

Mostly Ramblings of Il Presidente

(taken from the March 2008 Alfacionada)

Our General Meeting this past month was graciously hosted by Autobooks in Burbank. The weather the weather was supposed to be cold and rainy but, as usual after the appropriate sacrifices the Alfa deities prevailed – **Sunny and Mild** until we left and the turnout was great. Our hosts, the inimitable Tina Van Curen and husband Chuck Forward provided not only a wonderful spread of fresh baked pastries from Porto's, but an extraordinary display of Alfa literature. We were pleasantly surprised by the appearance of around 30 Alfa's, Cheryl Braden - wife of the late great Alfa author Pat Braden, and a number of new members.

The bar for General Meetings continues to be raised and **this month's upcoming General Meeting (March 29th) has the potential to be the largest showing of Alfa Romeos outside of the Concorso Italiano (which is the largest gathering of Alfa's in the USA)**. "Cars & Coffee" at the Ford/Mazda design center in Irvine has become the definitive location for cars of every exotic Marque to be seen and heard. Typically 300+ vehicles and their drivers and passengers gather at 7AM, have coffee, pastries (or breakfast available in the Ford coffee shop), ooh, aah, take pictures, swap stories, bench race and mysteriously depart around 9 – 10 AM. **Alfa Romeo is the feature Marque and will have a designated parking area at the Premier Auto Group Center. Last year we had over 60 Alfa's and this year WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE 100. (see inside for specifics).**

After PGA we have been invited to take the short drive over to Huntington Beach to visit the Gerhard Schnuerer Collection of German Automobiles including some rarely seen from WW2. (see inside). We will gather for a local lunch following this visit. For those coming down the night of the 28th, there are extremely reasonable overnight rates at the Key Inn off the I-5 in Tustin, Laguna Hills Lodge in Laguna Hills, Fairfield Inn off the I-5 off Oso Pkwy in Mission Viejo, et al. Please let Evie and I know if you're going to come down on the 28th and we can all try to get together for din-din.

Once again a perfect day at Pepperdine U. for our first Concorso of the year. Thanks to the organizational skills of Doug Adler and Stephanie Stacey we had no difficulty accommodating 40 Alfa's (around 20 for judging –including race prepped car), a nice contingent of some very special Lancia's, and a wonderful assortment of visitors. As usual, being an eating and drinking club with car problems, the picnic lunches were also judged and ultimately demolished. After lunch the hardy took to the roads. After a relatively relaxed canyon run over Malibu Canyon back toward the valley, we took a sharp left on to the infamous north leg of Mulholland Hwy. It was Alfa be nimble, Alfa be quick, Alfa avoid the fallen rocks and the occasional edge. After a take-no-breath jaunt it was a right turn down Cornell Road to World Class Motoring on Cheseboro Rd. at exit #9 of the 101. Our host provided refreshments, a couple of simulators and a host of exotic and esoteric auto products. This is not Kragen.

The next Concorso will be held during our participation at the 23rd annual Huntington Beach Concours d'Elegance on Sunday June 1st. As last year, this is not just a car show, but a great family event, including an ongoing Parrot Show for the kids on the beautiful rolling, tree covered grounds of the famous (rated 2nd in the USA) Huntington Beach Library (see inside).

On March 22nd – 23rd we have a Time Trial and Race weekend at the big track at Willow Springs that is being held in conjunction with the Touring Car Club. Information and applications are

available on our web site www.arosc.org. It's about 70 miles from the valley and, if you're not competing, a great place to spend a day with the family. The pits are open every one is friendly, and occasionally you may be able to passenger for a few laps.

As we continue to plunge into our busy year, please make sure you update your calendar. The spring driving tour is April 12th and 13th and we will be overnighing in La Quinta. The secret, and the fun, is how we will get there.

Keep the Wheel Side Down,

Rex I and Regina I