

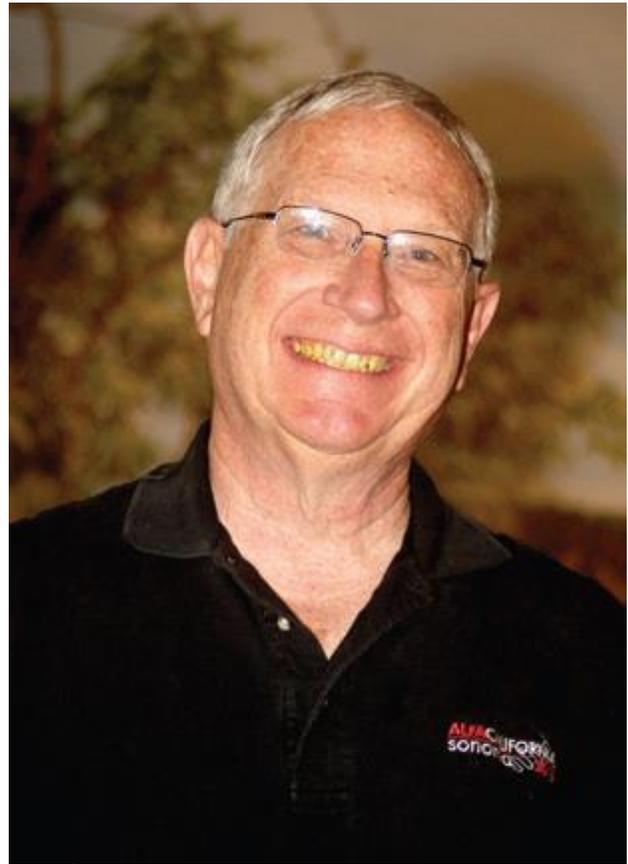
## FROM THE TOP ... *the Word from Il Presidente*

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(taken from the January 2016 *Alfacionada*)

Now that the Spider's brakes are fixed, the left-hand side of the garage (where I work on the cars) has been dibbs'd by the Sprint. The leak from the Sprint's rear differential was just getting too prolific to ignore, so I dropped it out and resealed the axle tube to the clamshell with a copious bead of Permatex Ultragray. I torqued and re-torqued the bolts until they stopped taking up, and reinstalled the diff. Thought I was done, but just as I was getting the car off the jack stands, I noticed a little green coolant on the floor. As of this moment, the Sprint is still on jack stands and the radiator is out for repair.

I was fortunate to attend the unveiling of the new Giulia at the Los Angeles Auto Show thanks to clubmate Ed Aenlle, who had an extra ticket. Is the Giulia Verde a high-performance car? Let me think. Can an uncommonly light car with 505 horsepower get out of its own way? Absolutely and then some! The new Fiat 124 was introduced later the same morning. It is pretty and quick, but it isn't in the same league as the Alfa performance.



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

The Holiday Party at the "Clubhouse" was excellent as always. The weather forecast was for cold, but the day turned out nicer than expected and the jackets we brought stayed in the car. MJ outdid himself at the grill by cooking chicken, fish and beef. Way too much really good food. As my father-in-law used to say, "Makes me wish I was hungry."

I think we set some kind of record for welcoming new and prospective members. I spent much of the day talking to people I had just met. One new member couple, Tony and Nico, just purchased a Montreal. He always wanted one and had actually seen and drove one in Germany. So, he was all over it when he saw one advertised in Oregon. Turned out it was the same car! He bought a one-way airline ticket, purchased the car, and drove it home. He says he wishes he had a few car projects. I told him to take it on a few events and he would soon find something to fix. It was toward the end of the day when I met Scott. He has a '57 Spider that has been sitting for 30 years and he is just getting back to it. We talked tricks and pitfalls and machine shops and would probably still be there if our wives hadn't pulled us apart.

January is a big month for us. First, we have a Time Trial and Race at Willow Springs. The special feature is an Alfa Only run group. You are all encouraged to attend and watch the Alfas run. At noon you can take your street Alfa out on the track for a few parade laps. These laps aren't run at race speeds, but last time we did it, the speed was certainly spirited for our 1300cc Giulietta.

On the same day Cindy Banzar, our national president, is hosting the mid-year board meeting and retreat in Palm Desert. This is not a chapter event, but Cindy extends an invitation to all (see page 6 of the November Alfa Owner). The First Lady and I will be there again this year. We think it is important to meet the national board, put faces with names, and get the latest updates. And, it really isn't all business as Saturday is all fun with a drive through the hills followed by a reception at Cindy's.

The Annual Awards Banquet is January 31st. Alfredo's has been sold, but you don't need to know that. Just head to the same place (now P.V. Grill) and when you get there look for the Alfa Banner on the other side of the courtyard. The price is \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members.

February 27th is the tour of the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. The Petersen reopened in December after a major remodel, so this is your chance to see what magic has been wrought. Don't forget, Gene Brown and Norm Silverman are both docents there, so our tour is sure to receive extra insider information and special attention.

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*