

ALFACIONADA

JANUARY 2018



Another Fabulous Holiday Party, Pages 14-17

Willow Springs November Weekend, Pages 22-24



Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California

AROSC Business Address

27152 Paseo Del Este
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675-4927
info@arosc.org

Newsletter Address

1098 N. Mentor Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91104
nashwill912@earthlink.net

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 website for a membership application form with rates and contact details.

Permission is hereby granted other AROC Chapters to reproduce any original material herein upon request, provided credit is given to the author and *Alfacionada*. We ask the courtesy of a copy of the re-publication. Please send requests and copies to Managing Editor, *Alfacionada*, at the Newsletter Address listed above, or to his email.

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 12-month calendar of events is emailed with every January issue of this newsletter, and detailed information is in Previews. Check both; email any questions to info@arosc.org, and a Club director will respond.

Our Cover This Month

Top: Happy door prize winners celebrate their loot; those prizes, however weird or wonderful, are a feature of most of our year-end gatherings. David Waelder took this photo. Bottom: Driving instructors get ready to go out and teach some serious school at Willow Springs. Story begins page 22; photo by Terry Major.

AROSC Board of Directors, 2018

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>

President:

Mike Riehle & Chris Burke
310.780.5427
twoina2@sbcglobal.net

Vice President:

Norm & Evie Silverman
normanev@msn.com

Treasurer:

Jay Mackro
treasurer@arosc.org

Secretary: M.J. & Sheila Kutkus
310.542.3448

Competition Director:

Terry Watson – 310.944.2218
comp@arosc.org

Social Chair:

Jan Cline
alfa92708@yahoo.com

Membership Bucket Seat:

Jim Barrett
eddinab@verizon.net

Member at Large:

John Britton
johnbritton.au@gmail.com

Concours Director:

Jeff Srinivasan

Newsletter Editor:

Elyse Barrett
emb.editorial@gmail.com

Committees

Technical: Gene Brown

Website: Bruce Colby, Webmaster

Newsletter Design/Production

Will Owen – 626.345.9659
nashwill912@earthlink.net

Disclaimer (a.k.a. Lawyer Repellent)

AROSC and the editors of *Alfacionada* disclaim and assume no liability for the accuracy or legality of any technical information appearing herein. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author of the article or of the persons quoted therein. AROSC and *Alfacionada* are also not responsible for the safety or practicality of modifications performed by individuals or companies described in this publication. The automobile's owner/operator should consider his/her goals when contemplating modifications to the automobile, and should seriously think about seeking advice from a trusted personal and/or other qualified automobile mechanic before performing any work or modifications to his/her vehicle. Advertisement of automobiles, products, goods or services in *Alfacionada* does not constitute an endorsement or approval by AROSC.

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

January 13 – AROC 5th Annual Mid-Year Retreat, Palm Desert.

January 28 – AROSC Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, Palos Verdes Estates.
See adflyer on page 10.

February 3-4 – DE, TT & Race, Willow Springs.

February 24 – Petersen Museum Tour. See info on page 12.

March 2-4 – L.A. Classic Auto Show. See details on page 25.

March 17 – Museum Tour and Club Concorso #1, Lyon Air Museum, Santa Ana.
See article on page 26.



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.



2018 Board of Directors (front row, l-r) Jim Barrett, Elyse Barrett, Evelyn Silverman, Jan Cline, Chris Burke. Back row (l-r) Norm Silverman, Jeff Srinivasan, Mike Riehle, John Britton, Jay Mackro, Catherine Kusnick, Sheila Kutkus, M.J. Kutkus.

HUNTER



Alfa Romeo

2018

STELVIO



Hunter Alfa Romeo

Lancaster Auto Mall

Lancaster, CA

HunterAlfaRomeo.com

(661) 948-8411

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

No update on the Sprint this month. I recently had elective surgery and my nurse, the First Lady, has ruled that the garage is strictly off limits. That will not last much longer, as full recovery is expected in a couple more weeks.

Chris made it to the Holiday Party while I stayed home and convalesced. She reports that there was plenty of food, alcohol and attendees. Our sincere thanks to MJ and Sheila for hosting such a fine party again this year. Follow this link: <https://davidprodrec.smugmug.com/AROSC-Party/n-L9zw4Z/i-Ld65ZwV> to member David Waelder's photographs to download a memory or see what you missed.

Oh, I almost forgot. Guess who is il Presidente again this year! Yup, it's me. In fact, we didn't shuffle any of the board positions. The new board met in November for our 2018 planning meeting and this *Alfacionada* includes our 2018 Calendar. Events may be changed and several exact dates have yet to be determined, but you can get a good idea of what the new year will bring.

Our next Chapter event is our annual meeting on January 28th. This is where we honor people who have contributed generously to the Club and present annual Concours and Race high-point trophies. Don't think you're in the running for a trophy? No matter. Come out anyway, enjoy the camaraderie and the food, and vow to do better next year. See page 10 for details.

All AROC members should by now have received an invite to AROC's Fifth Annual Mid-Year retreat in Palm Desert. In my opinion, President Cindy Banzer has done a simply fantastic job of reaching out to the Chapters and in trying to make the Club more relevant to members' interests and needs. On Saturday, January 13th, there will be a drive to Julian (you may recognize some of the roads and waypoints from our 2017 Wine Tour!) followed by a cocktail reception at Cindy's home. This is not only a lot of fun, it is also a great time to meet the national board members who fly in from around the country. Do you have some ideas you want them to adopt? This is your big chance to be heard. Or if you prefer, it is just a fun day and a great party.

The first of six competition events in the new year is Willow Springs on February 3rd-4th. Laguna Seca would love to have us back, but it doesn't look like that will happen in 2018. The drawbacks are a very restrictive 90dB sound limit and the high cost of renting that track. (See page 13 for the AROC track schedule.) I'd like to tell you what track events are planned in conjunction with the National Convention, but you will just have to stay tuned. Convention information will start flowing in the March issue of *Alfa Owner*.

We will be back to the Petersen on February 24th. Every year the exhibits are different, so don't fall into the trap of thinking you have been there done that. Latest word is we will be parking on Level 3 and going to Tom Bergin's for lunch. (More info on page 12.) This was originally posted online as a Concorso event, but the Concorso will instead be held in March in the O.C.

It is confirmed we have exhibit space at the Second Annual Los Angeles Classic


Car Show coming to the downtown Convention Center, March 2nd-4th -- <http://www.theclassicautoshow.com/>. Last year we had the fancy Alfa Romeo logo popup and showed off a good selection of cars. It is well worth attending, and not just to see the Alfas.

On March 17th we will be visiting the Lyon Air Museum near the John Wayne Airport and conducting our 2018 Concorso #1. I've never been to this museum, but looking at <http://www.lyonairmuseum.org/exhibits>, I can see it includes an impressive collection of cars, airplanes and military vehicles. Turn to page 26 for more.

It's w-a-y out there, but mark your 2018 calendar for the AROC National Convention in Olympia Washington, August 8th-12th. Check out <http://www.sem-preverde2018.org/index.html>, and look for more in the March Alfa Owner. Chris and I are definitely going. How, when and in what are yet to be determined, but we are definitely going. You should go too.

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



OMEGA MOTORSPORTS
Exceptional Care for Alfa Romeo

Uwe Bäcker
Owner and Factory Trained Technician

**3822 Clarington Avenue
Culver City CA 90232**

(310) 836-3160

Tech Guy ... *Pumping the Numbers*

When you go to fill up your Alfa's fuel tank you may prefer a particular brand, you may make your decision on price or you may just choose the most convenient station. But once you pull up to the pump you have to decide on the grade of gasoline to buy. For this decision you have to consider the car, because the grade required is determined by the engine rather than your preference.

The owner's manual will indicate the type of fuel required and the gasoline pump typically has three choices; regular, mid-range and premium. The pump also lists the octane number for the grade of gasoline. In California, regular is usually 87 octane, mid-range is 89 octane and premium is 91 octane. But what do these numbers mean, and what is octane?

Octane, according to Wikipedia is "a standard measure of performance of an engine or aviation fuel". As the air in a cylinder is compressed it heats up. If it is compressed enough it will reach a temperature that will cause the fuel to ignite before the spark plug fires. This is called "knocking", "pinging" or "plinking" and is bad for an engine. Engines that have a higher compression ratio require a higher-octane fuel to prevent "knocking".

To establish this standard various mixtures of iso-octane and heptanes (hydrocarbons that are typical components of gasoline) are tested for their anti-knocking capacity. A mixture of 90% iso-octane and 10% heptanes has an octane rating of 90. Gasoline has many components; not just iso-octane and heptanes, but a gasoline rated at 90 octane has the same anti-knocking capacity as 90% iso-octane and 10% heptane. Because of the additional components and additives to gasoline, some combinations can have an octane rating above 100. However, the octane rating does not indicate the energy content of the fuel, only the ability to burn in a controlled manner rather than prematurely exploding. Some additives, such as ethanol, increase the octane rating but decrease the energy in the fuel.

But it is not as simple as that. There are two methods for determining the octane number of gasoline. There is the Research Octane Number (RON) determined by running the fuel in a test engine, which has a variable compression ratio, and comparing the results with the results of running iso-octane heptanes mixtures in the same engine.

Then there is the Motor Octane Number (MON) that uses a preheated fuel mixture and variable ignition timing to stress the fuel's knock resistance. In modern fuels, the MON is anywhere from 6 to 12 octane lower than the RON. Furthermore, there is no direct link between the numbers.

The numbers on the gas pump in Australia, New Zealand and Europe are the RON. But in the United States and Canada the numbers on the

pumps are the Anti-Knock Index (AKI) which is the $(RON+MON)/2$. So a fuel that is listed as 95 octane in Europe would be 89 to 91 octane in the U.S.

But what fuel should you use? The owner's manual for my Montreal says use premium fuel without specifying any numbers, while the manual for the 1978 Spider I once owned says 91 RON and 83 MON or $(R+M)/2 = 87$ fuel, which is regular fuel. Both engines have a compression ratio of 9.0:1 so should both be able to use the same fuel? But back in the early 1970s maybe 91 RON fuel was premium in Europe?

As a general rule if you are getting knocking or pinging you should go to a higher grade of fuel. But first check your distributor timing. If the timing is advanced too far (firing the spark plug too soon) then you can get spark induced knocking which can be mistaken for fuel induced knocking.

Most cars built since the 1990s have knock sensors to detect knocking, but this is spark-induced knocking, not low-octane knocking. The knock sensor is used to allow the engine management system to advance the spark as far as possible for the most power output, but retard it enough to prevent spark-induced knocking. If you have knocking due to low-octane fuel, the engine management system cannot do anything to prevent it from occurring.

Knocking can also occur due to an increased compression ratio due to carbon buildup in the cylinders, or to carbon deposits retaining heat from the combustion process and igniting the fuel too early. But with today's clean burning fuels this is pretty uncommon. The cure is to clean the combustion chambers.

So the end result is to use whatever fuel that the manufacturer recommends. Going to a lower octane to save a few pennies can result in destroying your engine, whereas going to a higher octane than recommended will cost more and not necessarily give you more power. – Gene Brown



Alfa Italia Inc.
EUROPEAN IMPORT CARS
SERVICE
BMW • FERRARI • ALFA ROMEO • LANCIA
FIAT • MERCEDES • MASERATI • VW

ONOFRIO & VITTORIO DE LEONARDIS

1700 NO. SAN FERNANDO BLVD. BURBANK, CA 91504

(818) 841-6959 **FAX (818) 841-4869**

AROSC Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

P.V. Grill in Palos Verdes Estates

The same great restaurant in the same plaza, same great chef!

Sunday – January 28, 2018; Noon – 4:00 pm



**2017 Wrap-Up
2018 Kick-Off**



**2325 Palos Verdes Dr West,
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274
(310) 750-6877**

**Year-End Trophies
for Track & Concours Events
Charlie Cup Award**



- ◆ **Fine Italian Buffet** ⇒
\$20/pp for members
\$30/pp for non-members
Full cash bar available

- ◆ **Door Prizes**

Join us for a
wonderful afternoon
Bring family & friends!

**Vegetable Lasagna,
Chicken Marsala,
Ravioli Bolognese,
Shrimp Pasta, Antipasto,
Green Salad, Breads,
Soda, Iced Tea, Lemonade
--- and Dessert !!**



Please RSVP to Sheila by Monday, January 22nd
Sheila.k@verizon.net or (310) 542-3448

Directions: There are many ways to get there, but to finish with a scenic drive, get on Pacific Coast Hwy (CA-1) at the southern border of Redondo Beach, turn south on Palos Verdes Blvd, go 1.4 mi, then slight right onto Palos Verdes Dr West. Go 2.9 mi, destination on the right, after Yarmouth Rd. The restaurant is in the courtyard. Park in the rear structure, take the elevator up, or park along the perimeter of the plaza.

Alfa Parts

www.alfapartscatalog.com



Largest online catalog of original parts and accessories with factory part numbers, images, parts diagrams, online ordering!

- ▶ *Original parts and hard to find NOS.*
- ▶ *Rebuilds, sheetmetal, restoration and aftermarket parts.*
- ▶ *High performance components.*
- ▶ *Full line of Alfa Romeo Factory gifts, accessories and collectables.*
- ▶ *Prompt worldwide delivery.*

From Giulietta to 164, factory authorized Alfa Romeo parts provider, over 30 years of exclusive Alfa Romeo experience.

***Jon Norman, Ruth Ann Yager
800 890 ALFA (2532)
510 525 9435***

www.alfapartscatalog.com

RSVP Now for Feb 24th – AROSC Goes to The Petersen

We're sticking to tradition in the early months of 2018 and embarking on our annual pilgrimage to the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles on February 24th.

This will be simply a visit with docent-narrated tours, to view the latest and greatest in our shrine to automotive excellence at this landmark venue. New exhibits include "70 Years of Ferrari" in the Bruce Meyer Gallery and "Porsche" in the Mullin Gallery. As il Presidente says elsewhere in this issue, "Don't think you've 'been there; done that' at the Pete". There will be plenty to see and admire.

Afterwards, an optional no-host lunch will be available a few steps away at another landmark, Tom Bergin's Public House (www.tombergins.com).

Mark your calendars and RSVP now so we'll have room on the tours and at the tables.

Arrival time: 9AM

Parking: Level 3

Tours start: 10:30AM

Admission: \$11.00 (non-Petersen members)

RSVPs are required. Please contact Norm Silverman at normanev@msn.com or info@arosc.org



**RESTORATION & RACING
FABRICATION**

***ALUMINUM BODY – RUST DAMAGE – TANKS
MISSING & DAMAGED PARTS
REPAIRED OR FABRICATED***

**JOHN@661.251.5960 SANTA CLARITA, CA
ryalsfab@socal.rr.com**

Join Us At the Track

Racers, track day drivers, or complete beginners,
we have a group for you!

Alfas encouraged but not required.

All marques welcome!

Paul, is it going to rain?



Updated 2018 Schedule

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Feb 3 & 4 | Willow Springs – DE, TT & Race
<i>With our Alfa-Only Run Group!</i> |
| Apr 21 & 22 | Streets of Willow – Driving School |
| June 2 & 3 | Buttonwillow – DE, TT & Race |
| Sept 15 & 16 | Streets of Willow – Driving School |
| Oct 13 & 14 | Willow Springs – DE, TT & Race |
| Dec 8 & 9 | AAA Fontana Infield – DE, TT & Race |

You can sign up for our track events at
<http://aroschpd.org>

AROSC's Holiday Party: Loved By All



Champagne gold '73 Berlina driven by member Allen Chen to the Holiday Party. Delicious! Jim Barrett photo.

The fabulous reviews are in once again: “Thank you for another great event!”

The AROSC's 17th annual indoor/outdoor Clubhouse Holiday Party at MJ and Sheila's in Redondo Beach had a great turnout of more than 50 Alfisti. We had members drive in from as far away as Arizona and fly in from the Bay Area, and members active in our track competitions came to join the fun. We gained two new members at the party, and fabulous Alfas filled the streets of the neighborhood, including a duetto, Giulia Super, Giulia TI and GTV6.

MJ and Sheila went to Loreto in Baja California Sur this year and brought back sabores de Loreto to create barbecued Carne Asada, Chicken Salsa Verde and Sea of Cortez Pargo as our main courses. MJ had help with grilling the fish and chicken by no less than a barbie man from Australia, John Britton. John added some Aussie touches that resulted in the most succulent pescado and tender pollo ever to come off a barbie. Not to be outdone, Jim Barrett, jumped in with to handle the grilling of the carne asada. Jim and Elyse spend many a weekend in Baja and Jim grilled the Carne Asada with a great Baja style. Muy bueno!

Delicious side dishes provided by members and their guests (salads, vegetables, casseroles and a wide variety of desserts) were unique, and prepared with care and skill. Sheila wishes to thank the many ladies who helped to direct traffic to the tables, serve, and assisted with the entire event!



Above left: Jan, Elyse and Sharon deck at least one hall, Bonnie Swartz photo. Right: Bonnie herself with Paul and Mary, David Waelder photo.



Above, Steve and Fred catch up; below, Chuck and Kurt. David Waelder photos.



Adding to the enjoyment of the food and the camaraderie was the traditional wine tasting table featuring selections from Club Wine Tour favorites and lucky finds in retail outlets – many fine wines brought and shared. We also shared the traditional bounty of door prizes, from silly hats to Starbucks gift cards. Thanks to all who contributed the many items, and thank you Paul and Mary Blankenship for the presentation performance! What's not to love about this party?

If you missed the 2017 edition, be sure to come next year – same time, same place, for another great holiday gathering.

– Sheila



Above, the whole jolly crew crams in for the obligatory-but-always-fun Group Shot. M.J. Kutkus photo.



*Above left, Jim mans the beef BBQ station. David Waelder photo.
Above, clockwise from upper left: Shane, Margaret, Jeff, Kurt, Sharon, Chuck, Norm, Sheila, Tina. M.J. Kutkus photo.
Left. Norm conducts the General Meeting. David Waelder photo.*



Left, Helen's lovely tabletop ceramics display. Right, Pat and John discuss Alfas and music. David Waelder photos.



Left, table for seven: Paul, Mary, Bruce, Charlie, Jolene, Susan and Evelyn. M.J. Kuitkus photo.

Below, The Giulia Super TI of new member Jimi Spatharos was worthy of the party-goer's careful contemplation. Jim Barrett photo.





How very SoCal – alfresco in December! Photo by Steve Edelman.

Barlow Insurance
Quality Collector Car Insurance Since 1971

JONATHAN BARLOW
Lic#CA0774014

800-558-7772 • 951-279-4002 • Fax 951-279-8502
P.O. Box 77788 • Corona, CA 92877-0126
barlowjb@pacbell.net

Please Visit our Website at
www.BarlowInsurance.net

2018 Club Concorso Preview

New Class, New & Classic Event Venues, A Call for Judges



New for concorso 2018, Modern Class for 21st C Alfas like Bob and Alli's 4C and Giulia. Jim Barrett photo.

As 2017 came to a close, your Concorso Director looked back at our banner year as well as ahead to a fun-filled 2018. I'd like to share that look ahead with you now, but be sure to watch for a look back at 2017 and the year-end award winners in the next *Alfacionada*.

2018 will bring new things to your AROC Club Concorso lineup, including a new class designed especially for those wonderful new Alfa Romeos, a new Concorso venue at the Lyon Air Museum in March (see page 26 for details), and, hopefully, new Judges from among the fine AROSC members reading these words.

A New Class

As a reminder, your AROSC Club Concorso events have previously consisted of four classes of Judged Entrants: Open, Closed, Daily Driver and Competition Prepared (Race). For 2018, we are renaming several classes and creating a brand new class for today's Alfas, including 4Cs, Giulias and Stelvios, to compete in. Your new classes are:

- Open (Classic); this class is for open top or convertible Alfas, model year 1995 or earlier
- Closed (Classic); this class is for hardtop Alfas, model year 1995 or earlier
- Modern; this the new class is for all Alfa Romeos, model year 1996 or newer

- Daily Driver; this class is for all Alfa Romeos, regardless of model year, which are driven regularly and will be shined up for the Concorso, but may carry clear evidence of use (a bit of dust/dirt or few chips or dings, of which you are, of course, still proud, are welcomed)

- Competition Prepared (Race); this class is for all Alfa Romeos, regardless of model year, which have been specifically prepared for track or autocross use

We hope creating this new group will encourage owners of the latest offerings from Alfa Romeo to bring out your fine Italian machines for a bit of friendly competition with your fellow Club members who also own these modern masterpieces. We also hope that owners of older Alfas will not be shy about joining us, knowing their classic beauty won't be in direct competition against brand-new cars (but they do look great when parked next to them!). So plan to take a look at the schedule below and sign up today (all it takes is an email to Jeff Srinivasan at rogueman1@mac.com).

2018 Concorso Schedule

We are planning three Club Concorsos in 2018, starting with the aforementioned Lyon Air Museum event in March (see details on page 26). In late June we will venture back to the Hollywood Hills for what has become a fixture on the Club Concorso schedule, the Highway Earth Show. And finally, we will bring another contingent of Alfa Romeos to the Huntington Beach High School Classic Car Show, an event that debuted in 2017 and was a huge hit, with Alfa Romeos the marque with the most entries!

- March 17th, Lyon Air Museum & Club Concorso (Santa Ana)
- June 24th, Highway Earth Show (Franklin Canyon Park, Hollywood)
- October TBA, Huntington Beach Classic Car Show (Huntington Beach)

To sign up for any of the above Club Concorso events, email Jeff Srinivasan at rogueman1@mac.com.

Calling All Judges

Club Concorso events are made possible by a hearty and enthusiastic group of AROSC members who love Alfa Romeos, both classic and modern models, and give of their time to judge entrants. With the expansion of classes in 2018, we are definitely in need of more judges. No previous concorso judging experience is needed. You will be taught all you need to know by our experienced team, and we guarantee you will have a great time. And who wouldn't, given the chance to talk with proud Alfa owners and spend quality time checking out the details of their fantastic automobiles? If you are interested, please email Jeff Srinivasan at rogueman1@mac.com today!

Looking forward to seeing all of you at one (better yet, all!) of our Club Concorsos in 2018!
– *Jeff Srinivasan, AROSC Concorso Director*



Auto Metal Works

2312¹/₂ W. 2nd Street, Santa Ana, CA 92703

714-953-3020

GARY TODISCO

World's Fastest Bookstore
Autobooks-Aerobooks
2900 W. Magnolia
in Burbank, Ca. since 1951
818-845-0707
www.autobooks-aerobooks.com

Lancia

Alfa Romeo

FIAT

Santo's Italian Car Service

Santo Rimicci
8816 Amigo Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324

Telephone
(818) 701 - 1614

Monday thru Friday 8 to 6, Saturday 9 to 3

View from Turn 3 – Back to School at The Streets



Street Performance students are ready to soak up the knowledge at last fall's World Famous AROSC Driving School. Terry Major photo.

There's nothing like spending a beautiful evening placing cones for the semi-annual play date with the water truck! It was the comp crew's set-up detail to ready the venue for our November 11-12 Alfa Romeo World Famous High Performance Driving School at The Streets of Willow, Willow Springs International Raceway.

The collection of cars enrolled in the Street Performance course was pretty cool, and numerous enough to require two classes. From Corvettes and Cadillacs to Mustangs, Porsches, Miatas, Coopers, and Subaru, BMW, Lotus, Fiat, Toyota, Audi, Datsun, Ford, Scion, Maserati, Mercedes, Honda, VW, Mitsubishi, Acura, even Alfa Romeo and Saab. Where else can you see such a mixture of vehicles all ripping it up on the skidpad as well as the track? Some people think these cars are made to commute to work, but are you kidding? This is what they were made to do, especially in the hands of all our capable students.

I spent the two days with many students, having conversations, sometimes one-sided, with mostly happy faces. Most of the info I provided was in reaction to the visual evidence from watching them lumber through a sometimes-tight chicane, (when the cones were stable) down a short chute, then to a very unforgiving right-hand corner onto the front straight. This is where the phrase "slow in, fast out" applies more than they realize, especially on the first day. Most were getting it on the second day. It is hard to get the students to use all the real estate that they paid for, but when they do a magical transformation occurs and the lap times fall by a lot. A perfect example was Alfa Club veteran instructor/driver Chris Mayring flying around the track in his Porsche 912 on Sunday. The students who saw Chris's drive found a lot more real estate in their next session.

There were some challenges, especially with the very important red flag shown at start/finish.

Other clubs use different rules, so there may have been some confusion, but in general drivers needed to improve their attention to the flags as well as the track. We must address this situation as an issue may arise on the track where you really need to get this right.

With the great California drought over for the moment, we had full use of a water truck for the skid pad sessions at The Streets, where it was the place to learn weight transfer and contact patch a little better. Would this help for future practice in the rain? On on-ramps? In big open parking lots? Naw, that would never happen, but this will help tons on the road for sure.



Fun with water in the desert, or the skid pad lesson: keeping the round-side down.

We welcomed back Judy Gaukel to the instructor roster for this weekend's school. She is extremely helpful showing how to work your car to the limit.

And her husband Bob accepted flagging duty and brought back the 60s! He almost put two feet on the track while jumping a foot in the air throwing the checkers for the afternoon graduation event. Can you say "Grand Prix"?

We were also fortunate to attract two of our old track buddies Nizam and April Zambri. This couple brought a bunch of their work buddies to the school from the Bay Area on more than one occasion, and when we see them it is like a homecoming every time.

Thank you again Nizam and April for your support. April brought a pretty cool car as well, but it is going to need some paint work on the bottom corners because she was using that car!



Nizam at the AROSC Holiday Party with Paul Blankenship, Norm Silverman and M.J. Kutkus. Photo by David Waelder.

Finally, we want to thank Kiem Tjong and her assistant Kevin, as they were working hard to give a helpful video presentation for the future, and Another special guest was Nate Hassler with his photographer wife Lisa. She was shooting the BMW Nate was driving, intended to become the subject of a spread in *European Car* magazine, highlighting his progress with the car and describing AROSC's school.

By the way, our instructors had almost as much fun as the students. Let's give a shout-out to Steve Hamilton, Terry Watson, Mike McKibbin, Paul Blankenship, Judy Gaukel, Greg Nelson, Beverly and Terry Major, Bruce Colby, Dennis Fibrow and Tony Presto.

Tell your friends that this is a real good time, and you get to learn stuff you only see on TV. I am not sure if Rockford went to this school but it sure looks like he did with his J-Turns. If you want to drive better, meet us here at the World Famous Alfa Romeo High Performance Driving School!

Check out the new competition website, alfaclubracing.com (thank you, Kiem Tjong for setting this up for us!) and view more at our other social media sites: Youtube - type - alfaclubracing.com; Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Arosc-High-Performance-Driving-165560270151783/>

Catch up with us next at our Race and TT Weekend, February 3rd-4th, Willow Springs International Raceway. – Terry Major text & photos



A & A IMPORT SERVICE

2ND GENERATION FACTORY TRAINED PERSONNEL

511 Richardson Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Emilio Valsecchi, Jr.
Owner

(805) 966-2498
email: aaimport@cox.net



Save the Date: March 2nd-4th
AROSC Featured at L.A. Classic Auto Show

We, your Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California, will again appear as a featured marque club in the second annual Los Angeles Classic Car Show, March 2nd-4th.

The show includes presentations from most of Southern California's major car clubs and a Walk of Fame comprising a selection of nearly 100 examples of the finest in automotive history and art. New this year there will also be a classic-related vendor area in Kentia Hall.

We will again have a 4,000 square-foot space in the South Hall in which to display 15 or more of AROSC's finest, erect a pop-up and a dispense information about our organization. Volunteers to help man the booth are welcome: speak up now via info@arosc.org

The show organizers have not yet released the identity of the Grand Marshall, but we have been told a host of automotive celebrities will be speaking and sitting on Q&A panels in the Celebrity Stage area (plenty of seating is provided).

Save the date, and watch this space for more details, including Club discounts.

– Norm Silverman



Donald Osborne, Jack Brown, Norm Silverman and the Giulia Quadrifoglio at the 2017 Classic Auto Show.



Lyon Air Museum & 2018 Concours – Save the Date & Participate!

On March 17th AROSC will visit the Lyon Air Museum, which exhibits aircraft, automobiles and memorabilia related to World War II. The museum will open for us at 9:30AM, and a docent-led tour will begin at 10AM. Admission will be \$11 for adults, \$8 for veterans and seniors.

The Lyon Air Museum was established by Major General William Lyon, who is somewhat of a legend. General Lyon flew in World War II and Korea, established a major home building company, William Lyon Homes, founded the airline “Air Cal”, has been a generous philanthropist, and also found time to build one of the world’s premier collections of vintage cars (which AROSC was privileged to visit several years ago).

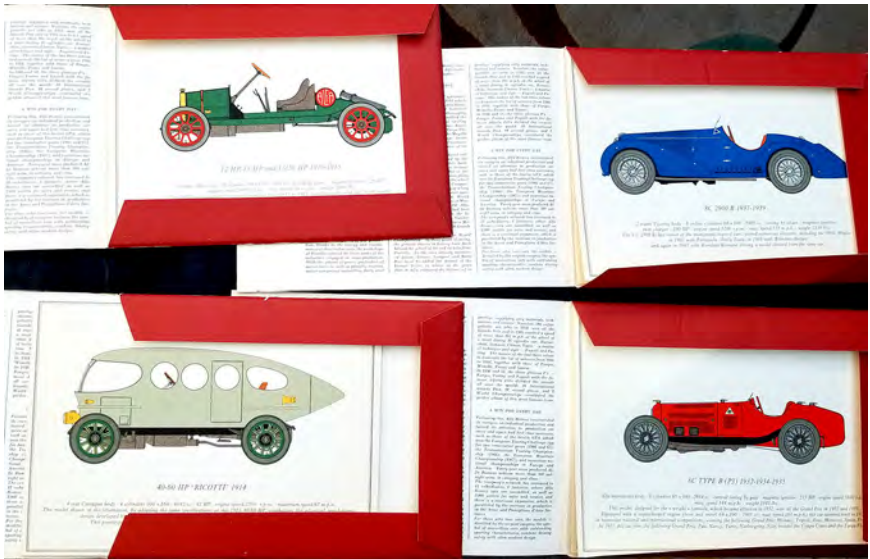
The Club’s first concours for 2018 will be held in the museum parking area. Participants should arrive any time after 8AM and plan to be ready for judging by 9:30AM. Let Jeff Srinivasan (rogueman1@mac.com) know if you wish to have your car judged or/or would like to volunteer as a judge. See pages 19-20 about changes to Concours classes for 2018

At 12:30PM, or thereabouts, we will leave the Lyon Museum and head for Basilico’s Pasta e Vino in Huntington Beach for a fabulous Italian lunch and concorso prizegiving. Basilico’s is located at 21501 Brookhurst Street, about 6 miles/15 minutes from the museum. Feel free to join us there at 1PM if you can’t make it to the museum. Please RSVP to info@arosc.org so we can give the restaurant a headcount.

The Lyon Air Museum is located at 9300 Ike Jones Road in Santa Ana, near the intersection of the 55 and 405 freeways. The closest exit is Bristol St. south from the 405. Visit the museum’s website for more information: <http://www.lyonairmuseum.org/visit-us>

– Jay Mackro

Classified – Cars/Parts For Sale



HISTORICAL ALFA ART PORTFOLIOS – I am cleaning out space at home, and have found two identical sets of old-model Alfa prints. They are 8.5” x 11” landscape format on cardstock with 14 different profile drawings in each set. They are both housed in red folios (folios are not pristine, but the prints are like new) \$35 per set. Shipping to be negotiated. Lloyd, 310.951.9097; lloydlehrer@gmail.com

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.