

FROM THE TOP ... *the Word from Il Presidente*

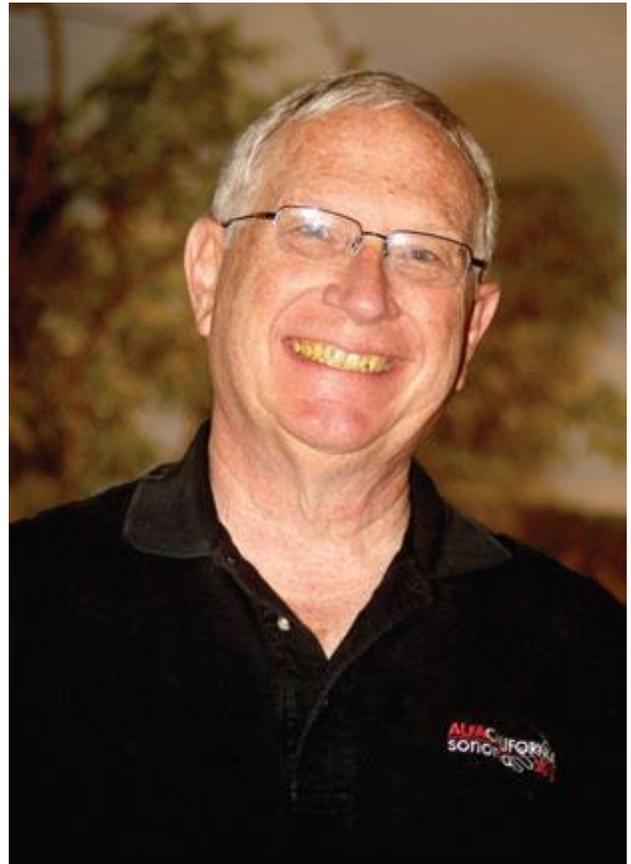
(taken from the Nnov/Dec 2014 *Alfacionada*)

Our Fall Day Drive, Dash and Dine 2014, was October 18th. Steve Edelman ordered up perfect weather and charted us a course along back roads to Palmdale. While some were vaguely familiar, I confess to feeling like Columbus. You know the old joke: He didn't know where he was going, didn't know where he was when he got there, and didn't know where he had been when he got back. Yup. That was me. We concluded with a delicious lunch at Pat and Cindy Terrisse's. Many thanks to Steve, Pat and Cindy.

November 2nd was the Best of France and Italy Car Show in Woodley Park. If you weren't there, you missed out because nearly everyone else was. There were about 100 Alfa Romeos arrayed in the Italian half of the event, including many I had never seen before. There were no fewer than five Giulietta Sprints including a couple of uber-nice cars that looked like fresh restorations. There were also a couple of Junior Zagatos, two or maybe three Sprint Speciales, a Montreal or two, a few GTAs and an honest-to-God Giulietta Sprint Zagato. One Sprint Speciale won the People's Choice Award competition, conducted by our Club for all Alfa owners in the show. Everyone who voted was also entered in a raffle and one lucky owner took away a lovely radio-controlled 4C. Special thanks to Jeff Srinivasan for sourcing the model and running the People's Choice competition.

Oh, and Chrysler Marketing brought a 4C to show. Chris noted that it is not very practical, but oh so sexy. It is somehow smaller and wider than I anticipated. It is a very handsome car by any standard with a surprisingly roomy interior. The trunk isn't much, but at least there is one!

Our trip home proved eventful, but not in a good way. The car set up a shudder coming down the Camarillo Grade, which rapidly progressed into an alarming banging sound. I pushed in the clutch and we got off on the Camarillo Springs exit (Yes, it was in the news due to a mudflow after the recent rain.) and did a quick roadside inspection. The rubber center driveshaft support was completely gone, leaving the carrier bearing free to bang around in the carrier. There was no way we could take it back on the freeway, but we soon figured out we could limp home with a feather light throttle at a speed of no more than 10-15 mph. Sometime this week I will get it up on jack stands and do a full diagnosis. Hopefully, a new rubber doughnut and driveshaft support are all it needs.



Il Prez, in his new Official Portrait by Ken Sizemore

About the Election. I apologize for not getting the ballots out in time to announce the election results at the Best of France and Italy. Plan B has been formulated and you should be getting your ballots very soon. Please take the time to vote. The Christmas Party is coming up December 13th. See page 10. It's a great time to socialize with seldom-seen members, and if you are new to the Club, it's a great way to meet a lot of interesting people. I'm not promising that Alan Ward will be there, but he often shows up and I love getting him to talk about his racing days and the many race mods that he pioneered. Regardless, MJ and Sheila are the best hosts, the food is excellent, and the door prizes go on and on.

In January is the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. As you all know our Club is filled with a wonderful mix of those who like the social events and who like the competition events. This and the Christmas Party are the two times that everybody gets together. Who wins the overall awards? Why, the people who race and show in the concours, of course. More power to them.

And our national organization is seeking nominees for the Alfa Romeo Owners Club Board of Directors. If you have energy and ideas to bring to the table for the benefit of all, this is your chance to become involved. They are a volunteer organization just like we are, and are always looking for a few good people. Nominations are made by chapter officers, so contact me if you are interested.

“Remember, if the women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy. And don't forget the duct tape, the handyman's secret weapon.”

- Mike & Chris