



ARCC UPDATE

July 2014

VARAC Vintage Festival

by George Beston, Cobourg

We were blessed with splendid weather this year for the 2014 Canadian Historic Grand Prix. The focus of the event was a much-hyped “Triumph vs. MG Canadian-American Showdown” which drew a lot of interest, but to me the actual racing between those two marques was more of an exhibition than anything else.

Despite the MG/Triumph focus of the overall event, there was significant Alfa Romeo participation in the races thanks mostly to the Alfa Dogs racing team. We also had a good showing at the “field of dreams classic car show” on Sunday morning, thanks mostly to the drive to the track organized by Tony Adams.

There were six Alfa Dogs entered in the race weekend. My own sparse attendance limits my observations of what went on but Joe Canella was, as usual, the fastest Alfa there and did his best time ever in his well prepared GTV.



Joe Canella and GTV. Photo by Art Beck.

Doug Paraschuck looked smooth and quick in his Spider but felt he was suffering from an engine with a bit too much race time on it to be at its best. Not that it didn't look good out there!



Doug Paraschuck and Spider. Photo by Art Beck.

8C 2300 Monza Replicar

by George Beston, Cobourg

I have never thought much of replicars, and have never spent any time considering one. I have been vaguely aware that one company used to sell a line of VW Beetle based replicars, including one echoing the Monza. At the Vintage Festival car show, my memory was jogged by the appearance of the vehicle below, which drew a crowd all day long.



Photo by George Beston.

This particular vehicle was notable because of the enthusiasm of its owner/builder, former ARCC member Peter Browne of Uxbridge. Peter has apparently driven this vehicle all over the eastern

half of Canada with nothing more than a tonneau cover for weather protection. He is well informed on the subject of Alfa Romeo history and spent a lot of time explaining to onlookers what the original 8C 2300 Monza was all about, and how this particular replica was built. He also regaled onlookers with tales of his exploits on the open road over the last 20 years or so. Those stories made more sense to me when I realized that he also does a lot of motorcycle touring, so being so exposed to the weather is not a huge burden to him.

Coincidentally, Norm Mort published an article on replicars in the June 2 issue of the Canadian "Old Autos" tabloid. Each kit with accessories could be purchased for around \$2,000 in the mid 1970's. The catalogue from Antique and Classic Replicars claimed an assembly time of around forty hours. Peter's replica has many more hours in it than that.

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

The summer is finally here and just to make sure that we don't forget, heat wave warnings are now in effect in many of our larger urban centers. As I write this column – the day after returning from the ARCC *Raduno Estivo* (the 2nd Annual ARCC Regional get together) – I am still nursing some mild sunburn on the back of my neck, which I earned in the bright sunlight of this past weekend's activities.

Although none of our Ottawa-area members were able to attend this year, the Montreal and Toronto groups were well represented in Kingston, where a variety of different Alfas and their owners got together for some socializing, dining, tourism and Alfa talk.

Departing separately from the east and the west of Kingston, the two groups enjoyed meandering drives through the local countryside *en route* to our meeting point at the Comfort Inn in Kingston. Later, after resting and getting cleaned up and into our dinner clothes, we gathered at The Grizzly Grill in downtown Kingston for some hearty victuals, like the medium rare roast beef with extra horseradish, "smashed" garlic potatoes, and roasted locally grown vegetables which I quickly devoured. That left me just enough room to squeeze in the cheesecake and coffee.

On Sunday morning after a continental breakfast at the hotel, the majority of our combined group paraded through the streets of Kingston, ending up inside the walls of the 'Forward Battery' in Old Fort Henry, where we had our own private parking lot and a spectacular view of Lake Ontario to enjoy.

With a superb array of colourful Alfas (plus one errant Ferrari) and a rather large white goat (the mascot of the Royal Military College) decorating the square, some of the group took advantage of the free time to take the tour of the fort, while others stayed near the cars as they were serenaded by the piccolo and bagpipes played by the sentries.



Photo by Lucie Collins.

Afterwards, we had an outdoor lunch under some large table umbrellas overlooking the lake where I handed out some awards, joke prizes and trophies. Our ARCC Update Newsletter Editor and Club Treasurer – George Beston – received the first annual "Alfista of the Year Award" for his tireless efforts to help keep our national club glued together. Trophies were awarded to Ian White from the Toronto club for his beautiful red 1970 GT Junior, which won "Ladies' Choice", while Jean-Michel Reysette from CARM won "Most unaltered and original Alfa" for his black 1996 Spider. Earning top honours as the "Best in Show" was Oliver Collins' spectacular red 1954 1900 Touring bodied coupe – and what a gorgeous piece of rolling art it is!

After lunch, we gathered up our spouses and our folding chairs, said our goodbyes and headed back towards home to try and beat the Sunday evening back-to-the-city traffic. I think everyone had a good time, and I believe that we should do this type of event again next year. Hopefully, we will see you there!

I know that some of you lucky folks will be attending the upcoming AROC USA convention in Detroit. The new 4C will be on display, and the list of Alfa activities and social events will make sure that everyone has a great time. At the convention this year, the folks who will be hosting the 2015 convention in Rhode Island will provide an update about their planning, and it looks like the Nashville chapter will be handling the convention in 2016 and will present their formal proposal. That leaves the 2017 convention, five years after the 2012 Toronto convention, open for discussion.

2017 marks Canada's 150th anniversary, as well as the 50th anniversary of our international exhibition at Expo '67 and the unveiling of the original Alfa

Romeo Montreal prototype. It also marks Montreal's 375th anniversary. I believe that is cause enough for us to offer to host another combined Canada/USA Alfa Romeo Club convention – but this time in the Montreal area – and, with your support, I believe that we can host another very successful event. The membership of CARM have also endorsed the idea, and I have done quite a bit of initial research and believe that we have all the necessary locations, services and support to make this idea a reality. Although I won't be able to make it to Detroit this year, George Beston has volunteered to present the initial proposal to the AROC USA Executive during their annual meeting, and I am hoping that our bid will be accepted by the Board of Directors.

What do you think? As always, please send me your feedback and suggestions about this and any other club related issues anytime.

Another Alfa in the Garage! **by Gord Zimmerman, Bobcaygeon**

Sue and I were in England a number of years ago and toured the Alfa Romeo dealers instead of castles. We had a chance to sit in and drive a 1997 Alfa Spider. It was pretty neat and we really liked it but alas Alfa wasn't back in North America so we could only dream. Then a couple of years ago at the Alfa Canadese convention a red one from Ottawa showed up which "twin spark" our interest. A vendor had a scale model which I bought and gave to Sue as her 65th Birthday present. Little did I know that this past month everything would come together. We sold Sue's Fiat 124 Spider and 2 weeks later came across a 1998 2.0 L 16V T.Spark Alfa Spider. It was previously imported from Japan and had only 33,000 km on it.



Photo by Gord Zimmerman.

We drove to the owner's residence in Caledon to have a look. He escorted us to his twelve car garage which also housed seven gorgeously restored muscle cars from the 60's. All the cars were being stored under fitted covers. As Michael rolled the cover off the car we came to see, both Sue & I just stared at this fabulous metallic blue Alfa Spider.

I tried to be critical and checked it over carefully but couldn't find anything to complain about. We took it for a short drive on a winding road – what a blast! We came back to Mike's country mansion and shook hands, had a hug, enjoyed a glass of wine. Oh yes, Michael is very Italian and his wife Marsha is a grand hostess. She also makes fabulous custom car covers – look up "Hugger Covers".



Under the hood. Note the "full" headlights and aftermarket strut brace. Photo by Gord Zimmerman.

A bit about our new Alfa: with only 12 or less in North America, to my knowledge this is by far the cleanest and most pampered of the lot. Remember it is 16 years old with only 33,000 kilometres on the clock. There isn't even a stone chip on the nose, or a swirl mark on the hood. The twin spark engine puts out 155hp to the front wheels through a 5 speed close ratio gear box. The steering, at 2.2 turns lock to lock, is very quick. It's a blast to drive and sounds like an Alfa Spider should. We bought it for Sue, so I'm keeping my red 1991 Spider.

C.A.R.M. News

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

So many activities happened in the month of June. The weekends were packed full of great Alfa events!

Thank you to Sam and Lucy for hosting a wonderful Grand Prix BBQ at their home on Sunday, June 8th. The lovely weather and the terrific accordion music provided by Gerard Cyr combined to make for a truly wonderful day. Thanks also to all who attended.

Thanks also to all those who came out to see the new 4C on Crescent Street and to show their cars on Boulevard St-Laurent in Little Italy on Saturday, June 7th. And also to those of you who joined up with the Alfa Romeo Club of Ottawa, the Ferrari Club and Club Fiat Montreal to attend the Italian car parade in Ottawa on Saturday, June 14th.

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

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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 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
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

Club mail

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