

ALFACIONADA

JANUARY 2020



Above: Holiday Party 2019 Story and Photos, Pages 12-16

Below, Laguna Seca Race Weekend Report, Pages 24-28



Coming Events, 4 • Best of France & Italy Report 18-22 • Classifieds 32-33

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Alfa Romeo
Owners of Southern California

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 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. Visit aroc-usa.org to join. Visit arosc.org for additional details on our Chapter.

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, *Alficionada*, 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.

On the Cover This Month

Top: At the 2019 Holiday Party, New Prez Jim and Elyse Barrett award AROSC Certificates of Appreciation to David and Susan Waelder and to Steve Edelman for their ongoing contributions of photographic work to this newsletter, and the Club in general. MJ Kutkus took this with David's camera. Bottom: Art Russell heads down Laguna Seca's Corkscrew in his near-legendary Ferrous Oxide Special GTV. Photo by CaliPhoto.

AROSC Board of Directors, 2020

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

Jim & Elyse Barrett
714.642.1593

Vice President

John Britton
johnbritton.au@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Jay Mackro
treasurer@arosc.org

Secretary

M.J. & Sheila Kutkus
310.542.3448

Competition Director

Don Wagner
dwagner302@twc.com

Social Chair

Jan Cline
alfa92708@yahoo.com

Membership Chair

Norm & Evie Silverman
normanbev@msn.com

Concours Director

Jeff Srinivasan
rogueman1@mac.com

At Large

Chris Burke and Mike Riehle
310.780.5427

Newsletter Editor

Elyse Barrett
emb.editorial@gmail.com

Committees

Technical: Gene Brown
Website: Mike Riehle, Webmaster
Newsletter Design/Production
Will Owen – 626.644-7173
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 26 – AROSC Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, Palos Verdes Estates. See adflyer on page 11.

February 15-16 – TT and Race Weekend, Big Willow. See adflyer page 29.

March 1 – Board of Directors Meeting.

March 8 – Alfa Romeo Day at Russell Westbrook Motorcars, Van Nuys. Details on page 17.

March 28 – Spring Day Drive, Orange County. See info on page 23.



Note: Board of Directors meetings are held quarterly. Dates are posted in the Events Calendar. Anyone with business to bring before the Board is requested to please contact II Presidente Jim Barrett.



Your 2020 Board of Directors, L-R: Don Wagner, Competition; Norm and Evie Silverman, Membership; Chris Burke and Mike Riehle, At Large; Jim and Elyse Barrett, President; Jay Mackro, Treasurer with Catherine Kusnick; Jeff Srinivasan, Concorso Director; Jan Cline, Social Chair; front row Sheila and (back right) MJ Kutkus, Secretary. Absent: John Britton, Vice President. Photo by MJ Kutkus.

See additional notice of our recent events on our website, arosc.org



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

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



**Auto Metal
Works**

2312^{1/2} W. 2nd Street, Santa Ana, CA 92703

714-953-3020

GARY TODISCO

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

Swan Song

My hearty congratulations and best wishes to our new Il Presidente, Jim Barrett. The past nine years have been mostly a pleasure, but it is time for new leadership with new ideas. I was surprised and pleased when Jim stepped up and volunteered to take the job. Actually, the job of President is not the most demanding position on the Board. Our Editor, Concorso Director, Competition Director and even our Webmaster spend every bit as much time doing their jobs. But this position requires someone who can not only lead, but communicate and work across both sides of the aisle, so to speak, to help the Board reach a consensus on difficult issues. I'm confident that Jim has what it takes to do a great job going forward. — *Mike & Chris*

Ciao, Alfisti!

We must each make a special point of thanking Mike for his amazing service to our Club. Did you know he is the Guinness World Records-verified longest-serving AROSC President, ever? And I am so fortunate to follow him in this position with the successes he accomplished for AROSC. Financial and legal guidance when we needed it, the sage running observations on how to maintain a special '59 Sprint; technical knowledge of '50s through '60s Alfa Romeos and a great sense humor. As with any effective leader, he has the great support of his wife, Chris, who continues to make significant contributions to this Club.

So, what are we doing in the New Year?

Some lucky AROSC members (about 35) just attended the AROC Mid-Year Retreat, January 17-19. It was practically in our backyard, and featured lots of fun activities and has become our "Palm Springs Weekend".

At the same time, our beloved High Performance Driving School ran at the Streets of Willow in the Willow Springs International Raceway complex in Rosamond.

On January 26th we will have our Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in Palos Verdes. Please plan to attend, applaud our 2019 high-point winners, and learn more about what's in store for for 2020. Get more information and RSVP per the info on page 11.

On the weekend of February 15-16 we will be back on the track at Willow Springs for the Time Trial and Race Weekend. Information can be found in *Join Us at the Track*, page 29.

We are also planning a showing of our cool vintage and 21st century Alfas at another Alfa dealer in the Los Angeles area on March 8th, just as we did so successfully at Santa Monica Alfa Romeo in 2019.

Also in March we have a Board of Directors meeting on the first, and an excellent day drive in the OC on March 28th. You'll find drive details are on page 23.

TECH GUY ... *Cars: Dumb to Smart*

For the first half of the 20th century there wasn't much in the way of electronics in cars. The only item that could be considered "electronics" was the tube radio; everything else was electric.

In 1947 the transistor was invented at Bell Labs, a big step in making electronics more compact and reliable, and its first use in automobiles was probably in radios. The integrated circuit (IC) was first produced in 1958 by Texas Instruments. This made automotive electronics a bit more compact, but such products were mostly restricted to radios and ignition systems. By the late 1970s electronic fuel injection was becoming



popular, spurred by emissions control requirements and the decreasing cost of electronics. In 1971 Intel introduced the first microprocessor. It took a while, but these powerful little bits eventually started showing up in automobiles, notably by Cadillac using one for their trip computer in 1978. Today the latest S-class Mercedes has about 100 microprocessors/microcontrollers in it.

Why do we now have so many microprocessors in our cars, and what do they all do? It seems like every function in an automobile needs a microprocessor or microcontroller (a more specialized microprocessor). In the days of yore, the automobile contained switches (lights, ignition) and they were all connected by wires. As the number of electrical items increased (power windows, power seats, power antenna) so did the number of wires.

As the electronics revolution rolled into automotive engineering and manufacturing, the use of microcontrollers could facilitate communication among all the different electronics with a bus. A bus is kind of like a telephone system for your car. Each piece of electronics has an address (telephone number) and they all talk across the same wire. So each piece of electronics only requires two wires, power and the bus line. You can take a group of switches, mount them to a circuit board, add a microcontroller to read the switches and to answer the bus. When the main controller wants to know if a switch is pressed, it calls the switch microcontroller via the bus and the microcontroller tells which switches are on and which are off. The main controller can use this information to call a motor and turn it on or off. Of course the motor has its own microcontroller to talk to the bus and control the motor.

This is greatly simplified, but the number of wires in the car has been reduced, or at least it should be. It seems that if someone can think of it, an engineer at a car

company will figure out how to add it, along with several circuit boards, motors, switches and displays. Think of all the things on the latest Giulia that were not on any GTV6. A GTV6 has an odometer and a trip odometer, both mechanical. Today cars have a "Trip Computer" which includes the odometer, a couple of trip odometers, elapsed time clock and an electronic display. And you can choose to keep track of either miles or kilometers.

And then there are power seats, power windows, GPS, climate control (in both Fahrenheit and Celsius), seat heaters, AM/FM/satellite radio, automatic wipers. The list just goes on and on. And every one of these has an associated microcontroller. Even the outside mirrors have two motors, a motor driver IC and a microcontroller in each mirror. I remember when it was fancy to have a remote driver's side mirror operated by cables. And remember cable operated heater vents? Now they are run by switches, motors and microcontrollers.

While the microcontroller can communicate over buses, there are many microcontrollers needing to communicate and there are several different buses to handle all the talking. The typical car today has about 200 pounds of electronics and about a mile of wiring. And most of the added electronics are for comfort and convenience, and have nothing to do with basic car operation.

While electronics are very reliable today, lots of cars are on the road for 20 or more years. Prior to the current Alfas being sold in the U.S., the newest Alfa you could buy was the 164, which is now 25+ years old. Electronics generally are not designed to serve for such a lifetime. And when the electronics do fail it can be quite expensive to replace them. It's not as if there are factories overseas cranking out aftermarket ECU for Alfas.

In my humble opinion, cars today have become appliances: people use them until an irreparable part fails and then throw them out. It makes sense for the microwave oven, TV or phone, but to junk a car because you can't buy or reproduce a piece of electronics just doesn't seem right.

Welcome to the modern world.

– Gene Brown



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

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

AROSC Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

Salsa Verdes in Palos Verdes Estates

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

Sunday – January 26, 2020; Noon – 4:00 pm



**2019 Wrap-Up
2020 Kick-Off**



**2325 Palos Verdes Dr West,
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274
(424) 206-9456**

**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,
Tortellini Bolognese,
Chicken Picatta,
Shrimp Pasta, Antipasto,
Green Salad, Breads,
Soda, Iced Tea, Lemonade
--- and Dessert !!**



**Please RSVP to Sheila by Tuesday, January 21st
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.

Holiday Party 2019



All the usual suspects and then some gather for the usual happy group photo. Too many to name, as always, but if you think it looks like fun you're right. MJ Kutkus photo.

Our year-end celebration at MJ and Sheila's "Clubhouse" in Redondo Beach was a party of more than 50 Alfisti, as members and guests from the social side and those active in our track competitions joined together for holiday fun.

Our excellent hosts barbecued 10 pounds of beef tenderloin filet on the spit, whipped up a big batch of South Carolina pulled pork, and grilled a school of wild Alaskan cod as the main course. Delicious side dishes provided by members were prepared with care and skill: casseroles, latkes, kale salad, teriyaki rumaki, fluffy fruit salad and more. Sheila thanks the many ladies and gents who participated in this culinary extravaganza.



Pat, Scott and Margaret are our lead carolers. Photo by David Waelder

Music for the party was provided by member Pat Quilter playing exquisite holiday melodies on steel guitar. Pat is an accomplished musician and his tunes brought an air of elegance to our Alfa event. Sheila passed out a three-song sheet to get the caroling started, then we all continued to sing other favorites. It is amazing how good we sound after a visit to the wine tasting table!



Left, Helen's pretty pots with well-chosen succulents grace this table Right, Gene with Helen and friend Niko. David Waelder photos.

On display and for sale were lovely ceramic pots by Helen Brown, planted with succulents of various kinds and shapes. The wonderfully artistic designs included an outsized Alfa-specific pot holding a gorgeous Christmas cactus; this lovely piece graced the indoor dining table.

Newly elected AROSC presidents Jim and Elyse Barrett called the crowd to order to go over upcoming Club events, and to introduce the 2020 Board of Directors. As the first order of business, they awarded Certificates of Appreciation to longtime newsletter contributors and standout photographers, Steve Edelman and David and Susan Waelder, in honor of their many and ongoing contributions to the Club in the form of images, insights, support and good humor. Thank you for your generosity.



Margaret and Sheila share the fun as Jan gets a door prize. David Waelder photo.



Left, a holiday bounty of potatoes, pulled pork, chile relleno casserole, quiches and other seasonal wonders. Right, sumptuous salads! Elyse Barrett 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. Always of help, Norm tended the tasting table, providing corkage service on request. Little did we know he started a tip jar, the forever entrepreneur!



Margaret and Norm at the tasting table. D. Waelder.

Sheila, with a little help from friends, led a lively drawing of the traditional bounty of door prizes. Thanks to the Board members who contributed many of these fun and sometimes funny items.

As the afternoon waned, we said our farewells and the reviews rolled in: “We love your parties!”, “Fabulous Holiday Party!”, “We had a wonderful time!”, “Thank you for another great event!”. What’s not to love about this party? – Sheila Kutkus



Top left: John and MJ at the grill with beef on spit; right, Susan and Evelyn. Left: Jan and fabulous quilt with Pat W. and Mary B. Below, Musician Pat with MJ, Jim and Elyse. All photos David Waelder.





Above, convivial gathering at the bar: Gene and Paul presiding, Chuck and Susan conversing, Mike (left) supervising. Right, Sharon and Bob are enjoying the food, the wine and the day. Both photos by David Waelder.



Russell Westbrook Alfa Romeo Van Nuys

Alfa Day in the Valley, March 8th



*Classic and modern Alfas will grace the lot at Russell Westbrook Alfa Romeo March 8th**

Our 2020 calendar now includes a super springtime show-off opportunity – to become the center of a special Alfa Day at Russell Westbrook Alfa Romeo of Van Nuys on March 8th.

Shine and show up at about 9AM and spend the morning test driving Giulias and Stelvios; grilling the sales staff on topics related to those new models; getting to know the dealership; hanging out with some Valley and northwest-L.A. members we may not see often, and enjoying a selection of beverages and snacks.

We will get to share our cars' stories with an enthusiastic cadre of recent purchasers who want to learn more about what it means to be an *Alfista*.

Russell Westbrook Alfa Romeo is been in operation here since last summer and wants to expand its base in the greater Los Angeles area. Let's lend a hand. Our esteemed Membership Chair Norm and Evelyn Silverman recently acquired a gorgeous silver 2019 Stelvio from this store, so that's a very good start.

RSVPs are being accepted now through February 29th. Email Elyse Barrett at emb.editorial@gmail.com with the number in your party and what Alfa you'll be driving. It will be a fun day!

Date: March 8th

Time: 9AM - 2PM

Location: 5711 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401; 818.962.4502

Mandatory: Vintage and Current Alfas You'll be given a placard to fill out and place on your car's windshield.

Optional: Bring a folding chair if you want to sit with your car. You may come without your car and still take advantage of the test drive opportunities.

– Elyse Barrett

** David Waelder photo.*

Best of France & Italy 2019

OUR FINEST FALL FESTIVAL



Woodley Park, Van Nuys CA, on 3 November 2019: Cars, people and sky. WO photo.

It just never gets old.

Every year, *Alfisti* from all over Southern California run what they bring, and we scamper across the park to enjoy discovering new and seldom-seen cars and meet some memorable characters. This past November there were about 75 Alfas on the almost-green lawns of Woodley Park in Van Nuys for Tina Van Curen and Chuck Forward's 26th Best of France and Italy. Our chapter's gang numbered more than 25 people, coming and going through *Il Campo di AROSC*. Evelyn and Norm provided the main course of San Carlo's Italian deli delights and breads under the red pop-ups, while the rest of us brought pastas, salads, dips'n chips, libations (San Pellegrino now comes in eight-packs of 11-oz. cans) and other picnic accoutrements.

The French automobile contingent never disappoints, and a fine array of Citroens congregated under the pines at the north end of the property. One wagon was repurposed as a yellow submarine; our hosts' gorgeous Traction Avant glowed an astral white and sprouted a forest of tiny Tour Eiffels on top, and more. Our Fiat cousins showed a lovely Dino, pristine Multipla and multiple X1/9s, plus a Jolly or three. And then there was "The Arrival of Jay" – Leno, of course, in one of his Bestione specials. A highlight of the day that also never gets old!

The vendor row was entertaining as always, showing us things we would need, if we did, and more that we would want, once we know about them. How about chili pepper magnets, a hooked rug with Alfa logo, a doormat with Ferrari script, vintage glass bottles from Italy and France, and so much more.

Until next year, we love ya BoF&I!

– *Elyse & Will*



Top, Mr. Leno salutes on arrival. Below, Jay, Randy and Catherine admire vintage Spider. Bottom, 1994 Spider is now legal, but not in CA. All photos David Waelder.





The Official AROSC Banquet Hall. Not fancy, but the food's sure good. Jim Barrett photo.



Giulietta SS was clearly the Belle of the Ball. Steve Edelman photo.

Scouting among the vendors, we find lots of stuff Alfa and Fiat owners really, really need! Elyse Barrett did the hard work for us ...



How the Other Half Boogies ...

On the French side, our hosts' immaculate Traction Avant celebrated the Citroen marque's 100th Birthday with 100 bleu, blanc et rouge Eiffel Towers in lieu of candles. Elyse Barrett photo.



Your Correspondent was just about to take a photo of the black and red Bugatti when he had to step aside to let its black and yellow twin park alongside! We are not up on our Bugatti Types so we can't tell you what they are, other than gorgeous. WO photo.



And now for something completely different. Steve McCarthy took on a rotting hulk of a Citroen DS wagon, and not only restored it to an immaculate state but went, well, a few steps beyond ... just because he is that kind of goofball. What kind? I think this magnificent Yellow Submarine says it all. Long may he wave! WO photo.

There are Italians Other Than Alfas ...

The Fiat Jolly was a special "Beach Car" body built mostly on the 600 base, as this one is. With the goofy surrey top and wicker seats, it was just odd enough to attract buyers who could afford the extra money, and still is a popular resto project. Is this your chance? Go for it! Steve Edelman photo.



The first Italian car we truly adored was a Lancia Aurelia GT, priced at \$1500 when that was real money. Its successor was the Flaminia, here as coupe and drop-top. Below, the Appia was Lancia's small car. Too complex to be cheap, still popular enough to go through several updates. The Spider next to it may be an Appia too. WO photos.



2020 Spring Day Drive – a Giro de OC



Spring in Southern California this year will be lush, green and framed by golden poppy and purple lupine blooms, so let's get out into nature a bit on March 28th for our first AROSC Day Drive, around and about in greater Orange County.

The plan is to for early birds to meet at a freeway-close Cars & Coffee, then be joined by the sleepy heads for a pastry at a landmark bakery. We'll loaf along some lovely neighborhood roads on our way inland, take a few loops through the chaparral-filled canyons and wash up on the shore of Newport's Back Bay.

We're into iconography so we may be visiting a historic home and taking a short but special boat ride in the comfort of our cars! Lunch is intended to be at a hip restaurant – details TBD.

The “wow” feature of the day will come after lunch when we visit one of the world's preeminent collections of California Impressionist art.

Sound interesting? We think it does!

Mark your calendars, save the date – Saturday, March 28th – and come drive with us.

More information available as we ink the route. Questions may be directed to Elyse Barrett, emb.editorial@gmail.com



View from Turn 3

Laguna Seca 2019

Welcome to the Symphony

By Terry Major, Beverly Major and Brad Gray



John Wolf has a quiet moment above Turn 4. Beverly Major photo.

After an evening trip to Santa Rosa Beverly and I ended up at Laguna Seca on Saturday morning, rolling into a large paddock with over 200 weekend entries, thanks in part to Brad Gray who appeared to have brought a small city with him. He entertained two dozen friends and family for lunch both days. Having grown up on the Monterey Peninsula, he invited his high school and college friends, who accounted for 27 individual entries for the weekend. Brad served pulled pork sandwiches and potato salad Saturday, wild mushroom and chicken pasta on Sunday.

Brad as well put a deal together with his Mom Sheila Vaughn, adding the Santa Cruz Symphony League to the Luncheon Track Tour! The Santa Cruz Symphony League joined us Sunday for a sold-out Track Tour fundraiser during the lunch break. It was hugely successful and we hope to see some of the participants at future events. Symphony League participants were treated to great instruction by Paul Blankenship and Norm Silverman, as well as lunch prepared by Brad's mom and other Symphony League members.

Well, the weather was perfect; we have been lucky the last few times at Laguna Seca. We are Alfa Club and this time there were Lots of Alfas! And what about the blonde track entry person at the booth. That person's name is Turbo!

Don Wagner and Paul Blankenship had many responsibilities for the weekend. Beverly and I were giving a hand where we could among the many other volunteers. We took over the Intro group class as Paul was talking to the Symphony. And Don got to drive the Ian Stewart Lemons Car a session for some gratification! Terry



Mad Max Spider leads a too-clean 4C through Turn 5. CaliPhoto.

Watson was the Alfa Club Competition Director last year, but this year relaxed and drove the RX-7 through the sessions.

Let's start with incidences on the track. 1st session track oiled down needing Advance to litter track with oil dry as well as Sunday's last session. There was also a Porsche 911 that oiled the track from 8 to 9. It turns out it was antifreeze. He left on a tow truck. Advance kept busy with plenty of towing in between!

One Intro group gal driving an Alfetta spun during lunch. Not too common! My old racecar #10 sold to the Wolfs (now #75), was doing a great job until the last two sessions, one off in 9 and next Colin pulling out due to a left rear wheel bearing. The Wolfs may bring two cars to the next Driving School in January at the Streets of Willow.

Nizam and April Zambri were here in full force with three track Alfas. They are on the A list as they brought friends and more importantly donated some crucial libations to the evening's festivities.



Yes, you CAN take your sedan to Laguna! You might even do pretty well, if it's the right kind ...

CaliPhoto.



Nizam shreds ahead of a 4C in Turn 3. CaliPhoto.

Magnum was there with a 308 Ferrari in TT. Sean Dynes is the PI driving this time. John Lafferty was present with his Miata. We met at Willow, while he was entered at the Streets with Extreme. It is great to see him here.

Andrew Petreas was driving an Alfa 4C. I saw his Fiat X19. He lent it to his nephew Nikolaos Tsombanoglou. That's a good relative!

This is the 1st time we have seen Ray Gonzaga for many years. The last time I think he had some sort of Toyota Starlet with turbos. He spun that time and still won the open race! This time a '84 Toyota Corolla Fastback, but now with Turbo!

Greg Nelson dropped his time here by three-four seconds per lap in a Miata to a 146.289 and was pretty happy. He was trying to get through turn 4 and turn 6 flat footed! His gal Stacy drove lots of laps in the race car during Intro Group!



"Line'em up Paul." Alfa Run Group and Parade Lap participants enjoy a sundown moment. CaliPhoto.

Race Group at Laguna Seca was a bit smaller than usual, but the racing was fast and furious. Between the two qualifiers and two points races, there were at least 15 lead changes between five drivers (Brad Gray, Tim Auger, Greg Nelson, Bryan Selby and Gary Glazier). There was some confusion, as Laguna Seca threw the checkered flag in Turn 8 in a couple of the races. Terry Watson and Gian Cardinale had a great battle Sunday. New to us racers Tim Auger, Christopher Reiter and Joe Rombi did a great job and are welcome back anytime. In the end, nobody had anything for Bryan Selby's BMW M3, which won both points races.

Gary Glazier and Brian Selby both got two black flags for sound but got through the Sunday Open Race Final. Both in super fast BMWs. There were some very creative sound restrictive exhaust pipes. Gary got black flagged in the Saturday final. 92 DB was ok for MOST entries. Gary blew a head gasket in the Sunday Open Race, while Gian Cardinale spun in 5 with Terry Watson and Ian Stewart both avoiding contact. Brad Gray was fast in the #30 Mustang, but ran into fuel problems throughout the Race!

To end it all on Sunday, all Alfas got a photo shoot under the start-finish Bridge. Great pics by CaliPhoto.

Special thanks to all of the Laguna corner workers, Advance Fire and Keri, the track supervisor who was very helpful ironing out some loose ends needed at the end of the weekend!

The Octagon Building that was on the front straight is Gone! Some things go, but it evens out. And speaking of evening out, the next time we have an event at Laguna Seca it will be repaved (the work is scheduled for October).

Race Hero is an online timing system we will be using regularly for sure as it allows you to view live timing, by looking at your phone through an easy app. Keep on the lookout for info in the near future.

A great way to finish the weekend is breakfast at the Toro Café up the road toward Salinas from Laguna Seca. Waitress Brenda has served us there for over 20 years. Try the egg, chili peppers and mushroom scramble with plenty of hot sauce. It's a real wake-up meal for the ride home.

Mark your calendars for the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California High-Performance Driving School, January 18-19, 2020 at the Streets!

From the Cockpit to the Corkscrew we will see you next time as you "Put it on the Track".

Additional thanks to CaliPhotography for shooting so many excellent action images of our Laguna Seca race weekend participants. Visit www.caliphotography.com and instagram: @caliphotovideo; facebook: @caliphotography



Mario Cano in Turn 2. Laguna is not only a fine and challenging track, but a uniquely scenic one as well. Beverly Major photo.

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

Join Us At the Track!

Just starting out, experienced or a racer?
We have a run group just for you!
All marques are welcome.
You don't have to drive an Alfa to run with us!

Alfa Romeo
Owners of Southern California

2020 Schedule

Jan 18-19	HPDE School, Streets of Willow
Feb 15-16	Big Willow, DE, TT & Race
Sept 12-13	HPDE School, Streets of Willow
Oct 10-11	TT & Race Weekend, Big Willow
Dec 30-31	TT & Race Weekend, Laguna Seca



You can sign up for our track events at
www.alfaclubracing.com
or at motorsportreg.com



Stelvio en Paradiso

Sporting *alta* California plates, but definitely driven off pavement to park at this Rancho La Bufadora home overlooking Bahia Papalote with Pica Banda in the distance, is this lovely new Stelvio. Looking the totally modern, capable sport ute it is, we're sure it will fulfill its destiny of becoming an enjoyable international touring partner here in Baja California and beyond. – *Elyse and Jim Barrett*



La Jolla Concours Invites Us

Every year AROSC endorses several favorite events, mostly are shows we love but don't attend as official Chapter activities.

We added the La Jolla Concours d'Elegance to the blessed list for 2020 and behold, an invitation arrived in the mailbox from our San Diego Chapter brethren. They attend annually and AROSCD president Lance Dong and our own treasurer Jay Mackro, have been judges for several seasons.

The some top-tier Alfas are being sought to participate in this very classy event, April 17-18. Registration is open now for the main show on the green (not the La Jolla Car Classic that is typically on the street).

This is always a great event and a great chance to showcase your classic or vintage Alfa Romeo. Visit <https://www.lajollaconcours.com/> for particulars and consider signing up!



FIAT



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

Classified – Cars/Parts For Sale



FOR SALE 1986 GRADUATE SPIDER – Moving: Must sell! This white over black cream puff is fun to drive anywhere! Low mileage (114k), excellent condition, original and near-perfect. No rust or collision damage, ever! Starts easily, runs great, and passes California smog tests. Appraised at \$15,600 to \$18,600, now offered at \$6,400. Call 559.688.8844 (land line), or message 559.631.0804 (NO TEXTS PLEASE).

FOR SALE AMB RECHARGEABLE TRANSPONDER – Complete, in its original box, and comes with all charging accessories, it has been slowly used about one weekend a year. Maintained and charged to factory specs, and is in excellent condition. Unit is grandfathered in and needs NO SUBSCRIPTION. \$425.00 plus shipping from Reno, NV. Call 480.261.9987 or email alfaoro@yahoo.com

Classified – Cars/Parts For Sale

FOR SALE, TRADE OR? MILANO & SPIDER PARTS – I want to sell the new parts, and trade or give away the used parts. **New Milano parts**, purchased from IAP, but never used: Steering rack boots, 2 available. Milano Gold rear sway bar bushings upper, 4 and lower links, 4. Shock bushings, 4 - 34036000 and 3 - 34037000. Therm housing, 1. Rear sway bar bushings, 2. **Spider parts** that have been in storage: New main seal, red, I think for a 2000; the buyer would have to look at it. Used but re-buildable clutch slave, buyer to inspect. External door handle for a 1974, broken, but many parts look useable if yours are worn. “Organic” brake pads, in box, never used (unknown which end of the car these were purchased for, not a full set). Call or email Guy Berger, 949.278.9539 / gjosephberger@gmail.com

Classified (non-commercial) Advertising

Classified ads are published in Alfacionada as a free service to the Alfa Romeo community. Content must be Alfa-related! Suggested length is 60 words. Include price, location and contact info. Photos must be in-focus JPEGs, at least 50KB to 300KB in size; cellphone images are permissible. Send us your text and photos and your ad will be published in the next three issues. If you wish an extension, or if your item sells, please let us know within two weeks of your ad’s last appearance, at these email addresses: emb.editorial@gmail.com and nashwill912@earthlink.net

Commercial Advertising

AROSC wants to help you get your products and services in front of our members and friends. Our prices are for an annual run. Your company name and contact info will also appear on our website. Email queries to emb.editorial@gmail.com for a rate sheet and more information.



2020 AROSC Events Calendar

Here's your Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California Year At-A-Glance

From the deserts to the sea, from the downtowns to the 'burbs, among the oaks, in the hills and on the greens of Southern California, we will roll out this year's Chapter events for you to enjoy with driving pals old and new. Concorsi, collections, high-performance driving experiences, a fabulous wine tour, dining adventures and day drives, plus major national events and seasonal celebrations have been planned just for you. Events we love but aren't officially attending as a Chapter are demarked by the note: (Non-Club).

Save this file to your device of choice for reference throughout the year. This and a booklet-style printable version are posted to the Club website, www.arosc.org. Updates will be made when an event detail is confirmed or changed, and a refreshed calendar will be posted.

You're invited! So set aside some Alfa Time, and come drive with us!

JANUARY

17-19 – AROC Mid-Year Retreat, Palm Desert

18-19 – High Performance Driving School, Streets of Willow

26 – Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, Palos Verdes



FEBRUARY

15-16 – TT & Race Weekend, Big Willow



MARCH

- 1** – Board of Directors Meeting
- 8** – Alfa Day at Russell Westbrook Alfa Romeo, Van Nuys
- 28** – Spring Day Drive, Orange County



APRIL

- 17-19** – La Jolla Concours d'Elegance, San Diego (Non-Club)
- 24-26** – Temecula Tour, Temecula



MAY

- 3** – Petersen Visit, Los Angeles
- 31** – Board of Directors Meeting



JUNE

- 7** – Huntington Beach Concours d'Elegance + Club Concorso #1, Huntington Central Park
- 14** – San Marino Motor Classic, Lacy Park, San Marino (Non-Club)
- 28** – Highway Earth Car Show, Los Angeles (Non-Club)



JULY

12 – Summer Day Drive,
Malibu Hills

22-26 – AROC National
Convention, Colorado
Springs, Colorado



AUGUST

2 – Summer Party, Huntington
Beach

8-16 – Monterey Car Week +
AROSC Welcome Dinner (8/13)

30 – Board of Directors Meeting



SEPTEMBER

12-13 – HPDE Driving School,
Streets of Willow

19/20 – Fall Day Drive, Angeles
Crest



OCTOBER

10-11 – TT & Race Weekend,
Big Willow

17/18 – Yanks Air Museum Visit +
Club Concorso #2, Chino



NOVEMBER

- 1 – Best of France & Italy Show, Van Nuys
- 3 – 2021 Board Election Notice/Ballots
- 22 – 2021 Board Planning Meeting



DECEMBER

- 12 – Holiday Party, Redondo Beach
 - 30-31 – TT & Race Weekend + New Year's Party, Laguna Seca
- Photo courtesy CaliPhotography*



PARTING SHOT



Jeff and Margaret Srinivasan's 1974 Spider, concorso class winner at the 2013 AROC National convention, appeared like this in the December 2019 Alfa Owner centerfold. Bellissima! Steve Edelman photo.