



ARCC UPDATE

March 2015

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

Wowza! It's been a record-setting winter this year. That cold weather must help keep our Alfa fresh for springtime, right? Wait! Don't answer that. By the time this newsletter reaches you, I am hopeful that the early signs of spring will be shining through your windows, and that your dreams will be filled with the fun times ahead, when we will all be able to enjoy a little Alfa motoring.

I have been contacted recently with renewed calls for us to update our previously out-of-date www.alfaclub.ca website. The good news is that as I write this letter, our new Webmaster has just updated the website to reflect our current club calendar and our new contact list. The newly updated site also has a new (now bilingual) membership form, which is also enclosed with this newsletter in printed format.

Back in January, a few of us held a meeting in Kingston to discuss options regarding the future of our website. While we have lots of ideas about what we would like to provide – such as the ability to complete the membership form and allow us to pay our annual dues online if desired, we have not yet been able to complete our plans or implement the changes and improvements to the site. Hopefully, with a little more time and some effort, we will also be able to provide members with the ability to access our monthly *ARCC Update* electronically as well.

On the Facebook front, I try to make sure that our Facebook Page is updated almost daily, and I do my best to make sure that the page contains plenty of great photos, videos, Alfa Romeo related automotive news and reviews, historical data, racing and competition stories from around the world, and that it caters to owners of vintage **and** new Alfas. Please  our Facebook Page if you use Facebook. It can be found using a simple Facebook Search (or on Google) as Alfa Romeo Club of Canada (ARCC).

In Alfa Romeo news, sales and deliveries of the 4C seem to be well underway and I have read many

very favourable reviews from new owners enjoying their new Alfas. On the 24th of June, Sergio Marchionne will be announcing a new model for the North American market. This is widely believed to be the long awaited Giulia sedan, which will be a replacement for the current 159 series, and will be designed to compete primarily against the mid-sized cars from BMW, Mercedes and Audi. It is supposed to be built on rear wheel drive architecture, but may have AWD available.

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

Rev high!

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ARCO Plans

by Marc Faubert, Gatineau

It's been a long and bitterly cold winter with February 2015 being the coldest in 115 years. Now the time has come to trade the loud annoying sound of my Ariens for the exhilarating "*canzone di Alfa Romeo*". Luckily for us, 2015 will prove to be a very busy season for Alfisti both local to the National Capital Region and from other regional chapters. Our cars will have plenty of opportunities to get all the exercise they deserve. The first major event for Italian car fans will be held from 19-21 June for the annual *Ottawa Italian Festival* with its ever popular Italian car parade. The Alfa Romeo Club of Ottawa (ARCO) will be hosting a little get together on the Friday for out of town Alfa Romeo club members driving in for the weekend festivities. More details to come.

Other major events of the season include the [*Alfamiglia Nordest*](#) 2015 convention in Rhode Island, the *Fiat Breakout* in Montreal, the *Fiat Freakout* and *Italian Cortile* in Pittsburgh, the Italian car day in Woodbridge, the *Raduno Estivo* in Kingston and last but not least, the *Raduno Montebello* in September. Attendance of ARCO

members is already confirmed for all of these major events. ARCO will also be hosting a number of smaller local events to which any member of the Alfa community is more than welcome to attend. Details for these local events will be available on the ARCO Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/alfaromeoottawa>.

As you can see, we will have plenty of opportunities to get together with fellow *Alfisti* and share our common passion. On behalf of the ARCO executive, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable 2015 driving season.

Alfa Romeo at CIAS

by George Beston, Cobourg

It's been a long time coming, but finally this year we had an official Alfa Romeo presence at the so-called Canadian International Auto Show. I suppose there were vehicles there from all over the world, but otherwise the title is a wee bit too grand for my liking.

At any rate, the Alfa Romeo stand was out there on a main floor and took up a patch of the space being used for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles.

Two cars were present, the 4C coupe that we've seen many times before, and a brilliant yellow example of the recently announced Spider.



4C Spider. Photo by George Beston.

Unlike the Detroit show, there was no additional display, no brochures that I could see, and nobody around the stand to talk to. Now I wish I'd made the trip to Detroit!

A gala introduction for the 4C Spider was held at a venue in Toronto's Distillery District the night before the CIAS press day. The audience was restricted to a select group of Canadian automotive journalists.



4C Spider. Photo by George Beston.

At the time of writing, two reports of this event are available on-line, one by Mark Richardson writing in the Toronto Star and another by Charles Jolicoeur on autogo.ca. According to these reports, Reid Bigland gave a presentation to the audience to introduce the 4C Spider, and to discuss Alfa's plans to follow the 4C with a sedan and an SUV. As for dealerships, The Toronto Star article stated that Oakville has just opened, and dealers are opening soon in London and Windsor. A total of fifteen dealers are expected to be in operation by the end of 2015 with up to 20 more by the end of 2016 when a more complete line-up of vehicles is available.



4C Spider. Photo from autogo.ca.



4C Coupe. Photo from thegate.ca.

Valve Tool

by Russ Baer, Monkton MD

When I needed to remove valve springs and seals without taking the engine apart, I came up with a different approach to holding the valve in place and compressing the valve springs. I did this because I never liked the clothesline or compressed air approach to holding the valve in place, and I had some spare parts available to make up my own spring compressor.

This is a photo of my homemade valve spring compressor and in action. The handle is a control arm and the fulcrum is a rod-end. The short tubular piece, which is captive under the cam bearing cap is from the inner sleeve of an Alfa jack. The cam bearing provides a solid anchoring point to allow valve spring compression.

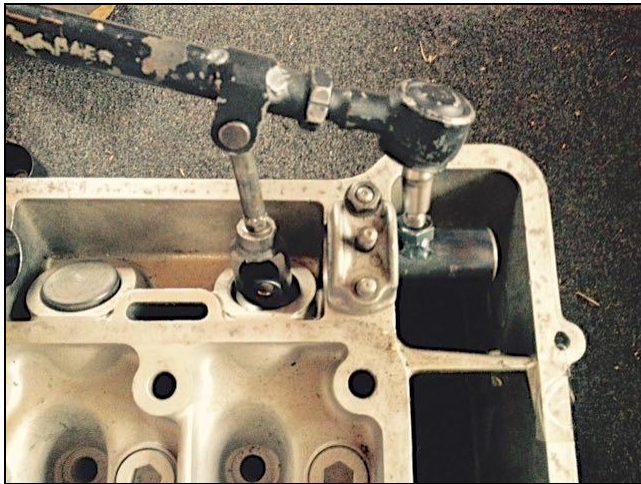
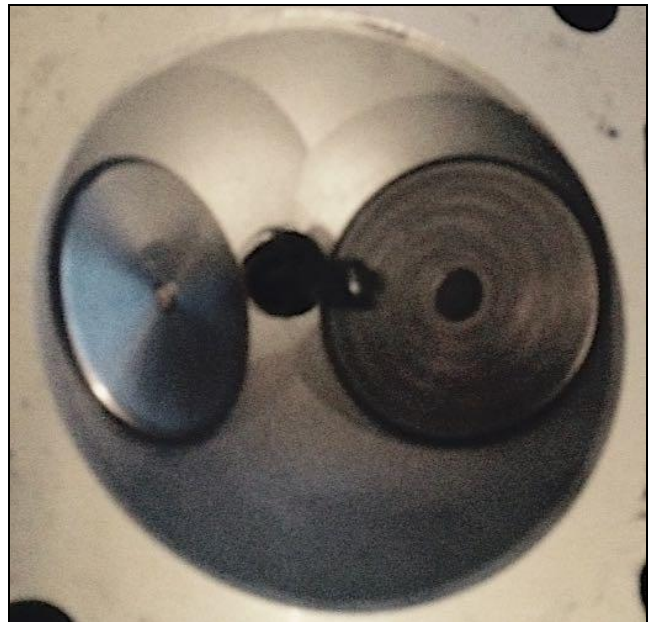
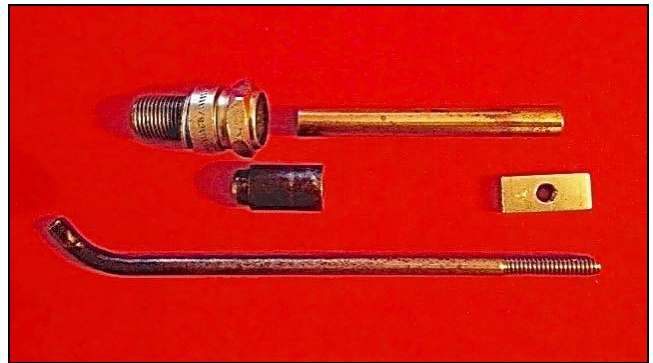


Photo by Russ Baer.

The short cylindrical part slips into the capped cam bearing nearest the subject valve and the ball joint makes a better pivot than the factory tool. The end of the handle points forward for cylinders two and four, and points rearward for cylinders one and three.

I salvaged the end from a trashed valve compressor tool. It was crudely made from a six point hex tool. If I was doing this again, I would modify a twelve point deep socket for the purpose. The valve retainer tool was made up using a gutted spark plug, sleeves, a rod with threaded end and finally a wing nut.

The bent end slips into the plug hole, the 'plug' is installed, and when the wing-nut is tightened, the bent end of the rod retracts and holds the valve firmly in place. There is an index mark so one can be sure the bent part is properly located. The bend in the rod must be closely considered so that as much of the rod can hold the valve and still be able to fit in the spark plug hole.



Photos by Russ Baer.

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 April 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 2015 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Time	Event
January 24		Annual Meeting and Lunch
March 14		Tech Session
March 28		Supper
April 19		Lunch Meeting
May 9		Springtime Tour
May 23		Laurentians Fun Rallye
June 6-7		Grand Prix Expo, Barbeque
June 14		Fathers' Day Veterans Tribute Car Show
June 20-21		Ottawa Italian Festival
June 22-28		AROC USA Convention
July 5		Fiat Breakout - Montréal
July 25		Mid-Summer Drive
August 8		Italian Car Day, Woodbridge
August 22-23		Raduno Estivo, Kingston
Sept 12		Super Auto Show, Mirabel
Sept 19-20		Lake Placid Road Trip
Sept 27		Raduno Montebello
October 3		Vineyard Tour
October 17		Fall Colours Drive
November 28		Holiday Party

Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
April		Best Engine tour
May 2		Tech session – "up your hoist"
June 21		Solstice Rally
August		Viva Italia
Sept 12		Concourse

Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
March 14		Directors' Meeting
April		AGM
May-October, First Tuesday	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
June 21		VARAC Vintage Festival
June 22-28		AROC USA Convention
August 8		Italian Car Day, Woodbridge
August 22-23		Raduno Estivo, Kingston
Sept 27		Raduno Montebello

Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Time	Event
May 24		Airport Tunnel Car Show
May 29		Garage Tour
June 14		Reynolds Museum Show
July 19		Stanley Park European Car Show

Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

Date	Time	Event
May 9		Springtime Tour
May 23		Laurentians Fun Rallye
June 20-21		Ottawa Italian Festival
Sept 27		Raduno Montebello

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