

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

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(taken from the October 2014 *Alfacionada*)

Our third Club Concours of the year at the Autry National Center attracted a good turnout. At one point I counted 27 Alfas, a couple of Maseratis, a Ferrari, an Abarth and one or two Fiat 500s. I suspect more than a few people came out to enjoy The Autry as much as to enjoy our event. Chris and I hadn't been there in years and many members had never been there. Quite a few seldom-seen and never-before-seen cars were there. We even had a museum member who brought a nice GTV after reading about the event in the museum newsletter.

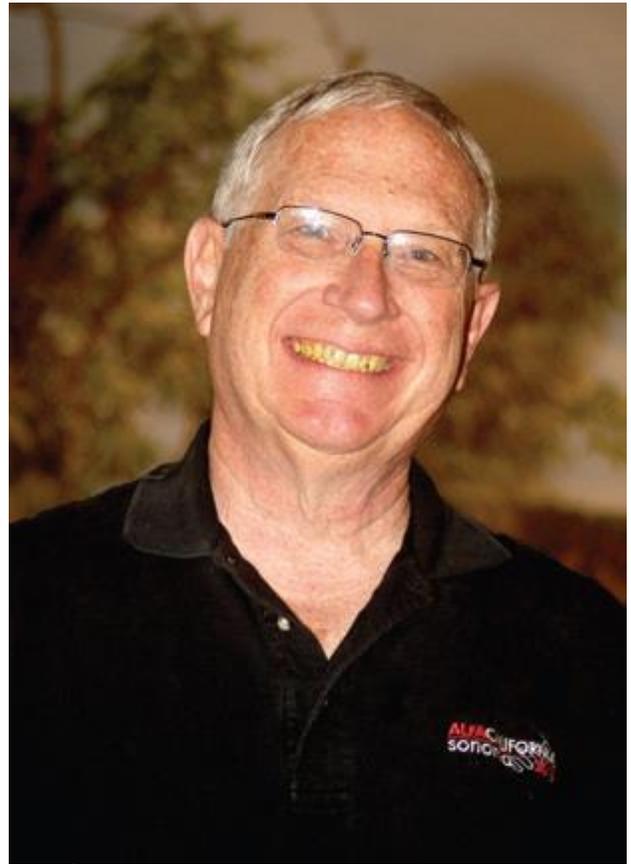
This was all during the heat wave, so Jeff got the program going early and most of us were more than ready to go into the museum after the concours. After lunch we toured the special Route 66 exhibit. My high point was explaining the details of a Model T engine on display. Yes, yours truly used to own a Model T. I remember the farmer wanted \$50 for it, and I didn't quite hear him so I said, "What?" He responded, "How about \$40?"

I can't quite grasp the idea of people packing up their belongings and migrating thousands of miles along Route 66 in a Model T. Every 3,000 miles they needed to drop the pan and file the end caps on the connecting rods. (We are talking about poured babbitt bearings here, with no pressure fed lubrication to the rod bearings.) Every 10,000 miles or so it was time to do a bottom end rebuild. And in those days, flat tires were an all-too-common occurrence.

Our thanks to Concours Director Jeff Srinivasan who came up with the venue, organized everything, and kept us on schedule so we could be in the museum when it got hot.

The very next weekend was the vintage car races in Coronado. As promised, it was like the Monterey Historics, but more manageable. We parked in the Club Corral behind the grandstands and hung out with our fellow Alfisti, toured the corral and watched several qualifying races from the grandstands. My only regret is not getting over to properly check out a 1959 Sprint that ran in Group I. It didn't win, but as the owner of a 1959 Sprint, I would have loved to see it up close and talk with the owner.

On the other hand, I did get an extensive tour of a cast iron 2000 Spider with a twin spark engine. When Steve purchased the car, the engine was disassembled, incomplete and rusty. So he opted for a twin



*Il Prez, in his new Official Portrait by  
Ken Sizemore*

spark for more horsepower and less weight. I have to say that, unless you know what a cast iron 2000 engine looks like, the engine bay looked stock. Well done, Steve.

Saturday night about 20 of us had dinner at a Mexican restaurant in Old Town. Good thing I only had one of those giant margaritas. Many thanks to Jay Mackro for setting this up and coordinating with the San Diego Chapter.

October 18th brings up the fall Dash and Dine. Steve Edelman will chart us a course along back roads to Palmdale which will bring us to lunch at Pat and Cindy Terrisse's. This is Steve's third Day Tour, and it is sure to be an adventure for all of us. See page 10 for more details and RSVP.

November 2nd is the Best of France and Italy Car Show in Woodley Park. This is always one of our most well-attended events, and, if you were there last year, there is a good chance you have already received a registration form by email. You don't have to preregister, but doing so lets you sidestep any line at the gate. The event is free to spectators and it's a great opportunity to check out a lot of interesting stuff besides Alfas.

Woodley Park will not be a concours event for us, but we will be handing out ballots for a People's Choice award. So many people/cars are constantly arriving/leaving that we have trouble getting a good car count, let alone holding a concours. So now yours truly can wander around and check out the cars and parts without feeling guilty.

It is election time again and we will hold a short general meeting at Woodley Park where we will officially announce the results. I expect everyone will have voted by then, but if you haven't it will be possible to vote at the meeting. "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*