

Alfacionada

APRIL 2012



**Desert Classic Weekend pics and story, 10-14;
Many more activities coming soon!**



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

Alfa Romeo
Owners of Southern California



Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California

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Submissions

Please send classified ads, articles, letters and photographs to the Newsletter Address above, to arrive no later than the 25th of the month prior to publication.

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To keep your newsletter arriving after a move, please send your change of address information to AROC, P.O. Box 12340, Kansas City, MO 64116-0340.

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About This Newsletter

Alfacionada is the monthly publication of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California, a chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club, Inc.,

a national non-profit organization of Alfa Romeo enthusiasts. Affiliation with AROC and a subscription to this newsletter are included in your annual \$70 AROC dues. Non-members may subscribe to *Alfacionada* for \$20 per year, and attend meetings and events. See the inside back cover for a membership application form with rates and contact details.

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Meeting Information

General Meetings are held monthly, on a weekend day, at various locations in Southern California. A full listing of activities is on our website, arosc.org; a four-month calendar of events is on the outside back cover of this newsletter, and detailed information is in Previews. Check all three; email any questions to info@arosc.org, and a Club director will respond.

Our Cover This Month

Top, the Alfa Corral at the Desert Classic Concours was the largest one-marque group at the event, with 20 cars. Jim Barrett photo. Bottom, GTV6 fords a river on the scenic route to Ojai. Join us for the day trip Saturday, April 14; see info page 5. Steve Edelman photo.

AROSC Board of Directors — 2012

Your entire Board is now available at one point of contact: info@arosc.org. We welcome and encourage your thoughts and feedback. This central email address will allow us to respond, at home or on the road, through our computers and smart phones. Leave your telephone number and request a call-back if you wish; we will be happy to contact you personally.

Don't forget to check our website: <http://www.arosc.org>

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Previews ... *What's coming up and when.*

April 14 – One-day Road Tour to Ojai. Details on facing page.

May 19 – Spring Driving Tour: Coastline Cruise! We are doing PCH north to Santa Barbara. See info on page 16.

June 3 – Huntington Beach Concours; see page 18.

June 16 – Chili Cookoff! Location TBA.

July 13-15 – Wine Tour, Region TBA

July 28 – Braille Rallye, Los Angeles and environs; see page 25.

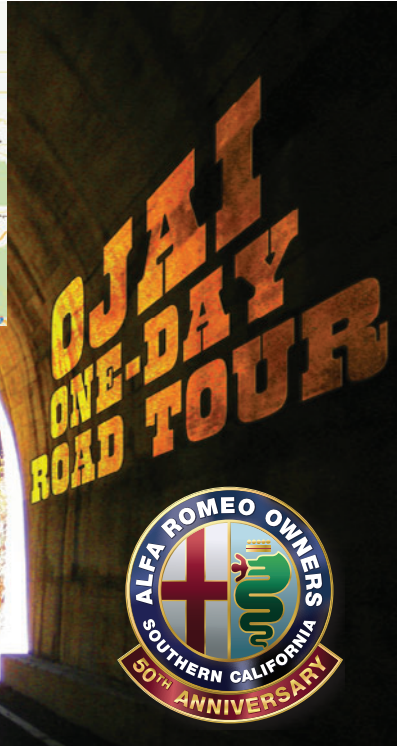
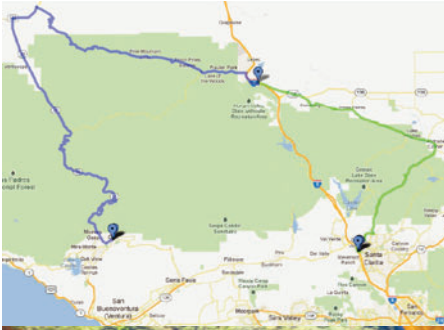
July 29 – Summer Party



Note: Board of Directors meetings are generally held on the last Wednesday of the month. Anyone with business to bring before the Board is requested to please contact Il Presidente Mike Riehle.



Desert Classic: midday entertainment by the Classic Aero Squadron – Jim Barrett photo.



SET ASIDE SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH FOR A SCENIC DRIVE TO OJAI

This year we are reviving a car club tradition: the nice, concise day drive over some of the most scenic roads in Southern California.

Starting at 8:30 a.m. near Magic Mountain, we will take on the back roads through Gorman heading East to SR33 which will take us to downtown Ojai and our lunch stop at La Fonte restaurant <http://www.lafontepizze.com>

Lunch seating is limited. Please RSVP by March 30th to Steve Edelman – arsq90-ARSteve@yahoo.com so that arrangements can be made with the restaurant. To see the route map go to <http://g.co/maps/ebkhw>



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

This is my first column from our new home in Camarillo, where we are still settling in. The pets are adjusting and the Alfas and spare parts are safely tucked in the new garage. Fortunately, I learned an important lesson in a previous move and had built a freestanding workbench that came with us. So far, the workbench, several storage racks from Costco, a couple more surplus file cabinets and oh yes, the Alfas, comprise the bulk of the décor. Will eventually have to build some cabinets and/or buy a bunch of Homer boxes (Home Depot tote boxes) to hold the smaller stuff. The lighting is nearly adequate with four 8-ft. fluorescent lights. Oh, and I almost forgot, we are getting settled in the house too.

Chris and I didn't make it to the Petersen, but I'm sure Norm and Gene (both are docents there) made sure everyone had an informative tour and a good time. The Sculpture in Motion display sounded particularly interesting, and I am reminded of a similar event put on by the Pasadena Design Center many years ago. To my mind some of the world's most beautiful cars were designed in Italy in the 1950s, but prior to that event I had no idea that they were still being studied by students of automotive design. Imagine my surprise to find the original full-size wood model of the Giulietta Sprint on prominent display!

April brings up the One-Day Road Tour to Ojai. I'm not sure exactly what route Steve has picked out for us,

but there are some great roads around there and this is one event Chris and I aren't going to miss. It's in our own back yard, and will be a pleasant drive in one of the "old cars" as Chris' Dad used to say. The Sprint is getting a new muffler and tailpipe for the occasion and, barring rain, we will leave the "new" cars at home.

May brings up the Spring Tour which is always a popular event. Last year we went all the way to Anza Borrego. The weather was perfect and every Alfa made the trip without fail leaving us to enjoy some great roads and some fantastic scenery. This year we are headed to Santa Barbara. I don't have any inside info as yet, but twisty roads, food, wine and good times are a given.

Remember, if the women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy. And don't forget the duct tape, a handyman's secret weapon.

— Mike and Chris

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Passings ... Trevor Fay, John Purdie

TREVOR FAY, 1944-2012

*Born Adelaide,
Australia, April
9th, 1944.*

*Died Adelaide
January 18th,
2012*



Trevor Fay, a valued link in the international Alfa network, passed away January 18 in Adelaide, Australia.

Trevor wrote articles for *Sports Car Market*, volunteered at auto races and shows, was purveyor of Alfa parts, and maintained his Sprint GT to

an exceptional standard. He regularly traveled to the U.S. during the Monterey weekend, where many of us enjoyed his company at West and Maggie Clark's annual Alfa owners' party. Following Monterey, he would spend a few weeks visiting Alfisti throughout California, which brought him to several AROSC events. He was a fanatical Alfa Romeo enthusiast.

AROSC Treasurer Jay Mackro said, "We think all of you know that Trevor was diagnosed with glioblastoma last year; we realized it must have been quite serious when he sold his beloved Sprint GT. I always enjoyed the time I spent with Trevor. His charm would open doors that led to people and places I would never have approached on my own. We're all going to miss him."



John Purdie

January 14, 1945 - March 10, 2012

John Purdie passed away March 10th after a battle with cancer.

We in the Alfa Club have known John as a racer in his 240Z and as a long time Tech “shop” for the Central Coast area.

John attended Cal Poly where he graduated in 1970 with a degree in

Mechanical Engineering. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army. For 25 years he taught science and math at San Marcos High.

For the past two years his favorite ritual was the weekly Sunday brunch gathering with fellow “Gearheads” at Sly’s in Carpenteria.

A celebration of John’s life was held Monday, March 19 in Santa Barbara.

Gonna miss you, John.

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Desert Classic Weekend 2012



Alfas in the Corral – K. Sizemore photo

Alfa Corral Largest Marque Group on the Green!

Our mid-winter weekend in the low desert got started from many different spots this year, with one group diverting to Temecula's Keyways Winery and Vineyard for lunch, and others arriving in waves at the headquarters hotel or ahead of time at their own favorite digs. We arrived on the last two days of Midcentury Week in Palm Springs, and the place was packed with art, design and architecture enthusiasts cruising the area.

The party got started in earnest when about 34 of us gathered for Saturday evening's dinner at the La Quinta home of Doug and Joyce McHattie (below). This year, our hosts put a twist on the festivities by

adding a beer tasting to the cocktail hour. We were treated to some very interesting brews, presented by a local purveyor, before taking on the traditional brown-bag wine identification contest. This year there were four whites, and we had to determine which one was the most expensive. As a testament to our collective good sense, 80% of us identified the correct (most pricey) vintage.



Charlie Schwartz, Jan Cline, Chris Burke and Evelyn Silverman enjoy the wine judging – Sizemore photo



Again we brought in an array of green and pasta salads, plus some divine fruits and nuts from the region, and combined them with Doug's superb grilled combo-burgers. Many of us have tried to replicate his mix of

olives, cheeses and herbs, but nothing beats the original. Thank you, Doug and Joyce, for a great evening and a fine start to a fun concours weekend!

Sunday dawned cool, but definitely OK for skirts and shorts, and we were off to the new concours location at



Charlie and Bonnie Schwartz arrive – Sizemore photo

the Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage. Luckily all the Palm Springs area is well-served by superstreets and it is difficult to get lost in the bright, clear morning air. This venue and the show itself were smaller than previous years, but no less enjoyable.

Our Alfa gang numbered 20 plus two cars in the concours proper – and Mike Baum's brilliant Junior Zagato (below; Mike's in the red shirt) was chosen class winner, Postwar Sports-cars Under 2 Liters.



In our first Club Concours of 2012 we awarded four medallions: First in Open Class went to Howard Zellman and his white '64 Spider Veloce; second to Kevin Klein's '78 silver Spider, and third to Norm and Evelyn April 2012



Team Srinivasian - Sizemore photo.

Silverman's '65 Giulietta Spider. Top honors in Closed Class went to Jay Mackro and Catherine Kusnick's red Giulia Sprint GT. Thanks to Concours Chair Jordan Lee and his panel of judges for another job well done!

Luckily this golf course had more trees, so we could chase the shade around all day and our canines could be comfy (Craig McIntosh's elegant poodle, Jordan and Danny's brace of black funsters, and the ubiquitous Aussie). Our Club information booth on the bonnet of GTVSEIS was visited by enough interested passersby to deplete the collection of flyers and newsletters, and, in their first offering, we sold a number of our 50th anniversary decals.



The Murray's Ferrari was awarded Best in Show. Photo courtesy Desert Classic.

There were no honored marques this year, but it was nice to see Club members Don and Carol Murray collect a class win and Best in Show with their '63 Ferrari Superamerica (which we viewed last spring in the Supercar exhibit at the Petersen). – Elyse Barrett



Il Presidente Mike and First Lady Chris preside over the Club meeting.



Above, dinner and fun at the McHatties'. Below, Steve Edelman models the new 50/40 Anniversary T-shirt.



Howard Zellman is welcomed back to the club with a First in the Open class.



Howard's gorgeous '64 Spider Veloce.



Kevin Klein's '78 Spider (below) wins Second in the Open class.





The Silvermans' 1963 Giulietta Spider takes Third in the Open class. Below, Evelyn Silverman shows off her lovely car.



Jay Mackro accepts the First Place Award in the Closed Class. Below, Jay's immaculate '66 Giulia Sprint GT.



A row of very nice Alfas, plus an Audi that apparently wants to move up in the world. This and all other photos on these two pages are by Ken Sizemore.



Our "information booth" (formerly AKA The Suedemobile) was wildly popular, with all the literature snapped up and several of the new decals sold. Sizemore photo.



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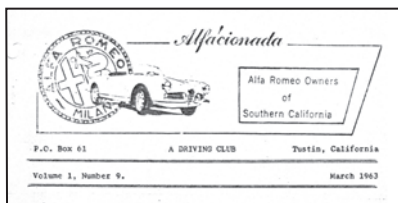
An AROSC Jubilee Special

Dawning of the Age of Alfacionada

Welcome to No. 2 in a series of precious retrospectives on your Club, as gleaned from the pages of *Alfacionada* of the 1960s. This installment is from February, 1963, volume 1, number 8, the edition immediately preceding the newsletter's name change and makeover (featured in our March edition, page 19).

In February, 1963 our charming news sheet was called *The Alfa's Bark*, and the lead piece was titled "Alfa Lotta Nonsense," a collection of observations by AROSC President Bob Nerell. Bob was privileged to attend a press preview of the Maserati line at Hoffman Motors and, while admiring the new 1600 Alfa, was mistaken for a *Road & Track* magazine staffer. His host was well into his PR presentation so Bob "...let him carry on with his discussion. At one point he states, 'You should get to know the people in the Alfa Owners Club; they're the most enthusiastic bunch in the country.' " How right this is! Love you, Bob!

Nerell continued with a note about an idea our current Board of Directors has been looking at, tangentially, for a while now: sharing membership information with our members! He writes: "Elsewhere in this issue ... [we] will have something to say concerning the proposed state-wide Alfa Owners Directory. Through Ed Gustin's contacts with the San Francisco Chapter, we have received a 'green light' ... San Diego should go along also." How about that?



As mentioned in the March installment of "50 Years", these AROSC stalwarts were also philosophical about the state of motoring and marque enthusiasm. Bob laments: "What has happened to the 'esprit d'corps' ... these days? Time was, not so very long ago, when you would get a wave, a light blink, or even a bit of a nod from other drivers. No more however, and today not even a flicker of recognition from fellow Alfa pilots."

Well, in the March '63 issue, Ed Gustin responded in "True Stories". "Suppose we should point out ... the button in the middle of the steering wheel is for GREETING OTHER ALFAS. The Italians knew ... for the tech-minded, pushing this button (1) Causes head lamp to flash on. (2) Makes amp meter violently vibrate. (3) Deposits thin film of oyl [sic] on road for cars behind to spin on. (4) Gladdens the heart and brightens the day of the greeted driver, who (a) after an initial shock (b) wonders what kind of nut that was (c) recovers (d) and waves back; causing: a GT Dodge, 2 Luh-Mahns Pontiacs and a bucket-seated, 2-on-the-dash Monza to go into the ditch."

Back to the Future and welcome to it!

— Elyse Barrett

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Our AROSC Club Concours #2 is June 3 at the 27th Annual Huntington Concours in Huntington Central Park. Save the date, and get ready to celebrate the onset of summer at the beach! This is always a fun, relaxed day, with entertainment for all, shade for our picnic, and opportunities to get back together with fellow Alfisti. Club members event organizer Bart McGrath and event treasurer Phyllis Gaylard help ensure that Alfa has a class and we have a primo marque location in the show. Come on down!

AROSC Concorso #2 Celebrating 50 Years

June 3rd, 2012 in the ALFA ROMEO CLASS at the 2012

Huntington Beach Concours

Our new Direttore di Concorsi, Jordan Lee has introduced a new single-page, simple-to-understand-and-prepare-for AROSC Concours Judging System.

1 – Procedure

a) When arriving at the Huntington Beach Concours look for the AROSC banner and follow directions for car placement.

b) When parking, you will be asked if you wish your car to be judged (classes listed below), and when you say YES, you will be asked for \$10 to defray the cost of awards and you will be given a “CLASS JUDGE’S SCORING FORM” with your assigned number which will be recorded.

Please fill in the pertinent information and place on your windshield. The judges will fill in your scores and leave plethora of commentary – or not.

c) Please arrive by 8:30 so you have some time to take the grass off your tires before the judging starts.

2 – Basic Rules and Guidelines

a) Cars are meant to be driven and emphasis will be on originality and authenticity.

b) If you are a judge, a great way to really appreciate nostre macchine belle, you will not be asked to judge your own car or any car with which you have had a previous affair.

3 – What is judged *(Total Pt. Value 100)*

a) Spiders can be judged with the top up or down (the judge needs only to make sure it is there and correct).

b) Trunks will not be judged, but there will be a category called “Complementary Elements” and a Drivers/Owners Manual, First Aid Kit, Highway Safety Equipment, Fire Extinguisher, Magazine / Articles / Ad Brochures and Vehicle Specific Memorabilia can add up to 5 points.

c) The judge will ask you for a little information about the car and explain the sequence of the judging which will start with a walk around the car. At various times the judge will ask you to open things, start the engine, turn on your headlights (low and hi beam), parking lights, back up lights and directional signals.

4 – Classes

a) A very special class for cars as old or older than AROSC: Pre-1962 Open, Pre-1962 Closed

b) Spiders

c) Closed Coupes, and Sedans

d) Track Competition Vehicles – Time Trial and Race Prepared.

e) Daily Drivers – Vehicles used more than a two days a week for commuting or as your primary vehicle.

5 – Awards

a) There are points awarded for First, Second and Third Place that will count toward the Year-End Overall Competition Championship.

b) Regardless of the number of people in a class, there will be a physical award presented to First, Second and Third place.

– Norm Silverman

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Two Days in the Life of a Rookie

Driving School Instructor *by Mike McKibbin*



Chief Instructor Steve Hamilton with the Street Performance group. Photos by Mike or Mitch McKibbin.

At the January Willow Springs event, a call went out to all instructors for a meeting about our upcoming Driving School, set for February 18-19 at the Streets of Willow. I had done some driver education at primary events on race and TT weekends, so when Steve Hamilton passed by and pointed at me, saying, "Come on," and asked if I was interested in becoming a full-time instructor at the AROSC school, I was flattered. Of course! What a privilege!



Instructors Dennis Fibrow, Terry Major, Tony Presto

I was assigned to the high-performance street driving class, traditionally the largest group; with 18 cars this was the case at the February school. There were many

instructors for this group, so my being a rookie was not terribly intimidating, but actually quite a learning experience. I had never sat through the street performance course, and was genuinely enlightened by the detailed explanation of driving techniques I'd been taking for granted.

Daughter Andrea was signed up in race group and exhibiting some newly-found aggression. Terry Watson told me that during one of the practices, he came up from behind her and thought, "Oh, it's Andrea. I'll just drive around her," and then she



Daughter Andrea Bordato on the race course.

slammed the door on him. Obviously she is a lot less intimidated in traffic.

My sister-in-law, Kyong, drove brother Mitch's Mazda in street performance, and went from being somewhat timid on Saturday morning to being to toss the car around on Sunday. We all cheered for her as she spun the car out on the go-kart track and appeared to be thoroughly enjoying herself.

My own shining moments came Sunday morning when I decided to grace Francisco Duran, driving Joe



Exhibiting skills originally learned on LA on-ramps and honed here under professional guidance, these people are all piling through Turn 1 without hitting anyone.

Cobb's Mustang, with my expertise. I rode with him as a passenger for a few laps and decided he needed a little guidance on entry points, lines and exits, so I told him, "Let me show you how it's done." I got behind the wheel and gave him a running narrative as we proceeded around the race track and, as we approached the chicane, I locked up both front brakes. Without missing a beat, I explained that this is something you do not want to do. We took another lap and just to make sure the lesson was not lost, I locked up the front brakes again coming into the chicane. Again, without missing a beat, I helpfully explained, while knocking a cone out of the way, that it is pretty much impossible to steer the

car while the front wheels are locked up.

I thought for sure Steve Hamilton was going to fire me; he might have if he'd not been laughing so hard.

The improvements in driving skills were certainly clear during the graduation sessions on Sunday afternoon. Time trial drivers had about a half-hour in their exhibition event and race



Andrea hits the dirt.

group actually performed three very close and interesting races. Andrea actually led a couple of laps in one race; almost lost the car a couple of times but brought it back, went off course and came back once, then spun out completely. She was all alone on the



Starter/Instructor Mike Easterman

course, about a half-lap behind, when Steve decided we should black-flag her to check the tires. In she came, and we timed the stop to be able to send her out right in front of the pack.

Despite the wheel-to-wheel dicing everywhere, there was no contact whatsoever.

As I walked through the pits at the end of the day, two students came up to say how much they wanted to thank AROSC. They said they could not believe how much they had learned in one weekend, and that the instructors had done an absolutely wonderful job.

Thank you, guys. That truly makes it all worthwhile! — Mike McKibbin



Above are (clockwise from left) Kyong, Mom, Andrea and Tasha. Below: A good car, great course, and a gorgeous two days having fun with your friends; that's what it's all about.



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AROSC Wants YOUR OPINION

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Your Club, the Southern California Chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club, is among the largest in the country with at least two activities per month. We have nearly 280 members and to those of you who participate, we thank you and hope you are having fun.

For those of you we don't see often enough, we want to stage events that will appeal more to you so you'll have a convenient, fun excuse to exercise your cars.

As our Fab 50th Jubilee year gets rolling in earnest, your Board of Directors cordially invites your input

on the drives, collection tours, competition, picnics, high-performance driver training, social events we stage throughout the year.

What would make your membership in this group more fun and meaningful?

Where would you like to drive your Alfa?

What are you tired of and wish to change?

Please help us to help you enjoy your membership in this organization. Write to us at info@arosc.org. A Club Director will respond.

Thank you!



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Save the Date: July 28! If you've never driven the Braille Rallye, you're in for a treat. Give up your preconceptions about driving in Los Angeles roads as you are guided by a determined, detail-oriented young navigator! Details to come in future Alfacionadas.

2000 GTV parts: Fuel injection pump \$150. Thermostatic actuator \$50. Fuel injection lines and injector set \$50. Alternator and voltage regulator \$50. Head gasket set (New) \$20. Shankle heel & toe kit \$10. Front grille w/ emblem and headlight rims. \$100. Brembo front disc (New) \$35. Tool kit in original case (like new) \$40. Left/right door handles w/key. \$60. Oil pumps \$50. Call Alex at 949.497.1487 or rbirac@cox.net (Laguna Beach).

1991 164 – 139K w eng rbld @ 100K. Time Belt with 5K. CA car. Auto trans. Wants to cruise 70+ @ 20+ MPG. Interior good, A/C cold with good step motor, all electronics, lthr seats, sun roof, windows, dash, rear window def + shades, color white. Trans close to rebuild time. \$1800 OBO. Call 818.427.2054.

Classified Advertising

Classified (non-commercial) ads are accepted and published as a free service to members, and for \$10 per insertion for non-members. Content must be Alfa-related and/or of special and specific interest to the membership. Deadline for ad art files to be received by the editor is the 25th of the month before publication.

Commercial Advertising

Display space may be reserved and purchased at any time during the year. Rates are for 12 months and are renewable upon receipt of invoice. Now that the publication is electronic, advertisers may take advantage of bonus circulation available when posting their logos and links to the Club website, arosc.org. Deadline for ad art files to be received by the editor is the 25th of the month before publication.

Annual Costs, Color or B&W:

Full Page \$275

Half Page \$150

Business Card/1/4-page \$100

Please contact Advertising Coordinator Jim Barrett at info@arosc.org for a detailed rate card and complete advertising information.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California

Dues for a one-year membership in the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California (AROSC) and the Alfa Romeo Owners Club - US (AROC) are \$70. Please fill in the information blanks in this form, clip and mail with your check, payable to Alfa Romeo Owners Club, to Alfa Romeo Owners Club, P.O. Box 12340, Kansas City, MO 64116-3040. You may also join online using your credit card by visiting aroc-usa.org, or by telephoning 877.399.2762.

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ ALFA(S) OWNED _____

AROC MEMBER # (IF APPLICABLE) _____ CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____

Affiliation/Subscription

Non-AROC members, automobile enthusiasts, industry friends and special associates may subscribe to Alfacionada for \$20 per year, and attend meetings and events. To become an affiliate/subscriber, or renew your affiliation/subscription, send this form with a check payable to AROSC to AROSC Treasurer, 27152 Paseo Del Este, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

*Alfa Romeo Owners
of Southern California
20072 Cove Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92646*



Our 2012 Calendar of Events

| | | | |
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| <p><i>April</i></p> <p>1 Driver Education, Time Trial, Race and Enduro at Buttonwillow, joint event with NCRC.</p> <p>14 One-day Road Tour to Ojai. It's not too late to join the fun; RSVP now!</p> | <p><i>May</i></p> <p>19 Spring Driving Tour: Coastline Cruise! We're taking PCH North!</p> | <p><i>June</i></p> <p>3 Huntington Beach Concours 16 Chili Cookoff! Location TBA.</p> | <p><i>July</i></p> <p>13-15 Wine Tour, Region TBA. 28 Braille Rallye, Los Angeles and environs. 29 Summer Party.</p> |
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