

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

The Sprint is back in good health. Once the garage ban was lifted after my surgery, I got the Sprint up on jack stands and started disassembly to diagnose the problem. It didn't take long. When I removed the right rear brake drum, the brake linings fell out as shown in the picture. Wow, they look like new only they aren't bonded to the shoes anymore! I'm not going to bad mouth the shop that did the bonding; after all, they did it over 25 years ago.

Once again, being a parts squirrel paid dividends. A fresh set of rear shoes leapt out of the cabinet and onto the car, and all was well again.

Our Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in January feature great food as always and, thanks to the weather, a fantastic view of Catalina Island. We were worried that we would not have enough door prizes, but everybody

pitched in and we ended up with more than plenty. At the luncheon I sat next to Kiem, the very nice lady who did all the work on the new <http://alfaclubracing.com/> website. She is a good driver too. Check out the story and see who won trophies on pages 12-15.

I didn't make it to Willow Springs on February 3rd and 4th, but the weather was great and there were enough Alfas for an Alfa only run group. See pages 18-20 for the coverage of the weekend. And there is more good news. I was wrong that we would not be back to Laguna Seca this year. It was announced at the Annual Meeting: we have Laguna Seca booked for October 21st-22nd.

We will be back to visit the Petersen Museum on February 24th. Every year the exhibits are different and this year they are featuring Porsche. Word is that it is the biggest and best Porsche exhibit this side of Germany. We won't have a concorso here this year, so just dust off your Alfa and come and have a good time. See the blurb on page 10 to RSVP.

The Second Annual Los Angeles Classic Car Show is at the downtown Convention Center March 2nd-4th – <http://www.theclassicautoshow.com/>. Norm Silverman is recruiting a new selection of new, old, everyday and exotic Alfas. If you come, plan on spending a few hours touring the many exhibits. Last year, I wandered into the 240Z section next to us and started talking about 240Z suspension guru, Trevor Harris. Imagine my consternation when they said Trevor who? Oh well, the cars were great. (Google Trevor Harris and plenty will come up, but it will not include anything about his work with Alan Ward.)

On St. Patrick's Day (March 17th) we will stage our first Club Concorso of 2018 on the grounds of the Lyon Air Museum near John Wayne Airport. I've never been to this museum, but looking at <http://www.lyonairmuseum.org/exhibits>, I can see it



includes an impressive collection of cars, airplanes and military vehicles. Our Alfas will be out front to put give the space a new look for the morning. Turn to page 16 for details.

April 14th-15th is the Driving School at the Streets of Willow. Our school is your chance to bring a stock vehicle and dip a little more than your toe into the nuances of high-performance driving. It is something everyone should do even if he/she has no intention of going racing. It pays to know how to recover when sh*t happens. Of course, we hope you all will get hooked. A guy called me from Northern California the other day wondering if he could bring his BMW. Heck yes. All makes are welcome, so tell your friends.

Our annual Wine Tour is April 20th-22nd. John Britton is taking us up to the Edna Valley area this year. We have not finalized the details just yet, but mark your calendar. There are some great wineries up there and we will have several of the best on our itinerary.

It may be a bit far into the future, but mark your 2018 calendar for the National Convention in Olympia, Washington August 4th-12th. Check out <http://www.semperverde2018.org/index.html> and the February issue of Alfa Owner. The details are all gelling and you can sign up to receive emails as information becomes available. The headquarters hotel will be at the Red Lion. Check the website for convention prices and for when reservations will open.

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



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