

ALFACIONADA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020



Holiday Party! 12 & 19 • Elections 11 • Virtual Life 22

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 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 AROC 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.

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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 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: Richard and Barbara Priebe's Spider at Cottonwood Canyon Winery, a stop on our 2018 Vineyard Tour, photographed by Steve Edelman. In the forced absence of any such current events, your Alfacionada crew thought it would be good to show some of what we need to remember, and to hope for a speedy return to what we want to regard as "normal." And congratulations to Steve for this photo's being chosen for the centerfold in the October Alfa Owner.

Below: Meanwhile, a semblance of Normal is still occurring in the desert at Willow Springs, where racers continue to compete sans spectators, and after being found plague-free. This photo of Dennis White and his GTV was taken by Norm Silverman. More pics and the story on pages 14-17.

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>

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

November 1 – Best of France & Italy cancelled.

November 5 – 2021 Election Ballots emailed to all members.

November 15 – Voting closes at 10PM.

December 12 – Virtual Holiday Party! Info on pages 12 and 19.

January 15-17 – AROC Winter Retreat postponed. See adflyer page 18.

January 16-17 – HPDE School, Streets of Willow. See calendar page 17

January 2021 – Awards Banquet cancelled.



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.



One of our favorite non-club events has long been the Best of France & Italy shows, held in early November at Woodley Park in Van Nuys. Although some outdoor car shows can now be held, L.A. County parks are closed until further notice, so this year's event is cancelled. This photo was taken at the 2006 event by Will Owen.

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

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Avanti e Verso l'Auto!

Good day to all!

We hope you all are making the best of it in these incredible times. Who could have even predicted such a predicament?

Our Chapter is looking for engaging ways to still have fun, and stay in touch with each other. Our monthly Happy Hour, held via Zoom on the second Friday, has proven to be a viable way to share our experiences, and catch up with our Alfa pals. Everyone gets a reminder during the week and when you RSVP, we forward you a link to the meeting. If you haven't joined in before, try it, you'll like it!



As a result of our meetings and musings, your Board has been able to consider stepping out of our bubbles, uh, garages for a drive or two. Two tours, that you can take individually, are under development. There may be treasure hunts and/or distanced picnics in the near future. If you have an idea, we welcome more suggestions and event leaders. We have found the premier governing factor in planning any outing is identifying a safe and clean restroom stop. Our health depends on it.

Our annual planning meeting for next year will be held virtually on Sunday, November 22, and we're looking for ideas. Our intention is to complete a full yet tentative (!) schedule of activities for 2021. What do you want to do?

Due to popular demand, emphasized through our Happy Hour exchanges, we're very happy to confirm that the annual Holiday Party has been returned to our Events Calendar! It will proceed virtually on December 12, and it's the 20th anniversary edition! More information appears on pages 12 and 19.

Also, it's time for the annual AROSC election for members of your Board of Directors. You should see your ballots soon. See details on page 11.

Our AROC national Board of Directors has also been busy, announcing some plusses and some minuses. Among the developments: a new series of "Saturdays at 4", produced by the Detroit Chapter, will return to the AROC YouTube Channel; the Winter Retreat in Palm Desert has been postponed to 2021 and we have some fun new merchandise to shop for on the aroc-usa.org website. Check out the goods: lapel pins and window stickers, beach towels and flags, fleece pullovers and facemasks, and more. Elyse and I have our masks already and we also invested in a

flag – all the pieces are pretty slick! Visit https://aroc.membershipsoftware.org/store_category.asp?id=2

And, let's put our hands together for chapter members who boosted AROSC's profile by recently contributed to the national magazine, *Alfa Owner*. In October, Steve Edelman landed another centerfold, this one a portrait of Rich and Barbara Priebe's lovely spider at Cottonwood Canyon Winery in 2018 (and on this *Alfionada's* cover). In the November issue, Mike Baum has contributed a very cool two-part story about a TZ and its driver, this will be part one. Look for both of these pieces!

Hoping you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy. Let's see you a Happy Hour soon, make plans to attend the Holiday Party, and vote.

*Ciao, Jim & Elyse
Copresidenti*



TECH GUY ... *In Pursuit of Trivia*

In the current new normal of do-with-less, stay-at-home self-containment, people have had to fill the time with things that can be done at home. It has become the perfect time for that deferred maintenance on the Alfa or cleaning the garage and putting all the tools in their proper spot.

In my case, I decided that it's time to clean some automotive trivia out of my head. So here I go.

In 1969 General Motors began installing steering column locks as a federally mandated anti-theft device. The other manufacturers followed in 1970 when the law went into effect. However, Ford had a steering column lock as factory equipment from 1932 through 1948.

The first use of caliper-style automotive disc brakes was on the 1950 Crosley Hot Shot. They were only available for six months and were withdrawn due to reliability issues. The first mass-production use of disc brakes was on the 1955 Citroën DS..

One of the things that made the Ford flathead V8 so important is the fact that it was the first V8 engine with the crankcase and cylinders cast as a single unit. This greatly reduced manufacturing costs and allowed Ford to offer it in all of its models from 1932 on.

Alfa Romeo was the first manufacturer to use Variable Valve Timing (VVT) in production cars, as introduced in the 1980 Spider..

Henry Leland (1843-1932) was hired by the owners of the Henry Ford Company (after Ford was ousted) to help liquidate the company. He instead suggested reorganizing the company and producing a new car. The new company was called Cadillac. Cadillac was sold to General Motors in 1909 but Leland remained until 1917. Leland started a new company to build V12 Liberty aircraft engines. He called the company the Lincoln Motor Company. When the Lincoln Motor Company fell on hard times in 1922 it was bought by Henry Ford at a less than market-value price. Ford was still mad at Leland for his connection to Ford's first company

Carl Switzer (1927-1959) starred as Alfalfa in the "Our Gang" comedies from 1935 to 1940. In 1957 he was in the movie "Motorcycle Gang". He went from Our Gang to Motorcycle Gang; quite a range!

Albert Champion (1878-1927) formed the Albert Champion Company making spark plugs with the Champion name on them. In 1908, he left the company and started the Campion Ignition Company making spark plugs for General Motors. Sued by his former business partners, he changed the company name to AC Spark Plugs. He was also a French bicycle racer winning over 100 races in France and the United States.



The Fiat 124 engine was the first mass-produced engine to use a timing belt to drive twin camshafts. It was produced from 1966 to 2000. Different variants of the engine were used in Fiat, Lancia, Morgan FSO (Poland) and Alfa Romeo cars.

From 1952 to 1954, Fiat produced a car with a 70-degree 8V engine displacing 2 liters. Fiat called it the “8V” because they believed that Ford held the copyright to the term V8. They only produced 114 vehicles with this engine..

Società Pompe Iniezione Cassani & Affini (SPICA) was founded in 1932 to make fuel injection systems for diesel and gasoline engines. Alfa Romeo took control of the company in 1941 and made fuel injection systems for their engines (along with spark plugs, shock absorbers, oil pumps and other automotive parts). The founder of SPICA, Francesco Cassani, went on to found Società Accomandita Motori Endotermici (SAME) in 1942 making diesel and gasoline engines, and eventually manufacturing tractors. In 1973 SAME bought Lamborghini Trattori, forming a somewhat convoluted (and nebulous) connection between Alfa Romeo and Lamborghini.

I hope I was able to provide you with some not-so-useful facts that you might not have known. However, be advised to use these facts with caution. Some people have been known to get glazed eyes and lapse into comas when presented with such astounding information.

– Gene Brown



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AROSC Elections are Happening Too!

Hello Everyone! Your Board of Directors is looking for a few good volunteers. It's true that we say this every year, but every year we need input from you! We need to continue being creative in how we stay active as a chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club, USA.

Ballots will be emailed by November 5th, so please toss your hat into the ring to have a say about what we will be in 2021.

Voting will close on November 15th.

Let us hear from you. Send your thoughts to info@aroc.org today!

Update: The 2020 Board has agreed to return for another year.

The slate will be (as pictured above): Don Wagner, Norm and Evelyn Silverman, Mike Reihle and Chris Burke, Sheila and MJ Kutkus (back row, far right), Jim and Elyse Barrett, Jay Mackro (with Catherine Kusnick), Jeff Srinivasan and Jan Cline.

But we really do appreciate fresh faces and ideas. Please join us!

JOIN US FOR A ZOOMY HOLIDAY PARTY!!



Rescued from the dustbin that's our 2020 Events Calendar is the Holiday Party. After members expressed sadness over the cancellation of all our fun social and driving events, the Board voted to reinstate this tradition. This would be the 20th year that MJ and Sheila Kutkus welcomed us into their home, and they liked the challenge of a virtual party. So let's give it a try!

On December 12th, from 1PM to 3PM we will gather in AROSC's private Zoom Room and share the joys of the season.

We'll have food and drink – please prepare for this as you've done in the past. RSVP to Sheila with the name of the dish you're making and plan to cook in time so it's ready at 1PM on the 12th. Sheila will email you the Zoom event link and password, and you should be ready to party.

We'll have show-and-tell, going around the "room" so everyone will say hello, hold up what they are sipping and nibbling. If there's a big crowd, our monitors will have more pages we can move to in order to view everyone. When someone speaks, the screen automatically moves to where they are.

We'll have virtual contests (based on real activities) with several fun things planned: a Best-Dressed Alfa contest (decorate your car); an Ugly Holiday Sweater contest (so get it out of the mothballs and wear it!); a Dress the Part contest (you and your Alfa together). These contests will be judged on photos you submit to MJ and Sheila.

We'll have real-time contests; those who wish to participate will show their wine and hors d'oeuvres and will have 30 seconds to describe them live at the party. MJ and Sheila will judge what they see. Bonus points and another prize will go to the most festive stemware.

We will have door prizes: everybody loves Trader Joe's, so the winners in each contest will be mailed a Trader Joe's gift card.

In the coming weeks, look for at least two email reminders about this fabulous event, and RSVP by December 9th to sheila.k@verizon.net

Long-Term Member Recognition

Cheers to Our Members!

AROSC is the second-largest chapter in the USA at 260+ members. Such a healthy roster, even in these pandemic times, is a testament to our activities program and open lines of communication. In this year-end issue of *Alfacionada*, we would like to pause and do a shout-out to our stalwarts and our new arrivals. May we all look forward to sharing more Alfa roads in the future.

Congratulations to Long-Timers - 40+ Years!

John Shankle
Toshio Fujita
John Wakamatsu
Chuck & Jan Cline
Will Follett & Mia Robinson
Stan Deller
Jerry Rosenstock
John Clair
Tom Reilly
Martin Cohen
Tom Suter
Steve Cole
Charlie & Bonnie Schwartz
Dave Mericle
Russ Neglia
Richard & Christa Goodrich

Thank You for Stepping Up to be Verdes

Normand Ayotte
Jim & Elyse Barrett
Julie Brinkerhoff-Jacobs & Don Jacobs
Wilkie & Becky Cheong
Al Cortese
Steven & Elizabeth Crooke
Jean-Luc De Fanti
Kevin DeHaeseleer
Mary Ann Dickinson
Jim Gianopoulos
John Linfesty
Brad & Lesley Lothers
Marcus Mancini
Chuck & Jayne Meschter

Pen Pendleton
Andrew Petreas
Mitchell and Nina Quaranta
Luca Severi
John Soracco
Doran Valenzuela
Dennis White

Congratulations and Thanks to our Gold Families

Paul & Mary Blankenship
Chuck & Jan Cline
David & Gay Dayhuff
John & Shelly DiLauro
Phil Edwards & Cheryl Braden-Edwards
Vic and Maria Galich
Phil Kazakian
Yoshi & Christy Madokoro
Roberto Quadrelli & Cheryl Quadrelli-Jones
Rob & Carolyn Richard
Tony Santarelli & Gino Londi
John Schirmer
Jan Wustenhoff & Sugiura Therese
Bob & Judy Gaukel

Welcome New Members - Onboard Since June 2020

Jonathan Seiffer
Peter Venturini
Mark Bisaha
John Green
Zach Winner
Jerry Zonis
Tony Santarelli
Gino Londi
Kevin Stacy

October 10-11 TT & Race Weekend

FALL FUN AT BIG WILLOW



Andy Steben and GTV between runs. Norm Silverman photo.

The weather was perfect on the Big Track at Willow Springs International Raceway this past October, and the turnout was pretty good, considering the circumstances. Racers and time trialers enjoyed moderate temperatures in the 80s both days.

Alfas had their own small, but enthusiastic, run group. Racy examples from the 1960s and '70s (Dennis White's 1967 GT Jr.) to contemporary 4Cs, Quads and a Stelvio circulated the Big Track in four runs a day for two days with only one, five-minute repair job on a throttle link. The field represented 110 years of family vehicles that on any weekend can still beat anything in their class.

Our one race group and two time trial groups rounded out the weekend's participation. Thanks go to Mike Easterman, the Race Director, who drove out from Bullhead City, Arizona to officiate. Also thanks for their good work go to Greg Nelson, Mario Cano and Cesar DeAnda, and our own

Past President Emeritus, Norm Silverman, who handled the Novice Classroom Sessions and put his Stelvio on the track
The drivers meeting and the registration were held outdoors. The classroom had the required six feet of spacing marked out. Hand sanitizer and



The Alfa Family at Willow Springs. Norm Silverman photo.

facemasks were available to those who needed them. People at the event practiced safe distancing and wore their masks, unless of course, they were on the racetrack. Additional thanks go to Norm Silverman for his donation of hand sanitizer. In addition he donated some earplugs and a Bull Horn!! Which, I might add, will come in handy Laguna Seca.

Sunday morning, Lucas Oil representative and automotive artist, Hector Cademartori, made a Lucas Oil Sportsmanship Award presentation to Greg Nelson. He is always there to help any participant with their car problems.



Michael Steben on the track. Norm Silverman photo.

In addition to being a great mechanic, he is one of our longtime top driving instructors. Congrats Greg!

Race and Time Trial results are posted on www.alfaclubracing.com.

Reminder: Coming up is a shared event with Speed Ventures on November 21-22, at Chuckwalla Raceway, and our own New Year's Eve Laguna Seca event on December 30-31. Please register online now.

– Don Wagner



Hector Cademartori, representing Lucas Oil, brought this bounty to bestow upon Greg Nelson as the weekend's Lucas Oil Sportsman! Grazie, Hector. Congratulations Greg! Photo courtesy of Hector Cademartori.



Inside the Willow Springs Cafe. Spago it's not ... John Britton photo.

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

2020-2021 Schedule

- Nov 21-22 Chuckwalla, Time Trial and Race
- Dec 30-31 Laguna Seca, OMG Another New Year Celebration
(92 dB as always)
- Jan 16-17 Streets of Willow, HPDE Driving School
- Feb 20-21 Willow Springs, Big Track, TT & Race
- Sept 11-12 Streets of Willow, HPDE Driving School
- Oct 9-10 Willow Springs, Big Track, TT & Race



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

*You are Cordially Invited to Join Your AROC Board Members
January 15-17, 2021*

**WELCOME RECEPTION
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2021**

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AROSC Virtual Holiday Party via Zoom

Saturday, Dec 12th, 1 – 3 pm

Hosted by Sheila & MJ
20th Annual
Keeping the tradition going!

Fun Format: **We'll still have door prizes**

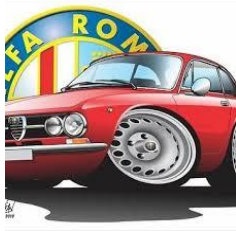
- ✓ Live Interactive Hors d'Oeuvres & Wine Tasting
- ✓ Email Photo Contests
- ✓ Opportunity to Dress the Part (You and Your Alfa)



Wine Tasting

This will be a live party activity. Jim will go around the Zoom room and ask for a 30 second description of the wine you are sipping in honor of the party.

Bonus opportunity: Door prize for the most festive holiday stemware.



Best-Dressed Alfa

Decorate your car and send a photo to Sheila.

Ugly Sweater

Put it on, snap a photo, send.



Dress the Part

You in your sweater, with your decorated Alfa.
Snap photo. Send to Sheila.

Happy Zoom Holidays! Hope you can join us.
Alfa folks are the best in the world!



RSVP to Sheila.k@verizon by Dec 9th
to receive the **Zoom link**.

FUN PHOTOS!!

As seen on the Road and Elsewhere

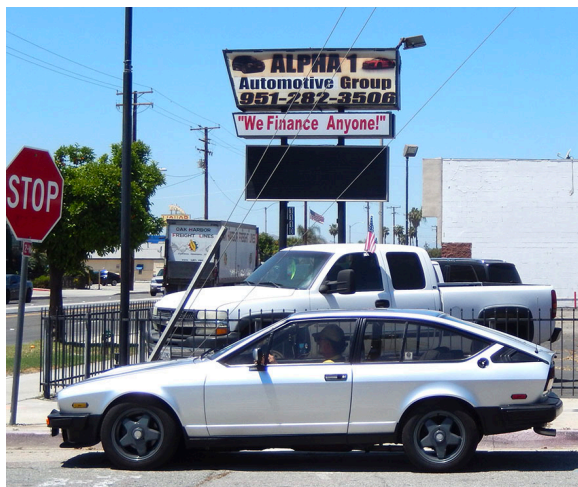
When we did get out this spring and summer, we looked for any sign of Alfa life – on the road, beside the road, in our minds, wherever. In the coming months, if you see something, say something! And send your words and a photo to emb.editorial@gmail.com

1. *Alfas Abroad*

Seen in Ensenada, Baja California, this AlfaVid delivery van represents the company, growers of fresh organic produce in Baja since 1975. They grow aromatic herbs, microgreens, shoots and sprouts, supplying more than 160 markets plus restaurants. *Elyse Barrett photo.*



2. *What's wrong with this picture?*



We love it when we can misspell our marque's identity. Here was a juxtaposition in Hemet that we couldn't pass up! *Elyse Barrett photo.*

3. *Yes, they've made an Alfa Emoji!*

Sometime in the darkest depths of the Spring 2020 lockdown, a heart-warming Alfa emoji emerged. It is free to use on your social media and other applications. We posted it to our AROSC Facebook page on May 3, so search FB and download.



4. *AROSC did its part to recycle bottle-stoppers ...*



... throughout 2018-2019, and donated these boxes of corks at Total Wine & More in Brea. They would have overflowed the donation carton, so management said to set them beside it. *Elyse Barrett photo.*

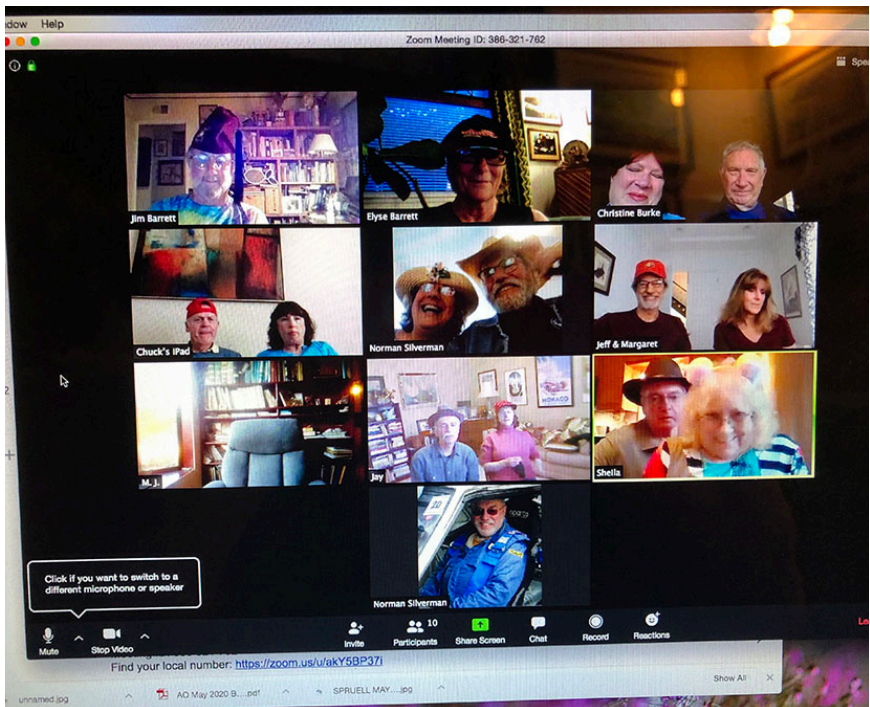
5. *COVID creative down-time.*

Former member Andy Steben missed being on the track this year, so he poured his energy into creating a warm stained-glass memorial to Phil Guiral, who passed in January, and other pieces including his own GTV in a TT and a stylized Alfa Romeo badge's Cross and Serpent. *Photo by Andy Steben.*



Chapter Life in the Virtual Lane

In lieu of in-person activities this year, AROSC has Zoomed and emailed and participated in online concorsos. We've shared as much as we can, but there's much more to do. This will be our *modus operandi* for some time to come, so enjoy these memories of 2020 and help us make some more!




CHAPTER ZOOM FUN

Your Chapter became one of the first to have its own Zoom account and started conducting Friday afternoon Happy Hours. On April 1st, the meeting was a "Hat Night" and everyone was encouraged to wear a favorite or funny piece of headgear. We've enjoyed seeing many members who haven't been regular participants on our drives and picnics in the past. Please do keep attending!



VIRTUAL CONCORSO WINNER

In case you missed the National AROC Concorso Virtuale Italiano Dell'automobile 2020 conducted via the national website (aroc-usa.org) in June, we had 21 members enter 23 cars in six of the eight categories, and Al Cortese's GTAM Tribute track car was awarded first place in the Competition Prepared class. It was recently advertised for sale in the *Alfa Owner Marketplace*. If you've wanted one of these, you might still be able to get it.



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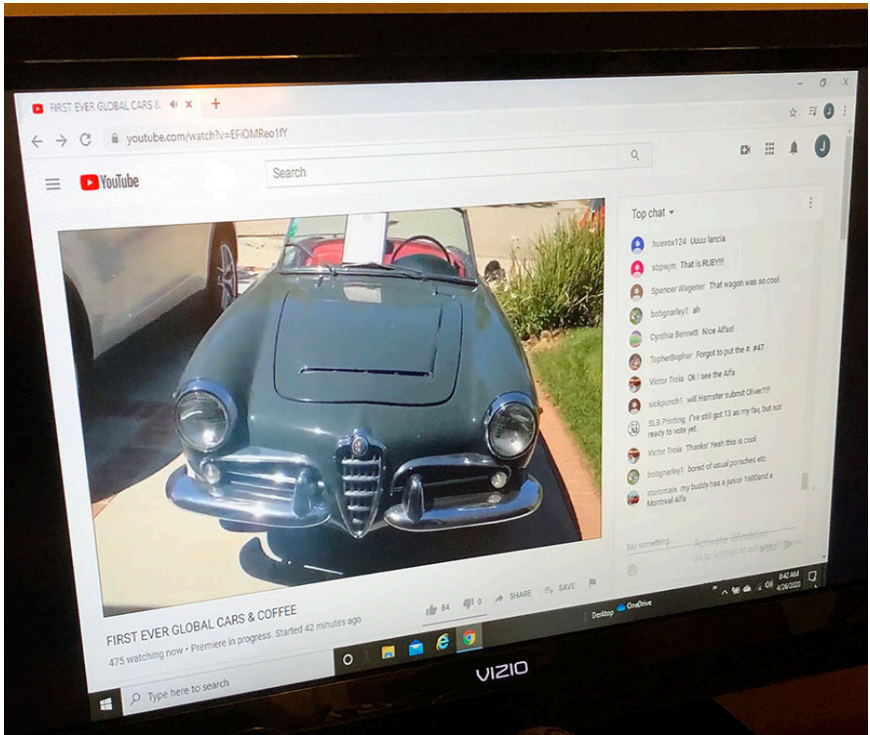
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714-953-3020 GARY TODISCO

PETERSEN GLOBAL C&C

Life in the virtual car world expanded exponentially with the help of the genius programmers and web managers engaged by the Petersen Automotive Museum. They made available tons of content weekly in the form of videos and virtual tours and initiated their own virtual Global Cars & Coffee. Car owners around the globe were invited to submit a 60 to 120-second walkaround of their cars and to be aired via YouTube (as time allowed) on one Sunday each month. The results were awesome – hundreds of cars could be viewed in each presentation. In April, AROSC's Norman Silverman got his '65 Giulietta Spider shown. It was nice videography, but difficult to capture on the TV screen. Here's what we saw.



EMAIL WINE TOUR

In late April, to honor our cancelled Temecula Valley Tour, an avid bunch of vineyard enthusiasts staged a Virtual Wine Tour and Sunday Brunch, initiated by Paul and Mary Blankenship from their chic Kovid Kafe in their backyard. Everyone was encouraged to set the table, select a vintage and share photos of the experience. The Silvermans masked their lovely bottle of San Gregorio Spanish red and served a hearty stew. The Barretts whipped up silver fizzes and fruit salad, and laid a nice table on their patio. Mike

Riehle and Chris Burke sent stemware emojis and “Chin-chin” messages. Bon appetit photos flowed. Later that afternoon, naps were enjoyed. We can do this again, people: live on Zoom, December 12, at a virtual Holiday Party. Be there!



Above, the Blankenships’ back-yard Kovid Kafé set the tone for our polite but heartfelt rebellion against gloom and despair. Below are closeups of the equally jolly welcome sign and logo. All these photos are by the participants.





The Silvermans (above) joined the Virtual Wine Tour with an appropriately robust red from Spain, matched perfectly with a hearty stew. Below, our Copresidenti poured fizzy cocktails, served with lovely fruit salads at the table on their patio.



Classified – Cars/Parts For Sale



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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

FOR SALE, LEXANI RIMS – Four used 22-in. Lexani Concave Sport Series rims (bolt pattern 5X108.0), plus 4 Delinte Thunder tires. \$950. Also currently listed on Craigslist. Call Robert L. Smith, 562.673.7586.

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