



Newsletter of the

**Alfa Romeo**  
OWNERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



June 2009

**In This Issue: May Meeting,  
Spring Tour, upcoming  
events. and more...**

# Yaciorada



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Month	Event	Date	Location
June	Board Meeting @ Luigi's	1	Luigi's
July	Board Meeting @ Luigi's	1	Luigi's
July	15-19 AROC Convention @	15-19	Portland, OR
August	1 Braille Rallye 2007	1	Luigi's
August	5 Board Meeting @ Luigi's	5	Luigi's
August	13-16 Concorso Italiano,	13-16	Monterey Historics
August	29 General Meeting -	29	Drive - Dine - Shine
September	2 Board Meeting @ Luigi's	2	Luigi's
September	12-13 Time Trial & Race at	12-13	Willow Springs
September	26 General Meeting - Tour	26	@ Nethercutt + Party @ Silverman's

## Our 2009 Calendar



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

1A

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

*Affactionada* 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 Affactionada*.

### 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> See the inside back cover of <i>Affactionada</i> .
1/2 page	\$150 per year	
1/4 page	\$100 per year	
Business card	\$100 per year	

### This Month's Cover

The weekly *Cars & Coffee* gathering at the Ford PAG center in Irvine always draws a crowd of great cars. On the last Saturday in May, it was *Alfa Romeo* day, and we turned out some beauties. Photo by Paul Dexler.

### Disclaimer (a.k.a. Lawyer Kephellens)

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

*June 27 – General Meeting and Tour, Riverside Automotive Museum, Noon Lunch, 1:30 PM Tour*

This museum has captured the history and cars that made Riverside International Raceway great for so many years. Don't miss it! We will

**DON'T MISS:**  
*June 27, Riverside Auto Museum  
July 15-19, AROC National  
Convention, Portland OR  
July 26, Summer Party*

Join the Riverside Foreign Car Club for lunch in the area before the tour. More details on page 21.

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

*July 15-19 – AROC Convention at Portland, OR*

See the *Alfa Owner* for details on the Portland convention.

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

We will have our usual Summer cooling-off event in Huntington Beach, with a pot-luck lunch, bocce ball, and lots of conversation. See Pg 20.

*August 1 – Braille Rallye*

See page 22 for basic info. The full details will be in the next issue, or contact Pat West at [nseandwest@social.rr.com](mailto:nseandwest@social.rr.com).

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

*August 13-16 – Monterey Historics Weekend*

See info on pages 8-11 about venues for Italian Car shows, room reservations, parties, etc. Note the early deadlines of June 20!

*August 29 – Drive/Shine/Dine Event (Note date change)*

It will soon be time for a fun drive through the hills of Whittier and La Habra again. Interesting and challenging roads with a cultural stop and quest for those who don't mind going the extra step. At the final destination, before we have lunch at a neighborhood Italian Restaurant, you will be tested for your driving and mechanical skills. HINT... HINT... watch formula One to get pointers on quick "PIT STOPS". Trophies will be awarded in many categories, so get your navigator lined up for a fun time, great lunch, and general meeting.

*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 @ Slierman's*

*October 7 – Board Meeting at Luigi's, 7:30 PM*



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

I think I'm getting close to the limit of superlatives in my vocabulary. Evie and I are having a grand old time and I hope our ever increasing turnout of AROSC members are also. Every time we pass through a month and article writing time comes around it is getting more and more difficult to express how much we've enjoyed the company and friendships. This past month was no exception, if anything it was probably the most fun-filled month ever.

I'll begin with thanks to the Barretts' Touring Company and Road Show for the over-the top South Coast Tour and Drinking, Dining and Driving Fest. Our tour down the Old PCH to Solana Beach and inland for a picnic lunch at San Diego Park, where the picnic judging included the AROSC Surf-board table that the Blankenships built among other winning displays (see pics) started the festivities. That afternoon, we scrambled to check in and get to the Stone Brewery for our tour and chugalong. The delay was caused by a closed road half way through the twisties and the need to go around. After breakfast we enjoyed a little revisionist history at the sight of the San Pasqual Battlefield and then proceeded to doing what we do so well - wine tasting at the boutique Belle Marie Winery. Thanks to Erica and Dave Hering for hosting lunch. Did I mention we had around 50 on the tour?

I'll continue with thanks to the Barretts again. This time for arranging

what has become an annual Alfa Feature at the Ford Design Center in Irvine. Count was down a little bit from last year. Maybe the low overcast weather, but we still had around 60 Alfas. Since the event starts half past too early, those of us who came down overnight were warmly welcomed to a pot luck dinner hosted by Jay Mackro and Catherine - many thanks.

Thanks again to the Barretts for arranging our visit to the Murray collection. Special thanks to Don Murray for his kind hospitality during our visit to his exquisitely tasteful collection (at an address so secret that we met in a bank parking lot and drove over blindfolded). This collection is rarely if ever seen in its entirety, but every one was on a battery charger and Don assured me that he and his family drive most of them fairly often.

Another round of thanks goes to Jan and Chuck Cline for hosting the follow-up brunch. Superb is an inadequate word. Final thanks to all of you - 50+ on the road tour, 50+ at the PAG/Murray Collection/Cline Brunch and general meeting.

By the time this is published, we will be into our June activities. The month will have begun with our participation in the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Huntington Beach Concours. In addition to the HB judges this will also be the first Alfa club points concours of the year.

Our General Meeting will be hosted by the "NEW" Riverside International Automotive Museum on June 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting for Pizza Lunch around 12 Noon (location to be announced) in Riverside and will head to the Museum to start our tour at 1:30. This is one of the finest assemblies of special cars and includes the Gurney Eagle that AROSC member Tony Adamowicz drove to the 1969 Formula 5000 Championship. The car is fully operational and Tony, driving the car last month in a F5000 competition at California Speedway, came from being grided at the back of the field to winning the race. At his advanced age (LOL) he set a new F5000 track record by 2 seconds.

My major event for the summer is also my favorite and most self-satisfying event of the year, the Braille Rally. Sponsored by the Braille Institute, this rally is like a graduation exercise for an exceptional group of teenagers. This is a TDS rally and your navigator will either be a Braille-only or Large Print reader. You, the driver, will discover in short order who is the real handicap to winning. They usually need at least 60 cars. The course is around 2 hours and ends with a picnic and awards ceremony. As of this writing they still need still drivers. Contact Pat West at [insandwest@social.rrt.com](mailto:insandwest@social.rrt.com). (714) 841-1249.

Our July 26<sup>th</sup> General Meeting held in conjunction of our Annual Summer Party and Bocce Competition at the cool and comfortable Huntington Beach home of Phyllis Gaylard will be

the official beginning of Auto Overdose month. I am assured again, that the peaches will be ripe. This is **mostly pot (good) luck and a confirming phone call to Phyllis - 714-377-6377** - will give you some idea of what to bring. For those few who have not attended one of these festive afternoons, Phyllis lives on a cul-de-sac with plenty of parking and it's within cooling breeze distance from the ocean. Please RSVP so that we will have adequate chairs and tables. Typically we will have over 40 people.

As mentioned in last months Ramblings "The annual Monterey "weekend" is a highlight for many Alfisti. As in year's past, Delta Sierra and the Alfa Romeo Association, arranged hotel accommodations, dinner at Gino's Restaurant, wine tasting at West and Maggie Clark's, and tickets and corral passes for the Historic Races at Laguna Seca (please see the ordering information elsewhere in this issue.) However, the choices for where to go on Friday, August 14, 2009 have gone through some major changes. The result is we now have two competing Italian car events to choose from for Friday: Concorso Italiano and the new La Dolce Vita event. **AROSC, along with ARA and Delta Sierra, have chosen to endorse the La Dolce Vita event for 2009.**

### Rules and happenings:

1 - If you plan to go to the Monterey Historics and park in the Alfa corral, please order your tickets through ARA (see article) and do not forget to

## MONTEREY HISTORICS WEEKEND

The annual Monterey "weekend" is a highlight for many Alfisti. As in years past, Delta Sierra and the Alfa Romeo Association have arranged hotel accommodations, dinner at Gino's Restaurant, wine tasting at West and Maggie Clark's, and tickets and corral passes for the Historic Races at Laguna Seca (please see the ordering information elsewhere in this issue.) However, the choices for where to go on Friday, August 14, 2009 have gone through some major changes. The result is we now have two competing Italian car events to choose from for Friday: **Concorso Italiano and the new La Dolce Vita** event. This article will give background and information on both events and the changes. We'll also talk about the reasons we, along with ARA and Delta Sierra have chosen to endorse the **La Dolce Vita event for 2009**.

Many were unhappy last year with Concorso Italiano being held at the Marina Airport. The airport venue, while unique, was definitely not very Italian car friendly. However, the possibility of a 2009 return to a golf course setting seemed unlikely since the Concorso organizers had a multi-year contract with the airport. Rumors and hopes of a change percolated over the winter, but nothing materialized. Over the winter our club was contacted (along with the other Italian car clubs) by a different group of event organizers who were looking to start a new Italian car event back at **Blackhorse Golf Course**, where the

Concorso event used to be held. Ironically, these organizers are affiliated with same Maserati group (MIE and M C J) that started the original Concorso Italiano in the 1980s. The new organizers were eager for feedback from our club and the others on what we'd like in an Italian car show. **The goal was to get the Friday Italian car event in Monterey back to the event's roots when Concorso was fun, and back to the Blackhorse golf course location.** In February the new organizers announced their event "La Dolce Vita - Automobili at Blackhorse" ([www.montereybayconcorso.com](http://www.montereybayconcorso.com)).

Following the announcement about the new La Dolce Vita event, word came out the Concorso Italiano event had new owners who vowed to return the Concorso event to a golf course as well. **Two weeks later the new location for CI was announced: Laguna Seca Golf Ranch.** Event details for Concorso are available at [www.concorso.com](http://www.concorso.com).

Faced with the two competing events, we contacted the Alfa Romeo Association in the Bay Area, and other AROC Chapters on the west coast. This led to much discussion and even a multi-club conference call to weigh all of the options. As many of you know, beyond attending the shows, our Alfa groups also work with the event organizers to help plan and coordinate the Alfa displays, exhibitor parking, etc. Rather than split up our resources, the clubs felt that picking

one event for our participation was best. After considering everything, the **Alfa clubs were unanimous in choosing the La Dolce Vita event for 2009.**

The decision to choose La Dolce Vita over Concorso Italiano was not easy, and was based on multiple factors. By all appearances, the new event should be outstanding. Our research indicates that the organizers are Italian "car people" who have really done their homework. They are also aware of the value of having Alfa Romeo cars at the event, and have provided us with prime car positioning. The extensive preliminary work and event layout already completed by the La Dolce Vita organizers was important as well. In fact, it is likely that the new La Dolce Vita event may have been a key factor in the recent changes announced for the Concorso event.

We realize, of course, that everyone can make their own decisions, and can certainly choose to attend Concorso Italiano. We just felt it important to let everyone know that AROSC, ARA, & Delta have chosen the 2009 La Dolce Vita event at Blackhorse for our official presence.

P.S. Be sure to check all the deadlines and early bird pricing information, and get your event and hotel registrations in soon. Some deadlines are coming up fast!

THE EVENT 2009 Features:  
- Alfa Romeo and Maserati Race Cars,  
- Celebrating the 50 Year Anniversary of De Tomaso.

## More II Presidente:

include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. I will not have corral passes this year. Reservation have to be received before June 20<sup>th</sup> to guarantee corral passes.

2 - If you have not made reservations, you can still get them at the Laurels Inn in Salinas through James Treadwell, Delta Sierra Club, (see article).

3 - Members of AROSC are planning on our fifth annual dinner Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Loose Noodle Pasta House at 538 Lighthouse Ave in Monterey at 8 PM. Please RSVP to Evelyn Silverman at [normanev@msn.com](mailto:normanev@msn.com) so she can get a count. We are limited to 60 people and every year has been a complete sell out.. For \$25 you receive Soup, Salad, a Choice of any 1 of 6 (count them 6) entrees, desert and soft drinks. Old grape juice and fermented hops will be available for a nominal charge.

5 - Normally, on Friday, we stay on at the Concorso for a while after closing and partake of the happy hour arrangements being made by ARA at the Black Horse Golf Course club house.

6-If you are at Laguna Seca on Saturday and have a corral pass, we usually leave around 4PM and caravan to cocktail hours at the home of West and Maggie Clark.

Keep the wheel side down.

*Norman I, Rex*

**AUGUST 15-17, 2008: HISTORIC RACE WEEKEND AT LAGUNA SECA RACEWAY**

Please enter La Dolce Vita vehicles directly at [www.montereybayconcours.com](http://www.montereybayconcours.com) or [kam@maserainet.com](mailto:kam@maserainet.com)  
 Please enter Concorso Italiano vehicles directly at [www.concorso.com](http://www.concorso.com) or call 425-742-0632, Fax 425-742-0764

**THE TOP HALF OF THIS PAGE IS FOR ADVANCE RACE & CORRAL TICKETS ONLY.** Your order must be **IN MY HANDS NO LATER THAN SATURDAY JUNE 20th** in order to meet the track's deadline for advanced purchases.

**Race and Alfa Corral Ticket Prices Aug. 14-16**  
 3 Days: Fri - Sun, \$125 per person: No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount (US \$) \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 Days: Sat & Sun, \$95 per person: No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount (US \$) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday 8/15 only, \$65 per person: No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount (US \$) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday 8/16 only, \$50 per person: No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount (US \$) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Friday 8/14 only, \$50 per person: No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount (US \$) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alfa Corral Pass (Sat and Sun only), \$1.00 per car per day  
 No. Sat: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Sun: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount (US \$) \_\_\_\_\_

**HANDLING FEE PER ORDER (REQUIRED):** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$5.00**

Total ARA Amount (including handling fee please) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME & ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

Send the top part of this form with check made out to ARA to arrive by SATURDAY JUNE 20 to John Maclay, 426 Blackstone Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598-3717. **YOU MUST INCLUDE a Business sized (4"x9") #10 44-cent stamped Self-Addressed Envelope for return of tickets. Do NOT send small envelopes. No check or no envelope, no tickets!** Any questions, e-mail preferred to [johannaclay@aol.com](mailto:johannaclay@aol.com) or fax at 925-934-4762.  
 If in dire need, call John Maclay at 925-937-2399, cell 925-997-3637.

**Wine Tasting at West and Maggie Clark's, Saturday Aug 15, 1044 Majella Road, Pebble Beach, Saturday, August 15, 3:00 to 6:00 PM.** Complimentary. RSVPs are

essentially unnecessary but you may call 831-644-0661 for confirmation or directions if desired, or e-mail [wimclark@aol.com](mailto:wimclark@aol.com). Enter PB at gate off Rte. 1; tell the guard you are going to the Clark party. After the gate, take the first right turn on Congress, follow Congress until you come to Majella Rd on your left, take a left on Majella and go three blocks to 1044.

**HOTEL ROOM AT LAUREL INN, SALINAS AND COMBINED ALFA CLUB DINNER AT GINO'S SAT 8/15/09**

Delta Sierra has reserved 40 rooms at the Laurel Inn at 801 W. Laurel Drive in Salinas to be shared by ARA and DSARC. Please do not contact the hotel directly. Instead, reserve your room by mailing a photocopy of this part of the page with the room and dinner info below completed along with your check made out to "Delta Sierra Alfa Romeo Club." Address it to DSARC, Attn: James Treadwell, 4713 Lake Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Prices below include tax, etc. First come, first served.

Single (1 K) Smoking  Y  N Double (2 Q beds) Smoking  Y  N  
 1 2 nights (8/14 & 8/15) \$214.40  1 2 nights (8/14 & 8/15) \$247.40  
 1 3 nights (8/13 to 8/15) \$321.60  1 3 nights (8/13 to 8/15) \$371.10

**AUGUST 15, SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER, 7:30PM, GINO'S, 1410 S. MAIN STREET, SALINAS**

Italian buffet style menu with some tasty new choices for our clubs includes Penne Pasta with Gorgonzola Cream Sauce, Chicken Marsala, Grilled Skirt Steak, Vegetable Medley, Garlic Bread, Dessert, and Wine. Cost is \$40 per person. If attending, please add the dinner amount to your room reservation check.

Number eating at Gino's: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40 Each = Dinner Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ROOM AND DINNER AMOUNT ONLY ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

## Tech Article -- More Odd Clicking Sound

It's been 2 months since I wrote about an odd clicking sound in the Spider; I had replaced a worn universal joint in the driveline to no avail. It seems to be a recurring theme that sometimes the diagnosis is more difficult than the repair. It is also true that there are a lot of minor problems to be found on a 40+ year old car when you are grasping at straws.

Decided the next step was to replace the rubber flex joint (commonly called the guibo) behind the transmission on general principles. The old one looked good, but I never found a receipt, and those joints are a wear item. A weak flex joint can give rise to a host of driveline-related symptoms.

The new flex joint comes tightly wrapped with a metal band. Do not remove this strap until the new joint is actually installed! When the metal strap is cut, the flex joint expands against the bolts in the yoke. Simple and effective provided that you remove the band after the joint is installed

If you screw up, or if you need to remove a fairly new flex joint, band the joint with a common hose clamp and screw it up tight. Few

hose clamps are big enough to do the job. Jay Mackro suggests chaining two hose clamps together. Alternately, the dryer vent section of your favorite home store will have some large diameter clamps. In my case the old guibo came off fairly willingly, so the rubber had clearly started to deteriorate.

Also noticed that the clutch rod (my '65 has a mechanical clutch) was rubbing a bit against the transmission. Didn't seem to me like that would cause a clicking sound, but a few judicious tweaks in the bench vise made it clear nicely.

Another test drive, another disappointment, the clicking was worse than ever. Back in the garage - back up in the air - back under the car. Did something I should have done much earlier. Used a pry bar to put some force on the rear transmission bush and watched the cracks open up in the rubber. I think a bad transmission bush would cause more of a clunk than a click, but here was one more thing to fix.

This is not a fun project and is generally done with the transmission removed. I really didn't want to do that, so I didn't

on the theory I could always drop it later if necessary.

In the shop manual they press the bush out of the tail housing with a hydraulic press. The more common approach for DIYers is to cut out the rubber middle section and then cut through the outer metal ring with a hacksaw. Once you have cut nearly through the metal, the ring will collapse and can be easily removed. That's exactly the approach I used.

The new bush is a tight interference fit, so I was worried about being able to install the new bush with the transmission in the car. Did all the usual preparation. Cleaned up the transmission housing to accept the bush with minimal fuss. Left the new bush in the freezer over night. Bought several right-sized c-clamps from Harbor Freight and picked up some large flat washers. When it came down to it, the new bush pressed right in. This is not always the case as I can attest from experience.

Another test drive, another disappointment. This left me at my wits end. Slept on it and still didn't have any great ideas. Finally, in an act of sheer desperation, I plied my son with the promise of food and alcohol to come take a test drive

with me. That drive only lasted about two blocks before he let out an exasperated cry, "Dad, that isn't coming from underneath the car; it's coming through the firewall!"

Okay. Maybe I should go get tested for a hearing aid. We still haven't found the problem, but based on Owen's superior hearing, the current prime suspect is a crack in the headers. So far, we have re-torqued them to the head and inspected them from above and below. Next we will take a look through the front wheel well. Not willing to say that is it. We'll see.

In the meantime, expect to see Mike & Chris in the Sprint or cough-cough that other car with air conditioning.

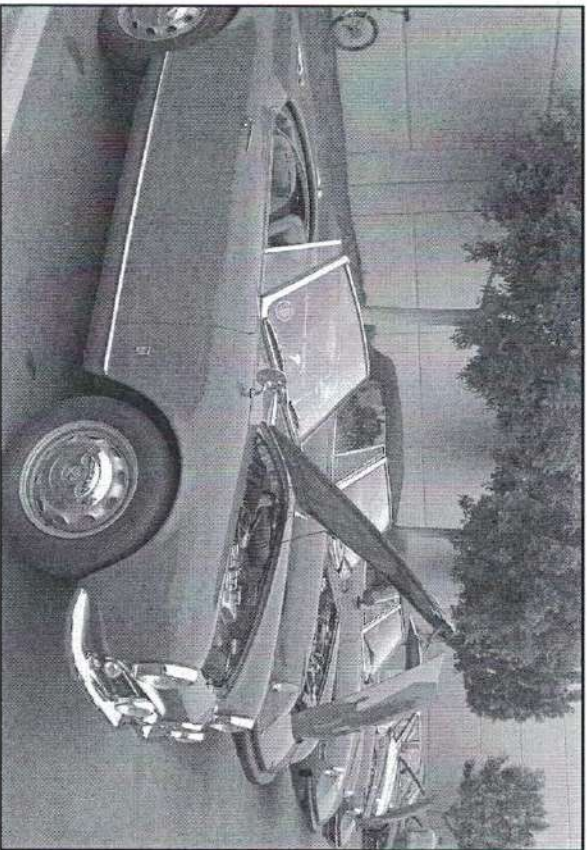
Mike R



## AROSC May Meeting — Cars & Coffee - Murray Collection - Brunch @ Clines

*The Barretts again arranged our annual Alfa Feature at the Ford Design Center (PAG) in Irvine. We had about 60 Alfas present, which is not bad considering that the event starts at 7:00 AM and ends at 9:00 AM (too early for me!).*

*Photos by Tom Suter and Paul Dexler.*



*Don Murray's Alfa Giulietta SZ Series 1, about 1960: a small, light-weight GT car based on the Sprint Speciale*

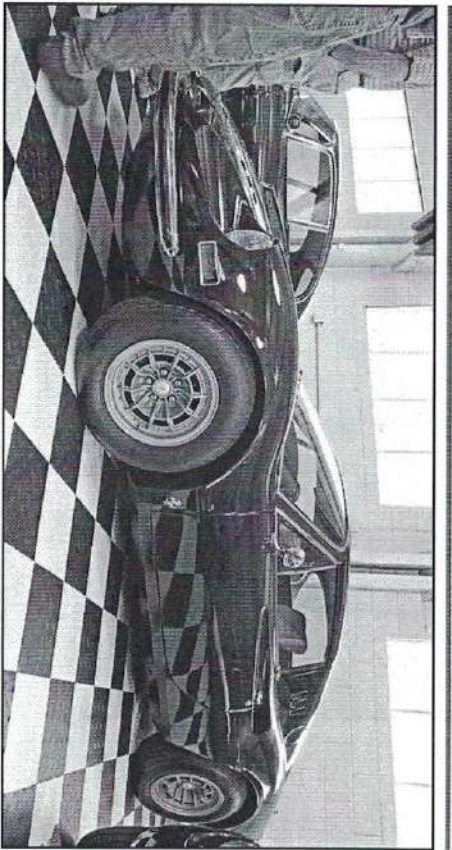


*A line-up of beautiful car design: Ferraris, Dino, Alfa, and Jaguar XKE.*



*A rapt audience listens to our host describe his lovelies.*





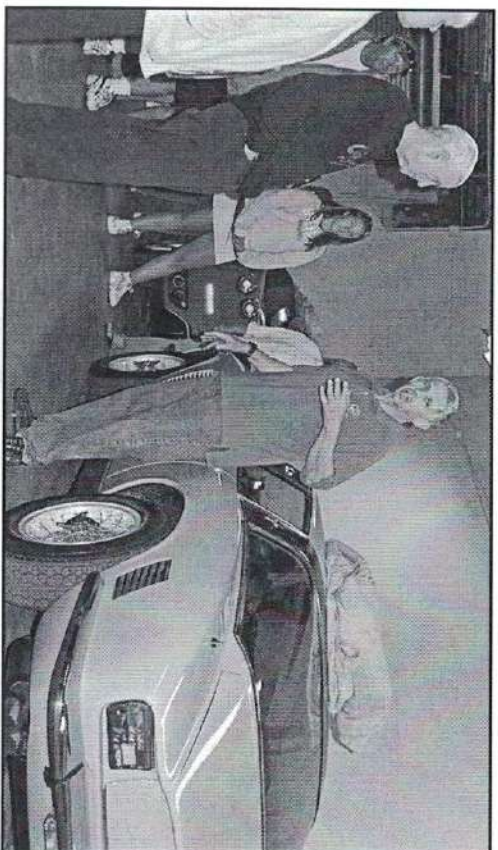
*Don Murray's Dino 246 GT by Ferrari.*



*Jim Barrett & Don Murray.*



*An aubergine (eggplant) Ferrari (America?) -- original color!*



*Don explains the Iso Grifo 7, with a big American 7.0 liter V-8.*



*An Austin Healy 100S, without a Corvette engine!*



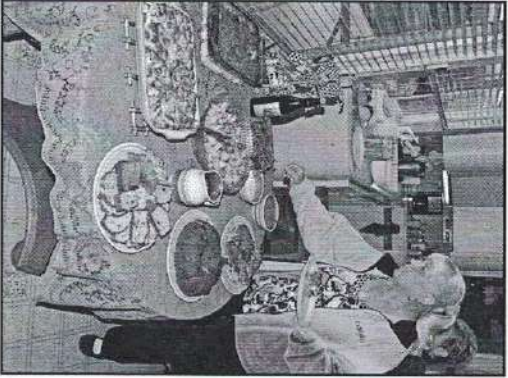
*A Ferrari engine, from the red one, a 275?*



*Chuck Cline's project car under wraps.*



*A meeting of the minds? Dave Herring, Mike Riehl, Norman, Paul Dexler, and M J Kutkus stay indoors before the brunch.*



*Sheila Kutkus surveys the bountiful brunch array.*



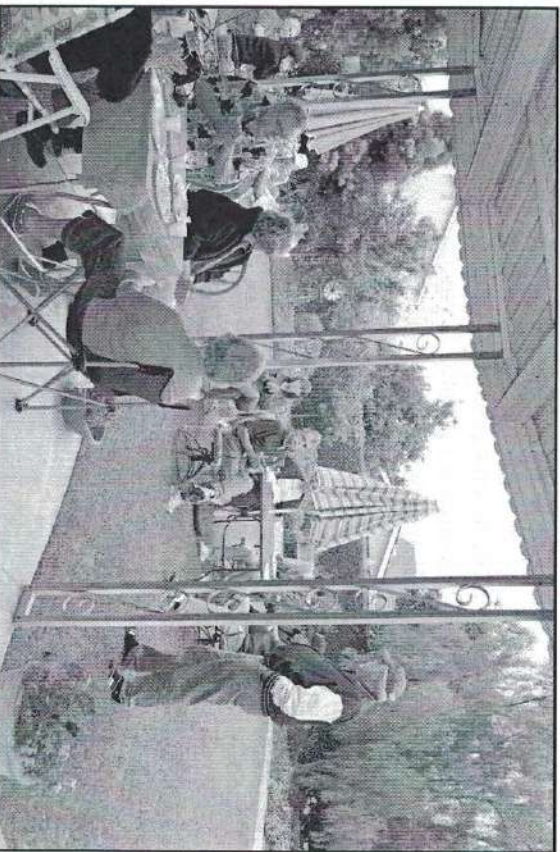
*Erika Herring and Jan Cline (our chef) chat in the kitchen.*



*Chow time!*



*No need for sun umbrellas on this gray day.*



*Norman conducts a meeting of sorts in the Cline's spacious back yard. We had lemon bread using their own lemons.*

## **AROSC Summer Party & July Meeting It's Time! Summer is here! Let's party! Sunday, July 26 is the date!**

It's become a tradition each year to gather in Phyllis Gaylard's Huntington Beach backyard for a cool party. Come and cool off from the inland heat wave!

Phyllis Gaylard's house in Huntington Harbor has plenty of back yard, paved patio, and shade. She still has Jay Wachtel's bocce balls, and the lawn is in good shape, freshly cut the day before. She is located about a mile from the ocean and beaches, up on a hill with a great breeze. There is plenty of street parking and a shopping center (with a new Trader Joe's Market!) one block away if the street fills up.

We will again have a potluck lunch, and request that attendees bring something to share that we can nosh, snack, or munch upon. We suggest primarily home-prepared dishes, cold or room temperature. We can heat up some things in the oven or microwave, but want to limit the stove-top cooking to just a few items.

As in the past, there will be no charge for this event. However, we ask that all attendees bring a food dish to share. If you can't cook or bring food, you can make a \$5 donation per person and Phyllis will buy what is needed to complete the menu. In order for this to work, you must call or E-mail an **RSVP before party day**. Suggested food categories include but are not restricted to: antipasto, appetizers, salads, sandwich makings, casseroles, pasta dishes, or anything appealing as luncheon fare. Just tell Phyllis what it is so she can coordinate and provide a complete menu.

**DATE: Sunday, July 26, 2006**

**WHERE: 17041 Malta Circle,**

**Huntington Beach, 92649**

**(Thomas Bros. Map pg 857 C1)**

**RSVP: to Phyllis by Friday, July 24 at (714) 377-6377, or e-mail to**

**AROSCeditor@aol.com**

**TIME: Noon to 4:00 PM or???**

## **June Meeting -- Saturday, June 27 Tour the Riverside Int'l Auto Museum**

Before the legendary Riverside International Raceway met its demise beneath developers' bulldozers, the track brought word-class road racing to a thriving fan base in Southern California, as well as the development of the AROSC Time Trial program. Operating from 1957 to 1989, the track made the smoggy agricultural city of Riverside internationally famous.

On the back side of Box Springs Mountain – a landmark that graced many photos of the track's renowned turn six – is the Riverside International Automotive Museum. As you enter the 20,000 sq ft facility, you'll see track memorabilia such as vintage aerial photos of the first layout, banners, tickets, programs and posters. Dan Gurney's Eagle race cars are found throughout. Museum director Bruce Ward says the most notable is Gurney's first Eagle USAC Indy car from 1966. Gurney grew up in Riverside as we know; he probably carved slide marks into the ground where the museum now sits.

Another Eagle on display is the white No. 7 piloted by Tony "A to Z" Adamowicz to the 1969 Formula A title. Tony continues to drive the Eagle at historic meets around the country, and also helps us at our driver's schools.

The museum also houses one of the world's largest Maserati collections, with about 25 cars. Other display vehicles include a Jaguar XJ220, a Ferrari Berlinetta Boxer, a stately 1950 Riley and a modern Ford GT – also a new Alfa 8C Competizione!

We will join the Riverside Foreign Car Club for lunch at about noon, and after dining, we will caravan to the museum to see what's there. Those not wishing to dine, or to arrive that early, can join us about 1:30 PM at the facility, 815 Marlborough, Suite 200, Riverside 92507. The museum is open Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. Find more information at [www.riversideinternationalraceway.com](http://www.riversideinternationalraceway.com).

The restaurant information was not available by press time, so please E-mail or call Phyllis Gaylard for it; an "E-mail blast" will also have this info before the meeting day.

# IT'S BRAILLE RALLYE TIME AGAIN



Saturday, August 1

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Make new friends  
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straightforward, judged on total time  
differential and checkpoints reached. But the event is  
more about the bond formed between the driver and  
his/her visually challenged student-navigator

Be part of an over 40 year summer tradition as a driver or volunteer



Join drivers from sports car clubs, law enforcement, media, and just plain folk to make this a special day for special youth, who have met established reading goals to qualify to participate

#### Schedule:

7:00 AM Gates open at Braille Institute - Coffee and donuts available  
7:30 AM Check-in opens  
NOTE: Any driver not checked-in by 9:00 may not get a student/navigator should there be a shortage  
9:00 AM Drivers' and navigators' meetings  
9:30 AM Navigator/driver pairing  
10:01 AM FIRST CAR OUT - BRAILLE RALLYE 2009 ADVENTURE BEGINS!  
3:30 PM Approximate conclusion of event

#### CONTACTS

Patricia West, Registrar  
4471 Newbury Drive  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
714-841-1249  
nseandwest@verizon.net

Anita Wright  
Braille Institute Youth Center  
741 North Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
323-663-1111 Ext. 3130

## Spring Driving Tour -- Old PCH More & Merrier: Spring Driving Tour is Biggest Yet

By Elyse Barrett

*Photos by the Barretts, Charlie  
Schwartz, M J Karkus, and Paul  
Dexter.*

Thank you, everyone who made the '09 PCH Tribute the most well-attended Spring Driving Tour to date. We had 16 cars and 30 people for the coast highway cruise, accomplished in comfort under a mild marine layer. The Colbys joined us for lunch and the inland leg, and Dave Khoe and the Hertings hooked up with us at Stone, for a total of 36 Afflisti in 19 cars.

Most everyone played the "PCH 20 Questions" gimmick and took away a few bits of SoCal history that they may not have already known. All will remember what your tour organizers learned from running (and winning) a rally last fall with the Rolls Royce Club: the answers to the gimmick questions are what the rally masters say they are. Anyone challenging those answers can be immediately DQed. Hal Paul and Mary Blankenship, driving the steedfast white Milano, were the winners, getting 12 correct answers, plus 2 extra credit points for taking on the bonus questions!

Lunch was at San Dieguito County Park, and the place was already hopping, with the general picnic areas alarmingly full. Luckily the ranger directed us to the upper park area (where we wanted to go to begin with,

but had been told in February that the picnic grounds were booked!) and had plenty of parking, shade, and tables for all. The spreads were again sumptuous and some very creative table settings made judging a real challenge. Of course the judges rearranged categories to suit the competitors and the content.

Winners in the surviving original categories are:  
Surfin' USA: Paul & Mary Blankenship. The surfboard table and plates were over the top!  
Insanely Italian: Doug & Joyce McHattie. How she does the Italian flag in food is amazing!

Neophyte/Newbee: George Hershman, our new friend from the San Diego chapter who joined us in his ivory Duetto in Oceanside. We very much like to honor those who waded into our mania and survive the day.

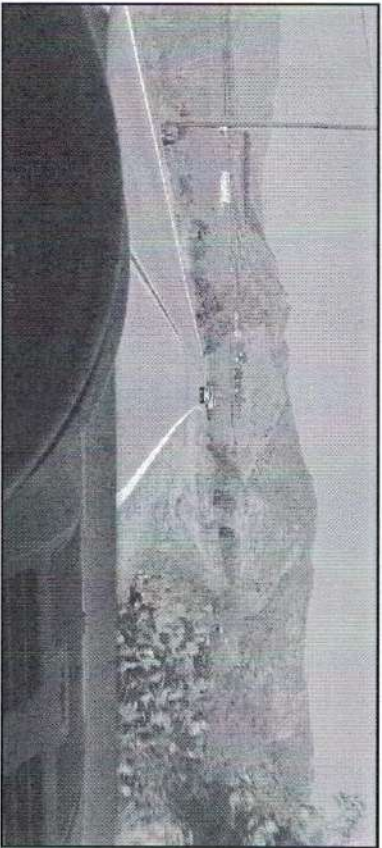
Winners of the Altered States Added Categories are:

Current Events: Steve Edelman. His surfing swine on an Alfa Logged board, outfitted with flu-detering mask and signage that said "Blame it on the Birds!" was too original not to notice.

Alfaloha: Jay Mackro & Catherine Kusnick. Building on their traditional excellent taste, the Polynesian table setting, Italian picnic fare and aloha togs with leis made them special.  
SouthernCal Hospitality: Nick & Virginia Zart. Their combination of mint juleps, Mediterranean linens and



*The odyssey started at the Sea Port Marina Hotel in Long Beach.*



*On the road from the driver's seat -- Paul Dexter.*



*Traffic! Hey, it's Alfa Day on the road, so you other cars go home!*

killer peach cobbler, all showed off and served in good bribery-sized portions, sweetened the deal.

And in Tour tradition, the first RSVP to the event is always recognized. This year, Charlie & Bonnie Schwartz were our Number One(s)! Thank you for setting the tone.

The fun continued flowing inland to our evening destination of Escondido via some entertaining rural roads. Even with a bit of mid-afternoon traffic, the Colbys took us on nifty twists through farmland and under oak arbors on two-lanes that were different for us, and still enjoyable.

The real fun began when we left Ramona to head west to Escondido on Hwy. 78 ... which was closed just a couple of miles out of town. Thank you CalTrans! The only option was to retrace our route back to the I-5. Bruce knew of a secondary road that could take us over the foothills to San Pasqual, and that turned out to be a nice diversion through more farmland most of us had never seen. We will be reminded ever after to check the state Web site for road work and closures the day before the Tour.

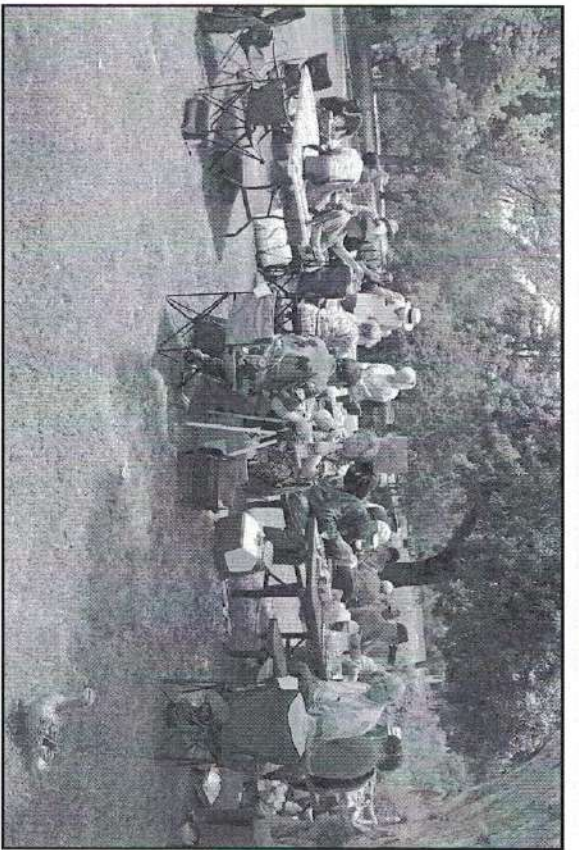
This detour cramped our Escondido arrival, leaving us just 45 minutes to check in at our fabulous '50s roadhouse, the Palm Tree Lodge. Even without a computer, the weekend manager, Claudia, got us in and settled, smoothly and efficiently.

We were able to convene on time for our private tour at Stone Brewing Company, which was entertaining and educational. Even if you weren't an ale fan, you could appreciate the attitude, philosophy and product, which was generously poured in a free tasting afterward.

The challenge of not having an affordable private dining room was met by making multiple reservations through the online service, Open Table. We had successfully secured 50 seats for our 38 diners, and were eventually all seated. It was graduation weekend for Cal State San Marcos, so there were even more college kids in the place, and staff was hopping. The food and atmosphere were universally rated excellent.

After such a non-stop day, some of us needed to unwind poolside. As has also become tradition in the Club, events just go better with wine and, like magic, bottles appeared on the patio table. More stories were swapped and fine grape juice consumed until 11 p.m.-ish.

Sunday morning, we convened over a hearty country breakfast the Wagon Wheel Restaurant, just steps from our rooms. Moving a bit slower than Saturday, we were a bit late getting on the road to San Pasqual Battlefield State Monument. It was warm in the valley, but the visitor center was cool inside. We viewed the story boards and a great video about California's biggest incident of the Mexican-American War in which



*Picnic in the park with ducks mooching hand-outs (lower right).*



*The Blankenships embellished their table with a sunboard-covered Alfa.*

22 people perished. Portions of the battle are reenacted monthly through the spring and summer months by area history enthusiasts.

Bidding *arrivederci* to the past, we drove old Hwy. 395 to what could well be the future of wine making in Southern California. Belle Marie Winery is perched on a hillside overlooking the I-15 and Hwy. 395, surrounded by chaparral, not vines. The grapes come from Baja

California's Valle de Guadalupe, where, our host, general manager Jeff Lazenby, explained that his company has invested in vineyards run by leading Mexican vintners such as L.A. Cetto. Belle Marie makes up to 30 different bottlings annually and all are organic, containing no sulfites. The winery does not distribute in retail outlets, but sells through its Vintage Club and to those who visit the Escondido location. Well, suffice it to say, we liked what we saw and heard, and tasted, purchasing enough to qualify for several case discounts. The investment frenzy

made us again late in an already well-stuffed schedule. "Sorry Erika, we're just leaving the winery. But we are really leaving, and should be to you in 30 minutes!"

Thankfully, motoring to Fallbrook for lunch at Dave and Erica Herring's fabulous hacienda did only take 30 minutes, with just one wrong turn within 3 blocks of the destination. Dave is right: the street signs are "no help"! An abundance of munchies, flowing libations, several great salads, a 6-foot Italian sandwich, fruit and cookies greeted us. After lunch we were invited into the orchards to relieve limbs groaning with citrus and figs, and to go check out the garages. Cody Barrett got to run off leash for the first time in two days, and came when he was called to get into the GTV-6 for the final leg of the journey.

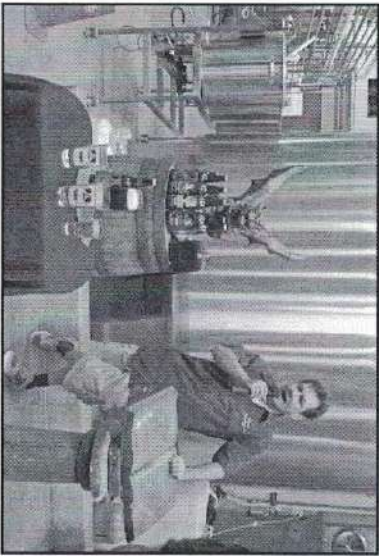
What a marvelous time. We only covered about 280 miles, but we went much farther. Let's do it again next year!



*The pig didn't bring the flut.*



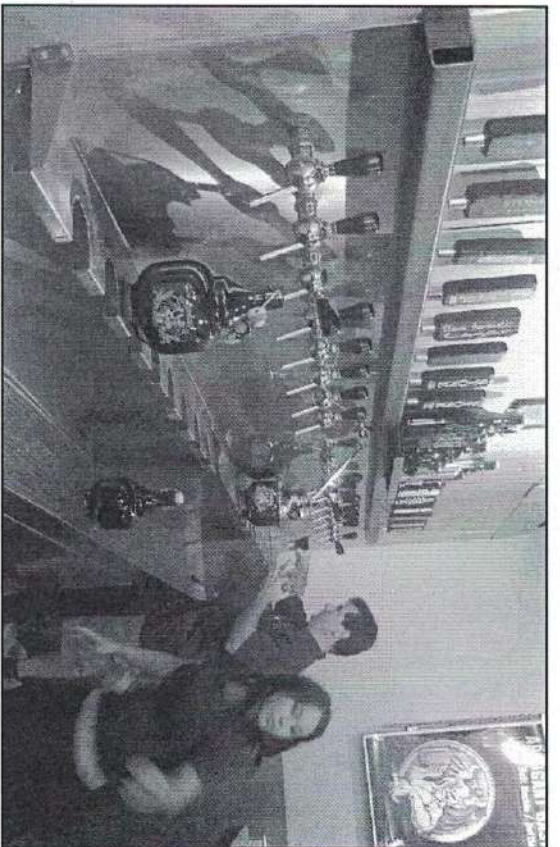
*Arriving at The Palm Tree Lodge at last!*



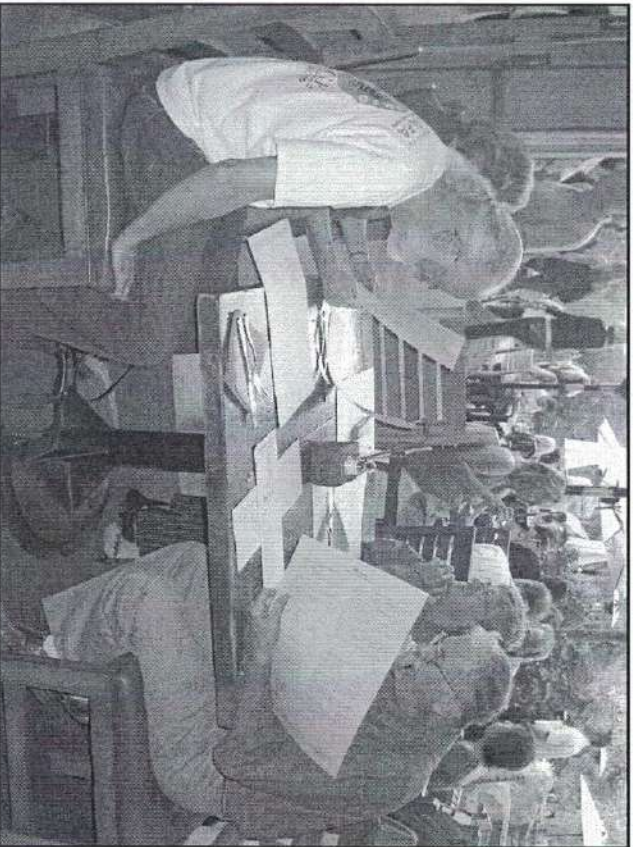
*Our guide describes his products at the brewery.*



*On the beer-tour -- the guide explains how it's made.*



*Beer tasting! lots of choices.*



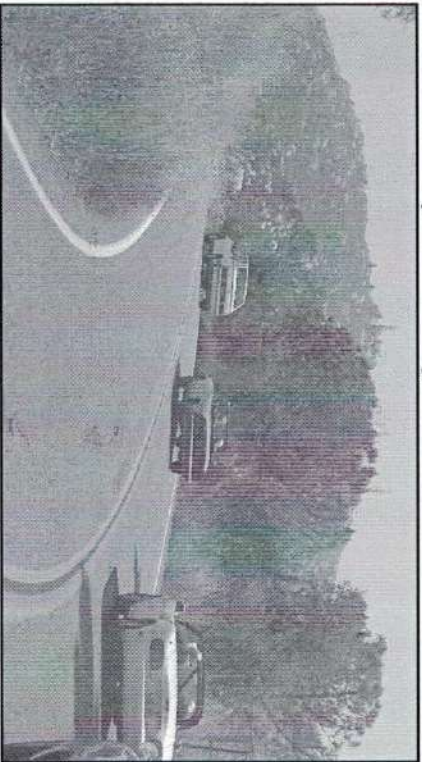
*The Firscheins and Schwarzs at dinner.*



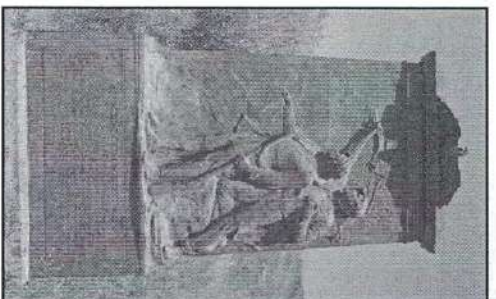
*Happy Hour at the motel -- late.*



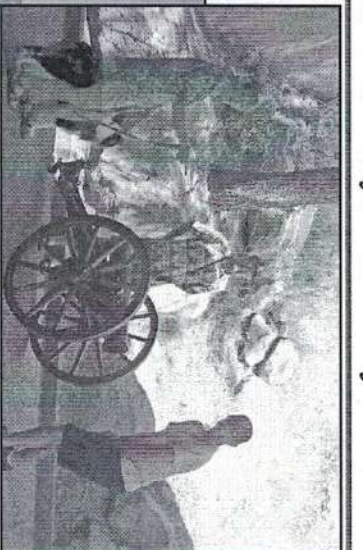
*Breakfast at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant.*



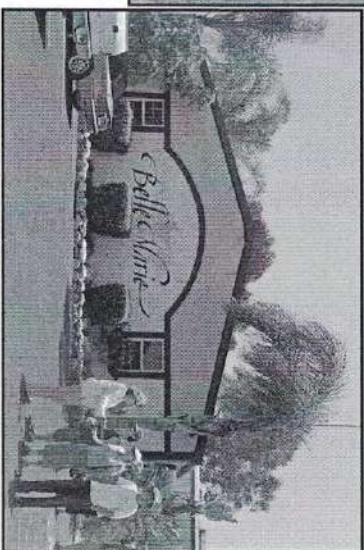
*Romping through the San Diego County back country roads.*



*A monument to the Mexican War.*



*Horseplay at the battlefield cannon.*

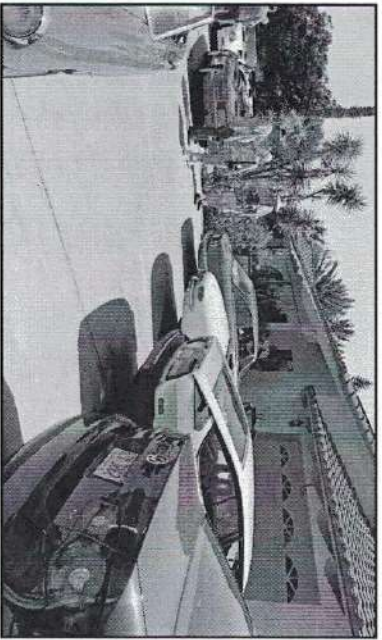


*The Belle Marie Winery.*



*The wine tour included a talk -- Cody Barrett looks bored.*

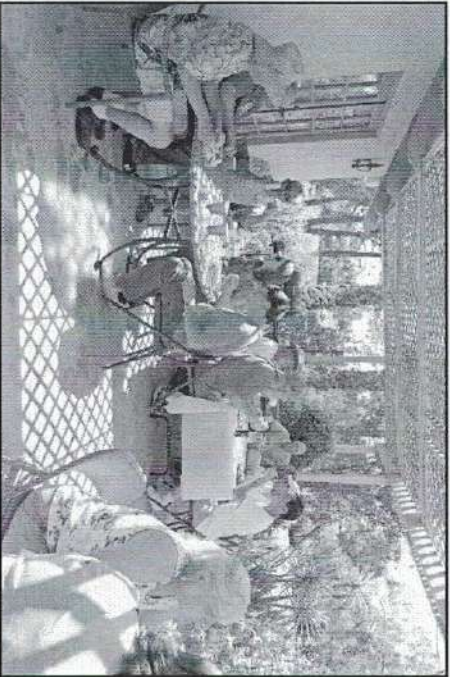




*Arriving at Casa Herring -- filling up their driveway.*



*Erika Herring puts out a great spread for lunch.*



*Lunch on the Herring's patio.*

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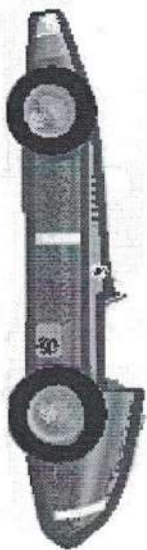
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