



ARCC UPDATE

March 2018

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

Happy Springtime Alfisti!

Yes, spring is in the air! We should all be getting ourselves and our Alfas ready for a fresh Alfa driving season, which is just around the corner ... at long last! Hopefully, you have all filled your spare time over the winter doing projects, enjoying outdoor activities like skiing, skating, snowmobiling, or maybe just shovelling out your driveway. Thankfully, this year's Winter Olympics in South Korea provided some good news for Canada, and a welcome distraction from the cold weather and the rest of the news.

Work on our local, regional, national and international events continues, with the North West Alfa Romeo Club (NWARC) busy planning for this year's Alfa Romeo Owners Club convention, called *Alfa Sempreverde 2018*, which will be held on the West Coast in Olympia, Washington from August 8 to 12. Check out the website at www.sempreverde2018.org.

Regionally, I'm busy with other Italian car club leaders from Montréal, Ottawa and Toronto putting together plans for this summer's *Raduno Estivo* regional gathering, which will be held in the Kingston, Ontario area on the weekend of July 20 to 22. On the local front, I am planning and organizing a Gimmick Rally for May 5 in Montréal and a Waterside Driving Tour for June 2. In Ottawa, Marc Faubert and others are making preparations for the ARCO Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April, a Stelvio test drive and a technical session, plus a BBQ in May, and the big Italian car display and parade on June 16. Meanwhile in Toronto, plans are underway for the AGM on April 5, a Cruise Night, a Karting event and the annual Victoria Day Pancake Run in May. If you have any ideas for events, and especially if you want to help make events happen, please contact your club's leadership ... we can't do it without your help!

With a bit of luck, by this time next month we'll be back on the roads in our favourite cars ... straightening out some curves and carving up the twisties, enjoying the first tastes of the many driving and social events we can all enjoy with our Alfas! It's a great idea to invite friends along as guests ... they will be very welcome, and you never know when someone might catch the Alfa disease! Please keep sending us your feedback, photos, articles and ideas for the newsletter. George Beston is always looking for your input for upcoming editions.

Diane and I wish you all the best waking your Alfa from its hibernation, and hope that you will be successful in coaxing that distinctive "voooooooodn, voooooooodn" sound out of your motor on the very first crank of the starter!

Rev high!

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Once Upon a Time at a Kitchen Table in Schomberg

by Les More, Bewdley

A couple of years ago, Christopher Creighton (Alfa Dogs #105) and his friend, Bob Whitehouse (a transplanted Aussie with decades of racing experience) were sitting at Christopher's kitchen table having a coffee and talking about vintage racing. Lamenting the costs involved, Christopher and Bob began to discuss ideas on how to legitimately offset the expense of racing.



Bob has vast experience with CAD and computer-aided manufacturing and Christopher has been moulding and casting catalytic plastics for years. The discussion quickly turned to how this wealth of experience could be applied to Vintage Racing. While the first ideas were directed toward the manufacture of suspension components, the project eventually developed into a quest to produce a new and better velocity stack. Long hours were spent at that table, on the phone, via e-mail and at the local Tim Horton's working out the details for Velo Stak.

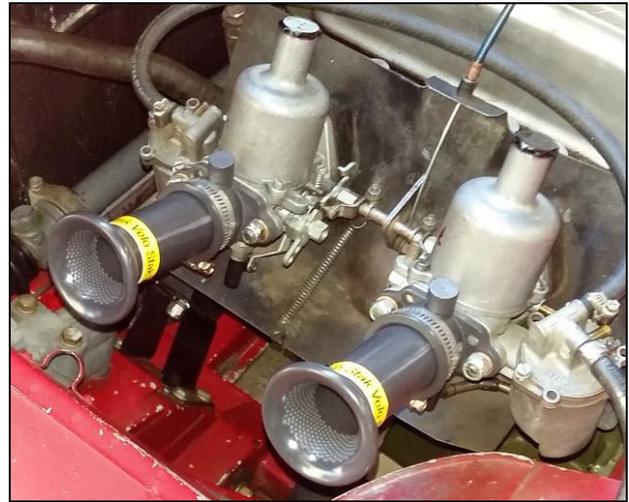


Velo Stak for Weber side and top draft carburetors, showing the dimpled air entry surface.

After many months, prototypes and design changes as well as extensive computer modelling, flow bench and track testing, they settled on a design with some pretty unique features. The result, Velo Stak, is a cast design able to be cut to length to suit torque requirements and space restrictions. It's cast with an air boundary surface-enhancing pattern (have you ever wondered why every golf ball you've ever seen has dimples?) and a fully transitioned outer lip for smoother air flow into the Stak, and these features result in improved throttle response and an increase in horsepower and torque.

The process begins with Bob drawing the part in CAD. The drawing is then sent to a 3D print shop, where a prototype is made. The 3D print is then sent to Christopher (working out of a shop in Mitchell, Ontario) for a few hours of hand finishing to produce the pattern for that part. Once that's done, a mould is made of the pattern and castings are taken from the mould.

Tolerances are critical and every part is checked on a jig to ensure proper fit. In the case of parts for Weber DCOE carburetors, they can be test fit by walking across the shop and trying them on Fil, Christopher's 1972 GTV race car.



Velo Staks on 1.25" SU Type HD Carburettor.



45mm Velo Staks on Fil, Christopher's 1972 Alfa Romeo GTV Vintage/Historic Race Car.

The characteristics of the materials used allow the parts to be cast in just about any colour, although the current choices are black mounts with red, grey or black barrels. All stainless steel mounting and affixing hardware is included, as well as a bespoke jig specifically designed to make a straight cut should the buyer wish to shorten the Stak. Plans are underway to develop Velo Staks for other makes and models of carburetors as well as carb mounts and a cool air induction system for the driver. Cold air to the engine makes you go faster but cool air to the driver is just as important in the quest to reduce fatigue and brain fade due to overheating.

It's been an interesting journey for Bob and Christopher and they're still having fun. Reactions to Velo Stak have been very positive.

Many racers showed interest when they were displayed at the 2017 CHGP and orders have been placed by racers and a well known engine builder in the U.S.A.



Velo Stak cutting jig.

Nicely done!

Velo Staks are very reasonably priced and currently available from Custom Polycast at www.custompolycast.com.

The Escalating Cost of Conversation

by Eliza Fayle, Gatineau

Welcome to the first in an article series *The Womanly Art of Alfa*. Eliza owns an Alfa; it is red. If you want details, you will need to speak to her resident mechanic and Alfista, Marc.

I have to come to realize over the years there is an escalating cost to Alfa conversations. In full disclosure, the very first costly conversation was initiated by me. It went like this:

Me: *"Hey Hubby, I saw this really cool car on my walk at lunch time. It was red. On the back was the word 'iniezione'."*



Photo by Eliza Fayle.

Hubby sending me an image: *"Did it look like this? It's an Alfa Romeo."*

Me: *"Yes. I would like one someday."*

I got one as a gift for my 50th birthday.

So, yes, that costly conversation was on me. The two other Alfas, and the Fiat Coupe were not. Nor am I responsible for my brother now owning an Alfa.

The conversation generally plays out like this:

Hubby: *"So, some guy messaged me about an Alfa he has."*

In the early days, I was naive and thought this was just an innocent conversation between two car dudes. Now I recognize this for what it is, the start of a potential purchase. I proactively go check our funds.

Hubby: *"Ya, so I am just going to look at the car to check it out."*

Ostensibly to help the guy sell his car to someone else.

Hubby: *"Oh man, if I had the funds, I would buy that car myself."*

Me, fully prepared: *"You have 'x' amount of dollars."*

Hubby: *"Ya, that's not enough. I'm just saying, if I had the funds."*

A couple of days pass ...

Hubby: *"So, I have been chatting with that guy and he just made me an offer I really can't refuse."*

Me: *"Does it fall within our budget?"*

Hubby: *"Well, I think I can get him there. I am just going to store it for him for now. And, of course, I will sell one of the other Alfas if I actually buy it."*

Car count: 2 red Spiders, 1 blue Giulia, 1 blue Fiat Coupe ... and 1 recently acquired yellow Spider ... just to store, of course.



Photo by Eliza Fayle.

Bank balance: Holding steady ... for now.

Signed: *Eliza, Alfisti Spouse.*

Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2018 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Event
January 27	Pizza Lunch and AGM
February 17	Valentine's Dinner
April 21	Springtime and First Drive
June 9	Grand Prix BBQ
June 16	Italian Car Parade in Ottawa
July 8	Fiat Breakout
July 20-22	Raduno Estivo, Kingston
August 8-12	Sempreverde 2018 , AROC Convention, Olympia WA
August 19	Gatineau Hills Drive
September 8	Drive and Supper in Bromont
September 30	Raduno Montebello
October 13	Fall Colours Drive, Oka Hills
November 24	Year End Dinner

Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

Date	Event
April 18	ARCO AGM
May 19	Stelvio Test Drive and BBQ
June 16	Ottawa Italian Car Parade
July 20-22	Raduno Estivo, Kingston
August 8-12	Sempreverde 2018 , AROC Convention, Olympia WA
August 19	Gatineau Hills Drive
September 30	Raduno Montebello
October 13	End of Season Drive and BBQ

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Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Event
Second Tuesday	Monthly Meeting
April 17	Drive at Fast Track
May 12	Tech Session, Up Your Hoist
August 8-12	Sempreverde 2018 , AROC Convention, Olympia WA

Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Event
August 8-12	Sempreverde 2018 , AROC Convention, Olympia WA

Toronto Chapter

Date	Event
April 4	Toronto AGM
April 22 (TBC)	Tech Session, detailing
May 6	Go Karts, Downsview
May 21	Pancake Run, Cookstown
June 3	Rattlesnake Point Run
June 17	Tour to VARAC Vintage Festival
July 8	Sun Collision BBQ, St Catherines
July 20-22	Raduno Estivo, Kingston
August 8-12	Sempreverde 2018 , AROC Convention, Olympia WA
August 12	Italian Car Day , Woodbridge
August 26	Fiats on the Forks, Forks of the Credit
September 9	Niagara Wine Tour
September 30	Raduno Montebello
October 14	Fall Colours Drive, Creemore
November 24	Holiday Dinner

First Saturday of every month – Espresso and Biscotti at Des Sources Alfa Romeo in Montréal.

First Tuesday of every month – drop in Cruise Night at La Paloma in Woodbridge.

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