



Newsletter of
the Alfa Romeo
Owners of
Southern California



Concorso Season Continues

in a park in Huntington
Beach. Enter or spectate!
Details on page 3.



Summer Party '26

is just around the corner.
Info on page 5.

Previews

May 3 Riding the Old Road
Los Angeles Day
Drive

Jun 7 Club Concorso #2,
Huntington Central
Park

July 18 Summer Party, Palos
Verdes

Aug 16 Old Spider/Monterey
Orphans Tour, Dana
Point to Carlsbad

Please read
The Disclaimer,
page 20.



*Avanti
e Verso
l'Auto!*

Presidents'
Message

Rubber Investments + Other Thoughts

QUIZ: How long has it been since you drove your Alfa, and how far? What does it need now? How old are your tires? When did you last check their pressures?

We mention this because one of our Alfas has BEAUTIFUL name-brand tires with no cracks or any actual wear, and yet, may be more than 15 years old. This car lives indoors, and gets driven every couple of months or so, and with minimal UV exposure. Everyone who has worked on the car has noted the date codes and exclaimed what a risk we are taking by driving on them. So now it's time to find 14-in. tires (Remember them?). Tire Rack has five choices, and Lucas has one, a Michelin. Likewise, Longstreet in the U.K. offers similarly priced Michelins.

And, thinking of tires, one of their functions is to communicate the driving conditions to the driver, right? So, let's consider how our AROSC chapter communicates to its drivers.

Our primary method of keeping you updated is with this *Alfacionada*, and by email, and vice-versa; you can always send an email to the combined Board of Directors at info@arosc.org.

Your newsletter is a vital, graphical connection to the Club that comes to you bimonthly, delivered in an email with a link by which to view and download. Do you usually read it in its entirety? Do you review it when you have a question? Just last week, on the eve of our excellent Old Road drive, a member wanted to know where to meet. Had he read the newsletter he would have known who to contact, how to register, and that the host would provide inform-

ation by return email. And besides the articles about past and present events, we include the names of our newest members, who you should hopefully meet. Look at this issue and join us at the next activity.

And yes, our stunning events! Last month's Wine Tour Fun '26 was a sold-out success, and it also provided clear perspective about how wineries in this region have moved upscale in products and prices. We tried a different scheme for winery visits and meals, and it reduced production and hosting costs.

Coming soon in June is our annual Concorso at Huntington Beach. In July is our Summer Party; sign-ups open soon.



Also, we hope you have already made your reservations for the 2026 AROC National Convention in September in Ogden, Utah. Pre-Convention Tours and special activities within the event have limited headcounts, so check out the opportunities still available. See page 15, visit the convention website, and sign up. The registration form on page 12 of your May *Alfa Owner* is a good planning worksheet.

Elsewhere in this issue there is news about the latest attempt to roll back smog checks (aka, "Leno's Law"). We can all add our support to this effort by writing/emailing our legislators in Sacramento (see page 13).

Incidentally, Stellantis, the current parent of Alfa Romeo worldwide, has made some radical changes to their game plans. Besides writing off billions for warranty repairs, they decided to focus on discovering and studying what customers want, instead of telling customers what they should want. We hope this is not too little too late.

Ciao,
Jim & Elyse Barrett
Copresidenti

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June 7th

Concorso #2

*Registration
is Open*

AROSC's second Concorso of 2026 will be on June 7th, with our traditional participation in **the Huntington Beach Concours d'Elegance**.

This is a very popular event, and the picturesque lawns of Huntington Beach Central Park make a fine setting to showcase your superb Italian machinery.

AROSC will award ribbons to the following classes: 2014 and earlier: Open, Closed, and Street; 2015 and later: Modern and Modern Special; Competition/Race Prepared; plus People's Choice and Best of Show.

Registration is through the HB Concours website, and is open now. **Enter before May 30th!**

[HB Concours d' Elegance](#) | [HB Concours d' Elegance](#)

Don't worry that HB's classes don't exactly align with AROSC's class structure – get registered and we'll work it out. Class winners receive ribbons, handsome etched-glass trophies, Mother's gift certificates, a congratulatory drive past the announcers platform, plus a vanity photograph as they accept their trophy – a great way to finish a beautiful day!

If you don't wish to be judged, you may enter your Alfa in the HB show and park with us to enjoy the day. Bring a picnic or buy lunch from an on-site vendor.

There's sure to be an outstanding lineup of vintage and modern Alfa Romeos, as well as hundreds of other interesting automobiles. Save the date, and make plans to be part of the scene!

– David O'Donoghue & Jeff Srinivasan, Concorso Co-Chairs

Register in both HB Concours and AROSC Concorso #2

[HB Concours d' Elegance](#) | [HB Concours d' Elegance](#) (before May 30th)

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Our mid-year celebration has a date and a destination! The AROSC 2026 Summer Party is set for Saturday, July 18th at the home of Val Dietrich and Monique Goossens in Palos Verdes Estates. The nearby Pacific Ocean should provide pleasant views and air temperatures.

We will be serving a catered main course for lunch: artisanal pizzas, cooked on-site in wood-fired ovens. Please bring your best appetizer or dessert. No need to bring salads; your

hosts will provide those! And of course, we would love to have you share a bottle of your favorite wine.

Tradition dictates we conduct our annual fund-raising and garage-cleansing auction. so please start searching your automotive treasure trove for items to donate. Newbies: the best items have a connection to Alfa, motorsports, or Italy. Last years' sale was very successful, so we are asking for a repeat performance by volunteer auctioneer Paul Blankenship.

Meanwhile, save the date for fun in the sun with *Alfisti* friends on Saturday, July 18th and watch your email for more information.

Ciao, Val & Monique



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Club Concorso #1

Sherman Library & Gardens



Best of Show (L), Adil Farooqui's 1973 Spider Veloce, and People's Choice (R), David O'Donoghue & Roseann Castelli's 1984 Spider, overflowing with spring beauty (many blooms were from their home garden).

The first event of AROSC's 2026 Concorso season was held on Sunday March 29th, at the beautiful Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona del Mar.

As morning mist gave way to mild sunshine, 27 Alfa Romeos gathered – a fine turnout for our first appearance at this new venue. Nineteen cars were judged; eight were display-only, and we welcomed five first-time Concorso participants.

With a soundtrack of vintage and modern Italian music, AROSC's judging teams thoroughly examined the

contestants, while participants and visitors had a chance to appreciate the fine Italian machinery.

Recognition and thanks goes out to our judges: Hal Croulet, John Ireland, Robert Jackson, Jay Mackro, and Concorso Co-Chairs Jeff Srinivasan and David O'Donoghue, along with a special tip of the hat to our reception ambassadors, Roseann Castelli and Cheryl Quadrelli.

– David O'Donoghue & Jeff Srinivasan
Concorso Co-Chairs

Results on page 7.



(continued)



AROSC's Concorso #1 Winners

Classic Street

- 1 Pat Terrisse, 1978 Spider Veloce
- 2 Val Dietrich, 1960 2000 Spider Touring
- 3 John & Ann Keane, 1987 Spider Veloce

Classic Closed

- 1 Bob van Schoonenberg, 1969 GTV
- 2 Arthur Burns, 1969 GT 1300 Junior
- 3 Brad Duncan, 1973 GTV

Classic Open

- 1 Adil Farooqui, 1973 Spider Veloce
- 2 Norm Bianchi, 1987 Spider Veloce
- 3 Rob Shanahan, 1956 Giulietta Spider

Modern

- 1 Robert & Allyson Jackson, 2017 Giulia
- 2 Don Cole, 2023 Stelvio Veloce
- 3 John Ireland, 2023 Giulia

Competition Prepared

Harry White, 1975 Spider Veloce

Best of Show

Adil Farooqui, 1973 Spider Veloce

People's Choice

David O'Donoghue & Roseann Castelli,
1984 Spider Veloce (w/ Floral Extravaganza)

(continued)



Top: Our chapter's 27 cars filled the parking lot! Above (L-R) Pat Terrisse's winning Open Classic Spider; Harry and his winning Comp-Prepared Spider; Viktoria's first-time entry Tonale Veloce. Clockwise from middle: Val's Touring Spider and the event signage; a peek at the Sherman Gardens patio; Jim asks John tell us about our upcoming drive on The Old Road.





April showers followed us throughout the weekend, but in between, the puffy white clouds and shiny blue skies made spirits bright. Friday evening we assembled one of our famed parking lot pup-up potluck parties, and studied the maps and books detailing Saturday's lunchtime tasting and afternoon touring. The WTF26 format was to meet at McPrice Myers Winery for a bottle service tasting with our picnic lunches, then we could spend the afternoon seeking the vintners and varietals that most appealed to us.

Event-runners Paul Blankenship with Elyse and Jim Barrett provided a highlighted map with 12 recommendations and a book from the Paso Robles Wine Alliance that detailed all the wineries, their specialties and policies. We reconvened for dinner in two groups at either



Top left/bottom right: the fab Friday potluck at our motel, Wine Country Inn. Clockwise from top-middle: Erwin and Niko; Mike, Jeff and Jim; Norm and Margaret; David, Jan and Susan; Sheila, Kate and Pat.

(continued)



Top: Great driving on Peachy Canyon Road.
Middle: McPrice Myers in morning sun.

Clockwise from left: Margaret matches the Spider; Jim and Elyse conduct the Drivers' meeting; group at McPrice Myers; Bonnie, MJ, Sheila during our barrel room lunch/tasting.



(continued)



Middle (L-R)
the barrel
room; Paul
and Jeff;
Susan, Tony,
Gene, Helen
and Niko.



Top: Thacher
vines. Bottom:
heading in
to Pappy
McGregor's
and seated at
TASTE.

TASTE Craft Eatery or Pappy McGregor's in the center of town, both facing the park.

Bonnie and Paul stopped at Halter Ranch for a visual experience. "There is a train and tracks running through the property with a covered bridge, and sculptures all around the vineyards and tasting room/restaurant. Next, we stopped at Tablas, and absorbed explanations of their varietals and tasted unusual flavors. Afterwards, we walked around the property in the rain to see the brilliant flower gardens and the vines, sparkling with raindrops. Last, we arrived at Thacher. It used to be a horse ranch and the corals, barns, and stables are now in use for social activities. We met other *Alfisti* enjoying the ambiance in the tasting room. I bought two bottles Cinsault, a light red wine, foot-trodden, with no added enzymes, acids, tannins or nutrients. It tasted like fresh raspberries," Bonnie wrote.

(continued)



Further explorations: the Justin tasting room; art glass at Studios on the Park.



More explorations: (L) Eberle Winery's comfy hearth and the Tiki Room (above).

Jeff Srinivasan noted, "Margaret and I went to Rava (east side of Paso) as they have a very nice indoor/outdoor tasting area and a wide range of sparkling wines. We shared a bubbles flight and bought a couple of bottles of a new varietal we had not experienced before. The drive to and from in the Spider was lovely, even though the top remained up."

And David and Susan Waelder went to Eberle Winery, noting, "Gary Eberle was at his usual spot just outside the tasting room with his latest pet poodle, Viognier. (All his poodles are named after varietals.) We purchased a new blend created as a casual picnic wine they named 'Soak Up the Sun.' As for Pappy's, the place was raucous and busy, but service was prompt and the food was generous and tasty. We had the French onion soup, and the wedge salad. Every dish seemed delicious. There was an art gallery along the way that we checked out before going back."

Overall, the goals of providing scenic wine country driving, a variety of vintners to sample, affordable accommodations, some togetherness time and small-group adventures, seemed to be met! Many thanks to Katie and her crew at McPrice Myers for coping with the weather and our big happy group; to Nick, our proprietor who welcomed us warmly at the Wine Country Inn, and to all the intrepid travelers who made this a fun weekend.




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AROSC Supports SB 1392

**Let's help revise California's smog-check regulations
for our classic cars**

In 2025 a law was proposed to California's legislature broadening the state's smog-check exemption to include vehicles manufactured before 1981. The goal was to ease burdens on collectors while focusing on vehicles that are not used for daily driving. Jay Leno publicly supported the bill and it gained the nickname "Leno's Law."

It didn't make it out of committee last fall, but was reintroduced this year as SB 1392, and is now on a roll.

The 2026 revised bill starts with smog-check exemptions for vehicles manufactured before the 1981 model year and gradually expands, reaching vehicles manufactured before the '86 model year by 2032. It does not change the existing pre-'76 exemption already in place, and is also designed to focus on collector cars.

As of early May (last week!), SB 1392 has already passed the Senate Transportation Committee with bipartisan support. It has

now gone to the Appropriations Committee, with reviews and hearings to conclude by later this summer.

We can help influence the outcomes of these reviews by contacting members of that committee and the bill's authors to express support.

Notes to Senator Dave Cortese, chair of the Transportation Committee and primary author Senator Shannon Grove (Bakersfield) would be worth sending.

Also, it will be helpful to follow and/or check in with the Specialty Equipment Manufacturers' Association's (SEMA) Senior Manager for State Government Affairs, Victor Munoz, at victorm@sema.org

Your Board will be writing to Cortese, Grove and members of the Appropriations Committee. Letter templates will soon be available at arosc.org

– Jim & Elyse Barrett, Copresidenti

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GARY TODISCO

The Members' Page

Welcome & Welcome Back

Greetings, Alfisti!

Please join your Board of Directors in applauding the good taste of these Alfa Romeo owners who joined AROSC between March and May, 2026: Jerome Fraillon, Nick Garcia, Mindy Ho, David Lieberman and John Wittman. And a warm "Welcome Back" to Norm Bianchi who has a new-to-him Spider and has re-joined the club and just won a ribbon this past March in Concorso #1. It is so great to have you; come drive with us!



Mille Grazie to all our member-contributors, whose stories and images make this May-June edition of *Alfacionada* your invitation to 2026 spring and summer driving adventures: Paul Blankenship, Val Dietrich and Monique Goosens, Steve Edelman, John and Alana Ireland, David O'Donoghue, Jeff Srinivasan and David Waelder.



“Le Montagne Chiamano”

The mountains are calling

Alfa Romeo National Convention

September 23-27, 2026

Ogden, Utah

<http://arocogden2026.com>

Classified Ads

Open the Door to Alfa Style

Original doors for mid-70s Alfa Spider. In storage for more 20 years. No rust or dents, all glass is good. \$350 each. BONUS: free decklid in perfect condition with purchase of doors. BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! Seven (7) boxes of miscellaneous, mostly Spider parts, from Phyllis Gaylard's garage included with purchase. Contact AROSC member Bruce West, Huntington Beach, Calif. nseandwest@gmail.com or 714-815-2580. Pick-up only.



New parts for your sweet ride!

Your chapter received several gracious donations from member Gabriel Baltierra (Mr. Vintage Machine) and were used only for photo shoots: two sets of aftermarket sideview mirrors, a wood steering wheel and a Spider convertible soft top. See the descriptions on this and the following page. They can be yours if you are the highest bidder by the end of May!

Contact editor@arosc.org for information and payment options.



The Warmth of Wood

NEW aftermarket steering wheel, also never installed! Comparable values range from \$410 to \$890. Make offer.

(continued)

Classified Ads, *continued*

Italian Aftermarket Sideview Mirrors

by Vitaloni
\$53 value.
Make offer.



GT Racing Style Aftermarket Sideview Mirrors

by United
Pacific
\$25 value.
Make offer.



Tan Alfa Spider Top

Never installed
\$885 value.
Make offer.



(continued)

Classified Ads, *continued*

Delightful Duetto

The restoration of our 1969 Alfa was completed by Niederst Restorations (Ventura) in 2025, with the objective of returning it to its original specifications. Except for changing its color to red, it is now very close to "as delivered". Here are the particulars:

- Engine and transmission rebuilt in 1995 by Alfa Only; 20,000 miles on rebuild
- Always garaged and covered
- All records; 800 photos and videos document the restoration
- Two sets of keys and many back issues of AROC and ARA magazines
- Rare OEM hardtop and storage rack
- Premium soft-lined cover
- Near-original tool roll
- Shown California, most recently at 2025 San Marino Motor Classic, 2025 Best of France & Italy; entered in the June 2026 San Marino Motor Classic
- Also listed at <https://www.ebay.com/itm/327117614692>
- Asking \$42,500. All offers considered.



Contact Bob Schmitt,
AROC and ARA member since 1986
818-563-1391 - rgschmitt@gmail.com

Marvelous Milano Verde

1987 Milano Verde, one owner (Karen) and a great car to drive.

- Always garaged, pampered, and maintained.
- Black with Recaro interior; no sunroof, many new upgrades/service work.
- Ready to go to Utah for the 2026 AROC National Convention.
- \$17,500 gets the car and tons of spares + OEM wheels.

It has been driven to eight AROC Conventions and never gave us any trouble. It is for sale as we have too many cars/bikes that conflict with retirement plans. Located in Texas.

Contact Richard Cross for details,
karenroxelana@gmail.com



About Your Club

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Changes of Address

To continue receiving the AROSC *Alfacionada*, and the monthly national magazine *Alfa Owner*, your new email and street address needs to be provided to both the Chapter and to the national organization. Send your updates to the chapter at info@arosc.org and go to aroc-usa.org and click on Membership to change your national status. If using the United States Postal Service, send your change of address(es) to AROC, P.O. Box 92155, Portland, OR 97292.

If you are receiving this newsletter on a complimentary basis, email your change of address to the Newsletter Address or the Club Business Address.

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Leave us a detailed message and/or your telephone number and we will be happy to contact you personally.

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Chapter Meetings

General Meetings of AROSC are held monthly in conjunction with activities as they take place throughout Southern California.

A full listing of events is posted on our website, arosc.org, along with a 12-month calendar, which is also emailed early each year and periodically updated.

Email your concerns and questions about events, policies and procedures to info@arosc.org and a Director will respond.

Board of Directors Meetings are held quarterly on Zoom. All members in good standing are invited to attend. The Board Meeting schedule is noted in the published Calendar of Events. Contact the Board through info@arosc.org to receive a link to the Zoom meeting. Members are also invited to bring their business to the attention to the Board via email via info@arosc.org

(continued)

About Your Club

continued

Communications Information

Please Note: AROSC consents to receive communications from you by email to info@arosc.org. Since you are already receiving our newsletters, meeting notices, and ballots by email, we deem that you that you have consented to electronic transmission from AROSC of meeting notices and voter related communications to your email address in AROC's database. You may change this email address by modifying your profile in AROC's records (currently available at <https://arosc-usa.clubexpress.com/>). You may withdraw your consent to receive electronic transmission of meeting notices and voter related communications by sending an email to that effect to info@arosc.org. However, by withdrawing your consent to electronically receive such communications, you will no longer be a voting member of AROSC.

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Alfacionada is the publication of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California, a chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club, Inc. (AROC-USA), a national nonprofit association of Alfa Romeo enthusiasts in North America. Joining AROSC includes a subscription to the national magazine and this newsletter – all covered by your annual \$70 AROC dues. Visit aroc-usa.org to join, and select Chapter 20 to affiliate with us, AROSC.

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