



La Voce

Winter 2009



newsletter of the delaware valley alfa romeo owners club



Stellar Simeone Museum Tour

Breathtaking! The collection of automobiles contained within the Simeone Foundation Museum is simply breathtaking. What was once tucked away, out of public view in a south Philadelphia parking garage, is now in wonderful facility for all to enjoy.

The DVAROC was treated to a personal tour of this remarkable assemblage in December. Fittingly, it was one of the largest turnouts for a club event in recent memory.

The museum is not just a space full of cars. Rather, it is a living history lesson of the evolution of the race car with some of the most significant automobiles ever produced, displayed in period dioramas. Starting with the Brass Era Mercers and Stutzs our host, Dr. Fred Simeone, paused by

each group of cars to explain their place in history.
(Continued on Page 4)

Mark Your Calendars!

March 22

Winter Lunch-

Gullifty's- Rosemont, PA

April 4

Tech Session – Nick

Falcone Enterprises –

Bala Cynwyd, PA

Bob's Babblings

Spring It's almost here, spring, that is. As you can see by our calendar, our "winter" lunch is taking place in the spring. For many reasons, we just didn't get things together earlier this year. But, while we're off to a later than normal start, our events calendar has rounded out nicely.

Spring Events Our "winter" lunch is this weekend. I apologize for the late mailing, but if you are on our email list, you got notice of it last week. If you didn't get notice, you're probably not on our list and should be. To get on, please send an email to: rampbrady@verizon.net.

A couple of weeks later, in April, we'll have our annual Tech Session at Falcons. This is always a good time and a great excuse to go for a drive and learn something about your Alfa. After that, our next DVAROC event is dinner at Casselli's in May.

May is a busy month for those of us who put our Alfas on the track. If you haven't tracked your Alfa, there is a great opportunity with the MAAROC to attend their driving school at VIR. If you want to do some track driving but don't want to put your Alfa through it, consider attending in another car.

May winds up with our now annual Winery Tour on Memorial Day weekend. This is always a lot of fun. We're in the planning stages now, so if you have any ideas or want to help organize it, please let me know.

Alfisti of the Year To make things a bit more interesting this year, we're going to institute the DVAROC Alfisti of the Year award. This will be in addition to the coveted DVAROC Driver of the Year award which is given to the winner of our Summer Rally. Here's how it will work. For every event you attend, you receive a point. For driving events or car shows, first place will get five points, second place three, third place two. We might also add contests to other events to make things interesting. At the end of the year, the person with the most points will win.

If you have any suggestions for changes to how we run the competition or if you'd like to run it for the club, please let me know.

DVAROC Logo As far as I can tell, the DVAROC has been without its own logo for about thirty years. I'd like us to develop our own. So, I'm officially starting a contest to draw up a logo for the chapter. If you have any ideas, please submit them to me and we'll vote on them later this year.

Thanks I want to thank Quinn deMenna for contributing to this La Voce. Thanks also go out to Jack Stoll, Wicker Francis and Jon Klingerman for their help in planning events.

DVAROC Needs Your Help One of the reasons why we're off to such a slow start this year is that I'm getting bogged down in other, non-Alfa things. We could function much more efficiently if we had a couple of volunteers who could contribute an hour or two a month to help organize events. Our current events committee is comprised of Jack Stoll, Charlie Crothers and Pat Carzo. They need a few more members to make their job easier. So, if you think you can help, please let me know.

La Voce If you're like me, you are probably tired of hearing about the economy, but I must tell you the club is not immune. Unfortunately, your LaVoce won't be published in color very

often as things have tightened up. On the positive side, you can always see it in living color by going to our website.

Alfa Resources I'll end my babblings on a positive note. I've recently come across two resources that might be of interest to you. First, if you've ever had a question about motor oil, there is a free publication on it that is fairly comprehensive. To see it, go to: <http://www.motor-oil-engineers.com/thankyou1.htm> In addition, I've been made aware of another good resource for restoration supplies: <http://www.restorationstuff.com/>

Send your Email address to me! If you want to stay informed of upcoming events and last minute changes, please send your address to me at: rampbrady@verizon.net Thanks!

The sun is out, the frost is gone, get in your Alfa and go for a drive! – bob

Classifieds:

1987 Spider Graduate - ~23K, red, good overall condition. Has been garaged for a while and not run for >1 year but should be easy to get back on the road. \$3000 obo. The car is located in DE. Valerie 610-388-1928.

1976 GTV 24K miles, all original, \$15,500, Bill Conway, bilconway@comcast.net

1991 164S Black/black leather interior., 5-speed, AC, power windows, mirrors, locks, sun roof, four heated seats, cd player, rear window shades. Tool kit, & owners pouch w/manuals. 120K miles. All maintenance performed by Algar Ferrari of Phila, sperry cams and valves, stainless exhaust, recent belts, engine balanced and blueprinted & chip upgrade. Everything works. Very fast car, looks and runs great. \$5,500.00 or OBO. Barry barrycross@aol.com or 215-242-4726 PA

1986 Spider Quadrifoglio - 78K, original red paint, Nicest Quad you'll find. Multiple first place winner. Looks new, runs great. Hard top and boot included. Convertible top in excellent condition. Nice Pirelli tires. Meticulously maintained. Garage kept. \$21,500. Southern NJ. Phone: 856-261-9490. dennismurray00@yahoo.com Pictures: <http://home.comcast.net/~denmurray/alfa.html>

1983 GTV-6 19K miles Silver/Blue, Bill Conway, 973-839-9239 bilconway@comcast.net

1975 Spider. good body rebuilt engine. aftermarket headers and rollbar. spare set of camponola wheels.\$5000. Randy (609)-261-7547.

La Voce - is attempted to be published four to six times per year, in: winter, spring, June, July, September and December

Commercial Ads should be coordinated through Bob Brady.

Rates, per edition, are: 1/8 page - \$ 40
1/2 page - \$ 80
full page - \$120

Classified ads are free to DVAROC members.

The DVAROC web address is at: www.dvaroc.org

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Events Calendar:

* Indicates DVAROC Event

*** March 22nd – Winter Lunch – Gullifty’s – Rosemont, PA** We’re going to make our winter lunch a bit low key, this year, with more pizza than primavera. Plan to meet us at Gullifty’s in Rosemont for lunch at 1pm on Sunday, March 22nd. Gullifty’s is located at 1149 Lancaster Avenue in Rosemont, PA, just down the road from Algar. Their phone number is: 610-525-1851 and can be found on the web at: www.Gulliftys.com Please contact Bob Brady at (610)486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net by March 20th, to RSVP, so we know how many spaces to reserve. After we’re done eating, drinking, and looking at Alfas, we can do some window shopping at Algar.

*** April 4th – Tech Session- Nick Falcone’s – Bala Cynwyd, PA** Come to our annual tech session at Nick Falcone’s on Saturday, April 4th, at 10:00 am. Falcone’s is located at 161 Rock Hill Road, Bala Cynwyd, Pa. Their phone number is: (610) 664-0944. We don’t have a topic picked, so if you have one in mind, please contact Bob Brady at (610)486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net.

April 11th – VSCCA @ Pocono –Pocono, PA The VSCCA will be racing their vintage cars at Pocono. If you are interested in watching, please contact: Bob Brady at (610)486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net so I can keep you informed of the details as they develop.

April 20-21st – COMSCC Time Trials –Watkins Glen, NY If you are itching to get your Alfa (or any car for that matter) on the track this spring, consider attending the COMSCC time trials at Watkins Glen. If you are interested contact COM at: www.comscc.org

May 1-3rd Jefferson 500 Vintage Races – Summit Point, WV The Jefferson 500 vintage race celebration is back! Come see plenty of Alfas at full tilt on a lovely and challenging track. I’ll be there in the blue GTV. Come join me! If you’re interested, contact: Bob Brady at (610)486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net

May 3rd - Artistry in Motion Car Tour and Show – Lancaster, PA This event helps support the Lancaster Museum of Art. Entry forms are due by April 4th. If you are interested, see: www.artistryinmotion.org. Or, contact Bob Brady at: 610-486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net

***May 5th – DVAROC Dinner – Casselli’s – Roxborough, PA**

Our spring dinner will be at Casselli’s in Roxborough. Come join us for some great food and some great stories. Dinner will start at 7pm. Please try to be there promptly, or even a little early. Casselli’s is located at: 7620 Ridge Avenue. Their phone number is: 215-483-6969. Please RSVP so we know how many to expect by contacting: Bob Brady at (610)486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net

May 15-17th – Carlisle Import/Kit Car Show – Carlisle, PA If you’re in need of a part or even another car, spend a day, or two at this annual orgy of cars and parts. For more info see: <http://www.carlisleevents.com/>

May 15-17th – Vintage Celebration – NHMS – Loudon, NH Okay, this one is a bit of a haul, but they have some great vintage racing and there are always some Alfas in the pack. The NEAROC usually sets up camp there, so there are plenty of Alfisti to hang out with. See: <http://www.vrgonline.org/EVENTS/NHIS/NHIS.html> for more information.

May 16-17th VSCCA and MAAROC Driver School – VIR Raceway - Danville,

VA The VSCCA has invited later Alfas down to VIR this year to join the earlier cars. They’re trying to make this into an Alfa celebration. In addition, the MAAROC will be having their annual performance driving event there, so if you ever wanted to get your Alfa on the track, this is your opportunity. I’ll be there. For more information, see: <http://maarc.blogspot.com/> or contact Bob Brady at: 610-486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net

***May 24th – Winery Tour – Chester County, PA** We are still in the planning stages of this year’s DVAROC winery tour, but rest assured it will be in southern Chester County (mostly) and that it will be another great time. If you plan on coming, please call Bob Brady at: 610-486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net so we can know how many people to expect and I can keep you informed of the details as they develop. I hope you can make it!

***June 14 – Italian Car Show - Headhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA** The DVAROC, NJAROC and others will join the Fiat-Lancia-United club in displaying Italian cars in Old City, Philadelphia. The event will run from about 11am until about 3pm. Show off your Alfa and enjoy the company. We typically go out to lunch together as a club and there is always entertainment. For more information, go to: <http://fludelaware.italiancarclub.com/> or contact Thad Kirk at 610-324-7085 or thadkirk@hotmail.com Alternatively, you can contact Bob Brady at: 610-486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net

Other Events???

If you have a particular interest, know of an event that might interest other Alfisti, or just want to get involved, please contact Bob Brady at: 610-486-1132 or rampbrady@verizon.net

Simeone Museum (con't from

Front)

Moving past the teens, we made an extended stop at the twenties, where he remarked that the 1929 Alfa Romeo SuperSport was one of his favorites to drive, and his personal choice as an autocross weapon. This particular SS was campaigned in many events on US soil. Moving on, we went past a totally original Gullwing Mercedes with patina, a Cord, a Healy and stopped at a 427 AC Cobra Daytona. This particular car, after setting records at Bonneville, spent many years in a shipping crate in California and was the subject of many unrequited suitors. Its condition was remarkably original down to some residual salt flats dust. It is our good fortune that Dr. Simeone was able to acquire this piece of history from its previous owner and become its current custodian.

The next stop was a tribute to the Nurburgring, in Germany. It featured two BMW 328s and a running video of a very fast lap of the Nordschleife. We were treated to a story of the "white" 328s. Period photos of these cars are all in black and white. Few of these cars exist with original paint. When Fred's first 328 was restored, it was painted in what everyone at the time thought was the correct white. Years later, however, he acquired an unmolested, unrestored original, in white, but a very different shade of white, similar to antique white. So, now all fastidious owners of "correctly" restored white 328s can head back to the paint booth. Turning around, we found ourselves at the Brooklands race track in pre-war England.

It was no surprise that there was a blower Bentley parked in the Brooklands display. It was, a surprise, however, to see not one but two Alfas. The first was a nicely preserved 8C 2300. As with most of Fred's cars, this one was no Ralph Lauren "restoration." Its light red paint showed its maturity with wear marks and stains providing evidence of spirited use. The other Alfa was a 1925 RL SuperSport which featured Alfa emblems on both flanks of its dihedral grill. Adjacent to the Brooklands garage was a hill, yes, a hill inside the museum. On this hill, a 1921 Vauxhall, in unpainted alloy coachwork was seen clawing its way to the top. The next stop was Italy.



Perhaps the most elaborate diorama was the tribute to the most famous Italian road races, the Targa Florio and Mille Miglia. As expected, Alfa Romeos dominated this display. The 1975 33TT looked elegant and purposeful. It harkened back to a not so distant past when race cars still had shapes penned by designers, not computers fed from wind tunnels. It must have made an exciting sight as it tore through the '75 Targa on its way to Alfa's last win there. Behind it, were two of Alfa's earlier successes, a 1933 Monza and a gorgeous 8C2900A.



Past a very technically interesting Lancia Lambda parked at the rifornimento, or repair shop, we meandered into the back room annex where a phalanx of sporty but not sports cars awaited our eyes. This collection characterized an evolution of automobiles that looked the part but didn't see competition. Among the more interesting was a Squire roadster, one of only seven ever built. Also interesting, if not painful to view as a 1949 Alfa Romeo 6C2500 Brixia. This example, unrestored and still wearing PA tags was one of many cars considered "etceterini." Etceterini were Italian coach built vehicles made by very small companies in the post-war era. Some of the more famous of these marques are Stanguellini and Siata. This Brixia encased the underpinnings of an Alfa 6C2500 with monstrous bodywork and an awful front grill treatment. While an interesting example of styling thought of the time, it's probably best forgotten. Out of the annex, it was back to the race cars. This time, the destination theme was endurance racing.



C and D-type Jaguars paid tribute to Sebring in the 1950s. Past them, a 1938 Jaguar SS and Alfa GTV-6 showed us how rally cars evolved over the years. Next to them, the LeMans display contained nine famous veterans of this iconic contest. Among the nine, was another Alfa 8C, fittingly named the 8C2300 LeMans. It was almost easy to miss in its atypical blue livery. This particular 8C featured rear seats as was required by the 1933 LeMans rules. We spent a while at LeMans as there was a lot to see. Past the psychedelic purple and green Porsche 917LH it was on to LeMans cars of U.S. origin. These included a couple of Stutzes, a DuPont, and of course, a GT40 as well as a Ford Mk. IV. Finally, we turned to view the Winner's Circle.

The Winner's Circle had the jewels of the collection arranged for us to see. These included: a Mercedes Sportwagen, a Peugeot 57G "tank," a Cunningham, an Aston Martin DBR-1 and one more. The crown jewel of the Simeone collection was placed front and center, on a turntable, so we could admire it from all angles. This crown jewel was the 1938 Alfa Romeo 8C2900B MM. It was absolutely stunning.

Simeone Museum (con't from Front)

The crowd stood with mouths open and “oood” and “ahhhed” and Dr. Simeone pointed out feature after feature. And with that, the official tour was over, and the unofficial tour began.

After the crowd left, Dr. Simeone graciously led a few of us on an up close tutorial of some of the cars in his collection. Behind the guardrails, he patiently and expertly answered all of our questions and curiosities including the intricacies of pre-selector gearboxes. It was a terrific finish to a wonderful afternoon. We should all be grateful we have such a significant collection and generous host in our own back yard.

A few weeks later, I received a call from Harlan Hadley from the Capital Chapter of AROC. The Capital Chapter was on its way to the Simeone Museum to celebrate their anniversary, enjoy the cars on display and see the new 8C. “Would I like to join them?” he asked. I’d seen photos of the new 8C but the chance to see one up close and personal was too good to miss. “Of course,” I replied.

Like watching a good movie or reading a good book, every time you go through the FAS Museum you pick up more. In addition to learning things I missed the first time, the collection had added a Ferrari 365P formerly owned by Luigi Chinetti Sr. and currently owned by his son. This particular car is almost unique in that it features three seats, a driver flanked by passengers. It was on loan to the museum. I don’t know when it will leave. While this Ferrari was a treat, it wasn’t what pulled me in. That was behind a black curtain.

At the end of Dr. Simeone’s tour, he led us to a large area, surrounded by black curtains. This is the area Michael Furman uses to produce his award winning photographs of automobiles. At the center of this studio, was a covered car. With a quick introduction, the cover was lifted to reveal a new Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione. It was gorgeous! The iridescent red paint radiated a diffuse glow. Photos don’t do the car justice. Every curve, every detail is artfully executed. Opening the door, the driver is greeted to a glowing red Alfa logo, which fades into an instrument display after a few moments. It is really quite the q-ship. Of course, like almost every modern car, it is large in every dimension. Fortunately, the designers who fashioned this masterpiece were able to clothe it in creases and folds that accentuated the full-figured beauty. It was another great ending to a lovely afternoon at the Simeone museum. If you haven’t yet made it there, you must. If you’ve already been to the collection, go again. You won’t be sorry. *(Editors Note: This month’s edition of Alfa Owner features a report on the Capital Chapter’s visit to the FAS Museum with some very nice photos.)*



In Search of Alfa Parts: Brake Master Cylinder Reservoir Caps

By Quinn de Menna

It’s the little things that sometimes delight you or drive you crazy. This is one of those sagas where I was ready to give up. In fact, I did give up some months ago. I had spent hours on the internet searching and calling all the parts suppliers both domestic and foreign. I looked on EBay and Craig’s list. I looked through the ALFA Bulletin Board and posted a note looking for replacement caps for my 1979 Alfetta’s brake master cylinder. Mine had yielded to age and heat with cracks that would surely let moisture into the brake fluid.



I came across a photo of an Alfa Spider that was within a couple of years of my Alfetta and noticed that it used the **same** double reservoir with the two warning light sensors. I thought again that there must be some replacement for this seemingly ubiquitous part. I was told that other manufactures used the same part on Volvos, BMWs and Mercedes. I contacted the manufacture ATE who said “there were no replacements for my reservoir”.

Months later I looked back on the ALFA Bulletin Board and found someone had posted a reply to my earlier thread and said they found a match used on Pinzgauer vehicles. Don’t you love the internet? A Pinzgauer is a Swiss Army Vehicle, go figure. The U.S. Parts dealer is Expedition Imports Corporation 225 Bennett Ave., Ste A Vallejo, CA 94590 www.expedition-imports.com

They carried both the entire reservoir and the caps. I bought the caps part number 0004311633 for \$7 each. Maybe I should get a new reservoir just in case I need one some day?



Mark Your Calendars! (**bold** = DVAROC Event)

March	April	May
<p>22 Winter Lunch – Gullifty’s – Rosemont, PA</p>	<p>4 DVAROC Tech Session – Nick Falcone Enterprises – Bala Cynwyd, PA</p> <p>11 VSCCA Vintage Racing – Pocono, PA</p> <p>20-21 COMSCC Driving Event – Watkins Glen, NY</p>	<p>1-3 Jefferson 500 Vintage Racing – Summit Point, WV</p> <p>3 Artistry in Motion – Lancaster, PA</p> <p>5 DVAROC Spring Dinner – Casselli’s – Roxborough, PA</p> <p>15-17 Carlisle Import/Kit Car Show – Carlisle, PA</p> <p>15-17 Vintage Racing Festival – NHMS – Loudon, NH</p> <p>16-17 MAAROC Driver School/VSCCA Vintage Races – VIR – Danville, VA</p> <p>24 DVAROC Winery Tour – Chester County, PA</p>
June	July	August
<p>7 Raduno Primavera – Capital Chapter AROC</p> <p>14 Italian Car Show – Headhouse Square – Philadelphia, PA</p> <p>19-22 Le Belle Macchina D’Italia – Pocono, PA</p> <p>26 Fall Tour to Auburn Heights Steam Trains and Antique Cars, Yorklyn, DE</p>	<p>5-19 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Festival – Pittsburgh, PA</p> <p>10-12 VRG Vintage Races – BeaveRun – Wampum, PA</p> <p>11-12 Centennial Reunion of Mercer Automobiles – Roebling Museum – Roebling, NJ</p> <p>21 DVAROC Summer Dinner – Location TBD</p>	<p>31-2 Das Awkscht Fescht Car Show - Macungie, PA</p> <p>2 DVAROC Summer Picnic/Rally – Location TBD</p> <p>9 New Hope Auto Show – New Hope, PA</p> <p>13-17 Fiat Convention (Alfas Invited) – Pocono Manor, PA</p>



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