



The Newsletter of
the Alfa Romeo
Owners of
Southern California



A meet-up at the
Finish Line in Costa
Mesa is planned for
Feb 4. Be there!

Previews

**Jan
14-15** Driving School,
Streets of Willow

21 Nethercutt
Museum visit +
Concorso #1

**Feb
4** Alfa Day at
Finish Line +
O.C. Drive

18-19 TT & Race,
Big Willow

**Mar
4** Palos Verdes
Cars & Coffee +
USS Iowa tour +
lunch

Please read
The Disclaimer,
page 21.



The 22nd annual
Clubhouse Holiday
Party was a perfect
ending to 2022 and
our 60th year. Story
starts on page 8.



*Avanti
e Verso
l'Auto!*

Presidents'
Message

Good day, All, and **Happy New and Better Year!**

We're hoping you had happy holidays, and are already gearing up for another great year of fun club activities in 2023.

As 2022 wound down, the fabulous party known as The Best of France and Italy Car Show lit up the first Sunday in November. We counted **over 100 Alfas**, including many rarely seen Sprints, an Alfa Sud, several early Giuliettas and a surprising number of Alfettas. Our chapter supporter, **Alfa Italia**, provided their second People's Choice Award - won by Mike Baum's lovely Giulietta Sprint (see page 14).

Also in November, our Board of Directors conducted their planning meeting, welcoming new members, Val Dietrich and Bob Schmitt. We thanked Jan Cline and Don Wagner for their many years of service, and then sketched out our 2023 slate of monthly activities. The resulting new calendar can be viewed on and downloaded

more on **2**

from the AROSC website (<http://www.arosc.org/>).

In December, we gathered at MJ and Sheila Kutkus's home for our wonderful annual Holiday Party, and it was another huge success. See page 8 for a look back.

And, as you may have noticed, our club has been increasing its membership, and a list of new and renewing members is on The Members' Page (page 18).

Now for more merriment - our first two chapter activities will occur **in less than two weeks**: First up is the High-Performance Driving School at

the Streets of Willow. Second, we return to the world-famous Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar, and stage our first Club Concorso (page 3).

Two weeks later, on February 4, you are invited to a meet-up at Finish Line Auto Club in Costa Mesa and do an O.C. hill-and-canyon run (page 6). Then, on February 18-19, we're back at Willow Springs for our first Time Trials and Race weekend on the Big Track.

And our March adventure will take place on the 4th with a morning Cars and Coffee in Rancho Palos Verdes, then a tour of the *USS Iowa*. More



about our visit and how to sign up for admission and additional tours on page 7.

Do you have questions that our Tech Guy, Gene Brown, could tackle for you? To find out, please send them to alfagene@att.net, and his brilliant answers will appear in an upcoming *Alfacionada*!

How often do you see an Alfa you don't know and want to invite to join our merry band? We will soon be posting a "come drive with us" flyer/invitation to our website that you can download and print to leave behind on the windshields of those worthy new members in waiting.

And speaking of which, please be sure to invite your family, friends and other car pals to our events.

Ciao for now!
– Jim & Elyse Barrett
Copresidenti

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JANUARY

Nethercutt Museum Tour + Concorso #1



Let's get 2023 started right - with a fabulous collections tour and our first Club Concorso!

Where? At The Nethercutt Collection, in Sylmar. When? On January 21st. Rain or shine! What hour? From 8:00 AM to 3-ish PM. Our tour ticketing time is at 1:00 PM, building entry at 1:30 PM.

It has been several years since we roamed the rooms of this spectacular museum and car palace. It is one family's homage to classics of brass era, and later American and European motorcar manufacturing, and delectable collectibles such as musical instruments, and fine home furnishings.

We will gather, rain or shine, between 8:00 and 8:30 AM in the parking lot (across the street from the main museum and shop buildings). We'll take over a corner of the space for our competing cars and non-judged attendees.

The judges meeting will be at 9:00 AM. Judging begins at 9:30 AM and finishes by 11:00 AM. Awards will be presented at

approximately 11:45 AM, followed by lunch.

This is a rain or shine event.

We will judge unless it is well and truly pouring rain or we are getting lightning.

Lunch is by individual picnic. Bring your favorite sandwiches and a thermos of a best-for-the-day beverage. You'll also need comfy camp chairs and tables. The club will have at least one pop-up.

We our tour of the main collection building starts at 1:30 under docent supervision. We've asked for some additional time in the shop, and if that materializes, some of our schedule will change. Stay tuned!

Please RSVP now to Jeff Srinivasan rogueman1@mac.com, letting him know if you are entering Club Concorso #1 and how many will be in your party.
– Jeff Srinivasan, Concorso Director

60th Anniversary T-Shirts !



There is still time to outfit yourself in AROSC gear for the coming year with our special AROSC 60th Anniversary T-Shirt!

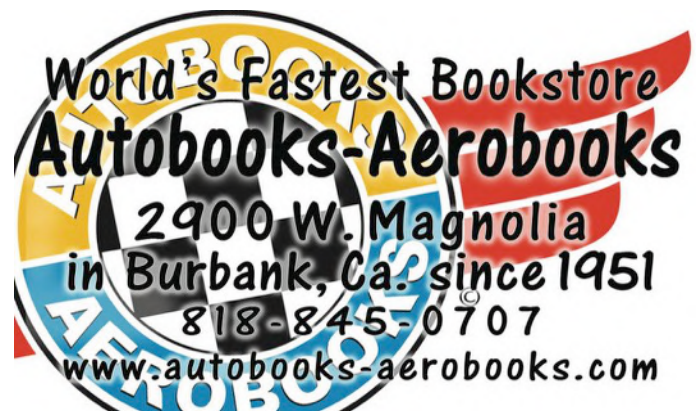
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FEBRUARY

Alfas at the Finish Line

+ O.C. Drive



Our February 4th *Aflisti* adventure

is a dip into the O.C. with a morning meet-up at the exclusive luxury car condos of Finish Line Auto Club in Costa Mesa from 6:45 AM to 9:00 AM, followed by a drive in the canyon country. We'll have a peek at turn-of-the-20th-century superstar actress Helena Modjeska's mansion and a lively transit of the grade bearing her name.

This is a private invitation to AROSC, no details will appear on the website or in social media. It will be an early day with lunch options available after our run. Please RSVP.

We are privileged to share the Finish Line outdoor space with a classic Porsche group. Gates open at 6:45 AM, and we will be parking along the eastern-most fence, adjacent to the light plane tie-downs of John Wayne Airport. There should be personnel on the ground to assist us.

Once settled in, you'll need all of our two-hour stay to find AROSC friends, walk the rows of fabulous cars and have a spin through the building that includes 32 individual garages, conference rooms,

upstairs lounge and balcony.

This is Phase 1 of the development and is sold out. Phase 2 will begin construction soon, with 20k additional sq. ft. of garage space, plus a patio and cabana with elevated views of the airport. Yes, there are (very nice) restrooms upstairs. Do pause on the balcony for a look down and out.

The scrumptious croissants and cappuccinos are free at the powder-blue Carmen's Coffee Company truck, but the line forms early, so bring the people you want to talk to with you for the 10-minute wait.

At 9:15 AM sharp those joining the drive will line up at the edge of the driveway. Those who have RSVPed will get driving instructions in email beforehand, but the basic exit route is Baker St. to the 55 Fwy. north, off at Chapman. Do Google Map it to get the lay of the land.

Please RSVP to Elyse and Jim at editor@arosc.org for additional information.

MARCH

U.S.S. Iowa Tour

Palos Verdes C&C + Gladstone's Lunch

The *USS Iowa* is a retired battleship. She saw service in the Atlantic during WWII and off the coast of North Korea during the Korean War. We are

fortunate to have her docked in San Pedro with plenty of volunteers to inform us of her role in protecting our nation.

On March 4th, we can begin the day at an excellent Cars&Coffee held atop the parking structure for the "Promenade on the Peninsula" Rolling Hills Estates. This event is 7-9AM. See

<https://www.pvconcoors.org/peninsula-cars-and-coffee>. Details on a twisty-road-ocean-view drive from there to the *USS Iowa* will be provided when you RSVP.

Or you can join us directly at the *USS Iowa* at 10AM. Everyone will need to get a General Access Pass. You can do so ahead of time at

<https://www.pacificbattleship.com/experiences/>. This year the pass costs \$19.95-23.95 depending on your age and military status. If you only buy the General Access Pass, you will be taking a self-guided tour of the ship.

There are some interesting, guided, add-on tours: Engineering Tour (8 people), Gun Tour (8 people), Guided Tour (10



people). If you are interested in one of these, you call the museum, specifically Catherine Moreno at 310-971-4462, x706 to reserve times, get

details, and pay for a spot on March 4th. Space is limited, so do this ASAP.

You must have a General Access Pass before purchasing any of the add-on tours.

All tours require that you be physically able to climb up and down ladders without delay. Closed toe shoes are required.

Please RSVP and seek clarifications via email at vgdietrich@cox.net. Let us know if you will be driving your Alfa. That way we can try to reserve a line of parking spaces at the Cars & Coffee and at the *USS Iowa*.

Lunch at Gladstone's: For those interested in lunch, we are planning on meeting at Gladstones in Long Beach around 1:00pm. This will take us across both the Vincent Thomas Bridge and the new Long Beach International Gateway Bridge.

– Val Dietrich

photo by [Dawn Endico CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Our Best Annual Celebration

The 22nd Holiday Party



AROSC's 22nd annual indoor/outdoor Clubhouse Holiday Party at M.J. and Sheila's in Redondo Beach was another pleasant afternoon of food, drink and wonderful company.

The barbecue prepared by MJ included the traditional beef tenderloin on the spit, grilled to melt-in-your mouth tenderness, and always a favorite. But the big hit this year was the Colossal

Shrimp from Seattle. The shrimp, with Sheila's special seasonings, were sautéed and literally flew off the skillet to the waiting plates of the epicurean guests - drawing great raves and delight.

Adding to the food, delicious side dishes were provided by members. The fabulous Blankenship chili rellenos reappeared, and Melinda's enchiladas gave

the rellenos a run for their money. Helen's pear and orange salad was a subtle surprise.

Adding to the camaraderie was the traditional wine tasting table of various varietals and vintages brought and shared by the guests.

AROSC president Jim Barrett called the crowd to attention to introduce

Continued



The gang's all here. Top: Bonnie, Catherine, Jay (MJ in background) and John. Left: Pat plays the Hawaiian slide guitar. Right: Door Prize Extravaganza: Jim, Steve, Sheila, Dan.

newly elected Board members Val Dietrich and Bob Schmitt. Jim then went over the 2023 calendar of Club events.

Music for the party was presented by Pat Quilter playing exquisite holiday melodies on a Hawaiian steel guitar. Pat also helped Sheila with the door prize drawings. Thanks to the

Board who contributed many unique items.

On display and for sale were lovely pottery creations made by Helen Brown. Planted in the pots were succulents, themselves artistic shapes and colors.

M.J. and Sheila wish to thank those who helped set up, contributed and assisted with the event.

If you missed the 2022 edition, be sure to come next year – same time, same place, for another great holiday gathering.

The story continues in the pictures on the following pages! Happy New Year, everyone.

– Sheila

Continued



Happiest of Holidays to Everyone (from top left): Steve and Evie; Sheila and Terry; MJ; Danny, Val and Norm; new members Lee and Tarie; Don, Bruce and Pat.

Continued



Diners having a delicious afternoon (clockwise from bottom left): Melinda, Bob, Shanon, Elyse, Jim, Charlie. Above (clockwise from bottom left): Gene, Mario, Dan, Helen, Margaret Nikko, Mary.

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The Tech Guy

by Gene Brown



Light 'em Up

In automobiles today, the incandescent light bulb has all but disappeared. First used about 100 years ago, it has now been replaced by the LED (Light Emitting Diode) light. The LED was invented in 1962, but it was 22 years until it's first automotive application as the third brake light on the 1984 Corvette. Since then, there has been a steady replacement of incandescents by LEDs until today, when there is nary an incandescent light to be found in a new automobile.

LEDs have a lot of advantages over incandescent lights. Because they are solid state they are more robust, they have a much longer life, they turn on and off faster, they use less power and they come in a

variety of colors. Some can even change colors on demand. They also offer the designer more flexibility in lighting allowing more even



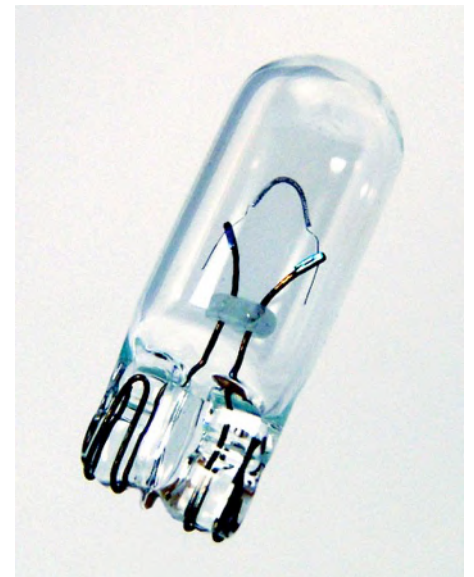
Bayonet Base bulb (left) and Wedge Base bulb (right).

lighting and strip lighting to help with appearance and functionality of the lighting. As their usage increased the cost decreased so that they are on par with the incandescent light on pricing.

Because of all of this, incandescent lights in older cars can now be easily replaced with LED bulbs. It's almost as simple as removing the old bulb and replacing it with the new LED bulb. But you have to take a few things into consideration.

First, most automotive LED lights are designed for 12-volt negative ground systems. There are 6-volt LEDs available but they are not as common. And if you have a positive-ground car you are pretty much out of luck.

LEDs are polarized. That is there is a positive side and a negative side. Incandescent bulbs don't



Continued

Festoon Light with multiple LEDs mounted in an array to achieve a wider angle of light.



care which way the current flows but LEDs do. With bayonet base bulbs there is no problem since the outer shell is the negative (or ground) and the terminal is the positive. However, wedge base and festoon bulbs can easily be inserted the wrong way. Fortunately, most LED bulbs have reverse polarity protection and will not be damaged if placed in incorrectly. If yours doesn't light up, just turn it around and try again.

Another thing has to do with the light output of the bulb. Incandescent bulbs emit light in all directions almost equally, whereas LEDs emit light in a very narrow angle. Because of this LED bulbs that need to output light at a wide angle will have a number of LEDs mounted in array in the bulb.

For taillights, turn signals, etc., the light fixture is designed with a reflector to reflect the bulb light out through the lens. Depending upon the array of LEDs in the LED bulb the light may not be as well lit with the LED bulb as it is with the incandescent bulb. This is kind of hit-or-miss and, depending upon how picky you are, you may have to try several different LED bulbs before you are satisfied.

One word of warning when replacing turn signal bulbs with LED bulbs: Not all turn signal flashers will work properly with LED bulbs. The older-style flashers require a certain amount of current to flash properly. The lower current of LED bulbs may cause the flasher to flash too rapidly or to not flash at all. The solution to this is to replace your flasher with an electronic flasher that works with LEDs or to add load resistors to the turn signals. The load resistors increase the current through the flasher enabling it to work with the LED bulbs.

When selecting LED bulbs you may also have the option of color temperature. The range is generally from 2700K to 6000K with the lower number being yellowish (warm) and as the value goes up the light goes through white to cool white. Some people find that the higher numbers are too harsh but it depends upon what you are trying to achieve. The higher numbers may be perfect for taillights and turn signals which are seen through colored lenses.

So if you want to switch to LED bulbs, go right ahead and light 'em up!

Best of France & Italy 2022

our favorite rite of fall was a ball



The 100-Alfa field included dozens of Spiders and a few cars we didn't know, like the gorgeous red Berlina and the Alfa Cup Revival GTA. Our chapter gang included David (polishing the Spider, above) and Tony and Mario (right) and friends.

The drought was not too unkind to Woodley Park this past November and at least 100 Alfes, their owners, friends and families enjoyed a day in the sun. It was, we believe, Chuck and Tina's 27th iteration of this fall fun-for-all.

We were pleased to welcome Stellantis

Alfa Romeo North America public relations chief Nick Cappa and *AutoWeek's* Mark Vaughn to Alfaland. Other luminaries such as Ford's John Clinard and Urban Outlaw Marcus Walker stalked the rows and said hello, and Jay Leno joined us for a quick nosh and a kindly photo op.

Alfa Italia / AROSC People's Choice 2022 !



The people's favorite Alfa in the 2022 Alfa Italia's People's Choice balloting was AROSC member Mike Baum's 1957 Giulietta Sprint, refreshed over several intensive and caring months by Santo's Italian Car Service in Northridge. Alfa Italia generously created an engraved crystal trophy, facilitated the voting, and Chuck, Ed, and Gary (above left) also helped position all 100 Alfas as they rolled into our big Italian II parking area at Woodley Park.

The car also won the Ed Mackie Memorial for Giuliettas Award at the AROC National Convention in Coronado in June.



Stellantis AR NA public relations honcho Nick Cappa got a break from Detroit weather to fly west and pilot a press pool Giulia out to the show. The paint scheme is called "ocre" and the U.S. will be getting more interesting colors like this in upcoming shipments of Giulias and Stelvios. Jim put a microphone in his hand, inviting a comment or two. He responded with an Alfa cap and congratulations to Mike Baum, and one product promise: Tonale is coming this spring.



Yes, we appreciated the French cars too: the bitchin' blue and burgundy Bugatti, and the citrus-colored Citroen caught our eye. Then there is always the swap meet and the projects for sale. This year it was a not-so-jolly looking Jolly (top right). It helps to make a complete circuit of the show before settling into a camp chair for lunch.

Continued



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Jay joined dropped by for lunch and told Evelyn he liked our food and us! He arrived in one of his Fiat Bota Foga specials (above). Just six days later, he suffered his tragic burn accident at his garage.

Mille Grazie to our volunteer *Alfacionada* contributors whose words and photography helped bring this January-February 2023 newsletter into focus: David Waelder, Bob Schmitt, Bonnie Schwartz, Evie Silverman, Steve Edelman, MJ Kutkus, Jim & Elyse Barrett.

Alfa

PIEMONTE



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- Cabarrus County Self-Guided Tour

- Southern Feast Buffet
- Concorso d'Elaganza
- NASCAR Museum Bus Tour
- Downtown Charlotte Bus Tour
- Moonlight Car Show
- Tech Sessions & Swap Meet



The Members' Page

Welcome & Welcome Back

AROSC is pleased and gratified to see our roster continue to grow and become enriched each month with new and returning members!

Benvenuto to new members Cory Muensterman, Alan Medak (back after a big break), Sung Hyon, David Devereaux and Thomas Jones.

Welcome back to those who have renewed for 2023: Carmen Porto, Robert Kimball, Sean Russell, Chris Burke, Mike Riehle, Pierre Lemieux, Vic Melian, Art Russell, Gabriel and Rose Baltierra, Carlos Bozoghlian, Manuel Minassian, David Khoe, Larry Guzin, Kyle Breslow, Scot Cline, Roger Long, Steve Cole, John Clair,



Franco Rizzo, Richard White, Teri Mermer White, Val Dietrich, Monique Goossens, Mario Vitale, Gene Brown, Stephen Villagrasa, Marilyn Ashton, David Hayman, Teri Hayman, Shelly Zide, Jim Butler, Reeves Callaway, David Van Lue, Bob Schmitt, Carolyn Richard, Rob Richard, Francisco Duran, Peter Norman and David O'Donoghue.

A Tribute to our Presidents

In researching the Chapter's 60 years of AROSC history, we were able to just about totally fill out the roster of *Presidenti*. Here we applaud (almost all) our fearless leaders, serving us since The Beginning.

1961	Ed Gustin	1967	unknown	1985 - 87	Joel Hoffman
1962	Ed Gustin	1968	Alan Ward	1988	John Green
1963	Bob Nerell	1969	Dale Jones	1989 - 90	Dan Ritter
1964	unknown	1970	Enzo "Vince" Giobbe	1991	Bill Pringle
1965	John McGarry	1971 - 72	Tom Atkins	1992 - 93	Tina Van Curen
1966	Ron Durrett	1973	John Samson	1994	Joel Hoffman
		1974	Bill Kohl	1995	Tina Van Curen
		1975	Alan Gott	1996	Charlie Schwartz
		1976	Jerry Wright	1997	Jay Negrin
		1977	Sid Keely	1998 - 99	Charlie Schwartz
		1978	Dave Vegher	2000 - 03	Paul Blankenship
		1979	Rick "Bear" Clemente	2004 - 10	Norman Silverman
		1980	Dan Bernstein	2011 - 2019	Mike Riehle
		1981	Jack Becronis	2020 - 2023	Jim & Elyse Barrett
		1982	Al Cortes		
		1983	John Ireland		
		1984	Teri Wood		

Continued



Paul Blankenship visited the L.A. Auto Show and saw the one and only Tonale in the U.S. of A. The word is that orders are being taken and cars will be here in April.



We are pleased to see Roberto Quadrelli back in good form.



Ken Roath's stunning Sprint Zagato and TZ got out for some fresh air at the Finish Line on a Saturday in December. We are headed there on February 4th. Save the date!

Join Us at the Track!

Just starting out, experienced or already a racer?
We have a run group for you!
All marques are welcome.

Alfa Romeo
Owners of Southern California



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2023 Schedule

January 14-15

Streets of Willow
High-Performance Driving School

February 18-19

Big Willow
Time Trial & Race

September 9-10

Streets of Willow
High-Performance Driving School

October 7-8

Big Willow - Time Trial & Race

**Sign up for our track events at
www.alfaclubracing.com or motorsportreg.com**

ABOUT YOUR CLUB

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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.

2023 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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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 and all members in good standing are invited to attend and/or bring their business to the attention of the *Co-Presidenti* via email.

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 to join, and select Chapter 20 to affiliate with us, AROSC.

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