



Newsletter of
the Alfa Romeo
Owners of
Southern California



Calling All Clean Cars –

Participate in our Club *Concorsi*, and learn how perfect your Alfa really is! Event #1 details, page 3.



Wine Tour '24 – We're heading back to Santa Ynez Valley. Registration closes March 5th. Info on page 4.

Previews

- Mar 3** Q1 Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
- 10** Concorso #1, Santa Monica Museum of Flying
- Apr 5-7** Wine Tour, Santa Ynez Area
- May 5** Day Drive: San Francisquito Cyn.
- 29-Jun 2** AROC 2024 Natn'l. Convention, Petoskey, Mich.

Please read
The Disclaimer,
page 18.



*Avanti
e Verso
l'Auto!*

Presidents'
Message

Is it Spring yet?

No, not when a massive rainstorm washes out parts of historic Mulholland Drive! This road was an important component of our Son of Hollywood Hills Mille Miglia Rallye, and the drive is being rescheduled for a later date.

However, we will be springing forward on Sunday, March 10, as we begin Daylight Saving Time, and stage our first Club Concorso at the Santa Monica Museum of Flying (see page 3). Start your Alfa's pre-spring cleaning today!

We had delightful spring-like weather for the January Giro di O.C. tour of coastal and mountain roads in Orange County, which included a transit of the busy waterway that is Newport Harbor on a Sunday. No Alfas or other participants were lost at sea! See a recount of the drive on pages 7-9.

AROSC members turned out in force for the AROC* Winter Retreat in the Coachella Valley area. Some of us met for lunch on Friday, and then enjoyed the traditional Saturday drive and sunset reception. The approaching rain

clouds did not make their way to our Sunday car show and we could enjoy the desert at it wintery best for one more day. April kicks off with our return to Santa Ynez Valley for the Wine Tour. We are limited by the winery tasting room sizes, and if you are interested, you should sign up by March 5th! At this writing, rooms are still available at our special rate, and you must register through Club Express first. Once this tour is fully subscribed, there may be a waiting list for cancellations.

Our May 5th event will be a day drive in the northern mountains of Los Angeles County, as organized by the Supreme Day Driver, Steve Edelman. Our cars will love the exercise! Save the date!

Unfortunately, we will be unable to visit one of our favorite automotive museums ever again.

With the passing of Peter Mullin, his collections are forever closed, and cars are being auctioned and donated. Read a fitting tribute to Mullin by our chapter secretary and ace photographer, David Waelder beginning on page 10.

And what's new from Alfa Romeo? As Alfa introduces one new model each year, the 2024 example is the new Milano - the worldwide reveal is set for April 10th! This will be a hybrid or all-electric Sport Urban Vehicle (SUV), smaller than the Stelvio and Tonale. Since Alfa has already announced that all 2026 cars will be electric only, get yourself a hybrid version and it will become an instant collectible, right?

Other updates for our chapter include the creation of a



reusable email address for event owners for any queries. Please become accustomed to seeing and accessing event.questions@arosc.org. You can ask each event organizer any questions about their event, and the email address will be reassigned to the next leader as needed. An example of this is its use for the current Wine Tour organizers, and all four members receive any email questions simultaneously.

And as we roll forward with our adoption of the ClubExpress system, we find that it's actually working! So, please do your part to add your spouse/significant other as a secondary member, and don't forget to upload your car's pictures into "Member's Alfas". There is room for many more!

And download and print this newsletter! It is easier to absorb when not constrained to a screen, and you can share it. Improve your Alfa club Carma (get it?)!

Cheers, and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

- Jim & Elyse Barrett, Copresidenti

*There is a difference! AROC is our parent national organization, Alfa Romeo Owners Club. AROSC is our chapter, Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California.

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Our first Club Concorso of 2024 will take place at the Museum of Flying in Santa Monica on Sunday, March 10th!

HURRY as we must limit preferred show parking, for both displayed and judged cars, to 25 Alfa Romeos! This parking will be directly in front of the museum.

And if you bring an Alfa, museum admission for two (2) is FREE!

Here is the ONE THING you need to do to join the fun and get special Alfa Romeo Parking, free admission and to enter the Concorso:

1. Send an email to David O'Donoghue (bomberodavid@aol.com) and Jeff Srinivasan (rogueman1@mac.com) with the following info:

Year/Model/Color of your Alfa.

If you wish your car to be judged and compete for ribbons (and they are cool!), indicate which class you wish to enter: *Open, Closed, Daily Driver, Modern or Race/Competition*

Note: Concorso Entry is not required for Special Parking, but it is great fun, so sign up!

After we receive your email, you will receive additional details on arrival time, exact entrance location at the museum and overall event timing, including judging info for concorso entrants.

Thanks and plan on coming to Museum of Flying in Santa Monica on Sunday, March 10th.

*Jeff Srinivasan
David O'Donoghue*

Wine Tour '24

Registration Closes March 5th

Our 2024 Wine Tour is April 5-7 in Santa Ynez Valley and there are just a few rooms and registration slots available, so don't wait, book now.

The weekend kicks off with a catered Friday dinner reception in our headquarters hotel, with complimentary soft drinks and a no-host bar. On Saturday, we'll taste at three wineries, enjoying a BYO picnic lunch at one, and reconvene for dinner a short drive from the hotel.

Saturday also marks the return of the AROSC Juried Picnic Basket Competition. Be creative with table settings, linens, and of course, the food! You could win a prize. Your Tour Committee are the judges. Categories will include "Alfa Romeo" and "Springtime in California" and a Judges' Special. Two rules: 1) No whining! 2) Judges can be bribed!

Your \$60 per person event registration includes Friday's dinner reception and Saturday's tasting at the picnic lunch venue. Other activities are pay-as-you-go (e.g., your hotel room; one winery, breakfast, and dinner on Saturday; breakfast on Sunday).

Two absolutes: 1) Our block of rooms will be released on March 5. Reserve now. 2) Due to winery tasting room capacity, the tour is limited to 50 attendees.

How to book:

Go to AROC-USA ClubExpress using this link [Wine Tour Registration Via](#)

[ClubExpress](#), log in, and register and pay by credit card.

To get your room, go to [Book your group rate for Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California 2024 gathering](#) or call the Marriott directly at 805-688-1000.

Email your questions, comments, or concerns to event.questions@arosc.org

*Ciao, and we'll see you there,
Paul, Jim & Elyse*





Son of the Hollywood Hills Mille Miglia Rallye

... ghosts, landmarks, special views of L.A. ...

To Be Rescheduled !

Our super winter rains, while welcome, also wreaked havoc on the roadways of Los Angeles, and nearly one-third of our rallye route was knocked out. Sinks and slides and rockfalls ruined our fun

for February, so we are looking for a suitable date to reschedule the event.

We had a sellout crowd ready roll, and you-all are still on the RSVP roster. However, if spaces open up, and others want to go, they should be on the waiting list. Email jifigcar@sbcglobal.net to get on the list.

Hope you will hang with us until the route is repaired and L.A. is back to its old self.

- John & Alana Ireland

Watch your email for updates. Send your questions to jifigcar@sbcglobal.net

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January's Giro di O.C.

Out and About in the New Year

It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood, er, on the coast and in the countryside.



Catching our breath at the top of South Main Divide Road, the Elsinore overlook.

Your 2024 AROSC driving season got rolling in a mid-January Sunday drive around Orange County's coastal and country roads, topped off with a splash of yachting at the end.

We got a nice break in the otherwise wild winter weather and 21 members in 12 splendid cars from all corners of our

territory - Hollywood to Laguna Woods, Murrietta to Camarillo - showed up to enjoy the sunshine. Several generations of Alfa Romeo spanning five decades were represented. And we were pleased to welcome the 2022 Porsche 911.

It was great to meet members who have not driven with us before: Brian Dempster, John

(continued)

Keane and Steve Nottingham and *co-piloti* and partners.

We met at Crystal Cove Shopping center on Pacific Coast Highway in Newport Beach, lounged through Laguna, and up along old San Juan Creek to jog through historic downtown San Juan Capistrano. Then it was up and down the twisties of Highway 74 ("The Ortega") and a transit of the green hills of Irvine.

We landed at the bottom of Jamboree Road to cross the Balboa Island bridge then ford Newport Bay aboard the Balboa Ferry - a first for a few, an old friend for others.

An impromptu lunch at the Lighthouse Restaurant in Marina Park on the Balboa Peninsula wrapped up the 80-mile "*giro di O.C.*"

- Elyse & Jim



From Crystal Cove Promenade (above) to the top of the Elsinore overlook (below), flew the fun AROSC day trippers in Alfas spanning five decades.



(continued)



(Above L-R,) Eight Alfas crossed the channel in four ferry rides. At lunch top: David, Elcid, Susy and Roxanne. Middle: David, the Nottinghams and Mark. Bottom left: Don and Steve.

Farewell, Peter Mullin

Story and photos by
David Waelder



Courtesy, Mullin Museum

"For me, French automobiles of the '20s and '30s represent the pinnacle of 20th century art and design - the artistic realization in steel, leather and glass of a modern idea created at a moment when hand craftsmanship embraced the machine, and a spirit of optimism fueled an explosion in artistic and technical development. As an avid collector, the preservation of these rolling sculptures for the enjoyment of future generations is both a responsibility and a pleasure."
- Peter Mullin

An unusual marine artifact is situated in a darkened gallery at the far end of the Mullin Automotive Museum. Fish no longer drift by in the dark waters at the bottom of Lake Maggiore, seen in a large screen on the back wall. What we do see is the rusted remains of a 1925 Bugatti Type 22 "Brescia" Roadster in the foreground and an image on the back wall of it resting in its watery grave. It is just as it was when pulled from the waters where it had lain for 75 years, the beauty of its lines still discernible in the wreckage.

That rescued but unrestored Bugatti gets more attention and comment than any other car in the Mullin collection. One must admire the vision to display it exactly as found.

Peter Mullin had an interest in art as a young man, as well as an appreciation of beautiful cars. He used to accompany his father, an oil company engineer, on visits to car shows. His father was focused on the use and application of oil products, but Peter

endeavored to share his appreciation of the artistic merits of the show cars. Over time, each influenced the other.

Mullin worked awhile for an artist, but interest collided with hard reality when the man could no longer afford to pay him. He realized that art was not a good path to financial security and, at the age of just 28, started an investment consulting company. He later developed M Financial Group, an insurance services company specializing in programs tailored to high-net-worth clients.

His business success gave him the resources to pursue the artistic interests set aside as a youth. His particular interest in French Art Deco design in furniture and automobiles grew from a happenstance encounter. A neighbor asked if he could borrow the Mullin Georgian Colonial home as a backdrop for a photo shoot. The subject of that photo session was a vintage Delahaye and Mullin was immediately smitten. He began to collect Delahayes and other cars

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of the period. One by one he gathered and restored more than 100 vehicles ranging from 19th century carriages through race cars of the 1920s and '30s to perhaps the largest collection anywhere of Voisin, Delage, Delahaye, Talbot-Lago and Bugatti automobiles. Each vehicle - except for that 1925 Bugatti rescued from Lake Maggiore - was restored to perfect condition, a task that often necessitated sourcing original textiles and recreating handmade marquetry.

His artistic interests extended to furniture designed by Carlo Bugatti, the patriarch of the Bugatti family. He also collected Art Deco French furniture and bronze sculpture by Rembrandt Bugatti, Ettore Bugatti's brother, and displayed it all on the mezzanine above the main exhibit hall. Mr. Mullin felt that the style, the cantilevered designs, and the craftsmanship of this furniture were a good complement to the automobiles on display and they completed a picture of the era. In addition to his own eponymous museum, Peter Mullin was a board member of the Petersen Museum, where he also served for years as chairman. He was a supporter of the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena as

well as the Music Center of Los Angeles, St. John's Hospital and Health Center in Santa Monica and Occidental College in Eagle Rock, among others.

Peter Mullin died in Big Sur on September 20, 2023 at age 82. Without his direct leadership, his wife, Merle, and the trustees have decided to close the museum and sell the collection. Most of the cars will be auctioned by Gooding & Company at the Amelia Island Concours in March. Four vehicles, the 1937 Talbot-Lago T150 CS "Teardrop," the 1938 Hispano Suiza H6B Dubonnet Xenia, the 1939 Delahaye 165, and the 1938 Delahaye 145 are being donated to the Petersen Museum.



HEART AND SOUL: THE BUGATTI OF THE LAKE

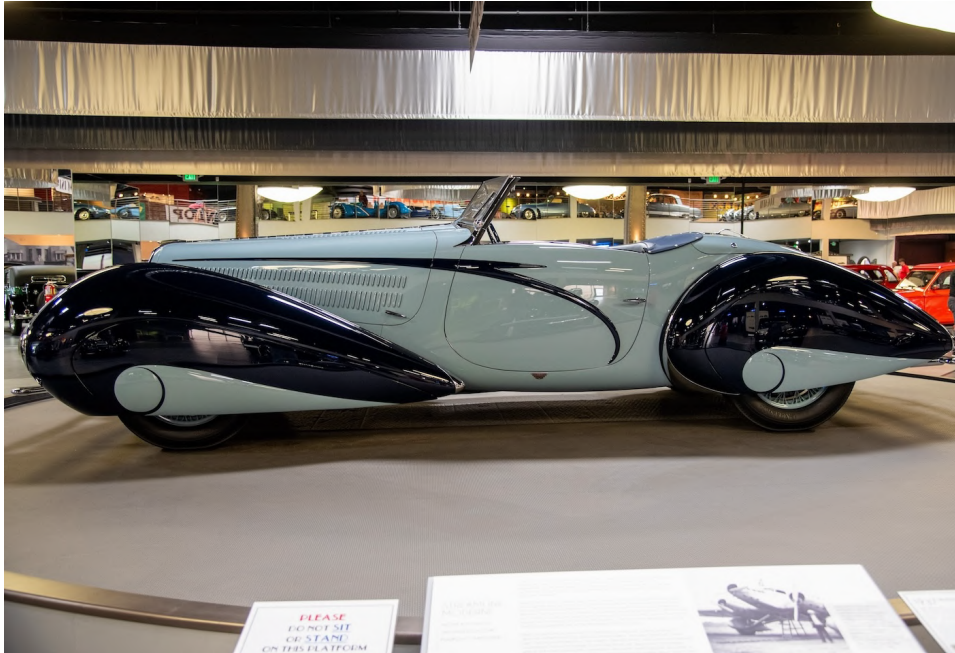
The Type 22 "Brescia" Roadster didn't crash into Lake Maggiore; it was pushed!

According to local legend, the automobile was owned by Rene Dreyfus, one of the top Formula One drivers of his day. He was also passionate about poker and, in the spring of 1934, he played a champagne-fueled game with Adalbert Bodè, a gambler and sometime racing driver. Short on both cash and luck, Mr. Dreyfus had to sign over his Bugatti to Mr. Bode at the conclusion of the game.

Returning to his home in Switzerland, Adalbert Bodè encountered a hitch at the Lake Maggiore border crossing. Customs inspectors denied entry without payment of import duties. They were not sympathetic to Mr Bodè's protestations that he was a Swiss citizen and should be permitted to return home. Mr. Bodè was free to pass but his automobile was demonstrably French and import duties were required. His winnings were insufficient to cover the customs duty so he had the car stored in a local garage.

Mr. Bodè's fortunes did not quickly improve and the customs officials were bound by a Swiss law mandating the destruction of any contraband seized at the border. They settled on a scheme to lower

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The 1937 Delahaye 135M Figoni et Falaschi (L) is a sumptuous example of Streamline Moderne design. Women would wear matching outfits while riding in the vehicle, sometimes to the extent that the poodle's fur would be dyed to match! Below (L & R), Susan is a match for the elegant 1937 Delage D8-120 Cabriolet. The car was used in the film, "An American in Paris".

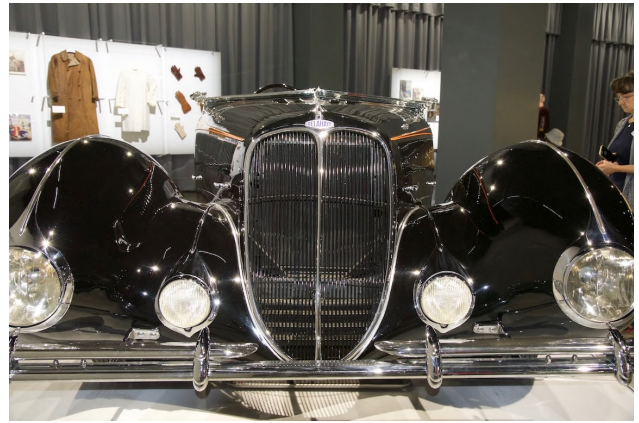


the Bugatti into the lake on a chain and suspend it at a depth of 35-feet. This may have been a plan to allow Adalbert Bodè additional time to gather funds and retrieve the car or it may have been a ruse to allow the customs officers to retrieve the car at a later time when the official records would have shown the vehicle as destroyed. In any event, it didn't work. The chain used to suspend the car was rusty and a link parted, allowing the car to settle at a depth of 173-feet.

The Bugatti slumbered at the bottom of the lake for decades without any further attention. In 1967 the Escona Diving Team, an amateur group, found the car lying on its side on the bottom and, over a period of four decades, it became a regular diving attraction. Domiano Tamagni, the son of one of the principals in the club, participated in these dives and visited the wreckage.

In 2008, while attending the Carnival of Locarno, Domiano Tamagni was randomly assaulted and beaten and died of his injuries. In his memory a diving company decided to retrieve the Bugatti and

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Another streamline wonder is the Delahaye 235 (L). The black 1937 Delahaye Type 135M Cabriolet (R), photographed in the Petersen Automotive Museum in 2022, disappeared for decades until being discovered sitting on blocks in Jodhpur, India in 1982. Peter Mullin purchased the car after the 2002 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and restored it with the guidance of Claude Figoni.

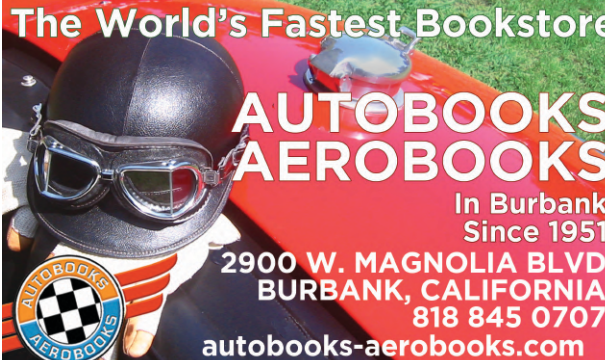
For more photos of Mullin Museum collections, including the spectacularly elegant Art Deco furniture exhibited on the mezzanine, go to the Members' Page, and click on the links in the "Visit the Mullin" box – they will take you to two of David Waelder's SmugMug folders. Enjoy!

auction it off to raise money for an organization to address youth violence. It was not an easy task, and the Bugatti was not brought ashore until 2009.

How much is a car worth after 75 years underwater? Lake Maggiore is a freshwater lake but still there was substantial deterioration and Bonhams Auction House was unable to provide much guidance as to its value. Local estimates hovered around 50,000 Euros. But the event attracted the attention of both Peter Mullin and a Finnish Bugatti enthusiast. Mullin won the bidding and acquired the car for \$366,367 (339,831 Euro).

Peter Mullin put the car on display in a special darkened gallery in his museum along with photos of it at the bottom of the lake. It has been cleaned and stabilized but not restored. The parents of Domiano Temagni have visited the exhibition. After a period alone with the rescued car, Domiano's mother emerged from the gallery and said, "My son is gone but his soul is still in this car." After that emotional experience, Peter Mullin elected to keep the exhibit as a permanent memorial.

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The Members' Page

Welcome & Welcome Back

In Q1 we wish to celebrate the arrival of these new members who joined in the months of December to February: Esther Croulet, Susana Davalos, Brian Dempster, Tara Dempster, Drew Christopher, James Goggin, Joshua Moore, Robert Moses, Robert Raede, Xiao Wu.

Welcome, and come drive with us!

YOU be the Judge

We are recruiting for the 2024 Concorso judging team.

The esteemed volunteers listed below would like some friends with whom to share the fun. We appreciate their service in 2023 and hope to see them again this year.

Meanwhile, please reach out to Concorso Director Jeff Srinivasan at rogueman1@mac.com if you can donate your time and expertise at an upcoming concorso. The next one is March 10th at the Santa Monica Museum of Flying.

Judges-In-Training

Hal Croulet, Jr.
Robert Jackson

Judges

David O'Donoghue
David Waelder
John Ireland

Visit the Mullin with David & Susan



Photos from 1/19/2024

<https://davidprodrec.smugmug.com/Mullen-Museum-January-2024/n-SDRHhv>

Photos from 9/17/2022

<https://davidprodrec.smugmug.com/AROSC-Mountain-Mullin-Chris-Mike/n-jbSs3G>

Mille Grazie to all of our member-contributors, whose stories and images make this March-April edition of *Alfacionada* an important part of our shared *Alfisti* life: David Waelder, Jeff Srinivasan, David O'Donoghue, Steve Edelman, Paul Blankenship, John Ireland and Bonnie Schwartz.

(continued)

Arrivederci AROSC Track Days

In 1999, I built a Caterham 7. You may have seen it - it's metallic burgundy with a silver stripe. My first track event with this car was an AROSC's school at the Streets of Willow. Paul Ellis was my group's instructor. Following that, for several years I entered many events at Willow Springs, Las Vegas, Buttonwillow (did an enduro teamed with Tony Adamowicz! Also teamed with Phil Guiral at another enduro), Laguna Seca and Chuckwalla.

Just before your school in 2023, my car's charging system failed. This year, I had all systems working at 100% and planned on entering school, only to discover that the program has been discontinued.

I fully understand the reasons for the club's action, although I wish it weren't true.

I'd like to thank the AROSC for hosting such terrific events and for the friendships I've made with many of the members. My experiences running the AROSC track events will be with me forever!

When looking back at those times, I clearly remember the actions, the people, and the conversations we've shared.

Luckily, there are groups hosting excellent track events, including NASA and Speed Ventures. I've run with both, and their events are well organized. Hopefully some of you, my AROSC friends, will appear and we'll continue our good times!

*All the best,
Clark Taylor, AROSC member
since 2003*



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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

Still Looking for Vintage AROSC Literature

Calling all historians and AROSC packrats!

We are amassing an honest-to-goodness Chapter Archive of past issues of *Alfacionada*. We specifically need the years 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967. Someday this history will reside on our website and in Club Express for everyone to read and enjoy.

The effort is being led by Dan Ritter. Please email info@arosc.org to let him know what you can contribute. *Grazie!*

About Your Club

AROSC Business Address

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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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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 they 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

(continued)

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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