



ARCC UPDATE

July 2019

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

Fellow Alfisti,

Although our spring weather wasn't terrific, it appears that summer has finally arrived. Admittedly, as one who has seen my fair share of changing seasons over the years, I never truly doubted that the heat would eventually get here. And, although I have spent lots of time in hot, humid and sometimes-tropical locales, I guess that I have that thick as maple syrup Canadian blood and can much more easily handle the colder temperatures than the heat. Still, at least it permits us the opportunities to get out on the road in our soulful Italian machines!

Bucket Seat List

This past week Diane and I took a little trip west as far as Arnprior, Ontario, where a long-time friend of mine was just released from a 9-day stay at the hospital. His prognosis isn't great and although he's only 66, he now must use a walker all the time and has lost most of the muscle and strength he once had (he used to be a very robust and strong guy) and has a great deal of difficulty walking. But he had told me that he was hoping that he could take a little ride with me in my Spider. And not knowing exactly how long he would even be able to do that, I decided that I would head up there this week and help him get that ride ... because there's no time like the present! So, Diane and I headed up the 417 through Ottawa and met up in the park near the Ottawa River on John Street in old Arnprior. Diane stayed and read a book while Gord and I took our little ride through the country. For added fun, I set my playlist to pump out some old Frank Zappa tunes through the car's sound system. That brought lots of memories back for the two of us, from our lazy, crazy, hazy days in college together in Montréal, back in the mid-70s. Stopping for lunch after the ride, we filled up with some pretty

good east coast style Donairs at a local restaurant before parting ways.

Critique from across the Pond

Over the past week or so, I have been communicating with one of our 'foreign' members via email. Peter Marshall hails from the UK and is one of our rare international subscribers and members. He's involved with the Alfa Romeo Owners Club UK and occasionally contributes some written material in their AROC UK publications. Here is an edited and abridged excerpt from a recent contribution of his, written about the Stelvio and the new generation of Alfas:

The way forward?

Having read a reader's letter in a recent AROC magazine, where he was complaining that the club had used the Stelvio on the front cover and that a dealer, not for the first time, had also chosen it for the rear cover advert. He referred to it as a Stupid Useless Vehicle, and I agreed they are not for what the members prior to 2017, have subscribed. Although the magazine is so much more than front and back covers, dealers need to encourage non-Alfa enthusiasts in non-Alfa magazines, regardless of how good the Stelvio may be. In the 'old days' the Stelvio might have been produced in Pomigliano d'Arco, as were their aero engines, buses, trucks etc. Thinking less far back, to the Jeep-like 1900 Matta, built in response to a specific military specification, the Matta was also produced down there, with only the engines supplied from Arese. Initially Fiat's take-over threatened Alfa's identity but the new museum indicates that they realise that the heritage of Alfa is important.

The survival of Alfa Romeo post-war, was the family saloon. Usually better than family models of other marques, whereas the coupés often had strong rivals. The AROC UK correctly gives more space to the sporting models which, to judge from the national Alfa day, is what members want.

One needs another SUV like one needs a hole in the head. I could not believe it when Porsche entered the field, so Alfa Romeo obviously felt that was a market to which they should not close their eyes. Just recently I had a visit from Jürgen who wrote the successful Millenove book, (and is currently writing one on the 6C2500) as well as having an early 1900CSS which he restored. What was he driving when he came over from Germany? A Stelvio. I should also quote this, word for word, from my Italian research expert, who owns a 1900 Matta: "I thought, once in my life there's a SUV driver who knows how to drive a SUV... ok, let's kick down ... Wow, not bad the guy back there ... after the twist sequence, my curiosity went beyond my pride, I wanted to see what that SUV was, I let him pass ... Oh, what a pleasure! the Stelvio is finally on the market!"

Over a cuppa recently, picking up and re-reading an AROC UK magazine (12.2018) I noted a reference to a Tesslar (Tesla?). Now, they are certainly very popular in Holland. A good looking family saloon and electric. To quote part the article: "... an electric car built for performance has to be experienced to be believed! In practical terms, you do really need to put your head against the headrest before the driver floors the accelerator ..." Perhaps this is the way forward for Alfa, especially with modern technology and authorities bringing in so many restrictions, doubtless on the grounds of safety but in reality will become a further dumbing down of the driver controlling the car.

Thanks for the input and the emails Peter! I'm not a fan of vehicles that compromise too much, and maybe that is why I always seem to have a few toys to play with for different situations. But, as Diane says: "We have shoes for any situation in our closet". Some days we need rubber boots, other days we need sandals, and sometimes we need sneakers! We're awfully lucky to have a closet full of different shoes.

Communications with Alfa Romeo Canada's Social Media Team

Recently, the Social Media Team working to improve the online presence of the Alfa Romeo brand in Canada reached out to me. We have had some very interesting communications and they are interested in reaching out to our club and its colourful members in order to explore the enthusiasm of Canadian Alfisti, and to share that enthusiasm and long-term dedication and interest in the Alfa Romeo marque. As a result of their interest (and their location in Windsor, Ontario) I put the team in contact with Frank Scalisi and

the Toronto club. They have already been in communication with a few of our members and we can expect that the team will be joining us for a few events in the near future. Don't be surprised to meet some of these folks at an upcoming club activity!

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

Rev high!
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Toronto Cruise Nights

by George Beston, Cobourg

The June and July Cruise nights have been blessed with clear, warm weather. The crowd in June was a bit overwhelming but everyone enjoyed the evening. Two awards for 'Best Alfa' were handed out to make up for the rained out May cruise night. These went to Pat Iamundi for his beautiful 1997 GTV 3L 24V with a "Basso Profundo" voice to match, and Alex Chilelli for his well turned out 164S.

The July award went to Fabio Venier for his excellent Giulia Super that he restored on his own. Fabio is definitely not a chequebook mechanic!

Canadian Grand Prix

by Sue Ferguson, Bobcaygeon



Gord and Sue at the Grand Prix. Photo by friendly stranger with Gord's camera.

We entered a draw at the Alfa Romeo booth in this year's Toronto Auto Show and managed to win the prize; a weekend pass for two weekend seats at the Canadian Grand Prix in Montréal.

Our prize encouraged Gord and I to experience the event in person this year. After watching it on TV over the years and because Alfa Romeo has a presence there now, we had strong motivation to attend.

Not willing to experience the traffic and road construction in our Spider, we took the train from Ottawa and used the Metro 3-day pass to bypass all that trauma. The weather over the three days was warm and sunny which added to the pleasure. The site gave us lots of walking and the carnival atmosphere of music, demonstrations, and skills participation added to the fun. We met people from Europe and all parts of the USA and Canada who had travelled to Montréal for the event, 350,000 estimated over three days. Our accommodation was on the cheap side but we had a great time sampling some great food and entertainment on St. Denis St. in old Montréal.

Oh and the racing. We were at turn 8 and witnessed the crash of the Alfa of Anthony Giovinazzi on Friday's practice day, so had an up close and personal view of the car. Same place Hamilton hit the wall during his practice. The speed and sound of these machines does feel and sound better in person but the entire race overview is obviously better on the TV screen. There was a big screen in front of us so we could kind of see what was going on. The F1 cars were very loud and went by our vantage point in a flash. If you viewed from the general admissions I doubt if you could focus on a single car as they flashed by at over 200 mph. We at least saw them slow to 70 something as they negotiated the almost straight corner eight. It was a rush just to be there.



Photo by Gord Zimmerman.

We proudly sported our Alfa gear but were definitely swamped by Ferrari red. Although our cars didn't fare well in this race, the chance to see them in action and feel the F1 spirit was worth the adventure to Montréal.

As Gord says, "Saw the race, got the hat."

VARAC Vintage Festival

by George Beston, Cobourg

Unfortunately, our scheduled drive from Scarborough to Mosport was cancelled due to dire weather forecasts that thankfully turned out to be just plain wrong. A number of us did make our way to the "Field of Dreams" car show in the infield of the track near turn nine. Considering the weather forecast, we had a reasonable turnout of Alfas, certainly enough to make it worth the effort of getting there. Due to our separate arrivals, we weren't able to park together, but no one complained about that. The day was, in fact, gloriously sunny and warm.



Some of the usual suspects. Photo by George Beston.

The parade laps were held at the lunch break, but the only Alfa participating was the 1750 GTV driven by Derek Lund. Apparently there was a bit more opportunity for brisk motoring on the track than in other years when there were so many cars present that crowding made traffic very slow.

On the track, the number of Alfas participating was much lower than in the past, due to a thinning of the ranks amongst the "Alfa Dogs", our local band of Alfa racers, and also because there were no entries from the US, perhaps because of calendar conflicts with events south of the border.



Vytas Svedas' 1750 Berlina finished in second place on Sunday. 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
May 4	Gimmick Rally in the Laurentians
May 18	Drive to Québec City
June 1	Espresso and Biscotti, Des Sources Alfa
June 8	Grand Prix Barbeque
June 9	Veterans' Salute, Ste Anne de Bellevue
July 7	Supper at Tre Colori
July 16-21	Cortile della Corsa 2019 , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 26-28	Amici Raduno Estivo, Prince Edward County & Gananoque
August 3	Espresso, Biscotti and Driving Tour, Des Sources Alfa
August 17	Shriners' Fundraiser BBQ, Des Sources Alfa
August 18	Adventure with ARCO to Embrun ON
September 15	Eastern Townships Drive
October 5	Espresso and Biscotti, Des Sources Alfa
October 19	Autumn Leaves Drive
November 23	CARM End of the Season Supper

Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

Date	Event
April 16	AGM
May 11	BBQ chez Marc and Liz
June 15	Ottawa Italian Car Parade
July 16-21	Cortile della Corsa 2019 , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 26-28	Amici Raduno Estivo, Prince Edward County & Gananoque
July 28	Capital Classic Car Show, Kanata
August 18	Picnic with the Lotuses
September 29	Raduno Montebello

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

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Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Event
May 14	Meeting and Pub Night
June 22	Solstice Rally
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
April 11	AGM
May 2	Cruise Night, La Paloma
May 5	ICD Go-Kart Event, Downsview Park
May 20	Victoria Day Pancake Run, Cookstown
May 26	Tech Session & Swap Meet, Pinarello Motori
June 2	Rattlesnake Point Run, Milton
June 6	Cruise Night, La Paloma
June 16	Drive to VARAC Vintage Festival , Mosport
July 4	Cruise Night, La Paloma
July 7	J Bird's Spider in the Garden, Ancaster
July 16-21	Cortile della Corsa 2019 , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 26-28	Amici Raduno Estivo, Prince Edward County & Gananoque
August 1	Cruise Night, La Paloma
August 10	Niagara Drive & Wine Tour
September 5	Cruise Night, La Paloma
September 8	Fiat on the Forks
Sept 13-15	Bancroft Weekend Tour, Bancroft
October 3	Cruise Night, La Paloma
October 6	Fall Colours Drive, Creemore
November 23	Holiday Dinner, Woodbridge

Unofficial Cruise Nights are held every Thursday evening from May to October at La Paloma in Woodbridge.

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