

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

(taken from the Jan 2018 *Alfacionada*)

No update on the Sprint this month. I recently had elective surgery and my nurse, the First Lady, has ruled that the garage is strictly off limits. That will not last much longer, as full recovery is expected in a couple more weeks.

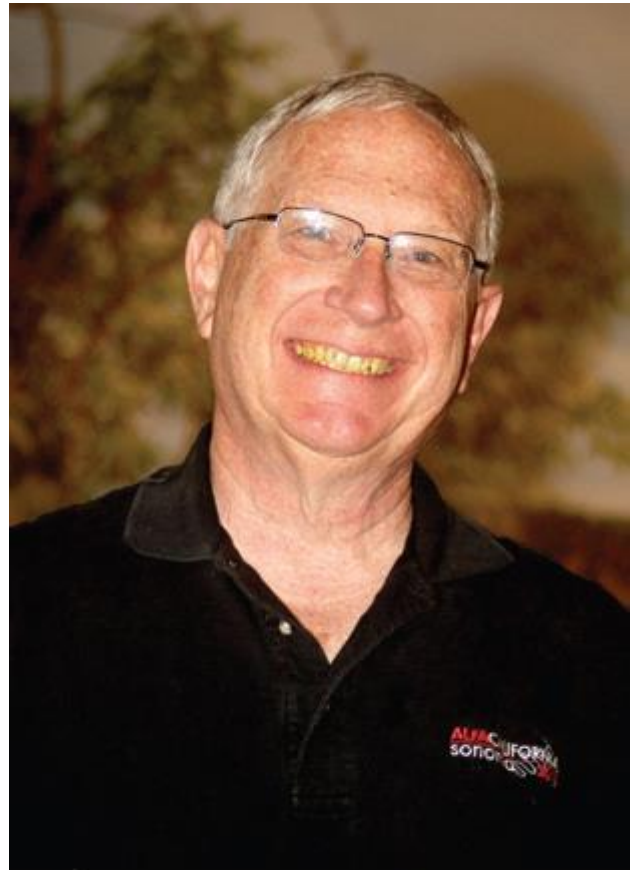
Chris made it to the Holiday Party while I stayed home and convalesced. She reports that there was plenty of food, alcohol and attendees. Our sincere thanks to MJ and Sheila for hosting such a fine party again this year. [Photos](#) are available curtesy of member David Waelder if you'd like to see what you missed.

Oh, I almost forgot. Guess who is il Presidente again this year! Yup, it's me. In fact, we didn't shuffle any of the board positions. The new board met in November for our 2018 planning meeting and this Alfacionada includes our 2018 Calendar. Events may be changed and several exact dates have yet to be determined, but you can get a good idea of what the new year will bring.

Our next Chapter event is our annual meeting on January 28th. This is where we honor people who have contributed generously to the Club and present annual Concours and Race high-point trophies. Don't think you're in the running for a trophy? No matter. Come out anyway, enjoy the camaraderie and the food, and vow to do better next year.

All AROC members should by now have received an invite to AROC's Fifth Annual Mid-Year retreat in Palm Desert. In my opinion, President Cindy Banzer has done a simply fantastic job of reaching out to the Chapters and in trying to make the Club more relevant to members' interests and needs. On Saturday, January 13th, there will be a drive to Julian (you may recognize some of the roads and waypoints from our 2017 Wine Tour!) followed by a cocktail reception at Cindy's home. This is not only a lot of fun, it is also a great time to meet the national board members who fly in from around the country. Do you have some ideas you want them to adopt? This is your big chance to be heard. Or if you prefer, it is just a fun day and a great party.

The first of six competition events in the new year is Willow Springs on February 3rd-4th. Laguna Seca would love to have us back, but it doesn't look like that will happen in 2018. The drawbacks are a very restrictive 90dB sound limit and the high cost of renting that track. I'd like to tell you



Il Prez, in his new Official Portrait by Ken Sizemore

what track events are planned in conjunction with the National Convention, but you will just have to stay tuned. Convention information will start flowing in the March issue of *Alfa Owner*.

We will be back to the Petersen on February 24th. Every year the exhibits are different, so don't fall into the trap of thinking you have been there done that. Latest word is we will be parking on Level 3 and going to Tom Bergin's for lunch. This was originally posted online as a Concorso event, but the Concorso will instead be held in March in the O.C.

It is confirmed we have exhibit space at the [Second Annual Los Angeles Classic Car Show](#) coming to the downtown Convention Center, March 2nd-4th. Last year we had the fancy Alfa Romeo logo popup and showed off a good selection of cars. It is well worth attending, and not just to see the Alfas.

On March 17th we will be visiting the Lyon Air Museum near the John Wayne Airport and conducting our 2018 Concorso #1. I've never been to this museum, but looking at their [website](#), I can see it includes an impressive collection of cars, airplanes and military vehicles.

It's w-a-y out there, but mark your 2018 calendar for the AROC National Convention in Olympia Washington, August 8th-12th. [Check it out](#), and look for more in the March Alfa Owner. Chris and I are definitely going. How, when and in what are yet to be determined, but we are definitely going. You should go too.

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