

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

(taken from the May/June 2016 *Alfacionada*)

Did you make it to the Wine Tour? Many, actually about 40 of us, did and it did not disappoint.

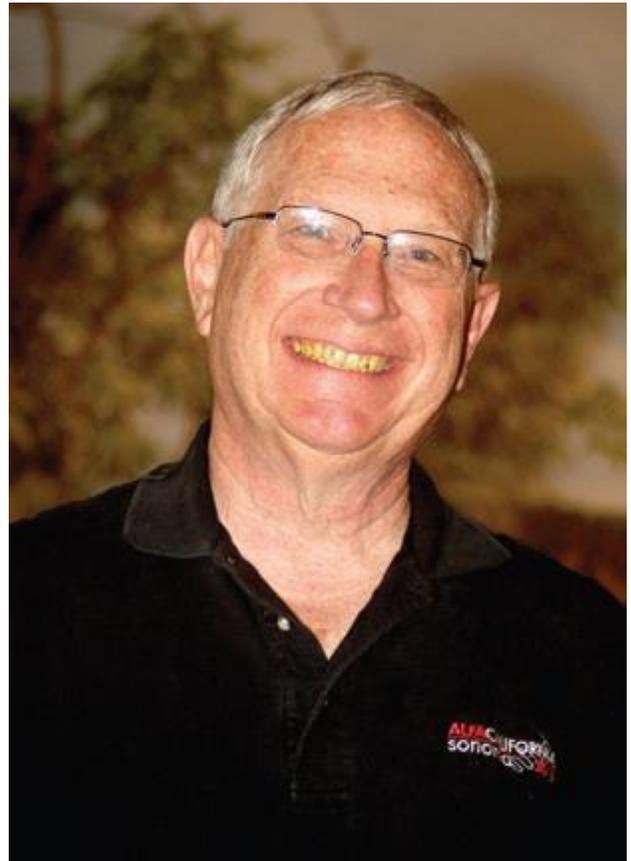
A few Friday night rain showers threatened to disrupt our traditional get-together, but where there is a will there is a way. We were all booked in one section of the inn, so we opened a few rooms, put up the club banner, set up the food under a roof overhang, and managed to stay outside admiring our cars as the dark clouds drifted away.

I might add the Adelaide Inn was a great place to stay. The rooms were nice and it is walking distance of Margie's Diner, one of my favorite stopping points on the way to Monterey. The food is good and the portions are huge! Enough about food.

Did I mention we went wine tasting too? Before we started out, Margi gave us all pink ribbons to tie to our cars to symbolize our memories of Joyce McHattie and to allow her to travel with us in spirit. From the inn we headed west toward the coast and visited a completely new slate of wineries. Lunch was at Calcareous Winery which is on a hilltop with a spectacular panoramic view. Afterwards, Doug McHattie, Chris and I took a short detour to one of our favorite Zinfandel wineries to replenish our stocks. The Saturday night dinner was just up the street from the inn, within walking distance for most of us, and featured excellent barbecue. We were seated in our own section, perfect for boasting and laughing, and for Margi to hand out the copious door prizes. Our thanks to Margi for a job well done!

Did you make it to our first Club Concours of the year at the Camarillo Air Museum? If not you missed some great cars as well as an opportunity to get a picture of your car on the tarmac under a vintage bomber. We staged our show out of the sun inside the main hangar surrounded by WW II memorabilia. Afterward we adjourned to our Camarillo home for food and conversation. Thank you Jeff for a job well done!

June is the season for car shows and we can recommend the following, both of which are looking for more Alfa entries. First up is the Huntington Beach Concours (www.hbconcours.org) on June 5th. It has been a Club event in previous years and offers the promise of cool beach weather. Next is the San Marino Motor Classic (www.sanmarinomotorclassic.com) on June 12th. It is more upscale and offers



Il Prez, in his new Official Portrait by Ken Sizemore

the chance to see prestigious cars from around the country. Chris and I went the year Alfa was the featured marque and had a great time.

Our June Club event and second Club Concours is the Highway Earth Car Show in Franklin Park in Beverly Hills on the 26th. Evan Klein, the organizer, is a professional automotive photographer, an Alfa owner and enthusiast, and an all-around good guy. This was fun event last year and will be our second Club Concours so dust off your Alfa and enjoy the day.

July 23rd is the Summer Day Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway ending with lunch in Wrightwood. That's a bit far from home for us, so we have made plans to stay the night and have a leisurely drive home on Sunday. Let us know if you are of similar mind and maybe we can get together for dinner.

A mere two weeks later is the annual Summer Party at the Cline's in Fountain Valley. Not only is it a great event, but this year the Clines and the Silvermans can regale us with their recent experiences in Italy. And don't forget the "Clean-Out-the-Garage" Auction. Bring something. Alfa Romeo parts are always welcome, but other items such as home-grown eggs, fruits and vegetables are also well received. By the way, I just resold the '67 GTV seats that I somehow managed to purchase last year. I had no earthly need for them, but they were such a deal!

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