

# ALFACIONADA

JANUARY 2021



*Roberto and Cheryl Quadrelli won the demanding Ugly Sweater Contest at our Virtual Holiday Party, and pose here with their very Non-Ugly Spider.*

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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](http://aroc-usa.org) to join. Visit [arosc.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@arosc.org), and a Club director will respond.

### **On the Cover This Month**

*The caption says it all, except for the photographer's name. We can be sure that all will soon be revealed. Other winners, runners-up and random participants may be seen in the story on pages 12-15.*

# AROSC Board of Directors, 2021

Your entire Board is available at one point of contact: [info@arosc.org](mailto: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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714.642.1593

## *Vice President*

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[johnbritton.au@gmail.com](mailto:johnbritton.au@gmail.com)

## *Treasurer:*

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[treasurer@arosc.org](mailto:treasurer@arosc.org)

## *Secretary*

M.J. & Sheila Kutkus  
310.542.3448

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Don Wagner  
[dwagner302@twc.com](mailto:dwagner302@twc.com)

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[alfa92708@yahoo.com](mailto:alfa92708@yahoo.com)

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Norm & Evie Silverman  
[normanbev@msn.com](mailto:normanbev@msn.com)

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Jeff Srinivasan  
[rogueman1@mac.com](mailto:rogueman1@mac.com)

## *At Large*

Chris Burke and Mike Riehle  
310.780.5427

## *Newsletter Editor*

Elyse Barrett  
[emb.editorial@gmail.com](mailto:emb.editorial@gmail.com)

## **Committees**

*Technical:* Gene Brown

*Website:* Mike Riehle, Webmaster

*Newsletter Design/Production*

Will Owen – 626.644-7173  
[nashwill912@earthlink.net](mailto:nashwill912@earthlink.net)

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

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**January 16-17** – HPDE School, Streets of Willow. See track calendar, page 19.

**February 7** – Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)

**February 20-21** – Track Weekend, Willow Springs, Big Track



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.



*Cheers to the New Board, same as the Old Board. They never age! We received 27 ballots in the 2020 voting and the standing board was unanimously reelected. Welcome back y'all. L-R Don Wagner, Norm and Evelyn Silverman; Chris Burke, Sheila Kutkus, Mike Riehle, Jim Barrett, Elyse Barrett, Jay Mackro, Catherine Kusnick, MJ Kutkus, Jeff Srinivasan, Jan Cline. MJ Kutkus photo, taken pre-COVID in November 2019.*

**See additional notice of our recent events on our website, [arosc.org](http://arosc.org)**

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# *Avanti e Verso l'Auto!*

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Welcome to the third decade of the 21st century. Doesn't that sound like some science fiction line from an old pulp magazine? However, we are living in it now, with a huge emphasis on living; enduring these oh-so-challenging-and-weird times is a major effort. The end result will have its own reward, as we will see in this new year. When we get past the pandemic, returning to a new normal (TBD), and reuniting with AROSC members will be a very good thing. Heck, so will just having a new and vibrant AROSC calendar of shared events – but that too is still yet to come. See further discussion on page 11.

Our track calendar does exist, however, and there will be a HPDE School on January 16-17 at the Streets of Willow and a Time Trials weekend on February 20-21 on the Big Track at Willow Springs. See page 19 to sign up and participate. Also, distanced spectating is possible at both. Bundle up and bring a picnic.

Despite the obvious melancholy we share as we stay home, we should also be somewhat proud to heed the science-based admonitions and directions we are following to reduce the ravages of a pandemic here. It's not easy, certainly no fun, and we may be gaining a bit of girth from staying home, right? Just sayin' ...

One mild antidote for us has been our monthly Happy Hour on the second Friday of the month. February's Zoom occurrence will be Friday, February 12, at the customary hour of 5:00 PM. Won't you join us?

Given that our large chapter has many decades of Alfa Romeo ownership and technical brilliance represented, there must be plenty of mentor members among us. So, who has an Alfa project that could use some help? This is an obvious reason to be a member of a club, and we certainly have the time to share with others (not to mention those huge piles of spare parts we're hoarding). If you have any questions or particular challenges, please drop an email to [info@arosc.org](mailto:info@arosc.org), and let's see how we can all help each other.

Elsewhere in this newsletter are the fun results from our creativity contests that were part of our Holiday party. Please check out the amusing photos, and appreciate how wacky your fellow club members can be!

And, speaking of winners, EVERYONE in this chapter just received a reward: for 2021 our annual dues have been reduced by \$10 to reflect the lack of events and their related costs for this season. You should have already received an explanatory email from our esteemed Treasurer, Jay Mackro, see page 21 for more details.

*– Ciao, Jim & Elyse*



# In Our Mailbox

## Trivia Truly Appreciated

Gene,

Wow! Nice “Tech Guy” column in the November-December 2020 issue. You certainly uncovered a lot of strange and wonderful facts. I just had to go to Wikipedia ( [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Ford\\_Motor\\_Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Ford_Motor_Company) ) to read some early Ford history. It doesn't say when Leland was brought in, but it must have been VERY early-on. Uh, I did learn that Ford was NOT the first president of Ford! You might want to add that.

*Mike Riehle*

## Ode to a Responsive Dealer

Hi Jim,

I wanted to give you an update on my Giulia purchase. I just now received this from dealer principal Jim Kiesel of Alfa Romeo Newport Beach: I have confirmation your order has been accepted. The VON # is 46357493. I'm emailing my FCA rep so he can mark it “hot” so it gets priority 1.

Thanks again for the referral [to Alfa Romeo Newport Beach]. Kiesel has been wonderful to work with and I will recommend him highly. I especially like that he calls/emails when he says he will, and he keeps me up to date without my having to beg.

*Kind regards, Mark Bisaha*



## Would You Like to Serve on the AROC Board of Directors?

Current AROC members are eligible to serve on the national AROC Board of Directors. Twelve members comprise the Board; six members are elected each year.

As well as determining policy to fulfill AROC goals and corporate obligations, responsibilities of Board members include: attendance at annual national conventions; participation in monthly meetings via video conference/phone calls; participation in club business discussions and votes on motions. Directors elect the AROC Executive Committee, which is comprised of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Legal Counsel.

Board members serve a two-year term, commencing at the end of the Board Meeting held in conjunction with the AROC National Convention, which will be held in Colorado Springs in July 2021. The term of office ends with at the conclusion of the Board Meeting held during the 2023 AROC National Convention.

Your local chapter may nominate you for a position on the AROC Board by having three chapter officers endorse

your nomination. Alternatively, any member may be nominated by a petition signed by 15 current AROC members, other than yourself.

Nominations may be submitted by mail or email and must contain the candidate's name, address, email and phone number, along with the appropriate three chapter officer endorsements or 15 current AROC members' nomination. A biography of 250 words or less is requested along with an optional photo, to be printed in *Alfa Owner*. All nominations must be submitted by midnight, West Coast time, on January 15, 2021.

Election ballots, along with candidates' bios and pictures, will be included in the March 2021, *Alfa Owner*. Additionally, the option for voting online will be provided via email.

Please feel free to telephone the AROC office at 971-254-6660, if you have any questions regarding the requirements or process. Send nomination, biography and photo to [aroc.office@gmail.com](mailto:aroc.office@gmail.com) or to the AROC Administrative Team, P.O. Box 92155, Portland, OR 97292. ■



**Nominations Due by January 15, 2021**

# Tech Guy – *Are You Ever ConFUSED??*

Automotive electrical systems are wonderful things. I fondly remember spending hours, with microscopic schematic in hand, trying to figure out why that left rear sidemarker light is not turning on or where the short is that is causing the number 4 fuse to blow every time the windshield wipers are turned off.

But thank you for the automotive electrical fuse. Chasing down a short circuit is still preferable to replacing the wiring loom that burned up because there were no fuses.

Early cars only had a few fuses because they had simple electrical systems and used large wires (a larger wire can carry more current). But when a fuse blew, it could shut down most of the car. Over time the automotive electrical system was broken up into more circuits each protected by a separate fuse. This allowed the use of smaller wires (which means less cost) and the blowing of one fuse didn't shut down the entire car.

The Alfa Romeos of the 1960s and '70s typically had a separate fuse for each headlight and the running lights were split into two separate circuits so one short didn't turn off all the lights.

Like most everything automotive different countries developed their own style of fuses. In the United States the Society of Fuse Engineers developed a glass tube fuse known as SFE fuses (shown at right). They were  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. in diameter but varied in length depending on the current rating from  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. long for 4 amp, to  $1\frac{7}{16}$  in. for 30 amp. There is also another type of glass tube fuse used in the United States marked with an "AG" label (Automotive Glass) followed by another letter which indicates the physical fuse size. They are available in various current ratings. The most common is the "AGC".



Meanwhile, across the pond in Merry Olde England, Lucas came up with their own fuse style – a ceramic type with conical ends in either lengths of 1 in. or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in (shown at left). They also made a square end fuse similar to the U.S. AGC fuse but with a length of  $1\frac{5}{32}$  in. as opposed to the U.S. fuse with a  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in.



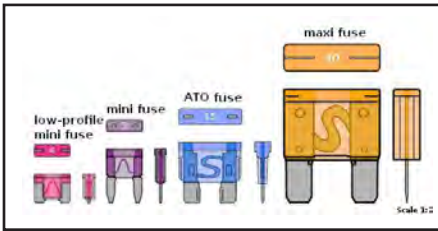
length. They are color-coded as to current but they have three current ratings: continuous current, instantaneous fusing current and continuous fusing current. The rating listed on the fuse is usually the continuous fusing current. For instance a fuse that indicated 35 amps is actually 17.5/40/35 amps.

Not to be outdone, Bosch came up with their version of the automotive fuse. It is a 6mm x 25mm fuse with conical ends and the fuse element on the outside of the body. The body is either ceramic or plastic, and they are color-coded as to current rating. This is the one the owners of older Alfas are most familiar with since most European carmakers used the Bosch fuse. One word of caution: When replacing a blown Bosch fuse, make sure that the circuit for the fuse you are replacing is shut off. If it is on when you plug in the new fuse and it blows, the fuse gets very hot and will leave a nice burn mark on your finger.

In 1976 Littlefuse introduced a blade-type fuse for automobiles, known as the

ATO, and most auto manufacturers have switched over to this type. The blade type fuses now come in several different sizes and shapes (see at left), but the ATO is the most common.

They are color-coded for current rating along with the current rating also marked on the body.



I hope this clears up any confusion

you may have about fuses. Just remember that the fuse is there to keep the smoke inside the wires.

– Gene Brown



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# 2021 Events? NOT YET!!

Yes, you don't see a Calendar of 2021 Events in this newsletter or on our website.

At our fall planning meeting, the Board of Directors agreed that despite our individual adherence to good health habits and routines, we just can't get together right now, nor in the short-term future. We will be taking up the topic of self-led tours and distanced events at our first quarter Board meeting on February 7. A Calendar will be produced at this meeting.

AROSC will be strictly observing state and local COVID protocols if and when staging any event, and considering the use of a COVID Hold-Harmless Waiver (shared with us by the Atlanta Chapter).

This damn virus is everywhere, doesn't care about any of our needs, and can only make things deadly if we socialize. At this time, there are Chapter members who have contracted the disease. And many of us have relatives and friends who have fallen ill. All are recovering, thank goodness, but this illustrates the need to practice what we preach.

None of us can imagine how horrible we would feel if an AROSC gathering caused anyone in our group to become a COVID statistic, right? So despite the really awful fatigue we all feel, the frustrations and anger about what has, and in particular, hasn't happened, we need to see this process through to the successful end.

This year will be so much better than 2020!

*Jim and Elyse, Copresidents*

## *Lance Dong Running for Reelection*

Having friends on the AROC national board of directors is a good thing. We get information in a timely manner and are more closely connected. San Diego chapter neighbor and friend, Lance Dong is running for reelection this spring and we'd like to endorse him. Please vote to reelect Lance when you get your ballot from AROC this coming March – *Jim Barrett*

# Holiday Party + 2020

## = DIFFERENT!

*Zoom is our friend, honest!*



*The gang was VIRTUALLY all here, some even in festive garb; this may not be actually everybody, but it's a good sample. Captured for us on Elyse Barrett's iPhone.*

For our 20th annual AROSC Holiday Party we could not gather at “the Clubhouse” as in all prior years, so we gathered virtually, but with a little in-person prep of ourselves and our Alfis at home. We had a good turnout of 35 people on 20 screens. Sheila engaged everyone and had as much fun hosting on Zoom as she usually does in person.

After everybody got comfortable on screen, Jim went around the Zoom Room and asked for a description of what wine folks were sipping in honor of the party. It was educational and entertaining. Somehow we're not surprised that this club has some excellent speakers who know wine! Among the favorites and best finds: Cheryl and Roberto's highly recommended, value-priced La Granaja white and Verdejo Norton Malbec from Trader Joe's; Fred and Tina's St. Francis old vine zin (not kosher); David and Susan's truly kosher Herzog red; Erwin and Susan's Carmen Grand Reserve 2017 cab – unknown to them before Total Wine recommended it and priced well. Elyse and Jim showed a Bella Luna Bella Bianca white blend from Paso Robles.

Keeping things mellow, our first musical interlude had Pat performing “I'll be home for Christmas” on a ukulele.

Then the much-anticipated photo contest followed. The 10 entries submitted to Sheila were screen-shared while the owners discussed the setting and the theme of their artistic and creative undertakings. One live entry enlivened the presentation.

The entries included Alfa beauty shots: Bob and Shannon's Duetto "Me Alfy" (at right) at their special Kwik-E-Mart (remember it from "The Simpsons"?); David and Roseann's Spider refurb ready to get back on the road, shot at Segestrom Center, plus David and Susan's Spider resto finale shot from their neighbor's balcony, both shown below.



Also submitted were character shots depicting Ugly Sweaters and Cute Alfes: Fred and Tina's GTV (right) in eye makeup, with Maggie (the Irish Setter); Chuck and Jan with a menorah on their GTV-6's teatray; Jeff's Spider with a bonnet bow; Mario and his Spider in Rudolph nose and antlers; Roberto and Cheryl in excellent sweaters with their Spider; Jim and Elyse and Ginger and Lily with the '73 Spider in tinsel and candy garlands (next page).



A late live entry (creative recognition is due!) was Steve's Elf in Alfa.

The virtual get-together was two hours of chatting and socializing with the best people in the world – our Alfa friends. Pat sent everybody off to their own Happy Holidays at Home with a medley of carols on Hawaiian steel. – *M.J. Kutkus*

### *Door Prize Winners*

Best Decorated Alfa: Mario Cano, '88 Spider  
Best Ugly Sweaters: Roberto & Cheryl Quadrelli  
Best Combo Decorated Alfa & Ugly Sweater: Jim & Elyse Barrett, '73 Spider with Ginger & Lily  
Best Comical Look: Fred Firschein & Maggie, GTV  
2nd Place Decorated Alfa: Jeff & Margaret Srinivasan, '74 Spider  
2nd Place Combo Decorated Alfa & Ugly Sweater: Chuck & Jan Cline, '81 GTV-6  
2nd Place Comical Look: Steve Edelman, Elf off the Shelf in Model Spider  
Best Daily Drinker Wine: Erwin & Susan Perl, Carmen Grand Reserve Cab, Total Wine  
Best Fine Dining Wine: David & Susan Waelder, Herzog Kosher Red  
2nd Place Daily Drinker Wine: Roberto & Cheryl Quadrelli, La Granaja white & Verdejo Norton Malbec, Trader Joe's



*Jim, Ginger, Lily and Elyse parade their winning Ugly and Decorated Combo with their sweet '73 Spider.*

## *View from Turn 3*

# November at Chuckwalla Valley Raceway

*The AROSC Covid Fighter, by Terry & Beverly Major*



*Chuckwalla entry has been upgraded.*

The Weekend at Chuckwalla was hosted by Speedventures and shared with AROSC Competition. The turnout was solid but light for AROSC possibly due to the pandemic. Sunday's air temps were a wonderful 75-80. The track has been upgraded with cottages, garages, a medical center, a doubling of the paddock area, plus many new trees. The 2.68-mi. track was recently repaved, providing a great new surface! Yes there are still airplanes landing off during the day at the airstrip behind "The Bowl".

There is a new owner of the Super Miata race group, now called Super Spec Cup, (Dennis Uebersetzig) consisting of nearly 20 higher-horsepower Miatas. This group also included a car we know well, Dennis Fibrow's Miata. The new owner



*These are the new cottages at Chuckwalla.*



made some upgrades to the power and aero so it could run competitively with the Super Spec group. This group shared the race session with an eight-car Corvette Challenge (plus one Panoz), both using a standing start to begin the five-lap race for points. When the five laps are done, they quickly reset with an inverted grid (fastest in back, another points race) for the remainder of the 35 minutes, which is super fun to watch. There were almost 30 Miatas running at this meeting.



*Super Spec standing start.*

Another BIG group was the Toyota/Subaru 86/FRS/BRZ, totaling about 20 entries! They were in all types of tune and running very competitive lap times.

Our registrants included Bill Johns in his 4C, Marcus Speckhahn (Mustang 5.0), Greg and Jane Scarcello (race Miatas), Jeremy Yeung (Alfa School RX8, now modified FRS), Xavier Perraudin (FRS), and John and Colin Wolf (no Miata this weekend). More people approached Beverly and me, due to our meeting previously at last fall's High-Performance Driving School. One of the crew working with a five-car Miata rental group (David Morton) wants to bring five of his clients to the January school. We look forward to that!



*AROSC member Marcus Speckhahns Mustang on the track.*



*William Johns' 4C on the track.*

Anyway I hope you got a small feel for the weekend. I scootered around for the day talking to just about everyone, but still this short story comes to an end!

Thanks to Speed Ventures for opening its Chuckwalla date to our competitors.

Don't forget the High-Performance Driving School on January 16-17 at the Streets of Willow!

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# Join Us At the Track!

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Owners of Southern California

## *2021 Schedule*

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 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   |



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[www.alfaclubracing.com](http://www.alfaclubracing.com)

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GARY TODISCO

# *Happy New Year – Membership Now Just \$68!*

Good news everyone! Your Board has reduced our dues by \$10 for 2021.

Because we aren't spending as much as we did in pre-COVID days, have a well-funded treasury, and expect that activities and events will be largely on hold through early 2021, we reasoned the Chapter can operate with less income.

Your annual dues will now be \$68 instead of \$78.

This reduction has been implemented on the [aroc-usa.org](http://aroc-usa.org) website, so when you renew your membership there, you will see no additional charge for affiliating with AROSC, or as the site calls us, "CA (Chapter 20)".

We anticipated that members paying AROC by check may still receive a 2021 dues statement showing the \$78 rate. At least 30 of you were sent renewal notices in late December, and we apologize for any confusion or inconvenience.

If you haven't yet paid, you should write your check for \$68! While AROC administration is aware of the change, feel free to add a note reminding them that this chapter no longer charges the additional \$10. If you have paid the extra \$10 and wish a refund or have questions, please email [treasurer@arosc.org](mailto:treasurer@arosc.org)

*Jay Mackro  
AROSC Treasurer*

