

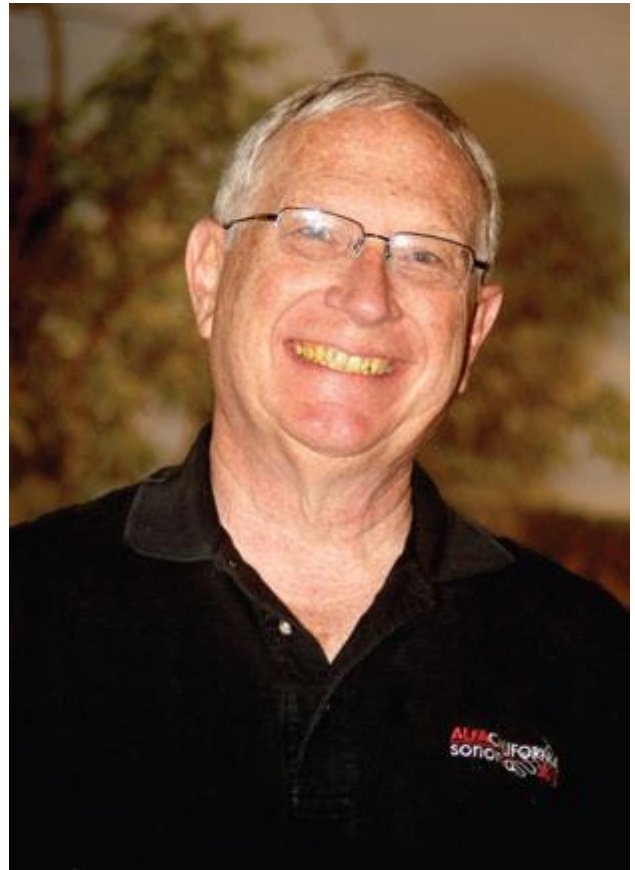
FROM THE TOP ... *the Word from Il Presidente*

(taken from the Apr/May 2017 *Alfacionada*)

First an update on the Sprint: All is well that ends well, but there is more to the story. Yes, it was bad gas and probably a tired fuel pump too. After curing those ills it ran, but pinged like crazy. That stuff they call premium here in California isn't exactly race gas, and the head has been milled some. So, I decided to try some Sea-Foam, which is a do-it-yourself de-carbonizing spray. I suspected it might be hard on catalytic converters, but that is not a problem with the Sprint. Since the downside seemed minimal, I bought a can and gave it a shot. The spray can has a tiny nozzle which meters the miracle fluid (ATF or maybe kerosene?) into the carburetor throat. Have to say it smokes like crazy, so when the can was empty I stepped into the driveway to get some fresh air. Oops! The smoke had blanketed the garage, the driveway, and most of the cul-de-sac! However, the car did run better. I thought about it for a while and did it again! That second treatment made the car run a lot better. Now the timing is retarded three degrees, and I can punch it on the freeway with no pinging. Yippee!

March 18th was the Spring Day Drive. Jay Mackro sent us out on some of the most scenic and historic roads in Orange County with a gimmick local knowledge competition. It began in Newport Beach and wrapped up with a lunch in Dana Point. Great fun.

As I write this, we are home from the Wine Tour organized by John Britton. Many thanks to John who put a lot of work into his first wine tour. We partied Friday night and stayed a short walk away from the start point in Oceanside. On Saturday we drove roundabout via several wineries to our next hotel near Julian followed by a fine dinner. Menghini Winery was the high point of the Tour in my book. Not only were the wines good, but Mike Menghini is an antique car collector. As soon as Jim Barrett correctly identified his Pierce Arrow and I demonstrated a knowledge of Model T Fords, he was eager to show us every detail. By-the-way, just 300 feet away is the Volcan Winery which is now owned by the Hart family. (Joe and Jim Hart run the Hart Winery near Temecula and are longtime Alfisti.) We went by Volcan on Sunday and Jim showed off his GTV. While most of us took our air conditioned non-Alfas, there were nine hardy souls who just had to drive their Alfas. A report on the Nethercutt Museum tour, our May event and second concorso, will be featured in our next *Alfacionada*.



Il Prez, in his new Official Portrait by Ken Sizemore

Speaking of the *Alfacionada*, be sure to check the want ads in this issue. We have an enthusiast who would like to do a photo shoot near Redlands featuring himself and his soon-to-be bride. Gotta love that. Somebody please give him a call. They deserve our support.

June 25th brings up the Highway Earth Car Show in Franklin Canyon Park organized by Evan Klein. This will be our third Concorso of the year. Chris and I can't make it because of a family obligation, but it has always been a popular event. It can be somewhat dusty, but there is always enough shade to shelter in and plenty of unusual cars to check out.

July 23rd is the Summer Day Drive in the San Gabriel Mountains. We plan to attempt the awesome twisties on Glendora Mountain and Glendora Ridge Roads, pause for lunch at a lodge on Mt. Baldy's shoulder, and dive back into civilization early in the afternoon.

The Summer Party is Sunday, August 6th, at Chuck and Jan Cline's in Fountain Valley. Start planning what you are bringing for the Potluck and scout your garage for what stray parts you can round up for the White Turkey Sale.

Remember, if the women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy. And don't forget the duct tape, the handyman's secret weapon.

- Mike & Chris