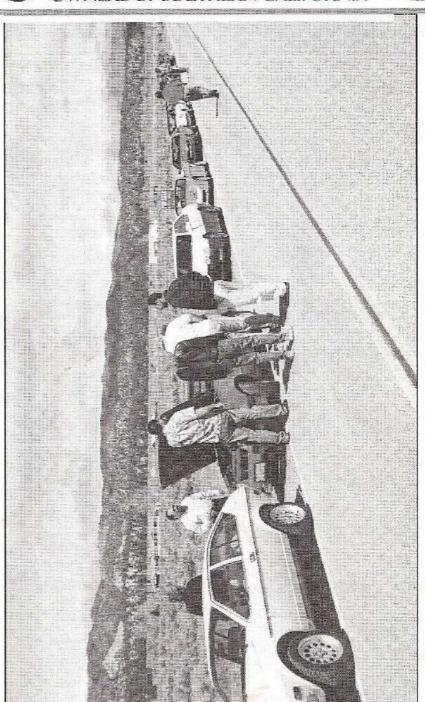
Newsletter of the







April 2001

In This Issue: Fontana Results, Wild Flower Tour, VSRG race at Willow Springs, Upcoming Events, & more

Meeting Information

General Meetings are held the last Friday of each month except November and December at 8:00pm in the Uruapan Room at Veterans' Memorial Park at the corner of Culver and Overland in Culver City. In November the meeting will be held on the last Friday if there are two Fridays after Thanksgiving, otherwise it will be on the Friday prior to Thanksgiving. A holiday party is held in December in lien of the General Meeting that month.

Numerous special meetings and events are also held throughout the year. Check the Calendar information on the outside back cover for an overview of the year and review Alfacionada for details of events planned for the near future.

AROSC Mailing Address

Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California Post Office Box 3621 Granada Hills, CA 91394

Membership Information

See the inside back cover of Alfacionada.

Important Deadline & Info!

Please send classified ads, articles, letters, and photographs to the Editor in time to arrive before the 20th of the month to permit publication in the next month's issue.

General Information

Alfacionada is the monthly publication of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California, a Chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners, Inc., a national non-profit organization of Alfa enthusiasts. Subscriptions to this newsletter are included as part of the annual AROSC membership fees.

Classified Advertising

Classified (non-commercial) ads are available as a free service to members and for a nominal charge of \$10.00 per insertion to non-members. Ad content must be *Alfa*-related.

Commercial Advertising Rates

Full page	\$500 per year
1/2 page	\$275 per year
1/4 page	\$150 per year
Rusiness card	\$100 per year

This Month's Cover

This month's cover shot is from the Wild Flower Tour. Barely visible is the "For Sale" sign over Art Russell's Boxter. That's what Art gets for bringing a funny car on an Alfa tour! More on page 6. Photo by Gene Brown with his digital camera.

AROSC Board of Directors - 2001

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AROSC Web Site: http://drive.to/arosc

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AROSC and the authors and editors of this newsletter assume no liability for the accuracy or legality of any technical information appearing herein. They are also not responsible for the safety or practicality of modifications performed by individuals or companies and described in these pages. You should always check with your mechanic before performing any work or modifying your car in any way.

AROSC Previews

An outline of coming events

General Meeting - Friday, April 27, 8:00 PM

Join us for the April general meeting at the Veteran's Center in Culver City. We will have a special program, or some surprise entertainment – it's too early to tell.

Evening Tour - Saturday, April 28 Evening

Regan Copple has promised a Saturday evening tour, but details are missing at the press deadline. There is a Malt Shop to visit, or some other interesting site. We will have the details at the General Meeting the night before, or call Regan at (310) 659-6690, or E-mail at copple@la.com.

Board Meeting — Tuesday, May 1, 8:00 PM

The Board of Directors meets monthly at the home of one of the Board Members, for the purpose of lanning the club's activities,

onducting the club's business, etc. All members are welcome to attend If you have some issue to bring to

the board, or some ideas for events, etc., please contact a board member to find out the location of the meeting, and plan to attend. NOTE DATE CHANGE: This month we will meet at Art Russell's home.

Tour to Julian - May 18-20

Join us for all or part of the 2nd annual "Tour to Julian". Get out of town Friday night, or meet us at a special AROSC Saturday Lunch with wine tasting as we return to Shadow Mountain Vineyards, a vineyard in the countryside of rural San Diego County. Again we explore little-known mountain roads around the old mining town of Julian, with our path only occasionally crossing the best of what we found last year!

There will be a delicious AROSC dinner in Julian on Saturday night, with famous Julian apple pic of course. We will stay right in the heart of the old town, with a special AROSC rate at the Julian Lodge. Sunday will have special events, relaxing walks, wine tasting at the Julian local wineries, and exciting drives to choose from. Mark your calendars, contact our VP Kevin

Coughlan (see masthead) to make reservations, and see the article on page 10 that includes all the details.

General Meeting - Friday, May 25, 8:00 PM

Join us for the May general meeting at the Veteran's Center in Culver City. We will have a special program, or some surprise entertainment – it's too early to tell.

Time Trial, Buttonwillow Raceway Park - June 2-3

Our third Time Trial of the year will be held at Buttonwillow Raceway Park, next to the I-5 in the San Juaquin Valley. Buttonwillow is due west of Bakersfield. This is an interesting

course, and there is grass in the pits! And indoor bathrooms! Come run your car or just watch. For additional information, contact Doug Bender at the phone number or E-mail listed on page2.

Board Meeting — Thursday, June 7, 8:00 PM

Don't Miss the Concourse May 6 -- El Dorado Park or the Julian Tour May 19-20

The Board of Directors meets monthly at the home of one of the Board Members, for the purpose of planning the club's activities, conducting the club's business, etc. All members are welcome to attend. If you have some issue to bring to the board, or some ideas for events, etc., please contact a board member to find out the location of the meeting, and plan to attend.

AROC National Convention - Nashville, June 21-24

See the Alfa Owner for more details. Some of us will be going to Nashville to see how they run this convention, and to promote attendance at our convention in 2002. Let's be a presence and tell everyone how great it will be in So Cal next year. Note that the registration fee goes up if you register after April 30.

General Meeting - Friday, June 29, 8:00 PM

Join us for the June general meeting at the Veteran's Center in Culver City. We will have a special program, or some surprise entertainment – it's too early to tell.

Visit the Len Frank memorial Web Site at: lenfrank.com for info about Len and some of his Articles from various publications -- like visiting our old friend

The WILD Flower Tour

Triumphs Over Adversity

by Jay Negrin Photos by Gene Brown, Art Russell

There were only ten cars on this year's tour, but we were "treated" to several incidents that may have helped to make this tour more memorable than some others. It started in the parking lot, when Carrie Adrian drove up, complaining of having a nail in her tire. After a local tire shop, with no class, obviously, wouldn't fix the tire in a timely manner, she drove back to the start, and several members offered to change her tire, right there in the parking lot. Then Carrie went on to complete the tour without a good spare. Grit.



How many Alfisti does it take to change a tire?

Second, the start of the tour was postponed for a couple of minutes while another attendee searched for his ignition

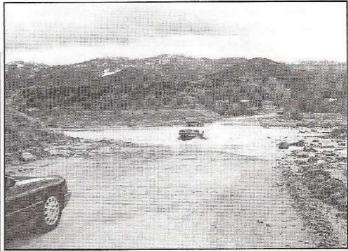


How many Alfisti does it take to find a key?

key, which had come adrift of his keychain. There was much help, as we all searched in, out, under and around this member's car. I won't embarrass him any further, but suffice to say that Montreal ignition keys don't grow on trees. We were all lucky, as the key was found, and we all headed off toward our destination, Ojai, for our rendezvous with a picnic.

It was at this point I should have listened to my passenger, my lovely fiancée, Linda. She was talking to others and almost had some convinced that bad things happen in threes. "Why," she asked, "don't we all just forget the tour, and go for brunch?" I did not hear that, when perhaps I should have, so we started on our way, half an hour later than planned. Things went well, as the first portion of the tour was north on the Golden State Freeway, to Gorman. The side trips up the old Ridge Route, out of Castaic, and entering Gorman via the Post Road, spiced up an otherwise uneventful freeway jaunt. Once in Gorman, where we all stopped to fill up the cars and empty ourselves, the freeway sections were over. We then headed through Frazier Park, to get us to Lockwood Valley.

The Lockwood Valley Road is an interesting bit of road. It runs near enough the mountains, so we were close to the last remaining snow on the southern facing slopes. It is also far enough away from the hills to the north, that all we saw of them were the melting snow in the form of stream



Did anyone bring the oars?

crossings at several locations. I, having pre-run the course when I wrote it, was aware of these, and was sure enough

of myself that I hit the first one at about 40 miles per hour. That was about 39 mph too fast. Hidden beneath the surface of the water, whose depth I seriously miscalculated, ere surface irregularities that were all too willing to inflict the third "bad thing" on our group, this time on the exhaust system of my Alfetta GT. The wound is serious, but not mortal. As Carrie was willing to soldier on without a spare tire, I was willing to continue, albeit at a reduced pace. The damage to the exhaust system was such that the car was VERY loud, and the catalytic converter, among other pieces I am sure, were vibrating against the body of the car, exacerbating the noise problem. By short-shifting, and coasting downhill in neutral as much as possible, I was able to finish the tour in style, if not in silence. The ride home, at a reduced speed so that Linda and I could hear each other, was a trial, but we both smiled, and endured it. I could lament that this another time I have done in the exhaust system, but few would listen sympathetically, as I was the one in charge, and I did not heed my own warnings about the stream crossings.



Charlie Schwartz is still looking for wildflowers.

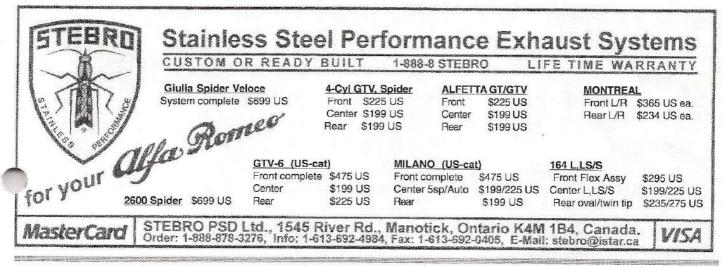
So for this year's tour, we had a variety of roads, from freeway, to mountains, to unpaved, sort of. (I can tell you

about the river crossing about 45 miles north of Ojai, if you would like to know.) We had excitement, some at my expense, and some at the expense of an unknown driver coming the other way. He/she apparently misjudged the entry speed to a downhill corner, and ended up rolling an otherwise (I assume) serviceable Mercury Capri. It did not appear that anyone was seriously hurt, but there were several emergency vehicles seen en route to the scene. We had romance, as I announced my engagement to Linda, the lovely lady who puts up with my obsession with Italian cars, to any and all who were not already aware of that fact. And we had anniversaries to celebrate. Gene Brown's Montreal was 29 years old, almost to the day, and we were also celebrating his first anniversary of owning one of the most beautiful of the modern Alfa Romeos. (Thank you for the B-day cake, Gene!)



Ah, Lunch! the highlight of any Alfa event.

At our destination, Soule County Park in Ojai, there were many smiles on this year's band of intrepid tourers. I welcome those of you who had never taken part in one of my spring events before. To those veterans of prior tours, I hope that you enjoyed yourselves as much as the smiles I saw at lunch would indicate. To those who could not make it this year, for whatever reasons, I can only offer condolences. You missed a good one.



Wagnaflow Vintage 2.5 Sedan Challenge Specific Parts Brock Blant Spaces Spa

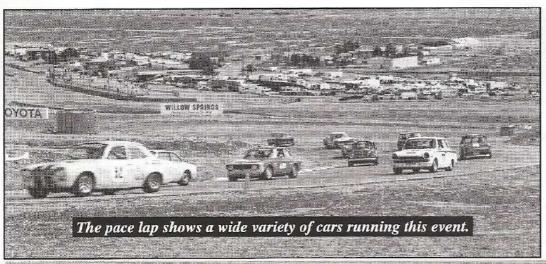
By: Anthony Rimicci Photos: Chris Kattchee & Jerry Vivit

The first vintage 2.5 Challenge race is in the books and was quite successful. With 25 cars originally entered, it was the biggest run group of the weekend. The atmosphere was very friendly all weekend long amongst the drivers and crowd that came out to look and see what this new series was all about. All the cars were nicely prepared to comply with the 1971-1972 rules and all had to be weighed to meet the rules.

On the track, there was nothing but excitement all weekend long. There was not one car running alone at any time. As one looked around the track, there was nothing but groups of at least two cars with some being battles of four and five cars. In the qualifying race, a surprise driver made his way into David Wall's 1967 GTV. This driver was John Morton, yes, the John Norman that won the 1971 2.5challenge championship after Horst Kwech and his GTV were disqualified. He put on quite a show starting fourth and quickly getting by a Datsun 510 to take over third and set his eyes on the second place GTV of Alan Ward. After a few laps more, Morton managed to get by Ward and took off after Kevin McKee who was leading up front. Meanwhile, in the middle of the pack there were great

fights between BMW 2002's, GTV's, Ford Cortina's, a few 510's, and a lone Ford Escort. From what I hear, these were the best battles out there because all the cars were changing positions every lap. On the last lap, John Morton managed to get by Kevin McKee and motored his way to victory. Alfa's finished first, second, and third showing that they are still ready to get down to business after 30 years.

On Sunday's trophy race, 18 of the original 25 cars made their way to the grid. All the drivers were ready for this race and couldn't wait to get out there. In Fred Schueddekopp took John Morton's place in Wall's GTV for the main race of the weekend. As we all were getting into our cars, T looked along the pit lane and noticed that there was no room for any more people along the pit wall. Everyone was watching the drivers get in the race for what was said to be the biggest race of the weekend. Amongst the photographers and people, another notable person I noticed was Jon Norman, another Alfa Trans Am competitor who had come down from Berkley to see the race. Once we were all in our cars, we made our way around the track for a warm up lap and made our way to the front straight. Before the green flag could drop, the last place starting Cortina made it's way to the front row. This resulted in one more formation lap and the restart came around the next lap.



Once the green flag was dropped, Kevin McKee made it to turn one in first followed by Fred Schueddekopp, Steve Link in a 510, Alan Ward, and Jeff Hecox in a 2002. On the third lap, Ward made his way around the third place 510 and the rest of the cars remained the same for about seven laps when Schueddekopp retired the car. Behind all this action,



Alan Ward chases Kevin McKee, but can't pass him.

there was lots of great racing including some by myself and my good friend Dirk Stoehr. We were changing positions just about every lap. We were each driving a pretty tight line trying to hold a position. This was a lot of fun because we have both done a lot of racing together and know who is going to do what in each corner. It was a lot of fun, especially going through turns eight and nine side by side, but like all good things, it had to come to an end when his Supertrap muffler ripped off coming out of turn nine and I motored away while he called it a day. Now the car has a Magnaflow so he shouldn't have that problem next time. At the end of the race, an Alfa was once again in first. Kevin McKee was the overall race winner followed by Alan Ward who set fastest race lap of 1:36:361, and then Steve Link in a 510. After the race, the top three cars were weighed to make sure they meet the post race requirements and all checked out OK.

The next 2.5 challenge race is going to be held in Las Vegas on April 21-22. Hopefully the action will be the same as this last time.

Magnaflow Vintage 2.5 Challenge Race Report

Race 1, March 10-11, 2001, Willow Springs, CA

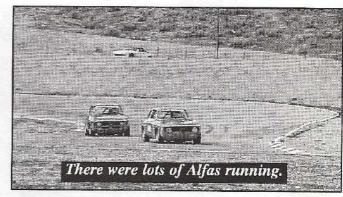
Pos	Laps	Driver	Car#	Car
	12	Kevin McKee	830	67 AR GTV
-2	12	Alan Ward	13	72 AR GTV
3	12	Steve Link	49	70 510
4	12	Jeff Hecox	14	67 1600
5	12	C.J. Bodura	171	67 Ford Cortina
6	12	Marissa Clay	22	72 BMW 2002
7	12	Chris Welch	55	72 BMW 2002
8	12	Jim Froula	52	68 Ford Escort
9	11	Anthony Rimicci	681	68 Alfa Romeo GT 1300
10	11	Jon Peterson	68	71 Datsun 510
DQ-	Illegal	tires		
11	11	Neil Hadfield	144	66 Alfa Romeo GTA Jr
12	10	Eric Roberts	113	71 VW Super Beetle
13	8	Mike Kinney	40	65 Alfa Romeo GTA
14	7	Fred Schueddekopp	18	67 Alfa Romeo
15	6	Paul Held	177	65 Ford Cortina
16	5	Dick Stoehr	17	66 Alfa Romo Giulia
17	0	Shelly Zide	4	71 Alfa Romeo GTV
18	0	Dan Haney	77	66 Mini Cooper
	DNS	John Morton	18	67 Alfa Romeo GTV
	DNS	Sergio Perticucci	38	65 Alfa Romeo GTV
	DNS	Don Halliday	16	65 Datsun 510
	DNS	Paul Snyder	66	66 Datsun
1	DNS	Tim Pick	57	72 BMW 2002
	DNS	Peter Nitoglia	44	66 Alfa Romeo GTV
	DNS	Henry Manney	31	65 Alfa Romeo

85

DNS Larry Harvey

Note

Fast Lap of Race 1:36.361





The Author on the grid -- all smiles

67 Alfa Romeo GTV

View from the Top

Miscellaneous Rumblings from Il Presidente!

So let's talk about involvement with AROSC. I'm talking about getting on the Club Board of Directors next year. I know some of us Board Members have been talking to some of you about it recently.

The Board is made up of 10 elected members. We the Board decide who serves in what position after the elections.

It doesn't take much to be a Board Member (insert cheap joke here). No overwhelming public speaking requirements, no huge events to be the chair of. What we need is your input to the rest of the board. We need your ideas and opinions so we can keep AROSC moving. There are "Member At Large" positions for someone who doesn't want a specific job like Membership or Web Meister.

We have a monthly meeting where we discuss upcoming events, what we did last month and how to keep the Club active. Most of the big events already have people in charge: Wildflower Tour, Julian Tour, Time Trials and Schools and Wine Tour just to name a few. What we want is your input to the rest of the board.

Anyway enough of this. Think about it. And then you can finally find out if the rumors of trips to Italy to evaluate the newest Alfas, free use of the "secret" Alfa Sportwagen, and other perks are true.

You time trialers who missed the Fontana parking lot event, missed a great time. The track layout was up to Time Trial standards and plenty of safe runoff space. Thanks to Mark Hesthal for loaning me his Golf for Intro, and to Doug Bender for giving me a chance to drive laps at speed.

Heard great things about Jay's Wildflower Tour (sorry Jay's Alfetta wasn't equipped for "off-road" type driving). Sorry Mary and I couldn't make it this year.

Get your cars ready for the May 6 Concours in Long Beach. Don't feel your Alfa (or non Alfa for the first time) isn't good enough?? (Present company . . .) Then just clean up your car, pack a picnic lunch and drive out and see the other cars. El Dorado Park is a pretty park with lots of room to walk around after the Concours.

If you aren't planning on driving on the May 19-20 Julian Tour, think about it again. For you who can only make 1 or 2 events a year come on out! Afraid that you won't know anybody and us "regulars" will ignore you? Forget about that. Your spouse or significant other is worried about being out of place? Forget about that too. In our club you are a stranger for about your first 5 minutes. After that you just seem to be included with the rest. Trust me, that's one of the things that hooked Mary and me on AROSC.

More next month. Gotta get the Milano ready for its rebuilt transmission. Where did all of that grease and grime come from underneath the car?? "Will Paul get the tranny back and put in the car before the Driving School, or will he have to drive the Alfetta"? Stay tuned.

Caio,

Sidewaysalfa



Visit Us On The Web

Site created by Alfacionada's Official Web Meister

Eric Sands

Pages.prodigy.net/alfaomega

3822 Clarington Avenue Culver City CA 90232 310/836-3160

AROSC Concours # 1 -- May 6 El Dorado Park Nature Center

All participants should plan on arriving at the park at around 9:30 am so that judging can start promptly at 10:00 am. Please send your entry form along with a check for \$10 per car entered to Dan Ritter by April 26 so we can plan on classes and ribbons. For those of you who don't have a car to enter, bring down the family for a picnic and take a look at the nice cars.

NOTE: ENTRIES ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO ALFA ROMEOS. IF YOUR "WHATSIT" IS CLEAN AND SHINY, BRING IT OUT AND SHOW IT OFF!

DIRECTIONS: The park is shown in the Thomas Bros. Map, page **796 G-2**. From the I-405 south in Long Beach, exit at Studebaker Road. Take Studebaker north to Spring St., turn right and proceed east to the El Dorado Park Nature Center, just past the San Gabriel River. From the I-405 north, take the first exit past the I-605 (Palo Verde), go north to Spring St., and follow the above directions to the park. From the I-605 south, exit right at Cerritos/Spring Street and proceed west. Continue to Studebaker road and make a 'U-turn'. The Nature Center is on the right side just after the San Gabriel River over-cross. Note that there is no Cerritos exit from the north I-605, and no entrance from Cerritos to the southbound I-605. You can get off at Katella and go west to Studebaker, then north to Spring St. and east to the park entrance as above.

Go to the booth at the entrance and pay the \$5.00 parking fee. Drive straight ahead to the parking area and Dan will tell you where to park.

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> 1221 Fourth Street Berkeley, Ca. 94710

Tour to Julian Planned

Another Back Road Trip to Apple Pie Country!

Scenic Backroads, and the Great Food & Wine of Rural San Diego County

AROSC will hit the backroads once again! Join us as we explore spectacular vistas, a whole new set of little-known country roads, excellent food & wine, and apple pie of course. From the pine scented mountain roads

of Idyllwild, to the historic Butterfield Stage Route, be prepared to enjoy some of the most delightful countryside in the Golden State. Those familiar with this wonderful region of rural California know what a treat it can be, so come along with us and share our "secret" roads.

Check out the schedule and note the rendezvous places and times! Join the Tour at any one of these rendezvous points, and stay with us for as long as you like. Either Saturday or Sunday will make a great day trip, but why not relax and make it a weekend? Stay with us in the heart of Julian, at the quaint and comfortable Julian Lodge. AROSC has negotiated special rates for some of their best rooms: from \$86 to \$104 per night + tax. Call (800) 542-1420 by 11 May 2001 to reserve your room.



All booked up? Or maybe you don't want to stay in town, but prefer to stay among the orchards a few miles away. AROSC thought of that, and can offer you another special deal at the simple and rustic Apple Tree Inn, a roadside motel of the kind just about extinct in Southern California. AROSC rates are from \$73.80 to \$82.80 per night + tax. Call (800) 410-8683 by 11 May 2001 to reserve your room.



We only have a limited number of rooms reserved, so make your reservations early! Be sure to tell them you are with AROSC.

Day trip or weekend, your club has also arranged for you to enjoy some great food, but you need to reserve a



place at the table! We have scheduled a Saturday Lunch with wine tasting at the delightful Shadow Mountain Vineyards, repeating a very popular event from last year. Saturday night we will have a club dinner in Julian, with famous Julian Apple Pie. Sunday morning will find us at a Late Breakfast in Julian. You will have plenty of time to sleep late, or to stroll around town before breakfast. Attend one or all, but please RSVP by 11 May 2001 to our V.P. Kevin Coughlan, - (818) 507-5072, or by email to knedzn@discoveryroad.com. Please include your name and the number in your party, and which events you will attend. We will be ordering off the menu, and all locations have very moderate prices. If you have any questions about how to find any of the rendezvous points, contact Kevin by phone or email for more detailed directions.

Julian Tour - Schedule of Events

Route maps will be available at each rendezvous. Saturday, 19 May 2001

Rendezvous 1 - 9:00 am - For those of us who love a scenic mountain road in the morning, we begin roadside on California State Highway 243, south about 3/4 of a mile from the Interstate 10 overpass. Take any of the several offramps for the town of Banning (about 7 miles east of

where the 60 and 10 meet), and follow the signs (or get directions) to "Highway. 243 to Idyllwild". If you get there first, choose a likely spot just off the pavement about 1/4 of a mile south of the 10, before the grade begins. We will hit the road at 9:30am., stop for coffee/light breakfast in Idyllwild, and stop at several other very scenic points along our route.

Rendezvous 2 - 12:30pm - Our special AROSC Saturday Lunch at Shadow Mountain Vineyards in North San Diego County. 35124 Highway 79 South, in the village of Sunshine Summit, look for it on the "west" side of the road. Tel: (760) 782-0778 - see the map in this newsletter. No vines are visible from Highway 79, so look for Alfa's in a parking lot beside the road in Sunshine Summit. You can also park at the winery, but be advised that there is a halfmile of (well-groomed) dirt road; so if you wish, a shuttle service is provided from the parking lot mentioned above. This is a very small hamlet, so you will find us, have no fear!

Rendezvous 3 - 5:30pm - Do not miss our delicious

AROSC Dinner in Julian. Meet us in the Washington Room at the Julian Lodge, 4th and "C" Street in the town of Julian. Parking is on the street unless you are staying at the Lodge, but there is plenty of street parking available. We will walk to the restaurant from here, leaving the lodge about 6:00pm.

Sunday, 20 May 2001

Rendezvous 4 - 9:00am - AROSC Sunday Breakfast. A leisurely affair for those inclined to wake up, so meet us in the Washington Room at the Julian Lodge, 4th and "C" Street in the town of Julian. We will walk to the restaurant from here, leaving the lodge about 9:30am. We will be at breakfast until at least 10:30 am, so if you arrive late ask at the desk of the Julian Lodge - they will know where we are. After the overnighters have eaten and checked out, we will be off again! Be ready for a cool and historic drive along the historic Butterfield Stage Route, and other exciting and scenic rural and mountain roads. Our schedule will ensure that everyone gets home before the evening gets late... too bad we have to go home at all! See you there!

San Diego Chapter Tour -- April 28

The following message was forwarded, to pass around. If there is anyone out there who wants to go on a tour further south, then the weekend after our driving school is an appropriate time to put on the road what you learned in the class and on the track. If anyone from LA, or elsewhere wants to go, please do, and enjoy yourselves. If you want to write an article for Alfacionada, along with pictures so much the better. Forward any pix or written words to Phyllis Gaylard. And with that, read the following, and hope you have a good weekend. This looks like a prelude to our Julian Tour in May.

Date: April 28

Be at the K-Mart parking lot in Ramona CA with a full tank of gas to leave exactly at 9:30AM (if you're late you're left). Bring a dozen cookies, bought or homemade, and water/soft drinks for snack. We'll make our way to the Anza Borrego Desert visitor's center, and eventually to Julian for an early dinner at Baileys Barbecue, then either o San Diego (through Cuyamaca State Park) or back to Ramona.

Breakfast - for those with a strong stomach - at the Kountry Kitchen in Ramona at 8:30AM, or if you want we can arrange to meet you at a place less likely to induce food poisoning.

All are welcome.

Best Regards,

Lew Mackro" < jmackro@alum.mit.edu>

[For more information, try the chapter web site at www.arocsd.org or contact the president, Hillary Griffith, at (760)787-0301 or email to hbgriff@cts.com]

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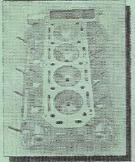
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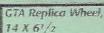


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"Streets of Fontana" Time Trial

And Now for Something Completely Different!

by Doug Bender photos by Terry Watson

The second time trial of 2001, held over April Fool's Day weekend, was a little different than usual: instead of running at a recognized track such as Willow Springs we coned off our own custom-designed track in the parking lot at Fontana Speedway. Time Trial Director John Cote wanted to see if by putting on a low-key, safe event a short drive from Los Angeles he could attract some new people. He also wanted to use this event to get AROSC's foot in the door with Fontana Raceway, especially since we might use Fontana as a venue for next year's Alfa National Convention.

John's experiment met its objectives and then some. We had a number of first-time time trialers and new cars, including about a dozen Intro Group entries. The track itself, while a little short and bumpy, was safe and challenging (more on this later). There was plenty of unoff area and not much to run into, and we did not bend any metal all weekend. The large number of Intro Group entrants was especially gratifying. Intro Group gives people who haven't been on a track before a chance to drive ordinary street cars at lunchtime in a follow-the-leader session behind an instructor or other experienced time trialer. This gives people track experience at maybe 75% speed in a very low-risk environment. Since we had so many cars we divided Intro Group into two bunches, and on Sunday I was nominated to lead one of them. Because the track was so safe we pushed these Intro cars a little harder than usual, especially on Sunday, and were able to give them a real taste of track driving.

To balance the large turnout of new faces, we had a smaller turnout of some of our regulars. Also, because the track was somewhat narrow we didn't have a race. [And we used the National Alfa Club's time trial insurance, which doesn't cover racing – Ed.] So we ended up with four time trial run groups instead of the usual three, and plenty of track space and time for everyone. Some of our regulars, including myself at first, were suspicious of the format, questioning how a parking lot track can be a real racetrack. As it turned out, while different from the usual time trial, in my opinion this was a challenging and worthwhile driving experience (again, more later).



The Start/Finish "Tower" -- not even a soap box

Our accommodations at the track were, as it turned out, a little on the Spartan, do it yourself side. John had planned to rent a motor home for the "Tower," Registration, and Timing, but in the end decided not to. So, Registration was a card table near the Start/Finish line, the "Tower" was John at Start/Finish with a bullhorn and flags, and Timing was inside Alex Brown's van with a portable generator to run the computer. Likewise, our hotel accommodations experienced a glitch...the hotel itself was fine, but when people tried to get the Alfa Club discount the hotel had never heard of us. And the Saturday night banquet was at a decent Alfa Club-style restaurant (i.e. casual), but turned out to be hard to find, especially because their sign was out. None of this was Accommodations Director Brad Gray's fault, all I can think of is that it was all part of the April Fool's weekend.

The track was very dusty Saturday morning...it seems that cars driving at high speed can suck the dust out of pores in the pavement. And, we had to not only make our own chalk lines but get rid of them after. Despite all this no one complained and we had a good time. One thing that turned out to be very popular was Dave Evans with his portable dyno. Dave came out to the track both Saturday and Sunday and stayed busy the entire time...he probably dyno'd about 15 cars altogether.

Now, let me talk about the track itself. John laid out a really challenging track, which I am glad to have experienced. This track was really physical and challenging. There was no place on the track where you could relax...part of the challenge was just to figure out where, in the rhythm of the track, to sneak a peck at the gauges and, if you have one, your in-car timer. The one fast section, instead of being a straight, was made up of

AROSC Time Trial #01-2 Streets of Fontana at California Speedway April 1, 2001

POS C	CAR#	DRIVER	CAR	FAST LAP	LAP 1	LAP2	LAP3	LAP4	LAP5
CLASS	SE						0.54.693	0:54.938	0:55.716
1	4	Cupp, Andrew	Spider	0:54.633	0:56.577	0:55.085	0:54.633	0.34.930	0.55.7 10
CLAS		Flinchbaugh, Cort	SP2000	0:47.889	0:50.331	0:48.677	0:47.990	0:50.245	0:47.889
1	71 97	Davis, Dan	Viper	0:49.390	0:50.187	0:50.147	0:49.390	0:49.464	0:49.537
2	31	Davis, Dair	.,						
CLAS	SN					272	0.40.740	0.40.606	0:48.448
5	62	Poulin, Robert	M3	0:48.448	0:48.885	0:48.716	0:48.713	0:48.686 0:49.658	0:49.689
2	128	Graham, Wayne	Sprite Mk4	0:49.354	0:49.935	0:49.354	0:49.951 0:51.568	0:49.030	0:51.618
3	12	Kagiya, Ko	RX7	0:51.511	0:51.511	0:51.850	0:53.389	0:53.508	0:53.264
4	7	Watson, Terry	XR4Ti	0:53.058	0:54.206	0:53.058 0:53.525	0:53.455	0:54.017	0:54.656
5	28	Cox, Frank	Sprite Mk4		0:53.388 0:54.710	0:54.333	0:54.390	0:53.523	0:53.705
6	135	Lee, Joseph	RX7	0:53.523 0:56.011	0:58.490	0:57.603	0:57.335	0:56.011	0:56.767
7	735	Seho,Ken	Mazda	1:00.225	1:00.584	1:00.225			
8	8	Slocum, Allan	XR4Ti	1.00.223	1.00.004				
CLAS	113	Lee, Rick	RX7	0:49.303	0:50.499	0:49.484	0:50.791	0:49.303	
1 2	29	Nelson, Greg	RX7	0:49.369	0:49.879	0:49.369	0:49.623	0:49.488	
3	89	Currier, David	Corvette	0:50.949	0:52.289	0:51.509	0:51.254	0:51.048	
4	291	Nelson, Kim	RX7	0:50.954	0:52.466	0:51.310	0:51.386	0:52.341	
5	22	Horwitz, Bob	510	0:52.738	0:53.103	0:52.738	0:53.326	0:58.346	
6	218	Groth, Claus	944T	0:52.770	0:53.129	0:53.059	0:52.770	0:52.892	
7	122	Horwitz, Jim	510	0:53.233	0:54.070	0:54.043	0:54.844	0:53.569	
8	60	Wagner, Donald	Mustang	0:53.883	0:53.883	0:57.668	0:56.520	0.57.511	0.37.100
CLE			DV2	0:49.256	0:50.394	0:50.257	0:49.516	0:50.098	<u>0:49.256</u>
70	40	DeArman, Daryl	RX7 RX7	0.52.340	0:54.148	0:53.282	0:52.340	0:58.12	0:52.558
2	Sm.	Fibrow, Dennis Janquart, Geoffre		0:53.264	0:53.629	0:54.394	0:54.598	0:53.492	0:53.264
3	9	Kutkus, M.J.	SLX230	0:55.719	0:56.288	0:56.338	0:55,719	0:56.43	
4.	95	Maria Santa	DEE Calan	n 0:56 027	0:56.691	0:56.731	0:56.027		
5	=	Degeres, Smort	SIX	0:56.582	0:57.348	0:57.500	0:56.582	0:57.28	1 0:57.289
7	1	Harris, John	9445	0:59.820	1:00.250	1:01.078	1:00.742	1:00.41	8 0:59.820
	-								
CLA	SS Q						0.54.405	0.51.60	2
1	48	Presto, Anthony	MR2	0:51.497	0:51.907	0.51.877	0.51.497	0:51.68	7 0:53.614
2	51	Tucker, Tim	MR2	0:52.117	0:53.619	(II 27 II 28	0.32.730	0.52.11	0.00.014
3	141				0:56.910 0:57.950	0.59.000			
4	265	Hem, Jeff	В	0:57.950	0.57.350	9.30.330	0.30.002	0.00.00	
مدد وجود									
	ASS Z	Lanca lan	Sate Ran	er 0:51 229	0:51:229	0:51.623	0:51.940	0:51.98	3 0:54.148
1	17	Leone, Joe	Opio rido						

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Our 2001 Calendar

January	February	March	April		
4 AROSC Board Meeting 13-14 Time Trial - Willow Springs 27 AROSC Annual Meeting 12:30pmLuncheon Cirivello's Trattoria, Long Beach	1 AROSC Board Meeting 23 General Meeting - 8pm, Culver City 25 Convention Committee Kickoff Meeting, Hilton Costa Mesa	1 AROSC Board Meeting 3 Merle Norman Car Collection Tour 25 Tour "In Search of the WildFlowers" 30 General Meeting - 8pm Culver City 31 Time Trial Fontana	1 Time Trial — Fontana 5 AROSC Board Meeting 14 Swap Meet, 9am at Omega MotorSports 21-22 Driver's school at "Streets of Willow" 27 General Meeting - 8pm Culver City 28 EveningTour, Malt Shop		
May	June	July	August		
AROSC Board Meeting Concours El Dorado Park, Long Beach 18-20 Tour to Julian Coneral Meeting - 8pm Cuber Chy	2-3 Time Trial at Buttonwillow 7 AROSC Board Meeting 21-24 AROC Convention, Nashville, TN 29 General Meeting - 8pm Culver City	5? AROSC Board Meeting 15 Concours, San Antonio Winery 27 General Meeting - 8pm Culver City	2 AROSC Board Meeting 5 Summer Party at Phyllis Gaylard's home 17 Concours Italiano in Monterey 25 Mt. Wilson Twilight hillelimb & pienic 31 General Meeting - 8pm Culver City		
September	October	November	December		
5 AROSC Board Meeting Swap meet, 9am at Sensor Systems 22-23 Time Trial — Willow Springs 28 General Meeting - 8pm Culver City	4 AROSC Board Meeting 13-14 Driving School at "Streets of Willow" 19-21 Wine Tour 26 General Meeting - 8pm Culver City	1 AROSC Board Meeting 4 Concours at "Best of France & Italy" Show 10-11 Time Trial Willow Springs 16? General Meeting - 8pm Culver City: Elections, "White Turkey Auction"	8 Holiday Party 9 AROSC Board Meeting: election of officers HAPPY HOLIDAYS!		