



ARCC UPDATE

October 2019

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

And just like that ... Bam! Another summer has ended. The days are getting shorter and we have had snow out west. Frost warnings are happening in many places and the autumn colours are getting ever more prevalent. I have been thinking of getting my Pumpkin Spice oil changes done and have brought my paints and other vulnerable liquids indoors, so they don't freeze over the winter. But autumn is a terrific season (most years) and includes some of the best drives to see the changing colours. Our annual autumn driving tours in Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal are all on this month's club calendars, with ARCO in Ottawa planning a drive through the Lanark Highlands and CARM in Montréal putting together a drive west of the island and up Mont Rigaud. These drives are the final driving events scheduled for the season. Please send George Beston your photos from the drives so we can publish some of them here next month. I hope you all get out and enjoy the colours, and that the weather is good for your drives.

Raduno Montebello



Photo by Alex Csank.

This year's 7th annual *Raduno Montebello* was a bit cooler than it has been some years, but the sunshine made it nice enough to enjoy the day at this beautiful spot. Members from many Italian Car clubs from the Montréal, Ottawa and even

Toronto areas brought along lots gorgeous cars to display by the marina, on the banks of the Ottawa River. This year, there were two very nice door prizes and a lovely Fiat 1500 Spider won the People's Choice award. Each car donated \$20 to help cover costs of the prizes and the profits of \$1080 were donated to Project Trauma Support in Perth, Ontario, which is a clinic and retreat that treats first responders, veterans, police officers, firefighters, paramedics and others who suffer from post-traumatic stress. Next year's event will be quite different ... so stay tuned!

November Events

On Saturday the 9th of November, ARCC will be holding an executive meeting in (or near) Kingston to discuss club business and plan our future direction as a club. Of particular interest will be discussions regarding the inclusion of new members with newer Alfas, and how we can attract and maintain our club membership to include all types of Alfas and members of all ages, from locations across Canada.

As an ARCC member, you are welcome to join us for the meeting. If you plan to attend, please let me and your local club's President know so that I can reserve a seat for you at our restaurant supper (pay-as-you-go). If you have any input for our agenda, now is the time to let us know. Please send your input, questions and proposals to me at <mailto:alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com> so that I can include it in our agenda.

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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Bancroft Tour

by Gord Zimmerman and Sue Ferguson,
Bobcaygeon



The 2019 Fall Weekend Tour is now history. In spite of starting on a Friday the 13th and a full moon, it was a rousing success. Yes, it could have been sunnier and warmer but once again the *Alfista* camaraderie ensured a positive time.

This year eight Alfas of various models departed from the McDonalds on Hwy 115. We headed more north and east to station ourselves in Bancroft and the Hastings Highlands. The first day saw us cross farmlands, passed the progressing Buddhist Centre near Bethany (where Gord plastered the gravel shoulder with his nose, ugly). We passed waterways and rocks and pines over excellent quality roads and even crossed a causeway to our first stop for lunch at Young's Point. Our 9th Alfa joined us at the lunch stop. After shopping a bit at the Lockside Trading Company we enjoyed an afternoon drive north to our hotel in Bancroft. During the first rain squall at the hotel we all crammed into our room for a bit of a social hour before dinner. Dinner was at the Granite Restaurant where we had a great feast and our remaining Alfa joined us.

The wee bit of rain after we arrived and then a riotous thunderstorm over night didn't dampen our spirits – it just washed down the cars while we slept in our cozy beds at the Sword Motel.

The ten Alfas set out Saturday morning for our four hour and many stop drive. We once again took off across well paved twisty back roads – Toronto eat your heart out! – with us seeing only four stop lights (all in Bancroft) and no car traffic except our Alfas. From Bancroft we headed NE passing an interesting rusty car collection hidden in the trees on a cliff and then to a farmers' market in Combermere where jams, pickles and even garlic were purchased.

All tours need to stop and savour the history and uniqueness of the countryside and take group pictures and this tour was no different. On the old Barry's Bay Rd., the Crooked Slide Log Chute

allowed us to witness some of the lumbering heritage of the Highlands which helped to build Ontario. We also visited a Polish monument erected to honour the contribution and sacrifice of

the Scouts in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. This memorial was funded by the Polish Scouting Organization to acknowledge the 70th anniversary of this event. A touching structure found alongside the road in a field and built to represent a bombed out building from WW II.



Warsaw Uprising memorial.

Lunch was held at the famous Wilno Tavern on Hwy 60 outside Barry's Bay, which is renowned for its perogies and cabbage rolls and we were not disappointed. Everyone came away satisfied and ready for the afternoon drive.

We drove along excellent roads which provided the kind of driving Alfas (and their owners) revel in – hills, turns and straightaways at good speed and slowing for the great vistas and views this part of Ontario has to offer and should not be missed. It seemed like the MTO had paved roads just for us.

Another stop for a photo op at Roper Lake off the fabulous Boulter Road with the cars dipping their wheels in the sand with a backdrop of lakes, hills and trees.

Some of the trees were showing some fall colours. The satisfied drivers wended their way home to the Sword, dining well at the local Brew Pub and then tucking in for a well earned night's sleep.



Roper Lake.

The final drive saw the crew head west towards Haliburton opening it up again on Alfa style roads with excellent pavement. Our coffee stop in downtown Haliburton on Head Lake fired us up for the final leg to Bracebridge via Hwy 35 and then 117 with some side roads through the cottages on various lakes. We even passed an old (1905) church and a giant sawing a log at the Stanhope Museum. We then drove some more twisty, hilly open roads where we could appreciate the sound of our Alfas passing the lakes, the rock cuts and trees while letting the cars exercise their engines. The sound of those five speed transmissions whining through the rock cut is a thrill to all *Alfisti*. Before lunch we had one more photo opportunity by a small lake where we took over the whole roadway to position our cars – no traffic – so we took our time for more pictures. After lunch we headed back home after having experienced a thrill for our drivers and passengers. Wow, not a gremlin in any of our great cars. There were Spiders, GTV's, a Milano and a Giulia. We only opened the hoods to check oil and admire the heart of these magnificent machines. A couple of the newer cars have their engines in sideways: there were two with six cylinders and one had eight spark plugs and only four cylinders. We had some great top down driving that helped us enjoy the sights.



Photo by Adam Beston.

A good weekend experience again where we reconnected our friendships, shared car stories,

felt like we owned the roads, praised the asphalt Gods, enjoyed the rejuvenation from nature, ate a lot and had NO mechanical issues. Thanks to all the participants - Frank & Maria, Pat & Monica, Maurizio & Nancy, Steve & Amanda, Oliver & Lucie, Eric & Linda, George & Adam, Larry & Anna, Fabio & Susan, Wagon Master Gord & navigator Sue.

All photos by Gord Zimmerman unless noted otherwise.

Alfetta Valve Noise

by George Beston, Cobourg

Early in the 2018 driving season, I had my Alfetta out for a jaunt, and about 30 km from home, its engine developed a distinct (ticking) valve noise.

This was totally new to me in all my years driving Alfas. After some soul searching as to what I could have possibly done wrong in putting this head together during an engine rebuild, I started by removing the valve cover and checking valve clearances on the cold engine.

Hmm. Every valve clearance was within range, except for number one exhaust valve, which was one thou over specification at 0.022". A review of the data from the most recent valve adjustment indicated that it was right at the maximum clearance of 0.021" at that time.

So, I removed the exhaust cam to have a better look. Much to my dismay, the top surface of the follower had a hammered appearance.



Photo by George Beston.

The cam surface was unblemished and there was plenty of oil present, so I concluded that the steel of the follower was not as hard as it should be, and the pounded surface and a ticking sound were the result.

I recognize that I haven't proven my conclusion in a definitive way, but I have put about 3,000 miles on the engine with a new follower shimmed to a clearance of 0.020". The noise disappeared right away and hasn't come back.

Something to watch for!

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

National Executive

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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.

Club mail

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