



# ARCC UPDATE

October 2009

## **Toronto Chapter Fall Tour** by Gord Zimmerman, Bobcaygeon

This year's fall tour was planned for September (actually, the last weekend of summer!) to take our best chance at getting decent weather. We were rewarded with three spectacular "top down" days, and crisp fall evenings.



Friday morning, after a very brief rain shower, four Alfes and a Fiat gathered in front of my house ready for our first day of driving. We left about 11:00 AM for our first forty kilometres of twisty road – Hwy 507 from Buckhorn to Gooderham. The sun was shining and the scenery unfolded in front of us. Lunch brought us to the Dominion Hotel in Minden. They were expecting us and seated us all together in the newly renovated hotel dining room.



*All photos by Gord Zimmerman.*

After lunch we headed north up the Old Bobcaygeon Road. This is a narrow paved road that winds its way through a hardwood forest for about twenty-five kilometres, eventually ending at Hwy 118. We then travelled west on Hwy 118 for about seventy kilometres to Hwy 11 through some hilly countryside featuring spectacular rock cuts along the way.



About fifteen kilometres north of Bracebridge, we followed Hwy 117 East to Baysville where we turned north again along South Portage Road which eventually lead us to Hwy 60, Walker Lake Rd. and our final destination. Some of us sat out on the dock for a while to enjoy the remaining daylight.



Les and Suzi, our hosts from the Walker Lake Resort, greeted us and showed us our cottages. We put our keys into a hat and drew them out at random to determine who stayed in which cottage. Sue and I shared with John and Marian Johnson; Bill and Gale had the second cottage with Graham and Chris Cornthwaite; Don and Barb Reesor were in the third Cottage with George and Alma Beston. Tony and Barb Adams were staying in Huntsville. With Les and Suzie's Alfa there were eight cars on the Tour.

We knew John's Alfa had a problem when we had to push start it a couple of times. It had developed a very bad sulphur smell in the cabin and trunk area. After a lot of discussion we felt it was gear oil but couldn't find any leakage.

Friday evening our very own chef Harvey Cross put on a three course barbeque. Can you imagine linen table cloths and fine china for a barbecue? At least we did get our fingers greasy on the honey browned ribs.

The night sky was perfectly clear, and being away from city lights, we were able to do a lot of star gazing. The Milky Way was certainly living up to its name. After some more chatting in our cottage around the fire we all turned in.

The next morning Sue and Don went for a swim in the lake. They were very brave as the frost was white on our precious Alfas in the parking lot in front of the Lodge.



We had our own breakfast that Sue provided in our cottage that soon became the meeting house.

Saturday morning we got off for a lovely drive on some back roads twisting through the forest. The leaves were just showing some colour as fall was approaching. The weather again was spectacular.



We ended up for lunch in Huntsville where they were having their annual car show. Our wives headed off to the local stores while we guys looked at the array of 200 cars on display.



This community car show only had one Alfa on display, an "aerodynamica" S3 spider from the mid eighties. We didn't enter as a group because we would have been planted there all day and miss the opportunity to enjoy driving! Other than that the show was an outstanding gathering of a wide range of vehicles including muscle cars, hot rods, drag racers and a number of British sports cars. The most spectacular car there was a beautiful powder blue Cord L29. It bristled with sophisticated details like steerable driving lights, front wheel drive, inboard brakes and a deDion front axle.

After lunch we headed back to the Norseman for Chef Harvey's fabulous four course dinner that featured peppercorn steak and stuffed chicken. Wow, another great dinner. Did I say dinner both evenings lasted over 3 hours? What fun!

John's bad sulphur smell persisted so we tackled the problem. The smell was strongest in the trunk and it turned out to be from the battery. After filling it with water (it was just about dry), we determined that maybe the voltage regulator was knackered causing the battery to overcharge.

On Sunday morning Sue got up early and met Don on the beach again. This time they didn't go for a swim but went for a brisk paddle in the kayaks. Off into the mist they paddled while we cleaned off our cars to be ready for the next drive. We paused for a group photo on the steps of the resort's Norseman Restaurant before we left.



Gale and Bill left us as they were going back to Hwy 11 and heading back to Buffalo. Bill called later and said they had a great trip back to Buffalo and were home by early evening after stopping and doing some sight seeing in Bracebridge, Orillia and Barrie.



After some of us toured the high end resorts like Deerhurst, we left the Norseman around 11:00 AM and headed down Hwy 35. We stopped in Dorset for a little sightseeing and a visit to Robinson's General Store. Later we drove on to Ox Narrows for lunch at the Fire House Restaurant.

The Tour wound up in Bobcaygeon at the Trent/Severn locks. We all said our good byes and started looking forward to next year.

The Fall Tour turned out to be fabulous without question. The weather was perfect, the roads were

all ours, the scenery was spectacular, the dinners were exceptional, and the company we all experienced put the icing on the cake.

## ***Future Events – 2010***

**by George Beston, Cobourg**

As early as it seems, this is actually a good time for us to start thinking about next year. The year is the 100th anniversary of Alfa so there will surely be a wide range of interesting events to attend.

For those of us in Ontario and Quebec, there are two events within easy driving distance which should be exceptional. Enthusiasts from other parts of the country would also find them well worth the trip.

The first one is the annual AROC convention which will be held June 23-27 in Frederick, Maryland. The Capital Chapter of the AROC has done a superb job of hosting conventions in the past, and I'm sure they will live up to that tradition. Alex Csank (an expatriate Canadian, actually) is one of the key organizers and I'm looking forward to finally meeting him in person.

The second must do event for me in 2010 is the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival to be held September 10-12. This is an annual event which is well known for its excellent weekend of Vintage racing. Next year the Featured Marque for the event will be Alfa Romeo. An organization called Stone Bridge Drivers is putting on a number of events. The Watkins Glen Tour de Marque is only open to Alfas and will include an opportunity to lap the old road course as well as the modern racing circuit. For complete details go to <http://www.grandprixfestival.com/> and look under Stone Bridge Driver Events.

A number of us from Toronto and Ottawa participated in this event in 2005, and everyone who made it there was extremely happy with the experience.

## Upcoming ARCC Events

### Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
June 10	TBD	Wetaskawin
June 27	TBD	Porsche meet
July 14-19	TBD	AROC Convention
August 10	TBD	Rock'n August
August 29	TBD	Concours
September 21	TBD	Fall Colours Run
November	TBD	Italian Dinner
Dec. 13	TBD	Tree Hunt

### Ottawa Chapter

Date	Time	Event
June 8	7 pm	Pub Night – Pub Italia
June 20	9:30 am	Italian Week parade
June 25	7 pm	Tech Session
July 1	10 am	Italian Car Show
July 14-19	TBD	AROC Convention
July TBD	TBD	Summer BBQ event
Aug.10	7 pm	Pub Night – The Swan
Aug.15 or 16	TBD	Beau's Brewery
September 13	TBD	Drive to Calabogie
September 19-20	TBD	Drive to Algonquin
October 17	TBD	Italian Car Christening Party
November 7	7:30 pm	28 <sup>th</sup> Annual Pot Luck

### Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
May 10	TBD	Sunday Drive
May 30	10:30 am	Restoration Shop Tour Legendary Motor Cars
June 4	7 pm	Cruise Night La Paloma
June 21	TBD	Vintage Festival/Drive
July 2	7 pm	Cruise Night La Paloma
July 5	TBD	Sunday Drive
July 14-19	TBD	AROC Convention
July 19	TBD	Summer Wine Tour
August 6	7 pm	Cruise Night La Paloma
August 9	TBD	Sunday Drive
August 16	TBD	Picnic, BBQ
September 3	7 pm	Cruise Night La Paloma
September 27	8:30 am	Europa Rally
October 1	TBD	Cruise Night La Paloma
November 4	TBD	Director's Meeting & Pub Night
December 5	TBD	Holiday Dinner Marino's Restaurant
Feb 27, 2010	9:30 am	Directors Meeting

### Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Time	Event
May 2	TBD	Drive to Nanton RCAF Museum Tour
May TBD	TBD	Garage Tour
June 6	TBD	3 Hills car show
June 27	TBD	Drive to Gleichen Blackfoot Museum Tour
July 11	TBD	Stampede Breakfast & Alfa Car Show TBC
July 14-19	TBD	AROC Convention
July 18	TBD	European Car Show, Stanley Park
July 25	TBD	Drive to Canmore via Hwy 1A
August 1	8:30am	Local meet & coffee
August 22	TBD	Drive to Chain Lakes & Picnic
September 10	7 pm	Parking lot meeting
September 26	TBD	High River Car Show

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