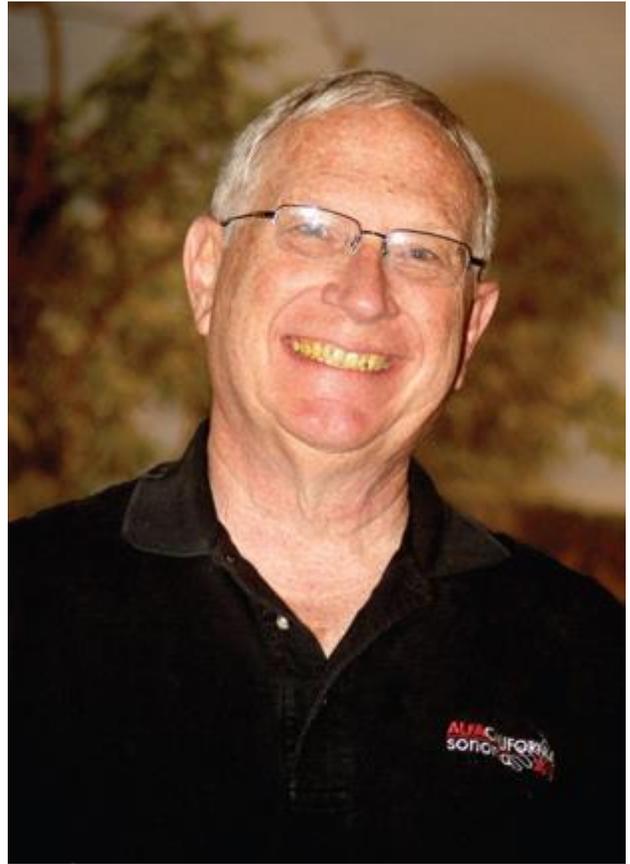


FROM THE TOP ... *the Word from Il Presidente*

(taken from the April 2016 *Alfacionada*)

Nearly everyone just had to see the remodeled Petersen Automotive Museum. Norm says we actually had 85 RSVPs! Chris and I took the spider and joined the 20 or so Alfas on display in our reserved parking area. Gene, our Tech Chair, was overwhelmed by the sight of another Montreal. Maybe he is now inspired enough to bring his own back to life? My personal thanks to the Central Coast members who showed up in a newly restored Giulietta Sprint with '67 GTV seats. Why? Because thanks to them, it looks like I may have sold the '67 GTV seats that I somehow managed to buy at last year's Summer Party!

If you haven't seen pictures of the remodeled Petersen, the view comes as quite a shock. The exterior is stunning, controversial, and likely to become one of the widely recognized landmarks of Los Angeles. The interior is a pleasant surprise. I thought it looked good before, but it looks a lot better now. As Norm happily says, the Petersen is now recognized as one of the great automotive museums of the world.



Il Prez, in his new Official Portrait by Ken Sizemore

This issue will be in the proofing process on March 11, so coverage of the Giacobbi garage tour is planned for the next one (May-June).

April 22-24 is the Wine Tour to the Paso Robles wine country. We visited Paso Robles two years ago and stayed on the coast in Cambria. This year we are staying at the Adelaide Inn in Paso Robles proper. I haven't seen the details, but expect we will visit a few old favorites and some new wineries a little farther inland. See Margi's write up on page 11. If you have a favorite winery in the area, don't be shy, Margi appreciates suggestions.

If you haven't attended a Wine Tour before, I strongly suggest you drive up on Friday if you can. There is an impromptu potluck and party at the hotel on Friday night that is too good to miss. It originally started out as snacks and a glass of wine before going out to dinner and has evolved into an all-evening event. The good news is you won't have to drive back to the hotel afterward.

Chris and I really pace ourselves on Saturday. It's okay to share a tasting and it's okay to skip the last winery and rest up before dinner. Speaking of dinner, Margi has a way of always finding a great dining adventure. Sunday we go to breakfast with the group and then generally head home. For the truly hardcore, there is more wine tasting to be had, and perhaps a car show to check out.

May 14th is our first Club Concours of the year at the Camarillo Air Museum. Omigod, that's us! Jeff's info-flyer is on page 10, but I will expand on that here. First, the museum is well worth a visit and is probably twice as big as most people expect. This is the Commemorative Air Force's largest facility other than its Texas headquarters. This is an active aircraft restoration facility staffed by a surprising number of volunteers. And yes, they have quite a number of flyable World War II planes, including a very rare airworthy Japanese Zero.

After the concours we will caravan over to our house for lunch. Bring your favorite beverage, we will provide the food. Grab a chair, relax and enjoy the company of your fellow Alfisti!

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