



Newsletter of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California



Concorso Season
opens in a garden in
Corona del Mar. Enter
or spectate.
Details on page 3.



Country roads and
fine wines await in
Paso Robles.
Info on page 4.

Previews

- Mar 29** Club Concorso #1, Sherman Library & Gardens, Corona del Mar
- Apr 10-12** Wine Tour, Paso Robles
- May 3** Los Angeles: The Old Road
- Jun 7** Club Concorso #2, Huntington Central Park

Please read
The Disclaimer,
page 23.



Avanti e Verso l'Auto!

Presidents' Message

Spring is in the Ear

On the last Saturday of February, we enjoyed another rousing AROSC drive and lunch, preceded by the amazing (and huge) Manhattan Beach Cars and Coffee at The Point. What a pleasant shock to us O.C. car show fiends! The theme appeared to be a somewhat organized-by-category "something for everyone", from a Pinzgauer to two Porsche Carrera GTs, an exquisite pre-war Delahaye, a BMW 507 cabriolet, a Cord next to Crosley, muscle cars and Ferraris, and 20+ Alfa Romeos.

Every one of these cars (and a Peterbilt tractor) made their own signature sound while in motion. Naturally, the sweet notes from our Alfa four, six and eight-cylinder beauties provided glorious soundtracks to our tour around and over Palos Verdes. It is a long-held belief that our cars make their own best music when heard on board, proving that music sound systems aren't a necessity.

What do you listen for while driving your Alfa? Of course we don't want

to hear surprise noises that suggest trouble, but what else do you hear? Can you tell the induction sounds from your carburetors or fuel injection? And how about the exhaust notes; are they a bit too much or not enough?

Our Milano came with an after-market exhaust that was just right – a lovely rumble at startup and sang as the revs increased. Unfortunately, when the rear axle separated from the transmission while driving on the 605 Freeway, the spinning flange cut through the pipe. It was replaced with a new original exhaust. What a letdown! The new unit is nice enough, but seems to be about 20 percent quieter.

Other sounds may include squeaky brakes while cold, and the occasional rattle that can lead to insanity until fixed (ask me how I know: it was the top nut on a rear shock absorber).

Does your transaxle car have the driveshaft rattle that suggests it needs new giubos? Can you hear the limited slip differential clunk making sharp slow-speed turns? Better yet, how do you enjoy the perfect high rpm notes that our cars are famous for? These melodies are classical music indeed, and for which Italy is already famous, right?

It is nice that the engineers at Alfa made the sounds of our cars naturally pleasurable. If you want to experience that fun



to an extreme, drive a Giulia or Stelvio Quadrifoglio, and stab the go pedal when it's appropriate. It is a true "value-added" option, and you can't keep from giggling! On the other hand, imagine the burden of riding a Ducati around town when unknowing pedestrians think the valves need adjustment! Can't the owner afford a valve adjustment? Sheesh!

Your Alfa Club chapter has plenty of upcoming events to appreciate the sweet sounds of your ride. In addition to our first Concorso on March 29th, you will have plenty of quality listening time on your drive to Paso Robles, April 10th-12th. It is almost 250 miles from our home, providing plenty of time for auditory appreciation. Did you know the expected fuel mileage for a new 1989 Milano Verde originally was 16-20 mpg?

We look forward to seeing you soon, and hope you are having as much Alfa fun as we are!

Ciao for now!

*– Jim & Elyse Barrett
Copresidenti*

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March 28th
*Sherman Library &
Gardens*

Club Concorso #1

AROSC's 2026 Concorso No. 1 will get underway at 8:00 AM Sunday March 29th at the beautiful Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona del Mar.

Sherman Library, in the heart of the So Cal Riviera, features fantastic botanical displays, charming patios, tiled fountains, and sculptures set amid early Californian architecture.

In addition to spotlighting our beautiful Alfas, Sherman Library makes an outstanding date spot and is sure to be popular with the whole family. There are numerous restaurants in all price ranges within walking distance.

Concorso Classes

Display

Any Alfa, displayed, but not judged

Judged

2014 and Earlier Alfa Romeos: Open - Tops come off or fold; Closed - Alfas with fixed tops;

Street - Alfas with flaws that make them uncompetitive against Open or Closed Alfas

2015 and Later Alfa Romeos: Modern - Any stock Alfa; Modern Special - Alfas with non-stock modifications; Competition/Race Prepared - Any Alfa set up for track or rally driving

Sign up now through ClubExpress on the AROC-USA website. Here is a link [AROSC \(SoCal\) - Club Concorso #1 - Events - Alfa Romeo Owners Club USA](https://arosc-usa.com/Events/Alfa%20Romeo%20Owners%20Club%20USA/Concorso%20#1). Registration closes at noon on Wednesday, March 25th.

Pick a class, get signed up, and start polishing those lugnuts!

– Jeff Srinivasan & David O'Donoghue
AROSC Concorso Co-chairs

Email us at concorsi.questions@arosc.org with your questions.

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April 10th – 12th

It's Wine Tour Time



Your AROSC 2026 wine tasting weekend takes us to Paso Robles' Adelaida District, among the rolling hills, under old California oaks, and, due to all the rain this year, beside a babbling brook or two.

The dates are Friday to Sunday, April 10th to 12th.

We have taken over a traditional motor court-style motel in town and Wine Tour Fun 2026 starts with a Friday evening potluck Welcome Reception at the motel. Plan to take a

vacation or personal time-off-day, and enjoy the drive up the 101 or the I-5 to arrive before sunset.

The itinerary includes a Saturday Morning Drive, a BYO Picnic Lunch at a specific winery; and a Saturday Evening Dinner in downtown Paso.

Registration in ClubExpress is required, and there is a \$25 fee, which covers your lunchtime wine tasting and a lovely picnic venue.

We need to know who is coming, what car you will

be driving, how many in your party and what parts of the weekend you will be participating in.

Once you've registered through ClubExpress, you will receive an email with motel registration information and a preliminary itinerary. Sorry, no pets and no onsite vehicle charging stations.

The last day register & book rooms is March 15th.

Email us your questions to event.questions@arosc.org

– Your WTF26 Team

Registration closes March 15th. Sign up online through ClubExpress to receive motel booking information and a preliminary itinerary.

Act now. This event will sell out.

May 3rd

Get Ready to Ride “The Old Road”

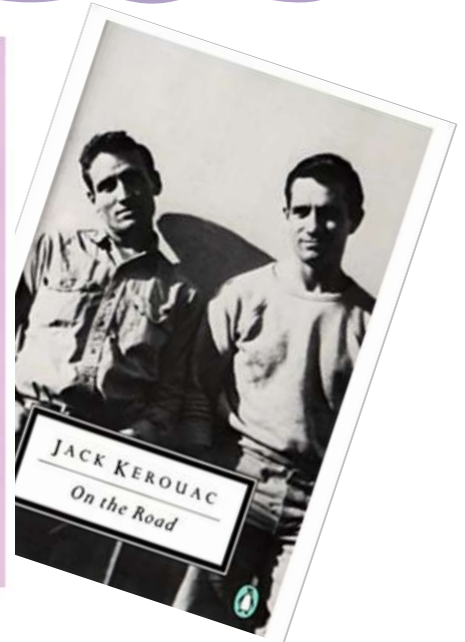
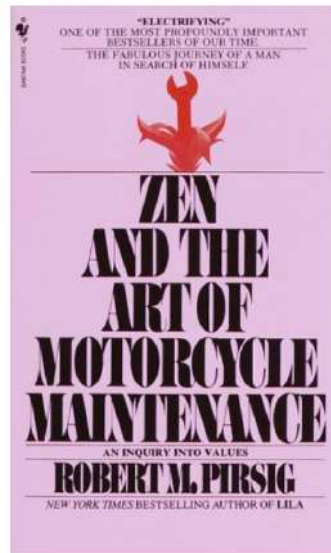
John Ireland's Los Angeles opens up for us again

It's Jack Kerouac's “On the Road,” meets Robert Pirsig's “Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.” Dust off your bell bottoms and sandals, break out your Beatles eight-tracks or cassettes, (burning your bras is optional), and wrap yourself in hippie beads. We are taking that two lane black top that leads back to the 1960s and '70s.

May 3rd will be our fourth Urban Tour, and this time it is all for the cars. An endless ribbon of entertaining twists and turns and sweepers and straights and wonderful scenery, all hiding inside Los Angeles city limits.

You won't have to get up too early, and you won't get home too late. We'll meet at 9:30 am, (or a little earlier if you want some coffee) and we'll hit the road at 10 am. They'll be spots along the way to take pictures, make a pit stops, meet an assortment of petrol gypsies, rebels, nomads, rich guys, poor boys, and maybe even see a bear or two.

At the end of the road there will a chance to gather and renew our Italian roots with garlic and olive oil



and pasta ... and still get home at a decent hour, avoiding that weekend traffic as much as possible.

Sturdy Alfas are recommended. Delicate or fragile examples may want to sit this one out.

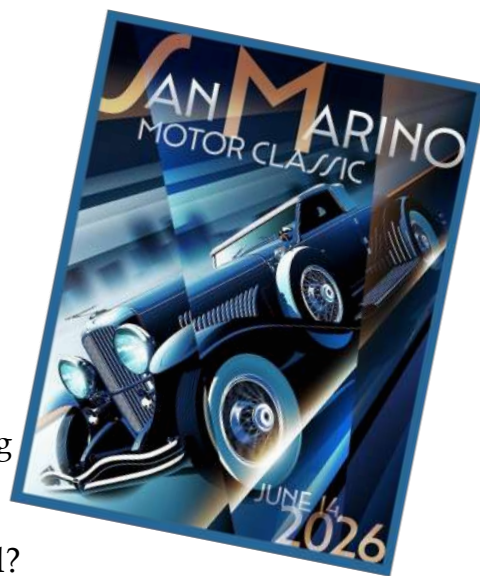
The first 20 cars registered are assured a place on the drive. Others will be placed on a waiting list.

RSVP to John Ireland
jfigcar@sbcglobal.net

A Byte of News

San Marino Motor Classic Changes Dates & Will Feature Italian and French Vehicles

One of our favorite non-chapter events is the San Marino Motor Classic in Pasadena. Chapter members have represented the marque, served as judges, and supported the event's beneficiary charities for years. Here are two exciting factoids about the 2026 show: 1) our Alfas get to be a featured country of origin marque as they are honoring Italian and French cars and they will have their own class. 2) Instead of being held following Monterey Car Week in August, the show will take place on June 14th. Interested? Visit <https://sanmarinomotorclassic.com/>



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Good Times at the 12th AROC Winter Retreat

Palm Springs Weekend



The Friday Welcome Lunch in Palm Desert.

We came. We saw. We partied.
We imbued the scene with our
SoCal smiles and energy and
some very cool Alfás.

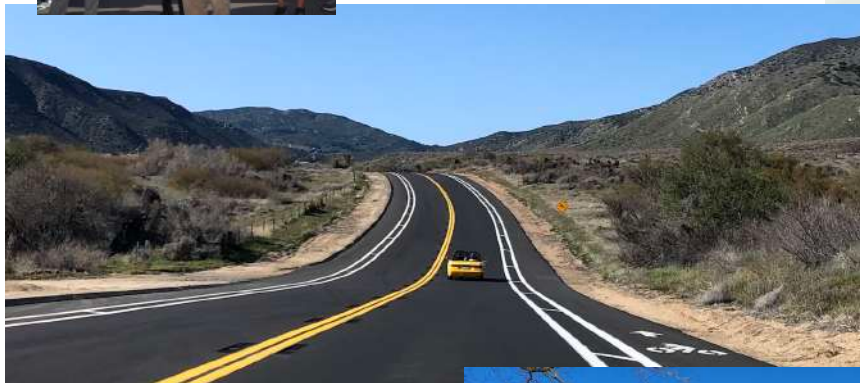
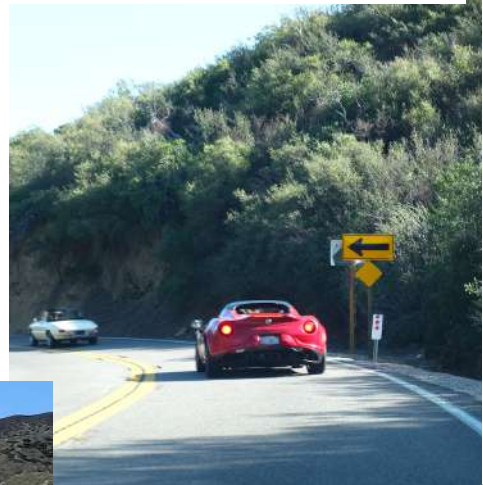
It was the 12th iteration of AROC's
Winter Retreat and our overlay of



(continued)



The Saturday Day Drive to Julian.



our AROSC Palm Springs
Weekend tradition

Nearly 40 chapter members
made it to Coachella Valley
to celebrate winter with old
friends and new from all
corners of the country.

It was a debut drive for Ron
and Donna Avery's unique
light olive metallic Montreal,
whose paint scheme was
dubbed "*luce di bosco*" by
our club's resident Italian
language advisor.

Other first-timers took the
Sunday morning self-guided
Palm Springs architecture



(continued)



The Saturday Sunset Reception.



and history drive and came up with some great photos of yard art, celebrity homes and their cars,

Casualties were few (fuel filter; air intake hoses; family members sidelined on the Interstate) and dealt with calmly.

There was something for everyone throughout the weekend.

Enjoy this photo album and think about a redux in 2027!

– Elyse Barrett

The Sunday "P.S. I Love You" Morning Drive.



(continued)

The Sunday Casual Concorso.



"Car of the Day"
as chosen by
youngest Alfista
Josh O'Hare, was
Val & Monique
Dietrich's 1960
2000 Touring
Spider.



And then it was
time to go home.



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Fabulous in February



We began the fun on February 28th with the Manhattan Beach cars and coffee event at The Point.

Attendance was amazing with about 25 chapter cars and 40 members. A variety of Alfas showed up: Spiders, Montreals, GTVs, GTV-6s, Sprint Specials, Modern Giulias, 4Cs, and the latest Tonale Veloce.

Other cars present were even more special than usual. The standouts were a 1939 Delahaye 135M with body by Figoni & Falaschi, and two 1960s Ferraris, a 250 GT Lusso Berlinetta and a 330 GTS.

As the cars & coffee began to wind

down, we headed out across the South Bay and regrouped at the south end of Palos Verdes Drive East to enjoy a run through the twisties up and around the peninsula.

After that we sauntered through the neighborhoods on our way to Lunada Bay to eat, drink and socialize al fresco at Lunada Kitchen. Great food. Good people. We thank Jocelyn and Rick Lopez for their hospitality and delicious menu.

A pre-spring SoCal Alfa Saturday, well spent!

– Val Dietrich

(continued)



And there we were, at 7:15AM, having driven from Temecula, Palm Springs, Newport Beach, and all points of the compass.



Clockwise:
beautiful Giulietta Spider; Dan's Duetto and Lee's SS; Bob's GTV, Brad's 4C and Ray's Giulia. A great GTV-6; a seldom-seen member's black SS, and Henrik's Spider.



(continued)



Clockwise from top left: the OMG gorgeous Ferrari 250 GT Lusso; rare Delahaye; Corvair van and Lincoln Premiere; maroon Cord; a character Crosley with dualies.

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At Lunada Kitchen for lunch: lineup south with Ian and Lee inspecting; lineup north. Then the view from PV Drive – another crummy Catalina Island silhouette floating between dueling blues of the Pacific and a clear California winter sky.

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The Members' Page(s)

Welcome & Welcome Back

Greetings, Everyone!

Please join your Board of Directors in applauding the good taste of these Alfa Romeo owners who joined AROSC between January and March, 2026: Warren Bidmead, Melinda Howell, Foster Salinas. Welcome, and come drive with us!



Mille Grazie to all our member-contributors, whose stories and images make this March-April edition of *Alfacionada* your invitation to 2026 spring driving adventures: Ron Avery, Paul Blankenship, Val Dietrich, Steve Edelman, Brad Geving, David Helfand, John Ireland, Yinghua Lu, David O'Donoghue, Dan Ritter, Jeff Srinivasan, David Waelder.

Remembering Dave Vegher

Many of us may have learned that longtime AROSC member, track day stalwart, Alfa tuner and mechanic to the local sportscar racing stars passed away last summer. He is fondly remembered here by several of us.

He was so vital and alive when all got together in March of 2024 to celebrate the Alfa Club time trial and racing program. Anyway, I first met him when I joined the Alfa Club in December 1977. I remember being in his and Nancy's home for an AROSC Board meeting; meeting his children, going on a couple of rallies written by his wife Nancy and Sue Bernstein (wife of Dan, another big Alfa Club supporter), watching him race his blue TZ at Riverside and Willow. Those were special days for all of us ... and Dave was always a part of it. RIP Dave. *—John Ireland*



Dave Vegher,
Linda Vaughn, Mike Sperry

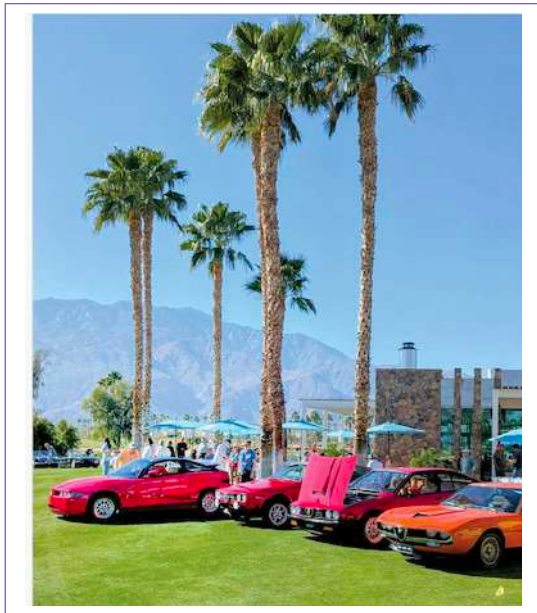
Indeed, we all grieve Dave's passing. He was larger than life in our Alfa Club circle; always generous with his knowledge and skills in assisting club members. His accomplishments as a driver were notable with winning an SCCA championship in his race-prepared Lotus. In 1977 Dave served as co-editor and co-technical chairman and in 1978 elected president of our chapter. Go to our vintage issues section on our website and view the September 1987 issue Dave is on the cover in all his glory. RIP. *—Dan Ritter*

I first met Dave in '73 or maybe '74. In those days Dave Vegher and Wes Ingram would field technical questions at the monthly meetings. Dave would field questions about carbureted cars and Wes would field questions about injected cars. I remember the blue TZ too. Always wondered why it was blue until I was informed that Dave bought the car in France and it was properly called "French Blue".

Wanna know what kind of guy Dave was? His shop rate was just as high as the local Alfa dealer's and he had people standing in line.

By the way, Dave told me how to remove the rear brake rotors on an Alfetta I had. Buy a six-point socket at the local Snap-On warehouse, grind it down to absolute minimum height, and pray that your t-handle doesn't break. *—Mike Riehle*

Pals in Print – SoCal's Got Talent!



Steve Edelman nailed another back cover in *Alfa Owner*, March with a fine Winter Retreat memory.



Nice coverage of the pre-L.A. Auto Show Tonale reveal by David Waelder for the February *Alfa Owner*.



Ron Avery is the March *Alfa* Owner centerfold photographer, making Henrik's von Buttlar's perfect Duetto even more perfect. Henrik provided the inset of his Buster Brown.

Sharing is Caring – Come to the Desert this Spring

And among car clubs it is only natural to invite our friends and neighbors to share the fun at each others' events. Such is the case with our brethren in the Palm Springs area, Desert ALFAs. Below is their new season's calendar and AROSC members are welcome to come to Coachella Valley for any of these activities.

RSVPs are needed and John Strong, reachable via email at strongsail@gmail.com is your contact. These events are also listed online in the AROC national ClubExpress calendar, but still RSVP to John.

March 8th, 2026 - Cheech Museum Visit and Luncheon, Riverside

March 28th, 2026 - Ciao Annual Meeting, Indian Wells

If you are an early riser and in Palm Springs at other times, they also gather for monthly weekday dine-in meetings and weekend cars & coffees.

Palms Cafe Breakfasts - 2nd Thursday of the month

Swiss Donuts Cars & Coffees - 3rd Sunday of the month

Track Time Available with the Lotus Club

The Lotus Club of Southern California has invited AROSC members to join them at any of their track days. Below a note we received from Ted Garland. Do follow up on your own. AROSC is not partnering with LCOSC, just passing this information along.

I used to run HPDE and track days with AROSC. I am on the Board of the Lotus Club of Southern California, and on their behalf would like to invite your members to join our track days (we typically run 3-4 per year). Please feel free to email me directly with any questions. Sincerely, Ted Garland

Entrants get over 2.5 hours of track time per driver. Only 3 run groups / 60 cars. Coaching for Novice drivers; relaxed atmosphere for all. You don't need a Lotus to join us!

Standard Pricing: \$275 Members / \$295 Non-members; Add LCOSC Membership (\$25) and grab the discount instantly!

Run Groups: Novice – Point-bys on straights, coaching for first-timers (limited to 5 slots). Intermediate – 5+ track days, point-by anywhere. Advanced – 15+ days, open passing (point-bys encouraged).

Contact Ted Garland for information: tgarland@ucr.edu

Classified Ads

Open the Door to Alfa Style

Original doors for mid-70s Alfa Spider. In storage for more 20 years. No rust or dents, all glass is good. \$350 each. BONUS: free decklid in perfect condition with purchase of doors. BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! Seven (7) boxes of miscellaneous, mostly Spider parts, from Phyllis Gaylard's garage included with purchase. Contact AROSC member Bruce West, Huntington Beach, Calif. nseandwest@gmail.com or 714-815-2580. Pick-up only.



New parts for your sweet ride!

Your chapter received several gracious donations from member Gabriel Baltierra (Mr. Vintage Machine) and were used only for photo shoots: two sets of aftermarket sideview mirrors, a wood steering wheel and a Spider convertible soft top. See the descriptions on this and the following page. They can be yours if you are the highest bidder by the end of March!

Contact editor@arosc.org for information and payment options.



The Warmth of Wood

NEW aftermarket steering wheel, also never installed! Comparable values range from \$410 to \$890. Make offer.

(continued)

Classified Ads, *continued*

Italian Aftermarket Sideview Mirrors

by Vitaloni
\$53 value.
Make offer.



GT Racing Style Aftermarket Sideview Mirrors

by United
Pacific
\$25 value.
Make offer.



Tan Alfa Spider Top

Never installed
\$885 value.
Make offer.



About Your Club

AROSC Business Address
info@arosc.org

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.

2025 Board of Directors

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

Leave us a detailed message and/or your telephone number and we will be happy to 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

continued

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 \$70 AROC dues. Visit aroc-usa.org to join, and select Chapter 20 to affiliate with us, AROSC.

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