

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

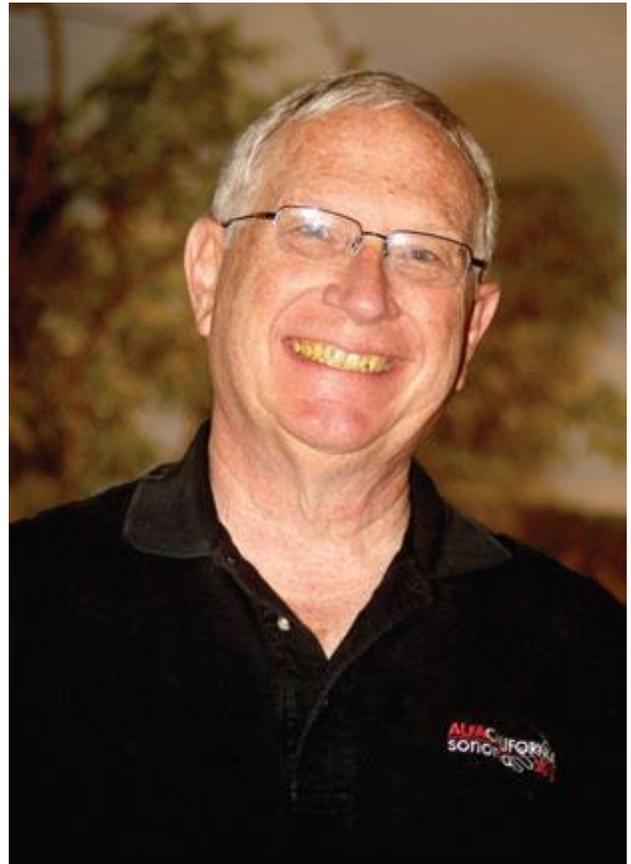
(taken from the Feb/Mar 2017 *Alfacionada*)

First an update on the Sprint. Yup, it's bad gas! When I clean up the jets, it runs great until things plug up again. I even suffered the indignity of having it give up two blocks from home. The new fuel filter hasn't clogged up, so just maybe I can clean out the carb again and burn this stuff. Otherwise, my neighbor has offered to help dispose of it. I just hope he isn't planning to try burning it in his truck.

Let's see. A lot has happened since our last *Alfacionada*. We had three events in January: AROC's mid-year retreat in Palm Desert, our Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, and the (first annual) Classic Auto Show at the Los Angeles Convention Center. All three were good events, and our thanks go to Cindy Banzer, MJ and Sheila Kutkus and Norm Silverman, respectively. We didn't plan for three events because three is just too many even for dedicated Alfisti. I missed the retreat in Palm Desert, but made the other two. Look for coverage of all three in this issue.

The Classic Auto Show merits some extra discussion since it was the very first annual. It ran Friday-Saturday-Sunday. When I was there on Sunday morning, Norm Silverman and I were kept busy chatting with enthusiasts and answering questions. Many thanks to Norm for pulling this together and for recruiting a great selection of Alfa Romeos, including a new Giulia, which really stole the show. People flocked all around it. Too bad we didn't have any sales literature to hand out. By the way, the new Giulias are in dealerships now and test drives are available. Getting back to the show, we also received a number of membership applications. I did walk around the show, and it was a nice mix of foreign and domestic stuff. You can find a few clips on YouTube, but the domestic guys tend to just show the domestic stuff. I have no idea what the show will be like next year, but expect it will be much bigger. Mark your calendars for March 2nd-4th, 2018.

February 12th was the Petersen Automotive Museum tour and our parking lot Concorso. Every year we get a good turnout, and 2017 was no different. Jim and I were kept very busy judging daily driver entries before we plunged into the exhibits. The first floor featured Bugatti automobiles, art and furniture. Afterward we all walked/drove the one block to Tom Bergin, the iconic L.A. Irish Public House for lunch, where we managed to stuff and overflow the back room. The Guinness was good, and so was the food. Many thanks to Norm Silverman for arranging the museum tour, and to Jeff Srinivasan for our first Club Concours of the year.



Il Prez, in his new Official Portrait by Ken Sizemore

February 18th and 19th was the Alan Ward Memorial Weekend at Willow Springs. When I first joined the Club in 1973, Alan Ward and Dave Vegher would come to the meetings and take turns answering questions. Once, I asked Alan if putting a larger front sway bar on my Sprint would make it understeer more or less. His response was, "Maybe". Years later, I now understand. Anything that keeps the car from cornering on its door handles is likely to reduce understeer. Just for the record, Alan later constructed the 7/8" sway bar that is now on the front of the Sprint, and that made it understeer less. Paul Blankenship really got into organizing this event, and I'm really sorry I missed it. Thank you Paul.

March 18th brings up a new Spring Day Tour. Jay Mackro has planned for us to enjoy some of the most scenic and historic roads in Orange County. It will begin in Newport Beach and wrap-up with a lunch in Dana Point.

April 22nd and 23rd is the 2017 Wine Tour hosted by John Britton and Tony Santarelli, who have been happily scouting good wine tasting opportunities down toward Julian. They have put a lot of advance work into this and John has arranged a room in Oceanside for our informal Friday night potluck, so they deserve our support. Reserve your room early.

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