



ARCC UPDATE

February 2016

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

Alfisti,

What a strange winter we've been having this year! Today feels so much like springtime that I wish I could easily dig my GTV6 out of storage and take her for a short cruise into the hills nearby. But, Canada being what it is, I'm pretty sure that we haven't seen the last of the snow and cold weather.

As discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, we have experienced a few minor bumps as we bring our membership renewals and other business into the electronic age. Please bear with us as we do our best to serve you by making our renewals a little easier.

I attended the Montréal Auto Show in January. Although I had hoped to see the new Giulia there, all the models already in North America were apparently unavailable as they were being used elsewhere at other Auto Shows in the USA. Nevertheless, there were some nice examples of the 4C in both Coupe and Spider forms, plus a video showing the history of Alfa and introducing the new Giulia. Not to mention the comely ladies representing the brand. Our very own Germain Cornet is the lucky guy.



Germain Cornet et amies. Photo by Alex Csank.

Although I had been contacted by FCA and thought they were going to use some of my memorabilia for the show, apparently FCA in the USA had enough nice memorabilia gathered mostly from AROC USA member, Alfa Collector Extraordinaire and AROC USA FCA Liaison Officer Delmas Greene to fill the glass display cabinet with great pieces. I found most of the rest of the Auto Show less than exciting, with the now all too common melted jellybean selection of SUVs, Crossovers, Hatchbacks, sedans, Minivans and 4-door pick-em-up trucks offered by just about every manufacturer. For me, the only new car stand outs were the Fiat 124 Spider, its cousin the Miata, the re-styled Smart Car, the new Jaguars (I have a weird fondness for these felines) Aston Martins and Maseratis, and some of the new Euro-style work vans like the 4WD Mercedes Sprinter Diesel with full walk in height inside. That would make one heck of a great small motorhome, I think! The exotic 'super' and 'hyper' cars were all on display, but frankly, to me they have become caricatures of themselves, with Transformer robot looks, tractor-trailer widths and low rider ground scraping stance. Even the Lotus Evora is too fat for fun from my perspective. And DON'T get me started about the new Rolls Royce and Bentley models, which are about as elegant as a strip mall Karaoke bar! These cars would be more at home hauling half-dressed, gold-chain and sunglasses wearing rich kids to a Miami night club than carrying the Duke and Duchess to the Polo match. But hey, that's just me, and some tell me that I AM getting older.

Alfa Expo 2017

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

Alfisti,

So, let's talk a bit about event planning for *Alfa Expo 2017*. The schedule is coming together well, and the contract with the hotel has been signed. The convention headquarters hotel will be the

recently renovated Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire. The hotel is in a great location and offers plenty of parking, terrific access to local shopping and restaurants, proximity to all the major highways, public transportation and both the airport and the train station. Here is what they offer:

- Free shuttle service to Montréal Trudeau YUL airport and the VIA Rail Dorval Train Station
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Large Alfa Convention Only parking area (with security patrol overnight)
- Smoke free environment, full service restaurant and bar/lounge
- Large indoor pool, hot tub and fully equipped Fitness Centre
- Market and Business Centre
- Hosts up to 750 guests for social galas, business meetings and conventions
- Conveniently located opposite the Fairview Shopping Centre, in the vicinity of many restaurants

You can check out the hotel and its amenities at: www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/pointe-claire/yulpc/hoteldetail.

Social Events – A taste of Québec!

Although there will be three groups of Pre-Convention Tours beginning on the Monday morning, our official convention schedule begins on Thursday, July 13. The first official social gathering will be the **Bienvenue Supper**, which will be held beginning at 6:00PM at a very rustic and authentic Maple Sugar Shack near the town of Rigaud. From their website: *Sucrerie de la Montagne is an authentic “sugar shack” with a major difference – it is open year round. Designated an official Québec Heritage site, the sugar shack, located in the midst of a 120 acre forest of century old maples atop Mont Rigaud, west of Montréal, transports its visitors back in time, providing them with a momentary glimpse of life as it truly was for Québec and Canadian pioneers.* Their website is:

www.sucrerie delamontagne.com/eng/.

So, after we have completed our **Executive Meetings** in the morning and folks return from the **Track Day** and other activities, you can either hop aboard a bus or travel in your car (the last portion of the road to the Sugar Shack is quite twisty and fun!) for about 40 minutes from the hotel (or about 60 minutes from the track) to the Sugar Shack, where we will have live music and typical French Canadian foods and ambiance. After we have had our fill, we'll head back to the hotel the way we came.

On Friday, the schedule begins with a special breakfast meeting for the Montreal owners. They will have their private **Alfa Romeo Montreal 50th Anniversary Breakfast Celebration** at a nice restaurant near the hotel. The first event for others will be our **Orange Julep Lunch** beginning at 11:00AM at this iconic and informal Montréal drive-in landmark, or if fast food isn't your choice, pick from any of the many other restaurants nearby. Check the Julep out at this website: www.themainmtl.com/2015/01/history-lesson-orange-julep-2/

After lunch, we'll get you back on the road with our City of Montréal oriented **Gimmick Rally**, which starts at the Orange Julep, and finishes back at the hotel. This fun rally includes a lap of the Gilles Villeneuve Formula One track and a driving tour around the site of Expo '67, where the Alfa Romeo Montreal was first unveiled. If you are not involved in the rally, this is the perfect day to tour the city via any of our pre-arranged **Boat, Walking and Bus Tours** (cars are not required).

After the day's activities are completed and you've had a chance to get back to the hotel, we'll be having a traditional catered **Méchoui Cook-Out**, complete with live music. What's a *Méchoui*? Basically, it's a French word for a traditional cook-out featuring meat cooked slowly on a spit. In Montréal, these cookouts usually include pork, beef, lamb and even chicken, served with salads and potatoes in a buffet style. Once we have relaxed and eaten a good meal, some of us will head back inside the hotel for some short **Meetings** (Newsletter Editors, Convention Planners, etc.).

Driving Events

On Saturday, convention attendees can enjoy their cars on one of our **Driving Tours** (a choice of three scenic tours, departing from and returning to the hotel), or they can enter the **Autocross/Solo II** event at the Blainville Test Track, north of Montréal. If attending the Autocross, everyone including spectators must arrive before the start and remain until the event is complete. Picnic style food and restrooms will be available for lunch. In the afternoon we'll be holding some **Technical Seminars** (Tech Sessions) at the hotel. Saturday evening is our **Banquet**, which will be held from 7:00PM to 10:00PM in the hotel ballroom. Our intent is to keep the speeches short, and have some soft live dinner music so we can all eat and enjoy chatting with our friends, old and new. There will be enough menu choices to suit most everybody.

Sunday will be the final day of the convention and will be our Car Show day. We will be hosting the **Concorso Italiano Canadese** combined with other Italian car clubs, but with each marque placed and judged separately. Food and drinks and bathrooms will be available, and there will be a special setting to feature the Alfa Romeo Montreal. There will also be a **Model Car and Art Show** held concurrently. Afterwards, there will be an **Awards Reception**, which will mark the official end of the convention. For stragglers and those so inclined, we'll hold a pay as you go **Post Convention Supper** at a local restaurant.

Help Wanted!

So, that's the basic plan. There is still a lot left to do! Our committee of volunteers is growing, but we still have plenty of important jobs left to do. By spreading out the work, each of us will have less work to do, which is a good thing. You do not have to live in the Montréal area to help. If you have already contacted me to volunteer, thank you. Please send me a reminder of what you would be interested in doing. And if you haven't yet volunteered, please consider doing so ... we sure can use your help! I'll be scheduling a convention planning meeting somewhere in the GTA soon, followed by another in the Ottawa area, along with meetings in Montréal over the coming months.

Here's a list of some of the jobs we need help with:

- Registrations
- Pre-Convention Driving Tours
- Competitive Driving Events
- Social and Dining Events
- Concorso, Models and Art
- City Tours and Concierge Services
- Driving Tours and Gimmick Rally
- Hotel Services and Events
- Sponsors and Vendors
- Website Services

Please keep sending me your feedback, and also your photos, articles and ideas for the newsletter. George Beston is always looking for your input for upcoming editions.

Rev high!

Alex

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CARM News/Mise à Jour

by J-M Reysett, Chateaugay

Au dernier samedi du mois, nous avons tenu notre 2e atelier technique. Cette année, le studio Alfa Romeo LaSalle nous a accueillis et permit de tenir cette session dans leur salle de montre avec

gâteaux, mimosa et café. Grand merci à Alfa Roméo LaSalle, son directeur des ventes Juan Ramon Del Arco et notre conseiller ami Germain Cornet, sans oublier notre hôtesse son épouse Michèle.

Devant salle comble (plus de 25 personnes), deux membres, Patrick Secco et Yves Boulanger, nous ont bien instruit sur les causes de la consommation d'huile, l'ajustement des valves, l'ajustement des carburateurs et donné un bref descriptif des différentes suspensions des Alfa d'antan et des "récentes" 916. Merci à vous deux. Avec une aussi grande participation, il s'agit certainement d'une activité à refaire.

On the last Saturday of January, we held our annual winter technical workshop. This year, the Alfa Romeo Studio LaSalle welcomed us and allowed to hold the session in their showroom, complete with cakes, coffee and mimosas. We send a big thank you to Alfa Romeo LaSalle, its sales director Juan Ramon Del Arco and Germain Cornet, not to mention our hostess, his wife Michele.



Tech Session at Alfa Romeo LaSalle. Photo by Alex Csank.

Presenting to a full house of over 25 people, two members, Patrick Secco and Yves Boulanger educated us all about the causes of oil consumption, valve and carburetor adjustments, and they also gave us a brief description of suspension bushings for Alfas of various generations, including the more recent 916 series. Thank you both. With such great participation, it is certainly an activity we will be doing again.

Detroit Auto Show

by Elio Comello, Camlachie

With great anticipation I attended the Detroit AutoShow and here I report my emotions.

For those of you that were salivating in anticipation of a 510 horsepower twin turbo Giulia Quadrifoglio, it made an appearance. No brochures, pricing or hands on access, no manual

transmission option, but apparently 4WD and “lesser” versions “will come later”. I was very concerned about the costly-to-replace carbon fibre lip front spoiler. With just five inches of clearance, it could become an unintentional snow plow and would certainly make careful parking against curbs imperative.



New Giulia Quadrifoglio. Photo by Elio Comello.

A Spider and Coupe version of the 4C flanked a spectacular 1968 STRADALE Tipo 33. I finally was able to get a 4C brochure!



4C Spider and Coupe with 33 Stradale. Photo by Elio Comello.

Curiously, Maserati, Lamborghini, Ferrari and Mini were not present although a Ferrari 488/GTB Spider was included in Brembo’s booth. FCA went BIG with FIAT product. The FIAT 124 Spider Roadster (FIATA 124?) on a turntable was less than a hundred feet from the MX5 MIATA. For those who are confused, FIAT is using the MX5 platform incorporating their own powertrain (160 horsepower 1.4 litre sixteen valve Multi-Air Turbo inline four cylinder with six speed transmission). Pricing and delivery info were unavailable but, since it is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the original 124, then perhaps, we hope, it may be available in 2017.

Sadly, to me that indicates that an Alfa Roadster version was a fleeting anticipation.



New FIAT 124. Photo by Elio Comello.

I will spare you all the tedium of Electrics and Hybrids, even though I am an Electrical Engineer, as no one would answer my questions regarding battery life expectancy, standardized charge plugs, range in cold weather if you want cabin heat, defrost, etc., Why do you suppose Tesla wasn’t at the show?

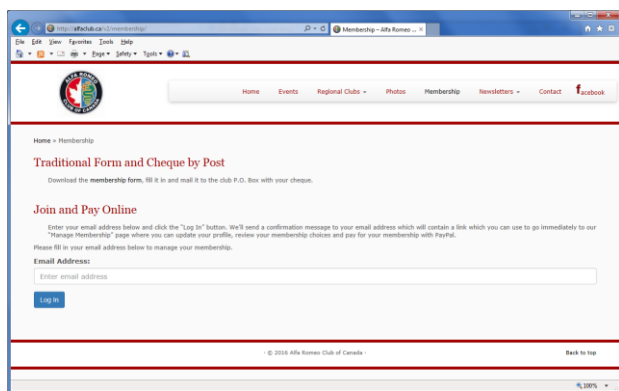
So, although I thought it was a great show, most of my excitement came from the fact that **Elio Motors** was a concourse level exhibitor (less expensive than the Main Hall). Their presence compounds the pressure I’ve been getting from my wife, children, grand children and friends to place an Elio on order. If you think I’m joking then check www.eliomotors.com.



Ciao for now.

Conflict of interest disclosure: I am in no way affiliated with Elio Motors, so unable to extend discounts to members.

Membership System Changes by John Pickering, Toronto



We have been implementing a web-based membership management system over the last year. Our aim was to allow members to join and renew via a simple web interface on our alfaclub.ca web site and to make payment easily and securely using Paypal. Testing was going well and the plan was to announce it in this issue of the newsletter and implement it at the same time. Alas, a generic “expired membership” email with a default and somewhat clinical message escaped during testing as the calendar clicked over to February. This email was sent to all current members. It contained a valid link to each member’s profile and membership options. Within minutes Derek Lund had clicked the link, renewed his membership and paid for it successfully. With that the system went from test mode to live! Thanks, Derek!

If you didn’t receive an email from the Alfa Romeo Club of Canada in the very early hours of February 1st then that means that we don’t have an email address for you or the one we have is invalid for some reason. We will make some effort to identify those situations and notify you. If you have an email address that we can use we would prefer to update our database for you and then send you a link which you can use to take it from there. Please send email address updates to admin@alfaclub.ca.

By the end of the first day a full 20% of our membership had renewed and paid for their 2016 membership. This seems to be a strong endorsement for online renewals and payments. Thanks to all of you for giving the new system a good work out on the first day. We have heard of very few problems although some members have expressed some surprise at the receipt of the “expired membership” email. We understand and apologize for this surprise as it was our intention to announce these changes in the newsletter before implementing them.

With the implementation of this system comes a need to adhere more tightly to expiry dates, not because we want to crack down on late renewals, but because to do otherwise means a lot of manual intervention for the “back office” staff. It is our intention to export the current list of active members each month and address envelopes with the exported data. This means that if you are not a current member when the March issue is about to be mailed then you won’t receive a newsletter. It also means that your membership will run for 12 months from when you join and not necessarily from March 1st as in the past. This won’t affect current members but will apply to new members going forward.

We are not abandoning our traditional paper membership form and cheque by post method. If for whatever reason you would prefer not to use the online system you are welcome to continue completing the paper form and mailing it with your cheque to the club postal address. If we don’t have a valid email address for you then you should find the current form in the envelope with this newsletter. If we have a valid email address then we expect that you should be able to download the form from the web site yourself if online renewal doesn’t suit.

One of the reasons that we were slow to announce this new web system is that we have yet to find a good way to collect dues on behalf of regional clubs. Some of you have already explored the options and commented on the absence of a way to pay dues for their local club at the same time and with a single payment as the national dues. We’re working on this with representatives of the local clubs but for now we think local dues for 2016 will need to be a local responsibility.

Thank you in advance for your understanding as we work out whatever issues we encounter with this new system.

Last Issue without Renewal by Christine Pickering, Toronto

The club membership year expires at the end of February each year. If we haven’t received your renewal then you should find a membership form with this newsletter. Please send your renewal to us promptly as we won’t be able to send you the March issue without renewal.

If we have received your renewal then you should find a confirmation letter and membership card enclosed with this newsletter.

Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2016 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Time	Event
January 24		Tech Session
February 20		Valentine's Dinner
March 20		Bistro Lunch
April 16		Pizza Night
May 15		Gimmick Rally
May 29		Road Adventure
June 11		Grand Prix Barbeque
June 19		Fathers' Day Veterans Tribute Car Show
August 21		Wine Tour
Sept 10-11		Lake Placid Road Trip
October 3		Vineyard Tour
October 16		Fall Colours Drive
November 26		Holiday Party

Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event

Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Time	Event

Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event

Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

Date	Time	Event

Regional Events – Eastern Region

Date	Time	Event
June 17-19		Italian Car Day, Ottawa
June 12-19		AROC Convention, Nashville
July 3		FIAT Breakout, Montréal
July 15-17		Raduno Estivo, Kingston
July 27-31		Fiat Freakout, Auburn Hills
August 7		Italian Car Day, Woodbridge
September 25		Raduno Montebello

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