day Drive in the San Gabriel Mountains must have been blessed by the Gods. We had a great turnout, the weather was good, and no one had car problems. Chris and I took the “air conditioned Alfa” as we often do, but the lack of extreme heat let us run with the windows down. Check out the many pictures starting on page 12. Glendora Mountain Road is well known for its twisties, but I had never run it before. The ridge route portion is actually single lane with two-way traffic! We had a great time, but my son tells me that it is a horrible place to meet a school bus or a garbage truck.

The Summer Party was popular as always. The famed cast aluminum gas cap was back for the auction and was picked up by Norm Silverman for a mere \$6. The cap looks like it came from some exotic mid-60s race car and is too neat to not bid on. Then again, how many paperweights does a car guy need? I donated it originally and while it is not as well traveled as the Charlie Cup it seems like half the Club has owned it at one time or another.

We had several new members in attendance including a lady who had recently inherited a 1957 Spider which is currently being brought back to life by British European in San Pedro. Jokes aside, my son worked there one summer and one of the blokes there was actually a factory-trained Alfa Romeo mechanic in England. Sylvia is enthusiastic about Alfas and managed to score a vintage 750 Spider model in the auction.

Speaking of Spiders, I have not mentioned mine in a while. I replaced the head gasket after 30+ years and it ran fine, but was leaking oil from the top of the front cover. In hindsight, it appears that the sealant on the new, but ancient, head gasket died of old age and just wasn't doing the job. I finally bit the bullet and ordered a Reinz head gasket (the most expensive and reputed to be the best) from Jon Norman and started disassembly. This is a job I've done several times over the years, but it seems to get harder every year. Will keep you posted on my progress.

September 9th and 10th is our time trial and wheel-to-wheel race event on the “Big Track” at Willow Springs. Weather permitting, we will be celebrating the end of summer. Hunter Alfa Romeo of Lancaster will be there with a new Stelvio and some Giulias. Speaking of the Stelvio, Dave Kuntz recently did a piece on Alfa Romeo on ABC 7 News. He thinks the new Stelvio will be a big sales success,



partly due to the ongoing popularity of SUVs and partly because the new Stelvio is very attractive (for a SUV).

September 16th is the tour of the Galpin Ford Collection. We should expect lots of Fords and some special of customs. Check out <http://www.galpin.com/newsroom/this-dealers-car-collection-might-surprise-you> .

October 8th brings up our fourth concorso of the year at Huntington Beach High School (aka HBHS). Make particular note of the date, it is October 8th not October 28th as previously reported. We did this show for the first time last year on the advice of our newest board member, John Britton. It was a success, so we are back again this year. This show attracts a little bit of everything. Get the flavor by checking out some student pictures of last year's event at <https://hbhsphotography.smugmug.com/Events-20162017/Car-Show/> .

Remember, if the women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy. And don't forget the duct tape, the handyman's secret weapon.

– Mike & Chris



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Tech Guy Abroad... *The Beijing Auto Museum*

On a recent trip to China I was able to make a brief visit the Beijing Auto Museum. It is located about an hour's drive from the Beijing Central Business District. It opened to the public on September 23, 2011 in a very impressive new building. The collection consists of about 70 vehicles displayed over five floors. Admission is only RMB 50 (about \$7.50) but I visited on a special day when seniors and children were allowed in free.

The displays are arranged along meandering pathways that direct the flow of visitors so you don't miss much. All of the exhibits had signs in both Chinese and English, although the English wording was sometimes difficult to understand and sometimes quite humorous.

Among the older pieces was a replica of the 1886 Benz and a scale model of the 1769 Cugnot that demonstrated how the steam pistons drove the wheel through a cog system. Going back even further in time there were copies of two Chinese vehicles from about 100 AD. One had a figure on it that always pointed south by means of gears attached to the wheels that rotated the figure as the cart turned. The other was a Drum Wagon that had wooden figures that, through a series of gears, would strike a drum about every 500 meters, the predecessor to the odometer.

Among the exhibits of European and United States cars was a 1925 Citroen that was driven in the 2007 Peking to Paris Rally. After the car reached Paris the Peugeot-Citroen group purchased the car and then donated it to the Beijing Auto Museum. Included were a curved dash Olds, Model T and Model A Fords, a Lincoln KB V-12, an XK120, a Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, a Subaru 360 and a Dino 246 GTS.

There also were a large number of early Chinese cars, probably more than you will see in any other country. Starting with the Dongfeng CA-71, the first car produced in China (1958). This car was built by the First Automobile Works which became the parent of Hongqi (Red Flag) and is still producing cars today. The car on display is a replica as only 30 were produced (all hand-built) and the only original that still exists is in the Hongqi factory museum.



Dongfeng CA-71

The second car produced in China was the near identical Dong Fanghong. It was based on the Soviet Union GAZ Volga M21 from blueprints left behind by Soviet engineers; 106 were built from 1959 to 1969.

They also had displays of the Shanghai SH760 and SH760B from the Shanghai

City Agricultural Machinery Manufacturing Company. This company also made tractors, just like Lamborghini!

Of interest were several of the early Hongqi luxury sedans used by Communist Party officials. The first-generation CA72 was based on a 1955 Chrysler; it was followed by the CA770 and the armored version CA772, and were powered by V8 engines although several of the cars displayed were missing the engines. There were also various Chinese jeeps and military trucks on view. Considering that all of these Chinese-manufactured vehicles were made in very small volume it is amazing that any even survive today and very few, if any, exist outside of China.



Beijing SUV

On the day I visited there were quite a few school groups there. The museum is well set up for children, with many interactive displays. There is also a restaurant and gift shop. The gift shop sold mostly model car kits for the children. The only thing I found with the museum's name on it were some car-shaped ball point pens.

So if you're ever in Beijing be sure to plan a visit the Beijing Automobile Museum.

– Gene Brown



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Hunter Attacks Willow Springs, Again with a Stelvio, Sept. 9th-10th

Well, the nice people at Hunter Alfa Romeo asked us if it was OK if they returned to Willow Springs Raceway with us for our September Time Trial and Race Weekend. You'll recall they were there in February for our Alan Ward Memorial event with two new Giulias and a 4C to show us and serve as pace cars.

This time they want to bring a new Stelvio, and also some bottled water to help with the warm September weather.

Of course we said it was fine with us, provided they also include another new Giulia as well! We might be able to talk them into some demo drives.

Oh and AROSC will be conducting our usual slate of Time Trials runs and Open race groups on the Big Track with Saturday evening socializing over chili or barbecue and brews.

So come on out to the track on Saturday, Sept. 9th to watch your pals compete and see what new Alfas may show up.

– Paul Blankenship



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SUMMER DAY DRIVE 2017

Alfas Led a Lovely Romp Into the San Gabriels



The Park office is inside the ca. 1949 Mt. Baldy Schoolhouse. Steve Edelman photo.

Our 2017 Summer Day Drive in late July was as close to perfect as any summer day in SoCal could be. Although the entrance to the Angeles National Forest was a busy spot, everyone arrived in time for the drivers meeting, successfully found their way along the route and were present and accounted-for at lunch. We had the 12 Alfas lead the pack (three GTVs, an Alfetta GT, a GTV6, five 1970s-1990s Spiders, Giulia Spider, Giulia Sprint GT) and five other nice sportscars (two Porsche 911s, Audi TT, Ford T-bird, Toyota MR2) were our back-up. No help was needed from the more modern machinery though, thank you very much.

The short and sweet 31-mile that run took us up San Gabriel Canyon, Glendora Canyon, Glendora Ridge and Mt. Baldy roads was an old friend to some who live nearby; to others it was a window on a hidden world. "I've lived here all my life and I've never driven these roads!" declared one pleased Southern California native. Turn right, turn right, turn left, turn left.

We declared it an un-hurried,



Drivers' Meeting before departure. David Waelder photo.

civilized drive, and still there was time for a catch-up stop above San Gabriel Dam and a super group panorama photo-op atop Glendora Ridge where a light breeze lifted the spirits and carried away any remembrance of the hazy L.A. landscape below.



Above, the catch-up stop atop the San Gabriel Dam. Steve Edelman photo. Left, the dam was full enough this year to send water to the world below. Jim Barrett photo.



The region, full of oak glens, useful, versatile yucca on the hillsides, fertile plateaus and little creeks was heavily used by the Native American Gabrielino/ Tongva tribes and the traffic into the forest on this day

affirmed its popularity even now. Declared a National Monument in 2014, this part of the San Gabriel Mountains awaits further preservation status in the future.

Once parked in Mt. Baldy Village, we strolled the grounds of the local Angeles National Forest Mt. Baldy Visitor Center Interpretive Site, sipping the piney woods air and peeking into the replica sweat lodge, miner's cabin and modern-day native plant propagation greenhouse. Inside the park office, residing in the ca. 1949 Mt. Baldy Schoolhouse, a diorama held bighorn sheep, deer, raccoon, coyote, raptor and bobcat specimens. It also contained remnants of the schoolhouse built by area pioneer Bob Chapman.



Schoolhouse interior, Visitor Center Angeles Nat'l Forest, Mt. Baldy. Elyse Barrett photo.

Lunch was next on the itinerary and Mt. Baldy Lodge accommodated us handsomely at two long tables under cooling fans in the south side of the dining room. Excellent service, cold drinks, and satisfying dishes creatively named Fancy Tuna, Baldy Yacht Club, Jane's Favorite and Nanette's Great Grubber did not disappoint. We made sure to post in the positive on Yelp.

The main portion of the tour was concluded by about 2:30PM and we hopped off the mountain. A breakout group of about 13 in seven cars retired to the warmer latitudes to check out Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, on the edge of the Claremont College campus. The property, founded as a native flora research and appreciation location in 1927 comprises 86 acres of the Azusa-area foothills. We navigated maybe a quarter of that space and were parched after two hours of



Botanic Garden hikers: Steve takes a Selfie with Elyse, Jim, Lahna, Allen and David.

walking. It is impressive and there are many good works taking place here. Only a few of us had ever been there before, and we were glad to have made the time to investigate.

As always, a drive of discovery rewards everyone. We will remember fondly our time with Alfisti friends and fellow driving enthusiasts in the wilderness nearby.

— Elyse & Jim



The obligatory panorama shot, thanks to Steve Edelman. No, we are not doing names!



Giulia Sprint GT, Alfetta GT, Spider, two GTVs and more leave the Glendora Ridge Road summit, moderns and non-Alfas following. Photo by Steve Edelman.

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Galpin Automotive Premier Collection Tour An AROSC First on Sept. 16th

Galpin Automotive Dealerships – including the world’s number-one Ford Dealer for 24 years – will be providing AROSC with a tour of their Galpin Premier Collection of cars in Van Nuys on September 16th. On view will be significant examples of Ford history and California customizations, including creations of George Barris and Big Daddy Roth, and pinstriping by Von Dutch

The facility also includes a restoration shop and “G.A.S.” auto customization facility. The vehicles worked on there are subsequently referred to as “Galpinized” cars and should be very interesting to observe.

Check out the outstanding details at

<http://www.galpin.com/newsroom/this-dealers-car-collection-might-surprise-you>

We will need a headcount of tour and lunch attendees, so please RSVP to normanbev@msn.com by September 10th.

Itinerary

Arrival 9:30AM

Tour 10:00AM

Galpin Automotive Premier Collection Tour

15500 Roscoe Blvd.

Van Nuys, CA 91406

Located one short block east of the Roscoe exit, 405 Freeway

Meet for Casual Lunch 12:30PM -1:00PM

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Our famous 2 day Driving School is in Nov.

Alfas encouraged but not required.

All marques welcome.



2017 Schedule

Sep 9-10 – DE, TT & Race, Willow Springs

Special Guest: the Stelvio, courtesy of Hunter Alfa Romeo

Nov 11-12 – High Performance Driving School,
Streets of Willow

**You can sign up for our track events at:
www.AROCHPD.org**

IT WAS PARTY TIME!

Some Summer Fun and a Grand Garage Clean-Out Party!



Norm, Mario, Sally, and Sylvia's beau talk Alfas. Photo by David Waelder.

Fifty-one Alfisti gathered for the 2017 AROSC Summer Party on Sunday, August 6th, Chez Cline. It was great to have five new Alfisiti among us, including one visiting from Texas on an Alfa-purchasing expedition. They arrived with a wide variety of luncheon fare and beverages to share.

Again this year, Mario and Sally Cano supplied a platter of delicious barbecued ribs and Barry Klein arrived with smoked Ahi tuna. Both plates were consumed in the blink of an eye. Along with other good things to eat came numerous Alfa parts, books, manuals, and other publications for the white turkey auction. One



Charlie, Chuck and Sharon. D. Waelder photo.

attendee brought a set of Bilstein gas shocks from his Duetto race car to be auctioned off, but no takers could be found. We'll care for them until next year.

Through a series of serendipitous circumstances, Paul Blankenship came into possession of a magnum of very fine Cabernet Sauvignon. This bottle had been designated for a special toast to long-time Alfa racer and suspension/handling guru Alan Ward who left us on

August 30th 2016. Since the toast had not taken place at its appointed time, Paul requested we all share this bottle at the Summer Party. So share we did.

In the words of an ancient Irish poem, we wish Alan's road rises up to meet him, the wind be always at his back, the sun shine warm upon his face, and all his apexes be late ones. Godspeed, Alan Ward.

The weather was almost perfect, if a little warm – after all it is August in SoCal

– but with a light sea breeze and ample shade for everyone, we were comfortable as the afternoon waned.

Auctioneer Charlie Schwartz, with Norm Silverman assisting, worked the crowd like a couple of Mecum Auto auctioneers on speed to keep the crowd energized.



Mike calls for the toast to Alan Ward. David Waelder photo.

We bought fresh tomatoes, homemade truffles, assorted auto books, posters, Alfa ephemera and parts. Even the very-special comp car gas cap made it back to the auction block, and into new hands.

We wish to thank Charlie and Norm for their efforts.

The required Club meeting was short and informative as usual, emphasizing the schedule of upcoming events and soliciting ideas for future events.

Again, it appears that no one left the gathering either starving or thirsty, and many holding on to new purchases. We may see some of those items again next year, hopefully not the tomatoes. But do come back.

– Ciao, Chuck & Jan



Gathering for the auction. Jim Barrett photo.



Auction table – something for everyone. Jim Barrett photo. Clockwise from left: The unloved Bilsteins; Calling for bids on Shin cutaway; Norm hawking to-matoes; Who needs a 2-ton jack? D. Waelder photos.





Clockwise from top left: Pat plays his Hawaiian steel guitar, made by Leo Fender himself; The table overfloweth – Kurt, Jayne and Chris dig in; Greeting new member Sylvia (center): Jim Barrett photos. Jay, John and Chuck have a laugh; M.J. and Sheila enjoying a party they didn't throw; Catherine and Evelyn enjoy the view; David Waelder photos. Our superb hostess Jan talks desserts with Charlie. – Jim Barrett again.



*Yes, we had some Alfa Time at the curb too, here with Dan, Jerry, Cathy and John.
Jim Barrett photo.*

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SAVE the DATE!!
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9AM to 5PM

Although as last year this will not be a Club Concours, we'll once again have our Club Corral. Come spend the day with us – bring lunch and a camera! Food is also available from vendors. All Alfas are welcome in our Club Corral; if you want to park on the grounds with us the fee is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the gate. For full information and entry form please go to www.franceanditaly.com before 10/25/17. See you there!



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Classified – Cars/Parts For Sale



FOR SALE – 1977 SPIDER – Very solid California car recently out of a mild restoration. Black/red. Odo: 64,300. Mechanicals, proper Spica injection rebuild and brake overhaul by Alfa Italia, who also managed the paint job, and new interior and top installation. The car was smogged and passed on August 5, 2017. \$14,500 OBO. Michael, 610.246.8850 or mak6@psu.edu

Classified (non-commercial) Advertising

Classified ads are published as a free service to the Alfa Romeo community. Suggested length 60 words; include price, location, contact info. Photos must be in-focus, medium-resolution (300ppi) JPEGs. Alfa-related only! Deadline is the 25th of the month prior to publication (e.g., March issue = January 25).

Commercial Advertising

Please contact the Editor at info@arosc.org for a detailed rate card and complete advertising information.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California

Dues for a one-year membership in the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California (AROSC) and the Alfa Romeo Owners Club - US (AROC) are \$78. Please fill in the information blanks in this form, clip and mail with your check, payable to Alfa Romeo Owners Club, to Alfa Romeo Owners Club, P.O. Box 92155, Portland, OR 97292. You may also join online using your credit card by visiting aroc-usa.org.

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Alfa Romeo Owners
of Southern California
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Huntington Beach, CA 92646-4700



Our 2017 Calendar of Events

<p><i>August</i></p> <p>6 – Summer Party and General Meeting at the Clines.</p> <p>14-20 – Monterey Weekend; Monterey Motorsports Reunion, Concorso Italiano, Concours/Tour d’LeMons, auctions, parties and more!</p>	<p><i>September</i></p> <p>9-10 – DE, TT & Race, Willow Springs.</p> <p>16 – Galpin Collection Tour, lunch at Horseless Carriage Restaurant.</p>	<p><i>October</i></p> <p>8 – Huntington Beach HS Classic Car Show. Club Concorso #4.</p>	<p><i>November</i></p> <p>2 – 2018 Board Election notice.</p> <p>5 – Best of France & Italy, Woodley Park (non-Club Event</p> <p>11-12 – Driving School, Streets of Willow.</p> <p>19 – Board Planning Meeting for 2018</p>
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