



The Newsletter of  
the Alfa Romeo  
Owners of  
Southern California



Tractor Tour at AGSEM -  
on page 6



The Alfa Experience at  
Big Willow - on page 3

## Previews

- Jan 15-16** Driving School, Streets of Willow
- 21** Zoom Happy Hour
- 29** Annual Meeting, Petersen Automotive Museum
- Feb TBD** Club Concorso #1
- 18-20** AROC Winter Retreat, Palm Desert
- Mar 11** Zoom Happy Hour
- 20** Gimmick Rally
- Apr 1-3** Wine Tour, Paso Robles



*Avanti  
e Verso  
l'Auto!*

Presidents'  
Message

## Good Day to All and Happy New Year!

We continue to hope everyone is healthy and staying safe. And, we **really** look forward to seeing our Alfa pals at upcoming AROSC events.

Our new year begins with a new Board of Directors. In addition to your die-hard incumbents, David and Susan Waelder were elected in our November AROSC election. They join the working crew as Members at Large. **Welcome!** And many thanks to John Britton for his service and ideas. See the Board roster at the end of this newsletter - all the business items are now at the back.

Also new this year is a different look for *Alfacionada*. After 10+ years, managing editor and designer Will Owen has retired. We emphatically thank Will for his excellent aesthetic, great sense of humor and professionalism. Production is now in the hands of the editor.

Looking back on 2021 we managed to conclude the year

more on **2**

with some pretty cool activities, including track days at Willow Springs, visiting the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum in Vista, attending the fabulous Best of France and Italy show (Woodley Park), and a safe, healthy annual Holiday Party at Sheila and MJ's home in December. Find photos and reports on all these events in the pages that follow.

Now we are getting enthused about our 2022 AROSC calendar of events and activities, available to download from the website. There will be some printed copies at the Annual Meeting, but review it online, and come drive with us! *Now* is the time to

check your car for any needs, and, if the weather permits, take it for a joy(ous) ride!

First things first department: Our Annual Meeting has changed venue this year. It will be held at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles on Saturday, January 29 where we will hand out year-end awards and provide details on the events planned for you. Please, please, please RSVP for our special, club-sponsored parking places on the third floor! Also, we need to know how many of you are coming to lunch at Tom Bergin's; they are opening

early just for us!

Next things next: By popular demand Zoom Happy Hours will continue quarterly (January 14 and March 11), our High-Performance Driving School at the Streets of Willow will be January 15-16, and the rescheduled AROC Winter Retreat in Palm Desert is now February 18-20. We will also stage Club Concorso #1 in February.

The BIG news, and something you should plan for, is *Alfiesta Coronado*, the AROC National Convention in nearby Coronado, June 12-19. Our chapter is a part of this, organizing the Track Day and sponsoring the National

Concorso. It is really a summer vacation with Alfas, at a 4-star hotel - the Loews Coronado Bay Resort. There is a lot to be excited about and to celebrate! If you've never attended an Alfa convention, this is your chance.

So, plan now, and expect some great times. We hope to see you soon!

- Jim & Elyse  
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Clockwise: Cindy in the pits; brain trust at Friday at dinner; spiffy GTV is ready; Mario and Karen finishing registration; Saturday at dinner.

# Alfa Fun at Willow Springs

An AROSC track weekend experience  
by John Britton

Some months back I decided to take a trip out to Willow Springs to see what the "Alfa Romeo Experience" was all about. Although our Competition Group has passed on many great stories to us, I believed it could also be a fine destination for those of us who wanted to view some Alfa Romeos in their natural habitat, get to know how it all works doing a few laps following an instructor,

and then moving on and up to possibly better things on the track.

Well I must say, that the ideas I had conjured up were more than rewarded last weekend with a very educational, enlightening and eye opening visit to Willow Springs with a few others who have been enjoying themselves for a number of years.

(continued)

I congratulate our team of dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly managing all the cars and drivers that showed up to enjoy what they have taken on as a hobby, and I must say they were very professional on and off the track.

My day started at 10AM on Friday October 8 leaving from Fountain Valley, and by 12:20PM I arrived at the Cat House, an exotic feline rescue and breeding facility just 5 miles from the Willow Springs Track in Rosamond. I took this "Cat House" option, recommended by the regular attendees at the track to get an idea as to what else there is in the neighborhood so that future AROC members might also like this option. Well worth the visit and would recommend showing up at the facility at feeding time around 4PM. (FYI en route are High Desert Winery, Agua Dulce Winery, and others.)

After an hour viewing, I moved on

to Willow Springs Race Track 4 miles further on to check in and see who may have arrived, get a feel for who was there, find out just what is needed to get ready for the track the next day, and of course what my tasks might have included.

Interestingly enough many of the guests had already arrived, were unpacking cars, checking tires, brakes, engines and from what I could make out, getting their camps ready. This consisted of motor homes, pickup trucks, trailers, barbecues, dogs and children. This sets the scene for a wonderful weekend for the driving experiences ahead.

AROSC has an arrangement for attendees with the Oxford Inn, on K Street, Lancaster. It's just 23 miles back down the highway and a good facility for only \$107 per night, which by the way includes 2 drinks at the bar in the evening and breakfast each day.

In the evening I got together with Norm Silverman and Don Wagner and we were able to discuss what was needed of me for



### My weekend started at 10AM on Friday

The participants had already arrived and were setting up camp that comprised motorhomes, pickup trucks, trailers,

Saturday morning. I helped with the registration of drivers and also being the gofer, which was really needed for the weekend as the club was a little short of usual staff.

Saturday, 6:30AM, time to leave after breakfast for the track as registrations opens for all drivers at 7AM. There were drivers already waiting and eager to get signed up and then attend the 7:30AM drivers

(continued)



meeting. All the paperwork detailing pre-registered drivers was with Don Wagner, so all that was needed were last minute driver registrations, detailing name, tech sheet, type of car, color, the drivers proficiency. And if not prepaid payment on the spot this was entered manually.

This all went well and afterwards I got to look in on the "Driver Meeting", where such things as safety, what the colored flags mean, on-track and in-paddock safety rules were reviewed. Then it was "off to the starting grid for the first driving session.

During the day the participating drivers and spectators were updated with announcements about what classes or groups were up next.

What classes of drivers were needed could be heard all over the area via loudspeakers. I found everything at Willow Springs to be very professional. Don Wagner runs a tight ship and the cooperation of the volunteers around him made me feel very comfortable that AROSC was running a wonderful outlet for interested drivers, future participants and spectators who wanting to do something quite different.

Norm Silverman and Mike McKibbon conducted a meeting for the beginners who had answered the call for their first time on a race track, after which they led them around the track where they had a chance to learn as they drove and how to pass safely.

For the less

adventurous, during lunchtime, the track was opened for a half-hour lead-and-follow session at nearly highway speed behind a licensed competition driver.

After a break for lunch, the remaining hours in the afternoon were filled with all classes of driving, and some exciting competition especially amongst the Mazda Miata's in race group.

The restaurant at the track is truly well done, offering hot and tasty food. The general store and photo shop has all sorts of souvenirs and is open all day.

It was truly an *experience* and a safe way to enjoy a truly prestigious car.



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# Time Tripping

We return to the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum



We had not visited the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum in Vista since the late aughts, so it was about time to return to this wonderful time-warp nestled in the San Diego County countryside.

Pandemic protocols were in place, but it was a lightly attended meet and everyone was comfortable walking about in the fresh fall air. Our group numbered 15, including several friends from AROC San Diego.

After a lot of parking lot Alfa story swapping, we rolled around the property on a tractor-drawn wagon to get the lay of the land. The tiny-gauge railway was running from the Guajome station; the big Ferry Morse diesel motor that once powered the City of Avalon on Catalina Island was started up, and we could poke our noses into the tractor barns, the weavers' and spinners' shops, the carpentry and blacksmithing complexes, then pause for the midday parade wherein the owners of these great machines put them through their paces.

It was great to be out and share this special place that still has so much more to discover.





Left, the Guajome mini-railroad station welcomes riders

Below the hottest steam roller we've ever seen rocks the midday parade.



This massive 3-cylinder diesel motor once powered the City of Avalon.





The woodworking shop is a multi-function complex with youths learning how to stoke the fires and make fence posts, and historians lighting off the steam-powered belt-driven lathes and power take-offs that run several different machines at once within the building.



This Tucker Sno-Cat didn't move, but it was one of our favorites just to look at and ponder its life's story.





And here we are, back at the beginning of the day - hanging in the parking lot, talking about cars.

*Thank you, Steve Edelman for your photographic support!*



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# Annual Meeting @ The Pete

## Registration Deadline Extended!

Saturday, January 29th is our Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation, and we're doing it at the Petersen Automotive Museum!

You need to pre-register and pre-pay for this party, but doing so will ensure an all-day parking spot and admission to the museum (with proof of COVID vaccination).

Arrive between 9:00 and 9:30 to enjoy a complimentary Continental breakfast. The meeting and trophy presentation is at 10:00 and afterwards, you are free to tour the exhibits. We have a no-host lunch planned for

1:30 PM next door at Tom Bergin's Irish Pub.

The low meeting price - including parking and admission to the museum - is just \$25 if you arrive solo and \$37 for two people in the same car. **Pre-pay using PayPal or mailing a personal check by no later than January 16th.**

Pay Pal: Send the appropriate amount to treasurer@arosc.org and select "Sending Money to a Friend". Please follow up with an email to treasurer@arosc.org so I'll know who is coming

Check: write it to AROSC, and mail to: AROSC Treasurer, 27152 Paseo Del Este, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675.

More details will be provided when you register. Send any questions to treasurer@arosc.org

See you there!

- Jay Mackro

*You are Cordially Invited to Join Your AROC Board Members  
January 14-16, 2022*

**WELCOME RECEPTION  
DAY DRIVE, COACH  
NO-HOST LUNCH BY THE POOL  
AND MORE!**

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# The Best of France & Italy

## *Always the best of times*

The 20th Best of France & Italy Show at Woodley Park in early November was nearly one for the record books as 90 Alfas from San Diego to Santa Clarita gathered to enjoy this favorite fall festival.

Our Chapter was well represented. We set up "Camp AROSC" to snack and chat with friends we hadn't seen in months, er, years!



Top: Art and Mike welcome club members and guests into their orbit at Camp AROSC.

Middle: We counted 90 Alfas on the green (yes green) grounds of Woodley Park.

Bottom: Jeff directs incoming visitors from the Instagram group, @SoCalfisti and @socal\_alfaromeos to the burgeoning Alfa park.



## Alfa Italia/AROSC BoF&I People's Choice Award



Alfa Italia owner Chuck Schwartz (far left) approached us in mid-summer 2021 with a fun idea: Could he create and present a People's Choice award for Alfa Romeos at the Best of France and Italy? With us as collaborators? We said sure, what a fun idea.

Concorso Director Jeff Srinivasan and a crack crew of parking professionals organized the 90 Alfas into groups of Open, Closed, Modern and Especially

Beautiful examples on the lawn at Woodley Park and handed out ballots. We got 31 ballots and the winner with 10 votes was the Pozzi Blue Sprint Speciale brought by Alex Singer (above right) from San Diego.

It was fun to do, and we hope to continue the new tradition next year.

Thanks, Chuck!



Left: Traditional lunch bunch. Above: John and Jan catch up.





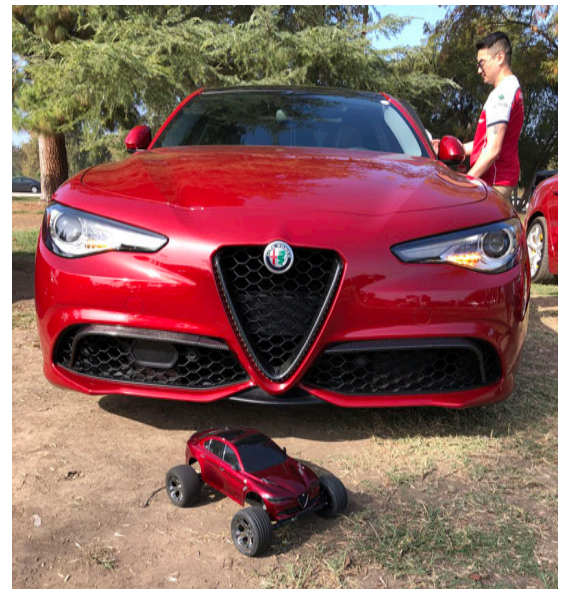
Picnickers Left: Gene, Tony, Nikko, Sharon, Gino and Mario.

Picnickers Right: Paul, Jeff, Susan, Jay, Mike, Terry, Catherine, Evelyn.

Below: No the image is not distorted by the editor stretching it to fit the space, this chopped B26 Lancia is really is that rad!







Top Left: this Zagato 1900 was a show-stopper. We really wished it had been parked with us.

Top Right: New SD chapter members arrived in their tricked-out Stelvio and its little brother, a RC model. The look of the future?

Right: Jim thanks Tina for this wonderful return to her automotive party. Congratulations, Tina on a fabulous 20 years of fun.

**Photos by David Waelder.  
And a few others by Elyse  
& Jim Barrett.**





FROM WILLOW SPRINGS TO THE SILVER STRAND

# The AROC National Convention Alfiesta Coronado 2022

Visualize lounging on your hotel room's veranda overlooking San Diego Bay, with Alfa Romeos prancing below you along a private promenade. You've just returned from the five-minute walk to Silver Strand Beach, where you dipped your toes in the frothy Pacific Ocean following a fabulous Tech Session. Or you're just in from the Coronado Walking Gimmick Rally and dinner is soon. But for the moment, it is time to soak in all that this four-star paradise has to offer – fresh ocean air, gentle late-spring sun, palm-shaded pool decks, sumptuous linens, an aura of grace and ease. Welcome to Alfiesta Coronado, your 2022 AROC National Convention!

This year's Convention is coming to



Coronado, California, June 13-19. As one of the nation's most coveted vacation locations, the area offers favorite and famous attractions and activities including deep-sea fishing, walking in Torrey Pines Reserve, visiting Balboa Park and the San Diego Zoo – with our annual meeting of *Alfisti* from all points of the compass tucked inside!

From this all-inclusive resort playground, you can submerge in beloved and traditional convention activities: a pre-convention tour, time trials, autocross, parade laps at Willow Springs International Raceway; a morning concorso; bus tours to area attractions; gimmick rallies; tech talks at the hotel; the art show, and shopping opportunities in the vendor room and swap meet; plus a Wednesday evening welcome reception, Thursday night social, Saturday night banquet and Sunday morning awards breakfast.

The convention hotel is the four-star Loews Coronado Bay Resort, a waterfront retreat with secure parking for your Alfa and rooms with water views. A short walk takes you to the ocean beach. Shuttles run to Coronado

hourly for exploration in town. Members attending the track events will overnight near Willow Springs on Monday, June 13, and caravan to Coronado Tuesday, stopping in Los Angeles at the Petersen Automotive Museum. The Pre-Convention Tour will highlight fabulous roads and sights you've heard about but may not have visited. The convention proper starts on Wednesday, June 15 and runs through Sunday morning, June 19.

The February issue of *Alfa Owner* will have registration information. Come early or stay longer. Bring your family. Bring aloha shirts – you will feel you're in The Islands. It will be a fabulous convention not to miss!

– Your Alfiesta Coronado Committee



★ Save the Date • June 13-19, 2022 ★

A SUMMER VACATION TO REMEMBER



# Our 21st Holiday Party Better Together



After weeks of cold rain and wind, the weather turned perfect for us in mid-December, and we had the most fabulous Alfa Club Holiday Party ever! Nature smiled on us as the skies became cobalt blue and the outdoor air warmed to sweater temperatures. It was our 21st Annual Clubhouse Holiday Party, and vaccinations and waivers were required so we could comfortably enjoy this reunion after more than a year apart.

The barbecue prepared by MJ included the traditional beef tenderloin on the spit, grilled to melt-in-your mouth tenderness, and always a favorite. Chris and Sheila set up the grilled chicken and salmon among all the specialty dishes brought by members - which were diverse and delicious. And of course we enjoyed everyone's fabulous favorite wines, contributed for all to share and enjoy.

Elyse and Sheila had excited members drawing door prize numbers that kept coming and coming thanks to all the generous donations.

The best part, as always, was the camaraderie among friends not seen for a long while, plus the fun of meeting new members and welcoming them to our great Alfa Club.

Let the pictures on the following pages tell the story!

- Sheila





Clockwise from bottom: Steve, Melinda, Norm, Val, Fred, Bonnie



Seated: Steve, Mario, Cheryl, Tony

Below Left: Sheila, Tina, Jan, Melinda, Susan at the salad table.

John, MJ, Dan at the grill.







Clockwise from top left: Our fabulous hosts MJ and Sheila. Above, Joan, Margaret and Charlie con vino.

Seated: Evelyn, Bob, Shannon, Steve, Tony, Gino, Mark, Joan, John



Jim, Elyse, Sharon, Evelyn, Chris, Sandy, Dale





Above left: Gino, Tony Bruce, MJ, Mario, Norm.

Above right: Karen, John, Mario.

*Photos by David Waelder and Sheila Kutkus*

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## 2022 Schedule

Jan 15-16	Streets of Willow, High-Performance Driving School
Feb 19-20	Big Willow, Time Trial & Race
Jun 13	Big Willow, Time Trial, Race, Autocross (AROC National Convention Track Day)
Sept 10-11	Streets of Willow, High-Performance Driving School
Oct 8-9	Big Willow, Time Trial & Race



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## **Changes of Address**

To continue receiving the AROSC *Alfacionada*, and the monthly national magazine *Alfa Owner*, your new email and street address needs to be provided to both the Chapter and to the national organization. Send your updates to us at info@arosc.org and go to aroc-usa.org and click on Membership to change your national status. If using the United States Postal Service, send your change of address to AROC, P.O. Box 92155, Portland, OR 97292.

If you are receiving this newsletter on a complimentary basis, email your change of address to the Newsletter Address or the Club Business Address.

## **2022 Board of Directors**

Your entire Board of Directors is available at one point of contact: info@arosc.org

Leave a detailed message and/or your telephone number and they will be happy to contact you personally.

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## **Member at Large**

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## **Committees**

Technical: Gene Brown  
Website: Mike Riehle

## **Chapter Meeting Information**

General Meetings of AROSC are held in conjunction with activities as they take place monthly throughout Southern California.

A full listing of events is posted on our website aroc.org along with a 12-month calendar, which is emailed early each year to members and updated periodically. Email your questions and comments to info@arosc.org and a Chapter Director will respond.

Board of Directors Meetings are held quarterly (dates are listed in the Calendar of Events) and all members in good standing are invited to attend



# About *Alfacionada*

*Alfacionada* is the publication of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California, a chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club, Inc. (AROC-USA), a national nonprofit association of Alfa Romeo enthusiasts in North America. Joining AROSC includes a subscription to the national magazine and this newsletter - all covered by your annual \$68 AROC dues. Visit [aroc-usa.org](http://aroc-usa.org) to join, and select Chapter 20 to affiliate with us, AROSC.

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