

# *Romeo & Giulietta*



HOLIDAY PARTY

TECH SESSION ON NEW ALFAS

GRAND PRIX WATCHING PARTY

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

***Il Presidente*****Lance Dong**

This letter will be the last from me as the president of AROCSD. For those of you who are new to the organization, this actually concludes my third round of successive years as chapter president. I am stepping down from the office to let some new blood and new ideas come to the surface that the membership will enjoy. The board of directors is where the bulk of the planning and execution work is done.

I will still be participating in board activities, but will be devoting most of my time to my National responsibilities as we have added new chapters to the club and the possible addition of one to two more chapters in the coming months and years.

While I have been the president of AROCSD, the National organization has expanded the visibility of the Alfa Romeo marque tremendously as more new models have been introduced.

When I took over the office last, the return of the Alfa Romeo marque was an oft repeated rumor that many didn't really believe would come true; however, the 4C was launched to great fanfare and then another seemingly interminable wait until the Giulia was unveiled and we were riding on the backs of dragons; and then the Stelvio was released. Just as it seemed as if the driver's dream of a full Alfa line was to be realized, we are now in a waiting period again. AROC-US has continued to put forward the social aspects of owning an Alfa. We are now a presence at the major automotive events on both coasts with a tent at *Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance*, a tent at *Concorso Italiano* in Monterey, a contingent at the Formula 1 Grand Prix of the United States in Austin, Tx and we will attend the upcoming "*Alfas at the Glen*" in Watkins Glen, NY., next September. And we have an annual tour to Italy!

The next national event will be the Mid-Winter Desert Retreat in Palm Desert. This will be the first major event for the new DesertAlfas chapter in the Coachella Valley. If you haven't been to one of these, please consider it. Palm Desert is only about 1.5 hours away from SD. We

will have several low-key events over the MLK weekend, January 16-20, receptions and a Saturday drive included. You should have received a postcard with details. **If you are considering coming over, please do RSVP so that we can have an approximate headcount.**

The 2020 national convention is being held in Colorado Springs, CO., July 19 – 26. These dates include the pre-convention tours. The events include a track day at Pikes Peak Raceway, tours of the Olympic training center, and a closed course drive up Pikes Peak! This will be a great, great Alfa adventure. Details about the convention will be released in the Alfa Owner magazine early in 2020.

I leave the board in good hands and know that there will be many new members and events in 2020 to keep the enthusiasm alive and I hope to see more of you SD Alfisti on the road and at the events.

**BILL RODEN MEMORIES**

**With Input From**

**Annie Kuszynski, Ron Brown, Ed Komzelman & Bill Griffith**



**Bill Roden**

Longtime member Bill Roden died at the end of September after suffering several recent debilitating strokes. He previously had his first stroke four years ago. Bill is survived by his wife Annie Kuszynski. Bill and Annie met when they both worked at General Dynamics where Bill was an engineer. Bill was into Italian cars and Annie had spent some time in Italy and was thinking about getting an Alfa, so it was a good match. Bill was a very intelligent and creative guy and held many patents.

Before Bill met Annie, back in the 60s, Bill converted a 1959 MGA to an electric vehicle which he drove to work every day for several years. Having accomplished that, he went on to a new challenge and took the batteries out of the MGA to use in the submarine he was building. Ed, who had a large diesel truck, reports that he volunteered to help Bill move the submarine when Annie and Bill moved from their home off Del Dios Highway in Rancho Santa Fe to their current home overlooking Mission Valley. The sub weighed 5000 or 6000 pounds and was on a large 3 or 4 axel flatbed-trailer. Bill said that it wouldn't move on the trailer because it was so heavy. Ed, luckily, insisted that they chain it down. Ed drove very slowly and cautiously. When they arrived at the destination, they found that the sub had moved about 3 feet aft on the trailer. Had it come off the trailer, I'm sure that you would have seen the sub on the evening TV news. Last report, the sub was 3/4 completed and is available to anyone who would like have it.

Ed mentioned that he fondly remembers helping Bill work on his 55 T-Bird which had a large displacement Chevy engine. Usually the work sessions included a few beers. The two of them took the T-Bird to La Jolla and participated in a hill climb.

Bill and Annie were actually married at an Alfa Club party held at Annie's house. They had planned to elope to avoid having to deal with planning a wedding and bringing in family. Their good Alfa friends, Ron and Dorothy Brown and Marta Carrasco, said "Don't worry, we'll do all the arrangements; just get a marriage license". It turned out that Bill and Annie were hosting the club Oktoberfest that fall, so Ron, Dorothy, & Marta decided that was the time for the surprise wedding. A friend found a minister who was willing to perform the ceremony without meeting with Bill and Annie ahead of time. Unfortunately, a couple of the family members let the cat out of the bag, hence, Annie was in the know, but Bill was still in the dark. The ceremony was performed on the porch of the house. In the middle of the ceremony, their Great Dane, Georgia, walked up and stuck her head between them. The minister was a bit surprised, but managed to keep his cool and

complete the ceremony. Anyway, it was a party to be long remembered.

In addition to the MGA, 55 T-Bird, and an assortment of 60s and 70s Alfas, other cars Bill had include a 1966 Iso Rivolta, a 1969 Maserati Ghibli, a 1962 Ford Ranchero, and the former Altadena dairy milk truck that used to deliver in Coronado.

## **RECENT EVENTS**

### **HOLIDAY PARTY**

Twenty-four of us gathered at Scott and Lynn Currier's house to kick off the start of the holiday season. As always, the kitchen was full of food. Scott and Lynn had prepared a large delicious ham which was purchased by the club. Attending members brought salads, shrimp, fried chicken, corn bread and other side dishes. It was a gloomy, misty day, so we were confined to inside the house. Scott and Lynn had borrowed some chairs from the neighbors so we were all able to sit down for the big feast. After lunch, we had a brief business meeting and elected the new board for 2020. We had three new members volunteer to serve on the board so we are looking forward to some different ideas for events. Debbie Marsolini brought a large box for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots collection in memory of Morgan Langley, our past president and long-time member who died in a tragic motorcycle accident in the fall of 2017. The gift exchange started out calmly, but quickly became exciting as the gift stealing ramped up. I think everyone ended up with something interesting to take home. Thankyou Scott and Lynn for opening your home to us.



Rich, Victoria, Ed, Arnie, and Cheri



Lance, Georgia, Glen, Carol, Debbie, Nora, Glenna, and Lynn



Ed and Bill



Erik and Jason



Annie, Hillary and Glenna



Debbie wanted the reindeer

## TECH SESSION ON NEWER ALFAS

We had a really good turnout at Glen Wior's for our tech session on the newer Alfas. Sixteen people attended and there were eleven Alfas parked around Glen's garage; four new Giulias, a Giulia Quad, two 4Cs, a 1978 Alfetta, a GTV6 and two Spiders. Glen's four bay garage/workshop with a heavy-duty lift, separate from the house, is the envy of all our club members and was a great place for the tech session. Glen and Georgia had laid out a big spread of different varieties of Danish pastries and had a big urn of hot coffee ready as we arrived. Erik Rathmann, the club's "go to" mechanic, attended and invited his friend, Jason Minos, who is the owner of Alfissimo International, an Alfa Romeo parts house in San Diego. They are both quite knowledgeable about Alfas and participated in the discussion. Glen had his 4C positioned on the lift when we arrived. He started out the discussion by pointing out that the new Alfas have strict requirements for both lubricants and coolants. He mentioned that Mobile One synthetic oil, a standby for many of us with older Alfas, doesn't meet the specs for the newer engines. Glen says that Pennzoil Euro Platinum, Valvoline MST Syn Power, Shell, Motul and Liquid Moly meet the specs for his 4C. Jason mentioned that the OEM Patronas Selenia oils and coolants. You need to check the user manual for your particular model. The 4C requires 5-40 wgt. oil, while the Giulia 2.0L Turbo requires 0-30 wgt. oil. Glen also mentioned that some coolants can't be mixed. Erik added that some incompatible coolants will gel almost instantly if mixed and can plug up a cooling system. Erik and Glen both recommended replacing the stock

copper oil drain washer with single use aluminum washers. They said that the aluminum washers give a better seal and that you will have less oil drippage at the plug.

Glen then raised the lift so we could see the undercarriage of his 4C. He pointed out that you have to remove a large aluminum panel in the rear of the car in order to change the oil. Glen also mentioned that his 4C has the track package and that it is uncomfortable to drive any distance. He said that he would like to soften the ride by changing the shocks and springs. Jason mentioned that he could suggest some suspension components to help Glen. Jason also said that if he doesn't stock a hard to get part, he will know where to get it. Then we lowered Glen's car and Erik helped Jason put his Giulia Q4 Sport (all-wheel drive) on the lift. As with the 4C, you have to remove a large plastic panel to change the oil and filter. The transmission drain plug is readily accessible without removing any panels. The transmission has a finned plastic bottom panel. Erik pointed out that you have to use a pump to fully drain the transmission oil as there is a riser around the drain hole. Jason had replaced the stock exhaust system with a custom exhaust made by Supersprint. It gave his car a very nice sound, like a classic Alfa. My only criticism of the new 2-liter Giulias is that they are too quiet. The stock exhaust system doesn't sound like a true Alfa.

While the men were busy in the garage, Georgia entertained the four visiting women in the house. They have a beautiful house on a hill in Fallbrook with a few grape vines on their property. Several members mentioned that it looked like Tuscany. Thank you, Glen and Georgia, for hosting a great get-together.

Glen's garage/workshop



Alfas at Glen's



Members gather in the garage



Glen's 4C ready to go up on the lift



Glen starts the discussion



Jason's Q4 Sport on the lift



Pool table & bar next to the workshop



Glen & Georgia's house



Scott & Lynn's House

## GRAND PRIX WATCHING PARTY

Scott and Lynn Currier invited interested club members to drop by on Sunday afternoon, November 3, to watch the Grand Prix Race from Austin, Texas. Ten of us gathered in their family room: Ed and Nora Aenlle, Vince and Carol Ruggiero, Arnold and Susan Torma, Lance Dong, George Hershman and Scott and Lynn. It was nice to welcome new members Arnold and Susan to their first club event. We all brought snacks and drinks. Scott had coffee, beer and sodas ready. Lance

brought a nice bottle of wine which he had purchased on the Alfa Club bus trip to the L.A. Cetto winery in the Guadalupe Valley of Mexico in May 2018. As always, we had plenty to eat and drink.

We all cheered hard for the two Alfas in the race, but to no avail. The lead Alfa driven by Kimi Räikkönen finished in eleventh place and the second car driven by Antonio Giovinazzi finished in fourteenth place. The Mercedes team took first and second. Sebastian Vettel's Ferrari had to drop out with a broken suspension problem. The second Ferrari, driven by Charles Leclerc, finished fourth. Mercedes driver, Lewis Hamilton, clinched his sixth career F1 World Championship by placing second. He had led most of the race until he was passed on the last lap by teammate Valtteri Bottas. The sixth championship moved Hamilton past Argentina's Juan Manuel Fangio, the "Godfather" of F1 drivers, who won five titles in the 1950s. Fangio raced for several different teams including Alfa Romeo, Ferrari, Maserati and Mercedes.

Those of us at the party had a great time. We owe a thank you to Scott and Lynn for opening their home.



Host Scott with early arrivals

**NEW MEMBER PROFILES**

**PHIL HURLEY**



The full crowd



Watching the race, where are the 2 Alfas



Scott & Arnold in the garage



Phil bought a new Giulia TI Sport last April. It is his first Alfa. Phil said that his father had served in Italy during WWII. He came back with a love for everything Italian. Although his father never owned an Alfa, he would always get excited when one drove past. Phil said that one of the reasons for buying the Giulia, was in memory of his father. This is Phil's first performance car. He works as an accountant.

**DAN MILHONE**



Dan purchased his GTV6 last spring. He has owned several Alfas in the past including a 61 Giulietta Spider and a 71 Berlina. He said that he wishes that he still owned the 61 Giulietta. Dave learned about the Borrego Days parade and car show on Facebook and drove out with his wife, Carrie, to the desert to join us. After spending the day with us, he decided to join the club. Dan is retired from the electronics manufacturing industry. He restores old Norton Commando motorcycles and vacuum tube amplifiers for "fun and no profit".

**WEB SITE**

I encourage all of our members to use our web site: [www.arocsd.org](http://www.arocsd.org). If you click on events and then calendar, you will be able to see a schedule of parties, tours, car shows and other things that we participate in. Clicking on an individual event on the calendar will open a sub window with more details. I also post more photos of past events on the web site than I can include in the newsletter.

He would like to participate in road trips and is looking forward to the April trip to the railroad museum in Campo.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, January 12, 2020: Kickoff brunch.** For the second year in a row, our club is having a Kick-off meeting and brunch, Sunday, January 12 at 11:00 AM at the Green Dragon Tavern and Museum, 6115 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad, CA, 92011. We have to pay in advance so, If you want to come, please send our treasurer, Vince Ruggiero an email RSVP([vruggiero@aol.com](mailto:vruggiero@aol.com)) and mail him a check for \$30/person. Please make checks out to AROCSD and mail them to

AROCSD  
c/o Vince Ruggiero  
9020 Meadowrun Ct.  
San Diego, CA 92129-3301

If you come to the brunch without an RSVP, we will try to accommodate you but it will be at the discretion of the restaurant. The price at the door will be \$35. We will park our Alfas in the large lot on the south side of the building. We would like to get a group photo in front of a row of Alfas.

**Friday-Sunday, January 17-19: AROC Mid-Year Retreat** In Palm Desert. The retreat begins with a party Friday evening in a beautiful home on a hill overlooking Palm Springs. Saturday there will be an all day driving tour followed by a party at Cindy Banzer's vacation home in Palm Desert. AROC directors meeting Sunday morning followed by a no host lunch at a local location. If you want to attend, please RSVP to Cindy [c.banzer@aroc-usa.org](mailto:c.banzer@aroc-usa.org) Some of the attending club members will be staying at the Palm Desert Best Western Plus which is near Cindy's home: phone 760-340-4441.

**Saturday, February 22, 2020, 7:30 -9:00 AM: Cars and Coffee** at La Jolla Shores, meet in the Galaxy Taco parking Lot, 2259 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla. We are trying to tie in a tech session on detailing after the cars and coffee.

**March 2020: Annual Chili Cookoff** combined with a driving tour of some back roads of Fallbrook.

**Saturday & Sunday April 18 & 19: La Jolla Concours/Motor Car Classic.** Reception with food and drinks Saturday evening, Car Show with morning scones and coffee followed by a lunch with open bar. Cost \$175/couple. Please visit the web site for more details: <https://www.lajollaconcours.com/registration/la-jolla-motor-car-classic-registration>

**Sunday, April 26, 8:30 AM: Driving Tour to Campo.** Meet at KM Alfa Dealership, 56135 Convoy Street, just off Freeway 52, for a scenic drive out to the Railroad Museum in Campo. After an hour ride on a vintage train we will drive back to the Hollywood Casino in Jamul for lunch.

## Il Mercato

### 1982 Spider Veloce

Excellent, strong, running condition. 82,025 miles; new battery, clean top, ivory paint with black interior. VIN ZARBA5419C1014067, clean title and Car Fax. Always garaged. \$13,999 obo. Contact Anthony Stiegler: 858-449-4068 or [stiegleranthony@gmail.com](mailto:stiegleranthony@gmail.com)



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