

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

(taken from the January 2015 *Alfacionada*)

The First Lady reports that the Holiday Party was excellent (I was home with a winter cold). M.J. and Sheila had 48 RSVPs a few days prior to the event, so about 60 people were there. As always the food was excellent. Word is that M.J., an acknowledged master BBQer, outdid himself by BBQing chicken, beef and salmon. Bob Russell (Art Russell's son who participates in our competition events) drove his shiny red 4C to the party and generously offered rides.

It is traditional for the new Board to meet the day after the party, but I was still home with that cold, and some others could not make it, so our initial meeting was postponed to January 11th, when we sorted out our individual positions and the Club's 2015 calendar.

Your new officers for 2015 are: President, Mike Riehle; Vice President, Norm Silverman; Treasurer, Jay Mackro; Secretary, M.J. Kutkus; Competition Director, Terry Watson; Membership Chair, Jim Barrett; Concours Chair, Jeff Srinivasan; Newsletter Editors, Elyse Barrett and Will Owen. Committee Heads are: Technical, Gene Brown; Website, Bruce Colby.

Chris and I attended the AROC Board Mid-Year Retreat in Palm Desert on January 17th. They sent postcards inviting us all and it sounded like fun. There was a two hour driving tour, lunch in Idyllwild and a cocktail reception back in Palm Desert. I can't say I knew all of the AROC Board Members, and this was our chance put faces with the names.

On a closely related subject – the AROC Board of Directors election is coming up. Sean Russell of the San Diego Chapter is running for reelection. He works for Kearney Mesa Fiat and has been coming to many of our events for the past several years. I strongly urge you to vote for him. In addition, Lance Dong, also of the San Diego Chapter, has agreed to run and I strongly support him as well. This is our chance to get more West Coast representation. Please vote.

January 31st is the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet at Alfredo Garcias in Palos Verdes (see page 10). The food is great and the bar is right there. It's an excellent opportunity for the competition people and the non-competition people to mingle. If you are only active in one part of the Club, this is your chance to get an idea what you have been missing. This is when we give special recognition to members who participate in both race and concours events and they invariably do well in the year-end point totals. Need I mention that there will be raffle prizes galore?

The year's first Driving School at the Streets of Willow is Saturday and Sunday, February 28th and March 1st. If you have ever wondered what the competition people are so excited about, this is your opportunity to dip your toe in the proverbial water. You will not only learn the difference between fast and REALLY fast, you will also learn how to react when things go wrong. Warning: developing these driving skills can be highly addictive. It can also save your life.

There will be no Desert Classic Concours this year. I am not privy to what happened behind the scenes, but it is interesting that the Concorso Italiano people have also announced that they will not be doing an event in Palm Springs this spring. In their place we are doing our own Palm Springs Weekend – check the Calendar for particulars.

That would be our 2015 Calendar in the center spread. It is set up to be pulled out and kept nearby. An additional PDF version will be available on the website to download onto your mobile and/or print.

“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