

# Mostly Ramblings of II Presidente

(taken from the February 2010 Alfacionada)

Wonderful So Cal. With sunshine and temperature in the 60's we were able to enjoy the company gathered for our Annual General Meeting and Awards Presentations last month. In addition, the weekend earlier, among dire predictions of rain and blustery weather, the sun shone for 2 days at Willow Springs Raceway as we got our competition program off to an auspicious start. We may have a trend here??? Thanks to everyone for the nearly full house. The food and service at Delzano's was plentiful and, as usual, very good.

This was a wonderful opportunity to thank the Competition Board and their families for the fabulous and professional job they have done and continue to do. It is truly a family effort involving spouses, significant others, children, and grandparents. It never ceases to amaze me how **volunteers**, braving heat, cold, the whims and wishes of a multitude of car owners and competition drivers can run such a professional show. The members also owe themselves a round of applause for the inspiration created by their participation. Awards were a little scarce this year because of a reduced competition schedule and some winners, not being club members, did not qualify. The overall competition championship was, embarrassingly, won by Evie and me. **Perseverance** (showing up at every event – Track and Concorso) allowed us, far from having the fastest cars at the track and far from the prettiest car at the Concorsi, to win the Silver Bowl. I still see Fred Firschein, starting the year with a class win at Willowsprings looming on the 'Overall Championship' horizon. **For race group**, we do have a Race Class in the Concorsi that can add to the points. Come out and join the fun. The Charlie Cup, awarded for a long period of unselfish service to AROSC (coupled with a fair amount of general irreverence) was awarded to Doug Bender.

Continuing our policy of diverse locations of interest for our General Meetings, on Feb 20th we will have our third annual clean car show and General Meeting at the famous Autobooks-Aerobooks in Burbank (see inside) with El Porto pastries provided by our hosts Tina and Chuck. Among the most enthusiastic car people in So Cal, Tina (former Pres. of AROSC) and Chuck (my personal car deity) are responsible for, among other things, The Best of France and Italy and Thursday Car Night. After this morning meeting, we plan to walk to the corner for a special treat – lunch at the famous (and inexpensive) El Porto bakery and great Cuban sandwich emporium. **Please try to be there by 9 AM. The parking lot is not huge and many car clubs tend to drop by during the day. The only people that have assigned parking are Tina and Jay Leno.** There is other parking in the area, but lets try to huddle.

Though not on our schedule, I'm sure Terry Majors will arrange for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Go Kart Championship Race. Keep a look out for the schedule.

By the time you are reading these ramblings we will be preparing for our first driving school of the year – Feb 27th -28th. Shame on those of you who miss it. **This is a truly a life extending event.** It also creates what some feel are symptoms of addiction that could turn you into a Time Trial competitor, or like me start you racing at 67. **This school continues to be an inexpensive way to improve your driving skill and those of your bambini. Less than the cost of your deductible and certainly less than the value you put on your life. This is an intense, but fun-filled 2 days that is guaranteed to improve what you consider to be driving skills.** You can download the entry forms at [www.arosc.org](http://www.arosc.org).

This same weekend, for those not attending school, the second annual Concours d' Elegance is being held in La Quinta and Alfa Romeo is the featured Marque. The corral is \$30 for a car + 2 people, and accommodations are available for an extremely reasonable in-season rate (see inside). We have invited ourselves for a Saturday BYO picnic at the new Charlie & Bonnie Schwartz desert retreat on the border of Joshua Tree National Forest. After lunch we will take a casual drive through Joshua Tree and end up at our accommodations. Jim & Elyse Barrett have arranged a price for rooms at the Palm Desert Best Western that includes a cooked breakfast. The McHatties are welcoming us to what has been turning into an annual event BBQ at their adobe in La Quinta (Please bring finger food (noshes (for 12)) that Saturday evening. It seems that Doug McHattie has befriended a local wine merchant who will conduct a tasting. Contact Jim or Elyse Barrett at eddinab@mindspring.com or (714) 964-9530.

Check [www.arosc.org](http://www.arosc.org) for our calendar of events. We will be adding events as the year progresses. For example, not yet posted, the Barretts have arranged for our 2nd annual Alfapalooza at Gladstones on the Pier in Long Beach and a potential participation in the Dana Point Concours d'Elegance. As this is Alfa Romeos 100th anniversary year we will have some remarkable opportunities to show off our great Marque. A number of other surprises are in store – stay in touch.

Keep the wheels side down

Norm Silverman (Norman I, Rex)