



# ARCC UPDATE

May 2017

## *President's Letter*

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

Diane and I, and all the other ALFA expo17 planning committee members are very busy getting ready for our upcoming convention and we're now getting into all the little details which make for lots of hours trying to make the event as much fun for everyone as we can. Many thanks to all those helping us to get ready. We have had great response from all over the USA and Canada, and have registrants from as far away as France as well.

### *Competition Events*

No Alfa Romeo gathering would be complete without some friendly competition events, and we certainly are not going to change that! At ALFA expo17, there will be plenty of opportunities to see how well you and your Alfa can do. And, even if you can't bring an Alfa Romeo to the convention, you may use any brand of car in our Time Trials, Autocross and Gimmick Rally events. The only event restricted to Alfa Romeos is the Concorso.

### *Time Trials and Autocross*

For more than a century, Alfa Romeo has been synonymous with motorsports. Therefore, it is only fitting that we celebrate this glorious heritage at each annual Alfa Romeo Convention with events focusing on motorsports. We have chosen SANAIR, a motorsport facility located at Sainte-Pie, about an hour's drive from the hotel, in the scenic region of the Eastern Townships. This facility hosted the Molson Montreal Indy races from 1984 to 1986 and is well known locally for its triangular oval, its quarter-mile drag strip, its 1 1/4-mile road course and its karting track.

Both the ALFA expo17 Time Trials and Autocross will be held at the SANAIR Tri-Oval featuring a twisty infield portion. Two reputable local clubs will help us stage the events: CADL (Club Autosport des Laurentides) will handle the Autocross while Track and Time will manage the

Time Trials. Both clubs have the expertise, staff and equipment to help make the events safe and enjoyable for all participants. Of course, volunteers will be needed for "pylon duty" and other activities. As always, safety will be of paramount importance and all participating cars will need to be inspected prior to the events. Our tech inspections will take place at the hotel parking lot on the afternoon and evening of July 12<sup>th</sup> for the TT and July 14<sup>th</sup> for the Autocross. Items such as brakes, tires, safety belts, helmets and seat mountings must all pass our technical inspection as specified in the Alfa Romeo Owners' Club National Moving Event Code, which is available online at:

[http://www.aroc-usa.org/library/documents/AROC\\_Moving\\_Event\\_Code.pdf](http://www.aroc-usa.org/library/documents/AROC_Moving_Event_Code.pdf).

Infield parking is plentiful and all spectators and crews will enjoy the vast paddock area. The layout of the track allows for perfect vision for spectators and ideal conditions for photography – so bring your cameras. There is a small covered area with picnic tables for lunch which can also be used to provide shelter from the sun or rain but bring sunscreen for sensitive skin. Bathrooms are simple, outdoor Johnny-on-the-spot type portable toilets. There will be a hand washing station available.



Both the Time Trials and Autocross events will run from 9:00am until all cars have completed their timed runs. Because access to the infield is easiest via a large gate which brings cars and spectators across the track, the main access gate will be closed and locked after 9:00am. There is another access point, but it is a one lane road with

a large dip which is not friendly to lowered cars or cars with front lip spoilers.

There will also be an opportunity to enjoy using your car for a few Parade Laps at the track over the lunch hour. You may pre-register for the Parade Laps via the registration website. No last minute Parade Lap registrations will be sold.

For the Time Trials, a lunch will be provided for all registered drivers. Spectators may preorder a lunch at a cost of \$10 through our ALFA expo17 registration desk when checking in at the hotel. No lunches will be sold at the track. You may also bring your own lunch. There are no food services at the track, and the nearest lunch spots are about 15 minutes away. Please plan accordingly. For the Autocross, a box lunch will be provided to each registered driver. Additional box lunches may be purchased for crew and spectators via the ALFA expo17 registration website, or by ordering it at the registration desk when checking in for the convention.

For more information online, please visit the following:

SANAIR: [www.sanair.ca/joomla/en/](http://www.sanair.ca/joomla/en/)

CADL: [cadl.qc.ca/wp/](http://cadl.qc.ca/wp/)

Track & Time: [www.trackandtime.ca/](http://www.trackandtime.ca/)

### ***Art and Model Car Concorso***

The ALFA expo17 Art and a Model Car Concorso will be held inside the hotel. All entries will be on display from Thursday through Saturday, and will be judged on Saturday afternoon. The awards will be presented at the banquet on Saturday evening. Please sign up to have your original artwork or model car entered.

### ***Montréal Gimmick Rally***

Our See the City Gimmick Rally will depart from the Orange Julep restaurant parking lot after lunch on Friday, with the first car starting sometime after noon. This fun rally will take participants on a tour through Montréal, including a drive to the top of Mount Royal, through the old and narrow streets of scenic Old Montréal, across a bridge to the site of the 1967 World's Fair (expo67), a slow lap around the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve (the track used for the Canadian Gran Prix) and then off the island and eventually into the countryside, before winding its way back towards the hotel using a combination of old roads and modern highways. There is no time limit for the rally. It isn't a race. All participants are strongly encouraged to take their time and do their best to answer **all** the questions while trying to carefully follow **all** rally instructions as closely and accurately as possible.

### ***Alfa Romeo Concorso***

The Convention Concorso will be held from 9:00am to about 2:00pm on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be part of a larger event called Fiat Breakout, which is Montréal's Official Italian Automobile Festival held annually in Montréal's Little Italy, with both judged and non-judged cars on display. Please feel free to stay longer, as the remainder of the Italian cars will be there until around 4:00pm.

Like New York and San Francisco, Montréal has its own Italian neighborhood. Little Italy is home to many shops and restaurants and is a vibrant community, filled with culture, amazing food and lots of great places to hang out. Pizza, espresso, and architectural gems pepper the streets, held together by a strong Italian-Canadian feel. For those who want to take advantage of this vibrant neighborhood, there will be plenty of time to visit the area and enjoy a superb Italian lunch at one of the many local restaurants.

For our Concorso, two of the streets in the heart of Little Italy will be closed to vehicular traffic to accommodate our cars and the many pedestrians who will come out to see our beautiful Italian rides. Alma Street, which will be renamed Alfa Street for the day, will be filled with our Alfa Romeos, while nearby Dante Street will host the Ferraris, Maseratis, Lancias, Fiats and other Italian gems attending the Fiat Breakout. There will be a specially reserved space to honor the Alfa Romeo Montreal, just beside Dante Park. The Concorso VIP tent will also be installed in the park and is where we will host our Concorso Awards Reception. Tickets for this reception are available on our registration website.

All Alfas registered to be judged will be evaluated by AROC USA and ARCC approved judges and will follow the requirements of the AROC USA National Concours Manual, available online at:

[http://www.aroc-usa.org/library/documents/AROC\\_National\\_Concours\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.aroc-usa.org/library/documents/AROC_National_Concours_Manual.pdf)

For more information on all our local, regional and national events – please read the published calendars on the back page of this ARCC Update. Remember that the Alfa virus is contagious! So, invite your friends along as guests anytime.

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

Rev high!

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## *The Alfatross – Five Years On*

by Dave Willis, Ottawa

We left *The Alfatross* in November 2012 with:

1. Overheating
2. Questionable braking, and
3. No professional help in the Greater Ottawa Area (GOA)

There have been no external changes since 2012, beyond a few paint chips and a good polish. It had run pretty well in its first season back on the road, 2011. The troubles really began with the trip to *Alfa Canadese* in 2012, overheating and loading up like a misfire or hesitation: pull over to the side of the road and let it settle down. Then early May 2013, on my way to a bucket list weekend at Calabogie Motorsports Park, it loaded up less than half way and had to be towed on a flat bed to Hinton Automotive – in Stittsville, but still within the GOA – which came recommended by one of the mechanics' wives who was a friend of Denice. Hinton specializes in tuning North American vehicles, but Verne Hinton and Shane Simpson were willing to tackle the overheating with my collection of manuals in what we used to call “reverse order of merit” (the best first) —

4. Alfa Romeo Owner's Bible™, by Pat Braden
5. Manual for ALFA SPICA Fuel Injection, by Wes Ingram
6. Autobook Giulia 1750, 2000 Owners Workshop Manual, by Kenneth Ball
7. Haynes Alfa Romeo (Alfetta) Sedan & Coupe Owners Workshop Manual, by Peter G Strasman, and of course
8. Alfa Romeo Spider Veloce Iniezione Owner's Manual, 1975 Model Year. The Alfatross is 1974 model year

As you may have gathered from number 5 above, Shane quickly identified the SPICA fuel injection

as one source of my problems: 180° out of phase, perhaps mea culpa. But with that corrected, it still needed adjustment. The Ottawa Club's tools and library were, and maybe are, nowhere to be found – they had been invaluable during the engine rebuild – so I bought my own dummy thermostatic actuator and cold start solenoid wrench from <http://www.totallyalfa.com/> in England and made the adjustments. By then, the 2013 driving season was over.

I should mention at this point that there is a factory trained Alfa Romeo mechanic at the Clinique de l'Auto Importée, in Buckingham Québec just outside the GOA, but his training was post-SPICA and he too was waiting for the Club's tools.

It is now April 2014. I was renting a garage from Marc Grenier in Little Italy, and took *The Alfatross* out for a quick checkup around the neighborhood. It quit cold on Parkdale under the Queensway and was towed back to Marc's. After I still couldn't get it to start, I towed it to Stittsville and left it for two months while Denice and I toured Newfoundland in a Subaru.

Shane put it in a corner and looked it over in his spare time. He installed headers, replaced the electronic ignition module, fixed a leaking intake manifold gasket (mea culpa), adjusted the SPICA, and had the brake master cylinder fail!

The temperature gauge still showed hot when I picked it up in July, but the loading up was gone and I was starting to ignore the gauge. A spot meter seemed to show that the gauge read hotter than the engine, especially when the fan – set to come on at 185° F – started while the gauge was over 200°. Then Bruce Pratte and I put a coarser mesh on the two openings either side of the grille.

After that, 2016 was *The Alfatross*' best year ever.

I'm gaining confidence, but haven't gone more than about fifty miles from Ottawa. I'd still like an even more open grill mesh, like the 4C and any number of Japanese econoboxes, or even none at all.

Thanks for the help to all those named above.



## Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2017 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

### Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

| Date                     | Time    | Event                                   |
|--------------------------|---------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday | Monthly | Alfas & Espresso, LaSalle Alfa          |
| April 23                 | 10:00am | Springtime First Drive                  |
| May 7                    | 9:00am  | Montréal City Gimmick Rally             |
| May 21                   | 10:00am | Gatineau Hills Road Adventure with ARCO |
| June 10                  | 1:00pm  | Grand Prix BBQ                          |
| June 11                  | 12:00pm | Veteran's Hospital Tribute              |
| June 17                  |         | Italian Car Parade in Ottawa            |
| July 13-16               |         | <b>ALFA expo17 Convention</b>           |
| July 16                  | 9:00am  | Fiat Breakout                           |
| August 13                | 9:00am  | Drive with Scuderia Alfa Romeo          |
| September 9-10           |         | Overnight Road Trip                     |
| September 24             | 10:00am | Radunno Montebello                      |
| October 14               | 9:00am  | Autumn Leaves Tour                      |
| November 25              | 2:00pm  | Holiday Party                           |

### Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

| Date         | Time    | Event                                   |
|--------------|---------|---|
| May 21       | 10:00am | Gatineau Hills Road Adventure with CARM |
| June 17      |         | Italian Car Parade in Ottawa            |
| July 13-16   |         | <b>ALFA expo17 Convention</b>           |
| September 24 |         | Radunno Montebello                      |

## Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

### National Executive

|                     |            |                |  |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Alex Csank          | President  | (514) 771-9513 | <a href="mailto:alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com">alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com</a> |
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| George Beston       | Treasurer  | (905) 375-8736 | <a href="mailto:gbeston@eagle.ca">gbeston@eagle.ca</a>                           |
| Christine Pickering | Secretary  | (416) 498-6553 | <a href="mailto:christine.pickering@gmail.com">christine.pickering@gmail.com</a> |
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### Regional Contacts

|                  |             |                |  |
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### Local Club Contact

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### Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

| Date       | Time | Event                         |
|------------|------|-------------------------------|
| July 13-16 |      | <b>ALFA expo17 Convention</b> |

### Calgary Alfa Marque Society

| Date       | Time | Event                         |
|------------|------|-------------------------------|
| July 13-16 |      | <b>ALFA expo17 Convention</b> |

### Toronto Chapter

| Date                    | Time    | Event                                  |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday | Monthly | Cruise Night, La Paloma                |
| April 5                 | 7:00pm  | AGM                                    |
| April 22                | 10:00am | Auto Detailing Seminar                 |
| May 7                   | 9:00am  | Go-kart event, Downsview               |
| May 22                  | 9:00am  | Victoria Day Pancake Drive             |
| June 4                  | TBD     | Member Appreciation BBQ                |
| June 16-18              | TBD     | Vintage Festival, Mosport              |
| June 25                 | 10:00am | Rattlesnake Run                        |
| July 9                  | 10:00am | Sun Collision Event                    |
| July 13-16              |         | <b>ALFA expo17 Convention</b>          |
| August 13               | 9:00am  | Italian Car Day, Woodbridge            |
| August 27               | 10:00am | Italian Gathering, Forks of the Credit |
| September 17            | 10:00am | Drive & Wine Tour, Niagara             |
| September 24            |         | Radunno Montebello                     |
| October 15              | 9:00am  | Fall Colours Drive                     |
| November 25             | 6:00pm  | Holiday Dinner Party                   |

### Club mail

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### ARCC Update

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