



The Newsletter of
the Alfa Romeo
Owners of
Southern California



It's Mullin Time this September 17th. A nice drive and post-tour socializing are planned. Details on page 4.



Monterey Moments: Adil Faroqui's 1973 Spider was judged Best Series 2 Spider at Concorso Italiano. See page 13. Photo by Joli Ling-Tsai

Previews

- Sep 9** Zoom Happy Hour
- 10-11** Driving School, Streets of Willow
- 17** Mullin Museum, Oxnard
- Oct 8-9** TT & Race Weekend, Big Willow
- 16** A Mountain Drive
- Nov 6** Best of France & Italy Show, Van Nuys
- 8** Election Day: 2023 Board of Directors
- 20** 2023 Planning Meeting



*Avanti
e Verso
l'Auto!*

**Presidents'
Message**

Fall Flings on Freeways Near Us

The dogs ate my column ... No, not really, although I was looking for excuses for missing production deadlines. Actually there is no reason to procrastinate, with plenty to report, and more to look forward to!

The July Malibu Day Drive was a success as inspired and led by Jeff Srinivasan. We were en route to enthusiastically attend, but encountered a bizarre and completely unlikely surprise in the Milano Verde - apparently some road debris on the northbound 405 freeway was kicked up and punctured the oil filter. This sent a pressurized stream of oil onto the exhaust pipes, and which in turn created a huge cloud of oil smoke. We immediately got off the road and took AAA and Lyft (currently tow truck drivers only carry one passenger because of L.A. County COVID protocols) rides home. I can't reach the oil filter from underneath! What are the odds?

more on **2**

All reports from Monterey Week were positive, and in particular, for Evie's successful Thursday Welcome Dinner, now in its 26th (!) year. Our Chapter had representatives at all the concours, races, new car unveilings and parties. See snapshots on page 13.

And the following weekend in August was the amazing AROSC Summer Party and 60th Birthday Bash, held at the Silverman home in Chatsworth. And what a bash it was!! Not only were there gourmet tacos, quesadillas and all the toppings, but also a Prosecco birthday toast and birthday cake. It wouldn't have been another summer party

without our traditional white elephant/garage clean-out auction. This zesty event was brilliantly led by Jeff Srinivasan, and the results exceeded all totals in recorded history! Most important, The Gas Cap, nicely polished by its previous owner, Jay Mackro, will now reside with John Ireland. An exquisite honor!

In the very near future we will have another quarterly Zoom Happy Hour on Friday, September 9 at 5:00 PM. In the following two days, we will host the AROSC High-Performance Driving School at The Streets of Willow. And, the next Saturday, September 17 (who says AROSC doesn't do stuff?),



we'll have a morning drive to the Mullin Museum in Oxnard for a docented tour.

On the second weekend in October, we will be presenting a Time Trial and Race Weekend on the Big Track at Willow Springs. On the following weekend you have options: we can reprise the Mount Baldy Day Drive of 2018, or if you want to lead a different tour somewhere, send your suggestions by September 10th to info@arosc.org

And, as is the custom, the premier show of the year occurs on the first Sunday of November: the Best of France and Italy, at Woodley Park. AROSC will show up in force, and we will picnic under the trees and our fabulous banner. We will also collaborate with Alfa Italia for a Best Alfa People's Choice award. It is always a great gathering seeing friends, weird French cars (redundant), and shopping at the extensive parts swap meet.

Come drive with us!

-Jim & Elyse Barrett
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Letters

I would have loved to have gone on the July Day Drive, but it was the same day as the Checkered Flag rally! I was hoping for another Malibu drive, and now there is one - to the Mullin. This is calendared, and we (Spider at right) are ready!
All the best,
Kyle L. Breslow



I was surprised to find my GTV-6 on page 19 of the July-August issue, in Join Us at the Track. Thanks! I always enjoy newsletters more when I see me in my car.

Cheers,
John Keane

(Editor: this is a photo from the 2022 AROC National Convention Track Day, June 13th, by CaliPhoto.com. Go see more at their website.)

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GARY TODISCO

Mountains, Museum And More Tour

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH

Join us for our end-of-summer driving tour to visit the Mullin Automotive Museum followed by a get-together in Camarillo.

Our journey begins in Santa Monica at 8:30 a.m. at a beach lifestyle, counter service cafe where you'll have the option to grab a no-host croissant or breakfast if you arrive early.

We will drive up Pacific Coast Highway and head into the scenic, twisting roads of the Santa Monica Mountains, then on to the Mullin Automotive Museum in Oxnard. Those not wishing to participate in the drive can meet the group at the museum at 11:30 a.m.

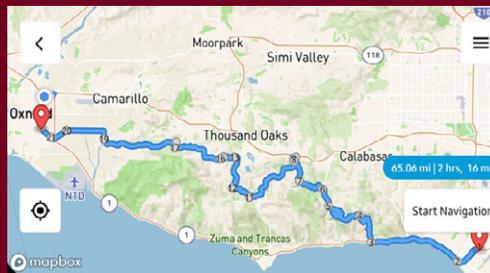
A docent will provide us with a guided tour of Peter Mullin's exquisite collection of French vehicles, art, sculpture, furniture and artifacts. The museum houses the largest private collection of Bugatti automobiles in the world.

After the museum, you are invited to stop by Mike Riehle and Chris Burke's home in Camarillo. Bring your favorite beverage to share, have a glass, yack up a storm and check out Mike's garage. If people are hungry, we will order pizza. Please bring folding chairs in case we run short on seating.

Purchasing Mullin admission tickets in advance is required as capacity could be quite limited due to ongoing COVID restrictions. So go to <https://mullinautomotivemuseum.com/tickets/> and get your tickets early. Tell them you are "with the Alfa Group" and receive a minor discount.

Please RSVP to Steve Edelman by September 3rd at arsq90-arsteve@yahoo.com

Steve Edelman & Mike Riehle



**October 16th or 17th
or Both?
To the Hills!
Fall Day Drive or
Overnight Tour?**

**We can't decide how to spend
the weekend of October 16-17
and need your help.**

Do you want to make a day excursion up into the Angeles National Forest/San Gabriel National Monument to Mt. Baldy (30 mi.), or drive the Rim of the



World Highway from Mormon Rocks (in the Cajon Pass) to Big Bear (100 mi.) and overnight there?

Please provide your input by September 10th, or better, email your Board of Directors at info@arosc.org today!



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Save the Date: November 6th

Best of France & Italy Car Show

*featuring the 2nd annual
Alfa Italia People's Choice Best Alfa Award*

Do not miss the opportunity to attend one of our most-favorite-ever car shows on the planet: the Best of France & Italy, Woodley Park, Van Nuys, November 6th, 9AM - 3PM.

Organized and run for 26+ years by Tina Van Curen and Chick Forward, this celebration of the wild, weird and wonderful cars created by our favorite automakers is a major

highlight of our year.

New in 2021 was the creation of a "Best Alfa Romeo" People's Choice trophy by our friends at Alfa Italia in Burbank, Chuck Schwartz and Art Wright. They are reprising this completely friendly and subjective contest for 2022, and AROSC will help tally the votes. Who knows, your Alfa might be this year's darling!

As in the past, we have a big parking area for our beloved marque and you are encouraged to come early and stay late, bring something to share at our chapter picnic, and enjoy the day.

Registration is open at franceanditaly.com

Sign up now!



Unique Alfas (left) from all over the region show up at Woodley Park in November. At right, Chuck Schwartz presents the 1st Alfa Italia People's Choice trophy to Alex Singer of San Diego for his fabulous dark blue Sprint Speciale.

Malibu Canyons to Zuma

a delightful day drive



With 12 cars (eight of which were Alfas) and 22 drivers/passengers gathered July 10th at the semi-monthly Malibu Cars & Coffee just off Pacific Coast Highway near Pepperdine University in Malibu bluffs Park.

We blended in well with this eclectic gathering of classic, sports and muscle cars and appreciated the variety of eras and design styles represented. By the number of photos that landed on the editor's desk, what might be considered "the



Top: The Riehle Spider is enjoying the photo op stop.
Above: "car of the day" at Malibu Bluffs C&C was this Kaiser.

Continued

car of the day" was a turquoise/white Kaiser in immaculate condition.

Event-runner Jeff Srinivasan conducted a *piloti* meeting and dispensed driving directions, after which this group of AROSC members, family and friends set out on a two-hour romp through the Santa Monica Mountains.

Encountering a mix of cool, overcast skies which gave way to



Top to bottom: Jeff does the driver's meeting. There were a few t-shirts with attitude on view. Unforgettable vistas expanded above marine layer - we could see forever.



Continued



Stop signs and speed bumps attempt to temper our joy. Not!

We loves us some *Alfa Rosso!*



bright sunshine at higher altitudes, this was a drive that will not soon be forgotten.

The route included such iconic Southern California byways as Malibu Canyon Road, Stunt Road, Encinal Canyon Road, Decker Canyon Road and, of course, Mulholland Highway. It also offered two scenic stops (with ocean views), two tunnels and three stop signs that served no other purpose than to slow down the over-enthusiastic driver on one-lane roads (there were a couple of major speed bumps designed to do the same as well).

After all this, the canyon carvers were welcomed to Spruzzo Restaurant on PCH in Zuma Beach

by two more classic Alfas, both 101 series Giulia Spiders, and six more hungry club members.

In all 28 AROSCers enjoyed a delicious Italian lunch on Spruzzo's rooftop terrace (including more views of the Pacific Ocean). The wine flowed cheer was shared, and after a short club meeting to remind everyone about future AROSC events, everyone made their way carefully home with a smile on their faces. The 10 Alfas that got some well-deserved exercise were happy too.

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Our lunch at Spruzzo was fabulous, and the Priebe pup was dressed for the occasion.



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Monterey Moments



Monterey Car Week was back in its overwhelming glory this past August and AROSC hosted the Thursday Welcome Dinner with 29 guests, attended Concorso Italiano, members debuted newly completed restorations and were recognized for Alfa excellence.

Clockwise from top left: Chuck and Jan Cline's gorgeous Sprint Speciale is officially on the road! Mary Ann Dickinson - although we're an additional chapter affiliation for her, we'll claim her as ours for her win of Best Series 3 Spider in the *Sports Car Market Alfa* awards at Concorso Italiano. Ambrosia India Bistro welcomed us on Thursday with AROC president Cindy Banzer as our speaker, and Adil Faroqui's '73 Spider won Best Series 2 Spider at Concorso Italiano.

Good times!

November 8 Election Day for AROSC

It is Board of Directors election time!

Look for your ballot in email on November 8, and please vote! But before this happens, could we add your name to that ballot?

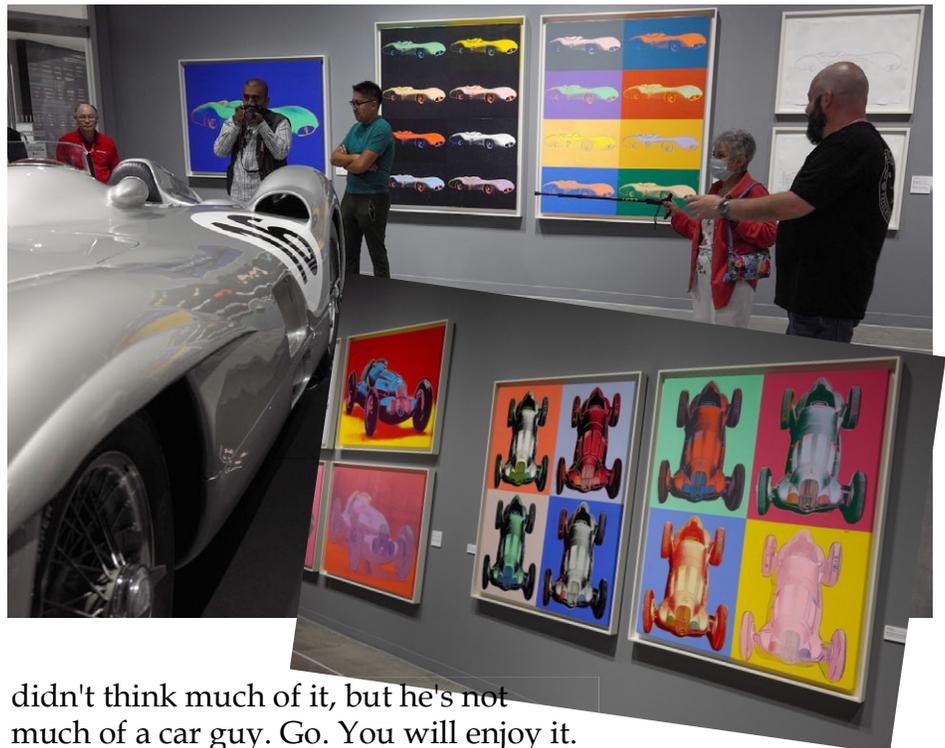
We need ideas and energy to create a fun calendar of events and staff those happenings with enthusiasts! Day drives have proven to be the mainstay (see page 16-17) of our yearly activities. Can we have three people (or three couples) - one each from the north, south and middle of our territory - step up to lead a little exploration of your region? Think about it! You know your backyard best. Share it with the Club!

Email us at info@arosc.org to volunteer or join the Board!

Go See Warhol at The Pete

(Never mind what Christopher Knight wrote.)

The Petersen Automotive Museum has a new display that AROSC members David and Susan Waelder viewed soon after opening. While it is short on Alfas, it is long on color and style. Andy Warhol (although famously a non-driver) was commissioned to do his famous color-block prints of various body shapes. Lots of Mercedes-Benz shapes were involved. The *L.A. Times* art critic



didn't think much of it, but he's not much of a car guy. Go. You will enjoy it.

PREVIEW

60th Summer Birthday Party

It was a typical SFV summer day, hovering around 90F and the shade supply being monitored closely.

Forty+ of us celebrated AROSC's 60th anniversary at this celebration + garage goodies auction at Norm and Evie's home in Chatsworth.

More fun photos will be coming in the November-December issue.



60th Anniversary T-Shirts !

If you missed the 60th Summer Party, you missed the first opportunity to pick up a special AROSC 60th Anniversary T-Shirt!

Produced by our resident professional rag man, Norm Silverman, these quality Gildan 100% "Ultra Cotton" crew neck shirts are a rich red addition to your Alfa wardrobe. You can order yours now for just \$10 + shipping (which depends on where you are). Sizes are S, M, L, XL and 2XL. Email Norm at normanev@msn.com for details.



Mysteries Revealed

The Spring Day Drive showed us local bounty and beauty



The day began with fine hospitality at Alfa Romeo of Irvine (above) where we were able to appreciate the showroom queen a 6C 2500 that later came to the concorso in Coronado at the AROC National Convention. Our route skirted genteel O.C. suburbs and wound through spectacular Silverado and Trabuco oak forests en route our mystery loop in the Cleveland National Forest. Top right: Tree poppies in bloom along Upper West Road.





We pause to take in the chaparral views from the outer edge of Upper Loop Road, then zip down the twisties on the El Cariso side to arrive at Hafey Farms for lunch under the oaks and blooming locust trees (below). Thank you to our excellent host and grill meister, Jon Hafey (far right).



Remembering Mary Blankenship

1944 - 2022



AROSC lost a very dear member and enthusiast this past August – Mary (Weiser) Blankenship. The warm and always-smiling better half of Paul led and supported this chapter in all its endeavors, and served as First Lady for the years that Paul was *il presidente*, including presiding over the 2002 AROC National Convention.

They also established two fine AROSC traditions in the 1990s. One: what we now call the Wine Tour began as the “Day After Thanksgiving Day Wine Tour”. two: the Summer Party, which had a memorable start in August, in the San Fernando Valley. (It was so summery the Board suggested migrating the event to the beach for the next two decades.)

Paul and Mary's first “date” was at Riverside Raceway when Mary showed up at his pit, unannounced, with lunch. After giving Mary a track ride, Paul discovered that she had been there before. Her first husband was a West Coast NASCAR racer.

While choosing a date for their 1995 wedding the Alfa Club calendar was first consulted. “No, we are racing in Vegas in September.” A theme was developing early-on. Mary and Paul were married for 27 years.

In the 1970s and '80s Mary worked at the Nethercutt Collection in the tour/PR department, leading tours and coordinating corporate parties. She then spent 17 years serving in her son's commercial collections business in the legal department. She retired in 2020.

Mary, we will remember you always.

Thank you to our *Alfacionada* contributors, old and new, whose photography helped make this September-October 2022 newsletter come alive: Steve Edelman, CaliPhotography.com, Joli Ling-Tsai, Jim & Elyse Barrett, David Waelder, Jeff Srinivasan, Evelyn Silverman.

The Members' Page

Welcome & Welcome Back

AROSC is pleased and gratified to see our roster continue to grow and become enriched each month with new and returning members!

Please welcome new members, Carlos Brea and Francesco Zenati, and welcome back to returning member, Randy Bent.



New member Jon Ghoddoussi has his gorgeous '74 GTV back on the road, and brought it to the 60th Summer Party. We want to see more of them in months to come!



Kudos to Steve Edelman whose 2022 AROC National Convention concorso photo graces the cover of the September *Alfa Owner*, and to the three rosso Alfas of Steve Cole, Mario Cano and Roberto Quadrelli who alighted together in the *porte cochere* of the convention to become the story's opening spread. *Forza AROSC!*

Join Us at the Track!

Just starting out, experienced or already a racer?

We have a run group for you!

All marques are welcome.

You don't have to drive an Alfa to run with us!



2022 Schedule

Sept 10-11

Streets of Willow
High-Performance
Driving School

Oct 8-9

Big Willow
Time Trial & Race



**Sign up for our track events at
www.alfaclubracing.com or motorsportreg.com**

ABOUT YOUR CLUB

AROSC Business Address

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To continue receiving the AROSC *Alfacionada*, and the monthly national magazine *Alfa Owner*, your new email and street address needs to be provided to both the Chapter and to the national organization. Send your updates to us at info@arosc.org and go to aroc-usa.org and click on Membership to change your national status. If using the United States Postal Service, send your change of address to AROC, P.O. Box 92155, Portland, OR 97292.

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2022 Board of Directors

Your entire Board of Directors is available at one point of contact: info@arosc.org

Leave a detailed message and/or your telephone number and they will be happy to contact you personally.

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Webmaster

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editor@arosc.org

Member at Large

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davidwae@sbcglobal.net
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Committees

Technical: Gene Brown
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Chapter Meeting Information

General Meetings of AROSC are held in conjunction with activities as they take place monthly throughout Southern California.

A full listing of events is posted on our website aroc.org along with a 12-month calendar, which is emailed early each year to members and updated periodically. Email your questions and comments to info@arosc.org and a Chapter Director will respond.

Board of Directors Meetings are held quarterly and all members in good standing are invited to attend and/or bring their business to the attention of *Il Presidenti* via email.

About

Alfacionada

Alfacionada is the publication of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California, a chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club, Inc. (AROC-USA), a national nonprofit association of Alfa Romeo enthusiasts in North America. Joining AROSC includes a subscription to the national magazine and this newsletter - all covered by your annual \$68 AROC dues. Visit aroc-usa.org to join, and select Chapter 20 to affiliate with us, AROSC.

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