



La Voce

Spring 2004



newsletter of the delaware valley alfa romeo owners club

A Prelude To Spring

The crowd that gathered for our winter lunch at Carmella's were greeted by dazzling sunshine and sumptuously shaped Alfes. 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 Alfes 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.

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 mpbrady@verizon.net.

April 10 – VSCCA Spring Sprints/Giulietta Event – Lime Rock, CT Can't make it to the tech session? Take a trip to Lime Rock to see the VSCCA start their season. There will be a special mini-celebration for the 50th anniversary of the Giulietta.

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 mpbrady@verizon.net 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 50th anniversary, this year) and will allow lapping by street Giuliettas. Sounds like fun! Contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837 or mpbrady@verizon.net for more information.

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

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

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: www.caarlisleevents.com 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 12th, 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: www.concourseeast.org 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 mpbrady@verizon.net 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: 7th 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 mpbrady@verizon.net

***July 10 – Tech Session – Ragtops and Roadsters – Perkasio, 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 mpbrady@verizon.net

***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: www.velocissima.com

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 mpbrady@bellatlantic.net

Winter Lunch (con't from Front Page)

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, perhaps it's time we hit south Philly.



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



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



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



Charlie Crothers, Bill Conway and others await dessert.



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

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 www.portalclassic.com. 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 www.collectorcartraderonline.com. 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: www.hemmings.com. 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 1/4 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, www.dvaroc.org 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
<p>10 – DVAROC Tech Session – Nick Falcone Ent. – Bala Cynwyd</p> <p>10 – VSCCA Spring Sprints – Lime Rock, CT – Giulietta 50th Mini-Celebration</p> <p>25 – All Italian Car Tour and Concours – Gaithersburg, MD (www.allitaliancartour.com)</p> <p>26-27 – COMSCC Time Trials – Summit Point, WVA</p>	<p>1-2 – VSCCA Vintage Racing and Mid-Atlantic AROC – VIR – Danville, VA - Giulietta 50th Mini-Celebration</p> <p>2 – Artistry in Motion – Lancaster Museum of Art Car Tour and Show – Lancaster, PA</p> <p>14-16 – Jefferson 500 Vintage Racing – Summit Point, WVA</p> <p>21-23 – Carlisle Import/Kit Car Show – Carlisle, PA (www.carlisleevents.com)</p>	<p>13 – New Garden Air and Car Show – New Garden, PA</p> <p>19 – Concours of Eastern US and Tour – Bethlehem, PA</p> <p>20 – Alfa Romeo Swap Meet – Autocraft – York, PA (717-741-0460)</p> <p>25-28 – Le Belle Macchine d’Italia – Pocono</p> <p>30-1 – COMSCC Time Trials – Watkins Glen, NY</p>
July	August	September
<p>10-12 – Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix – Pittsburgh, PA</p> <p>11 – Italian Car Festival, Canton, OH Contact: Lee Contie (330)471-9980</p> <p>10 – DVAROC Tech Session – Restorations – Ragtops and Roadsters – Perkasië</p> <p>27-1 – AROC National Convention - Manchester, NH</p>	<p>7-8 – New Hope Auto Show – New Hope, PA (Tentative)</p> <p>TBD – DVAROC Summer Picnic and Rally – Ridley Creek State Park, PA (Tentative)</p>	<p>3-6 – Vintage Racing Festival – Lime Rock</p> <p>9-12 – SVRA Vintage Grand Prix – Watkins Glen, NY</p> <p>10-12 – 100 Cars of Radnor – Radnor, PA</p> <p>19 – Hagley Museum Car Show – Wilmington</p> <p>23-26 – SVRA Vintage Racing – Summit Point, WVA</p>



La Voce
 c/o Robert Brady
 105 Spottswood Lane
 Kennett Square, PA 19348

First Class Mail