

View from the Top – *Mostly Ramblings of Il Presidente!*

Thanks again to Sheila and MJ for hosting another in an unbroken series of outstanding Holiday parties. In spite of the rain and threatening weather, the count was over 40 members of our AROSC family. Sheila, recovering from major back surgery, was flitting around like nothing had occurred. We all love her and MJ dearly and were overjoyed to receive the generosity of their hearth and home – our “Official” AROSC Club House. It wasn’t enough to host the party, but by 11:00AM the next morning, the Club House was open for BoD business.

As in previous years, on the second Sunday in December, your newly elected Board of Directors met to (a) select a president (b) assign the individual responsibility of each Director (c) decide on the initial 2010 Schedule of Events, and, most importantly, (d) finish the leftovers from the prior days Xmas party. Concerning item (a), as you can tell by the byline I have again been selected by the BoD to be Il Presidente. As to point (b), the responsibilities of the rest of the BoD members will remain basically the same, with perhaps a few more little chores. As for scheduling (c), though we have scheduled BoD meetings the first Wednesday of each month, since we know each other so well, we will send out an itinerary and determine whether we should gathering or communicate electronically. It is, after all 2010. The first BoD meeting, January 6th, will be face to face at our usual place – Luigi’s on Rosecrans. The rest of the schedule is shaping up to be an outstanding mélange of official club events and unofficial club suggestions (see pgs 5-7). We, speaking for myself and the BoD, are all excited by the upcoming social and competitive opportunities developing for the New Year.

This will be our fifth year, and economically the most difficult year to date, to provide a schedule of events that would balance social occasions with competition events, spread the venues throughout Los Angeles and Orange County while maintaining a very sharp focus on costs. Our objective of scheduling a wide variety of events over this large venue is continuing to prove successful. **As for the many reminders through the year that this is YOUR club,** and that your suggestions for “events/occasions” are eagerly awaited and welcome, you will find them represented in ever increasing numbers throughout our schedule of events. **The full year’s calendar to date is currently posted at www.arosc.org.** As you will notice, there is space available for some additional happenings. For instance, it looks like, sometime in July, we will repeat “Alfapalooza” at Gladstone’s on the Long Beach pier so we can stay in shape for the return of Neville Crichton and the “Alfa Romeo” Trans Pac race in 2012, when it will attempt to beat its current World Speed Record. Stay tuned in for more.

I can’t say this enough – ‘All members are invited to join any of our monthly BoD meetings or email suggestions to Director for inclusion in our agenda’. **THIS IS YOUR CLUB.**

More about the Board, it’s members and upcoming events will be revealed at the ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET & General Meeting to be held at ‘Delzano’s by the Sea’ located at the Redondo Beach Marina (page 19) My plea is the same as in prior years; **“PULLEEZE, Per Favore, Mi faccia il favore di ripondere (RSVP) by January 25th”.** There will be ample parking for a ‘Clean Car Show’ followed by a wonderful Italian buffet, the presentation of trophy’s and raffle prizes galore (see inside). We have taken your advise and scheduled this event for a Saturday, (Jan. 30th) so the long distance drivers, or the not so long distance romantics, can spend the weekend in or around So Cal’s famous beach communities.

Our first competition event of the year will be a Time Trial / Race Weekend held on the big track at Willow Springs the weekend of Jan. 23rd & 24th. **If you've never been to the track, please consider our 2 day High Performance Drivers Education program.** This modestly priced Introductory session (see: www.aroschpd.org) provides you with classroom instruction followed by 3 "ON TRACK" run sessions with an Instructor in your car. This is a fun filled opportunity designed to enhance your driving skills and maybe convince you that you should attend our Driving School weekend at the Streets of Willow Feb. 27th – 28th. **This is an inexpensive way to save your precious life, but more important is the potentially life saving instruction that we can pass on to your 'not so experienced' bambini.**

For those not attending the February Driving School the weekend of Feb. 28th, the Palm Springs Concours d'Elegance www.DesertConcours.com has extended a warm welcome to AROSC members. Like last years wonderful bash, AROSC has made arrangements for reasonable (in season) accommodations and will have corral parking available at the Sunday event. Doug and Joyce McHattie have insisted, after some major begging on our part, that we must repeat our prior years BYO BBQ at the Adobe Hacienda McHattie in La Quinta (pgs16-17). It seems that since last year, Doug has befriended a local provender of aged grape juice and may have some surprises for us.

Our February General Meeting will be held Saturday morning, Feb. 20th, at the venerable and historic "Autobooks –Aerobooks" in Burbank (www.autobooksaerobooks.com/). We will meet in the parking lot behind the store located at 3524 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, just off of Hollywood Way. Pastries and coffee from the fabulous and INEXPENSIVE Cuban Bakery and Sandwich Shop – "Porto's" will be provided and will more than convince everyone to step down the street for lunch after our meeting.

Thanks again to everyone for helping me get through another year. Evie and I both look forward to personally wishing each and every one of you a healthy and prosperous New Year when we get together at Delzano's on January 30th.

Check the dates, mark your calendars
and
Keep the wheels side down