



ARCC UPDATE

October 2013

C.A.R.M. 2nd Annual Lake Placid Road Trip

by Bruno and Linda Orsini

One could not have asked for better weather. The stars aligned the night before, providing us with clear skies and sunny conditions for a memorable and enjoyable road trip through the Chateauguy Valley, the mountains of the Adirondacks and the picturesque Vermont Valley.

The preparation for the trip started right after last year's road trip when the consensus was that the drivers wanted more seat time on the roads. Not one to argue with the collective opinion, I was happy to comply and extended the route for this year to include a second leg excursion along the Ausable River to Lake Champlain then onto Burlington Vermont.

With all road trips, there are 3 key elements – weather, a reliable car and a happy navigator. Up until the Kingston outing, we had two of the three elements – weather being the only one that was in the control of the only woman more powerful than my wife: Mother Nature. However, my Alfa decided in Kingston that starting would be optional. Fortunately for me, my fellow Alfisti banded together to create an impromptu push-car team and we were good to go...home sadly. Needless to say, intermittent starting was not an option for the upcoming trip... my wife made that clear.

So, anxious to get my navigator back in the passenger seat, I changed the fuel filter, re-gapped the points, and changed the condenser, coil and plugs. The sum of which seemed to improve the starting when hot issue, at least enough for the trip. As well, the Alfa also got a new top installed and was ready on the Wednesday, just days before the outing date. OK, two of the three elements in place and the long range forecast indicated that Mother Nature was going to bless us with some great weather. Last minute, I know, but who could resist the combination! A quick check of hotel availability and an email from Alex for the club and we were good to go.

Joining us for the trip were Jay & Sylvia (1971 1750 GTV), Pat & Carmie (1970 GT Junior), Jean-Michel & Lucie (1996 Spider Twin Spark), Sam & Lucy (1977 Alfetta GT), Alex & Diane (1985 GTV6) and of course my trusty navigator, Linda and I (1973 Spider 1300) .

We met at Tim Horton's in Chateauguy and made our way to the launching off point of the drive in Ste. Martine. Traversing the one-lane bridge over the Chateauguy River, we continued south along Rang Touchette & Rang Laberge, which eventually turns into the Chemin de la rivière Châteauguy to Ormstown. This stretch of road which follows the curves of the Chateauguy River and the natural changes in elevation of the land made for very spirited driving. By late morning the sun was warm and the air cool, perfect for top down driving and as well as providing a cool flow of air into the coupes' cabins.



Photo by Bruno Orsini.

We made our way through town, crossing over the little Outardes River to route 138A, which continues along the Chateauguy River and is one of the most picturesque parts of the drive. Huge maple trees line each side of the road providing some welcome shade, all while passing horse ranches and views of the river to our left on our way to Dewittville.

We crossed Dewittville's one-lane bridge back over the Chateauguy River and headed along the rural

road of Chemin Fairview to the outskirts of Huntington. And so ended what I consider to be the best combination of rolling landscape, bends, curves and scenery in southern Quebec.

From Huntington, we left the Chateauguay River in favour of the most direct route to the US, via Herdman (don't blink or else you'll miss the town) along Hwy 202 and onto Chateauguay Lake in New York State where the river originates. We enjoyed an impromptu rest stop at the border while we waited for all parties to cross and then onto the ribbon-like roads of the US that our cars so dearly enjoy.

Route 374 took us along the shores of Lake Chateauguay which is mostly populated by private cottages. The winding and rolling drive was most enjoyable. In Lyon Mountain, at the junction of Hwy 374 and Hwy 1, we stopped for a quick refuelling before continuing on our cross-mountain trek.

The route did not disappoint as we crossed the Adirondacks. We enjoyed the climbs and descents of the mountain road which provided its fair share of yellow 'snake' signs. Maybe it was the twisting mountain roads of Italy that inspired Romano Cattaneo to include the 'snake' in the Alfa Romeo logo? An unexpected road crossing along the way had us slow down and let a group of wild turkeys cross the road! Now this was a first!

Onto Silver Lake Road, the Nelson Road roundabout detour and the picturesque Bonnyview Road for the most spirited mountain drive leg of the trip. During the descents in low gears with high revs, the cars were puffing all colours of smoke and giving off a multitude of smells. Bonnyview Road traverses the last stretch of the mountain crossing, lined with tall pines and paved to perfection leading into the town of Wilmington, home of Whiteface Mountain and Santa's Workshop. We enjoyed a welcome break and lunch at A&W before continuing along the Ausable River to Saranac Lake and Lake Placid.

We rolled into Lake Placid by mid-afternoon arriving at the Comfort Inn by Paradox Bay which marked the end of the first day of our two day road trip. At this point, Alex and Diane and Sam and Lucy departed for their return trip to Montreal, while the other 4 teams remained to continue day two of our journey.

We enjoyed the calm and tranquility of the Bay's surrounding in the company of some fine wine and good conversation before heading out for dinner. Later, we had a fine dinner at Pan Dolce which was within walking distance from our hotel, giving our Alfas and ourselves a well-deserved break!



Photo by Bruno Orsini.

Day two's breakfast was served up at the Comfort Inn before heading out for the day. The planned route would see us head South, pick up the Ausable River at Keene, with a scenic detour following Hulls Falls Road, then back to Route 73. From Route 73 we took a quick picture break before continuing on to Ticonderoga.



Photo by Bruno Orsini.

We continued south along Hwy 73 to Hwy 9, onto Hwy 74 and to the outskirts of Ticonderoga where we had a great view of Lake Champlain as we approached from the higher elevation. From Ticonderoga, we picked up the 9N and headed north, and crossed over Lake Champlain on the Lake Champlain Bridge via route 185. We travelled through the Vermont Valley along routes 17 and 22A where we took a short break in Vergennes.

From Vergennes we followed Hwy 7 into Burlington for lunch and shopping. Downtown Burlington was packed with people, mostly students and their parents for the start of the new school year. We had an enjoyable lunch at a French-style bistro to cap off our return home along Hwy 2 through the Lake Champlain Isles.

All in all we had a great time travelling 650kms on some of the most scenic roads...right in our own back yard. We look forward to next year's outing.

“al Fresco” Fall Tour and Rendezvous with Detroit

by Elio Comello, Camlachie

Blessed with cool and glorious weather the Alfas arrived on time at Aberarder Vineyard. Spiders from the Duetto to the S3 Bosch version were all present, as were the GTVs. In addition we were treated to a Jr. Zagato and a GTA!



Photo by Elio Comello.

Alfisti from Toronto, London, Windsor, Sarnia and Detroit made the trek to Lambton County's first winery. Following a tasting of the 7 Estate wines, the group selected wines to pair with lunch.



Photo by Elio Comello.

The *al Fresco* meal was heavy on Italian fare and included organic red wine vinegar, vegetables and fruit from the Comello's garden.

Luciana (Mrs Comello) outdid herself as usual, with her baked pears, scratch lemon squares and food presentation. After the repast, the group toured an interesting cider house, Lake Huron's shoreline and then tea at an organic herb farm. Following a quick

stop at “Casa Comello”, a group dinner at a local restaurant famous for Canadian back bacon ended a memorable day.

Casadio P3 Model

by John McLaine, Ancaster

I have a somewhat rare 1:20 scale die cast model of a P3 Alfa that I acquired from Wilkinson's Automobilia in Vancouver years ago.

The maker is "Casadio" from "via Ranzani 4; 40127 Bologna, Italy" and the level of detail in the castings wire wheel (spokes are 0.2 mm) is incredible. The steering also operates!

The brochure also says this is the first model of a series that will include "most of the famous and successful cars that have appeared on race tracks the world over since 1906." Unfortunately, I have not been able to find out if other die cast models in the series ever made it into production.

The original box contains a brochure with this description in 10 languages including English:

“The debut of the fabulous P-3 was on the 5th of June 1932, when, with Nuvolari at the wheel, it won the tenth Italian Grand Prix. Designed by the engineer Vittorio Jano, the car developed 215 horsepower and could reach a maximum speed of 232 km per hour. Agile and very manoeuvrable, the P3 was a leader in technical construction and design in its day. Amongst some of the outstanding characteristics were: adjustable rear shock absorbers by means of a hand pump fitted inside the driver's cockpit; differential fitted to the end of the gearbox; twin transmission shafts in "V". The eight cylinder engine had two roots superchargers coupled to it, which boosted the initial output of 2654 cc. to 2905 cc. Weight of the vehicle empty was 720 kg and it had four forward gears and reverse.”



Photo provided by John McLaine.

Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2013 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Alfa Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
March 12	7:00 pm	AutoObsessed
March 19	7:00 pm	Go Kart Racing
May 25	11:00am	Lift Day
June 9	8:30am	History Road - Reynolds

Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
May 2	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
May 4	9:30 am	Pinarello Tech Session
June 6	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
June 14-16	TBD	Vintage Festival / Drive
July 2	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
July 20-21	TBD	Montreal/Ottawa Rendezvous
August 6	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
Sept. 3	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
Sept. 14	9:00 am	Rendezvous with Detroit
Sept. 29	TBD	Europa Rally
October 1	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
Nov. 30	8:00 pm	Holiday Dinner

Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Time	Event
April 20	7:00 pm	Supper Seminar
May 18	10:00 am	May Flower Fun Rally
June 15	TBD	Introduction to Autocross
June 22	10:00 am	Summer Driving Tour
July 7	TBD	Fiat Breakout
July 20-21	TBD	Toronto/Ottawa Rendezvous
Sept. 15	TBD	Introduction to TSD Rally
Sept. 29	TBD	Raduno Montebello
Oct. 19	10:00 am	Autumn Leaves Tour
Nov. 30	Noon	Holiday Party Lunch

Other Events of Interest

- Members' Tech Sessions
- Sunday Drives
- Exposition de Voitures Anciennes, Laval, May 26
- Italian Car Day Parade, Ottawa, June 15-16
- Italian Car Day, Boyd Park, Woodbridge, July 6
- Grand Prix of Mosport, ALMS, July 18-21
- Unofficial Cruise Nights occur every Thursday evening at La Paloma, May to October
- Italians at the Julep, 2nd Tuesday, May to October, 7:00pm



Dave Creer's beautiful Sky Blue Giulia Spider stands out among other spiders at the Toronto Chapter October cruise night. Photo by Mike Fellini.

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

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ARCC Update

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