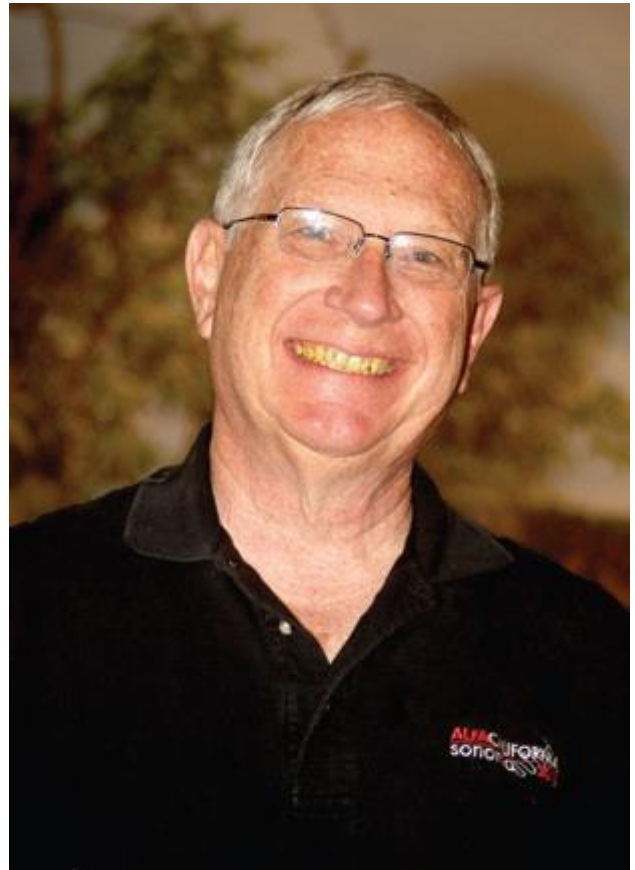


FROM THE TOP ... *the Word from Il Presidente*

(taken from the Jan 2017 *Alfacionada*)

Last month, I put a new fuel pump in the Sprint and reported that everything looked good. Looks can be so deceiving! The Sprint ran great above 2000 rpm, but simply refused to idle. I didn't want to remove the carburetor (The Solex is really snugged down on the intake manifold.), so I bench tested the distributor first. Nothing wrong there, but the vacuum advance was overly stiff, so I put in a better spare. Getting back to the carburetor, I pulled the idle jet, put it to my lips and tried to blow through it. Aha! It was almost totally blocked. Is the Sprint fixed now? I can only say it idles nicely, so things look good for another test drive.

Did you go to the Holiday Party? Almost everybody did and there was plenty of food, wine and camaraderie for all. My only regret was not finding out who showed up in a lovely Lancia Scorpion. M.J. set a new record by barbequing fish, chicken and steak. Sheila reinforced her reputation as the world champion of raffle prize collector/presenters. Even I won one.



Il Prez, in his new Official Portrait by Ken Sizemore

Our 2017 planning meeting was November 20. Guess who is Il Presidente again this year! Actually, all returning Board Members kept their old positions and new member, John Britton, was elected member at large. See pages 11-14 for the complete 2017 calendar we hammered out.

We try to limit activities to one event per month, but we have outdone ourselves again, starting with January

Our official January event is the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on the 28th. At \$20 for members the banquet is one of the bargains of the year and the food is good too. We hand out our year-end concours and race trophies. As a result, this event is well attended by both concours and race people. Who wins the overall trophy? Why, people who do both of course! Come and make some new friends. Who knows, you might catch the bug and want to sign up for a driver's school.

Our AROC President, Cindy Banzer, is hosting an AROC Board Member mid-year retreat in Palm Desert on January 14. You probably got a postcard in the mail with details. It is a fun day and it is

your chance to meet the Board Members. Sometimes we forget that they are real people who are dedicated to supporting our club. It is also nice to know who you need to call for that frustrating online problem or to get a copy of that rare Alfa document that no one else seems to know about.

Last, but not least, the (first annual) Classic Auto Show at the Los Angeles Convention Center is from the 27th through the 29th. Yes, it is the same weekend as our Annual Meeting. We didn't even know about it when we put the calendar together, but that doesn't make it any less of an event. Check out www.TheClassicAutoShow.com for more details.

February 12th is a tour of the Petersen Automotive Museum and parking lot Concorso. Every year the exhibits are different and every year we get a good turnout for the Concorso. This year's gathering will be the official start of the 2017 concours competition season.

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.

By the way, did you know that there is duct tape and then there is duct tape? The stuff we commonly buy as duct tape is a bit like WD-40. It works well, but there are often specialized tapes that work better. For example, the stuff we buy is NOT for heating ducts! For only 5x the price you can buy the correct specialized tape with a higher heat rating. Then there is the stickier stuff, the stronger stuff, and the stuff made for the military that will only stick to itself. I asked Santa to bring me a case of each. I didn't hold my breath.

- Mike & Chris