

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

---

We just got back from our AROC National Convention in Olympia, Washington, *sempreverde2018*, and I have to say it was a huge success. Congratulations to the Northwest Chapter who made it happen and made it look easy as well. Chris and I are still marveling at the scenery. The hotel was surrounded by tall trees and blackberry bushes (yum!) with a view of a lake. Alfas were everywhere. I had never heard of Ridge Motorsports Park, but was pleased to see a track with some elevation changes and a downhill section reminiscent of the corkscrew at Laguna Seca. We flew up, but several from our chapter opted to drive their Alfas. Special congratulations to Mario Cano who purchased a 1988 Spider, had Santos give it a little TLC, and drove it up.

Speaking of congratulations, our newsletter editor, Elyse Barrett, received special recognition at the banquet for her volunteer efforts editing the national magazine *Alfa Owner*. I knew she had agreed to help, but had no idea how much work she is doing. So, now you know who is behind a lot of the recent improvements. Way to go, Elyse.

See pages 16-19 for some pics from the June 24th Highway Earth Car Show and our Club Concorso #2 event. Also, if you go out to [www.arosc.org](http://www.arosc.org), there is a link to David Waelder's pictures. I drove the Sprint, although it is still giving me some trouble. The needle valve that meters fuel into the float bowl was fine that day, but was clogged up again two weeks later. It seems that some of the needle valves have plastic tips that don't like ethanol. Unlike a Weber, the needle valve is inside a cage making it difficult to clean and impossible to inspect. I have taken to sucking the carburetor dry when I shut it down.

If you didn't make it to the Summer Party, well, you should have. Good food, good weather, and a very entertaining auction. The perennial cast aluminum gas cap was not seen this year. Has it finally found a home? Enquiring minds want to know. Our thanks to Chuck and Jan Cline for a fine party. See page 20-23 for a recap, and a link to more pictures. Be sure and check out the picture of Tony and Mario (Or is that really Enzo?).

The competition website is still in need of a volunteer to keep it current. Someone who knows the people and has a little programming background would be perfect. In the meantime, I am posting more competition stuff on [www.arosc.org](http://www.arosc.org) and we are doing our best to keep [www.alfaclubracing.com](http://www.alfaclubracing.com) current. Bruce Colby is helping out when he isn't traveling. Last time I checked he was in the Yukon.

September 15-16 is the driving school at the Streets of Willow. The Streets is a highly technical track (lots of different kinds of turns) that never gets old. It's our effort to introduce new people to competition events and is very popular. Some people just like doing the school again and again.

September 22 is the Fall Day Drive. We are set up for a quick hillclimb on Hwy 2 to the top of Mt. Wilson and a private tour of the observatory, before finishing with lunch at Damon's in Glendale. See page 10.

October 20-21 is the Laguna Seca Time Trials and Races. Early registrations have been excellent, but we are not fully booked yet. If you plan to go, please register now!

Elections are coming up! We need fresh ideas and new participants, plus one more candidate for the Board of Directors. The commitment is not daunting. We conduct much of our business by email and have meetings when necessary. I promise that we will not elect you *il Presidente*, at least not the first year.

On a somewhat disturbing note, someone (not a bot) surfed our website and spoofed my name in an email to our chapter treasurer, asking him to pay a fictitious bill. Fortunately, he noticed this immediately and let me know. If you get a suspicious email from me, or anyone, please look closer and check to see if it is from an unknown email address with a familiar name attached. Thanks!

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