

Mostly Ramblings of Il Presidente

(taken from the June 2009 Alfacionada)

I think I'm getting close to the limit of superlatives in my vocabulary. Evie and I are having a grand old time and I hope our ever increasing turnout of AROSC members are also. Every time we pass through a month and article writing time comes around it is getting more and more difficult to express how much we've enjoyed the company and friendships. This past month was no exception, if anything it was probably the most fun-filled month ever.

I'll begin with thanks to the Barrett's Touring Company and Road Show for the over-the top South Coast Tour and Drinking, Dining and Driving Fest. Our tour down the Old PCH to Solana Beach and inland for a picnic lunch at San Diegito Park, where the picnic judging included the AROSC Surfboard table that the Blankenships built among other winning displays (see pics) started the festivities. That afternoon, we scrambled to check in and get to the Stone Brewery for our tour and chugalug. The delay was caused by a closed road half way through the twisties and the need to go around. After breakfast next morning we enjoyed a little revisionist history at the sight of the San Pasqual Battlefield and then proceeded to doing what we do so well – wine tasting at the boutique Belle Marie Winery. Thanks to Erica and Dave Herting for hosting lunch. Did I mention we had around 50 on the tour?

I'll continue with thanks to the Barretts again. This time for arranging what has become an annual Alfa Feature at the Ford Design Center in Irvine. Count was down a little bit from last year. Maybe the low overcast weather, but we still had around 60 Alfas. Since the event starts half past too early, those of us who came down overnight were warmly welcomed to a pot luck dinner hosted by Jay Mackro and Catherine – many thanks.

Thanks again to the Barretts for arranging our visit to the Murray collection. Special thanks to Don Murray for his kind hospitality during our visit to his exquisitely tasteful collection (at an address so secret that we met in a bank parking lot and drove over blindfolded). This collection is rarely if ever seen in its entirety, but every one was on a battery charger and Don assured me that he and his family drive most of them fairly often.

Another round of thanks goes to Jan and Chuck Cline for hosting the follow-up brunch. Superb is an inadequate word. Final thanks to all of you – 50+ on the road tour, 50+ at the PAG/Murray Collection/Cline Brunch and general meeting.

By the time this is published, we will be into our June activities. The month will have begun with our participation in the 24th Annual Huntington Beach Concours. In addition to the HB judges this will also be the first Alfa club points concours of the year.

Our General Meeting will be hosted by the "NEW" Riverside International Automotive Museum on June 27th. We will be meeting for Pizza Lunch around 12 Noon (location to be announced) in Riverside and will head to the Museum to start our tour at 1:30. This is one of the finest assemblies of special cars and includes the Gurney Eagle that AROSC member Tony Adamowicz drove to the 1969 Formula 5000 Championship. The car is fully operational and Tony, driving the car last month in a F5000 competition at California Speedway, came from being grided at the back of the field to winning the race. At his advanced age (LOL) he set a new F5000 track record by 2 seconds.

My major event for the summer is also my favorite and most self-satisfying event of the year, the Braille Rally. Sponsored by the Braille Institute, this rally is like a graduation exercise for an exceptional group of teenagers. This is a TDS rally and your navigator will either be a Braille-only or Large Print reader. You, the driver, will discover in short order who is the real handicap to winning. They usually need at least 60 cars. The course is around 2 hours and ends with a picnic and awards ceremony. As of this writing they still need still drivers. Contact Bruce or Pat West at nseandwest@socal.rr.com. (714) 841-1249.

Our July 26th General Meeting held in conjunction of our Annual Summer Party and Bocci Competition at the cool and comfortable Huntington Beach home of Phyllis Gaylard will be the official beginning of Auto Overdose month. I am assured again, that the peaches will be ripe. **This is mostly pot (good) luck and a confirming phone call to Phyllis – 714-377-6377-** will give you some idea of what to bring. For those few who have not attended one of these festive afternoons, Phyllis lives on a cul-de-sac with plenty of parking and it's within cooling breeze distance from the ocean. **Please RSVP so that we will have adequate chairs and tables. Typically we will have over 40 people.**

As mentioned in last months Ramblings "The annual Monterey "weekend" is a highlight for many Alfisti. As in year's past, Delta Sierra and the Alfa Romeo Association have arranged hotel accommodations, dinner at Gino's Restaurant, wine tasting at West and Maggie Clark's, and tickets and corral passes for the Historic Races at Laguna Seca (please see the ordering information elsewhere in this issue.) However, the choices for where to go on Friday, August 14, 2009 have gone through some major changes. The result is we now have two competing Italian car events to choose from for Friday: Concorso Italiano and the new La Dolce Vita event. **AROSC, along with ARA and Delta Sierra, have chosen to endorse the La Dolce Vita event for 2009.**

Rules and happenings:

- 1 – If you plan to go to the Monterey Historics and park in the Alfa corral, please order your tickets through ARA (see article) and do not forget to include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. I will not have corral passes this year. Reservation have to be received before June 20th to guarantee corral passes.
- 2 – If you have not made reservations, you can still get them at the Laurels Inn in Salinas through James Treadwell, Delta Sierra Club, (see article).
- 3 – Members of AROSC are planning on our fifth annual dinner Thursday the 13th at the Loose Noodle Pasta House at 538 Lighthouse Ave in Monterey at 8 PM. Please RSVP to Evelyn Silverman at normanev@msn.com so she can get a count. We are limited to 60 people and every year has been a complete sell out.. For \$25 you receive Soup, Salad, a Choice of any 1 of 6 (count them 6) entrees, desert and soft drinks. Old grape juice and fermented hops will be available for a nominal charge.
- 5 – Normally, on Friday, we stay on at the Concorso for a while after closing and partake of the happy hour arrangements being made by ARA at the Black Horse Golf Course club house.
- 6-If you are at Laguna Seca on Saturday and have a corral pass, we usually leave around 4PM and caravan to cocktail hours at the home of West and Maggie Clark.

Keep the wheels side down

Norm Silverman (Norman I, Rex)