

Alfa Romeo Owners
of Southern California
17041 Malta Circle
Huntington Beach
CA 92649

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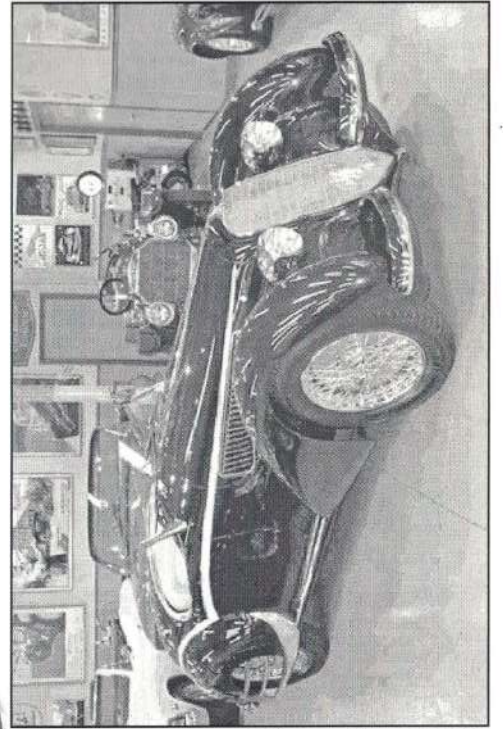
Arthur Russell
3852 Bledsoe Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90066-4018
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Our 2007 Calendar

September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007
1-2 Drivers School @ Streets of Willow	3 Board Meeting @ Luigi's	4 Best of France & Italy Car Show & Concours	2 Competition Committee Meeting
5 Board Meeting @ Luigi's	13-14 Time Trial & Race @ Willow Springs	7 Board Meeting @ Luigi's	8 Holiday Party at the Kukus home
15 <u>Swap Meet /DYNO Session @MagnaFlow</u>	27 General Meeting, Tour of Ray Scherr Collection- Westlake Village	17 General Meeting, 1pm White Turkey Sale & Elections @ TBD	9 Board Meeting and planning for 2008 at the Kukus home
29 General Meeting- Nethercutt Museum, + Party @ Casa Silverman		23-25 Wine Tour -- Central Coast area	

Alfacionada

Newsletter of the
Alfa Romeo
OWNERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



November 2007

In This Issue: Ray Scherr Collection, Time Trial & Race, upcoming events,

Meeting Information

General Meetings are usually held the last Friday or Saturday of each month at various locations. Check the Calendar information on the outside back cover for an overview of the year, and the Previews section on Page 4 for details of events planned for the near future.

AROSC Mailing Address:
Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California
17041 Malta Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

AROSC Web Site:
www.arosc.org

Important Deadline & Info!

Please send classified ads, articles, letters, and photographs to the Editor in time to arrive by the monthly general meeting 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 Club, Inc., a national non-profit organization of Alfa enthusiasts. Subscription to this newsletter is included as part of the annual AROSC membership fee of \$70; non-members of AROSC may subscribe for \$22 per year.

Permission is hereby granted to other Alfa Owners Clubs to reproduce any original material herein, provided credit is given to the author and to the AROSC *Alfacionada*.

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 or of special interest to the members.

Commercial Advertising Rates (modified for new page size)

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

Membership Information
See the inside back cover of *Alfacionada*.

This Month's Cover

What else could we show but the magnificent 8C2900B from the Ray Scherr Collection, viewed at our October Meeting. Photo by Art Russell.

Disclaimer (a.k.a. Lawyer Repellent)

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.

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2007 AROSC Previews -- An Outline of Coming Events

November 17 – General Meeting, Elections, and White Turkey Auction, 1:00 PM

We will visit the Automobile Driving Museum in El Segundo for our annual meeting, which includes the election of AROSC officers for 2008 and the White Turkey Auction -- bring your auctionables and/or money. Also plan to spend some time touring this unique collection. There are lunch opportunities nearby on Sepulveda at Mariposa. See page 21 for details.

DON'T MISS:
-General Meeting, Election, White Turkey auction Nov 17, 1PM

-Wine Tour Nov 23-25

-Holiday Party Dec 8 @ Kutkus'

November 23-25 – Wine Tour

We will tour the Santa Inez Valley of Santa Barbara County for some great roads, great wines, and our usual picnic and commradery. Gene Brown's daughter Margi will again provide the tour with her usual flair. It's time to make hotel reservations and start the wish list of wines to buy for gifts or to stock up your collection. See the details on pages 18 & 19.

December 2 – Competition Board Meeting

The annual meeting of the Competition Board is planned for Art Russell's home on Sunday, December 2. All interested persons are welcome. Contact Bruce Colby for details of time and location at competition@arosc.org

December 8– Holiday Party @ Kutkus', Noon to 5PM

We will have our annual holiday pot luck at the Kutkus' party room in Redondo Beach. There will be barbequed meats by MJ, Sheila will prepare something special, and we will bring pot luck side dishes, salads, and desserts to complete the menu. Don't miss it! See the flyer on page 20 and be sure to RSVP to Sheila

December 9 – Board Meeting, old & new, at Kutkus', 11AM

The new and old board will meet for selection of officers and committee chairs as well as a planning session for 2008. All members with ideas for events or who want to volunteer for a committee are welcome to attend. We will also be finishing off any left-overs from the Holiday Party the day before.

January 27 -- Annual Awards Meeting, Delzano's, Redondo Beach

We have made reservations at this restaurant in Redondo Beach for a private room and buffet lunch. We will award our year-end trophies for all competition categories and classes, and introduce the new board of directors and officers.



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View from the Top -- *Mostly Ramblings of Il Presidente!*

Here Ye, Here Ye: ELECTIONS:

As said many times before, **attendance** at this meeting is the surest way to **avoid** being nominated and elected to the Board of Directors. Our originally planned gathering at the new Ital Speed facility has been changed to the near future because of a commitment made by Dirk to racing in El Salvador that weekend. However, instead of fighting Friday night traffic, we will meet on **Saturday, November 17th**, at the interesting and special **Automobile Driving Museum at 610 Lairport St., in El Segundo** (see article). They have a meeting room that we will use for our elections and eclectic White Turkey auction on Saturday afternoon (1 to 3PM ICT (Italian Club Time)). You can tour the museum before or after the meeting. They are open from 10 AM to 4 PM. Nominal refreshments will be served at the meeting, but there are places to have lunch not far away.

The BoD is not a lot of work and you get to have dinner out with some friends once a month. For a change you get to be the volunteer selector as opposed to being the

volunteer selected. **This meeting coincides with our annual White Elephant sale / auction. Clean out the garage!!!** We guarantee an auctioneer with a dash of wit and wisdom (maybe that great comic writer, Charlie Schwartz), and everything will sell. Unless designated otherwise by the donor, 10% of the proceeds go to our skinny club account.

We're heading into a pretty hectic time and the schedule for November and December seems to be pretty full. By the time this is received we will have oohed and aahed at the fabulous assortment of cars presented at the Best of France and Italy that was held in on November 4, at Woodley Park. The Santa Ana's cleared the air and the sky and life was good. Pictures and results of the year's final Concorso competition will be in the next issue.

WINE TOUR (see article) starts the evening after Thanksgiving Day, November 23 in the Gazebo at the Best Western Pea Soup Anderson in Buellton, CA, probably starting around 7PM ICT. After a hearty breakfast the next AM we are off and drivinking. We will stop for a picnic lunch on those fabulous turkey-day leftovers,

presented in prize winning set ups, and finish the evening with a great meal at A J Spurs. Sunday is usually freeform drivinking as we wend our way home. Our wine tours have taken on a new level of fun and frolic under the guidance of (semi)professional road seeker Gene Brown and his professional event coordinating daughter Margi. Be there or be square – over 40 people attended Sat night dinner last year. **There is an open invitation and expected participation from the wonderful members of the Central Coast Alfa Owners Club, whose beautiful and wine laden territory we are visiting.**

Do not miss the LEGENDARY annual Holiday party at our AROSC Club House, Villa Kutkus in Redondo Beach on December 8th. Great Kutkus BBQ, your pot-luck side dishes and desserts, and a wine tasting and rating supported by partygoers bearing gifts of potables.

The next day, the Club House is the site of the BOD meeting to elect officers and to plan the 2008 schedule of events. There's usually plenty of leftovers and a need for great ideas. All are welcome – join us!

Keep the wheel side down,
Norman I, Rex

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National AROC Seeks Candidates for Board of Directors

Are you interested in serving on the national AROC Board? We would like to have representation at the national level: perhaps then we wouldn't have 3 national conventions in a row scheduled for the middle of the country! The only requirement is to be a member, no prior service is needed. The term of office is two years, and you would need to attend 2 national conventions, at the end of each of those years. Attending the convention at the beginning of your term is advised as well. Although serving on the Board does not pay, nor subsidize attendance at the conventions, there are tax deductions for required attendance. Attending the conventions is actually a plus, since you meet lots of great Alfa people, see different parts of the country, and can participate in tours, rallies, time trials, concours, and other events, even if you have a rental car.

If this appeals to you, let your AROSC board know and we will provide a nomination. AROC needs a short (250 word max) biography and candidate statement for publication in the *Alfa Owner*. The deadline for submittal is January 15, 2008, so start considering this prospect.

If you would rather do some local participation, AROSC is also seeking candidates for its Board of Directors. Our election will be held November 17, so come to that meeting, and/or contact an AROSC Board member to get on our ballot.

	
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October Meeting -- Ray Scherr Collection

Photos by Jim Barrett, MJ Kutkus, Paul Dexler, and Art Russell



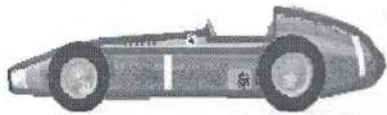
Ray Scherr talks to the group about his collection



A beautifully restored 1969 1600 GTC -- green!



This 1934 Dietrich-bodied Packard 1108 was at Pebble Beach this year, scoring a 3rd in class, the 'Classic Car Club of America Trophy', and the 'Nethercutt Most Elegant Closed Car Trophy'.



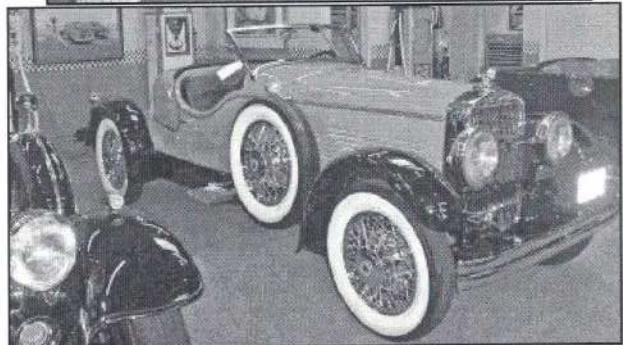
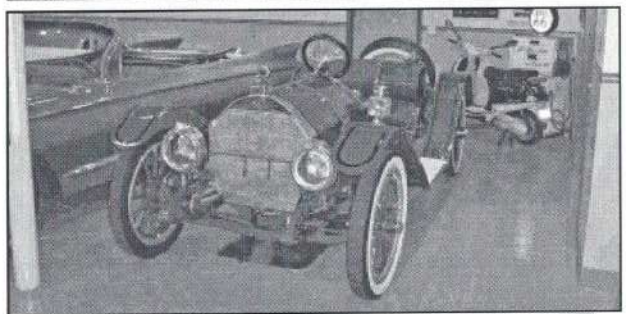
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More beautiful classics from Ray Scherr's collection.



A yellow Chip Foose '34 Ford hot rod and it's very contemporary interior.



Norman (on the phone...) and a 1935 Auburn 851 Speedster that won it's class at Pebble Beach this year.



Ray has collected a few guitars!



And then to lunch....

The Lane Motor Museum, Nashville, Tennessee

While the club was touring the Ray Scherr Collection, your editor was in Nashville. I saw some cars that are unique and unusual, to say the least. They have over 150 cars and motorcycles, mostly older European cars, displayed in a former bread factory building. I have shown a few on these pages, and I encourage you to visit their web site at www.lanemotormuseum.com for more.

Photos by Phyllis Gaylard



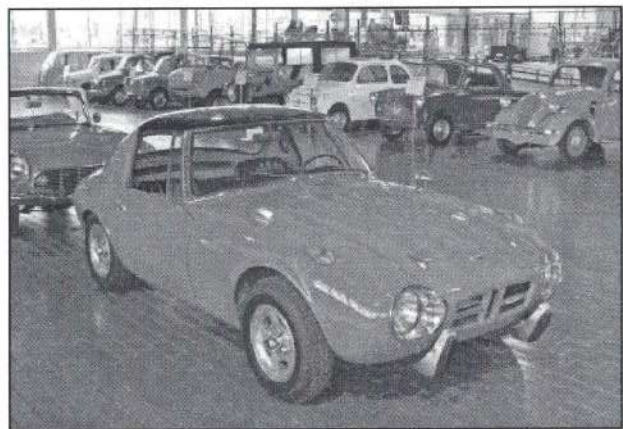
An overview of the museum, with cars placed by country.



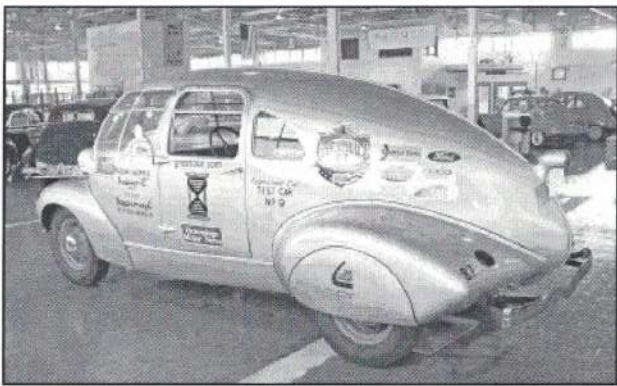
A replica of the 2-headed '52 Citroen 2CV which served the Cogolin, France fire & rescue service: 2 independent fronts welded together so they could get down a blocked mountain road.



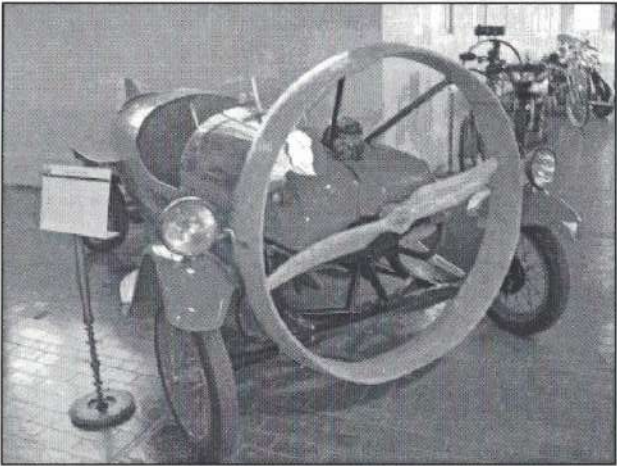
1928 Martin Aero car, built by Martin Aircraft for Gen. Billy Mitchell, one of 3 prototypes.



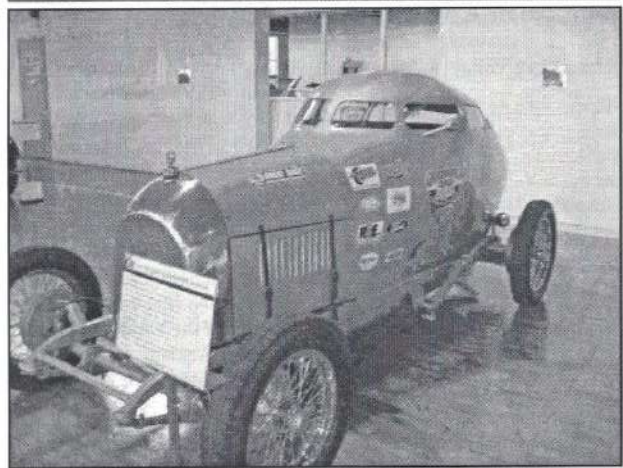
A 1967 Toyota Sports 800, their first sports car. It was brought to the US for dealers to test, and they concluded that it wouldn't sell, so Toyota sold them to the dealers didn't import them.



A 1934 McQuay-Norris Streamliner, created as a promotional vehicle for this automotive parts company -- looks like the very early Alfa torpedo car.



The 1932 Helicron, a one-of-a-kind propeller-driven car, found in a French barn. It has rear-wheel steering and a Citroen engine.



A replica of the 1917 Golden Submarine built by Barney Oldfield with Harry Miller to be a fast and safer race car with a roll cage. It won 20 of 54 races entered.



A 1947 Tatra T-87 Saloon from Czechoslovakia: streamlined body and rear engine, it looks like a Tucker with it's third headlight!

AROSC Annual Wine Tour

Santa Ynez Valley

It's that time again! The Alfa Romeo Owner's Club of Southern California's Annual Wine Tour in the Santa Ynez Valley is set for November 23 - 25th.

Located to the north of Santa Barbara and 25 miles south of Santa Maria, the Santa Ynez Valley is intriguingly arrayed east-to-west. Approximately thirty miles long, the Santa Ynez Valley has three distinct micro-climates: in the western reaches of the

Valley is the recently designated Santa Rita Hills AVA. Perhaps the coolest growing region in California, the Santa Rita Hills AVA is rapidly developing an image for exceptional Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

About twenty miles to the east of the Pacific Ocean, the central Santa Ynez Valley is considerably warmer, and appropriate for Bordeaux white and red varieties as well as Syrah.

In short, this year looks to be one of the most diverse experiences we have had and as always, the road that leads to these amazing vineyards will be the true adventure.

Special thanks to the folks at Best Western - Pea Soup Andersen's, as they have reserved a section in the front of the hotel for our group. Look for the "AROSC Reserved" signs and grab yourself a VIP spot.

For those of you joining us on Friday evening, we'll be meeting in the Gazebo area located in the pool area of the Inn at 8pm. We'll have your Welcome Packet, some tour maps, and pictures from last year!

All others coming up on Saturday morning can meet us in the hotel lobby at 9am, where we'll gather to go for breakfast. In case you miss this, be sure to catch us in the front parking lot at 10am, as we'll be heading out to our first vineyard then.

The selection of vineyards is still under way and your personal Tour Director will be heading north this month to test out his Montreal on the winding roads and stop in for a few pre-wine tour tastings.

The cost, if any, at each vineyard does vary and a pricelist will go out in the next E-blast. Generally the prices range from ~ \$5-\$7 per person at each vineyard.



"One of the best wine-tasting experiences I've ever had and absolutely one I'd never miss!"

As with last year, we'll be having a few fun games, as well as the ever-popular "Most Impressive Lunch" contest. For those of you who have been on this tour before, welcome back! And those of you that are joining us for the first time...welcome and we're sure it will be a memorable event.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, 11/23

Arrival for most at the Best Western - Pea Soup Andersen's. This is a free night, so enjoy yourself by getting lots of rest or come join us in the Gazebo, located in the pool area @ 8pm.

Saturday, 11/24

9am: Join us for breakfast.
10am: Leave from the hotel for

the first vineyard.

11:15am: Speed off to the 2nd vineyard.

12: 15pm: Venture on to the 3rd vineyard and enjoy some lunch together...don't forget about the prize for the most impressive meal!

2pm: Head towards our 4th and 5th vineyards, which are located at the same spot.

3pm: Race to our 6th vineyard down the road.

4pm: Mosey on down to our 7th vineyard.

4:45pm: Travel back to the hotel to freshen up.

6:15pm: Meet downstairs and leave for our exquisite dinner at AJ Spurs.

Sunday, 11/25

Enjoy the beautiful trip home at your own leisure. A number of us will be having breakfast across the street at 9am, so feel free to join us and share stories!

For Hotel Reservations, please call:



Best Western Pea Soup Andersen's
51 E. Hwy 246, Buettton, CA. 93427
Local (805) 688-3216- Fax (805) 688-9767
Toll-Free (800) Pea-Soup

Room Rates: \$116/nt (1 King/2 Queens)

Please mention the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California in order to receive your discounted rate.

Alfa Club Holiday Party

Saturday, Dec 8th
Noon - 5:00 pm

Hosted by:
M.J. & Sheila Kutkus
2304 Curtis Ave
Redondo Beach, CA

South of Manhattan Beach Blvd and west of
Inglewood Ave in north Redondo.
Take the 405 to Inglewood Ave off ramp,
south 1 mile to Curtis Ave, turn right,
continue 1/2 mile to 2304. Parking allowed
only on the south side of the street.

Meet up with old friends, make new friends.
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Holiday Cheer!

Holiday Food

Mojo Beef - On the Spit
Grilled Mahi-Mahi,
Tandoori-Style Chicken

Wine tasting table,
bring your favorite wine to share

Soft drinks, tea and coffee

Bring your specialty dish,
salad or dessert

Door Prizes !!

RSVP to Sheila (310) 542-3448

Let her know how many in your party and what you will bring.

See you at the party!!



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November Meeting – Elections, White Turkey Auction, and more...

Saturday, November 17, 1:00PM

We have found an interesting new venue for this meeting, at the **Automobile Driving Museum in El Segundo**. They have a meeting room upstairs that we will meet in on Saturday afternoon, November 17. You can tour this museum before or after the meeting: they are open from 10am to 4pm. Around the corner, on Sepulveda Blvd and Mariposa Ave, is a strip mall with a number of "order-at-the-counter" international restaurants. Catering to every taste, you will find Famous Mediterranean Gyros, Italian Subs, Pizza, Chinese, Hawaiian and Japanese Grills. These are only one block from the Museum, so you can quickly grab some lunch anytime before or after the meeting.

The founder of the Automobile Driving Museum, Stan Zimmerman, believes "cars are a moving art", and he treats them as such. There are 70 cars on display now, from a 1915 Ford Model T to a 1989 Porsche. Some of the more interesting exhibits include one with a body made out of fabric, and a touring car that once carried Eleanor Roosevelt, as well as the 1955 Packard Caribbean convertible that Howard Hughes gave to then wife Jean Peters.

The museum is designed to look like a parking lot with a gift shop resembling a store on Main Street, USA, which sells owners manuals from old Packards to 1978 Pintos.

Automobile Driving Museum

610 Lairport Street

El Segundo

(310) 909-0950 www.automobiledrivingmuseum.org

DIRECTIONS:

Take the I-405 to the LAX area, and exit Imperial Hwy west. Go about 1 mile and turn left on Nash Street, then right on Maple Ave (first opportunity) and then a left onto Lairport. This is just east of Sepulveda Blvd, north of Mariposa. Alternatively, the 105 Fwy has an exit at Nash.

Fall Finals at Willow Springs

By Mike McKibbin
Photos by Mike McKibbin, Rob Rhodes

This year, we've seen Willow Springs at its extremes of heat and cold. It was only fitting that the year's last event at the big track on October 13, 2007 would give us almost perfect weather, although Friday night suggested weirdness again, as it rained hard for several hours. There was also a terrible accident which closed Interstate 5 Saturday morning and thinned out the crowd somewhat, unfortunately preventing a number of regulars from attending. By the time everyone arrived, time trial groups seemed light, although there was a healthy racing contingent, about 30 of us all told.

Charlie and Don Henderson, who have been coming to the events without a car for years, finally had their Mustang running (the engine gave us race track sound effects Friday night). It still needs work, of course (witness how many years we've been working on Big Dog), but his Mustang ran all weekend long, however, and that's a good start.

Mechanical casualties took their toll over the course of the

weekend. Among others were the Poulins (Bob tells me this time the engine may have expired for good; of course, he and his two sons have been beating that car unmercifully for a couple of years, so they probably got their money's worth); Craig Hillskemper's M3 and Jorge Mazlumian's GTV. Joel Quaid, whose Ferrari ran away and hid during the qualifier, had either a scheduling or mechanical glitch or both and also disappeared Saturday night.

Bob Poulin actually didn't disappear. He stayed all weekend, assisting race administration. He not only gridded the time trials and races, but passed out free ice cold Gatorade to "Fun Race" participants as we waited on the grid for that event to begin.

Dennis Fibrow manned the tower both days, unable to race from the handicap of a very recent knee surgery. His surgeon, of course, would have completely freaked about his weekend, even though he didn't crawl into the race car. But like Dennis says, you have to establish priorities.

The Saturday qualifying race was a wild affair, with the race cut 2 laps short after the second red

flag. The first came about when Doug Bender got his Alfa stuck in the ditch on the exit from turn 5, and the second a couple of laps later when things got a little crazy at the start (mixed signals from the starting tower – green flag, and the ground – slow down sign) and around the horseshoe and turn 9 (you ought to see Todd McNall's video).

That night, a bunch of us celebrated Paul Ellis' retirement and birthday with dozens of Halloween cupcakes. The black spiders on half of them were a nice touch and once the crowd learned my daughter Andrea has a spider phobia (racers being the sensitive lot that they are), she found spiders in her chair, her shoulders, and in her hair.

Sunday time trials found Rob Rhodes winning Class N in Big Dog, and Toy Tsugawa getting top time of 1:37 in his Corvette.

The Alfa Cup Race featured a slugfest between Chris Kattchee's Giulia and Jim Ferris' Alfetta. Jim muscled into the lead, and while Chris stayed real close, after a bunch of laps Jim was looking unassailable like he had it in the bag, right up to the penultimate lap, when he looped it coming down the horseshoe, and that was the race.

In the Open Race, brother Mitch and Big Dog shocked everyone by grabbing the lead at the start and holding it until turn 9, when Iain Stobie in his Porsche flew by like Mitch was tied to a pole, with Claus Groth following shortly thereafter. Mitch fell back into 3rd, and slugged it out with Tom Diaz' GT350 for a few laps until Tom's tires faded, following which Tom was forced to defend an assault by Jim Steedman's Porsche 914-6.

Me, I managed to outdrag Valenniui Predescu's Boxter. He'd been faster than me all weekend long, so I surprised even myself by staying in front of him for 4 laps, but he finally dove by inside turn 3, and moved up to hassle Emilio Valsecchi. Meanwhile, I was treated to a knockdown, drag-out between Paul Ellis' Dunestang and Todd McNall's Datsun in my rear view mirror. Somewhere farther back, Greg Nelson was just trying to hang on to the finish, as he was stricken by a terrible flu bug just before the race started. Then there was Tony Presto and his budget racer, a blindingly fast RX-3 that he bought really cheap, although an early off in the horseshoe essentially buried him.

The "Fun Race" for 6 laps afterward was just that. L The Porsches of Iain Stobie and Jim

Steedman sparred up front, while Mitch, Todd, Tony, and I traded positions in the middle and Terry and Bev Major played for positions farther back. When those \$13

trophies aren't at stake, it's nice not to have to worry about results.

A good weekend, and a good season. No wonder we keep coming back.



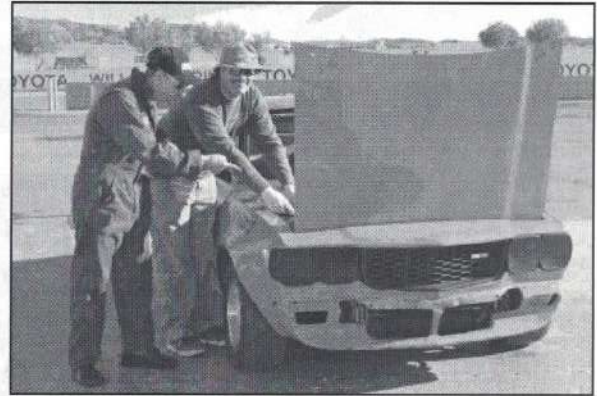
Registration opens early.



Wake up -- the driver's meeting has started.



Paul Ellis inspects Joel Quaid's 430 Challenge Ferrari



Mitch heckles Tony Presto about his "Budget Racer" Mazda.



John Pepper fires up his Giulia



Dennis Fibrow was stuck working Race Control all weekend following knee surgery.



Bob Poulin helped in Race Control



Mitch McKibbin advises Andrea on the grid.



Big Dog (in the background) and the ex-Company Car collaborate on how they will run all weekend.



Emilio Valsecchi preps his VW.



That's Bruce Colby flogging that BMW! Saving his Alfa??



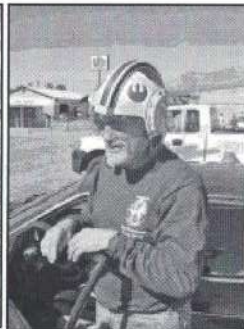
Close action on the front straight during practice.



John Pulsifer lines up for practice in his GTV-6.



Pete Russell in his dad Art's car.



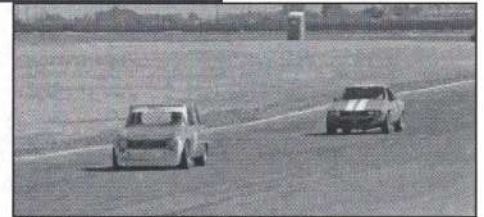
Paul Blankenship tries to run with a Star Wars Helmet!



Cris Kattchee leads the Alfa Cup race to the green flag ...but not for long, as Jim Ferris passes him a few laps later, only to spin and let Chris back by for the win.



Roll the wrecker -- Doug Bender is in the ditch at turn 5.



The final result of the Alfa Cup Race.



Paul Ellis celebrates a birthday and retirement.



The dreaded spider cupcakes!



Mike McKibbin gets a trophy!



Norman gets ready to set a class record.



Mitch jumps to an early lead in the Open Race, surprising all!



Later, Mitch duels with Tom Diaz' Mustang 350.



Iain Stobie takes the win in the Open Race.

Willow Springs Memories from the Seat of a Seven

by Clark Taylor

When the clock radio beamed its soft and mellow K-WAVE sounds at 4:30am on Saturday morning, October 13, I couldn't believe what I was hearing outside. At first I questioned, are our sprinklers that loud? Then I got up and stumbled to the bathroom and looked outside. It was pouring! No weather report had prepared me for this. We'd had fine weather all week, and the reports only mentioned something about some clouds. But it was pouring! True, the Seven comes from a country where such weather is rather the norm, but this is California, so come on Mother Nature, how about some cooperation. Why do you always save your best spoils for the most inconvenient times?

About 4:45am, I decided to see what the now suspect 'Weather Underground' had to say about all this. It said scattered showers, dropping less than 1/10 inch through 8:00am, then clearing. The desert report for the Lancaster area showed a sunny weekend. So, on with the hood (top), eat some breakfast and head out for another Willow Springs adventure with the AROSC.

The rain stayed with me until about the Hwy. 2 turn from Hwy. 138. At that point, 138 began its drop into the valley below, and all I could see in the still dark sky was clear and stars. Hmmmm, maybe we'll get lucky.

Backing up a bit, I'd like to mention the group driving (ahem!) a bunch of youth-oriented 'import compacts' and rotary 4-passenger-suicide door coupes that I picked up at the Hwy. 138 off-ramp Stop sign. Upon exiting the I-15 freeway, I thought, what's with all this traffic. Who are these people and why are there so many of them. It didn't take me long to figure out they were together from the games they were playing. Above the Seven's decibels and with ear plugs even, I could here their engines rev. They weren't going all that fast, kind of slow really. When we got to any of the passing lanes, they'd spread out into both lanes so there was no way to get away from them. So I just sat back and watched. Crazy stuff. Even the one guy driving a Chevy Suburban was a goof. At least after we got into Palmdale, I was able to get ahead and away. Once on the 14 freeway, it was clear sailing to Rosamond and a gas station to fill the Seven's tank

for the day's track work. Well, what do you know, here come all the ricers into the gas station; meeting up with a bunch of others just like them who were already there! I figured they must be going to something at the track, but thought it was unlikely they'd be entering the Alfa club event. But no, they all came into the Willow Springs pits. Maybe these guys were serious racers. But alas, they were lost and looking for the drifting skidpad. We heard them all weekend spinning their wheels, sliding about and smoking their tires! What's this new generation coming to?

The weekend at the track was a lot of fun. This was the first time in years I've had the only Seven though. I'm not sure what's happening to our enthusiastic group, but it would have been fun to see some of the others. Not a problem, though. I pitted next to Ian Harris, a Riverside Porsche 944 owner, and John Pulsifer, owner of a GTV-6 who lives in San Diego. They were both good company, along with some of the other guys I've met at recent events and my regular friends in the Alfa club. There's kind of a core group that I always look forward to seeing; good people all.

On track, it took a couple of sessions to get back in the groove,

but by Saturday afternoon, my lap times had stabilized at a couple of seconds quicker than I've ever gone before! Maybe it was the cool temperatures or maybe just sheer talent (oh, yeah). Who knows? Anyway, by the end of the weekend, my lap times were quicker than the benchmark time a friend had turned in 2002 driving a standard Zetec powered Caterham 7 Superlight on ACB 10 - R-compound tires! The little car was running good! Okay, enough bragging.

But this weekend was about more than lap times, it was about my first sports car "race" in years. It was about stepping in and getting both feet wet and not just lapping for the sheer flogging hell of it. For Saturday's qualifying race, with the pace lap weaving and tire warming behind us, when the starter dropped the green flag we were racing! Honest to God racing! Go for the holes where you can find them or make them, and cover your backside. It's intense stuff. But I'd like to say, I felt confident in the drivers around me. The driving I saw was all good racing on the edge of adhesion, and all at full throttle. There's a lot of trust, there has to be. We had a couple of minor incidents during the race that were discussed in detail during our driver's meeting Sunday morning, but no harm was done.

Sunday's race was even better. For the ten or twelve laps or whatever that we ran around the Willow Springs big track, we had a tight group of three cars and nobody was giving an inch away. After the checker, it was all grins and I've got some bench racing material for years.

Good weekend; and not bad beer (compliments of Antelope Valley Inn) at Saturday night's banquet either. Overall, I learned there's a lot of work ahead for me and for my Seven to be competitive, as

most cars racing in the AROSC "Open" class are fairly race prepared. Wheels, tires and limited slip are definitely looming on the foreseeable horizon. Finally, a big thank-you to all of the dedicated AROSC members who make these terrific weekends happen!

Best wishes,

- Clark Taylor
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Clark Taylor at speed in his 7

View from Turn 3 AROSC Endurance Kart Race

We had a great turnout to FastLap in Mira Loma, including some extras unaware they'd be running in the event.

I'd like to thank my team for keeping us in the hunt. We finished 5th out of 10 groups of racers, covering about 300+ laps.

Congrats to all competitors, especially the winners who showed plenty of skill & patience. One more note of special accomplishment, the "kids" team, Corey Gann, Dani Major, Aaron Economy & Josh Nelson. They finished 2nd, and showed they had what it takes to be competitive. Dennis' control of the black flag persuaded teams to run in a fairly polite manner, only causing penalty 7 times, with 40 participants

throughout our 3-hour event. After the event, I spoke to many competitors, regardless of position, they all seemed to have a favorable opinion of our event.

Keep your eyes open for a story and photos by Mike McKibbin helping to illustrate the entertainment value associated with a kart endurance event. We ran men, women, & children and everyone had a blast!

These events come up about once per year, so drop me an email to see if and when you'd be interested in running another enduro soon.

Terry Major

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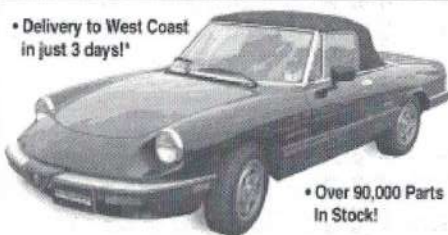
Elections Are Coming!

Annual elections for the AROSC Board of Directors are coming soon. We elect ten members to the Board of Directors, who choose the officers and committee chairs among themselves. Membership on the Board adds one meeting per month, which includes dinner – such a deal. We usually meet at a restaurant for food and business.

If you would be interested in serving, contact a board member or attend the November meeting. Here is your chance to help plan and conduct the wide variety of activities that makes this chapter so great. You probably have some new ideas that would be fun for all of us. Don't keep them to yourself, join the Board and get involved.

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