



Newsletter of
the Alfa Romeo
Owners of
Southern California



Come to the Best of
France and Italy on
November 5th!
Info on pages 4 & 5.



New Date: our
Holiday Party is now
December 9th.
Details in flyer,
page 10.

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(New Date!)

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Holiday Party
(New Date!)

Please read
The Disclaimer,
page 23.



*Avanti
e Verso
l'Auto!*

**Presidents'
Message**

Wowzers, is it already Autumn? It's hard to accept this, considering we're still wearing shorts and basking in 80-degree air temps throughout most of SoCal!

Our summer was better than the last two summers, for sure. Our Chapter's activities continued to improve, and with more participants, some who are new to us - the result of a continued increase in members, and great to see!

And we must also address our own memberships in ClubExpress. Now is the time to visit your Profile, and update it. You should add a spouse as a secondary member, add photos of your excellent Alfas, make sure that the email listed is your preferred address, and that you have *not* opted out of receiving communications from ClubExpress thinking you will be receiving junk emails.

ClubExpress is now our prime communications tool - we use it for eblasts and event registrations. It doesn't take much time, but vastly improves our ability to stay in touch. If you have issues or can't get there from here, call the AROC Administrator (971.254.6660), and you will get help.

In early September we had another splendid visit to the Petersen Automotive Museum, and completed our third Concorso, masterfully helmed by Jeff again. Please see the story on page 6.

October's early treat was our Angeles Forest & Descanso Day Drive, with lunch and a visit to Descanso Gardens. We had 21 cars on an excellently designed run that took us around the San Gabriel mountains on a perfect driving day. See page 14.

Your *Copresidenti*, along with former AROSC president and marathon Giulia driver, Paul Blankenship, and AROSC member/AROC BoD member Mary Ann Dickinson participated in the AROC Red Rock Adventure in Utah

(mostly) put on by the Bonneville Chapter. It was huge success, especially for a new chapter. The roads were amazing, and the sights were astounding. This event was modeled after the wonderful "Pre-Tours" of AROC annual conventions; there may be more of these smaller-scale national-supported driving events in the future.

And this coming Sunday, November 5th is the biggest car party of the year! Yes, it's time for The Best of France & Italy, and this year's show is accompanied by an extra hour as Daylight Saving Time ends. Bring a picnic, drinks and camp chairs and sample our Chapter's Italian supplements for your lunch - meats, breads and cheeses from San Carlo



Italian Deli in Chatsworth. More information on pages 4-5.

Another very important upcoming event is the annual AROSC vote for *your* Board of Directors. You should have received your ballot on October 15, and your votes are needed by **November 8**. This year's 4th quarter/final BoD meeting will be via Zoom on **November 18** (a date change). This is the meeting when we establish next year's calendar of events - if you have an idea or suggestion, please attend! RSVP to info@arosc.org.

Our last event of the year, and a really great tradition is our annual Holiday Party. This year it will occur on **December 9**, another date change, so mark your calendar. We will also present the 2023 Concorso awards then too. Please see page 10 to plan your contribution and attendance.

More good news: the AROC Winter Retreat returns to the Palm Springs area on February 2-3. See the flyer on page 17!

Ciao for now,
Jim and Elyse Barrett
Copresidenti

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Time to Vote !

Please Send Your Ballot by Nov. 8th



Our annual election of the AROSC Board of Directors is under way.

If you are a voting member as of October 5th, you were sent a ballot via email on October 15th, so you may vote by November 8th.

Don't delay! Return your ballot today!



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Best of France & Italy

November 5th - Woodley Park

See You There!



Voting early, and often at the Best of France & Italy

It is time to celebrate the season at our favorite fall fun-for-all: The Best of France & Italy Car Show at Woodley Park in Van Nuys this Sunday, November 5th!

Our friends at Alfa Italia will again conduct their People's Choice for Best Alfa Romeo, contest, circulating ballots among all attendees parked with us - usually upwards of 100 Alfas of all ages and models.

Club members and unaffiliated Alfa owners arrive in from Santa Barbara to San Diego and the majority are Los Angeles *Alfisti* with fabulous cars we've never seen. And then there are the equally fabulous "other" Italian cars - Fiat, Lancia, DeTomaso, Ferrari, Maserati - plus wonderful French cars, and motorcycles, and the swap meet, and Italian music in the air!

Your Chapter sets up a picnic area under the trees with our banner and a pair of red pop-ups. Bring your lunch, folding table and chairs and join the fun.

Spectator admission is free. Cars are \$25 per vehicle online in advance or \$30 day-of. Space in the Swap Meet is \$25. **Register online at <https://www.franceanditaly.com/>**

Invite family and friends, and plan to make a day of it.

Sunday, November 5th, Woodley Park. Be there or be square!

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Concorso #3

A Positively Petersen Event



September sprinkles did not dampen our 2023 return to the Petersen Automotive Museum nor the Harris' well-deserved trifecta in Concorso #3.

The weather in Southern California is sunny and warm ... until it is not. But a little rain the Saturday morning before Labor Day 2023 could not dampen the spirits of the 40+ AROSC members who gathered at The Petersen Automotive Museum for our third Club Concorso of the year (which also included a traditional visit to the cool car exhibits!).

Instead of arraying our beautiful Alfa Romeos (we had almost 20 in total) in the open part of Level 3 of the Petersen parking garage, we simply moved our machines east a few feet under the covered portion of the same Level 3. Mischief managed – take that, Mother Nature!

Our four judges for this event (who deserve a round of applause for sharing their time and expertise), were divided into two teams of two and faced quite a challenge: to fairly judge 12 Alfas, divided evenly into three classes – Modern, Open (classic) and Closed (classic) –

and finish in less than two hours. Well, they/we rose to the occasion and just a few minutes after the planned noon start, the awards ceremony was under way, Class (red, white and blue), People's Choice (green) and Best of Show (purple) ribbons were presented as the skies brightened along with the smiles of our winners.

In a new twist, this Club Concorso featured two Judge-In-Training volunteers, who joined the judging ranks for the first time. Hal Croulet, Jr. and Robert Jackson both grabbed a judge's clipboard and were each assigned to join a veteran team to judge some *bella machinas*. Hal and Robert also happened to be concorso entrants, so their assignments were judging cars that were not in their respective classes (a rule all judges follow if they entered an Alfa in the judged show). By all accounts, Hal and Robert had a great time (and they did a very good job as judges to boot). You



L-R: Adil is 1st Open. Larry is 1st Modern. Lee & Tare are 1st Closed, People's Choice and Best of Show.

too can join our judging team at our first Concorso of 2024. Reach out to Jeff Srinivasan at rogueman1@mac.com if you'd like to try your hand at judging (no experience needed, only a love of Alfa Romeos).

Below is the full list of judges (thanks again to that team) as well as a full list of entrants at this, the final Club Concorso of 2023. Please join us for the Year-End Awards Presentation during the Holiday Party on December 9th, and see which cars/owners will be honored with 2023 awards.

– Jeff Srinivasan, AROSC Concorso Director

Judges-In-Training

Hal Croulet, Jr.
Robert Jackson

Judges

David O'Donoghue
David Waelder
John Ireland
Jeff Srinivasan

Club Concorso #3 Class Results

Modern Class

1st Larry Guzin, 2015 4C
2nd Robert & Terry Jackson, 2017 Giulia
3rd Don Cole 2023 Stelvio Veloce
4th Hal Croulet Jr., 1996 916 Spider

Open Class

1st Adil Farooqui, 1973 Spider Veloce
2nd David O'Donoghue, 1984 Spider Veloce
3rd David & Susan Waelder, 1991 Spider Veloce
4th Mario Cano & Karen Davis, 1988 Spider Veloce

Closed Class

1st Lee & Tarie Harris, 1960 Giulietta Sprint Speciale
2nd Jim & Elyse Barrett, 1989 Milano Verde
3rd Gene Brown, 1972 Montreal
4th Mark Warshauer, 1979 Alfetta GT

Club Concorso Special Awards

The 1960 Giulietta Sprint Speciale owned by Lee & Tarie Harris was voted **People's Choice** by the attendees and was also awarded **Best of Show**, as the high-scoring judged Alfa Romeo

(continued)



(Above L-R) Mark tidies the Alfetta. New members Patricia, Lucas and Kobir Mendez admire Tony's Montreal. (Below L-R) the O'Donoghue's classy Spider cockpit; the Croulet Twin Spark engine in the 916 and the Santarelli Montreal powerplant.



(Above L-R) The Mendez Giulia and Guzzi 4C in stylish repose. Our leaders earn their titles by presiding over the member meeting and tallying the concorso scores.

(continued)



(L-R, from top) Indoors at the museum it was the 75th anniversary of Porsche, from life-size Matchbox model in the lobby, to art cars, to special historical examples from the museum. Electrification and Tesla had a big exhibit too, and on the 3rd floor, a fresh display of motorbikes whisked us in.

AROSC 23rd Annual Clubhouse Holiday Party



NEW DATE: Saturday, Dec 9th, Noon – 5

Hosted by: M.J. & Sheila in Redondo Beach
Join us and meet up with **old friends**, make **new friends**.

Added Highlight →



Year-End Concours Trophies



Alfa folks are the best in the world!



M.J. & Sheila will do a **Holiday BBQ:**

- Argentinian Beef Tenderloin
- Bahian Chicken Tenders
- Patagonian Red Shrimp

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you bet!
**Bring your favorite
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Door Prizes, oh yeah!

RSVP to Sheila for directions: Sheila.k@verizon.net

Let Sheila know how many in your party
and what you will bring.

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Happy Holidays! See you at the party!!

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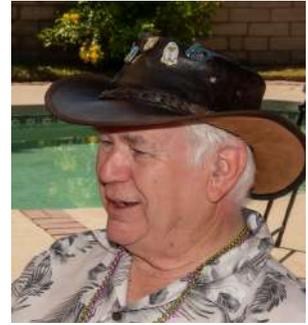
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The Tech Guy

by Gene Brown



Equal Taxes for All

Many countries around the world are encouraging the sales of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) to combat global warming. In fact, many governments have mandated that all new vehicles sold must be ZEVs after a certain date (2035 in most cases). In California it is mandated that by 2026 ZEVs must be at least 35% of new car, SUV and light truck sales, ramping up to 100% by 2035. The ZEV total can be a mix of Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles (PHEV), battery-electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. PHEV must have a minimum all-electric range of 50 miles and comprise no more than 20% of ZEV sales.

The goal is an overall reduction of tailpipe emissions and the number of gasoline fuel vehicles becoming a smaller percentage of the vehicles on the road. This also means reduced gasoline sales. This latter fact has caused concern in a number of state governments.

A state tax and a federal tax is levied upon every gallon of gasoline sold. In California the gasoline tax is about 58 cents per gallon which funds road and infrastructure construction and repair. In addition, there is about 39 cents per gallon assessed as underground storage tank, Fuels Under the Cap Fee and Low Carbon Fuel Standard fees. Finally, a sales tax which varies from 7.25% to 10.75% is applied. These taxes add

up to about \$1.00 per gallon of gas sold. In 2022 13.6 billion gallons of gas were sold in California. That is a good amount of money for the coffers.

What is worrying to state governments is that none of these taxes are paid by ZEVs. This tax income is needed to fund the road and infrastructure repairs, and other governmental expenses. With the number of ZEVs increasing each year and the number of gasoline-fueled vehicles declining, this tax income will gradually be reduced, causing a long-term effect on road maintenance and other programs funded by these taxes.

Therefore, the question is: How to make up for the lost gasoline tax revenue?

For hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, it is not too difficult. They can add the tax to the hydrogen purchased at the refilling station.

For battery electric (EV) vehicles it becomes a bit more involved.

Twenty-nine states impose an annual EV registration fee. This varies from \$50 in Hawaii to \$200 in Ohio, West Virginia and Wyoming. Texas is working on legislation to charge EV owners a one-time \$400 fee at initial registration and a \$200 fee annually. California charges \$100 per year for EVs. The problem with this is that all EVs are charged the same regardless of the miles

driven, whereas gasoline fueled vehicles pay their tax based on the gallons of gas purchased. People who drive only a few miles a month would be charged the same as those who drive 10,000 miles a month.

Utah has a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) tax with a rate of \$0.01 per mile driven. Hawaii in switching over to a VMT system at a rate of \$0.08 per mile driven. This system is more equitable, but requires that the odometer be read annually. If the state has a required annual inspection, then the milage can be reported at that time. For states without an annual inspection, it becomes more difficult. Michigan is considering the installation of a GPS tracker in each vehicle. The advantage here is that it could be set to only track in-state miles. But there are a number of people who don't want the government to know where they drive. Even if the device only recorded miles and did not keep track of locations, some people would not trust any government device.

Six states have implemented or will be implementing a tax on kilowatt hours at public charging stations. This is more equal to the tax-per-gallon system, but if you charge at a private location (home or work) you would not be assessed this tax.

So what is the best way to get an equitable road tax from vehicles? The current gas tax is close but cars that get higher mileage will always benefit more than cars that get lower mileage. The same is true for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. It seems that the best way to tax EVs is by kilowatt hour of the charge. They just need to find a way to keep track of charging. For home charging perhaps the electric company can impose the tax for the power that goes through the charging station.

In any case, since tax revenue is involved, I'm sure that the government will find a way.



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Angeles Forest & Descanso Day Drive (or *The Ring of Fire Tour* !)



Our Angeles Forest-Descanso Gardens Drive started at the Back Door Cafe in Sunland, where participants were able to enjoy coffee, breakfast and baked goods. While waiting to head out, we had the rare opportunity to view the fortuitously timed "Ring of Fire" solar eclipse with the eclipse glasses provided by the club.

Our drive took us on beautiful roads through the Angeles Forest with a break at a rest stop where we could admire the cars. We then headed back down the mountain to the picnic area at Descanso Gardens where we parked for a picnic lunch.

Afterward, several of us toured the gardens and their creative Halloween displays.

– *Steve Edelman*



(L-R) Helen, Susan, Alison and the Back Door Bakery & Cafe's cat view the "Ring of Fire" solar eclipse from the bakery's parking lot.



(L-R, top-Bottom) Steve art directs David. Can you read the name of the business above the Sport Sedan? Cars of the day: Rumi's graphite blue custom hard-top Duetto and David's freshly tuned Sport Sedan. The Terrisse Spider at the hilltop pit stop. The tour descends Angeles Crest.





(L-R, top-bottom) Picnic lunch at Descanso gardens: Mario, Karen Elyse, Jim, Faisal, Gene & Helen, Elcid & Susy, Val, Bill & Ron. Inside the gardens: "Carved" art installations and a big community ofrenda.



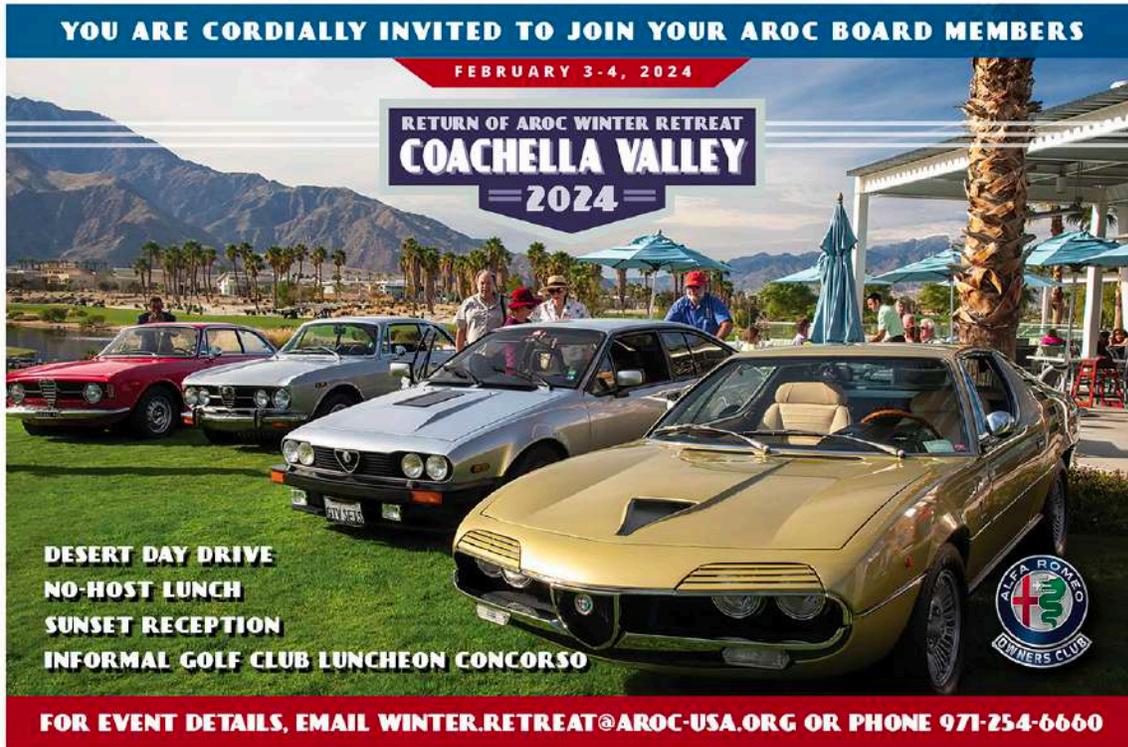
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The Members' Page

Welcome & Welcome Back

In Q3 we are pleased to welcome these new members who joined in the months of August and September: Rumi Faizer (transferring in from Michigan), Lorenzo Francalanci and Gary Watson.

Welcome, and come drive with us!



Still In Stock!

60th Anniversary T-Shirt!

To show your Chapter pride, wear red! You need the AROSC crew-neck anniversary t-shirt.

Purchase and arrange shipping by contacting Norm Silverman at normanev@msn.com



Mille grazie to new member Robert Jackson who brought his Giulia to Concorso #3 and became a judge-in-training at The Pete.



First AROSC show for first-year members Lee & Tare Harris and the 1960 Sprint Speciale. It was the star of Concorso #3.

Mille Grazie to all of our member-contributors, whose stories and images make this November-December edition of *Alfacionada* such a fun read: David Waelder, Jeff Srinivasan, Doug Bender, Steve Edelman, Ron Avery, Gene Brown, Evan Klein, Bonnie Schwartz.



In Memory of Art Russell

*by Doug Bender
and Art's Sons*

Art Russell, a long-time member of AROSC, passed away on Sept 3, 2023 after a long illness. Born Elwin Arthur Russell on Feb 22, 1938, in Hollywood, he attended Venice High School in the 1950s and was a part of the SoCal hot rod culture, driving a 1946 Chevy with Frenched and chopped bodywork that he did himself.

By 1955 Art and his friend and classmate Bill Moore developed a keen desire to win the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild Competition for high school students. At age 17, Bill and Art had an excellent adventure driving to Detroit in Art's Chevy to scope out the competition and develop a strategy for the contest. The result? Bill and Art won first place overall in 1956 and 1957, respectively. Art used his scholarship for tuition at Art Center College of Design. The school is known worldwide as a hothouse for growing audacious auto designers, but Art never produced full-size cars, instead he designed and built prototypes for scale models for a living, working first at Revell and then out of a shop behind his home. He built many Hot Wheels prototypes and wind tunnel and other scale models for land speed record-holder Craig Breedlove, another lifelong friend.

Art's first sighting of an Alfa Romeo was during high school. The machine shop instructor showed up one day with a new Giulietta Spider and Art fell in love. With the money left over from the Fisher Body scholarship, Art bought a used Porsche 356 only because he couldn't afford the Alfa he really wanted.

Later in life Art got engaged with AROC/AROSC. Around 1990 he bought a literal basket case 1963 Giulia Spider and fully restored it over a period of 20+ years. When he reached a point of despair in that project, he bought a '73 GTV for fun, which quickly became a track car. I met Art in 1996 at my first AROSC driving school with my '74 GTV at the Streets of Willow. Knowing I needed a track and race buddy, I introduced myself, not knowing he had a machine shop behind his house and was one of the most helpful, loyal friends anyone could have. A month after that driving school, Art and I went to our first AROSC time trial at Buttonwillow Raceway, where his '73 and my '74 were the only two cars in Class D. I beat him by one second and won the class, thinking maybe I was good at this, not knowing that a



Art at the wheel of the Spider pictured in Evan Klein's *Highway* magazine; the scale model; with his '73 GTV.

good time was at least 10 seconds faster. For the next 20 years Art and I hardly missed an AROSC track event, and Art's three sons, Bob, Pete, and Pat, got into the mix as well with their own cars. We were quite a team, calling ourselves "S-Car-Go," and Art made a logo for the team with a picture of a snail racing an Alfa.

Art eventually finished the '63 Spider and displayed it and his race car at numerous AROSC and other shows. To accompany the Spider, Art built a perfect 1/12 scale replica of the car.

Art served on the AROSC Board of Directors from 2000 to 2005 and attended and drove his in numerous club meetings, as well as the Monterey Historics, Concorso Italiano and the hot rod show Hot August Nights. He was known throughout the club as ever helpful and a true gentleman.

Art also enthusiastically entered his Spider in annual rallies sponsored by the Los Angeles Braille Institute, where he would drive and one of the sight-impaired kids would navigate. He said that was the most fun he had all year.

Art is predeceased by his wife Marilyn, and survived by his first wife Jean, his three sons Bob, Pete, and Pat, and his grandson Ben.

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!*

Classified Ads



1987 Milano Platinum



Color: ivory over gold undercoat. California car. 164,263 miles. Mechanically sound; maintained and reliable. Owner's Manual included. Upholstery in need of a refresh. Transaxle and steering replaced with Gold equivalents by Alfa Italia (Burbank, CA); brakes done in 2015. Needs good home. \$3,500. Contact Jim Barrett 714.642.1593 and/or cobralfa65@yahoo.com.



1961 Giulietta Sprint Veloce



The car is 95% restored and running. Located in Lima, Peru. Raced in the '60s/'70s, then brought back to street spec. Missing the Veloce oil pan (it has the *normale* oil pan) and the original instrument dials (it has 101 dials). Interested persons can contact me via diegogradados@gmail.com or to +1 909 7369827 | +51 992759328.

**Spare
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As the old saying goes, better to have it and not need it, than need it and not have it. This is spare I bought to make me truly run flat safe. It is a lovely smokey gray Alfa alloy. It came mounted on a new/never used Pirelli tire. I kept that for my new spare wheel that matches the four that came with my car. But until I found that, this has ridden in the trunk of my previous and my current Giulias. Never had to put it on the car ... which is the whole point. This will work as a spare for 17-, 18-, and 19-inch Alfa wheels since the circumferences and diameters are when wearing the correct size tires, are within fractions of an inch of each other. \$225. No tax or other stuff.

John Ireland jifigcar@sbcglobal.net / 323.533.6990

About Your Club

AROSC Business Address

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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 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.

2023 Board of Directors

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.

Copresidenti

Jim & Elyse Barrett
714.642.1593

Vice President

Mike Riehle & Chris Burke
twoina2@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Jay Mackro
treasurer@arosc.org

Secretary

David & Susan Waelder
davidwae@sbcglobal.net
swaelder@icloud.com

Membership Chair

Norm & Evie Silverman
normanev@msn.com

Membership Support

Val Dietrich
membership@arosc.org

Concours Director

Jeff Srinivasan
rogue1@mac.com

Webmaster

Mike Riehle
twoina2@sbcglobal.net

Digital Communications

MJ & Sheila Kutkus

Newsletter Editor

Elyse Barrett
editor@arosc.org

Member at Large

Bob Schmitt

Committees

Technical: Gene Brown
alfagene@att.net

Website: Mike Riehle
twoina2@sbcglobal.net

Competition: Don Wagner
dwagner302@twc.com

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

(continued)

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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