



Newsletter of
the Alfa Romeo
Owners of
Southern California



Cheers & Beers – Palos Verdes
to San Pedro. Come drive
with us, January 19th.
Info on page 3.



Los Angeles – Be a part of
this tour to find the good,
the bad and the ugly in L.A.
on February 23rd.
Details on page 4.

Previews

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Cars & Coffee in
Palos Verdes +
Drive to San Pedro

**Feb
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Los Angeles: Good,
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Wine Tour, Santa
Ynez Valley Region

**Please read
The Disclaimer,
page 18.**



*Avanti
e Verso
l'Auto!*

**Presidents'
Message**

Ano Nuevo, Anno Nova, New Year: Ready or Not!

Wow, a New Year already? Too weird – I thought we were still in July, although it's a bit nippy for July.

Well, this new start provides great optimism for all things new and better, right? Maybe our Milano will finally stop leaking oil?

Speaking of leaking, Stellantis, the mother ship of Alfa Romeo, just last month jettisoned the former CEO, and the majority owner (and Fiat heir), John Elkann, took direct charge. There were other big dog movings and removings as well, and the dust still hasn't completely settled. There has been no clear defining of North American Alfa Romeo heads yet, but our Larry Dominique, who we met at the AROC National Convention in Coronado in 2022 is no longer with the company. By the way, I saw that the biggest reason for the CEO ouster was his refusal to continue the Chrysler Hemi V8 in this country.

We hope you enjoyed as much warmth and fun at our Holiday Party last month as we did. Can you believe that it was Shiela and MJ's **24th consecutive hosting**? This year, some sort of Silver Jubilee should be in order.

Not satisfied with one excellent AROSC Board of Directors meeting in November, we had a second meeting at the end of December to further refine our 2025 Events Calendar. You should have received this in a recent email. If not, it is on our website. In addition to our annual and truly fabulous Wine Tour in April, we will be staging Concorso #1 at the Petersen Museum in March, a gimmick rally ("What's a nice

car like you doing in a place like Los Angeles?") in February, and **this month's** Cars and Coffee in Palos Verdes, followed by a drive to a fine brewery for lunch in San Pedro.

And, if you are thinking of attending the AROC Winter Retreat in Palm Springs, please note that registration closes January 17th.

Our chapter is in great shape, and membership continues to increase. Know somebody who should join? Send a note to info@arosc.org, and your amazing Membership Director will encourage a new sign-up!

Looking at the storms and miserable conditions elsewhere (snow, ice, tornados, rain, sleet,



hurricanes, you name it!), we very much appreciate our good fortune to be able to drive our cars year-round. And that's why California (and Arizona) classic cars are still the most sought after in the sportscar marketplace! Who else lives their life with lists besides us? I have a separate clip board with a list for each of our classic cars. Do you? And how are those lists progressing?

Now is the time of the year to finally dig into that nagging problem or maintenance need; and how old are the tires? Do you need to replace the shocks and/or brake fluid? And, how about your trusty battery? At least we don't have to worry about that Prius battery pack replacement at only \$2,000-\$4,000. And your Tesla will set you back \$20,000 to \$28,000 for the same replacement.

We look forward to seeing everyone at every event! And bring your ideas for more cool places to see and routes to get there.

Cheers for 2025,

*Jim & Elyse
Copresidenti*

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January 19th

Cheers & Beers

C&C in Palos Verdes to Brouwerij West in San Pedro



On Sunday January 19th, we will begin the day at an excellent Cars & Coffee held at Golden Cove shopping center (31176 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, 90275). This event runs from 8:30 to 10 AM.

Although billed as a British car gathering, all marques are welcome. Spaces will be reserved for a lineup of our Alfas. There is a Starbucks with a fire pit and great view of the Pacific Ocean and Catalina Island.

Thereafter, we will proceed to the Brouwerij West brewery at (110 E 22nd St, San Pedro, CA 90731), which opens at 10am. Or you can join us there. Behind the brewery is a large arts and crafts center, CRAFTED at the Port of Los Angeles, which opens at 11 AM.

You can enjoy breakfast items at Starbucks. For lunch, the brewery is regularly attended by Shady Grove Food BBQ (visit their website, www.shadygrovefoods.com for the menu). They are usually ready to serve by 11:30 AM. Other food trucks come in about noon.

We will take a circuitous 20-mile route from the Cars & Coffee to the brewery. We will avoid the Portuguese Bend landslide area and get the full benefit of the twisty turns of Palos Verdes Drive East.

Please RSVP and seek clarifications via email at vgdietrich@cox.net. Let us know if you will be driving your Alfa so we can secure space for us to be together at Golden Cove.

– Val Dietrich

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February 23rd**Rome has the Colosseum****Paris has the Eiffel Tower****Los Angeles has****THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY**

Welcome to 21st Century Los Angeles. If ever a city is mercurial, it is the City of the Angels. In the last century, the landmarks have come and gone with amazing speed and frequency. This tour will visit an assortment of both well-known and little-known examples of LA architecture, viewed from the most defining technology that shaped this city: our cars.

Deco, baroque, mid-century modern, kitsch, contemporary, chaos and clutter, we will see it all on this tour. Our path will take



us on narrow twisty lanes, wide and grand boulevards, and everything in between. The only thing we won't do is set a wheel on a freeway. There will even be a few gimmicks, and perhaps a scavenger hunt element.

Sunday, February 23rd is the date ... rain or shine! We will rendezvous at 8 AM at a Burbank landmark, for those who want to have breakfast.

The Tour begins at 9 AM and should end around 3 PM, giving us a chance for a light bite and time to share what we saw, before we head for home. All food is no host.

This isn't a race; it's a fun drive and a chance to show LA our Alfas.

Limited to 25 cars; first-come, first-served. To enter, email John Ireland at jifigcar@sbcglobal.net Put GBU in the subject line.

Looking forward to seeing you.

- John Ireland

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March 29th

Concorso #1

We Return to The Pete!

AROSC's first Concorso of 2025 will be held March 29th at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.

We will again gather on the third floor of parking garage early in the morning, have our judging completed by midday and adjourn to the museum to enjoy the new exhibits. Staying for lunch at the Meyers Manx Cafe is an option.

Concorso classes will be expanded this year to include a Modern Special class, a category that embraces modern Alfas with modifications. See 2024 Awards, page 10 for more competition info.

Joining this concorso both as a spectator and a competitor will be accomplished online via pre-registration using ClubExpress. Look for more information in eblasts and your next *Alfacionada*.

– Jeff Srinivasan and David O'Donoghue, Concorsi Co-Chairs



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An Afternoon Holiday Celebration

The AROSC spirit of Alfa Fun lives on



Our 24th Annual Clubhouse Holiday Party gathering in Redondo Beach was a wonderful success, filled with joy, laughter, and a shared sense of Alfa community.

More than 50 members and guests enjoyed an afternoon of good company,

delicious food, and fine wines, creating a festive atmosphere enjoyed by all.

The live music provided by Pat Quilter and his Hawaiian slide guitar added a warm and relaxing ambiance, perfectly complementing the cheerful holiday spirit.



Top: It was almost wintery this year – we were able to wear our funny sweaters and boots to lunch. How perfect that all the Alfas in the Clubhouse driveway were red. The Kutkuses' tree set a festive tone.



(continued)



L-R: Bruce, Chuck, Steve, Tamika and Jay nibble indoors. Pat has a bite before taking up his slide guitar. Catherine samples MJ's finest grilling.

Our hosts Sheila and MJ welcomed everybody to the party. Copresidenti Jim and Elyse Barrett introduced the 2025 AROSC Board of Directors and provided a preview of scheduled events. The Board awarded Paul Blankenship a Certificate of Appreciation, "In honor of service above and beyond that of regular membership, and perseverance,

good humor and skill in resolving challenges."

Once again, a highlight of this event was the presentation of the Year-End Concorso Awards. Concorsi Co-chairs Jeff Srinivasan and David O'Donoghue awarded trophies in the following categories: Open, Closed and Modern, and they are listed on page 10. This



A great mix of old and new members! Above: Al, Scott, Tammy and Carolyn, and at The Guys' Table: Paul, Mario, Tony, Ian, Terry and Don. At The Long Table: Melinda, Steve, Jeff, Sherie, Karen.



(continued)



recognition is our celebration of outstanding examples of our favorite marque and the exceptional efforts of their owners to maintain

and beautify them, presented with lots of well-deserved applause.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to this wonderful celebration. The pictures tell the story. Here's to more shared successes and happiness in the coming year!

– Sheila and MJ Kutkus



Top Left: David's jacket + Sheila's dress + the giftwrap = a holiday design dream in red and white!

Top Right: We gather for the Year-End Concorso Awards and the door prize extravaganza.

Center Top to Bottom: Xiao takes the mic to call the next number. Margaret unwraps a Trader Joe's gift card. New members Tamika and Steve get into the spirit of this goofy giveaway. David presents a thank-you memento to the *Copresidenti*.

Far Left: Paul describes his certificate in humorous terms. Jim and Ian nod politely.

(continued)

Congratulations to our AROSC 2024 Concorso Winners

Closed Class

David Ballantine, 1979 Alfetta Sedan

Open Class

1. David O'Donoghue, 1984 Spider Veloce
2. Mario Cano, 1988 Spider Veloce

Modern Class

1. Elcid & Susy Aranas, 2023 Giulia Quadrofoglio
2. Robert & Allyson Jackson, 2017 Giulia
3. John Ireland, 2023 Giulia



Left: David Ballantine

Below: David & Roseann O'Donoghue



L-R: Mario Cano, Allyson & Robert Jackson, John Ireland



New Classes and Awards for 2025

Modern (MY 2015 or newer)

Modern Class

Modern Special Class (moderately to heavily modified Modern Alfas)

Classic (MY 2014 or older)

Classic Open Class

Classic Closed Class

Classic Street Class (formerly Daily Driver Class)

Competition Prepared / Race Class (both Modern and Classic model years)

Awards at each Concorso

1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class (depending on number of entries)

People's Choice (all classes plus display-only Alfas eligible)

Best of Show (only Classic Open and Closed Alfas eligible)

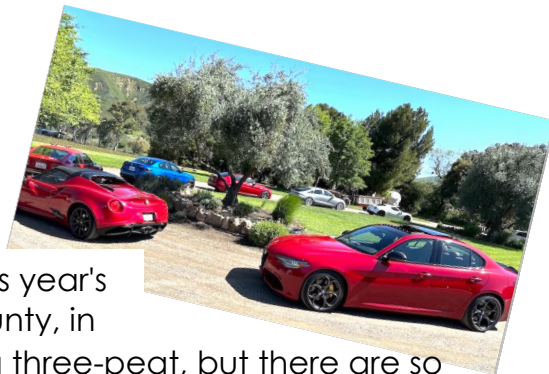
April 11-13**Let's meet again in Santa Ynez Valley for**

Wine Tour '25

Save the weekend of April 11-13 and be ready for this year's voyage of viticultural discovery in Santa Barbara County, in and around Santa Ynez Valley. Yes, we're making it a three-peat, but there are so many quality vintners and so much gorgeous scenery to take in, we need another go in this region.

Our headquarters hotel will be different. Our Saturday night dinner will be very different. The tour format will likely mirror last year's: two groups on two loops. We are still scouting wineries that produce Italian varietals, but this is the home of Central Coast Pinot Noir, so there may be a side focus on this grape!

**Watch your email for updates. Registration will open soon.
Direct your questions to event.questions@arosc.org**



**Registration Closes
January 17th**

You are Cordially Invited to Join Your AROC Board Members
February 1 - 2, 2025

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Best of France & Italy '24

"The Dust Bowl Special"



The 2024 Best of France and Italy Show in Woodley Park, Van Nuys was another one we'll talk about for years to come. This, the year of the dust bowl, joins the year the sprinklers came on and the year of the foot-deep mud puddles. A chilly winter Santana wind howled all morning, setting the dry floor of the Sepulveda Basin free to coat our nicely waxed and recently vacuumed Alfas in dust with every gust. How come our side of the park had less lawn and more patches than

the over 3-liter side of the event? Hmmm?

Regardless, more than 80 Alfas rolled in, directed into a nice arrangement of open, closed, classic and modern models by AROSC volunteers Jeff Srinivasan, David O'Donoghue, Chuck Cline, Paul Blankenship and David Ballantine. Thanks guys!

We again facilitated the Alfa Italia People's Choice Best Alfa balloting and trophy presentation.



L-R: David's flagpole stayed up. Chuck parks Alfas. We'd never seen Pat's perfect Spider with a spec on it, but this day in 2024 was different.

(continued)



New owner Sako and his most able assistant, Valerie, presented the crystal trophy to the elegant gray 1960 Giulietta Sprint Speciale of AROSC's Lee and Tarie Harris (three photos above). Fun fact: All three winners of this friendly competition have been SSeS, two of them AROSC cars. There is something about that '60s swoop and aero styling.

At lunchtime, the winds were still problematic. Many parts of our repast tried to become airborne, and Norm's table of San Carlo Deli goodies was not unwrapped until the last minute. We huddled around our favorite tree and kept the pop-ups and banners in their totes, but the flavors were savored even more in the wild weather. Until next year!



L-R, top-bottom: Lunch huddle. Roberto, driving! Jay Leno poses for happy snappies. Norm is the greeter at the top of the open classics row with the '65 Spider. Bill Johns' 4C looks shiny even after being here all morning.

The Members' Page

Welcome & Welcome Back

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Put your hands together to celebrate the arrival of these new members who joined AROSC in October through late December 2024:

Ian Cartabiano, Mike Comer, Natasha Comer, David Giannandrea, Julian Haywood, Peter Ireland, Will Mueller, James Lyons, Albert Ortiz, Franco Rizzo, Marcia Roffman, Eric Sanchez, Margaret Srinivasan and Perry Tessel.

Plan to come drive with us - soon!



Congratulations to AROSC's Steve Edelman for having another of his excellent photographs become a cover of our national magazine, *Alfa Owner*. This time, November '24. The occasion was Macchinissima II in Los Angeles last August. The subject was member Ken Roath's 1900 CSS Zagato. The event was the second iteration of this all-Italian rolling art show, created and curated by members Mike Baum, Bronson Page and Dorian Valenzuela. A Macchi III is coming. Dates and location will be announced soon.

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Kudos to AROSC's Henry Tucker for being the "Youngtimers" subject in the March/April edition of the Audrain Museum's lifestyle magazine, *Linkage*. This issue focused on Italian marques and with his Milano, Spider and GTV-6 in the background, Henry (36) discussed his affinity for the wild, weird and wonderful among classic Alfas.



ALFAS ABROAD

This is a continuation of the occasional fun-facts and photos series, wherein members share Alfa sightings from their travels.

Here, is a nifty 159 that **Chuck and Jan Cline** came upon during a walking tour of Copenhagen.

Mille Grazie to all our member-contributors, whose stories and images make this January-February edition of *Alfacionada* the most stellar communications vehicle for our Chapter: David Waelder, Jeff Srinivasan, David O'Donoghue, MJ and Sheila Kutkus, Steve Edelman, Paul Blankenship, Val Dietrich, John Ireland, Chuck and Jan Cline.

Classified Ads

Spare 2017-2023 Giulia Wheel

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As the old saying goes, better to have it and not need it, than need it and not have it. This is spare I bought to make me truly run flat safe. It is a lovely smokey gray Alfa alloy. It came mounted on a new/never used Pirelli tire. I kept that for my new spare wheel that matches the four that came with my car. But until I found that, this has ridden in the trunk of my previous and my current Giulias. Never had to put it on the car ... which is the whole point. This will work as a spare for 17-, 18-, and 19-inch Alfa wheels since the circumferences and diameters are when wearing the correct size tires, are within fractions of an inch of each other. \$225. No tax or other stuff.

John Ireland jifigcar@sbcglobal.net / 323.533.6990



For Sale: 1972 Spider hood and trunk lid, Good condition. \$140.00 each. No shipping; pick up in Crestline, California.

Please email Wendell for details wendellcw200@gmail.com

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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 the chapter 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(es) to AROC, P.O. Box 92155, Portland, OR 97292.

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Your entire Board of Directors is available at one point of contact:
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Leave us a detailed message and/or your telephone number and they will contact you personally.

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Chapter Meetings

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

A full listing of events is posted on our website, arosc.org, along with a 12-month calendar, which is also emailed early each year and periodically updated.

Email your concerns and questions about events, policies and procedures to info@arosc.org and a Director will respond.

Board of Directors Meetings are held quarterly on Zoom. All members in good standing are invited to attend. The Board Meeting schedule is noted in the published Calendar of Events. Contact the Board through info@arosc.org to receive a link to the Zoom meeting. Members are also invited to bring their business to the attention to the Board via email via info@arosc.org

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About Your Club

Communications Information

Please Note: AROSC consents to receive communications from you by email to info@arosc.org. Since you are already receiving our newsletters, meeting notices, and ballots by email, we deem that you that you have consented to electronic transmission from AROSC of meeting notices and voter related communications to your email address in AROC's database. You may change this email address by modifying your profile in AROC's records (currently available at <https://arosc-usa.clubexpress.com/>). You may withdraw your consent to receive electronic transmission of meeting notices and voter related communications by sending an email to that effect to info@arosc.org. However, by withdrawing your consent to electronically receive such communications, you will no longer be a voting member of AROSC.

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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