



Newsletter of
the Alfa Romeo
Owners of
Southern California



Concorso #1 – Come to the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, March 29th. Info on page 3.



It's Wine Time – We're continuing our exploration of the Santa Ynez Valley region, April 11th-13th. See what's in store on page 5.

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The Disclaimer,
page 20.



*Avanti
e Verso
l'Auto!*

Presidents'
Message

Are We Springing, Bob? *

Given the recent bizarre weather, we are seeing buds earlier than usual on our avocado trees. They are as confused as the weather gods, apparently, and rain is now headed our way (hopefully!). Whatever our SoCal weather turns out to be, it doesn't include that white stuff on the ground that makes your garage too cold to work on your car (unless you live in Blue Jay). Yes, we are headed to Springtime!

So, how are your winter car projects progressing? Among the Barrett fleet, the '73 Spider needs new shoes and an ignition system re-do; the Milano's front wheel bearing[s] are talking back, and the GTV-6 is getting replacement door handle hardware. Tell us what you are up to and what challenges your classic and 21st Century Alfas are facing.

Outside of the garage, we have monthly events for you and your Alfa to attend, and in some we drive through great places. This is all the better reason to make sure your car is ready to rock and roll! We certainly had

a Grand Tour on John Ireland's Los Angeles: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly Tour. There were so many cultural and historic places to view, from the Stone House to Disney Hall, to a murder scene, and more! He is hinting at a second installment of this adventure in the fall. Yes, please!

As you will read in this issue of *your* newsletter, we have a slate of great upcoming gatherings, drives and opportunities to stand around in parking lots and talk about cars. Check out the Calendar on our website! On the fifth Saturday of this month is our first Concorso and return visit to the Petersen Automotive Museum (info on page 3), followed in April by

our most popular event of the year, Wine Tour! In May we'll embark upon a day drive in the San Gabriel Mountains, fire and flood notwithstanding. In June we'll have our second Concorso in Huntington Beach.

By mention of June, in conversation over lunches and dinners, there has been interest expressed in the AROC Goes to Italy Tour. Several members can recommend it. The 2025 trip is sold out, with a waiting list forming. If you've considered it, get serious because the esteemed organizer, Steve Austin, is eyeing retirement.

This year's AROC National Convention will take place just outside Chicago, September 17th-21st. However, with careful



planning, you could first celebrate Alfa Romeo at the Goodwood Revival near Chichester, England, from September 12-14 (<https://www.goodwood.com/gr/r/event-coverage/goodwood-revival/goodwood-revival-2025-alfa-romeo-celebration/>), and then jet to Chicago for the following week's convention. Right? Registration for the convention will open on April first (no fooling!).

Our club is always looking for new places to visit: do you have a suggestion? If so, please email it to info@arosc.org.

Finally, it is with great sadness we report the passing of Charlie Schwartz, longtime member, former AROSC president and all-around and world-class bon vivant. See page 16 for our tribute.

See you soon!

Jim & Elyse Barrett
Copresedenti

*Homage to Dylan's Nashville Skyline: "Is it rolling Bob?"

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March 29th

*Party at the Pete
like its 2017*

Club Concorso #1 in Los Angeles



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

We have been bringing our Club Concorsi to the Pete every two or three years for many years (see the photo from 2017, above), and we are ready to do it again!

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

Concorso classes have been expanded this year to include a Modern Special class, a new category that embraces modern Alfas with modifications (and remember, both Modern and Modern Special classes are open to Giluias, 4Cs, Stelvios and Tonaies).

Rest assured that the familiar Open and Closed classes for Classic Alfas (2014 and earlier) are still available for those competing for the Best of Show ribbon. And our Daily Driver class has morphed into the Classic Street class, for those 2014 and earlier Alfas that get driven (and may show a bit of patina for it) but have owners who still enjoy showing them off to their fellow club members.

All Alfas, even those brought for display only (an option!), are eligible for the coveted People's Choice award (voted on by everyone in attendance!

Bonus feature of the day: if you participated in the *Irie, Oggi, Domani* photo contest that was part of John Ireland's Los Angeles: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly tour in February, the awards will be presented here.

Joining this concorso both as a spectator and a competitor is accomplished online via pre-registration using ClubExpress using the link below. And if you're interested in further Concorso participation as a Judge-in-Training, please contact Jeff Srinivasan or David O'Donoghue. Sign up now!

– David O'Donoghue and Jeff Srinivasan,
Concorsi Co-Chairs
concorsi.questions@arosc.org



Lee Harris and his 1960 Sprint Speciale:
the 2023 People's Choice, Closed Class
and Best of Show winner.

Use this ClubExpress link to book your attendance and/or enter your car in Club Concorso #1:
https://aroc-usa.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=677320&item_id=2463439

Concorsi FYI**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)

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April 11th-13th

It's time to get sideways ...

2025 AROSC Wine Tour



It's Wine Tour Time again, April 11th - 13th in Santa Ynez Valley.

At this writing, there are just two rooms left, and our room block will be released on March 11. You must be an AROSC member and register through ClubExpress at aroc-usa.org. Act now if you want to attend.

Our weekend kicks off with a Friday welcome reception pizza + salad dinner in our headquarters hotel, the historic Sideways Inn (no-host bar/personal alcohol not allowed). On Saturday, we'll taste at two wineries, enjoy a BYO alfresco picnic lunch in a leafy park, and reconvene for a Santa Maria BBQ dinner at Mendenhall's Museum of Gasoline Pumps & Petroliana. We are welcome to bring our own wine from the day's tastings (no corkage fee).

You are on your own for breakfast on Saturday. On Sunday morning, we'll gather

informally at Ellen's Danish Pancake House to say, "Happy trails!"

Your \$100 registration fee includes Friday's welcome reception diner, park entry, and admission to and dinner at the Mendenhall.

To book your room, call the Sideways Inn at 805-688-8488 and ask for the "AROSC ROOM BLOCK" to get our special group rate (\$195/night + tax).

You will receive a detailed itinerary by email as the big weekend approaches. Driving instructions will be distributed in Saturday morning's drivers' meeting

Send questions, comments and concerns to event.questions@arosc.org

- Paul, Elyse and Jim





Alfas need to be driven! Mark your calendar and plan on giving your car the exercise it deserves during our 2025 Spring Driving Tour on Sunday, May 18th.

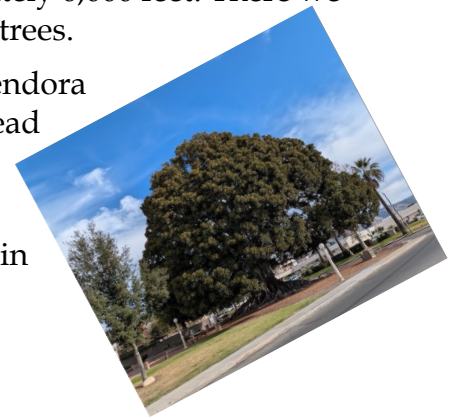
We will gather at a counter service Route 66 diner where those arriving early will have the option of getting breakfast (no-host).

Our drive will take us past a landmark "Big Tree" planted in the 1880s and up the twisty roads of the San Gabriel Mountains to an elevation of approximately 6,000 feet. There we will take a break to enjoy the fresh mountain air among the pine trees.

The decent down the hill will lead us to our lunch stop at the Glendora Public Market, a food hall inside a repurposed 1940s Wonder Bread location with a variety of counter service food vendors (no-host) representing a variety of cultures.

Look for further information and instructions on how to sign up in the next newsletter and a future eblast.

– Steve Edelman



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Starting the Year off Right

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Local Twisties +
Lunch in the
Port of L.A. =
Happy *Alfisti***



We began the fun on January 19th with a cars and coffee event at Golden Cove on Palos Verdes Peninsula. Attendance was on the light side with about 10 cars and 16 members. But a variety of Alfas showed up, from a vintage Giulia Super to a modern Giulia Quadrifoglio, along with spiders, a GTV and GTV-6. Dan Ritter brought his recently restored Lancia Flavia – what a beauty! A gorgeous Touring-bodied Lancia Flaminia also joined the lineup.

It was fun to get to know our newest members, Dan Iorgulescu and Katheryn Clark in their handsome family project GTV (who joined immediately after this



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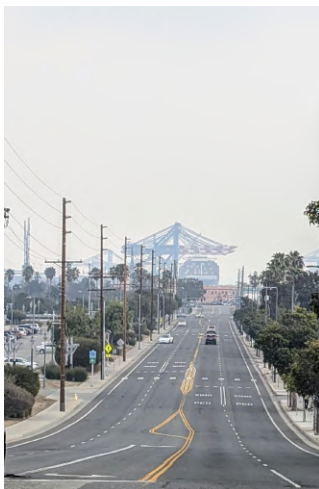
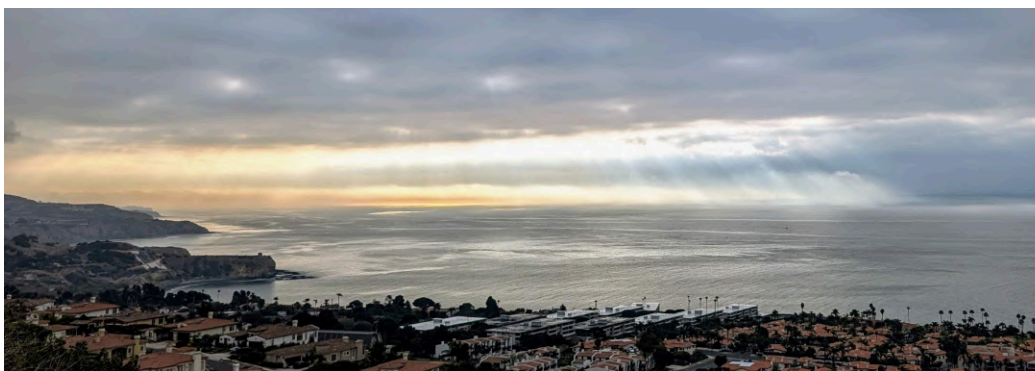


Previous page: The C & C is primarily a British car meet, but they generously let us mingle with the MGs, Morris woodies and Jaguars. Other fun vehicles included an Amphicar and a Datsun 510 Special. Our group looked very respectable. Val leads the drivers' meeting, and we are off, on the road to 'Pedro.

drive), and Ian Cartabiano in the awesome orange Montreal (who joined in November right after the Best of France & Italy). Their cars drew plenty of attention and they made it through to the next parking place in 'Pedro.

We took a circuitous route from the Cars & Coffee to Brouwerij West (pronounced "brewery") in San Pedro. This avoided the Portuguese Bend landslide area (except for one Spider with lowered suspension

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Clockwise from top: San Pedro Channel. Art car at CRAFTED. Under the hood of the GTV. 22nd Street, on approach. The lineup at Brouwerij West.



that followed their WAZE directions) and provided the full benefit of the twisty turns of Palos Verdes Drive East (except for those of us who got stuck behind an Amazon truck that never turned off to make a delivery).

The brewery offered excellent Belgian beers. There was also a good BBQ offering from a food truck. And several of us enjoyed the adjacent arts and crafts center – CRAFTED at the Port of Los Angeles

Thank you, everyone for coming out to get our year started right.

– Val Dietrich

We DO Love L.A.

Irie, Oggi, Domani



A colorful group of 17 classic and new Alfa Romeos plus their drivers and navigators came together on February 23rd for The Good, The Bad and The Ugly in Los Angeles Tour featuring a Yesterday (*Irie*), Today (*Oggi*) and Tomorrow (*Domani*) photo contest overlay. In addition to Los Angeles locals, participants came from all quadrants of AROSC territory: Riverside, Ventura, Orange and San Diego counties. Proof

that we can truly say:
"We are SoCal."

Our rallymaster and tour writer, John Ireland, shares this take on his creation: There was a tide time spread in how long it took people to do the tour ... between three and four hours. Some people got lost because they misread the instructions, such as making "hard right turn", or "then make an immediate right turn on Chandler." Also, an



Top: we saw it all, from Disney Hall to the best hand car wash in town.

Clockwise from left: Bob's in Toluca Lake was our meet-up spot. John conducts the drivers' meeting. Three gracefully aging Alfas of two decades: '60s and '80s, await a fun day in L.A.



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Clockwise from top left: The Pavia GTV and Guzin 4C start their adventure. On the Valley side of the Hollywood Hills, Don stops his Stelvio to photograph artful tilework, and Val poses the 2000 Touring at the Reginald Close house, all built with L.A. River rock. The Leibow SS and the lovely white Duetto grouped up with the Barrett GTV-6 on the way west through Burbank.

unexpected movie shoot in downtown caused an impromptu detour for a few blocks and everyone was on their own as to how they addressed it.

The “architecture” was rarely about well-known buildings and name designers, but rather about neighborhoods and how they have evolved over the years. Bursts of color and style pop up in otherwise sedate

streets. The almost handmade home of Reginald Close, or the group of homes built by a Norwegian ship builder, etc. Because of traffic we had to miss the best view of the Griffith Park Observatory.

I think everyone found the restaurant at the end was worth it. Some people, fearing they'd miss the gathering at the restaurant, cut short the West Hollywood section.

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Clockwise from top left: Yes, we had landmarks too – historic Olvera Street, crazy Capitol Records, Oscar night corner, and the Biltmore. Then, one last parking lot chat after lunch.



Unfortunately they missed an important part of seeing a time capsule little building that was the true center of a neighborhood. Maybe they'll go back someday and drive that leg.

So far no one has submitted photo entries into the “Good, Bad, Ugly/Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow Tour Photo Contest.” If anyone is planning to, now is the time to get them in.

Obviously, I only scratched the surface of Los Angeles. But the member participation has encouraged me to do a sequel tour, maybe in the fall ... with totally different parts of L.A. Stay tuned.

– John Ireland

P.S. Bob Schmitt shot an early-morning video of our assembly at Bob’s Big Boy. Check it out at <http://www.carlibrary.org/ItalianCars.mp4>



Club Concorso #2

**Registration is
open for the
summer classic.
Join us!**

For Concorso #2 we return the Huntington Beach Concours for our traditional "show-within-a-show" event on Sunday, June 8th. And your Concorso Co-Directors are happy to report that on-line registration is open at hbconcours.org. And please note that AROSC members should sign up for Sunday's show (not Saturday).

Folks have three classes to pick from and should do so as follows:

- 06A Alfa Romeo Open => AROSC's Classic Open cars and Classic Street cars with removable tops
- 06B Alfa Romeo Closed => AROSC's Classic Closed cars and Classic Street (old Daily Driver) cars with hard tops
- 06C Alfa Romeo Sedan => All AROSC Modern (2015 and beyond) cars, including modified Modern cars (our new Modern Special class); this includes 4Cs (coupes and spiders) and Stelvio/Tonale SUVs

Further, entrants can pick from sub-classes Concours, Street/Race, or Display Only. If you want to be judged, pick Concours or Street/Race according the guidance below:

If you have a Classic Alfa (2014 model year or older) picking Concours is like picking Classic Open or Closed; if you are a Classic Street car (old Daily Driver), pick Street/Race; if you are Race or Competition Prepared car, also pick Street/Race.

If you have a Modern Class car (2015 model year and newer), pick Concours; if you have a Modern Special car (i.e., moderate to highly modified Modern car) then pick Street/Race.

And if you simply want to bring your Alfa of any model year to display on the grass and not be judged, pick Display Only.

After you register on-line at hbconcours.org, please contact David and Jeff so they can review the classes and sub-classes that you selected.

Contact David O'Donoghue and Jeff Srinivasan, AROSC Concorso Co-Chairs bomberodavid@aol.com (David) and rogueman1@mac.com (Jeff) with your questions, comments and concerns. See a description of our chapter's concours classes in "Concorsi FYI" on page 4.

The Members' Page

Welcome & Welcome Back

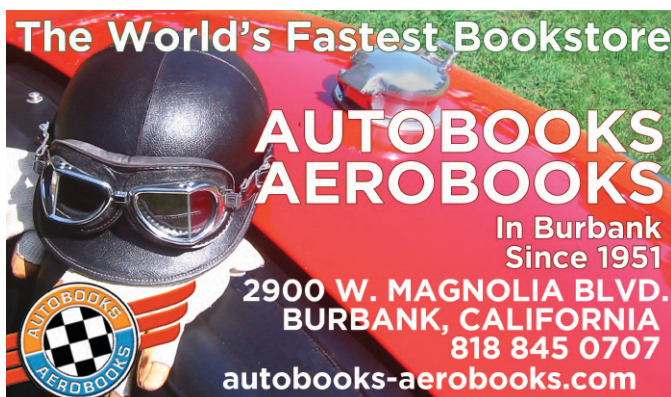
Pre-Spring Greetings, Everyone!

Please join your Board of Directors in applauding the good taste of these Alfa Romeo who joined AROSC between late December 2024 and January 2025: Michael Bozarth, Angel Cervantes, Katheryn Clark, Dan Iorgulescu, Onorio Marsella and Lance Nolder.

Plan to come drive with us - soon!



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Charles Schwartz: A Remembrance

By David Waelder



David: A wall! You want us to build a wall in our basement?

Charlie: With a door.

David: A door! Are you nuts?

Charlie: Well, we can't have clients wandering about in your laundry area.

Charlie and I had formed a partnership to seek commercial film projects after we completed our schooling together. We called the new enterprise BlackForest Films, an amalgam of our names (Schwartz-Wälder). We pooled our resources to buy a KEM flatbed editing machine, a hot item in 1972. Our plan was to use it on our own projects and to rent the editing room during downtime. We did build that wall in the basement of my town house along with a door, and carpeting, and a suspended ceiling! The cutting room worked out fine, and I even rented the space a few times, but KEM wasn't able to deliver a working machine, and our plans of commercial success never materialized.

But it was a chance for Charlie to stretch his design and construction muscles. Throughout his life, he regularly made ambitious plans to modify or

expand his homes. He was going to fill the basement of his house in Bedford with rocks to store solar heat through an elaborate network of plumbing. His move to California scrubbed that plan but he did build an extension to his garage at the Valley Village house to function as an office. And he designed and built a new wing with a water feature and multi-level decks. He had a very inventive mind and the skills to do much of the carpentry himself.

The house in Joshua Tree is Charlie's crowning achievement. (A guest house/studio is presently under construction so the final chapter may be yet unwritten.) He designed the house from the foundation up and closely supervised every construction detail. It largely follows a mid-century modern style but incorporates several elements for energy efficiency and integrated windbreaks that are uniquely his.

Charlie was an enthusiastic chef. On one memorable occasion we waited four hours for the coq au vin to be prepared and every minute was well spent. Subsequently he and Bonnie took a class at the Cordon Bleu in Paris and the duck

(continued)



confit became even better. They were always willing to share their love of good food and dry martinis. For years we've kept gin chilled for his visits.

While not deeply religious, he was a traditionalist and often hosted Passover Seders that were a hoot. His readings of the Haggadah invariably referenced his uncle Dom (who was dumb). I'm not certain there ever was a genuine Uncle Dom; he may have been an apocryphal character like Donald Duck's nephew Frooie.

Shana (daughter): There is no Frooie!
 Charlie: Of course there is - Huey, Duey, Luey and Frooie.

He was an uncommonly talented polymath and a good, good friend. I like to think that I led Charlie into a love and appreciation of sports cars. He acquired his first Alfa, an S2 Spider, shortly after driving my MGB-GT. My work commitments necessitated a car that could transport equipment, so years passed before I could join him in his enthusiasm for everything Alfa. But he brought us

into the club early on. We drove a re-badged BMW on the Wine Tour in 2000, and later we teamed up to win a time-speed-distance rally in 2005. When I got my own Spider, he and Bonnie gifted me the "Alfa Romeo Owner's Bible" by Pat Braden. And they brought us to the next Alfa Club event, the AROSC Holiday Party hosted by MJ and Sheila Kutkus. We subsequently joined and had even more experiences to share.

(With tears in my eyes) And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

Editor's Note: Charlie passed away on February 13, 2025 after a short illness. He and Bonnie are 47-year AROC members. He served as AROSC president in 1996 and 1998-99. Charlie named the 2002 AROC National Convention run by our chapter, "Alfiesta", and ran the event's "Palms to Pines" convention day drives. For 10 years afterward, P2P was our Spring Driving Tour theme. After moving from Los Angeles to Palm Springs he and Bonnie became members of DesertALFAs, where he was the chapter secretary. A memorial is planned for a future date, meanwhile there is photo album is available at <https://davidprodrec.smugmug.com/Charlie-Schwartz/n-wjkHrN>

Mille Grazie to all our member-contributors, whose stories and images make this March-April edition of *Alfacionada* a most entertaining and effective communications vehicle for our Chapter: David Waelder, Jeff Srinivasan, David O'Donoghue, Larry Guzin, Steve Edelman, Paul Blankenship, Val Dietrich, John Ireland, Bob Schmitt, Scott Leibow.

Classified Ads

**Spare
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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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Changes of Address

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.

If you are receiving this newsletter on a complimentary basis, email your change of address to the Newsletter Address or the Club Business Address.

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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, aroc.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.

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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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