



# ARCC UPDATE

November 2014

## *President's Letter*

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

The days are getting ever shorter, with the coming of winter looming. By now, most of us have stowed our Alfas safely away in hibernation until next spring. And that is a big factor in making sure that surviving 'classic' Alfas in Canada continue to survive for many years. There are lots of ways to store your car for the winter, with some folks using modern indoor parking garages, while others keeping their cars outdoors under tarps. However you store your Alfa this winter, I hope that your storage will remain safe, secure and water-tight.

Here in Montreal, sadly I had to postpone and then eventually cancel our final driving event of the season, which was supposed to be a fun rally through the Laurentian Mountains because of predictions of heavy rains, which would have made the twisty roads treacherous. Like many of you in other areas, our next club event will be our Holiday Party. In Montreal for CARM's event, Diane and I will be hosting a Pot Luck afternoon party at our home, The Saintannétarium on the 29th of November. All are welcome.

In other club news, I had the pleasure of getting together for a nice meal and a short, but very pleasant meeting with the enthusiastic new President of the Alfa Romeo Club of Ottawa (ARCO) in late October. Marc Faubert hails from Gatineau, QC and is a trained chef and sommelier working for the federal government in an unrelated job these days, but he runs an 'event space' out of his home where food and music come together. He and his better half (Eliza Fayle) own a 1980 Spider and a 1997 Fiat 20V Turbo 5 Cylinder Coupe and joined ARCO in the spring of 2013, where their membership has allowed them to meet some very interesting people and participate in some fun events. I look forward to hearing from Marc about ARCO's activities and joining them for events in the coming year.

Please remember that a club is as good as its members make it. Your local clubs need your input

and so does the ARCC. I am always interested in your opinions, feedback and suggestions and am only a phone call or email away. Get in touch with me directly anytime.

Rev high!

Alex  
(514) 771-9513  
[alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com](mailto:alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com)

## *Chateauguay Valley to Saratoga Springs Road Trip* by Bruno and Linda Orsini, Baie d'Urfé

This year's outing through the Adirondacks was great. The weather, roads and scenery were simply fantastic! Twisting, winding secondary roads provided us with the best possible experience to enjoy the changing colours of the foliage throughout the Adirondacks.



*Photo by Bruno Orsini.*

This year's tour included Jay and Silvia (91 Spider), Jean-Michel and Lucie (96 Spider), Roger and Ginette (93 Spider), and Linda and I (73 Spider Junior).

Day 1: We traditionally followed the winding Chateauguay River through the Chateauguay Valley on the Canadian side to Lake Chateauguay

on the US-side. From there, we took Hwy 1 and cut across the Adirondacks. The scenery was calming and relaxing, as the warm sun allowed us to enjoy the picturesque colours of the mountains with our tops down and a warm breeze to keep us cool. The lunch stop was at 'Big Daddy's', a quaint family run restaurant in the heart of the Adirondacks. With stomachs fully loaded, we continued through the Adirondacks to Lake Placid, following the AuSable and Solomon Rivers. We stopped just outside of Lake Placid at a beautiful rest stop on Upper Cascade Lake. It felt as if we could touch the mountains for how close we were.



Photo by Bruno Orsini.

From there we continued along the AuSable River on Hwy 73, then along Hwy 9 South, passing through small villages and along Schroon Lake, Loon Lake, and Lake George. From Lake George we hopped on Interstate 87 for the last few miles to Saratoga Springs. We arrived at the Springs Motel at 6:00 pm, where we met several fellow car enthusiasts with their show cars, including both imports and American cars.

Following a well deserved restful gathering on the balcony, we all went to the *El Mexicano* restaurant for dinner. The food was great and the company even better.

Day 2: At the Saratoga Automobile Museum grounds, American cars were front and center, with a variety of foreign cars and unique models not often seen north of the border. We were joined by Giancarlo and Francine in their 78 Spider at the show. That evening we all met up at 'The Crown Grill' in downtown Saratoga Springs where we enjoyed some fine food and wine.

Day 3: The next morning, we were up early to take in the exercising of the thoroughbred horses at the Saratoga Racetrack. It was a unique opportunity to be up close to these race horses and watch their

trainers and jockeys take them through their strides on the track.



Photo by Bruno Orsini.

At the Hemmings Concours, several Alfas were featured. These included the following cars: 1958 Giulietta Sprint, 1963 Giulietta Spider, 1964 Giulia Sprint Speciale, 1966 Giulia Sprint GT Veloce, 1967 1600 Duetto, 1967 GT 1300 Junior, 1972 Montreal, and a 1973 Giulia Super! These were definitely great cars, deserving of being considered Concours quality. As all good things must come to an end, we started our trip back home just after noon, but not without a lunch stop at 'The Silo' restaurant for brunch, where we enjoyed a great meal before the long ride home.

The drive back went well, and we made good time as we followed Interstate 87 to Plattsburgh, then with a long wait at the border, finally made it home around 7:00 pm. In all, we drove over 800 km on what turned out to be a very memorable event for all.

You can see lots of pictures of the 3 day tour at my Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/orsinib](http://www.facebook.com/orsinib)), the CARM website and on the CARM Facebook page.

## **C.A.R.M. News**

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

Our driving season is over for this year, but we already have lots of great events being planned for the 2015 season. Everyone is invited to come out and join us!

### **Upcoming Events**

Our annual holiday party will be held beginning at 2:00 pm on Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of November at Alex and Diane's place. It is a 'Pot Luck', so please bring something to share.

4 rue St-Etienne  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue  
Quebec H9X 1E9

(514) 771-9513

## ***Toronto Chapter Holiday Dinner***

by Anthony Tersigni, Richmond Hill

Make up for all those rained-out cruise nights we had this year! Sign up for our Holiday Dinner on November 29<sup>th</sup>. It's at *That's Italian Ristorante* in Woodbridge. This will be a terrific dinner at a reasonable price.

Please RSVP to me at [gTV\\_veloce@hotmail.com](mailto:gTV_veloce@hotmail.com) by November 27<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Captain Obvious here!***

by George Beston, Cobourg

In the course of my current project involving rebuilding an engine for "Rodney", my beloved Alfetta Berlina (which is only lately getting a little respect), I've learned some things which would be totally obvious to an experienced and accomplished engine builder. Despite my efforts to read the available books and to follow engine building threads on the BB, there are numerous things that I have learned firsthand and wish to pass along for the reader's general interest.

First, I found that it can be a huge amount of work to get the engine out of your Alfa and get it ready to take apart. Over the years, I've acquired a scissor lift and an engine hoist. In the case of a transaxle Alfa like this one, both were essential to my project. The lift is required for someone at my age and stage to remove the gearshift linkage, drive shaft and exhaust system. These components are difficult enough to access without having to lie on a creeper and attempt to focus at close range to remove all the nuts and bolts, and then wiggle the exhaust system out with the Alfetta on stands.

Regarding engine removal, I've always thought that it might be easier to get the engine and bell housing assembly out of an Alfetta than to remove an engine and transmission from, say, a 105 series Spider. It is, but not by much. It still takes some careful manipulation to tilt, raise and twist the engine / bell housing assembly to get it out. BTW the best literature guide to the process that I have found is the write-up Pat Braden did in the Alfa Romeo Owner's Bible.

Next, be warned that a used engine can be incredibly dirty to work with, so be prepared! It's far better to spend a bit of time cleaning the whole engine than to clean parts after they come off the engine. The bad news is that I had to do both because it's difficult to get all the dirt off in one go. A plastic putty knife, engine de-greaser and a

power washer were key tools in the first cleanings, after that, it was solvent, parts brushes and paper towels carrying the load. Once inside the engine, there is always oil to mop up. I found an odourless brake cleaner (Gunk brand - on sale at the TSC store) which was a big help - my better half never had occasion to complain about a solvent smell emanating from my workshop. Along the way I discovered that Eastwoods' "Pre", a paint prep solvent, was highly effective in removing greasy residue that was resistant to the brake cleaner. It was also the solvent of choice for my small parts washing bath which involved nothing more than a metal bowl and kitchen strainer from the Dollar Store. No bathtub full of gasoline for me!

Finally, building a few of my own tools along the way has been unavoidable. Despite having one previous engine rebuild under my belt - my Spider's 1750 - I found a number of occasions required tools that I didn't have and couldn't buy easily. These included a liner puller which a local machinist put together at modest cost, and a ring gear lock that I was able to cut from a piece of 2" x .125" steel bar stock.

All told, this project is going to be at least a year late getting completed. But here's the good news: at this stage of assembly it's sure easy to look at!



Photo by George Beston.

## Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2014 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

### Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Time	Event
May 10	TBD	VEA Rally
June 8	TBD	Grand Prix Barbeque
June 14	TBD	Ottawa Italian Car Day
June 15	TBD	Fathers' Day Veterans Tribute Car Show
June 28-29		Raduno Estivo
July 6	TBD	Fiat Breakout - Montréal
July 12	TBD	Sommet des Légendes
July 18-21		Grand Prix of Mosport
July 23-27		AROC Convention
August 3		Baie d'Urfé vintage car show (VAQ)
August 30	TBD	Ride to Rigaud
Sept 13	TBD	Wine Tour
Sept 26-28		Hemmings Concours
Sept 28	TBD	Raduno Montebello
Oct 18	TBD	Fun Rally
Nov 29	TBD	Holiday Party

### Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Time	Event
May 29	TBD	Garage Tour
June 14	TBD	Reynolds Museum Show
July 19	TBD	Stanley Park European car show

## Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

### National Executive

Alex Csank	President	(514) 771-9513	<a href="mailto:alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com">alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com</a>
Mark Willis	Western VP	(403) 668-0379	<a href="mailto:mark.willis@cnrl.com">mark.willis@cnrl.com</a>
Tony Adams	Eastern VP	(905) 642-3749	<a href="mailto:tony.adamsinsj@sympatico.ca">tony.adamsinsj@sympatico.ca</a>
George Beston	Treasurer	(905) 372-3552	<a href="mailto:gbeston@eagle.ca">gbeston@eagle.ca</a>
Christine Pickering	Secretary	(416) 498-6553	<a href="mailto:christine.pickering@gmail.com">christine.pickering@gmail.com</a>
	Messages	(416) 499-7129	
	Fax	(416) 499-4517	

### Regional Contacts

Don Best	BC	(604) 939-5056	<a href="mailto:dlbest@telus.net">dlbest@telus.net</a>
Bob Merchant	AB,SK,MB	(403) 244-9150	<a href="mailto:rmerchant@shaw.ca">rmerchant@shaw.ca</a>
Jack Livingstone	ON	(613) 232-6335	<a href="mailto:alfa190@excite.com">alfa190@excite.com</a>
Yves Boulanger	QC	(450) 692-7478	<a href="mailto:yvesliet@rocler.qc.ca">yvesliet@rocler.qc.ca</a>
Daniel Nicholes	NB,NS,PE,NL	(506) 459-0282	<a href="mailto:drnicholes@yahoo.com">drnicholes@yahoo.com</a>

### Local Club Contact

Don Best	Vancouver	(604) 939-5056	<a href="mailto:dlbest@telus.net">dlbest@telus.net</a>
Mark Willis	Calgary	(403) 668-0379	<a href="mailto:mark.willis@cnrl.com">mark.willis@cnrl.com</a>
Chesley Wells	Edmonton	(403) 963-9199	<a href="mailto:cwells@cruzinternet.com">cwells@cruzinternet.com</a>
Anthony Tersigni	Toronto	(905) 918-0457	<a href="mailto:gtv_veloce@hotmail.com">gtv_veloce@hotmail.com</a>
Marc Faubert	Ottawa	(819) 775-0632	<a href="mailto:shiraz1965@gmail.com">shiraz1965@gmail.com</a>
Alex Sandor Csank	Montréal	(514) 771-9513	<a href="mailto:alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com">alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com</a>

## Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
May 6	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
May 19	9:30 am	Pancake Drive
June 3	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
June 13-15	TBD	Vintage Festival / Drive
June 15	TBD	Yorkville Exotic Car Show
June 22	TBD	Europa Rally
June 28-29	TBD	Raduno Estivo
July 8	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
July 18-21	TBD	Grand Prix of Mosport
July 19	9:00 am	Italian Car Day
July 23-27	TBD	AROC Convention
August 5	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
August 24	TBD	Marque d'Elegance
Sept 2	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
Sept 28	10:30 am	Rattlesnake Run
Oct 7	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
Nov 29	6:00 pm	Holiday dinner

### Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
May 18		Spring Road Trip
June 14		History of Road at Reynolds
June 21		Around Town Rally
July 8		Apex Casino Meeting
July 20		European Car Show Calgary
August 24	10:00 am	Viva Italia
Sept 7		Concours d'Eleganza
Sept 21	12:30 pm	Apple Harvest Leduc
Dec 14		Christmas Tree Slaughter
Jan 2015		Alfa Christmas Party

### Club mail

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada  
P.O. Box 62, Station Q  
Toronto  
Ontario M4T 2L7  
Canada

### ARCC Update

Editor George Beston  
(905) 372-3552  
[gbeston@eagle.ca](mailto:gbeston@eagle.ca)

### ARCC On Line

Website <http://www.alfaclub.ca>  
Webmaster David Munro  
[djwmunro@yahoo.ca](mailto:djwmunro@yahoo.ca)  
Facebook  
[Alfa-Romeo-Club-of-Canada-ARCC](http://Alfa-Romeo-Club-of-Canada-ARCC)