

# Alfacionada

JANUARY 2015



Holiday Party Report and Pics pages 18-21  
Chuck and Jan's Excellent Roman Holiday pages 22-25



NEWSLETTER OF THE

*Alfa Romeo*  
Owners of Southern California

# Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California

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## **AROSC Business Address**

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nashwill912@earthlink.net

## **Submissions**

Please send classified ads, articles, letters and photographs to the Newsletter Address above, to arrive no later than the 25th of the month prior to publication.

## **Changes of Address**

To keep your newsletter arriving after a move, please send your change of address information to AROC, P.O. Box 12340, Kansas City, MO 64116-0340.

If you're a nonmember subscriber, or receive the newsletter on a complimentary basis, please send change of address information to the Club Business Address above.

## **About This Newsletter**

*Alfacionada* is the 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 Romeo enthusiasts. Affiliation with AROSC and a subscription to this newsletter are included in your annual \$78 AROC dues. Non-members may subscribe to *Alfacionada* for \$20 per year, and attend meetings and events. See the inside back cover for a membership application form with rates and contact details.

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## **Meeting Information**

General Meetings are held monthly, on a weekend day, at various locations in Southern California. A full listing of activities is on our website, [arosc.org](http://arosc.org); a four-month calendar of events is on the outside back cover of this newsletter, and detailed information is in Previews. Check all three; email any questions to [info@arosc.org](mailto:info@arosc.org), and a Club director will respond.

### **Our Cover This Month**

*Top: Jolly Holiday Party participants take a break from all the fun for the obligatory group photo, this one taken by Ken Sizemore. Bottom: Jan Cline with – YES! Another 4C! This example is one of the Safety Cars from the Super Bike World Championship, on display at a dealership in Rome. Chuck Cline photo.*

# AROSC Board of Directors — 2015

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Your entire Board is available at one point of contact: [info@arosc.org](mailto:info@arosc.org). We welcome and encourage your thoughts and feedback. This central email address will allow us to respond, at home or on the road, through our computers and smart phones. Leave your telephone number and request a call-back if you wish; we will be happy to contact you personally.

Don't forget to check our website: <http://www.arosc.org>

## ***President:***

Mike Riehle & Chris Burke  
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## ***Vice President:***

Norm & Evie Silverman  
[normanev@msn.com](mailto:normanev@msn.com)

## ***Treasurer:***

Jay Mackro  
[treasurer@arosc.org](mailto:treasurer@arosc.org)

***Secretary:*** M.J. & Sheila Kutkus  
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## ***Competition Director:***

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[comp@arosc.org](mailto:comp@arosc.org)

## ***Membership Chair:***

Jim Barrett  
[eddinab@verizon.net](mailto:eddinab@verizon.net)

## ***Member at Large:***

Fabio Trave

## ***Concours Chair:***

Jeff Srinivasan

## ***Newsletter Editors:***

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[eddinab@verizon.net](mailto:eddinab@verizon.net)

Will Owen - 626.345.9659  
[nashwill912@earthlink.net](mailto:nashwill912@earthlink.net)

## **Committees**

***Technical:*** Gene Brown

***Website:*** Bruce Colby, Webmaster

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## Previews ... *What's coming up and when.*

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**January 31** – Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet at Alfredo Garcias in Palos Verdes Estates. See adflyer on page 10.

**February 21-22** – Palm Springs Weekend; lunch with Schwartzes, dinner with McHatties, fine breakfast and visit to the Air Museum.

**February 28** – Driving School, Streets of Willow.

**March 1** – Driving School, Streets of Willow.

**March 22** – Reagan Library tour.

**April 24-26** – Wine Tour.



Note: Board of Directors meetings are generally held on the last Sunday of the month. Anyone with business to bring before the Board is requested to please contact Il Presidente Mike Riehle.



*Your 2015 Board of Directors, from left: Lily Barrett (on leash), Jim Barrett, Elyse Barrett, Jay Mackro, Evelyn Silverman, Fabio Trave, Norm Silverman, Chris Burke, Will Owen, Mike Riehle, M.J. Kutkus, Sheila Kutkus. not present, Jeff Srinivasan. Steve Edelman took the photo.*

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## FROM THE TOP ... *the Word from Il Presidente*

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The First Lady reports that the Holiday Party was excellent (I was home with a winter cold). M.J. and Sheila had 48 RSVPs a few days prior to the event, so about 60 people were there. As always the food was excellent. Word is that M.J., an acknowledged master BBQer, outdid himself by BBQing chicken, beef and salmon. Bob Russell (Art Russell's son who participates in our competition events) drove his shiny red 4C to the party and generously offered rides.

It is traditional for the new Board to meet the day after the party, but I was still home with that cold, and some others could not make it, so our initial meeting was postponed to January 11th, when we sorted out our individual positions and the Club's 2015 calendar.

Your new officers for 2015 are: President, Mike Riehle; Vice President, Norm Silverman; Treasurer, Jay Mackro; Secretary, M.J. Kutkus; Competition Director, Terry Watson; Membership Chair, Jim Barrett; Concours Chair, Jeff Srinivasan; Newsletter Editors, Elyse Barrett and Will Owen. Committee Heads are: Technical, Gene Brown; Website, Bruce Colby.

Chris and I attended the AROC Board Mid-Year Retreat in Palm Desert on January 17th. They sent postcards inviting us all and it sounded like fun. There was a two-hour driving tour, lunch in Idyllwild and a cocktail reception back in Palm Desert. I can't say I knew all of the AROC Board Members, and this was our chance put faces with the names.

On a closely related subject – the AROC Board of Directors election is coming up. Sean Russell of the San Diego Chapter is running for reelection. He works for Kearney Mesa Fiat and has been coming to many of our events for the past several years. I strongly urge you to vote for him. In addition, Lance Dong, also of the San Diego Chapter, has agreed to run and I strongly support him as well. This is our chance to get more West Coast representation. Please vote.

January 31st is the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet at Alfredo Garcias in Palos Verdes (see page 10). The food is great and the bar is right there. It's an excellent opportunity for the competition people and the non-competition people to mingle. If you are only active in one part of the Club, this is your chance to get an idea what you have been missing. This is when we give special recognition to members who participate in both race and concours events and they invariably do well in the year-end point totals. Need I mention that there will be raffle prizes galore?

The year's first Driving School at the Streets of Willow is Saturday and Sunday, February 28th and March 1st. If you have ever wondered what the competition people are so excited about, this is your opportunity to dip your toe in the proverbial water. You will not only learn the difference between fast and REALLY fast, you will also learn how to react when things go wrong. Warning: developing these driving skills can be highly addictive. It can also save your life.

There will be no Desert Classic Concours this year. I am not privy to what happened behind the scenes, but it is interesting that the Concorso Italiano people have also announced that they will not be doing an event in Palm Springs this spring. In their place we are doing our own Palm Springs Weekend – check the Calendar for particulars.

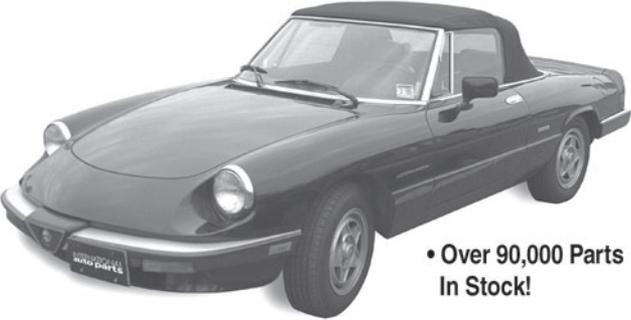
That would be our 2015 Calendar

in the center spread. It is set up to be pulled out and kept nearby. An additional PDF version will be available on the website to download onto your mobile and/or print..

“Remember, if the women don’t find you handsome, they should at least find you handy. And don’t forget the duct tape, the handyman’s secret weapon.”

– Mike and Chris

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# The Tech Guy ... *Pushing Water*

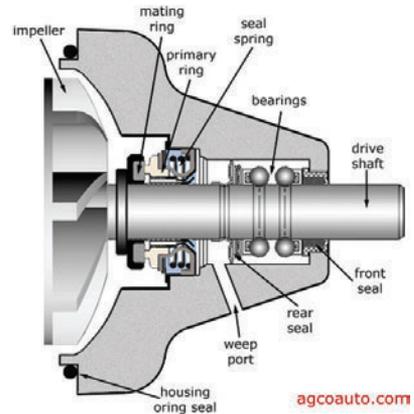
In keeping with my current theme of pumps, this month I will cover the water pump. As you probably know, this is used to circulate water through the engine to facilitate its cooling. But before we get into any details we need to clear up several misconceptions about automotive cooling systems.

While water was used to cool engines for many years, for the last few decades automobiles have used coolant composed of water, rust and corrosion inhibitors, and an anti-freeze solution. So the water pump should be more correctly referred to as a coolant pump. Also, contrary to popular belief, the automobile engine is not water-cooled but air-cooled. The coolant is only a medium to transfer the heat from the engine to the radiator where air flow is used to remove the heat. So the automotive cooling system is actually an “indirect air-cooling system.” But traditions are hard to change, so we still use the terms water-cooled engine and water pump.

To get back to the subject of water pumps: why do engines even need a cooling system? The obvious answer is to handle the heat generated by the engine. Heat is created by two operations, compression and combustion. It should be noted that early water-cooled engines did not always use a water pump, but relied on gravity and thermal convection to circulate the water. However, as engine power increased it was necessary to add a water pump to increase coolant flow to dissipate the additional heat.

Early engines quite often drove the water pump from the crankshaft

through gears. This ensured that the water pump was turning whenever the engine was running, and as the engine speed increased the pump turned faster, circulating more water. The problem with this is that if the water in the engine froze, then starting could cause damage to the gears or the water pump. The engines were later redesigned to use a belt drive for the water pump which allowed the belt to slip and prevented mechanical damage. Today’s coolants with anti-freeze solutions have all but eliminated the formation of ice in the cooling systems.



The most common type of water pump used is the impeller type, although in some cases a gear-type pump, similar to an oil pump, is used. The impeller pump is used because it is inexpensive and can move a lot of coolant.

The water pump is most often composed of a pair of bearings, a seal, the impeller, and a drive pulley with a shaft connecting it to the impeller. Because of the side load placed on the bearings and seal from the drive

belt, eventually the seal will fail. You will most likely notice water leaking from the weep port on the water pump housing. When you see this, it is time to replace the pump. Water pumps usually last a long time, and to prolong their life it is important to properly adjust the drive belt. They can be rebuilt, but the necessary parts can be difficult to find, so today it is easier to replace the pump with a new or rebuilt unit. Some new cars even have an electrically driven water pump. This has the advantage of circulating the coolant even when the engine is off.

The water pump is a simple, reliable part of the automobile engine, necessary for its proper operation and often not even thought about. But like so

many things automotive, if ignored it will let you know just how important it is, usually on the side of the road.

– Gene Brown

*Editor's Note: Gene just returned from a trip to Australia and New Zealand and had these observations on the automotive front from Down Under:*

I did see a number of Alfa Romeos and even rented a Fiat 500 (gutless when driving in the Blue Mountains but a lot of fun on the windy section – if going downhill). Also, in 2017 Holden will cease producing cars in Australia. They will still be selling Holdens, but they will be manufactured at various GM plants around the world.

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# AROSC Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

**Alfredo Garcias** in Palos Verdes Estates  
- same great place, new name

**Saturday – January 31, 2015; Noon – 4:00 pm**



2325 Palos Verdes Dr West,  
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2014 Wrap-Up  
2015 Kick-Off



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Green Salad, Breads,  
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--- and Dessert !!**



Please RSVP to Sheila by Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>  
[Sheila.k@verizon.net](mailto:Sheila.k@verizon.net) or (310) 542-3448

**Directions:** There are many ways to get there, but to finish with a scenic drive, get on Pacific Coast Hwy (CA-1) at the southern border of Redondo Beach, turn south on Palos Verdes Blvd, go 1.4 mi, then slight right onto Palos Verdes Dr West. Go 2.9 mi, destination on the right, after Yarmouth Rd. The restaurant is in the courtyard. Park in the rear structure, take the elevator up, or park along the perimeter of the plaza.



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AROSC Time Trials and High Performance Driver's Ed are conducted at tracks all around California, including Buttonwillow Raceway

## *2015 Schedule*

January 17-18: Willow Springs Raceway – Race & Time Trials, Special  
ALFA ONLY Run Group

February 28-March 1: Streets of Willow – High Performance Driving School

May 2-3: Chuckwalla Raceway – Race & Time Trials

September 19-20: Auto Club Speedway – Race & Time Trials

November 7-8: Streets of Willow – TBD: Race & Time Trials or Driving School

December 5-6: Buttonwillow Raceway – Race & Time Trials

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# AROSC EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

*Pull this out and save it!*

Here is your handy AROSC Annual Pullout Calendar, your reference guide to all of the great activities planned for 2015.

If you receive the print version of *Alfacionada*, simply remove this single-sheet four-page center section and keep it on hand for reference. Electronic subscribers (or any one with Internet access) will find a link on the Club website, [www.arosc.org](http://www.arosc.org), where you may download a two-page

PDF version, print it and/or keep it on your mobile or desktop.

It happens sometimes that an event is canceled or rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. We will e-blast and post that information as soon as possible. There is also room in these margins to write in any changes.

We hope you enjoy and make use of this membership benefit, and look forward to seeing everyone out and about this year!

## JANUARY

**31** – Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, Alfredo Garcias in Palos Verdes Estates. Our annual prizegiving and a splendid Italian buffet!



## FEBRUARY

**21-22** – Palm Springs Weekend; lunch with Schwartzes, dinner with McHatties, fine breakfast and visit to the Air Museum.

**28** – Driving School, Streets of Willow.



## MARCH

1 – Driving School, Streets of Willow.

22 – Reagan Library tour.



## APRIL

24-26 – Wine Tour.



## MAY

2-3 – DE, TT and Race, Chuckwalla.

17 – SoCal Shop Tour – TBD.



## JUNE

28 – Franklin Canyon Reservoir  
Concours, Beverly Hills. AROSC Club  
Concours.



## JULY

**11** – Ventura wineries TBD. The less extensive, less expensive Wine Tour, in our own back yard.



## AUGUST

**2** – Summer Party and General Meeting with the Clines, Fountain Valley.

**12-17** – Monterey Weekend: Monterey Motorsports Reunion, Concorso Italiano, Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, Concours/Tour d'Lemons, auctions, parties, you know the drill ...



## SEPTEMBER

**19-20** – Coronado Speed Festival and Balboa Park Auto Museum.

**19-20** – DE, TT & Race, Fontana infield.



## OCTOBER

**3 or 4** – Tour of private car collection in Los Angeles.

**17 or 18** – Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Fall Engine and Tractor Show, plus a possible brewery visit, Vista.



## NOVEMBER

1 – Best of France & Italy, Woodley Park in Van Nuys.

2 – Election of Club Officers for 2016: look for your ballots and vote!

7-8 – Driving School, Streets of Willow.



## DECEMBER

5-6 – DE, TT and Race, Buttonwillow.

12 – Holiday Party, Redondo Beach. Celebrate the season with friends old and new at this, our cheeriest party of the year.



*After our tour of the Mullin Collection last June, we gathered at the Presidential Palace in Camarillo for a fine outdoor feast. The Club Banner and il Presidente's Spider greeted us at the entrance, just in case we had any doubts about which house it was.*

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**GARY TODISCO**

## *Ring out the Old and Toasting the New at AROSC's Annual Year-End Bash*



*Susan, Lisa, Alan, Jolene, Joyce and Jack at the festive table. Ken Sizemore photo.*

The AROSC's 14th annual Holiday Party at M.J. and Sheila's (aka Alfa Clubhouse) in Redondo Beach had a great turnout of more than 60 happy people. Members from both the Competition and Driver/Social sides of the Club gathered to enjoy each others' company and share in the holiday spirit.

Bob Russell provided a special treat by bringing his Alfa 4C for all to admire. This is the first privately owned 4C to be exhibited at one of our chapter events. Up next for Bob and the 4C is getting to know Willow Springs International Raceway this month at the Club's first 2015 track day. On display alongside the 4C was Art Russell's (Bob's dad) Giulia Spider, best of show in many concours competitions, and Norm Bergman's GTV. The old and the new complemented each other exquisitely in a splendid Alfa trio.

Speaking of the old and the new, it

was wonderful to have members not active for 20 years attend, and to have new faces introduced to the Club at the recent Driving School show up. And, it was great to see members who have moved out of state come back for the Holiday Party.

M.J. and Sheila again hosted the barbecue. Ten pounds of whole beef tenderloin roasted on the spit, six pounds of grilled chicken breasts



*The Bergman GTV anchored the old side of the cool car display. Photo by Steve Edelman.*



*Fred, Tina, Paul and Norm, bench racing probably. Dicie Sizemore photo.*

romesco, and four pounds of steamed salmon rosemary provided a variety of tastes for the main dishes. The side dishes provided by our members and friends (salads, vegetables, casseroles, sushi and a wide variety of desserts) were unique, and prepared with care and skill.

Adding to the enjoyment of the food and the camaraderie were the traditional wine tasting table featuring selections from owner's cellars,

Wine Tour favorites and lucky finds in retail outlets – three cases in all – and the also-traditional door prize presentation What's not to love about this party?

If you missed the 2014 edition, be sure to come next year – same time, same place, for another great party.

– Sheila Kutkus



*Above, Jeff, Jim and Elyse. Photo by M.J. Kutkus. Below, our Door Prize winners happily display their loot. Ken Sizemore photo.*





*Chuck, Sharon, Kurt, and a very jolly Fabio. Dicie Sizemore photo.*



*Sweet birds of youth: Marie, Claudia, and Roger. Ken Sizemore photo.*



*Bob in the 4C. M.J. Kutkus photo.*



*Gorgeous 4C front quarter. Ken Sizemore photo.*



*Reindeer never looked so good on the stylish Emma. Ken Sizemore photo.*



*Marco, Ana, Art, Emma and Jordan out front. Steve Edelman photo.*



*Above, Ken and Dicie, Spider owners and fab photographers! M.J. Kutkus photo. Left, thank you to Sheila and M.J. for hosting another marvelous holiday party! Ken Sizemore photo. Below, Steve Edelman's Party Panorama.*



## *The Clines' Roman Holiday ... Finding Alfas Wherever We Go!*



Jan and I recently travelled to Rome to board a cruise ship that would take us through the Mediterranean and across the Atlantic to Ft. Lauderdale. Since we had never been to Rome, we decided to rent an apartment for a week prior to joining the cruise so that we could check some things off our bucket lists such as the Vatican, Sistine Chapel, Coliseum, Forum and Pompeii. We settled in and learned the ins and outs of public transportation, sourced the best local food and

drink, and kept a lookout for Alfas.

Not far from our apartment we were pleased to find an Alfa dealer, Motor Village Roma. The showroom and garages filled an entire block along our bus route from our apartment to the main train terminal. We spied a mid-'50s Giulietta Sprint on the showroom floor. It appeared to be adorned in racing stripes and numbers and looked intriguing. So the next day we got off the bus at the closest stop and walked to the dealership.





While I admired the Giulietta Sprint, apparently displayed to attract attention to new Giulietta berlinas in the showroom, Jan approached a sales associate to inquire about the price of an Alfa Romeo key fob in a nearby display case. The sales associate, a young lady, spoke very good “Inglese.” We let her know that we are “Alfisti” from California and longtime Alfa owners. She was so impressed that we had stopped to admire the ancient Giulietta and inquire about the new ones, she gave Jan two key fobs and assorted brochures. The young lady translated our conversation for a gentleman who was apparently her boss. He gave us his card with his email address so that we could send him Alfa photos from California. For just having walked in off the street, we were welcomed as part of the tribe. I’m sure that a few dozen photos from Concorso Italiano, The Best of France and Italy and a copy of the *Alfacionada* should be of interest and give him a window our Alfa world.

Oh yes, a 4C was prominently displayed in the showroom decked out in racing colors. It was one of the official safety cars for the Super Bike World Championship (SBK). Alfa has been a primary sponsor since 2007 and has used the MiTo, the new Giulietta and now the 4C as safety cars. This dealership is part of larger network that sells all Fiat/Chrysler products including Abarth, Alfa, Fiat, Jeep and Lancia, except for Ferrari and Maserati. You can visit them at [www.motorvillageroma.it](http://www.motorvillageroma.it)

We spotted other Alfas on the Roman streets, mostly daily driver



*Alfa MiTo on the showroom floor.*



*Alfa billboard ad.*

147s, 159s and 166s, most of which displayed scars – no doubt parking dings. Parking appears to be a true art form in Rome, where cars are literally bumper to bumper, sometimes with no room to walk between. While we



*Ad wall in showroom.*

did not see much in the way of parking on sidewalks, we did see lots of double parking accompanied by lots of honking horns.

While standing just behind the bus driver on our daily ride to the metro station I observed him negotiate a three-lane roundabout, passing from the inner to the outer lane while passing through an arch in an ancient aqueduct, all the while with cars and motor scooters weaving about



*What they sell ...*

around us. A truly astounding display of driving skill! We saw not a single fender-bender. We found that crossing streets on foot was best accomplished by closely shadowing the locals. Thus, we survived to tell the tale of our Roman holiday.

*– Ciao, Chuck and Jan*



*Above, front view of the Alfa 4C Safety Car. Right, Love Italian Style ... what appears to be a pizza Margherita formed into the shape of a heart. Who needs a box of chocolates?*



		
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## Your Next Move?



Alfisti family offers for sale this unique Newport Beach Bluffs home with a spacious six-car attached garage and workshop space on a quiet cul-de-sac! Additional are spectacular Back Bay and sunset views from the front deck, and a great entertainment venue in the rear garden. Featuring an open floor plan with cathedral ceilings and skylights, this light and bright home offers many possibilities. Please contact Leanne Boman at 949.887.9871 or [leanneboman@gmail.com](mailto:leanneboman@gmail.com) (CalBRE #01456237 Berkshire Hathaway California Properties).

# Classified – Cars/Parts For Sale

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## FOR SALE – 1988 ALFA ROMEO SPIDER

**GRADUATE VELOCE** by passionate owner lacking the means to address its mechanical needs. Original paint, tan leather interior in great shape, new tan soft top. Passed smog in 2014; estimated 110K miles (40K on odometer). \$5K or best offer. Contact Kelley Francis through Facebook or email: Connect (@) KelleyFrancis .com



**1969 1750 GT PACKAGE** one owner, \$25,000 FIRM. Car purchased new from Italmotors; was silver metallic. 1750 engine (included) replaced with 2-liter. Many spares including new SPICA pump & injectors, gearbox, differential, etc. Interior original, could use replacing. Clinton at 858.481.7447 or clinton.winant@gmail.com

## FOR SALE – 1988 ALFA ROMEO SPIDER

**VELOCE** Excellent condition. Just over 10K miles. Garage kept. One owner. Comes with hardtop. \$15,000.00. Joe, 760.580.6011 (Poway, CA).



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## Classified (non-commercial) Advertising

Classified ads are published as a free service to the Alfa Romeo community. Suggested length 60 words; include price, location, contact info. Photos must be in-focus, medium-resolution (300ppi) JPEGs. Alfa-related only! Deadline is the 25th of the month prior to publication (e.g., March issue = January 25).

## Commercial Advertising

Please contact the Editor at [info@arosc.org](mailto:info@arosc.org) for a detailed rate card and complete advertising information.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## *Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California*

Don't let a one-year membership in the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California (AROSC) and the Alfa Romeo Owners Club - US (AROC) slip away! Please fill in the information below in this form, clip and mail with your check, payable to Alfa Romeo Owners Club, to Alfa Romeo Owners Club, P.O. Box 12340, Kansas City, MO 64116-3040. You may also join online using your credit card by visiting [www.aroc.org](http://www.aroc.org) or by telephoning 877-399-2762.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ ALFA® OWNED \_\_\_\_\_

AROC MEMBER # (IF APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR NEWSLETTER DELIVERY PREFERENCE: EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### *Affiliations/Subscriptions*

New AROC members, convertible enthusiasts, industry friends and special associates may subscribe to Affiliations for \$20 per year, and attend meetings and events. To become an affiliate/subscriber, or renew your affiliation/subscriptions, send this form with a check payable to AROC to AROC Treasurer, 27152 Pecos Del Edo, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675-4927

*Alfa Romeo Owners  
of Southern California  
20072 Cove Circle  
Huntington Beach, CA 92646-4700*



## **Our 2015 Calendar of Events**

### *January*

31 Annual Meeting and Awards  
Banquet at Alfredo Garcias  
in Palos Verdes Estates.

### *February*

21-22 Palm Springs Weekend;  
lunch with Schwartzes,  
dinner with McHatties, fine  
breakfast and visit to the  
Air Museum.  
28 Driving School, Streets of  
Willow.

### *March*

1 Driving School, Streets of  
Willow.  
22 Reagan Library tour.

### *April*

24-26 Wine Tour.