



Newsletter of the

**Alfa Romeo**  
OWNERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



January 2009

**Happy 2009!**

**In This Issue: Holiday Party,**

**New Board, upcoming**

**events, and more...**

# Waciorrada

Month	Date	Event
January	7	Board Meeting @ Luigi's
	24-25	Time Trial & Race @ Willow Springs
	31	AROSC Annual Mtg and Luncheon at Delzamo's, Redondo Beach
February	4	Board Meeting @ Luigi's
	21	General Meeting @ Autobooks 10AM
	28	Drivers School @ Streets of Willow
March	1	Drivers School
	1	Palm Springs Concours
	4	Board Meeting @ Luigi's
	14	Drive-Shine-Dine Event
April	2	Board Meeting @ Luigi's
	25	Driving Tour + Dine + Meeting for Italian Liberation Day
		Concours @ Petersen Museum +

## Our 2009 Calendar



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

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



### 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](http://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	<b>Membership Information</b>
1/2 page	\$150 per year	See the inside back cover of <i>Alfacionada</i> .
1/4 page	\$100 per year	
Business card	\$100 per year	

### This Month's Cover

We had a huge turnout for our Holiday Party, around 60 people.

Nearly all are assembled in this photo, including the photographers.

Photo by M. J. Kulkus.

### 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.

## AROSC BOARD of DIRECTORS - 2009

**President:** Norm Silverman  
(818) 349-3548 (Work) [normaney@msn.com](mailto:normaney@msn.com)  
(818) 427-2054 (cell)

**Vice President & Tours:** Jim & Elyse Barrett  
(714) 964-9530 (H) [eddinab@mindspring.com](mailto:eddinab@mindspring.com)

**Secretary:** Gene Brown  
(805) 527-8520 (H) [alfagene@att.net](mailto:alfagene@att.net)

**Treasurer/Editor:** Phyllis Gaylard  
17041 Malta Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92649  
(714) 377-6377 [AROSCeditor@aol.com](mailto:AROSCeditor@aol.com)

**Competition Chair:** Bruce Colby  
(760) 727-7668 (H) [bruce.colby@spcglobal.net](mailto:bruce.colby@spcglobal.net)

**Entertainment:** Paul Dexter  
(818) 773-0480 (H) [prd@pachbell.net](mailto:prd@pachbell.net)

**Social Directors:** Sheila & MJ Kulkus  
(310) 542-3448 (H) [mj.slk@verizon.net](mailto:mj.slk@verizon.net)  
[sheila.k@verizon.net](mailto:sheila.k@verizon.net)

**PR & Liaison:** Will Owen  
(626) 345-9659 (H) [nashwill912@earthlink.net](mailto:nashwill912@earthlink.net)

**Technical:** Mike Riehle  
(310) 780-5427 (H) [twoina2@spcglobal.net](mailto:twoina2@spcglobal.net)

**Competition Liaison:** Fred Firschein  
(714) 773-1473 (H) [alfaroro@roadrunner.com](mailto:alfaroro@roadrunner.com)

### AROSC Committees

**Web Meister:** Bruce Colby [bruce.colby@spcglobal.net](mailto:bruce.colby@spcglobal.net)

**'Wired' Notices:** Jay Negrin [jimnegrin@verizon.net](mailto:jimnegrin@verizon.net)  
(310) 399-0538 (H)

**Concours:** Doug Adler  
(805) 499-4835

**Wine Tour:** Margi Brown [margibrown@thekernorg.com](mailto:margibrown@thekernorg.com)

## 2009 AROSC Previews -- An Outline of Coming Events

January 24-25—Time Trial and Race at Willow Springs

Don't miss the first competition event of the year. The weather will be cool, the horsepower up, and the drivers anxious. Call or E-mail Phyllis Gaylard for an entry form and info.

**DON'T MISS:**  
**Jan 24-25 Time Trial & Race @**  
**Willow Springs**  
**Jan 31 Annual Meeting & Competition Awards Luncheon**

January 31 -- Annual Meeting & Competition Awards Luncheon,  
Noon - 4PM

We will have our Annual Meeting at Delzamo's in the Redondo Beach Marina again this year -- a very nice venue, with a private dining room upstairs, harbor views, a great Italian buffet lunch, trophies, door prizes, etc. Only \$25 complete. We will introduce the new Board of Directors and Officers as well as our 2009 Schedule of Events. Bring the spouse or a friend -- we have room for 100! See the info on page 21.

February 4 – Board Meeting @ Luigi's, 7:30 PM

February 21 – General Meeting @ Autobooks, Lunch at Porto's

See information and directions on pages 22-23.

February 28 – Drivers School at Streets of Willow

March 1 – Drivers School at Streets of Willow

March 4 – Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30 PM

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March 14 – Drive/Shine/Dine Event

March 28 – General Meeting and Concours at Petersen Museum

April 1 – Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30 PM

April 25 – Driving Tour, Dining and General Meeting – Brian LeGrand Hosting

May 6 – Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30PM

May 16-17 – Spring Driving Tour – PCH

May 30 – General Meeting at Cars & Coffee, Brunch at Cline's, + Murray Collection Tour

June 3 – Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30 PM

June 7 – Concours at Huntington Beach Concours, Central Park, 8:00AM – 4:00 PM

June 27 – General Meeting and Tour, Riverside Automotive Museum

July 1 – Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30 PM

July 15-19 – ARCC Convention at Portland, OR

July 26 – General Meeting and Summer Party at Phyllis', Huntington Beach

August 2 – Braille Rallye

August 5 – Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30 PM

August 13-16 – Monterey Histories Weekend

August 29 – Rally to Agua Dulce Winery & General Meeting @ Vincenzo's Pizza

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## More 2009 AROSC Previews --

- September 2 – Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30 PM*
- September 12-13 Time Trial & Race at Willow Springs*
- September 26 – Nethercutt Museum Tour & General Meeting + Lunch @ Sierman's*
- October 7 – Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30 PM*
- October 10-11 – Wine Tour*
- October 24-25 – Time Trial & Race at Buttonwillow*
- October 31 – General Meeting TBD*
- November 1 – Concours at Best of France & Italy Car Show, Woolley Park*
- November 4—Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30 PM*
- November 21 – General Meeting, Elections, and White Turkey Auction, TBD*
- December 6 – Competition Board Meeting*
- December 12– Holiday Party @ Kutkus'*
- December 13 – Board Meeting, old & new, at Kutkus'*



## Your 2009 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs



# View from the Top --

## Mostly Ramblings of Il Presidente!

Mostly Ramblings of Il Presidente

As in previous years, on the second Sunday in December, your newly elected Board of Directors met to (a) elect a president, (b) assign the individual responsibility of each Director (see page 3), (c) decide on the 2009 Schedule of Events, and (d) finish the leftovers from the prior day's Holiday Party.

Concerning item (a), as you can tell by the byline, that I have again been selected by the BoD to be Il Presidente. I am pleased to be able to continue to working with our outstanding Board and their ongoing effort to increase the diversity and appeal of events – both social and competitive. This will be the fourth year of our effort to increase inclusiveness and I am happy to report continued success with increasing attendance at most club events. Our objective of putting together a schedule of events that would balance social occasions with competition events and spread the venues throughout Los Angeles and Orange County has proven successful on all fronts and will continue with an enthusiastic vigor. Not content to rest on their laurels, your BoD has come up with an even more innovative calendar and new diversities for this coming year. **The full year's calendar to-date is posted at [www.arosc.org](http://www.arosc.org)** and on pages 4-6.

Continuing this objective "to put a schedule of events together that will balance competition with social occasions and to spread the venues around Southern California", all of the **BoD and club members in general are asked to contribute ideas for General Meeting locales.** All members are invited to join any of our monthly BoD meetings or email suggestions to Director for inclusion in our agenda. **THIS IS YOUR CLUB.**

**More about the Board, it's members and their objectives at the upcoming ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET & General Meeting January 31 to be held at 'Delzано's by the Sea' located at the Redondo Beach Marina (see page 21).** My plea is the same as in prior years: "PULLEEZE, Per Favore, Mi faccia il favore di ripondere (RSVP) by January 26<sup>th</sup>". There will be ample parking for a 'Clean Car Show' followed by a wonderful Italian buffet, the presentation of trophy's and raffle prizes galore.

Our first competition event of the year will be a Time Trial / Race Weekend held on the big track at Willow Springs the weekend of Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. **If you've never been to the track, please consider our Saturday and/or Sunday Introduction to High Performance Drivers Education.** Our modestly priced Introductory session provides you with classroom instruction

followed by nearly an hour of "ON TRACK" monitored driving experience. This is a fun filled opportunity designed to enhance your driving skills and maybe convince you that you should attend our real HPDE weekend at the Streets of Willow Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> – Mar 1<sup>st</sup>. **This is a inexpensive way to save your precious life, but more important is the potentially life saving instruction that we can pass on to your 'not so experienced' bambini.** Information is also available on our web site, [www.arosc.org](http://www.arosc.org).

For those not attending the February School the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>, the Palm Springs Concours d'Elegance will present Alfa Romeo as the feature Marquee. AROSC has made arrangements for reasonable (in season) accommodations and will have corral parking available at the Sunday event. There will be some fun happenings on Saturday and we have been invited to a BYO BBQ at the Adobe Hacienda McHattie in La Quinta (see page 17).

Our February General Meeting will be held Saturday morning, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, at the venerable and historic "Autobooks – Aerobooks" in Burbank ([www.autobooks-aerobooks.com/](http://www.autobooks-aerobooks.com/)). We will meet in the parking lot behind the store located at 3524 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, just off of Hollywood Way. Pastries and coffee from the fabulous and INEXPENSIVE Cuban Bakery and Sandwich Shop – "Porto's" will be provided and will more than convince everyone to step

down the street for lunch after our meeting. (See pages 22-23).

**Thanks again to everyone for helping me get through another year. Evie and I both look forward to personally wishing each and every one of you a healthy and prosperous New Year when we get together at Delzано's on January 31<sup>st</sup>.**

PS. When we gather for our March 28<sup>th</sup> General Meeting and First Point Concorso of the year at the Petersen Automotive Museum they will have just opened a new Main Gallery Exhibit "What Were They Thinking".

Check the dates, mark your calendars and keep the wheels side down

*Norm Silverman (Norman I, Rex)  
Evie Silverman (Evie I, Regina)*



## Tech Article: DIY Alignments

How did I manage to go a whole year without writing about do-it-yourself alignments? I've been doing them myself for years. It isn't all that high tech and it isn't that hard to do a better job than the average alignment shop. Most discount alignment shops set the toe-in, give you a nice computerized print out, and call it a day. Real alignment shops, West End Alignment in Gardena comes to mind, do a complete job and will dial in the alignment specs of your choosing. However, you won't get out the door for \$49.95.

The first thing you need is a flat, and preferably level, surface. I am blessed with a garage floor that meets that requirement admirably.

The second thing you need is an understanding of what you are trying to do. The key alignment parameters are camber, caster and toe-in. Camber is a measure of how much the wheels lean in/out at the top/bottom. It is negative when the wheels lean in at the top and positive when the wheels lean out at the top. Caster is a little harder to explain, but it is determined by the inclination of the steering axis, that is, the angle of an imaginary line drawn through the upper/lower ball joints. Caster determines how much the camber changes when the front wheels are turned. More castor means more

negative camber is added to the heavily loaded outside front wheel in tight turns. Lastly, we set the toe-in. Toe-in is determined by measuring the distance between the wheels at the front/rear of the wheels. A little toe-in gives the car a stable feeling. Zero toe-in minimizes tire wear. And, a little toe-out (negative toe-in) makes the car darty and is an advantage at auto-x events.

Third, you need the proper tools. There are lots of fancy tools out there, but you can do surprisingly well with little more than a carpenter's level and a tape measure.

To measure camber hold the level perfectly vertical a short distance from the wheel. Then, measure the distance from the level to the top of the wheel and from the level to the bottom of the wheel. The camber is determined by the difference between the two measurements and a little trigonometry. I'll save you the trig and note that 1/8" difference across a 15" wheel works out to 1/2 degree. With care you can measure difference to the nearest 1/16" which gives a 1/4 degree resolution. After several years of using this method I finally invested in a camber gauge which is accurate to 1/8 degree.

Measuring caster directly can be tricky unless you happen to have a MacPherson strut car and can measure the angle of the strut directly. No problem. The so-called camber/caster gauges actually infer caster by determining how much the camber changes when the steering wheel is turned. Measure the camber with the wheel turned 20 degrees to the left (typically one turn of the steering wheel) and again with the wheel turned 20 degrees to the right. Subtract the two and multiply by 1.5.

Toe is the easiest to conceptualize and the hardest to measure. There are several common ways to report toe measurements. Toe might be reported in degrees, in inches/millimeters as measured at the rim, or in inches/millimeters as measured at the tire tread. No problem, just make sure you know which convention was used to derive the toe specs for your vehicle.

My toe measuring tools consist of a tape measure and a couple of wood blocks. The slight bulges at the bottom of the tires complicate matters because they stop the blocks from fitting up snugly against the leading/trailing tire sidewalls. I actually use 4x4s to space 1x4s up above the bulge which works rather well. Store-bought tools have a superior arrangement that let them fit

snugly up against the wheel instead of the tire sidewall, but I'm not convinced the improvement is that important. Wood reference blocks and a tape measure are adequate to measure toe within 1/16".

Just for comparison, here are the factory alignment specifications for my modern non-Alfa sedan. The allowable range for camber is 0.5 degree positive to 1.0 degree negative. The allowable range for caster is 2.0 to 3.5 degrees. And the allowable range for toe-in is 0 to .08" as measured at the tire tread. The exact specifications aren't that important. Take note of how wide the acceptable ranges are and how they compare to accuracy of a home alignment using the simple tools & methods described above.

Not everyone is stubborn enough or cheap enough to do their own alignments. However, I hope more people will at least check their camber before going to a discount alignment shop. It only takes a few minutes and, if your camber is out, find a shop that will rectify the problem.

Next month we'll talk about how to actually make the required adjustments. And a bit of discussion of what settings might be appropriate for a performance alignment.

Mike R

# Founder's Day Parade -- Rancho Cucamonga

By Mike McKibbin  
Photos by Mike & Gena McKibbin

The City of Rancho Cucamonga held its annual Founder's Day Parade through the streets of the Victoria Gardens outdoor mall on November 8, 2008, and the City again asked if members of AROSC would participate. We had five participants, with club members Andrea McKibbin, Bev Major, Greg Nelson, and Christine Caro driving examples of our race and time trial cars, and a guest, Dave Elethrop of Precision Automotive who brought a very nice and very built Porsche 356.

Dennis Fibrow, our friend Bill Wiggins, and I walked the club banner at the front of the line.

The theme was memories of the 1980's, but none of us could really remember much about those years except that the early 80's saw the tail-end of disco, and hip people seemed to be wearing open collars and gold chains. So we overdid it (as usual:

if it's worth doing, do it to excess) on the chains and glitz, and that accounts for our look.

Our message was, don't race on the streets (unless it's at Willow), race with us.

Some of the spectators were wondering what an Alfa Romeo looks like, since our group hasn't had one in this parade since Jorge Mazlumian brought his to the first parade some years ago. We explained it's tough to keep them running long enough to make the parade route, but it would be nice if we could have a representative Alfa or two at the parade next year (we don't want to jinx things, but it looks like we may be regulars).



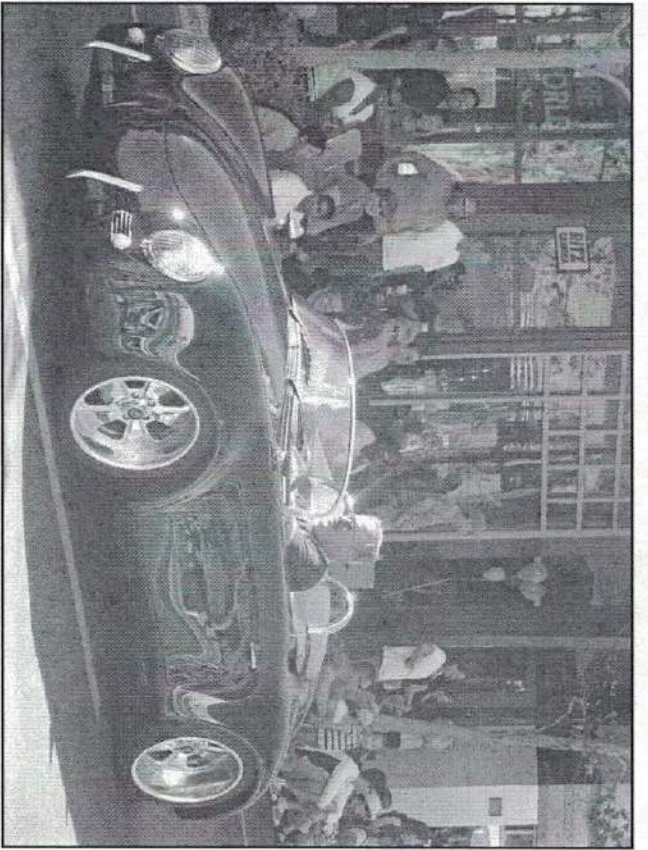
*Hot 80's costumes!*



*The paraders group.*



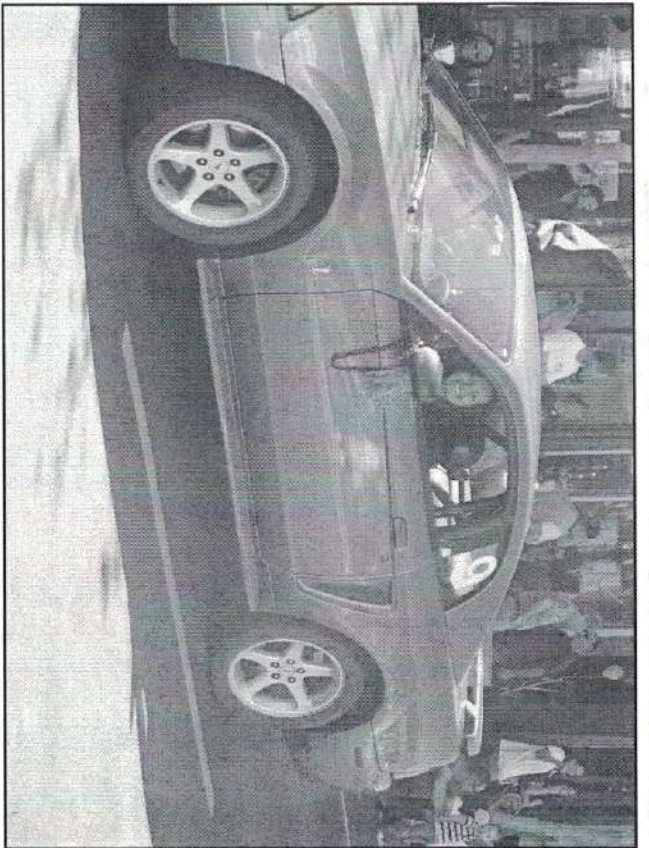
*And they're off! A magnificent banner leads the way!*



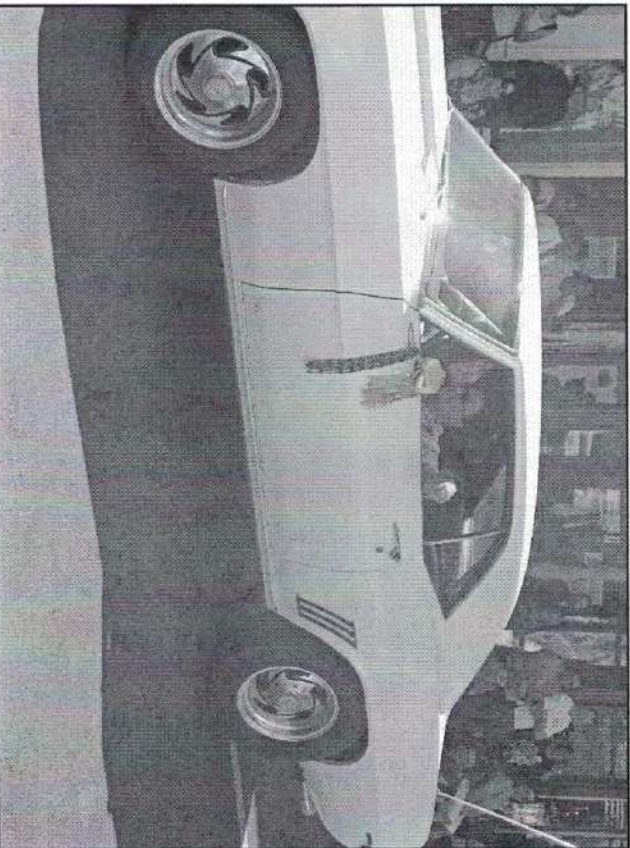
*Dave Elethrop of Precision Automotice in his very built Porsche 356.*



*Bev Major in her MR2.*

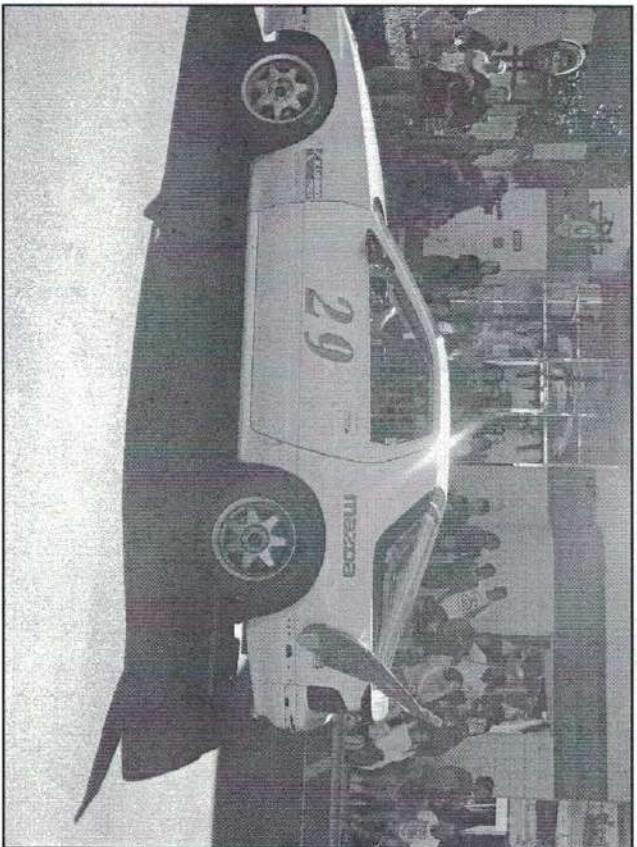


*Andrea McKibbin in her dad's Mustang Cobra.*

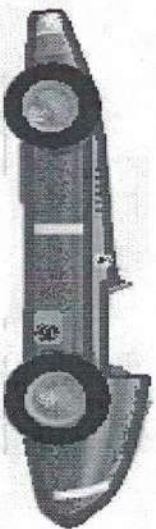


*Christine Caro in her vintage Camaro*





*Greg Nelson in his Mazda RX7 brings up the rear.*



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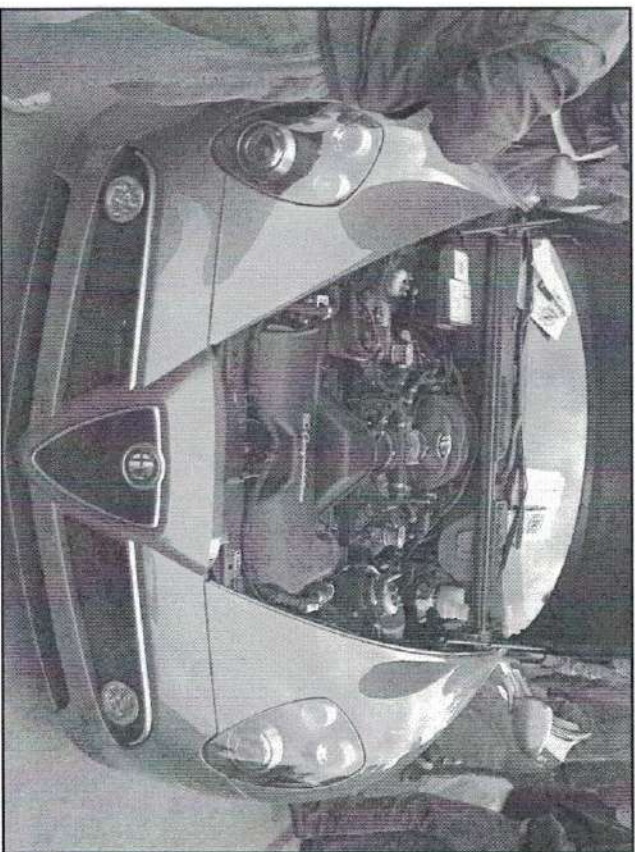
**Doug Adler**  
**805.390.2506**

**Buy, Sell, Trade, Repair**

## Desert Classic Concours d'Elegance March 1, 2009

This event in Palm Springs is featuring Alfa Romeo, and will have a corral for Alfas not entered for judging. The Concours is on Sunday, while a wine tasting and other special events are being worked on for Saturday. We considered making this a club points concours, until our Driving School fell on the same weekend. However, if you aren't going to the Drivers School, This would be a neat event to attend with your Alfa. Cost for the corral is \$30 for a car and two people, while the entry fee is much higher. The organizer has located accommodations nearby for about \$130 per night (a bargain in high season). For details, contact Jim Barrett at [eddinab@mindspring.com](mailto:eddinab@mindspring.com) or (714) 964-9530.

## It's Here!



*Jim Barrett saw this 8C Competizione at Cars & Coffee on December 16.*

## SAVE THE DATE: Spring Driving Tour: A South Coast Tribute -- May 16-17, 2009

Mark your calendars and get ready for Spring in SoCal! We're cruisin', catchin' rays and celebrating the original and unique.

Plan to drop the tops on your spiders, open the sunroofs of your Milanos and I64s, slather on the SPF 50, and join us on a tribute to the old coast route from Los Angeles to San Diego.

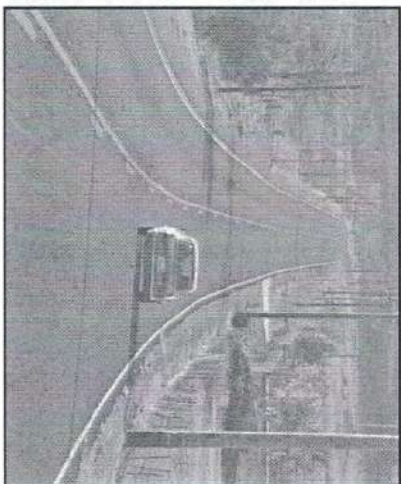
May 16-17 is THE weekend. The IT weekend. The AROSC Spring Driving Tour.

Lodging and dinner details are being finalized at press time, but the basics are in place.

We'll start in Long Beach and cruise the length of Pacific Coast Highway to the eclectic enclave of Solana Beach, where we'll pause for lunch under the mighty eucalyptus of the North County countryside. En route we'll play "20 Questions" -- more on that in the next installment of Tour-Promo Propaganda!

The fun will continue flowing inland to our tour-within-a-tour destination via some of the most entertaining rural roads ever driven! Scouted by Competition Director Bruce Colby and co-pilotolita Happy, they are guaranteed to elicit a certain (Can we say this?), *gioia de vivere*.

Before we break for dinner and certain special



*Follow that GTV on the tour.*

recognitions, we have secured a private tour of the increasingly fabulous Stone Brewing Company in its new Escondido headquarters.

Most of us make it to Sunday breakfast before hitting the road, then the after-party for the extra-hardy lights off. This extra-credit portion of the tour is always special, and this year should be no exception. Last year, the Salton Sea whispered its secrets as we combed the beaches of its sensational past. This year, we're penciling in a visit to the San Pasqual Battlefield State Monument, followed by a look at a local grape orchard or two -- more on this in the next installment of T-P P!

If all this sounds like fun to you, feel free to be the first to RSVP by contacting Elyse & Jim Barrett at [edtinab@mindspring.com](mailto:edtinab@mindspring.com) or 714.964.9530.



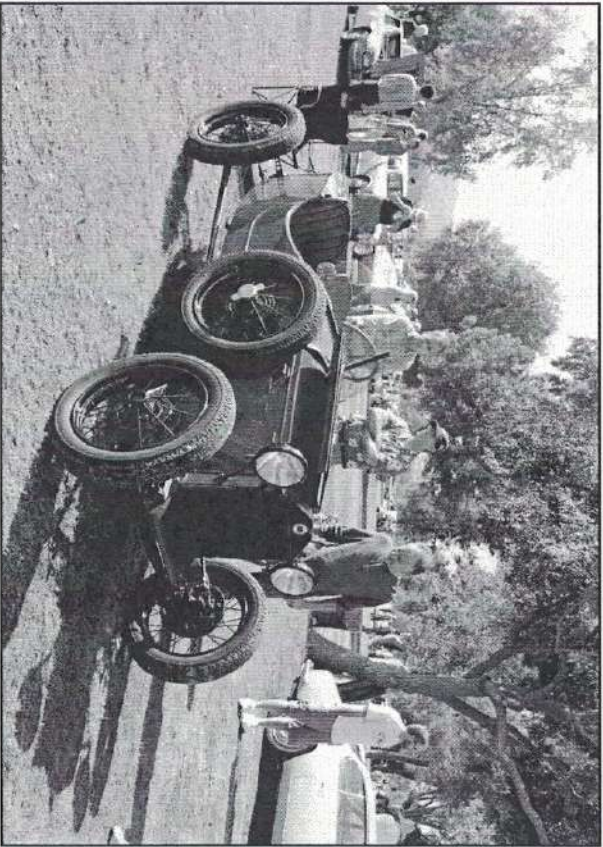
*Find out who this is on the tour!*



*Pool on the north shore of the Salton Sea. (Steve Edelman photo)*

**WANTED:** Accountant/CPA familiar with corporate income tax forms to prepare club tax returns. All pertinent data is available now. Please contact Phyllis at (714) 344-6377 or [AROSceditor@aol.com](mailto:AROSceditor@aol.com).

## Correction:



*That racy-looking 1927 roadster in the BoF&I pix is most emphatically not an "old Fiat". It's a Lancia-Ford special, a nicely modified Model T chassis with a Lambda V4 gearbox, and that distinctively Lancia radiator. Very different from those Fiats WE drive...;-)*

Will Owen

**Come Enjoy the Great Ocean View !!**  
**Don't Miss the Annual Meeting**  
**and Competition Awards Banquet**  
**Saturday - January 31, 2009; Noon - 4:00 pm**



Seating for 100

179 N. Harbor Dr., Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277 (310) 374-7525  
(Located in the Redondo Beach Marina)

**Presentation of Year-End Trophies**  
for all competition in the club,  
both track events and concours in 2008.

**Raffle**  
**Prizes**

**Italian Buffet**  
Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Marsala,  
Ravioli Bolognese, Shrimp Pasta,  
Antipasto, Green Salad, Breads,  
Soda, Iced Tea, Lemonade,  
--- and Tiramisu for Dessert!!  
\$25 including tax and tip  
Full cash bar available

**Whether you have or have not competed in any events**  
**this year , be sure to come out - and bring the family!**

**Coming from the 405 freeway:**

Exit at Inglewood Blvd, go south 2 miles. Make a right at 190th, west 2 miles.  
Left at Harbor Dr, south 1/2 mile. Make a right into the Redondo Beach Marina  
Entrance parking lot (1/2 block before end of street). Make a left after the ticket  
booth down to the end of the parking lot. (Validated Parking)

**Please RSVP to Sheila Kutkus by Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**(310) 542-3448**

# February Meeting: Autobooks

## Saturday, February 21, 2009

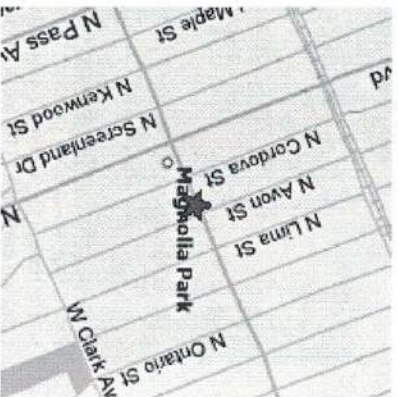
### VIVA ITALIA! ALFA ROMEOS RETURN TO AUTOBOOKS

"AROSC pays their annual visit to Autobooks on Saturday February 21. Come see these beautiful Italian machines up close. There is an Alfa to suit every taste and at least one Alfa club activity you can't resist."  
*From the Autobooks-Aerobooks web site.*

Our February meeting will be held at the Autobooks store in Burbank. Guess what the specialty of the house is? There may be some special treats, and we can greet Tina Van Curen and maybe Jay Leno!

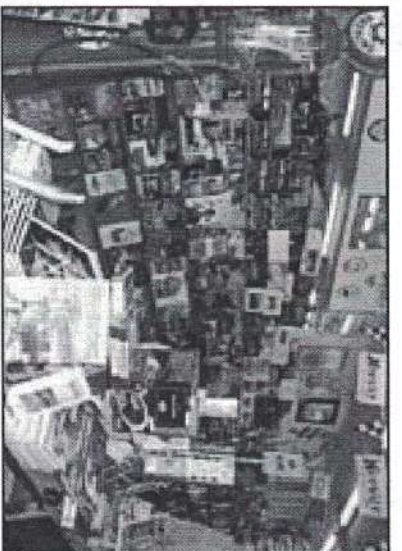
**1. Pre-meeting browse & meeting:** Arrive at Autobooks/Aerobooks Burbank early Saturday morning. Traffic will be light. The closer to 8:00 people can get there, the better the parking situation. We should all plan to arrive no later than 10:00 AM to have time to browse and bench race before the 11:00 AM meeting.

From the south, take the 405 north to the 101. Go east on the 101 (marked as south on signs). Where the 134 splits off, stay to the left and take the 134 to Pass Avenue. Turn left on Pass, go about one mile to Magnolia Blvd. Turn right on Magnolia, go past Hollywood Way, and Autobooks is on the right 2 blocks at the corner of Avon St. Alternatively, take the I-5 to Magnolia and go west 2.5 miles to Avon. Parking, (hopefully) in the rear. Coffee and doughnuts are part of the picture.



Autobooks is located at:

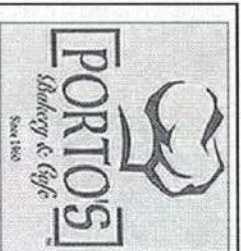
3524 W. Magnolia  
Burbank, CA 91505  
(818) 845-0707  
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**2. Lunch break:** When we are finished with the meeting and have spent our all on books and stuff, we will walk down the street for lunch at Porto's Bakery, a great Cuban restaurant that has sandwiches, pastries, etc., at nice prices. You can check out their menu and info by clicking on the link from the Autobooks web site..

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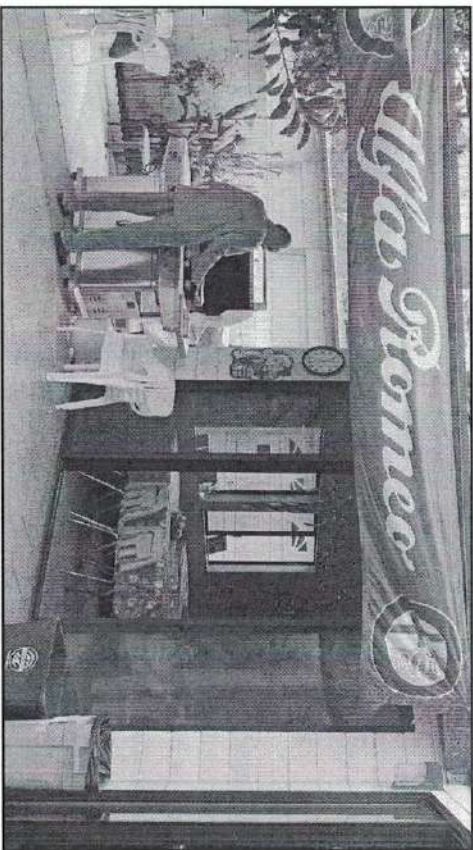
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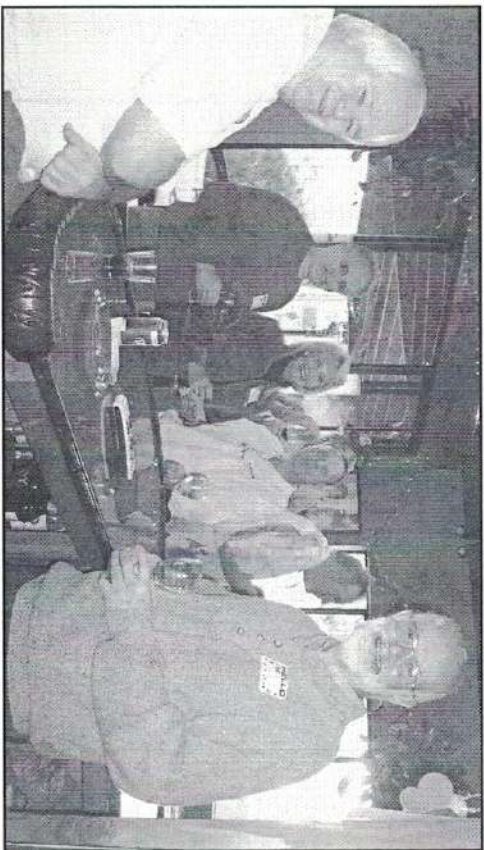
## Holiday Party

Photos by Tom Suter, MJ Kukkus, and Nick Zart

We had a great turn-out of about 60 people for our annual Holiday Party at the Kukkus' "Clubhouse". Alan & Robyn Ward came over from Las Vegas, Doug & Joyce McHattie came from La Quinta, and many others we don't see very often were also in attendance. See cover!



MJ Kukkus is busy grilling our meats.



Belly up to the bar, boys and girls.

## Thai Coconut Shrimp

This was a big hit at the Holiday Party, many asked for the recipe – here it is

- 2 pounds medium raw shrimp
- ½ pound small button mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons peanut oil
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 6 cloves garlic, finely minced
- ½ cup fresh, chopped basil
- ½ cup chopped green onions

### Sauce

- 1 can unsweetened coconut milk
- 2 tablespoons dry white wine
- 2-3 teaspoons Chinese chili sauce
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons lime juice

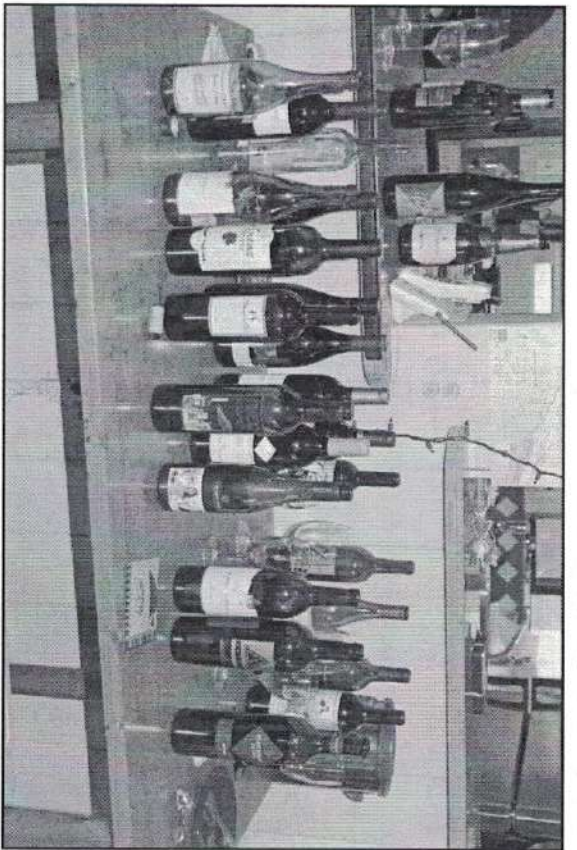
Place wok or sauté pan over highest heat. When very hot, add oil and butter. When butter melts and begins to bubble, add garlic. Sauté a few seconds, then add shrimp. Stir and toss shrimp over highest heat until shrimp just turn white, about 2 minutes. Add mushrooms, basil, and green onions. Stir-fry 15 seconds, then add coconut milk. When mixture comes to a low boil, stir in a little of the cornstarch mixture to lightly thicken. Stir in the lime juice. Serve over buttered noodles or rice. Serves 4.

### Last minute Cooking

Combine cornstarch with an equal amount of cold water. Set aside.

### Advance Preparation

Shell and devein the shrimp, splitting them nearly in half. Pat dry and refrigerate until ready to cook. Wash mushrooms clean and trim off ends of stems, set aside. For sauce, in a small bowl combine coconut milk, white wine, chili sauce and salt. Set aside.



*There was a large variety of wines to sample, some from the Kukus collection and others brought by the guests. We didn't quite run out.*



*The Barretts and Schwartzes catch up on things -- Bonnie and Charlie have not been in attendance much since building a house in the desert.*



*The hearty types gathered outside in the cold!*



*The sensible people partied indoors with plenty of room.*



*It's Choro time! Bonnie Schwartz, Carrie Adrian, Mike Rieble, Paul Decler, Jim & Elise Barrett.*

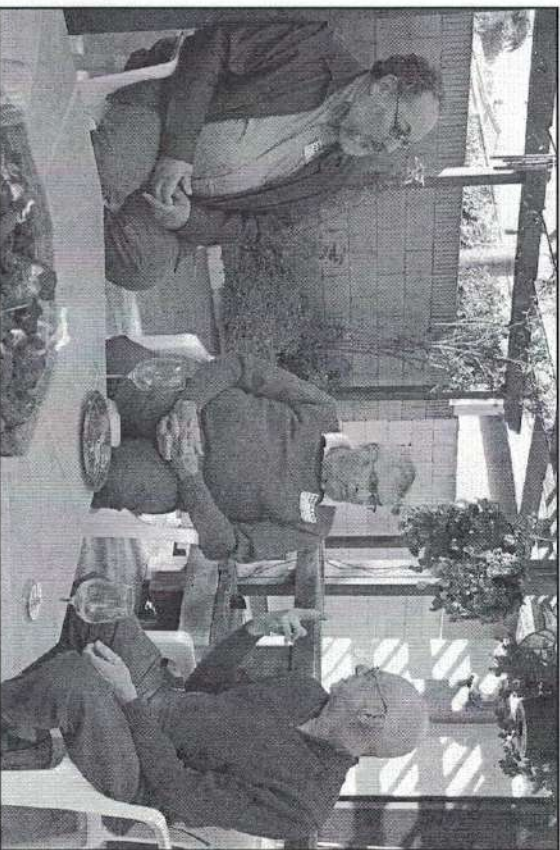


*A large group dined at the covered pool table: clockwise from front, Phyllis Gaylard, Mrs. Nick Zart, Pat & Bruce West, Chris Burke (Rieble), Jan Cline, Charlie Schwartz, Alan Ward, and Tom Suter's camera.*

*Paul Blankenship goes for the desserts.*



*Jay Negrin listens as Doug McHattie and Charlie Schwartz chat, probably about living in the desert.*

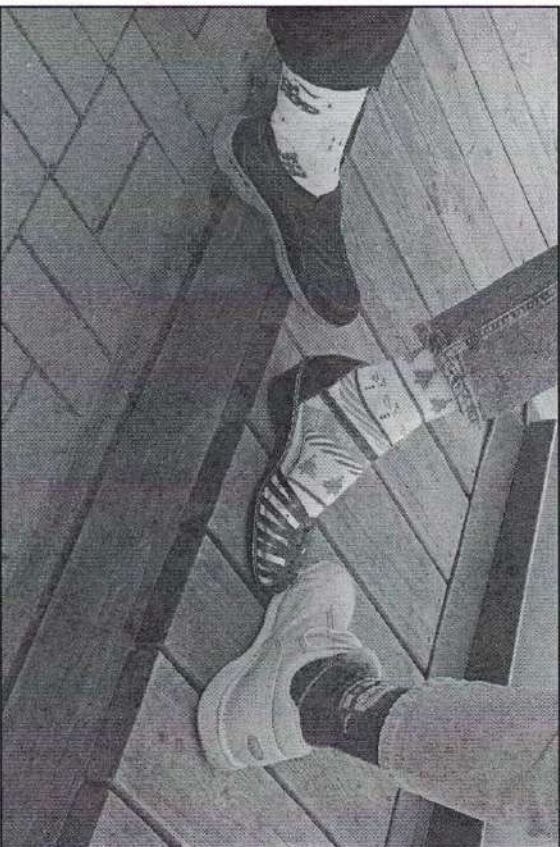
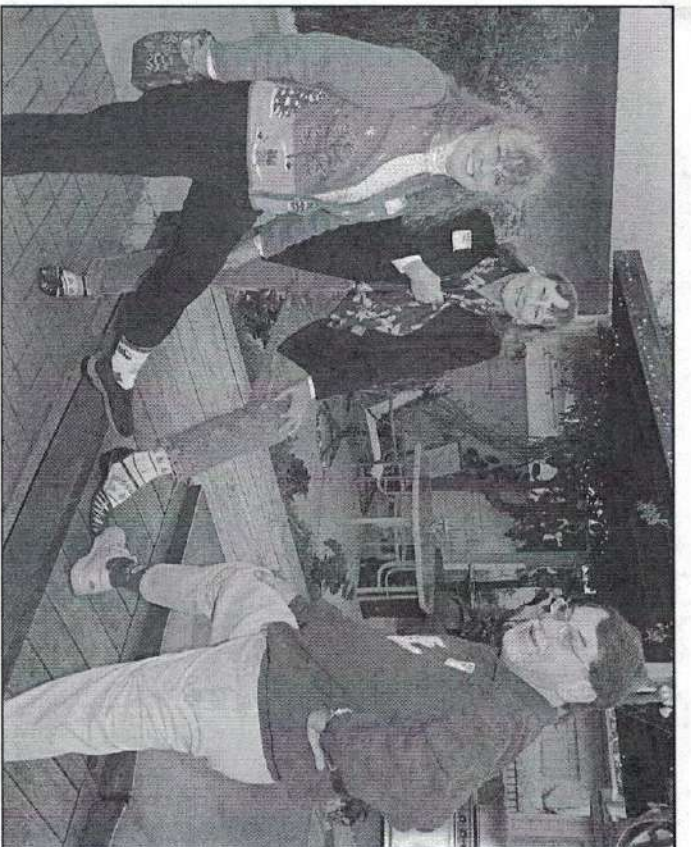




*Evie Silverman and Jolene Merriam (homeless from the Sylmar fire).*



*It wouldn't be an Alfa Club party without some bench-racing: Charlie Schwartz, Alan Ward, Paul Blankenship, Tony Adamowica, and Bruce West chat.*

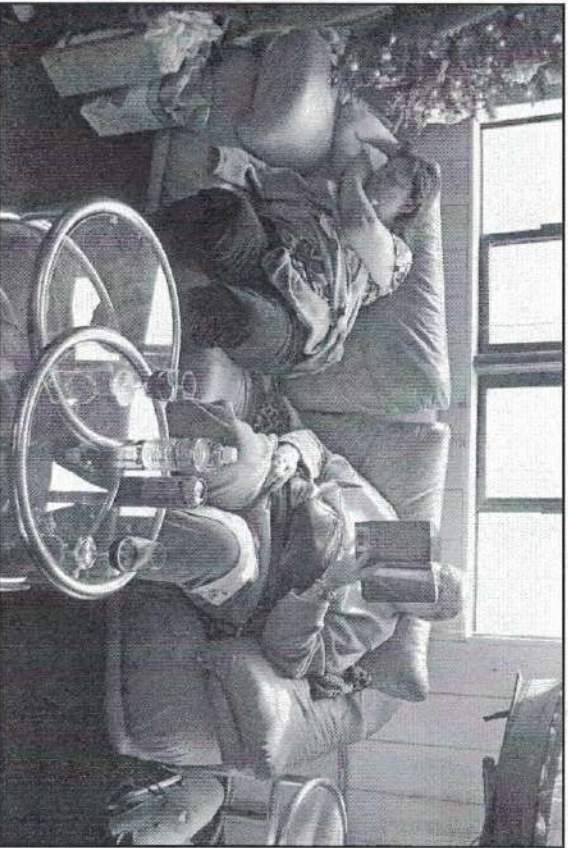


*Comparing holiday socks: Adrienne Harris, Elyse Barrett, and Paul Blankenship are dressed for the occasion.*





*Fred Firschein watches as Bonnie Schwartz buys wonderful home-made chocolate truffles from Carrie Adrian.*



*Not everyone was enchanted with the event.*



*The door prize winners pose with their gift bags.*



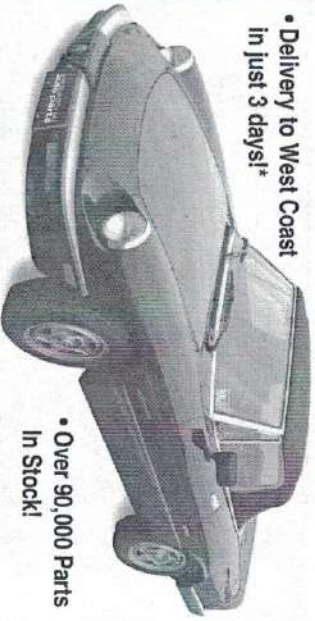
*The new Board of Directors met the next day to finish off the food and plan the 2009 events.*

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**Wanted:** Used Panasport wheels. Looking for 14" or 15" OLD STYLE Panasport wheels to put on GTV. Must be in good condition. Call Tom at (602)421-8026 or e-mail to phxcars@yahoo.com. (11/8)

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