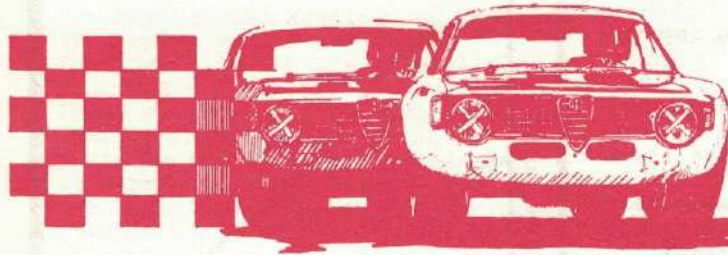


ALFACIONADA

ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



VOLUME 17 NO. 5 MAY 1978 P.O. Box 261, Los Alamitos, Ca. 90720

the ROAR of the Bear

by Rick "Bear" Clemente

Well, spring has sprung, and the voice "From the Pits" is goofing off in the Virgin Islands. He obsconded with the editor of this document, but to the best of my knowledge, the Treasury is still intact. (Though clearly the Veghers' vacation is funded by Alfa owners.)

I have been rudely dragged out of hibernation to cover the front page. Sue Bernstein and Sally French are doing all the work though - nothing new about that.

The April meeting was another big success! Traffic Judge Robert Polis from Newport Beach gave us plenty of hints on how to keep out (or get out) of problems with our arch-adversaries, the boys with red lights. Lou Liserani showed a bit of the collected works of our many fine photogs' views on the LBGP. Thanks to everyone for contributing and special thanks to Lou for putting them together, and for fine programs all year! Keep up the super job.

cont on page 3



The Alfa Romeo 33 SC of Merzario, Brambilla and Dini-Francia flagged at the end of Premio Costa del Sol Estoril July 10th, 1977

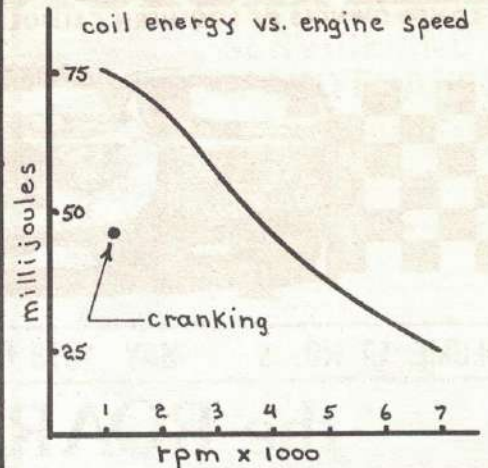
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May	26	Meeting Alondra Park
June	2	Alfacionada articles due
	23	Meeting Alondra Park
	24	AROSC Time Trial
	25	SCCSCC Slalom, Lion Country Safari
	30	AlfaCongress, Washington (thru July 3)
Aug	12	Party (tentative)
Sept	30	AROSC Time Trial
Nov	11	AROSC Time Trial
Dec	1	Election Meeting Alondra Park (mark this date)
	16	Christmas Party (tentative)

YOUR ALFA IGNITION SYSTEM AND YOU

by Dan Bernstein

The conventional ignition system, essentially unchanged since its invention in 1914, is simple. It consists of a set of breaker points timed to interrupt electric current in the ignition coil in exact synchronism with the travel of the pistons. When the points open, the interruption of current induces a high voltage in the coil which is applied to the spark plug. The ensuing spark explodes the gas in the cylinder and the piston is started on another revolution. It's all very straightforward..... and it works (almost always). How well it works, or doesn't, depends on the amount of energy stored in the coil while the points are closed, and how much of this energy is available for generating a spark when the points are opened. Using some measurements I made on the coil in my GTV, I computed the energy stored in the coil for nominal dwell angle as a function of engine RPM, and during cranking. From the chart, it can be seen that during cranking and at 7000 RPM, (who runs at 7 grand?...come to the next time trial and see) energy stored in the coil is 55% and 33%, respectively, of the low RPM maximum. This is a weakness of the conventional ignition system. Another weakness, the relatively low rise time of the high voltage applied to the spark plug, limits the amount of energy stored in the coil which can be used to generate a spark. Until the voltage at the spark plug rises to the ionizing potential of the gas in the cylinder so as to produce a spark, power losses, due to fouled plugs and point and distributor arcing, take place. Since $\text{Power} \times \text{Time} = \text{Energy}$, slow rise time results in energy loss.



The capacitive discharge ignition system eliminates these weaknesses of the conventional ignition system in addition to reducing ignition system maintainance. Road and Track magazine printed two excellent articles on CD systems (Sept. & Nov. 1972), so I won't go into all the specifics. All CD systems deliver a constant amplitude, fast rise time, and a high voltage pulse to the spark plug, which minimizes hard starting and high RPM miss.

With the exception of better starting, particularly with late model Alfas, a CD system offers no significant performance advantages over the conventional system, provided that the car is in a good state of tune. A good state of tune is more than points and plugs every now and then. If you don't know what is involved, rely on your dealer or service shop. If you are not inclined to be all that diligent in caring for your Alfa, a CD system will allow you to maintain an acceptable level of performance with a significant reduction in ignition system maintainance.



"Roar" cont. from page 1

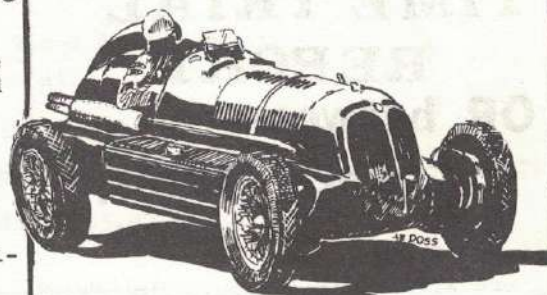
The May General Meeting, on May 26, in keeping with a springtime feeling, will feature several mini-programs on the care of your car. These will range from Tech Director Charlie Thieriot showing and explaining the insides of a gearbox to Jerry and Bob holding forth on the best techniques for maintaining interiors and paint. The format will be like a fair, so you may wander around and spend time where you will profit most. This should be a program with something for everybody.

You should be aware of a recent action taken by the Board of Directors: A series of serious disagreements regarding the organization and handling of the "Cal-Alfa Regional" event developed early this year between past president Sid Keely and the 1978 AROSC Board of Directors. While every effort possible was made by your Board to overcome these obstacles, we regret to report that a satisfactory solution was not reached. As a result a letter stating our position, and the background that led to that decision, has been sent to all California Alfa Clubs.

Here is a quote from that letter that describes the action taken: "...At this time I wish to make it absolutely clear that Mr. Keely does not represent AROSC, its Board of Directors or General Membership. AROSC does not sanction, support, or endorse the C.A.R. event as now constituted in either June or October.".... The letter also asks that AROSC be reimbursed the unspent portion of the "seed" money we originally invested in this project. This entire mess has been regrettable. The letter to the other clubs, along with copies of other correspondence will be available for your examination at the General Membership meeting in May.

I encourage the participation of the General Membership in the business of running the club. Members are always welcome at Board meetings; and help in putting on events is always welcomed and appreciated. The next Board meeting is on May 30, at the Bernstein home.

See you at the May meeting!



A special note of thanks from the Board of Directors goes to Bob Doss for doing the new AROSC membership cards.

MAY MEETING

The INS(ides) and OUTS(ides)
of your Alfa

The May meeting will feature a combined Tech and Car Care Session

Come and learn all the strange and wondrous things about an Alfa suspension - how it looks - how it works.

Delve into the mysteries of the Alfa transmission. A half-case will be on display.

Learn the secrets of Alfa Car Care, both maintenance for every-day use and also Concours preparation.

Our own club experts will hold forth on these topics and will answer all your questions.

See you there!

The 1978 AROSC membership cards were sent out in the April issue of the Alfacionada. Did **you** get yours? If not, please contact Sue Bernstein, Membership, phone: (213)832-4764.

unofficial TIME TRIAL REPORT OR between the raindrops

by Sue & Sally

There will be no official Time Trial Report this time around, because there was no official Time Trial. The rain halted festivities at lunch, with the Time Trial Directors deciding to suspend the timed runs for safety reasons. Also there were very few course workers willing to drown themselves.

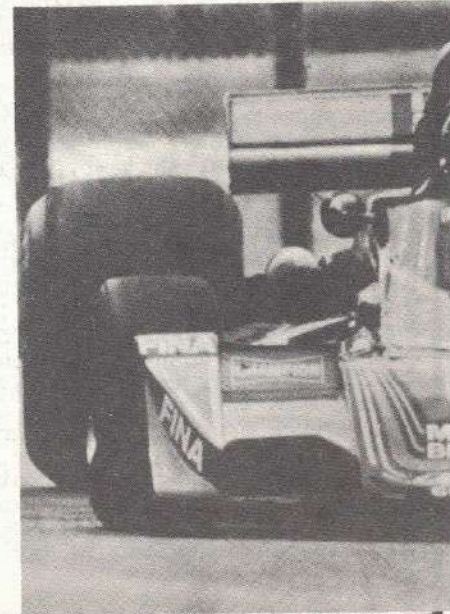
Loel Meredyth again provided a life saving lunch, with hot dogs and hamburgers for the wet and cold. For the second time this year she has given up her Saturday to feed the Hungry Hoards. Thank you Loel!

If we get a partial refund from Riverside, it will be applied as credit to those April participants who enter the June Time Trial.

Hope to see all of you new members out there to watch on June 24th.

.....
Have you paid your dues twice??? If you've paid National \$15.00 and AROSC \$20.00, please send your name and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Sue Bernstein, Membership, 2817 San Ramon, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274.

'78



Date: June 24, 1978 Track: Riverside Short Course

Schedule 7:00 - 8:30 Tech. Inspection (NO LATE TECH. ALLOWED)
 8:30 - 8:45 Driver's Meeting- MANDATORY
 8:45 - 9:15 Track Orientation
 9:30 -12:00 Practice
 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
 1:00 - 4:45 Warm-up and Timed Runs(5 laps)
 5:00 - Awards Presentation and CLEAN-UP

Fee Single \$20.00 Mixed Couple \$35.00

*** Entry Deadline - Midnight June 20, 1978 (Received by AROSC)

Late Entry Penalty Fee - \$5.00 (Per Driver)

Driver #1 - Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone () _____

Driver #2 - Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone () _____

Emergency - In case of emergency, the Club should contact:-

Name _____

Address _____

Phone-Home-() _____ Work-() _____

Alfa:- Year and Model _____ Disp. _____ cc.

Class:- Class _____ Class Points _____

I must file a new class sheet because I have made modifications since completing the last form.-Yes() No()

I understand that my entry fee is not refundable and I will abide the rules of the AROSC Competition Code.

Driver #1 _____ Driver #2 _____ Date _____

Please return this form with the entry fee. Make check payable to A.R.O.S.C.

Send to: AROSC T.T.
 c/o Nancy Vegher
 1721 Marine Ave.
 Wilmington, Ca. 90744

VELOCE MOTORS WEST

Alfa Romeo Service



home of
the
1977
AROC
National
CHAMPION

- * EXCELLENT MAINTENANCE SERVICE
- * SPECIALIZED STREET/FULL RACE PREPARATION
- * COMING SOON: ENGINE DYNO TUNING
- * CATERING TO TIME TRIAL ENTHUSIAST AND STREET RACER ALIKE
- * FRIENDLY AND PERSONALIZED SERVICE

For an Alfa Romeo that runs as true as the legend behind it, call DAVE VEGHER (213) 539-0700
TUES. - SAT. 8:00 AM. - 6:00 PM.

VELOCE MOTORS WEST 1647 West Sepulveda
(UNIT #4) Torrance, California 90501



VELOCE
MOTORS
WEST



18734 VENTURA BLVD. TARZANA CALIF
(Between Crebs and Yolanda streets)

AUTHORIZED
ALFA
ROMEO
DEALER



BEACH IMPORTS



848 Dove Street
Newport Beach, CA
(714) 752-0900

1978 AROSC membership cards sent out in the April issue of the Alfacionada. Did you get yours? If not, please contact Sue Bernstein, Membership, phone: (832-4764).

Official

TIME TRIAL

REPORT

between

the raindrops

by Sue & Sally

There will be no official Time Trial at this time around, because there is no official Time Trial. The halted festivities at lunch, the Time Trial Directors decided to suspend the timed runs for a few reasons. Also there were a few course workers willing to help themselves.

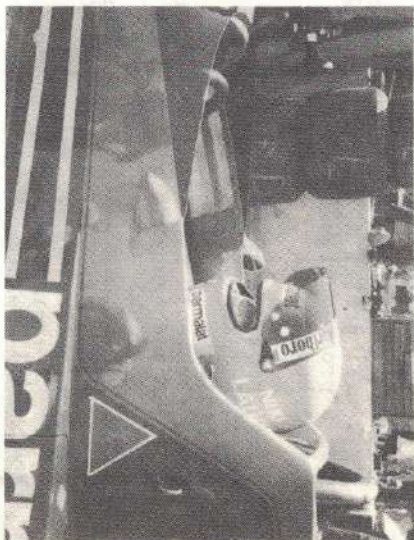
Meredyth again provided a life giving lunch, with hot dogs and refreshers for the wet and cold. The second time this year she has given up her Saturday to feed the hungry Hoards. Thank you Loel!

If you get a partial refund from the outside, it will be applied as a credit to those April participants who enter the June Time Trial.

To see all of you new members here to watch on June 24th.

.....
 You paid your dues twice?? If you have paid National \$15.00 and \$20.00, please send your name in a self-addressed stamped envelope to Sue Bernstein, Membership, San Ramon, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 94774.

78



LBGP



The Time Trial Program needs YOU. Come spend a fun day at Riverside International Raceway and learn something more about your Alfa. Requesting part-time volunteers for the following positions now available:

- Pace car drivers
- Starters
- Corner workers
- Tech inspectors
- Timers and scorers

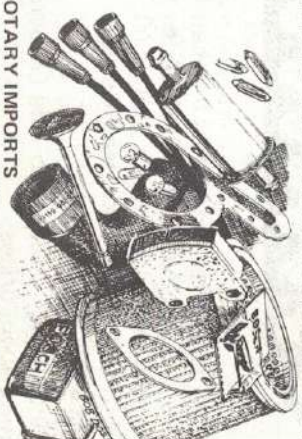
No experience necessary, training given.

For more information, contact Charlie Thieriot, ph. (213) 556-2

10% OFF TO AROSC MEMBERS

Alfa's specialty!

ROTARY STOCKS A LARGE SUPPLY OF ALFA PARTS AT COMPETITIVE PRICE



ROTARY IMPORTS Parts and Accessories for Foreign Cars 3570 E. Cerritos, Los Alamitos, California 90720 CALL FOR PRICES (213) 596-4434 (714) 826-

NEUMAN RACING

QUALITY PARTS AND
ACCESSORIES AT
SENSIBLE PRICES



14-inch simulated leather wheel with hub and ALFA emblem. \$46, includes tax, handling, shipping. Specify model, year, & shipping address. Prepaid only - no COD.

Send orders to: 1457 Stonewood Court
San Pedro, Ca. 90732



Auto Dealer's Supplies

A DIVISION OF RICAMBIO, INC

6640 SAN FERNANDO ROAD
GLENDALE, CALIF. 91201
(213) 246-7263

MON - FRI
8:00 - 5:00

For the Alfa lover the largest independent stock of Alfa original and O.E.M. parts in the U.S.A. We serve all **50 States** and **Canada**. Hard to find goodies such as Colombo cams, European 1750-2000 Cams, MomoWheels, Cromodora Wheels, 1600-1750 Competition Head Gaskets. Old 2000 cast iron and 2600 parts! Direct Telex service to Europe.

10% or larger discount to Alfa Owners Club Members. Dealers and shops please inquire about prices.

P.S. Fantastic Fiat Parts Department TOO!

ALFA OF SANTA MONICA



exclusive Alfa Romeo Sales, Service and Parts
Catering to the Alfa Romeo Enthusiast



1115 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

90403

Sales Department open
Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 8:00pm
Sat 10:00am - 6:00pm

Parts & Service open
Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 11:30am
12:30 pm - 5:30 pm

phone 393-0493
LA number 870-4771

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS *Give them the Business*

NEW 1978 CATALOG
70 pages 3 dollars
ALFA ROMEO PERFORMANCE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES
GTV • SPIDER • ALFETTA
SHANKLE
15451-F Cabrillo Rd
Van Nuys, CA 91405
(213) 998-6190



Alfacionada is the monthly publication of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club of Southern California, (AROSC).

Subscriptions to this newsletter are included as part of the \$20.00 per year AROSC membership fee. For membership information write: AROSC, P.O. Box 261, Los Alamitos, CA 90720.

Articles, letters, and personal ads are always welcomed and should be received by the editor 20 days prior to the monthly meeting. Meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of the month at the ALONDRA PARK CLUBHOUSE, at 3850 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale, just east of the San Diego freeway. Date or location changes will be posted in the newsletter prior to the meeting. Meetings start promptly at 8:00 PM. For more information call:

Dave Vegher (pres.) (213)835-9851
Sue Bernstein (memb.) (213)832-4764

WESCO TRACK & TIRE

CROMODORA-BBS
-CAMPAGNOLO
MAGNESIUM WHEELS



PIRELLI-MICHELIN
-DUNLOP
RADIALS



including 70 series and
limited quantities scarce
European 60 series.
Wheel balancing and alignment
to racing tolerances.

WESCO TRACK & TIRE
8441 Sepulveda
Sepulveda, California 91343
(213) 894-3700
(213) 892-5514

EXPERT GENERAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE

A complete line of chassis and drive-
train components for racing and high
performance street use are also
available.

Service available evenings and weekends

*"People who go racing come up
with a lot of experience as to
what can go wrong with cars"...*
Alan Ward



HOME OF THE FASTEST
RECOGNITION AND A
OUTSTANDING RECORD IN
THE UNITED STATES

WARD & DEANE RACING

115 N. Oak St. No. 15 Inglewood, Ca. 90301 (213) 649-5369

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN PEDRO, CALIF.
PERMIT NO. 29



AROSC

P.O. BOX 261 LOS ALAMITOS CA. 90720



Barry A. Klein
4923 Burgotne Lane
La Canada, CA 91011