

# A Prelude To Spring

The crowd that gathered for our winter lunch at Carmella's were greeted by dazzling sunshine and sumptuously shaped Alfas. Inside, our private room was appropriately decorated with a cry for "Spring Fever," courtesy of Bill Conway.



The usual cast of characters filtered in and joined the conversation. Additionally, like many recent events, there were quite a few new faces present. A continual stream of libations kept our jaws properly lubricated. Time flew by as the room filled. Winter seemed particularly long this year and there was plenty of catching up to do. Eventually, the waiters won the battle and got us to sit down for some much anticipated food.

Specially printed menus added a nice touch to the occasion and listed enough choices to satisfy all. As the plates of food came and went, the conversation never ceased. Some talked about past times, some about current projects and tribulations. Many, however, were focused on the upcoming national convention that will be held in New Hampshire, this summer. A lot of interest was expressed in attending. Hopefully, we'll be able to make arrangements to drive en-masse to it. Ideally, we'll be able to find some enclosed transportation to accommodate a few

members' concerns about taking their prizes out in unpredictable weather.

The removal of dinner plates and the passing around of the dessert tray signaled that it was time for door prizes. Frank Gil outdid himself this year and provided a wonderful assortment of gifts. Among them, there were several models, some interesting books and one very unique gift. I'm not sure where Frank got it, but one of the gifts he provided was a photo cube from the Alfa Romeo museum. It's difficult to describe, but the cube could be opened up and rearranged, sort of like a Rubik's cube. Each rearrangement of it yielded a different photo of a significant Alfa. It was a very nice gift, indeed.

With espressos downed and the tiramisu and other delights finished, it was time for a bit of sticker shock. Fortunately, the food and wonderful company helped blunt the pain. And, with our pockets a bit lighter, we retreated out to the afternoon sun to admire the few Alfas that graced the lot. (Continued on Page 4)

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

- April 10 Tech Session, Nick Falcone's, Bala Cynwyd, Pa.
- June 13 New Garden Air and Car Show
- June 19 Tour to Concours d'Elegance at Lehigh U.
- June 20 Alfa Swap Meet, York, Pa.

## **Bob's Babblings**

**Spring!** Well, it's finally here, spring. From the talk at the winter lunch, it appears that more than a few are suffering from cabin fever. We've already had a couple of teaser days. It's time to uncover your dormant Alfa and get it on the road. As you can see from the events listed and the calendar on the back page, there are plenty of opportunities ahead of us.

The next DVAROC event will be our annual **Tech Session** at Nick Falcone Enterprises. Once again, Vince and Ruth will be hosting this perennial favorite event. Even if you don't have any "issues" with your Alfa, come join the support group to swap stories and see what other like-minded Alfisti are doing.

Later in April you have an opportunity to join the D.C. chapter on an all-Italian car tour. This event sounds like a great time. I hope some of us can make it.

If track time is of more your interest, consider joining us at the **COMSCC Time Trials** at Summit Point at the end of April. I plan to be there with my usual red GTV (no, the "new" GTV is not ready and no, I don't want to talk about it.) It looks like another member will also be joining the event in his GTV-6.

Another event normally held in April is the CTAROC Time Trials at Lime Rock. A few weeks ago when I was planning out my schedule, I noticed that this event was appearing on the Lime Rock web site for October. I called the president of the CT chapter and he confirmed that the date is still up in the air. Lime Rock has changed ownership and there seems to have been a few balls dropped in the process. I think it's pretty safe to assume that this great event won't happen in April. Hopefully, it will still occur in October. Stay tuned.

We don't have any official events planned for May, but we'll more than make up for that in June. Check out the list.

If you're starting to plan out your summer, make sure to pencil in the national AROC convention in July. This year, it is being sponsored by the NEAROC and will be held in New Hampshire. Already, there are a number of us who plan to attend. We'd like to caravan up. If you're interested, give me a call (610-925-1837). Also, if anyone knows where we can get some enclosed trailers for the trip, call me. There are a few who are wincing at the prospect of subjecting their gems to the trip and unpredictable weather.

Frequently Asked Questions Often I am asked where good Alfas can be purchased or where body restoration work can be had. In this La Voce, I try to help answer the first question. Later in July, Jack Stoll has made arrangements for us to have a tech session on body restoration at Ragtops and Roadsters. While they specialize in British cars, I'm told they do reasonable restoration work. Come to that tech session and find out.

New members We've had a nice influx of new and returning members over the last few months. Some I've met. Others I only know by changes to our roster. In any case, please welcome: David Burroughs from Doylestown, Ed Ellers from Haverford, Dan Giannini from Warminster, David Miller from Lansdale, Ben Passintino from Avondale, Randall Pickney from Malvern, Michael Rowen from Lancaster, Vincenzo Sanguineti from Philadelphia, and Pete Mazzeo returning to the area and living in Oreland. I hope to see all of you, and your cars, at an event soon.

One last thing... Although I haven't seen it, the series Victory by Design featured Alfa Romeo. I'm told it's an excellent program, and is available on DVD. To order, go to: <a href="https://www.speedtv.com/programs/192/">www.speedtv.com/programs/192/</a> (I have no financial interest in this... but hope someone at home is reading this.... Fathers' Day is coming up... hint hint.)

I hope to see you soon. In the mean time, get out there and DRIVE! – bob brady

## Classifieds:

**1977 Alfa Romeo Spider,** 90.5K miles, red, good overall condition, water pump needs replacing but otherwise solid and drives well. Auto actually belongs to my son, however, he has been based in Europe for the past three years and recently extended. Consequently, he has asked me to sell the car for him but he would like to see the car go to an Alpha enthusiast. Asking \$2,350. For more info or to see the car please call John Vodantis at (610) 783-0499.

**1971 Alfa Romeo GTV 1750** - Butterscotch Yellow over Black - 76,000 miles. Looks and runs great. Nice older restoration, with a generous amount of new parts. Spica fuel injection was recently rebuilt, car is running at its best. Asking \$8000 Any questions please call me at 215-783-3225. Bermie.

**1962** Giulia Spider needs total restoration or for parts. \$1000 obo, Jeff Kollar, 610-746-0317

Giulietta, Giulia Spider, Sprint, SS Parts: Engines, Veloce bits, trim, body, interior. Call for details. Jeff Kollar, 610-746-0317 1974 GTV: disassembled, custom cage & flat floors with bars for seats and undercarriage bracing by S&W in Spring City, PA. All parts are boxed and will go with car. 5 new OEM steel wheels widened to 6" with Stahlflex 3011. In storage for 15 yrs. Rebuilt engine (Spica) with maybe 5kmi. Extras available incl: (will not be sold separately until car is sold): pair 45DCOE's w/manifold, Spruell headers (new), Switters close ratio gear box, SAFE fuel cell and Life Line Halogen fire system both SCCA legal) Sparco seat Brembo lightweight calipers (new), Car is at Nick Falcone's, Bala-Cynwyd, PA, 610-664-0944

**1983 GTV-6** 19K miles Silver/Blue, Bill Conway, 973-839-9239 Bill.Conway@neclease.com

**1967 Duetto** Euro car, red, has been sitting, but supposedly the engine is fresh. A couple of minor dents and needs floors/paint. Seats are nearly perfect. An easy restoration. \$2000. Contact Bob Brady 610-925-1837, mpbrady@bellatlantic.net for more information.

**NOS Parts** I have hundreds of NOS Alfa parts. Most of them are 105/115 series parts, but I also have some 101, 102 and 106 series parts. For an inventory and some prices, go to:

http://members.bellatlantic.net/~mpbrady/newpartsinventory.htm
In addition to the new parts, I have a couple 1750 and 1600 engines as well as some spare 5spd transmissions for sale. Contact Bob Brady 610-925-1837, mpbrady@bellatlantic.net for more information.

Car Storage: I have Barn Storage space available for rent. Winter storage for your Spider or that project car you don't have time for. Dry, clean and secure at \$95 a mo. Located south of Bethlehem just across the Bucks County line. Domenick Billera, 610-838-9970

La Voce - is attempted to be published 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 - \$ 20 ½ page - \$ 60 full page - \$100

Classified ads are free to DVAROC members.
The DVAROC web address is at: <a href="www.dvaroc.org">www.dvaroc.org</a>
Send web classifieds to: <a href="classifieds@dvaroc.org">classifieds@dvaroc.org</a>
Send La Voce submissions to:

Bob Brady 105 Spottswood Lane Kennett Square, PA 19348 (610) 925-1837 (eve) (610) 925-1839 (fax) (302)366-0500x2814(day) mpbrady@bellatlantic.net

## **Events Calendar: \* Indicates DVAROC Event**

## \*April 10 - DVAROC Tech Session - Nick Falcone's - Bala Cynwyd

It's spring! time to get the cobwebs out of your head and get your Alfa back on the road. Come to our annual tech session at Nick Falcone's on Saturday, April 10th, at 10:00 am. Falcone's is located at 161 Rock Hill Road, Bala Cynwyd, Pa. Their phone number is: (610) 664-0944. No topic has been selected yet. If you have a preference, please contact Bob Brady at (610)925-1837 or <a href="mailto:mpbrady@verizon.net">mpbrady@verizon.net</a>.

April 25 – All Italian Car Tour and Concours – Gaithersburg, MD The Capital chapter will be participating in this All Italian Car tour. For more information go to: www.allitaliancartour.com

April 26-27 — COMSCC Time Trials at Summit Point — Summit Point, WVa COMSCC holds great time trials/drivers' schools. Drive your Alfa as it was meant to be driven. Contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837 or <a href="mpbrady@verizon.net">mpbrady@verizon.net</a> for more information. COMSCC website is at: www.comscc.org

May 1-2 – VSCCA and Mid-Atlantic AROC at VIR – Danville, VA Vintage races come to the lovely Virginia International Raceway. Word has it that they will be providing special attention to Giuliettas (in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this year) and will allow lapping by street Giuliettas. Sounds like fun! Contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837 or <a href="majorage-mpbrady@verizon.net">mpbrady@verizon.net</a> for more information.

May 2 - Artistry in Motion Car Tour and Show — Lancaster, PA Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, this event helps support the Lancaster Museum of Art. Entry forms are due by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you are interested, contact the Lancaster Museum of Art at: 717.394.3497 or <a href="mailto:Lmart@mindspring.com">Lmart@mindspring.com</a>. Or, contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837 or <a href="mailto:mpbrady@verizon.net">mpbrady@verizon.net</a>.

May 14-16 - Jefferson 500 Vintage Races - Summit Point, WVa This is a great event at a great location. For more information see: <a href="https://www.summitpointraceway.com">www.summitpointraceway.com</a> or contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837 or <a href="mpbrady@verizon.net">mpbrady@verizon.net</a>.

May 21-23 — 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 information see: <a href="https://www.caarlisleevents.com">www.caarlisleevents.com</a> or contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837

\*June 13 — New Garden Air Show — New Garden, PA Enjoy an afternoon of vintage aircraft and vintage cars in the midst of beautiful southern Chester county. The DVAROC will show its Alfas among the other local car clubs. There is also an interesting museum of transportation there with several oddball motorcycles and race cars. We will meet at Bob Brady's house at 8:30 and drive en mass to the show, a few miles away. Arrive earlier if you want some espresso and croissants. Please RSVP to Bob before June 12<sup>th</sup>, so we know to wait for you and have a display pass for your car. To get to Bob's house, take Route 1 to Kennett Square, PA. Take the exit for Route 82, North (away from Kennett). Take the first right as you crest the hill, Spottswood Lane. Bob's house is the third on the left. For more information or to RSVP, contact Bob Brady at (610)925-1837 or mpbrady@verizon.net.

#### \*June 19 - Concours d'Elegance of the Eastern United States - Bethlehem, PA

Our annual tour through Bucks County will start at Friendly's parking lot, at 168 Easton Road (Rt. 611), in Horsham, Pa. From there, we'll drive to the show. Their phone number is: 215-674-8677. We'll leave **promptly at 8:47 am.** To find out more, see: <a href="www.concourseast.org">www.concourseast.org</a> Please RSVP if you plan to tour with us, so I can make the right amount of copies. Contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837 or <a href="mpbrady@verizon.net">mpbrady@verizon.net</a> for further information or to RSVP. Hope to see you there!!!

\*June 20 – Tri-State Alfa Swap Meet – York, PA Father's Day: Sunday June 20, 10 am - 3 pm: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Alfa Swap Meet / Autocraft Open House. At Stahlman's Autocraft, 1508 South George Street, York, PA. Complimentary buffet lunch provided. Bring your Alfa goodies...new or used parts, books, models, whatever, and plan on swapping and/or selling with the rest of us. For questions or directions, call Erich or Andy at Autocraft 717 845 5314, or Mike Mihm 717 741 0460, or call Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837.

June 25-28 – Le Bella Macchine d'Italia – Pocono, PA For more info, go to: www.mhkaye.com

June 30 – July 1 – COMSCC School and Time Trials – Watkins Glen, NY If anyone is interested, I plan to be at this track event. The first day and a half will be lapping sessions with instruction (if you wish). The second day will have time trials in the afternoon. You need not have an Alfa and you need not have experience. The Glen is a great track to drive. A great warm-up event for the convention. If you are interested in going, contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837 or <a href="mailto:mpbrady@verizon.net">mpbrady@verizon.net</a>

\*July 10 – Tech Session – Ragtops and Roadsters – Perkasie, PA Ever wonder about how to get your body restoration done right? Come and find out. For info, contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837 or <a href="mailto:mpbrady@yerizon.net">mpbrady@yerizon.net</a>

\*July 28 – August 1 – AROC National Convention – Manchester, NH Mark your calendars now. Plan to make the trip, it will be worth it. For more information go to: <a href="https://www.velocissima.com">www.velocissima.com</a>

#### 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: 610-925-1837 or <a href="mailto:mpbrady@bellatlantic.net">mpbrady@bellatlantic.net</a>

The car turnout was a bit slim this year. Bill Conway drove his GTV-6 time machine. He even took advantage of the sunny parking lot to detail his car before lunch. Fred Sacks brought his Spider, sporting Panasports instead of his usual winter wheels, which made it look much nicer. Finally, I brought the Sprint, the only legal and drivable Alfa in my stable. Despite there being few of them, they did provide a nice spectrum of Alfas spanning nearly forty years of design.

As the sun kissed the hills of Bala Cynwyd, it was time for us to depart. Lunch in Manayunk was a nice change of pace from recent tradition. We'll likely make another change next year,



Arthur Jones puts enters his ticket in the door prize contest.



Charlie Crothers, Bill Conway and others await dessert.



A great shot of Bill Conway's GTV-6 outside of Carmella's



Fred Sack's Spider looked great in the winter sunshine.



Mary Nomecos, Bob Brady, Arthur Jones and Fred Sacks enjoy the view of the sunset.

# Always Looking For Another

Bob Brady

As any Alfa Romeo owner can attest, they are addictive. Like cat people, owners rarely seem satisfied owning only one. Few, once smitten, get out of the never-ending cycle of searching, buying and trading. Many go through phases of accumulation and purging, over and over again. I, myself am guilty of this behavior. "Hello, my name is Bob and I'm an Alfaholic."

My morning begins the same way, each day. I first scan the local classifieds ads in the newspaper, hoping to find the elusive gem. Almost always, the paper is devoid of Alfa Romeos. Ten years ago, before I had my first taste of Alfas, the Philadelphia Inquirer routinely had ads for Milanos, GTV-6s, 164s and Spiders. Even GTVs popped up every so often. In fact, my first GTV found me through such an ad. Now, Alfas only appear in the paper a few times per year. Finding a new addition to your collection is now better accomplished with a ride on the internet. That brings me to the second thing I do each morning. I log on.

Searching through the internet, one can find many Alfas for sale. One of the best places to see what's available is to check out ebay. There, you'll regularly see what departed the Inquirer, and then some. Recently, a TZ-1 was auctioned off. Before you get excited at the prospect of a bargain, realize that the bidding was over \$172,000, last time I looked. That said, once in a while, interesting buys do appear, such as a 6C2500, in need of some restoration work, that sold for about \$20,000. (Continued on Next Page)

#### Always Looking For Another (from Previous Page)

The only downside of that one was that it had to be shipped from the U.K. Bargains are not the norm. I'm more often amazed at the amount of money people bid for what I'd consider parts cars. Ebay is a great place to see what cars are on the market. It's particularly good at funneling cars from around the country into one marketplace. It does have some major drawbacks, however. First, you rarely get a chance to inspect the car in person. And, no matter how many photos are shown, they don't do a very good job of conveying the actual condition of the car. Second, ebay is subject to auction fever, driving up selling prices sometimes to unbelievable levels. So, after I finish scanning ebay, it's off to some of my other favorite online hunting grounds for Alfas.

The next stop on my morning routine is alfabb.com. This is a bulletin board for Alfisti. They have a separate section for classifieds that often has interesting vehicles for sale. Many of the cars that show up are California cars, which is both good and bad. It's good because they are generally devoid of rust. It's bad because they are on the wrong coast. Alfabb.com is a particularly good place to shop for GTVs.

Alfaclassifieds.com is next on the list. This is another electronic bulletin board. It seems to have a wider variety of cars for sale than alfabb.com. It also is more international, drawing cars from the U.K., Europe and sometimes Australia. I've seen more than a few nice cars show up here.

Another site that has a lot of Alfas for sale, but is located in Italy is <a href="www.portalclassic.com">www.portalclassic.com</a>. They have a wide selection, but nearly all the cars are in Italy. They also note that a restoration facility has opened up in Poland to provide restored cars.

There are a number of other Alfa-specific websites, digests and bulletin boards such as AlfaCentro.com, alfa-digest and others. In my experience, though, they don't often have many cars for sale.

The next stop on my daily search is a number of electronic versions of traditional classifieds. First is <a href="www.collectorcartraderonline.com">www.collectorcartraderonline.com</a>. This is the online version of Collector Car Trader. As far as I can tell, it includes all the cars you'll find in the paper version and is much easier to search. About half of the cars that appear here are from dealers. Hemmings Motor News is the next big classic car classifieds. Their website is: <a href="www.hemmings.com">www.hemmings.com</a>. They claim that their online version only lists ads a month or so after the paper version comes out. In my experience, this is not necessarily so. In fact, I've often seen new ads appear online before they hit the print. Hemmings used to be full of Alfa Romeo ads. Lately, the selection appears to be less than ¼ of what it used to be just a year or two ago. Nevertheless, it is certainly worth checking out.

Cars.com is a wonderful source of classifieds. Many local newspapers, including the Inquirer, publish their classifieds online with this service. There are regularly 40 or more Alfas for sale across the country at this site. Normally, there are fewer than five pre-74 Alfas among them.

TheBigLot.com, CarBuyer.com and Epages.com are all online-only classifieds. All will display a number of Alfas for sale, nationwide, at any time. CarBuyer.com seems to have the best selection of older Alfas. Epages.com is mostly filled with California cars. All of these suffer from out-of-date ads, but all are worth a quick glance.

After having visited all the aforementioned sites, my daily search is usually finished. Sometimes, however, I need more. Performing a Google search for "Alfa sale" or "Giulietta sale" or whatever I'm interested in that day normally picks up a few cars not found on the other sites. When I finish Googling, it's normally time to get to work and my search stops. But, what if you're really serious? Where can you go to find the Alfa of your dreams?

The classifieds in Alfa Owner are always a good place to search. It seems like recently they are expanding. Individual chapters also often list classifieds. Our website, <a href="https://www.dvaroc.org">www.dvaroc.org</a> has links to many local chapter classifieds. Be forewarned, however, that they are often out of

date. If the local chapter's either don't have ads posted or their ads are old, give the chapter president a call. Many of the best cars trade hands without ever hitting the public market.

If you're interested in a Giulietta, 1900 or other particular model, look for model-specific clubs and online discussion groups. Giulietta and 1900 owners both have their own organizations and both have discussion boards at Yahoo.com.

If you're not averse to buying from a dealer, there are many out there with Alfas normally in stock. One of the best ways to find dealers is to scan the classifieds sites listed. Alternatively, check out magazines such as the DuPont Registry, Classics and Sportscar or Motorsport. The latter two are U.K. magazines but often list some U.S. dealers. Stephens Alfa, formerly BOBCOR, now in Florida, specializes in Alfas but often seems wildly expensive. Gullwing Motors on Long Island often has older Alfas at reasonable prices, though they are usually projects. Paul Spruell in Georgia always has some Alfas of many vintages for sale. If you're in the market for a very special Alfa, Symbolic Motor Cars and Fantasy Junction, both in California, always have something special for sale. On the other side of the Atlantic, check out V.S.O.C. and ClassicsCars.com.

Local Alfa specialists, while not normally in the business of selling cars, often know of nice Alfas for sale. Start with Falcones, Algar, Peter D'Amico and Alfa Performance Center. Then, try Eurotec (NJ), DiFatta (Baltimore), Autocraft (York), Krause and England (NC), Paul Glynn (MA), Alfas Unlimited (CT), and R.P.M. (VT). Again, if they don't have a car in stock, they might know where to find one.

Auctions are another alternative. Visiting used car auctions can be successful, particularly if you're looking for a newer Alfa. Believe it or not, Alfas sometimes are donated to charity and subsequently auctioned. Also, I've seen more than a couple get purchased at estate sales, recently. Higher-end Alfas, but also more pedestrian ones, often pass hands at the large Barrett-Jackson and Krause International classic car auctions. Unfortunately, these auctions often require trips to Arizona, California, or at least, Florida. The real risk to buying an auction car is that you can't drive it first. So, buyer beware.

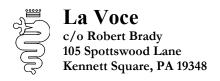
Finding the Alfa of your dreams can be fast or frustrating; largely depending on what particular car you're looking for and what you're willing to compromise on. Spreading your search wide and not limiting yourself geographically really help. Keeping yourself networked among your local club and among Alfa specialists is also key. Eventually, patience and persistence will pay off. Happy hunting!



Remember, before Enzo started Ferrari, he was instrumental in Alfa's racing success

# Mark Your Calendars! (bold = DVAROC Event)

April	May	June
10 – DVAROC Tech Session – Nick Falcone Ent. – Bala Cynwyd	1-2 – VSCCA Vintage Racing and Mid- Atlantic AROC – VIR – Danville, VA - Giulietta 50 <sup>th</sup> Mini-Celebration	13 – New Garden Air and Car Show – New Garden, PA
10 – VSCCA Spring Sprints – Lime Rock, CT – Giulietta 50 <sup>th</sup> Mini-Celebration	2 – Artistry in Motion – Lancaster Museum of Art Car Tour and Show – Lancaster, PA	19 – Concours of Eastern US and Tour – Bethlehem, PA
25 – All Italian Car Tour and Concours – Gaithersburg, MD (www.allitaliancartour.com)	14-16 – Jefferson 500 Vintage Racing – Summit Point, WVA	20 – Alfa Romeo Swap Meet – Autocraft – York, PA (717-741-0460)
26-27 – COMSCC Time Trials – Summit Point, WVA	21-23 – Carlisle Import/Kit Car Show – Carlisle, PA ( <u>www.carlisleevents.com</u> )	25-28 – Le Belle Macchine d'Italia – Pocono 30-1 – COMSCC Time Trials – Watkins Glen, NY
July	August	September
10-12 – Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix – Pittsburgh, PA	7-8 – New Hope Auto Show – New Hope, PA (Tenative)	3-6 – Vintage Racing Festival – Lime Rock 9-12 – SVRA Vintage Grand Prix – Watkins
11 – Italian Car Festival, Canton, OH Contact: Lee Contie (330)471-9980	TBD – DVAROC Summer Picnic and Rally – Ridley Creek State Park, PA	Glen, NY
10 – DVAROC Tech Session – Restorations	(Tentative)	10-12 – 100 Cars of Radnor – Radnor, PA
- Ragtops and Roadsters - Perkasie		19 – Hagley Museum Car Show – Wilmington
27-1 – AROC National Convention - Manchester, NH		23-26 – SVRA Vintage Racing – Summit Point, WVA



First Class Mail