



Letter of
Alfa Romeo
OWNERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



November-December 2009

**In This Issue: Woodley Park,
Willow Springs, Wine Tour,
upcoming event**

Alfa Romeo

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September	26	General Meeting - Tour @ Nethercutt + Party @ Silverman's
September	12-13	Time Trial & Race at Willow Springs
September	2	Board Meeting @ Luigi's
October	7	Board Meeting @ Luigi's
October	10-11	Wine Tour
October	24-25	Time Trial & Race @ Buttonwillow
October	31	NO General Meeting
November	1	Best of France & Italy Car Show & Concours
November	4	Board Meeting @ Luigi's
November	14	General Meeting, 1pm White Turkey Sale & Elections @ Dirks
December	6	Competition Committee Meeting
December	12	Holiday Party at the Kurkus home
December	13	Board Meeting and planning for 2008 at the Kurkus home

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

1A



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

Affacionada 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 *Affacionada*.

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	Membership Information See the inside back cover of <i>Affacionada</i> .
1/2 page	\$150 per year	
1/4 page	\$100 per year	

Business card \$100 per year

This Month's Cover: On the Wine Tour, Gene Brown was enamored with his Montreal and the green on of the Labales from farther north. Photo by Gene Brown.

Disclaimer (a.k.a. Lawyer Repellent)

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(818) 427-2054 (cell)

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'Wired' Notices: Jay Negrin
(310) 399-0538 (H)

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Concours: Doug Adler
(805) 499-4835

Wine Tour: Margi Brown

margibrown@thekern.org

2009 AROSC Previews -- An Outline of Coming Events

December 6 – Competition Board Meeting

December 12– Holiday Party @ Kukkus’

Another party and feast -- MI & Sheila provide the meats, we pot-luck the side dishes and desserts. See flyer on page 21.

DON'T MISS:
*December 12, Holiday Party and
General Meeting @ Kukkus’
Jan 30 Annual Meeting @ Delzано’s*

December 13 – Board Meeting, old & new, at Kukkus’

Planning for 2010 will take place at this meeting -- have any ideas? All are welcome to attend. Or give your ideas to a board member at the Party or by E-mail before the meeting.

January 30 -- Annual Awards Luncheon & Meeting, Noon - 4:00 PM

We will gather again in Redondo Beach at Delzано’s Restaurant, 179 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, 90277 (310) 374-7525. They will provide a great Italian Buffet lunch, and year-end trophies will be presented for all classes and event types. The new Board of Directors and officers will be presented, and the schedule for the new year will be disclosed. Don’t miss it! See flyer on page 20.

Note: This is the November-December Issue, combined because of the early November & December meetings.

Election Results:

Candidate	Notes
1. Jim & Elyse Barrett (Incumbent)	30
2. Gene Brown (Incumbent)	29
3. Bruce Colby (Incumbent)	31
4. Paul Dexter (Incumbent)	27
5. Fred Firshain (Incumbent)	29
6. Phyllis Gaylard (Incumbent)	29
7. M J & Sheila Kukus (Incumbent)	31
8. Will Owen (Incumbent)	24
9. Norman Silverman (Incumbent)	31
10. Terry Watson (Past Board Member)	12
11. Mike Riehle (Incumbent)	27
12. Nick Zart (write in)	1

Votes counted by: *Paul Blankenship*

Cyber Reminders

This goes out to all of you in Cyberland. As many of you might know, I have a service that I provide to club members who have email. I send out reminder notices approximately one week ahead of most club events and meetings. Occasionally I send out notices of non-club functions that are thought to be of particular interest to club members. This is strictly on a

volunteer basis, on both of our parts. You have to want to be included on my list to get the reminders. Those who are already getting the reminders are already familiar with it. Those who do not, may not be aware of this service that I provide.

For those who wish to be included, but have not yet notified me, please contact me at my email address, included below, and let me know if you want to receive the reminders.

There have been many changes going on in regards to Internet service providers. Companies have been bought, sold, and/or gone out of business. This may leave some of you with changes in your email addresses. That is fine for you, but for those of us trying to keep in touch, it presents some interesting challenges.

Therefore, I am also asking all of you out there who have had changes to their email services recently, specifically those who now have a new email address/screen name, to email me with those changes. If you have not been notified of recent events via email, this may be the reason. If you want to continue receiving these reminders, I will need a current, working email address.

Thanks for listening,
Jay Negrin

correction to E-address: jimnegrin@verizon.net

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

Evie and I would like to send our heartfelt appreciation for the support, camaraderie and event participation of the members of AROSC during this past year. We wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The joy can begin with our annual Holiday Party at our 'AROSC Clubhouse' home of MJ and Sheila

Kutkus. If memory serves me correctly, which is starting to become a rare occasion, we had over 50 people starting the "Joyous" part of this year. We can discuss Sheila's fortitude and the general Kutkus family generosity during the December 12th party. (see page 21). **One of the features of the party will be my second humiliating apology to Terry Watkins about his perception that I failed to yield a corner at the Streets of Willow, in exchange for which he will donate some historic club memorabilia to add to our 'AROSC Clubhouse' collection.**

As in previous years, on the day following the party, December 13th, your newly elected Board of Directors meet to (a) elect a president (b) assign the individual

responsibility of each Director (see page 3), (c) **decide on the 2010 Schedule of Events**, and (d) finish the leftovers from the prior day's Xmas party. **As I have said many times in the past, this is your club and you are welcome to participate in this meeting and contribute to future club events and offer advice for future development.**

The Alfa deities had again kept the rain from falling on Woodley Park with the sun shining on "The Best of France and Italy". Stalwarts from OC, San Diego, and Santa Barbara were greeted by a nice turnout and extraordinarily pleasant weather (see pages 14-19). The Alfa count was up as we counted around 140. Mi compliment to Merkel Weiss, Tina Van Curen, Chuck Forward and their wonderful staff for another great assemblage of fine vehicles (see pictures). The AROSC Concorso entrants were awesome. There were picnics galore, but as it was a public park we were limited to drinking water, soda and Grape Juice (appropriately aged).

The General Meeting and Annual Elections for the Board of Directors and White Turkey Sale

being held at Dirk Stoehr's new Italspeed location at 3101 S. Main Street, LA, will be discussed in the January issue of Affacionada. **The next issue of Affacionada will also contain the list of the new Board of Directors, their areas of responsibility and our initial schedule of events.**

Some dates that you can start penciling in include: The upcoming ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET & General Meeting to be held at

'Delzano's, by the Sea' located at the Redondo Beach Marina. We have scheduled the event on a Saturday, January 30th, this year so that our attendants have the option of spending a night or two in the area. My plea is the same as in prior years, 'PULLEEZE, Per Favore, Mi faccia il favore di ripondere (RSVP) by January 20th'.

Historically this event is a sell out. There will be ample parking for a 'Clean Car Show' followed by a wonderful Italian buffet, the presentation of trophies and raffle prizes galore. (See page 20).

February 25th through 28th the Desert Classic Concours d'Elegance will be held in La Quinta. Though not yet an official club event, it is an unofficial road tour, gathering and party that was extremely well produced and

attended last year. We will again, on bended knee and bringing offerings, attempt to tempt the McHatties to hold another of their now infamous BBQ's and blind wine tastings. Paul and Holly Merrigan are a class act and put on a class event, which includes some very special rates for accommodations. More to follow.

With everything going on, I managed to finish my third year as a Peterson Museum Docent and had a wonderful year touring.

What a great way to spend a few hours a month. Tours anyone? Paul Dexter, member of the AROSC BoD has also been elected President of the Petersen Museum Docent Pit Crew. Membership at the Petersen comes with many events exclusive to members only.

Evie and I cannot end a year without again thanking all the Alfisti, AROSC members and non-members alike, for allowing us to spend another year enlusing about a great, historic Marque and for convincing us that our enthusiasm is catching. I especially want to thank the Competition Board, Instructors and the great drivers who have encouraged me over the years and got me from Intro to School to Time Trial to (finally)

Continued on page 8

Tech Article -- Elusive Clicking Sound Solved!

It took several more test runs with my new "chassis car" tool, but the clicking sound is coming from the right rear wheel bearing. A bad wheel bearing usually makes more of a growling noise, but oh well.

Since the car was still running, I wanted to get the new parts before starting disassembly. Centerline assured me that they had recently obtained some of the unobtainium Giulietta rear wheel bearings which could be mine for a mere \$143 each. Fortunately (?), the 101 1600 Spider parts catalog disagrees with Centerline and says they take the later 105 bearings. After some discussion, they gave me the dimensions of the bearings so I could be sure which bearing was needed.

The shop manual shows some impressive factory tools are required for this job (more unobtainium). I figured a slide hammer could be used to pull the axle. Randy Harris suggested that in a pinch he has seen some people at the track loosely reattach the wheel & tire and use that as a slide hammer. Pulling the axle turned out to be easy, maybe too easy. Any rate, the axle is out and the later (and cheaper) 105 bearing is on order. The bearing is on the axle fairly tight and I don't own a proper press. My current plan is to take it to the local machine shop once the new bearing arrives.

Mike R

More II Presidente:

Race. The natural, addictive drugs generated by my brain could never be duplicated in a lab. **Our Competition Board has added a new category, High Performance Driver Education that will allow you to get a weekend at the track with an instructor in your street legal**

car - get your family involved. WHAT IS YOUR LIFE OR THE LIFE OF YOUR CHILD WORTH? Keep the wheel side down. Drive safe, sensibly and sober.

Norman I, Rex

Wine Tour -- San Luis Obispo Area

Dateline -- Central CA, Oct. 11
Gene Brown

I just returned from the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California nth Annual Wine Tour and once again it was a spectacular success. This year's tour was based in San Luis Obispo and covered wineries in the Edna Valley region.

Margi Brown, my daughter and Wine Tour Coordinator Extraordinaire, chose to ride with me in the Montreal. The drive up the California coast on Friday afternoon was really quite pleasant with the sun shining on the blue Pacific Ocean to our left and the rugged Coastal mountains to our right. To get into the mood of the tour we took the scenic route and stayed along the coast as much as possible. When the 101 turned inland at Gavivota State Park we turned off on Highway 1 and went through Lompoc and Guadalupe before finally rejoining the 101 in Pismo Beach. We arrived at the Peach Tree Inn in San Luis Obispo about 4:30 to find that several others of the tour participants had already arrived. The Harris' were there in their Giulia Spider, the Labates down from the North in

their green Montreal and the Blankenships in the infamous green Alfetta.

After dinner next door at the Apple Farm Restaurant everybody joined up in the breakfast/meeting room at the Peach Tree Inn for the traditional pre-wine tour wine tasting and snack sampling. By this time Bonnie and Charlie Schwartz had arrived along with numerous others whose names I can't remember. Phyllis Gaylard arrived late having had to drive from Huntington Beach through the notorious Los Angeles Friday afternoon parking lot on the 405 freeway. II Presidente, Norman (Rex I) and La Prima Signora Evie made their appearance and greeted the peasantry. Many pleasantries were exchanged amid much discussion of wine and cars. After enough time had passed for the wine to establish the proper glow but before the nodding off occurred, Margi distributed the Wine Tour packets and explained the weekend's activities. As the hours ran on the people slowly left to return to their rooms and rest up for the adventure on Saturday.

Saturday dawned bright and clear and around 9:00 we meandered over to the Apple Farm Restaurant

for breakfast. Margi had arranged for us to all dine in one large room at the restaurant. The Apple Farm also has a takeout counter where one can order box lunches. This is great for those of us that are meal-planning challenged. After a healthy meal we assembled in the parking lot for the 10:00 a.m. departure where we left promptly at 10:22 a.m. (remember this is an Italian Car Club where all times are suggestions).

The first thing that was discovered was that the Tour Leader, yours truly, does not follow the driving directions in the packet. Not that I got lost, only that I found a different way to get to the same location. Part of the problem was that Margi failed to give me one of the tour packets and also that Margi misunderstood the job of the navigator, she thought it was to just sit back and enjoy the scenery. In spite of all this we did arrive at our first stop, Claiborne & Churchill. We have been at this winery several times in the past and they always have excellent wines. This time we had the pleasure of being hosted by Claiborne (Clay) Thompson, the owner who told us a lot about his winery and provided several good wines for tasting. After the tasting many bottles were purchased and we set out for our next stop.

Number two on the list was Tangent Winery, also the home of Baileyana

Winery. Their tasting room is located in the historic Independence schoolhouse which was built in 1909. They now teach the fine art of wine tasting. Once again wine was tasted, bottles were purchased and we set out for our third stop, Edna Valley Vineyard. At this location we went through the usual ritual of invading the place, tasting wine and buying bottles of our favorite. At this stop we also partook of lunch. There were many fine looking repasts set out and once again the conversation was about wine, cars and when Alfa would return.

Stop number four was Talley Vineyards. At this location they had a private tasting room set up for us where we sat at a large table and sampled the wines provided by our host. With each wine we received a brief summary of the nature of the particular wine. Afterwards more bottles were purchased and we set out again. By this time several of the cars were somewhat lower at the rear due to the large amount of extra weight placed in the trunk.

The fifth and final stop was Cerro Caliente Cellars. This tasting room is located in an industrial area of San Luis Obispo. In fact the tasting room was a former automotive repair shop. The mixture of wine and lubricants was made for our club.

After returning to the Inn for refreshing, we all headed out to McClintock's in Grover Beach for dinner. In spite of all the wine tasting during the day everyone made it to

the restaurant. We took over three tables in the corner of one dining area and ate a wonderful meal. Margi took this time to pass out the prizes for the Friday night quiz and the lunch. As a surprise to no one the prizes consisted of bottles of wine.

After a long day of drinking and driving and a good meal most people retired early. There were some diehards that stayed up late, some even as late as 10:00 p.m.!!

When Sunday came a storm was starting to come in. I'm not sure how Margi arranged for the bad weather to stay out of the area for Saturday but she obviously has connections with the weather service. Sunday

was a free day and some people had planned to visit more wineries. Margi and I headed out from the Inn early and drove straight on home.

Based upon the comments and observations it was another great AROSC Wine Tour. On the way home I asked Margi how she liked doing the wine tour and if she still wanted to plan it. She said that she would love to continue doing it.

Since the tours have been getting better each year since she took over the planning from me, then next year should be a great one. So check your January newsletter to find when the 2010 Wine Tour is planned and circle the date. You won't be disappointed.



Charlie Schwartz gets a taste at Claiborne and Churchill



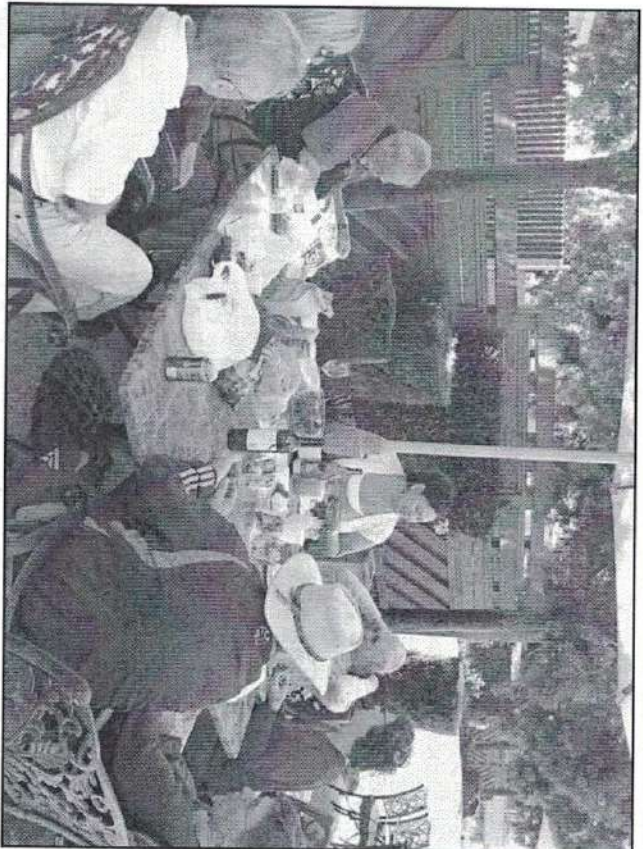
Clay Thompson poured the wines for Mary & Paul Blankenship.



Randy & Adrienne Harris taste Cliborne & Churchill wines with the Blankenships.



An interesting mix of cars from our tour.



Lunch break at Edna Valley Vineyards.



A private tasting at Talley

Woodley Park -- Best of France & Italy

By Stephanie Stacey

Photos by Tom Suter & Gene Brown.

The Concorso season ended on Sunday, November 1st at the Best of France and Italy Show at Woodley Park. What a beautiful day, there were over 100 Alfas and we judged 14 cars in four classes. With Doug unable to attend because of a scheduling conflict, I relied on the help of a number of folks to make the concours happen.

Some specific thank yous are in order. As always, thanks to Tina and the "Best of" crew for all their work, this event is always such an enjoyable day. Thanks to Norman and Gene for help with some of the early morning logistics. My biggest thanks go to Fred Firschein, Paul Blankenship, Art Russell, and Gary Rand for doing the judging. They gave up two hours of their Sunday to judge cars, without judges the concours doesn't happen. Thanks to everyone for coming out and bringing their cars, once again it was a wonderful showing of Alfas.

Looking ahead I hope we're back to a three event schedule for 2010. It's nice to gather with old friends and meet new ones as we celebrate and share these wonderful cars. I look forward to seeing you all next year!

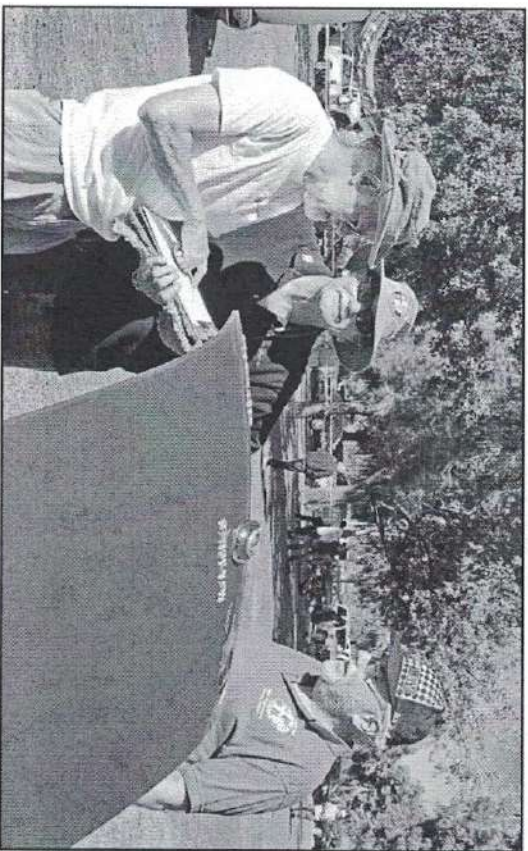
Stephanie Stacy (& Douglas Adler)



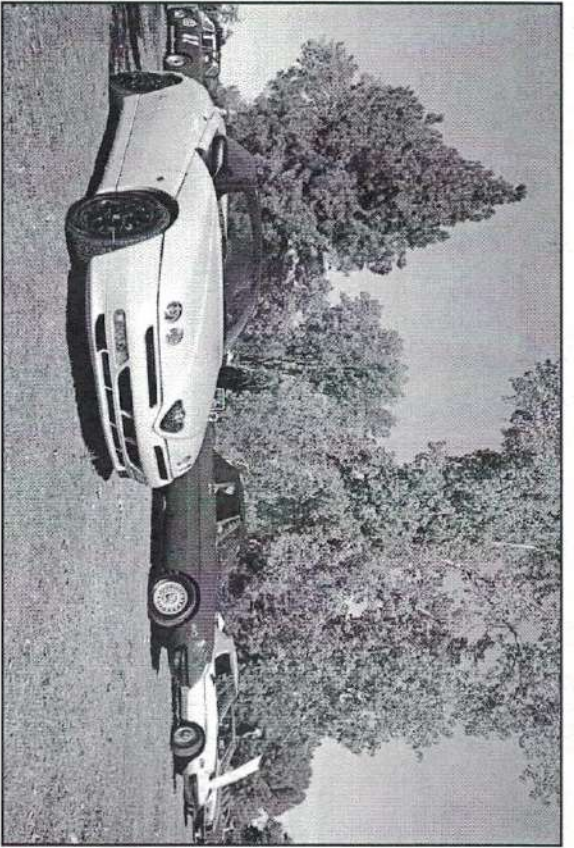
A Giulietta SZ Series 1 coupe, from about 1960, it is very light weight.

Concours Results

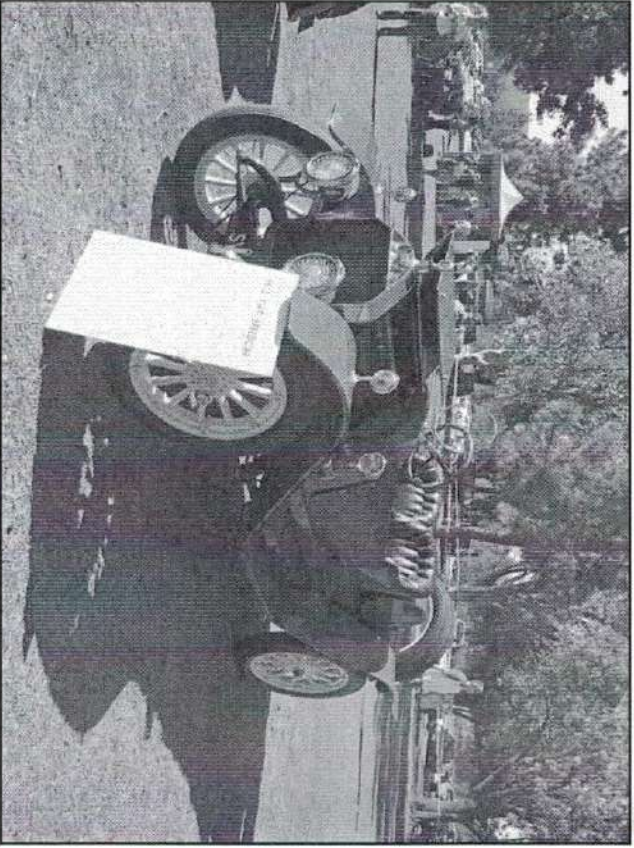
Name	Car	Pts	Awards
Race:			
Dan Walker	67 Giulia Spider	61	Best Race Car
Gerrard Kassabian	69 GT Junior	60	
Open:			
Randy/Adriane Harris	62 Spider	95	1 st
Chuck Swartz	69 1750 Spider Veloce	94	2 nd
Richard & Alison Lucidi	58 Giulietta Spider	90	3 rd
Norm/Evelyn Silverman	65 Spider Veloce	90	
Adil Farrooqui	67 Duetto	85	
Closed:			
Armin Wittenberg	56 Sprint Lightweight	96	1 st , Best in Show
Jay Mackro	66 Sprint GT	87	2 nd
Brandon Adrian	73 GTV2000	85	3 rd
Daily Driver:			
Robert Adrian	94 164	92	1 st
Carrie Adrian	93 Spider	88	2 nd
Peter Giacobi	59 Spider	81	3 rd
Paul Blankenship	76 Alfetta GT	61	



The Concorso judges at work, evaluating Norm's Giulia Spider.



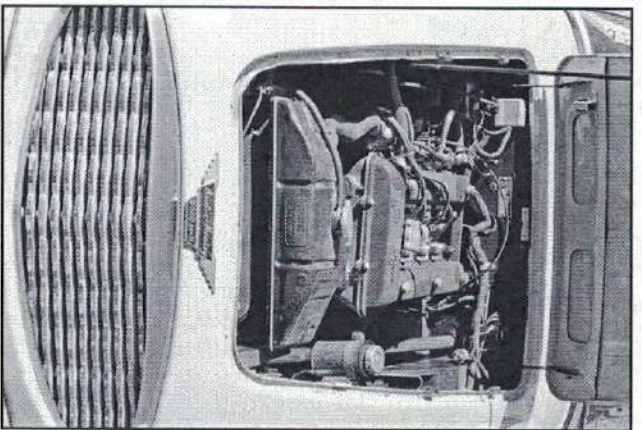
A "new" Spider anchors the Spider row.



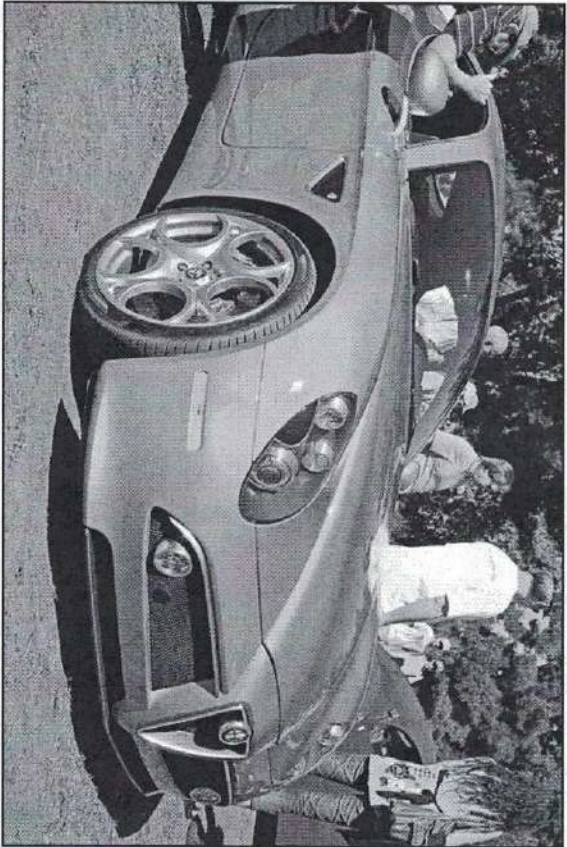
A 1913 Fiat Speedcar.



Jay Leno eyes the Alfas.



An Alfa-Heaby!



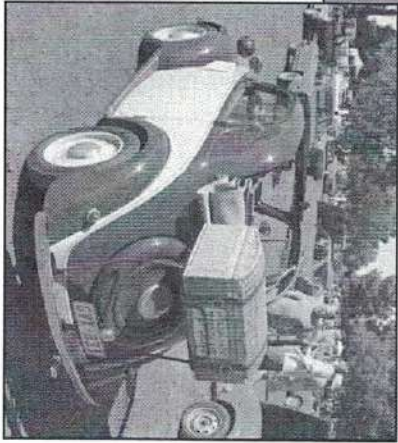
An 8C Competizione was shown, and its alarm kept going off as photographers got too close or stuck their heads in the windows.



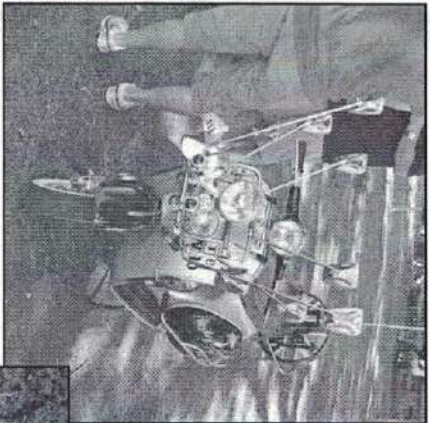
Our hosts, Tina Van Curen and Chuck Forward, ride in their "Frog SUV".



Who says foreign cars don't have enough trunk space?



This Lancia seems to have solved the problem nicely.



You can't have too many mirrors on a scooter!

A Fiat Abarth 500 racer.



Time for our picnic in the park.

Come Enjoy the Great Ocean View !!

Don't Miss the Annual Meeting
and Competition Awards Banquet
Saturday - January 30, 2010; 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 2009.

Raffle Prizes

Italian Buffet
Lasagna Bolognese, Chicken Pomodoro,
Vegetable Tortellini, Shrimp Pasta,
Antipasto, Green Salad, Breads,
Soda, Iced Tea, Lemonade,
--- and 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 family & friends!

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 25th
(310) 542-3448

Alfa Club Holiday Party

Saturday, Dec 12th
Noon - 5:00 pm

Hosted by:

M. J. & Sheila Kutkus

South of Manhattan Beach Blvd and west of Inglewood
Ave in north Redondo.

2304 Curtis Ave → Take the 405 to Inglewood Ave off ramp, south 1 mile to
Curtis Ave, turn right, continue 1/2 mile to 2304. Parking
Redondo Beach, CA allowed only on the south side of the street.

Meet up with old friends, make new friends.

Alfa people are the best in the world!



Holiday Cheer!

Holiday Food

Beef Tenderloin Fillet - On the Spit
Grilled Chicken Romesco
Steamed Salmon Rosemary
Shrimp and Pasta Toss

Wine tasting table,
bring your favorite
wine to share!

Bring your specialty dish,
salad or dessert!

Soft drinks, tea and coffee

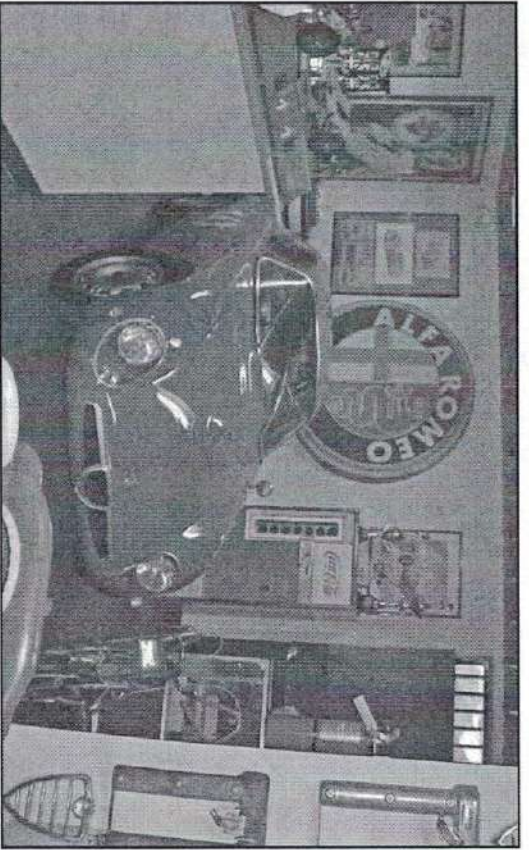
Door Prizes !!

RSVP to Sheila (310) 542-3448

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

See you at the party!!

November Meeting: Election & White Turkey Auction at Dirk's Garage



ATZ tucked into a corner, by the bar.



A row of Fiat Abarths.



Nice Race Cars.



Gene Brown & Norm Silverman helped Charlie Schwartz with the White Turkey auction -- raising much needed \$\$ for the club.

Agricultural Activities at Buttonwillow, October 24-25

By: Mike McKibbin
Photos by Mike McKibbin & Rob
Rhodes

The weather couldn't have been better. The only problem was that a lot of us had a variation of swine flu or something, which certainly interfered with our social activities. Brother Mich said he didn't notice the sickness at all while racing the car, and he was right about that. Didn't think about it at all while I was on the track; felt a bit like a train wreck when I parked after the session, but had a great chiropractor, Joe Cobbs, parked next to me, and he helped remove the sleeves of my drivers suit after I crawled out of the car.

The track was particularly challenging because of the inclusion of the "Bustop"; a right, left, left, right combination which eliminated the back straight and for my Mustang Cobra, meant it wouldn't get out of third gear all weekend.

In his little sidebar, Terry mentions the dust and leaves the rest to the imagination. I won't. Maybe it was the configuration, but people were going off and plowing the fields all

the time. Daughter Andrea was off at Lost Hills, then Magic Mountain (the track photographer's photo series here was spectacular). Me? I was off at least 8 times (including 3 times in one lap during the qualifying race, and twice in the finale), more times than I've been off the track in the last 4 or 5 years.

I didn't feel bad about it (except the blunder trying to re-enter the track after my off at the exit of the last turn during the qualifying race, for which chief instructor, Steve Hamilton, tracked me down and slapped my hand). I thought I pushed the Cobra as far as it would go (considering what it had with the used tires, stock suspension, etc.), and then some, and it was the "then some" that caused problems.

Big Dog, driven this weekend by Mitch (race) and Rob (time trial), as always, had issues. After lunch Saturday, the alternator died, but luck of sorts seemed to be with us since a tiny NAPA store in Shafter (where?) about 14 miles out had one, so Mitch and Rob were off and, about an hour later were back with an alternator which was

almost identical to the old one. Wires were clipped and spliced to make it fit, then IGNITION, and the whole thing caught fire.

Rob, bless him, didn't give up. Wires were respliced, and taped up where burned, and Rob kept working as Steve Hamilton hovered nearby (with the qualifying grid forming and leaving) inquiring, "Are you guys a scratch?"

Not yet. As the field took the green flag and stormed through the first few corners, Big Dog finally fired up and Mitch joined the race from the pits though way at the rear. Also starting from the pits (but right at the green flag) was Bob Poulin's rocket car (I noticed him fly by during the first of my 3 faux pas; I'd been having a wild race with Bruce Colby up to that point).

Carl Fung had to feel good. He led a good portion of that race in his Corvette. He says he was feeling on top of the world until he looked in his mirror and saw Poulin's blue BMW bearing down. Resistance was futile, he finished 2nd, with Bruce third and me (surprising even myself) 4th. If I'm not mistaken, I think the Alfas of Marco Ventura and Jes Thyssen were next, with Mitch mid field

after an early black flag, as his window net wasn't up.

Sunday time trials were run in the new format, twenty minutes sessions. Dennis Fibrow had a heart to heart with Andrea regarding technique (and the need to drink water) and she suddenly cut 8 seconds off her lap time, getting herself an uncontested first and an honorable mention.

Asa Keszek keeps doing better and better and despite feeling half dead most the weekend, Matt Poulin was the fastest time trialer.

The Race. Marco Ventura must have turned on the Nitrous, because he out dragged me from the row behind me at the start, side by side with me through turn 1, and squeezing in front at the Buttonhook. I started accelerating out of the Buttonhook, but Marco saw or did something that warranted a brief tap on his brakes, and my front came as close to his rear as I could possibly get without touching, or so I thought. Turned out it was actually closer. I learned after the race my transponder hadn't worked at all. The next day, we inspected the transponder, and saw it was dangling from the front bumper by a single screw, right next to a small red smudge. Sorry about that, Marco.

Mitch blew by me at Magic Mountain and took off in pursuit of Bob's BMW, but there was no catching it (not at a differential of 3 seconds a lap), so he settled for second, with Carl third, Marco fourth, and Bruce fifth. Dennis Fibrow, our esteemed organizer, back in the car after a lengthy lay off, won class P (although the Majors will tell you their cars were wounded).

Bruce and I renewed our previous days duel, and I probably had him on pure horsepower, then around laps 7 or 8 the tires seemed to be going real fast, I mean really slipping and sliding. Heading into lap 9 (I think) start finish showed me a meatball, and I looked in the rearview and saw a billowing cloud

of smoke obscuring my view of Bruce. I pulled off at the turnout at the Buttonhook, and that was that (hopefully, as it appeared later, just a broken power steering pump which dumped fluid all over the tires and engine).

Seriously, what a great weekend. Big party at the Fibrow's motor home Saturday night. Matt Poulin barbequed cookies; Paul Ellis barbequed apple pie; and enough barbequed meat to warrant health warnings. My wife Gena and dog Meisha came, and that's what it's all about - the people, the friends with racing as the icing on the cake.

It doesn't get any better than that.



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Dan Walker's colorful Grutha.



This scene of the Major's pit could have been taken anytime during the weekend, as this was happening all too often.



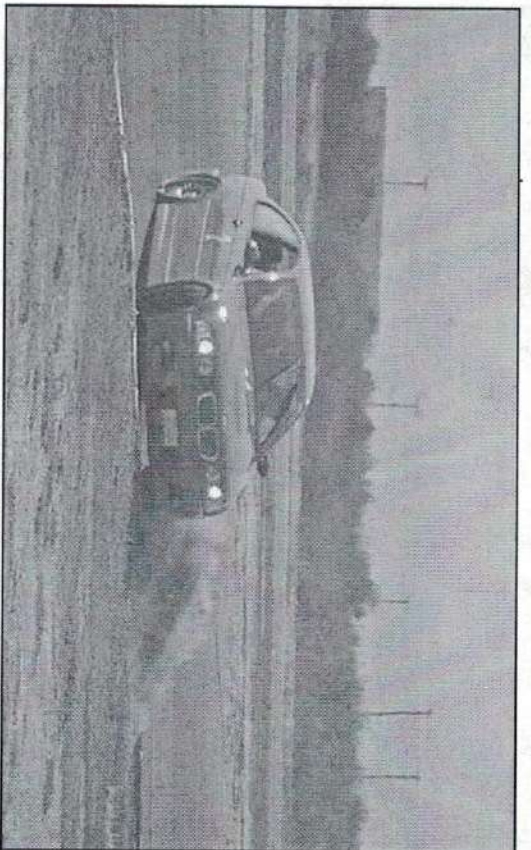
Emilio Valsecchi has a new ride, another VW GTI.



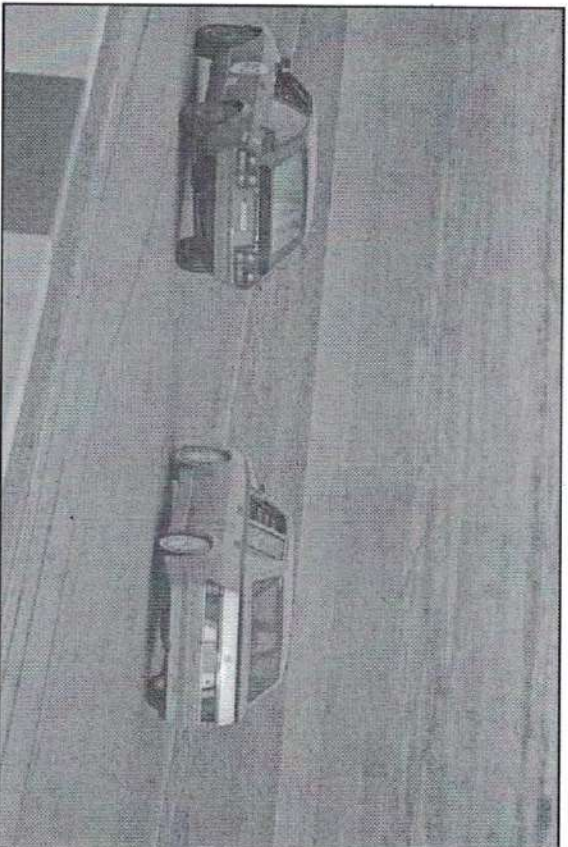
The qualifying race group heads out for the session while Big Dog is under the wrench in upper left.



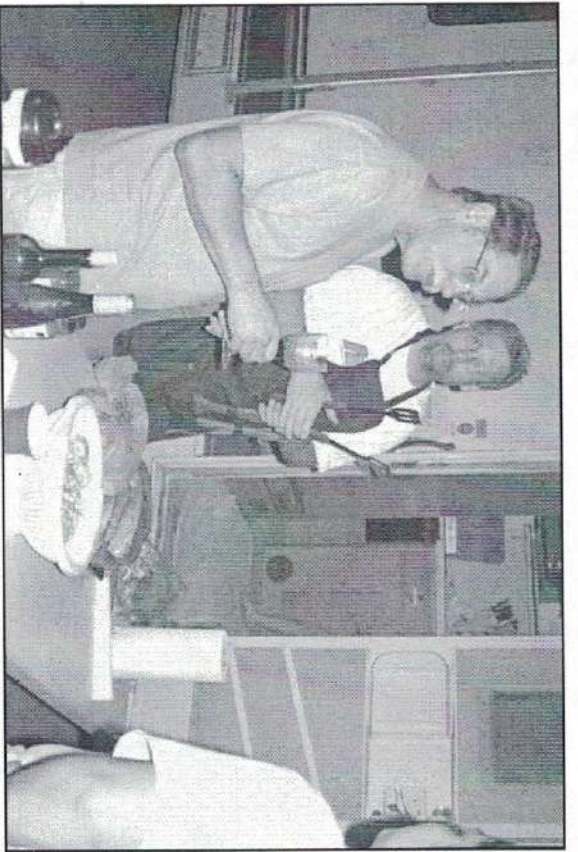
Don Wagner, Mustang, and Scott Miller, Alfa GTV, vie for position.



Kevin Warty's BMW 325 gets crossed up with an instructor aboard!



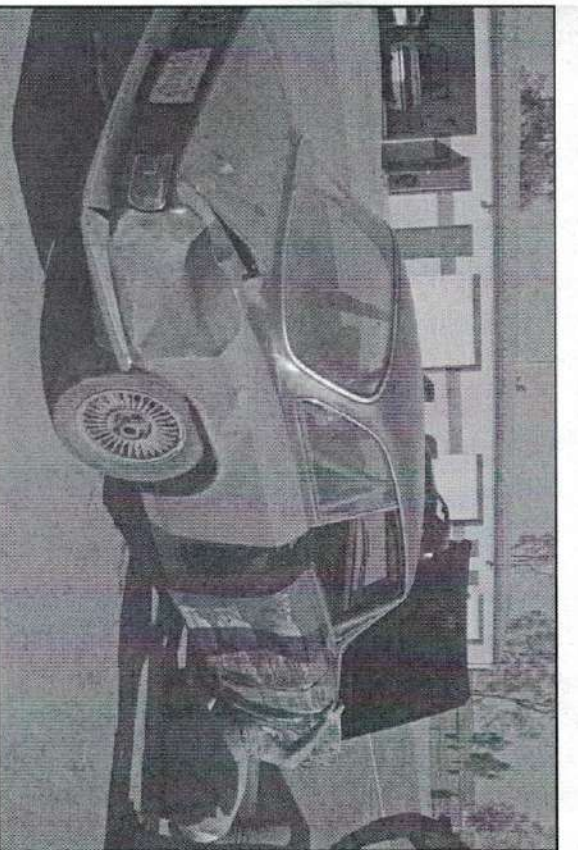
Alfa drivers Marco Ventura and Jes Thyssen have a duel.



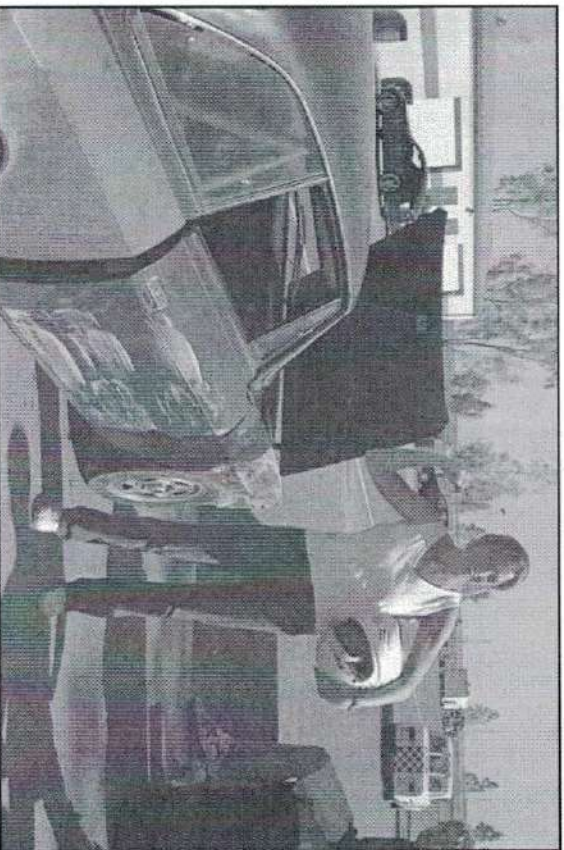
Saturday night supper with the Fibrous, Paul Blankenship assisting.



Art Russell goes plowing in the fields.



Tragedy for Judy Gaukel -- bit by turn 17



Judy puts on a smile -- it's fixable, and she's OK.



Steve Hamilton weight-balances a Datsun Z while Bob Russell looks on.



Despite his off-course excursion in the race, Art Russell got a trophy in the Time Trial. 2nd in class.

View from Turn 3: Sunday's Race at Buttonwillow

By Terry Major

We worked frantically to repair Beverly's #10 severed exhaust 2-into-1 header with beer cans, clamps, safety wire, and a lot of Steve Hamilton's sweat. Multiple people (Beverly, Dennis, Steve, Asa, Todd, & Bruce) ran to fetch parts and tools as the race grid was almost completed. We finished moments later, getting the car on the track to begin a terrific race. Many thanks to all who participated in the repair that allowed more participants to enjoy a fantastic afternoon diving through corners, jumping over berms, and creating more dust than any driver's vision could penetrate. By the way, the dust in Saturday's race would allow a blind man to drive the track as well as any of this weekend's participants.

A special thanks to Steve Hamilton for his expert advice and mechanical aptitude, allowing us to repair "the other thermostat". "You know Steve, the one on the driver's side of the motor". Maybe if we changed the one on the passenger side of the motor the car would not have DNF'd

halfway through the race with a pegged temperature gauge.

The start of this race allowed me to pass three or four cars by going towards turn 1 on the inside, picking off much faster cars due to the congestion from the upcoming turn. The next five laps were spectacular with Don Wagner, Jorge Mazlumian, Art Russell, Terry Watson, Scott Miller, Dennis Fibrow, David Burgoon, Beverly Major, and more.

Terry Watson has a couple of great photos of this start including all of these players after turn 1. I think he likes the fact that he's in front of some of these people in these photos. There were many more ahead of us, but it was hard enough for me to keep track of what was happening in my immediate vicinity. My car didn't agree with having this much fun, as RPM red line turned to temperature gauge red line, ending my race. But not my satisfaction. Saturday's race was just as good, except there I got to finish. Two fantastic days of racing!



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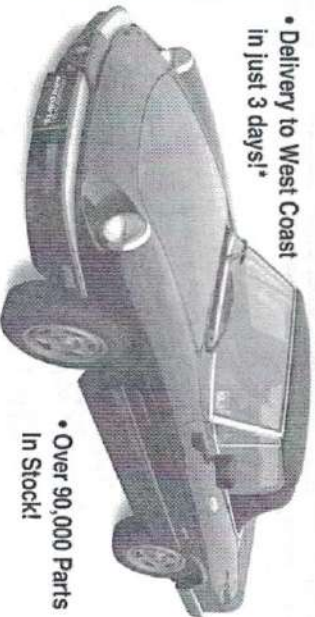
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