

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

(taken from the Aug/Sep 2017 *Alfacionada*)

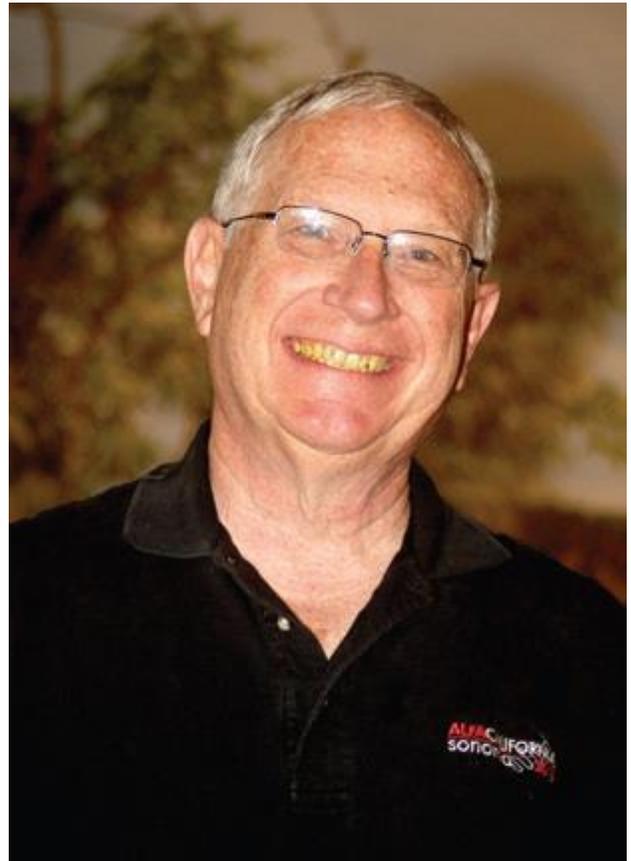
The Summer Day Drive in the San Gabriel Mountains must have been blessed by the Gods. We had a great turnout, the weather was good, and no one had car problems. Chris and I took the “air conditioned Alfa” as we often do, but the lack of extreme heat let us run with the windows down. Glendora Mountain Road is well known for its twisties, but I had never run it before. The ridge route portion is actually single lane with two-way traffic! We had a great time, but my son tells me that it is a horrible place to meet a school bus or a garbage truck.

The Summer Party was popular as always. The famed cast aluminum gas cap was back for the auction and was picked up by Norm Silverman for a mere \$6. The cap looks like it came from some exotic mid-60s race car and is too neat to not bid on. Then again, how many paperweights does a car guy need? I donated it originally and while it is not as well traveled as the Charlie Cup it seems like half the Club has owned it at one time or another.

We had several new members in attendance including a lady who had recently inherited a 1957 Spider which is currently being brought back to life by British European in San Pedro. Jokes aside, my son worked there one summer and one of the blokes there was actually a factory-trained Alfa Romeo mechanic in England. Sylvia is enthusiastic about Alfas and managed to score a vintage 750 Spider model in the auction.

Speaking of Spiders, I have not mentioned mine in a while. I replaced the head gasket after 30+ years and it ran fine, but was leaking oil from the top of the front cover. In hindsight, it appears that the sealant on the new, but ancient, head gasket died of old age and just wasn't doing the job. I finally bit the bullet and ordered a Reinz head gasket (the most expensive and reputed to be the best) from Jon Norman and started disassembly. This is a job I've done several times over the years, but it seems to get harder every year. Will keep you posted on my progress.

September 9th and 10th is our time trial and wheel-to-wheel race event on the “Big Track” at Willow Springs. Weather permitting, we will be celebrating the end of summer. Hunter Alfa Romeo of Lancaster will be there with a new Stelvio and some Giulias. Speaking of the Stelvio, Dave Kuntz recently did a piece on Alfa Romeo on ABC 7 News. He thinks the new Stelvio will be a big sales success, partly due to the ongoing popularity of SUVs and partly because the new Stelvio is very attractive (for a SUV).



Il Prez, in his new Official Portrait by Ken Sizemore

September 16th is the tour of the Galpin Ford Collection. We should expect lots of Fords and some special of customs. Check out <http://www.galpin.com/newsroom/> this-dealers-car-collection-might-surprise-you.

October 8th brings up our fourth concorso of the year at Huntingdon Beach High School (aka HBHS). Make particular note of the date, it is October 8th not October 28th as previously reported. We did this show for the first time last year on the advice of our newest board member, John Britton. It was a success, so we are back again this year. This show attracts a little bit of everything.

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