



ARCC UPDATE

January 2019

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

Alfisti,

Winter. The holidays are over and soon we'll be packing away decorations and paying our credit card bills. Yuck! But the days are slowly getting longer. Although it's still a long way until springtime, it's never **too early** to start making plans. What are you planning for the upcoming Alfa driving season? I hope that I get to meet you at one of our many club events! Diane and I are planning to attend events with each of the three regional clubs nearby (CARM, ARCO and ARCC Toronto), and might even make a little trip to Newfoundland later in the year.

R.I.P. Jim 'Papajam' Neill



Image by Jerry Quinlisk.

Alfisti worldwide have lost a very dedicated *Alfista*, long-time AROC USA member and hardworking volunteer, Jim Neill, who left us suddenly on the December 27th, 2018. He established and ran the AROC USA Technical Library and provided many technical and service manuals and other documents to **many** of us who needed technical support. He was also an Administrator (known as Papajam) for the Alfa

Romeo Bulletin Board (www.alfabb.com) and was always ready to help others.

Living in New Jersey, Jim was a good friend to all *Alfisti* and was also a good friend of mine. He and his wife Jaci attended *Alfa Canadese*, our combined AROC and ARCC convention in Toronto in 2012, where Diane and I had a great time hanging out with them.

This portrait of Jim and his GTV was painted by our mutual friend, the late Jerry Quinlisk, and it is published in Jerry's book *The Alfabet*. Jim will be greatly missed.

Club Calendars

From a club perspective, it looks like there will be plenty of great opportunities for getting together, and I know that the ARCO, CARM and ARCC Toronto teams are **all** busy planning 2019 event calendars. I hope to be hearing from Calgary and Edmonton as well, and I would love to see renewed Alfa club activities in other places like Vancouver and perhaps even some new chapters in places like Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Halifax too.

CARM, ARCO and ARCC Toronto calendars will be similar to 2018. New events and dates will be published soon into the New Year, after the usual planning meetings have taken place.

The details that we know about are in the calendar on the back page but it is by no means a complete picture of 2019 activities.

Alfa Romeo Canada

More new Alfa Romeo dealerships are opening across Canada, and I am hoping that Alfa sales will continue to grow and that there will be at least one dealer in the Maritimes by 2020. I have been seeing new Stelvios all over the Montréal and Ottawa areas in my travels, and also a smattering of 4Cs and Giulias. To me, it looks like the Stelvios are a big hit and are very popular as a small luxury sport SUV, which is an immensely popular market segment. I'm not really a big fan

of the modern SUV, but I can't really argue with success. If Alfa Romeo is going to survive and thrive, it needs to produce vehicles that appeal to larger markets than simply the sports and performance car world. Don't forget that Alfa Romeo has traditionally sold many different types of cars worldwide, having been a producer of utility trucks, station wagons, small economy cars and even an off-road vehicle for a time. Oh, and seeing as the 4Cs will soon be discontinued as new products like the rumoured 6C are readied for production, I hear that there are some great deals to be had on the 'pre-owned' and new 4Cs.

Here's the current list of sixteen Alfa Romeo dealers in Canada. Note that although the Alfa Romeo Canada website still lists LaSalle Alfa Romeo as a dealer in the Montréal area, this dealership has been sold and is now no longer selling Alfa Romeos.

J.D. ALFA ROMEO FIAT (Québec City, QC)

DES SOURCES ALFA ROMEO (Montréal, QC)

JOHN SCOTTI ALFA ROMEO (Montréal, QC)

ALFA ROMEO OTTAWA (ON)

MARANELLO ALFA ROMEO (Vaughan, ON)

ALFA ROMEO OF TORONTO (ON)

ALFA ROMEO OF OAKVILLE (ON)

ALFA ROMEO OF LONDON (ON)

ALFA ROMEO FIAT OF WINDSOR (ON)

ALFA ROMEO OF WINNIPEG (MB)

ALFA ROMEO OF SASKATOON (SK)

ALFA ROMEO OF CALGARY (AB)

ALFA ROMEO OF EDMONTON (AB)

FRASER VALLEY ALFA ROMEO FIAT (BC)

ALFA ROMEO FIAT OF VANCOUVER (BC)

ALFA ROMEO OF VICTORIA (BC)

Auto Shows

Don't forget that the International Auto Shows will be taking place across Canada beginning this month. Enjoy the show, and make sure to visit the Alfa display!

Please keep sending me your feedback, and also your photos, articles and ideas for the newsletter. George Beston needs your input for upcoming ARCC Updates.

Rev high!

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Was it only ten years ago? The Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione text and images from the web site of Hyman Ltd.

At the 2003 Frankfurt Auto Show, Alfa Romeo unveiled a stunning and evocative new concept car that borrowed considerably from the company's vast sporting heritage and tugged on the heartstrings of die-hard *Alfisti* around the world.



The curvaceous two-seat coupe harkened back to a time when Alfas dominated sports car racing, and even the name 8C Competizione was plucked directly from Alfa Romeo's rich and storied past. At the time, Alfa enthusiasts were desperate for a new flagship from the Milanese firm. Since leaving the US market in 1995, Alfa concentrated their efforts on mid-market, executive sedans, and stylish coupes sharing a common front-drive platform. They were by many accounts, upmarket Fiat products that, while certainly capable, lacked some of the magic that was at Alfa Romeo's foundation, and soon the press and public were clamoring for Alfa to put the stunning 8C coupe into production. Amazingly, the bosses at parent company Fiat were listening, and in October an updated production version was unveiled to the world at the Paris Salon.



Thankfully, Alfa Romeo engineers were allowed free rein in developing the concept for the road, and they didn't hold back. An entirely new

platform utilized a steel main structure with heavy use of carbon fiber for the curvaceous, coke-bottle bodywork, styled in-house by Wolfgang Egger. Up front sat a special version of the Ferrari-derived 4.7-liter, 32-valve V8 which Maserati would also share. In classic Alfa tradition, this magnificent engine drove a rear-mounted transaxle gearbox for optimal weight distribution. The six-speed, paddle-actuated box, shared with the Ferrari 599 Fiorano, delivering lightning-fast shifts across a wide array of settings. With 444 brake horsepower at 7,000 rpm, the Alfa 8C gave supercar performance.



Club Recognized by knowledgeable collectors today as a modern interpretation of Ferrari's famous 250 GT SWB Berlinetta, the 8C is unique in carrying on the tradition of the classic front-engine, short wheelbase, sports oriented driver's car.

Alfa Romeo strictly limited 8C Competizione production to just 500 examples worldwide. Of those 500 cars, only 84 US-specification cars were made available through select Ferrari and Maserati dealers, all of which got snapped up as soon as the car was announced. With the 8C, Alfa Romeo practically defined the term "Instant Classic."

Editor's Notes

by George Beston, Cobourg

Vintage Alfa Romeo Canada Advertisement

I have been asked about the source of the full page advertisement from Alfa Romeo Canada that served as page 5 in the December Update. It was the page inside the front cover of the March 1969 issue of *Canada Track and Traffic*. I believe it heralded the establishment of the first official factory presence of Alfa Romeo in Canada. I find it particularly interesting for the models listed with their MSRP and the dealers mentioned. I picked up the magazine from a vendor at Mosport in the early 1990's when I was pouring heart, soul and treasure into the restoration of my Spider Jr.

I have a high resolution pdf of this file and I'm willing to share if there's any interest.

More on Fuses

My search for appropriate non-aluminum fuses didn't take much work at all. An internet query for copper fuses came up with numerous results from vendors and their intermediaries. My choice was made on the basis that I am only looking for enough fuses for my current and foreseeable needs, not a lifetime supply for everyone I know. My total outlay was a bit less than thirty dollars for sixty fuses, twenty each of eight, sixteen and twenty-five amps.

Note the colour scheme, 8 amp fuses are white, 16 amp fuses are blue and 25 amp fuses are red. The metal looks like copper on the 16 and 25 amp



fuses, and brass on the 8 amp fuses.

Photo by George Beston.

Delivery took less than a week from a vendor located in the United States. Since delivery I have been doing a little research on fuse ratings. My first thought was to look through a few factory manuals in my possession. I have one that lists technical characteristics down to the wattage of instrument panel bulbs but it made no mention of fuse ratings. Similarly, my aftermarket manuals also ignore fuse ratings. My other go-to source is the Alfa BB where I find that the subject has come up, and nobody can find a reason to use fuses rated more than eight amps. So, I will generally follow that advice, but I will use stronger fuses for the high wattage H4 headlight bulbs I have in my Spider just to make use of them.

Here is what my fuse arrangement will look like with 16 amp fuses for low beam and 25 amp fuses for high beam.



Photo by George Beston.

Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2019 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

| Date | Event |
|--------------|--|
| June 15 | Italian Car Parade in Ottawa |
| July 14 | Fiat Breakout |
| July 16-21 | Cortile della Corsa 2019 , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania |
| July 26-28 | Raduno Estivo, Kingston |
| September 29 | Raduno Montebello |

Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

| Date | Event |
|--------------|--|
| June 15 | Ottawa Italian Car Parade |
| July 16-21 | Cortile della Corsa 2019 , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania |
| July 26-28 | Raduno Estivo, Kingston |
| September 29 | Raduno Montebello |

Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

| Date | Event |
|------------|--|
| July 16-21 | Cortile della Corsa 2019 , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania |

Calgary Alfa Marque Society

| Date | Event |
|------------|--|
| July 16-21 | Cortile della Corsa 2019 , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania |

Toronto Chapter

| Date | Event |
|--------------|--|
| July 16-21 | Cortile della Corsa 2019 , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania |
| July 26-28 | Raduno Estivo, Kingston |
| August 11 | Italian Car Day , Woodbridge |
| September 29 | Raduno Montebello |

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.

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

National Executive

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