



Newsletter of
the Alfa Romeo
Owners of
Southern California



Previews

- May 20** Conejo Valley C&C, drive, Apricot Lane Farms visit, lunch
- June 4** Huntington Beach Concours + Club Concorso #2
- 11** Board of Directors Meeting, Q2
- 17-25** AROC National Convention, North Carolina
- July 29** Summer Party
- August 17** Monterey Week Thursday Welcome Dinner



May 20th will be a top-down drive to Apricot Lane Farms.

June 4th is our second Club Concorso at Huntington Beach Concours

Please read
The Disclaimer,
page 21.



*Avanti
e Verso
l'Auto!*

Presidents'
Message

Good day, All and Happy Springtime!

After a record-breaking winter and early-spring rains, it's time to get out and smell the flowers (and/or inhale the allergens)!

Right now, the hills everywhere are a bright green and yellow (compliments of the invasive mustard plants). As we absorbed on our annual Wine Tour in Santa Ynez Valley in April, the greenery everywhere inspired our appreciation of this even-better year. The riotous phenomenon of Earth's renewal will also be on view on the May 20th Day Drive from Thousand Oaks to Moorpark, and surely again at our second Concorso within the Huntington Beach Concours on the first Sunday in June.

And the Summer Party will take place July 29th in a new location: Jeff and Margaret Srinivasan's home. Thank you! Save the date, and see info on page 8. More to follow via email.

We started this year with some really cool gatherings and drives, including another HPDE School at the Streets of Willow, a magnificent Concorso #1/visit to the Nethercutt Collection and Museum, and an opportunity to sneak into a Porsche showing in the back of the Finish Line parking lot in Costa Mesa.

Our Competition group ran time trials again at the Big Track at Willow Springs, and in we invaded a Cars and Coffee event in Rancho Palos Verdes, followed by fabulous tours of the *USS Iowa*,

crossing the new Long Beach Gateway Bridge, and then lunch on the water adjacent to Pine Street Pier. Culture is where you find it!

As mentioned above, we enjoyed an excellently curated wine tasting tour in Santa Ynez Valley. Bonnie and Charlie made sure we had a good time, and we hope they will do so again next year. Stay tuned!

We have plenty of other scheduled events for you to enjoy this year. Take a



look at our calendar on the website arosc.org and then plan to come driving with us!

FLASH! This news just in! We have been invited to display our cars at Alfa Romeo of Santa Monica on Saturday, May 27th. The occasion is to meet and greet the new Tonale, Alfa's entry into the hybrid/electric

automotive world. Please see info on page 5 and reserve space for your car by RSVPing to editor@arosc.org

Ciao for now!
Jim & Elyse Barrett,
Copresidenti

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New AROSC Bylaws are in effect



OFFICIAL NOTICE



This is official notice to AROSC members that there was a vote of the membership on April 8, 2023, that amended the Chapter Bylaws. The purpose for amending the Bylaws was to update them to reflect the way we currently conduct business (such as communications, event management and electronic transmission of data and information).

As part of these changes, a statement of consent to receive communications via email to info@arosc.org. was issued. Please see page 21 of this newsletter for a reprint of this statement.

The new Bylaws are viewable on our website www.arosc.org under the Club Bylaws headline.

Thank you to those members who attended the meeting and voted on these important changes to the way our Chapter functions.

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MAY 20th

Day Drive: 1k Oaks to Moorpark

Spiders Will Lead the Way!



We're declaring May a top-down motoring month and heading to the west-of-L.A. country to celebrate spring. Spiders will lead the drive!

The meet-up spot is the Conejo Valley Cars & Coffee at Thousand Oaks Mall at 7AM. cvcarsandcoffee.com At 9:30 we will head out on some scenic country roads to Moorpark, visit Apricot Lane Farms' farmstand and market garden, then enjoy lunch at Pizzeria Magma. See their info at <https://www.pizzeriamagma.restaurant/>

Apricot Lane Farms is the shining example of one couple's 2011 experiment in biodynamic, regenerative farming. They repurposed a collection of parched horse pastures into 243 acres of organic wonder. The founders are videographers – escapees from

Hollywood – who documented their adventure in "The Biggest Little Farm".

Be sure to check out the website apricotlanefarms.com and see the movie (available to stream on Hulu, iTunes and Amazon) before our visit.

We'll need headcounts for the farm and lunch so please RSVP to editor@arosc.org

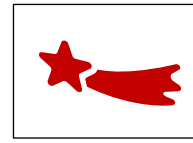
– Elyse Barrett



Conejo Valley C&C is our meet-up place (left). We'll walk the garden path at Apricot Lane Farms (above).



NEWS FLASH



Tonale

is coming to

Alfa Romeo of Santa Monica

AROSC to view the new hybrid May 27th

We have been invited by our friends at Alfa Romeo of Santa Monica to show off our classic Alfas on the store lot and spend some quality time with this unique new compact utility now in production at Stellantis's Giambattista Vico factory in Pomigliano d'Arco, Naples, Italy.

Everyone may attend, but parking is limited. RSVPs to editor@arosc.org will be needed to get a space on the property.



Watch your email for details! Save Saturday, May 27th, 8 a.m. - noon!

Monterey Car Week is August 13-20

Once again AROSC will be kicking off Historics Week with Evelyn Silverman's Thursday Welcome Dinner at Ambrosia India Bistro in downtown Monterey on August 17th, at 7 p.m.

The open buffet is Italian and Indian fare, for \$35 per person. Soda, beer, wine, cocktails, and mocktails are available for purchase.

Come join the fun and find out who this year's surprise speaker will be! RSVP to Evelyn at normanbev@msn.com or text 818-314-1262.

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JUNE 4th

Bring Your Alfa to the Beach, Huntington that is ...



Club Concorso #2

The second AROC Club Concours in 2023 will take place at the Huntington Beach Concours d'Elegance on Sunday, June 4th. This will be the 37th Huntington Beach Concours and will include a salute to Chevrolet Corvettes, Jaguars and BMW motorcycles, as well as some great Alfa Romeos.

Once again, this event will be held on the picturesque lawns of Huntington Beach Central Park in Huntington Beach. Central Park lies adjacent to the Huntington Beach Public Library and Cultural Resource Center on Talbert Avenue between Goldenwest and Gothard Streets.

If you plan to exhibit your car, you must register by noon on Friday, May 26th. Early registration is recommended, as the event could fill up. Registration costs \$50/car and can be completed at <https://www.hbconcours.org/register-vehicle/>.

Two people (driver + passenger) can ride into the event with each registered car. You can request that your Alfa not be judged, but you'll still need to register through the Concours website to park it on the field. And even if you don't register an Alfa, you can still join the fun; spectator entry is \$10 per person plus \$1/car for

parking at the adjacent Sports Complex.

The concours organizers have defined the Alfa Romeo classes in a way that doesn't fit well with our normal Club Concorso classes, but we can make it work with your help. So please select a class as defined below when you register your car:

06A Open: All open Alfas through 1995

06B Closed: All closed Alfas through 1995

06C Sedan: All Alfas 1996 and newer

Special Message for Daily Driver Entrants: For AROSC members with classic (pre-1996) Alfas who typically compete in the Daily Driver Class, please enter your vehicle in 06B or 06C above.

If you wish your car to be judged as a Daily Driver, or have questions about the other classes, please contact Concorso Director Jeff Srinivasan at rogueman1@mac.com.

The AROSC section of the Huntington Beach Concours has historically been an integral part of this very large, friendly event and with your help, will continue that tradition in 2023. So, polish up your Alfa, bring a picnic lunch, chairs, comfortable shoes and sunscreen, and we'll see you there!

- Jeff Srinivasan and Jay Mackro

JULY 29TH

Summer Party 2023

Save the Date!
Fun in the Sun with *Alfisti* Friends
Garage Goodies Auction
Delicious Lunch



AROSC's mid-year celebration now has a date and a destination! Our 2023 Summer Party is set for Saturday, July 29th at the home of Jeff and Margaret Srinivasan.

Details are under development, but we will be having a catered lunch in the back garden.

Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite beverages to share, be they California blends or Italian varietals.

Everyone is likewise encouraged to be ruthless in their clean-out efforts. The Garage Goodies Auction moved a fabulous range of items last year – from literature to tee-shirts, coil-over springs to avocados, limoncello to lubricants.

However! Last year's auctioneer is this year's host, so we are looking for two volunteers to call the lots in July. Please consider lending your talent to this worthy cause.

Meanwhile, save the date for fun in the sun with *Alfisti* friends on Saturday, July 29th and watch your email for more information via eblast.



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And a Spirited Drive to San Pedro Ensued

Ahoy AROSC Visiting the *USS Iowa*

We had quadruple the fun on March 4th beginning with a cars and coffee event on Palos Verdes Peninsula. Attendance was on the light side with about nine cars and 15 members. A variety of Alfas showed up from a 1967 Giulia TI to a modern Giulia Veloce with other spiders and sedans between. Dan Ritter brought his recently restored Lancia Flavia – what a beauty! We even had a vintage 911 Porsche – complete with Alfa badging.

Our drive through the bucolic neighborhoods of Palos Verdes began with a test of our cooling systems – a traffic jam created by opening day for a local little league program. But we were soon able to enjoy the twists, turns and switchbacks of Palos Verdes Drive East ending in a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean with Catalina Island in the distance.

Our destination was the retired battleship, *USS Iowa*, docked in San Pedro. *The USS Iowa* is the first and only National Museum dedicated to the men and women of the surface navy. Plenty of volunteers were available to describe her features and her role in the Atlantic during World War II and off the coast of North Korea in the Korean War.

For those of us on the Engineering Tour there were many fascinating features: air-powered headphones (good for when power systems go down), equipment to cancel the ship's electromagnetic signature (good for avoiding torpedoes), and old school targeting computers.

Others who remained on the self-guided exploration could set their own pace and

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Our Alfa row included David Khoe's lovely Berlina and Mario and Karen's red Spider (left) plus a local GTV, genuine Autodelta-prepped from Europe. And our fearless leader, Val with his 200 Touring Spider (bottom left).

The "car of the day" for many of us was the Maserati Espada (left) or the nicely turned-out Dodge (below)!



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From top left: *Iowa*, starboard side of the bridge, display of campaign ribbons. A docent (center) welcomes some of our crew aboard Paul, John and David. Alfa row, relocated to the ship parking lot adjacent cruise liner docks. Bottom row: Karen and Susan check out the con tower electronics and we made it aft to gawk at the big guns.



learn what bags the of gunpowder bags are made of (silk), how thick the conning tower is (three feet), and walk through the galley, discovering how many pounds of meat, potatoes, onions and carrots it takes to make beef stew for a crew of 2600 enlisted sailors (*a lot*). The route took them aft through the artifact gallery to the ship's store - both impressive, but for different reasons.

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After the battleship tour we transited the great bridges of L.A. and Long Beach Harbors (International Gateway left), to Gladstone's to be out of the misty morning. The lunch bunch included (from top) Ada and Dan, Melinda and Erwin, Susan and Steve and Jim, Elyse, Monique, Dan and Val.



Our day ended with lunch at Gladstone's at Pine St. Pier, overlooking Queensway Bay in Long Beach Harbor.

Fortunately, given the chill in the air even at midday, Monique was able to score us a dining room inside the restaurant. Good fun and great company.

– Val Dietrich

All Smiles at Wine Tour '23



Dear *Alfisti*,

We received many texts and e-mails from all of you after our AROSC Wine Tour event, telling me how much you enjoyed the weekend.

We would like to thank Paul Blankenship, Jan and Chuck Cline and Elyse and Jim Barrett for their unwavering support. Big thank yous also to everyone who offered to give us rides to and from the wineries, restaurants, and other places when our little Alfa decided to give up the ghost on the very first arrival day!

We loved making new friends and meeting with the "usual suspects" throughout the weekend.

We now have a new mechanic in Buellton: Nestor Grossi. He's a caring rescue dog owner and expert fixer of crumbling catalytic converters!

Last but not least, thank you AROSC for your kind words and tokens of appreciation.

Fondly,

Bonnie & Charlie Schwartz



Top: Dan, our host at Koehler gets the party started on Saturday morning. Before that, Melinda, Steve, Jeff (in back), Cathering, Jay, Norm and Evelyn enjoy Bonnie's humor in the drivers' meeting.

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From top (L-R): Chuck, Richard, Mike, Charlie; and David, Chris, MJ; then Alana and John, all at Koehler. Ron and Chuck with A-cars at Fess Parker. On the road! The tasting group at Fess Parker fronted by Sheila and Bonnie. Picnicking at Fess Parker Melinda, Jeff, Margaret and Elyse; then Ron, Lee, Donna, Catherine and Jay at the Fess Parker picnic tables.

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Again, from top left, we were rapt students of organic lavender farmer Sean Crowder at Clairmont Farms in the lecture, at the still and in the fields (which included iris). Middle: our breakfast hang was Ellen's Danish Pancake House, and Saturday evening found us taking over Gino's Pizza in Buellton; Grazie, Marcel. Finally, thank you to Bonnie and Charlie for staging a lovely weekend in the Santa Ynez Valley wine country!

The Tech Guy

by Gene Brown



Flashing!

Back when I was starting to drive, most cars did not have turn signals as standard equipment. To indicate you were turning you had to put your arm out the window to signal your intention. This was most inconvenient when the weather was bad. And, knowing how to use arm signals for turns and for braking was a part of the driver's license test.

The first mechanical device to indicate that the driver was turning was a hand-shaped semaphore invented in 1907. In 1925, the flashing light turn signal was invented and offered as an aftermarket device. It wasn't until 1939 that the first factory-installed turn signal was offered. Buick had them first, followed by Cadillac and Hudson. They were available as an option on Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Pontiac models for a cost of \$7.95. In the late 1960s, flashing turn signals became mandatory for all vehicles sold in the U.S.

Until recently the most common type of turn signal flasher was the thermal flasher. This flasher is usually packaged in a round aluminum can with three or four terminals. Inside the can are a set of contacts, one of which is mounted on a bi-metallic strip, and a heater. The contacts are normally open. When the turn signal is turned on, current flows through the heater to the lights. The current is

insufficient to illuminate the lights but the heater heats up causing the bi-metallic strip to move causing the two contacts to close, turning on the lights and bypassing the heater. Since the heater is off, the bi-metallic strip cools causing the contacts to open, turning off the lights and turning on the heater again. The cycle then repeats flashing the lights. The flexing of the bi-metallic strip is what causes the clicking sound associated with turn signals.

If one or more lights are burned out, the heater does not get the bi-metallic strip as hot and, as a result, it cools off quicker, causing a rapid flashing of the turn signals.

There are also electronic turn signal flashers that have been used in cars from at least the 1970s. They work the same as the thermal flashers in that they sense the current to the turn signal bulbs to know if the turn signal switch is turned on. Rather than a bi-metallic strip, they use transistors to turn relays on and off.

Regardless of whether the flasher is thermal or electronic, there can be a problem when replacing turn signal

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lamps with Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs. With LEDs there is lower current flow, resulting in the flasher not detecting enough current, and causing either a rapid flash or no flash at all. The solution is to replace the flasher with one that is designed for use with LEDs or to place a load resistor across the LED bulb to increase the current to allow the flasher to flash properly.

If you are changing the turn signal bulbs in your car from incandescent to LED be sure to change all of them. Having a mix of incandescent and LED bulbs can cause erratic flasher operation, regardless of thermal or electronic flasher.

Replacement flashers and load resistors for LEDs are available from all the usual sources.

In addition, if your hearing is not quite as good as it used to be there are extra loud flashers available for the hearing challenged.

Now, if only there were a way to make drivers actually use their turn signals!



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2023 Schedule

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HP Driving school

October 7-8
Big Willow
Time Trial & Race



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

The Members' Page

Welcome & Welcome Back

In Q2 we are pleased to welcome these new members and proffer a big thank you to those 77 *Alfisti* who have renewed their membership or returned after being away.

Joining between February and April are:
Harold Croulet, Barry and Erick Klein,

Casey Annis, Dave Babbe, Bruce Frasco, Patricia Blanco, Kabir Mendez, Frank D'Amelio and Ivan Roubal.

Come drive with us!



It took us a while to catch up with him, but in April we were happy to present Will Owen with his AROSC Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service and support to the club as Managing Editor and Art Director of this fine publication, *Alfacionada*. Thank you, dear friend.

– Elyse Barrett

Got Vintage AROSC Literature?

Calling all historians and AROSC packrats!

We are amassing an honest-to-goodness Chapter Archive of past issues of *Alfacionada*. We specifically need the years 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967. Someday this history will reside on our website and in Club Express for everyone to read and enjoy.

The effort is being led by Dan Ritter. Please email info@arosc.org to let him know what you can contribute. *Grazie!*

Mille Grazie to all of our member-contributors, whose stories and images make this May-June version of our chapter communications effective: David Waelder, Jeff Srinivasan, Jay Mackro, Bonnie & Charlie Schwartz, Gene Brown, Tania Owen, and Val Dietrich.

About Your Club

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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 the chapter 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(es) 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.

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

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

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Chapter Meetings

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

A full listing of events is posted on our website, aroc.org, along with a 12-month calendar, which is also emailed early each year and periodically updated.

Email your concerns and questions about events, policies and procedures to info@arosc.org and a Director will respond.

Board of Directors Meetings are held quarterly on Zoom. All members in good standing are invited to attend. The Board Meeting schedule is noted in the published Calendar of Events. Contact the Board through info@arosc.org to receive a link to the Zoom meeting. Members are also invited to bring their business to the attention to

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About Your Club

the Board via email via
info@arosc.org

Communications Information

Please Note: AROSC consents to receive communications from you by email to info@arosc.org. Since you are already receiving our newsletters, meeting notices, and ballots by email, we deem that you that you have consented to electronic transmission from AROSC of meeting notices and voter related communications to your email address in AROC's database. You may change this email address by modifying your profile in AROC's records (currently available at <https://arosc-usa.clubexpress.com/>). You may withdraw your consent to receive electronic transmission of meeting notices and voter related communications by sending an email to that effect to info@arosc.org. However, by withdrawing your consent to electronically receive such communications, you will no longer be a voting member of AROSC.

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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