



ARCC UPDATE

April 2014

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

Alfisti,

As I write this month's column on a beautiful, sunny spring day, I am getting very itchy to get out and take my GTV6 for a spin around the block! However, I think it is best to wait just a little bit longer before I re-install the battery, clean the plugs and check all the fluid levels in my *Bianco* 'Alfetta on steroids'. Here in Montréal, members of our Alfa gang are getting ready for a very busy driving season, with all kinds of social events, rallies, tours, car shows and other fun stuff on the schedule. Although we try to create one 'Alfa Exclusive' event per month, many of the other events on our calendar are combined with other local clubs... using a 'the more the merrier' approach is a great way to get a small club to create interesting and fun events for members!

Looking at the club calendars which have been submitted so far, it looks like there will be lots of events for everyone to enjoy right across the country. One of the events which appears on the Ottawa, Montréal, and the Toronto calendars is the 2nd Annual ARCC Regional get-together, which I have dubbed *Raduno Estivo*. This (please forgive me as my Italian isn't terrific) translates roughly as "Summertime tour and gathering", scheduled for the 28th and 29th of June. The idea is for the Toronto, Montréal and Ottawa clubs to create our own group drives departing early on Saturday morning and meandering along nice roads towards Kingston, where all three groups will meet up in the late afternoon at a hotel. From that point, there will be fun activities which will allow us to meet new friends and renew old friendships with fellow Canadian *Alfisti*. Most of us will stay overnight in Kingston and participate together in a few more activities on Sunday, departing Sunday afternoon for home either on our own or with our local clubs. Anyone wishing to join us from elsewhere will also be very welcome, of course!

Last weekend, I received a nice phone call from Oliver Collins, who happened to be driving through Kingston, and he reminded me that ARCC used to host Canadian Alfa Romeo conventions on a fairly regular basis, which would usually encompass a whole weekend or long weekend and included lots of great events, without being as large, costly and long as the typical Alfa convention in the USA. I think Oliver is absolutely right in suggesting that we move towards making an annual Canadian Alfa convention a reality once again. What do you think? Please send me your suggestions.

I strongly encourage you all to mark your calendars so you can attend *Raduno Estivo* on the 28th and 29th of June. There's a lot of planning to do before then and I would appreciate any help you can provide. Obviously, I need to secure a hotel and see if we can get a reduced group-rate, and will also need to get reservations at a couple of good-quality restaurants with easy parking. I have put together a flyer and reservation form, which is enclosed with this newsletter. Please fill out the form and send it in as soon as you can. This will help me get a feel for attendance so I can make our reservations and arrangements.

Please send in your photos, articles and ideas for the newsletter. George Beston, who does a superb job as our Alfa Update editor is always looking for your input for upcoming editions.

Rev high!

Alex

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Toronto Chapter AGM

by George Beston, Cobourg

For the second year running, our AGM took place at Ocean Drive motors. I didn't "get" the source of the Ocean Drive name until this February when I spent some time in Miami Beach observing the scene along that particular Ocean Drive with its endless Saturday evening parade of exotic and custom automobiles and motorcycles idling up and down

the street in bumper to bumper traffic. Sadly, I didn't see a single Alfa join in.



Photo by George Beston.

Back to the AGM, we spent a half-hour or so socializing and perusing the cars on display before heading upstairs to the meeting room where Anthony called the meeting to order. Suffice it to say that we have a healthy cash balance, paraphernalia are on the way in the form of hats, stickers and jackets and we have a pretty full calendar during the upcoming season.

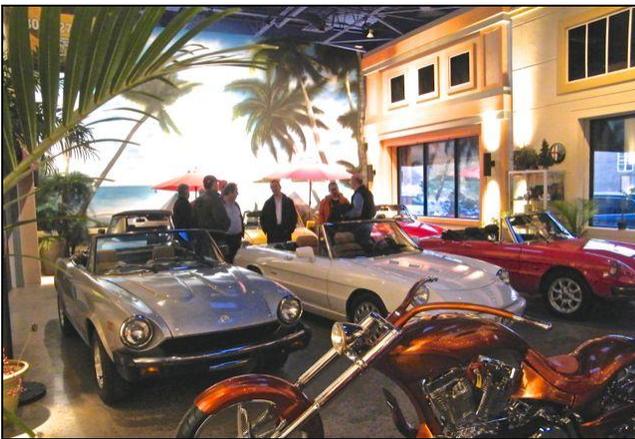


Photo by George Beston.

Brad Golden reviewed the results of our recent on-line survey. The feedback was generally positive, with many members comfortable with the concept of distributing the newsletter electronically. There were a number of suggestions that the Directors will be following up on.

C.A.R.M. News

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

Are you getting ready to take your first ride in your Alfa? Have you already lifted the cover, or dusted away the winter grime?

On Saturday April 26th, please join us for a Bistro style light lunch at the Cafe Milano on Jarry East from 1:00 PM through 3:00 PM. The event will be

held rain or shine, but if the weather is good, please bring your Alfas.

Looking forward to a fun driving season! Please have a look at the calendar of club events on our website at www.clubalfaromeodemontreal.com.

Alfetta Testa Fisa

by George Beston, Cobourg

I had a number of suggestions for tackling this cylinder head issue again. At least two individuals suggested the use of an air hammer to vibrate the long studs and break the bond of whatever is making them stick. Others have mentioned that stuck Jaguar cylinder heads have been freed up by hanging the full weight of the vehicle by the cylinder head and waiting days for it to let go. Another interesting suggestion is to heat cycle the head in the area of the studs to find out if the expansion of the aluminum in the head would be enough to break the studs free. My favourite suggestion of them all involves removing the engine's crank shaft and pressing the head away from the block using some tooling that would act on the combustion chambers rather than spark plug threads.

I have time on my side now, so I'm planning to keep at it until it finally does come off! It will be quite a while before I get around to it because I'm immersed in rebuilding an alternate Alfetta engine at the moment. Rebuilding an unknown engine is not something to take lightly, but so far this particular engine shows no signs of misuse or abuse, other than evidence of a slack cam chain at some point in its life. So far, most of my time has been spent on taking apart the head and block assemblies and cleaning all the parts as best I can. After about a month of that, the reassembly process has been started with replacing all the main bearings and putting the crank shaft back where it belongs. Liners, pistons and rod bearings are next.

What does your junk pile look like?

by George Beston, Cobourg

As I ponder how to cull and organize my own Alfa parts collection, I've come across some very interesting pictures of Alfa parts apparently headed for recycling at best when they were taken.

Peter Marshall sent in this photo including a stack of valve covers, 37 in all. It's a long story, but his sister came across the scene while looking up a contact in Texas.



Photo provided by Peter Marshall.

Bob Little, who has put up a fascinating web site covering his photo collection from his youthful days working for Auto Delta has made a number of images available that he hasn't put up on his web site. The first is of a scrap heap in one corner of the Auto Delta shop. The pile includes a V8 engine, a complete Tipo 33 frame and some transmissions.



Photo by Robert Little.

I can't resist using another picture, which demonstrates that some Italian chickens took comfort from some discarded Tipo 33 body parts.



Photo by Robert Little.

For a fascinating story of a young man living a dream that many of us surely had or still have, look up Robert's site www.robertlittle.us. The stories and images on that site make it well worth a visit.

New Alfas: Our new Alfa Spider?

by George Beston, Cobourg

Lately, we haven't heard much about the joint effort between Mazda and Fiat to develop a new MX5 and a new Alfa Spider. The status of the project was uncertain at last report; with Mr. Marchione being quoted as saying maybe it should be put off or introduced under the Abarth brand. This kind of waffling will not get us anywhere, ever! Car and Driver put together this image for us to ponder. It is similar, but definitely not identical to the "2uettotanta" concept car that has been shown over the past two years or so. I want to believe that there might be a factual basis for this rendering, but I can't be sure. It may be just a rendering created for the article, and there's something very S2000-like in those front fender lines. Let's hope that some sanity will return to the exercise, and that this car gets introduced as a continuation of the Spiders that have been at the core of Alfa Romeo tradition.



Image from Car & Driver.

Update, I wrote up my plans, and progress to date, regarding my project to rebuild the engine in my long-serving Alfetta Berlina.

4C coming to Canada?

Mark Richardson of the Toronto Star recently wrote up a review of the New York Auto Show covering the introduction of the 4C to the U.S. market. In his write-up he also said that the 4C was coming to Canada, but he had no information about when, or how much it might cost when it gets here.

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
Feb 16	1:00 pm	Valentine's Day Lunch
March 22	1:00 pm	Tech Session
April 12	TBD	Spring Lunch
May 10	TBD	VEA Rally
May 24	TBD	Eastern Townships Tour
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

Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
Feb 22	9:00 am	Directors' Meeting
April 2	7:00 pm	AGM
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 14	TBD	Fall Tour
Oct 7	7:00 pm	Cruise Night - La Paloma
Nov 29	6:00 pm	Holiday dinner

Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
April ??		Tech Session
May 10		"Up your Hoist"
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 ??		Viva Italia
Sept 7		Concours d'Eleganza
Sept 21		Apple Harvest Leduc
Dec 14		Christmas Tree Slaughter
Jan 2015		Alfa Christmas Party

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

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