



# La Voce

Summer 2007



*newsletter of the delaware valley alfa romeo owners club*



## Alfa Fun in the Sun

June and July promised to be great months for local Alfisti to enjoy their cars. By all accounts that promise was delivered. With events ranging from dinners to drives to shows, there was something for everyone. The turnout of Alfa Romeos at the Head House Square Italian Car Show was fantastic. The June dinner alongside Cooper River in New Jersey brought out some less familiar faces. The Winery tour at the end of the month pleased our palates. The sights along the way soothed our eyes. And, in July, a new DVAROC Driver of the Year was crowned. With August knocking at our door, there will be more opportunities to enjoy your Alfa Romeo in the company of other enthusiasts. We hope to see you soon!

See page 4 to see photos and read more about June and July's events.

### Mark Your Calendars!

- August 12** New Hope Car Show –  
New Hope, PA
- August 21** Monthly Dinner Meeting  
– Casselli's - Roxborough
- Sept 9** 100 Cars at Radnor –  
Radnor Hunt, PA
- Sept 15** Monthly Dinner – Café La  
Fontana - Hatboro, PA

## Bob's Babblings

**Whew!** With June and July behind us, I can finally take a breather. June was packed with Alfa events and every one of them was a great success. While I tried to get a newsletter out before the July picnic, I just couldn't make it. That forced us to cancel the July dinner and move it to August. I must say that I am a bit relieved. Preparing for the July rally was a lot of work, but was equally fun. I hope everyone who attended had as good a time as I had preparing for it. With some breathing room, it's now time to look ahead to August and September.

**New Hope Auto Show** The New Hope Auto Show is always a nice event. Last year we had over 30 Alfas! Even if you have guests who aren't into the cars, they can easily walk to New Hope/Lambertville and enjoy the shops and sights. There is even a steam railroad you can ride there. If you are planning to attend, and I hope you are, be aware that registration by mail is due by **July 31<sup>st</sup>**. If you register online, you have until August 10<sup>th</sup>. Alfas will be shown on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and will be in the FX category. See the Events Calendar in this edition for more information.

**Dine with the DVAROC** We've been having regular monthly meetings over dinner this year. I must say, they have been better attended than I expected and have turned out to be a lot of fun. In August, we're going to Casselli's in Roxborough. I hope you can attend. The location for September's dinner is still being set, but it will likely be in Bucks or Montgomery counties. If you have suggestions for speakers or some sort of program, let me know.

**September Events** September has a lot of car shows. The club will be going to Radnor for the concours d'elegance. There should be club parking available, near the vendor tents. Later that month, the NJAROC will be doing another tour along the Hudson river valley. This is supposed to be a wonderful drive. See Events Calendar for more details.

**Thunderbolt Raceway** As many of you know, there is a new racetrack being built near Vineland at Millville. You'll be happy to know that they have broken ground and begun construction. They expect to open in June 2008. Keep your fingers crossed!

**Share the Fun** When was the last time you saw an Alfa on the road? With the sun shining, you see more and more of them. Many of these owners don't know about our club. You can help share the fun while helping to strengthen our numbers. The next time you see an Alfa parked, put a note on their windshield directing them to our club's website to join. If you happen to see the owner, take a moment to introduce him or her to the club or invite them to an event.

**Stay in Touch** Sometimes, the newsletter doesn't get out as often as I'd like. I try to supplement the printed information with an email. In addition, if you've been to an event, taken some interesting photos, or just had a good experience with your Alfa that you'd like to share, let me know about it. I can always be reached at: [ramprady@verizon.net](mailto:ramprady@verizon.net)

**Get out and drive!.... you and your Alfa deserve it –bob**

## Classifieds:

**1991 Alfa Romeo 164L** 120,118 miles, 2.5l v-6, 5spd. with short shift & mahogany knob. Paint was 1 year old when stored 4 years ago but garaged. New Michelin Pilot, clutch, starter, timing belt, etc... (see web ad at [www.dvaroc.org](http://www.dvaroc.org) for more details). I have put a lot of time and tons of money into this car. I don't know why. It's a hoot to drive I can assure you. Contact Chris Morrison: 610-255-1301 or [cmorrison773@msn.com](mailto:cmorrison773@msn.com)

**87 White Milano** Automatic, rust free car with 65,000 miles call cell , Bill 201-658-0190 \$4,500

**93 Spider Veloce** – 49Kmi, bought new from Algar and serviced there, header, Ansa, K&N, dash cracked, mech. excellent, 90% cosmetically, new tires, clutch , red with tan leather, black top, garaged, no rust, \$12K obo, 484-832-2220 – Nick Mongoni

**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](mailto:dennismurray00@yahoo.com) Pictures: <http://home.comcast.net/~denmurray/alfa.html>

**Alfetta Front Bumper** 1975 - 1979 Alfetta Stainless Steel Euro front bumper Never used \$400, Call for pictures. Quinn (609) 206 0694 or [qdemenna@comcast.net](mailto:qdemenna@comcast.net)

**'62 Giulietta Spider** - I have been so busy and my car just sits in the garage except for an occasional short drive. It deserves better. New brakes, exhaust, filters, radiator, seats put in from re-originals, new door skins and hardware. A new top that just needs a wood bow in place. dual webers, 5 spd, red with red and black interior. New tires, hubcaps, and front grill. The trunk near the battery has had new metal put in. The gas gauge does not work and neither does the speedo. The front bumpers and eyebrows need replating. I am asking \$8,500.00. This was the price I paid before all of the work was done to it which was not cheap. New seats alone were \$2500.00. A decent driver. Chris - 610-503-2338 (w) 610-323-6577 (h)

**81 Spider Veloce**- 85k mi red, great condition. Garage kept. Rebuilt spica fuel injection last year. Great runner. Hate to lose her but want someone who will cherish the car. \$8500 Charlie Mest- 215-816-2479

**1974 GTV** Regretfully, I am offering my little red GTV for sale. It is a fast, competitive, reliable time trial car as well as a lovely street car. Excellent condition \$13,000. Call Bob at: 610-486-1132.

**1981 Spider**, runs great, recent inspection, cream with brown interior, no cuts in seats, worn looking...top is good, need window...new tire, new quad rims....118k miles.. call for more info, pics,,, South Phila...Rob Simiriglio 215-380-6143

**1983 GTV-6** 19K miles Silver/Blue, Bill Conway, 973-839-9239 [billconway@comcast.net](mailto:billconway@comcast.net)

**1992 Alfa Romeo Spider Veloce**. It is in FAIR to GOOD condition. (I value it at that so as not to over- estimate it. It runs beautifully, but it does have a chip or two in the paint. Heck, the speedometer WORKS! :-P) You can see some pictures here:

<http://homepage.mac.com/amichalski/PhotoAlbum21.html> Please call me at (877) 444-6188 (That's toll free. I am in Wilkes- Barre, PA.) and we can discuss it. Asking \$8,000

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

**1984 Spider Veloce** Silver w/ blue leather, 5 spd, 42K miles. , good condition, Same owner since 1994. Recent full service by Falcone. New canvas top, leather seats and clutch. Paint good, some minor chips and dings. Some rust on rockers. \$5900 OBO. Call for pictures and records. Tony (610)878-4547. [anthony.villano@zlbbehring.com](mailto:anthony.villano@zlbbehring.com)

**Wanted: A 1962-65 Giulia spider or Speciale**. It must be a nice car that I can get into and go for a drive or club activities. I'm too old for another project. This is a very serious inquiry from an Alfa member in N.E.Ohio. Please contact Joe at 440-895-1358 or [jjweb@peoplepc.com](mailto:jjweb@peoplepc.com).

**1993 Alfa 164 L**, Dark Green/Tan, Auto, 100k mi, Purchased new from Algar, all service done at Algar or Sals w/ recpts, car is in exc shape cosmetically and mechanically, paint looks new, no accidents. Dave 302-993-7800 or [davidbeck@sprintmail.com](mailto:davidbeck@sprintmail.com) \$7500.00.

**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

## Events Calendar: \* Indicates DVAROC Event

**August 1-5 – AROC National Convention – Detroit, MI** I know there are a few people interested in going to this. If you are interested, I can put you in contact with others who want to attend. Contact Bob Brady at (610)486-1132 or [rampbrady@verizon.net](mailto:rampbrady@verizon.net)

**August 4-5 – Das Awkscht Fesch – Macungie, PA** I've never been to this show, but it always looked like a lot of fun. Join the Fiat club there on Sunday. For more information, see: [www.awkscht.com](http://www.awkscht.com)

**\*August 12<sup>th</sup> – New Hope Auto Show – New Hope, PA** We dominated the field last year. Let's do it again this year! Spend an afternoon among some fabulous cars.... Including your own! The town of New Hope is a short walk from the show grounds and has many attractions. **Alfa Romeos will be displayed on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. The Category is "Foreign Exotic."** Pre-registration is required by **July 31<sup>st</sup>** unless you register online, which goes until August 10<sup>th</sup>. For a registration form, go to: <http://www.newhopeautoshow.com/> Contact Bob Brady at (610)486-1132 or [rampbrady@verizon.net](mailto:rampbrady@verizon.net) for more information.

**\*August 21<sup>st</sup> – DVAROC Dinner – Casselli's – Roxborough, PA**

It's been years since we've gone to Casselli's to enjoy their excellent Italian food and singing waiters, so this is a real treat. In addition to dinner, some organizational stuff for the next sortie of events, we'll have a short program afterwards, either more on driving techniques or something else. Please contact me if you have a suggestion. Dinner will start at 7pm. Please try to be there promptly so we can get our little Italian cars in bed before they get cold. 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](mailto:rampbrady@verizon.net)

**September 1-3 – Vintage Racing Festival – Lime Rock, CT** We might not have the Monterey Historics on this coast, but we have something very close, the Vintage Racing Festival at hallowed Lime Rock Park. Remember, on Sunday they can't race but have a wonderful car show on the track. For more information, see: [www.limerock.com](http://www.limerock.com)

**September 5-9 – SVRA Vintage Grand Prix – Watkins Glen, NY** If you haven't had enough with Lime Rock, go to Watkins Glen for another helping. Porsche is featured this year. For more information, see: [www.theglen.com](http://www.theglen.com)

**\* September 9<sup>th</sup> – 100 Cars of Radnor – Radnor, PA** This is a fabulous concours d'elegance in our back yard. The setting is lovely and the vehicles that make their way on to the lawn are truly spectacular. There is always something special that shows up. (Shhhh! I hear that one particular Alfa Romeo will make its debut there after its recent restoration) Please RSVP to Bob Brady at (610)486-1132 or [rampbrady@verizon.net](mailto:rampbrady@verizon.net) as I will see if we can get special parking for the club.

**\* September 15<sup>th</sup> – Hudson Valley Fall Tour – New York State** The NJAROC has been doing this tour for a couple of years and I hear it is fantastic. It will involve some beautiful drives, some delicious food and a lovely stay over. On Sunday, you can visit the Rhinebeck Car Show and perhaps see some WWI vintage aircraft barnstorming. Stay tuned for more details. For more information or to RSVP, contact Enrico Ciabattoni at 732-530-9105 or [eurimports@comcast.net](mailto:eurimports@comcast.net).

**September 16<sup>th</sup> – Hagley Car Show – Wilmington, DE** This is a lovely car show on a wonderful site, home of the original DuPont powder mills, which are restored and open for touring. If your Alfa is 1986 or older, show it off! For more information, see: <http://www.hagley.lib.de.us/hagley-car-show-registration-2007.pdf> If you're interested in going, contact Bob Brady at: 610-925-1837 or [rampbrady@verizon.net](mailto:rampbrady@verizon.net)

**September 16<sup>th</sup> – Buckingham Auto Show – Holicong, PA** If Delaware is the wrong direction for you, consider going to the Buckingham Auto Show in Holicong, PA. For more information, see: [www.buckinghamautoshow.org](http://www.buckinghamautoshow.org)

**\*September 18<sup>th</sup> – DVAROC Dinner – Cafe La Fontana – Hatboro, PA**

September's monthly dinner will be held at Cafe La Fontana. It is located at 58 South York Road in Hatboro. Their phone number is 215-672-8118. If you have a suggestion on a venue or a program topic, please contact Bob Brady at: (610)486-1132 or [rampbrady@verizon.net](mailto:rampbrady@verizon.net) \*\*\*\* Please RSVP to Bob Brady as at the time of this writing, the location has not been confirmed

### 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](mailto:rampbrady@verizon.net)



*Some Alfa Romeos you don't see every day... On the right is a 750 Competizione. On the left is a 2000 Sportiva. Both photos, as well as many other great Alfa shots can be seen at: [www.motorimania.it](http://www.motorimania.it)*



*Alfa Romeos fill the shambles of Head House Square*

## Third Annual Italian Car Festival is a Head House Hit

Thad Kirk, leader of the local chapter of Fiat Lancia United (FLU), the Head House/South Street District Committee along with some sponsorship from CarVision.com organized another great Classic Italian Car show in Philadelphia's Head House Square. In its third year, the show continues to develop into more than an excuse to fill every available parking spot with Italian alloy. It has food, very entertaining entertainment and street-side shopping. As always, Thad extended a warm invitation to the Alfa Romeo clubs in the area to attend and share their cars with other Italian car enthusiasts as well as a curious public. And, as always, the Alfas came out in force.

This year, perhaps due to the clouds in the morning, the Delaware Valley chapter dominated the field. Looking up at the iffy sky above and seeing no one parked in the "shambles" (the colonial Head House Square market), Bill Conway seized the opportunity and parked his handsome bronze Sprint Veloce behind another beautiful Alfetta/SV/GTV, under the classic



*Peter Webb shows some Alfisti what 300hp or so looks like*

brick structure. Soon, others followed. Quinn deMenna's SV made it three in a row. (For some reason, this show brings out the Alfettas.) Next in line was Greg Shpungin's 1750 Spider (*please don't call it a Duetto!*), which looks better every time it comes out. Next up was Pat Carzo's Spider which we were happy to see back on the road. Charlie Crothers was able to squeeze his Giulia Spider in behind, providing a much-needed break from the sea of red. Following that was Bob Brady's GTV, the only one this year. Peter Webb's Milano on steroids was next. Behind that was Randy Moore's 2000 Touring Spider, making its first appearance in years. Barry Cross's Series 4 CE Spider was next. Barry told the story of how he has owned the car since new but had to resurrect it from a near fatal accident. Some serious surgery and some serious cash later, the car looks like it left the showroom. Tim O'Riordan's 2600 Touring Spider was next. His, along with Frank Taormina's Spider at the head of Head House Square, and Randy's 2000 Spider made a trio of red Touring Spiders. Finally, Alan Aptner's rare 164Q filled the last spot on the bricks. With the shambles filled, Alfas spilled out on to the cobblestones.

On the streets, there were more Alfas to enjoy, everything from 164s to Spiders to GTV6s and more. Bill Conway met his soul mate in Dave Miller, another obsessive-compulsive GTV6 owner. Bill Shields brought his son in his shiny "new to him" Graduate, and treated him to a cheese steak. Bill Conway and the F1 crowd found a local pub with the Grand Prix du Canada playing. The rest of us went across the street to Cosi for a cozy group lunch.



After we satisfied our appetites for food, we went back to the show to satisfy our appetites for Italian automobiles. There was a great turnout of Lancias. In addition to more Fulvias than anyone thought were in existence, there was a superb Aurelia Spider. Resembling a larger Giulietta/Giulia Spider, this Pininfarina-styled car has many technically interesting features including a V6 engine, rear-mounted transaxle and de Dion suspension. There was also an elegant Flaminia coupe, also equipped with a de Dion rear. Eyeing up its engine bay, with all its esoteric design details, one could see what draws people to obsess over this marque. Of course, there were also a number of later model Lancias to complete the ranks.

Being a Fiat-sponsored show, there were plenty of them, as well. (Con't on Next Page)

## Head House Car Show (From Previous Page)

Spiders, X/19s, a 124 sedan survivor, a pretty 1600 Spider and the obligatory Cinquecento gave the crowd a taste of the more accessible but no less interesting Italian automobile offerings. For those interested in the more exotica, there were enough of those to attract attention. A single 308 represented the prancing horse. A number of Maseratis showed off their elegant designs. Several Cadillac Allantes participated (okay, so not completely Italian, but their bodies were built in Italy, at least). Not surprisingly, the screaming yellow Lamborghini Murcielago attracted a crowd. It was also being chanced off.



*Randy Moore's not often seen 2000 Touring Spider*

As we strolled through the streets admiring the cars and talking with their owners, the entertainment began. Once again, Franco Bordo and his band swooned the crowd with Italian pop songs. Making the scene complete, a seemingly lost bus full of Italian tourists chanced upon the event. When it got stuck trying to slip through the narrow streets, the bus's doors flailed open and the touristas poured out.

They apparently felt right at home as they swooned to the music and chatted with Franco. Eventually, the bus was able to negotiate the tight turn and group said "arrivederci!" A few hours later, we did the same.

It was another wonderful afternoon in Philadelphia. The DVAROC extends its thanks to Thad Kirk, FLU and the events sponsors. Next year's show is already being planned. Mark your calendar now, for June 8, 2008!



*A triplet of Fiat X/19s with the stage and booths behind*



**DVAROC Crowns a New Driver of the Year....**

## Summer Picnic and Rally

Over the last few years, the DVAROC has established a new tradition: the summer picnic and rally. In addition to providing a mid-summer opportunity to gather with the club for a lazy afternoon in the shade, this event also gives Alfisti a chance to demonstrate their driving prowess.

The picnic and driving event have always been centered at Ridley Creek state park. From there, drivers complete courses which take them through some of the most beautiful countryside that the Philadelphia area has to offer. To keep things fresh, the format for the driving event changes each year as does the course. This year, there were four different courses so that drivers and their navigators couldn't get any advantage by following a car ahead of them. This also makes for some entertaining scenes as Alfa Romeos crisscross the local roads, each wondering if the other is lost. Each course has a target time, based on driving exactly the speed limit for each leg. The object of the rally is to exactly match the driving time for each course. To make things even more interesting this year, checkpoints were added along the route. At each checkpoint, participants had to take a card, with a photo of a different Alfa Romeo model on it, and return it to the starting point. When they returned, they turned their cards in for playing cards. With the opportunity to get up to seven cards, the drivers could pick their best poker hands of five to improve their driving times. (Con't on Next Page)



*The Ciros run to their Maserati and start the rally, LeMans style*

# Summer Rally (From Previous Page)

When the dust settled, it was apparent that our drivers had improved their skills. This year, Thad Kirk, of the Fiat club, and his daughter managed to complete his course within one minute of target time, an extraordinary feat given that that course was over 30 minutes long. Joe Ciro and family also put in a great run in the comfort of their Quattroporte. They managed to complete the course within four minutes of target. With the poker hands still yet to be included in the results, organizer Bob Brady worried about the potential for a tie. After the hands were dealt it was another DVAROC first, co-Drivers of the Year! Joe graciously passed on the lovely DVAROC trophy (a 1900 hup cap) to Thad and his daughter and accepted a certificate in its place. Both winners signed the trophy, of course, joining past winners Henry Wessells and Pat Carzo. While Pat made a valiant effort to hold on to his crown, even a straight flush wouldn't have been enough to dig him out of his 45 minute-plus hole.



*Pat Carzo and friend Aldo head out to defend the DOY title*

It's now been two years in a row that an Alfa hasn't won the event. Last year, Pat won in his Durango. At least this year, the winners drove Italian cars. The gauntlet has been thrown down. Next year, we'll need a strong showing of Alfas to return the glory and redeem the good names of Chiti, Jano, Romeo and others! Hope to see you then!



*The 2007 DVAROC Co-Drivers of the Year and their navigators: Joe Ciro and family and Thad Kirk and his daughter*



## On the Road....

# DVAROC Winery Tour

When someone says "Italian" it conjures up images of style, emotion, delicious food, beautiful people and beautiful cars. In June, the Alfa club lived these images, gathering beautiful people in their beautiful cars to sample delicious wines among Italianesque scenery.

Pat Carzo organized the event for us which started at his house in Delaware. Having been informed that he **will** attend his daughter's graduation party that day, he bid us arrivederci as we departed from his driveway. From there, it was some twisty, hilly roads through some of the best of Delaware and in to Pennsylvania's southern Chester County. Along stone walls and creeks, past farms and mills, we ambled at a brisk pace to the Va La winery, in the heart of mushroom country.



*The crowd gathers at Pat Carzo's house to start the tour*

The southern Chester County area attracted many Italian immigrants. Many grew mushrooms, making that area the self-proclaimed "Mushroom Capital of the World." Fortunately for us, others developed vineyards. Va La's vineyard has its roots in Guisvalla, Italy from where its founders came. Eighty years ago, they established a farm in Avondale and with it, wine making. Today, the winery produces a number of wines, many in the tradition of northern Italy. (Continued on Next Page)

# Winery Tour (From Previous Page)

When we arrived at Va La, we were greeted and shown the way to the upstairs tasting room. There, from behind a hand carved bar, our lovely and knowledgeable hostess led us through the origins and nuances of seven, (or was it eight... it's hard to remember!) truly delicious wines.



*Wine is the lubricant of good conversation... as you can see*



*Va La's parking lot never looked so good!*

With each, she offered us a different cheese or dip to enhance the experience. While many local wineries fail to live up to standards, Va La is not one of them. Many of their wines were

truly excellent. As the tasting continued, we were entertained by a piano player, and ourselves.

Somewhere along the way, Bill Conway called wondering where we were. He and his friend Deborah didn't start with us at Pat's. Unfortunately, we switched the order of the tour around at the last minute. He thought we were going to Va La last, not first. We reassured him that we'd only be a few minutes more and would soon meet up with him. About a half hour later, we ambled out of Va La and hit the road, not before the phone rang again.

Tony LaBella was on the phone and he was on his way. After giving him some directions to our next destination, we were on our way, to Stargazers Vineyard.

My little red GTV led the way. Behind were Greg Shpungin's 1750 Spider, Frank Taormina's 2600 Spider, an Alfetta, Alan Aptner's Spider, Jim Itin's freshly painted and not quite fully-assembled Giulietta Veloce Spider and Charlie Crothers' Giulia Spider. Bringing up the rear was Jack Stoll in his GTV. Our parade traveled over hill and dale. The mushroom houses gave way to rows of feed corn which eventually gave way to horse farms. Then, at Unionville, we headed down to the Brandywine and traveled along its banks until we saw a little sign pointing to Stargazers Vineyard. From there, we turned into a neighborhood and quickly became confused. "How could there be a winery among these houses?" we thought. But, at the back of the street, a little road continued up the hill to.... Stargazers Vineyard.



*Deborah and Bill greet us at Stargazers Vineyard. They held our seats there.... for a few hours*

Stargazers gets its name from its proximity to "Stargazers Stone" a landmark used by the surveyors of the Mason-Dixon line. From their location, high above the valley cut by the Brandywine creek, you could imagine yourself in Tuscany. Alice and John Weygandt started the vineyard in 1979. Since then, it has transitioned from hobby to career to obsession. Alice welcomed us with open arms. She gave us tours of the facilities while her assistant poured wine to anyone with an empty glass. We could have spent hours there, under the shade of the canopy, enjoying the warm arid breeze and the lovely wines (Bill Conway and Deborah did!) but the day was drawing to a close

and Alice needed to get to her band concert. (Continued on Next Page)



Bill Conway's GTV-6 and Jim Itin's Giulietta "planted" at Stargazers



Outside the Four Dogs in Marshalton, PA.... or is it the UK?

## Winery Tour (From Previous Page)

Before that, we sent out a GTV to retrieve Tony LaBella who almost found the vineyard sign. Tony showed us his newest toy, an Intermeccanica, a Porsche 356 knock-off with all the looks of the original but with modern creature comforts. We said our goodbyes and headed back down the narrow lane and back along the creek.



Goodbye Stargazers, we'll be back!

Backtracking, we again passed the Brady's new digs making friends with the neighbors, cracking the bucolic summer silence with the cacophony of Italian machinery and rubber struggling to retain grip. One person, who stopped their car to watch the parade, gave the thumbs up. Another, perhaps less enthralled with the show, volunteered to make some of the stallions in our crew geldings should we drive past again. Apparently, not everyone appreciates Italian cars. A few short minutes later, we arrived in the village of Marshalton, where we finished our day with a light dinner at the Four Dogs Tavern.

Marshalton provided another perfect backdrop for photos. The 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings and green valleys made our European cars feel at home. The Four Dogs gave us our own large table upstairs, where the stone walls provided cooling relaxation for our well-traveled bodies. While the menu was surprisingly limited, it offered enough choices for everyone. We recounted the day's events and all agreed that our afternoon in our own Italy was just about as perfect as it could be.

Special thanks go out to Pat Carzo who organized this event, but could not enjoy it. We look forward to another great tour next year!

## In the Garage ....

# Getting Grounded

*Bob Brady*

On my way back from the 2004 AROC convention in New Hampshire, I stopped at a friend and fellow GTV owner's house in Connecticut. Pulling into his neighborhood, I realized that I made a wrong turn, so I stopped. The driver behind me was caught a bit by surprise and let me know. She told me that my tail lights were out on the GTV. When I checked them, I scoffed that they worked perfectly well, it's just that they were thirty years old. Furthermore, the left lens was a bit "smoked" from those periodic puffs of burnt Castrol. No problem.

On my way to the Head House Square show in June, Peter Webb was following my little GTV in his Milano. As we rapidly navigated the Schuylkill, I watched his car run up on mine and then suddenly dive, every time I had to slow down. "Hmm, maybe my tail lamps don't work as well as I thought," I admitted.

When I returned from the show, that day, I stopped by the parts store to buy some bulbs. When I got home, I removed the lenses and got to work.

The first thing I noticed was that the bulbs were fine, although they were a little corroded. Cleaning up the sockets and putting in new bulbs, I expected things to work perfectly, except they didn't. The right side was fine; tail lamp, turn signal, brake light all worked as they were supposed to. But, the left side was a different story. When I turned the lights on, they came on. When I hit the brake light, the turn signal went on as expected. Wait! That's not right. When I hit the brake light, the br.. turn signal lights up. Hmmm. Trying the turn signal, I found that the brake light flashed. "Clearly, this car is wired incorrectly!" I declared. "How could I have been driving this for all these years with the wires wrong?" I assuredly questioned. Without further inquiry, I set about switching wires.

It's moments like this that you need to stop. When you listen to yourself declare something ridiculous with supreme confidence, you must STOP! Having a significant other listen to you at these moments is often useful. Sometimes, however, having someone close question your absolute wisdom only serves to further validate your infallibility. STOP! Walk away.



Take a breath. Have a drink. Then, listen to what you just said. "Clearly this car is wired incorrectly!" (Continued on Next Page)

## Grounded (From Previous Page)

Now that you've stopped yourself, turn your brain on again. In a moment, I came to my senses and came to the logical conclusion that the car was wired correctly. No one messed with it. For years, the lights functioned perfectly well. Something else was the cause.

Then, I systematically went through each circuit. While this systems approach to problem solving is often touted by problem solving method consultants as the quickest, surest way to determine root cause, I have found, more often than not, that solutions emerge more serendipitously. No matter, at least going through the motions burns time until the random discovery makes itself known. In the case of my lights, as I traced circuit after circuit, I bumped the lamp mounting bolt.... alighting the turn signal bulb, the proper one! As it turned out, the tail lamp assembly's ground had gone awry. Without a proper ground, power was finding whatever path to ground it could find, sometimes going through the wrong bulb circuit. After a few minutes of attaching it properly, the bulbs lit as they should! I then took the opportunity to clean up the reflectors inside the lamps as well as the "smoked" lens. After they were reassembled, they worked better than I ever recall!

The other night, my wife informed me that her horse trailer's brakes wouldn't work anymore unless the truck's lights were turned on. I am absolutely, positively certain that someone has messed with the wiring.....

## Where Have All the Alfas Gone ?

*Bob Brady*

When you are president of the club, one of the perks(?) of the position is that you get to let the world know how to contact you. Because of that, I periodically get phone calls or emails from Alfa owners or people looking to become Alfa owners. While it took some getting used to, I have come to enjoy the interactions. It's sort of like having a friend who owns a boat. You can get all the enjoyment of boating without the hassle and expense of owning it yourself. Similarly, I can get the thrill of the chase without having to deplete my own bank and live with yet another car.

Recently, I've had a number of people contact me looking for cars. One in particular, is looking for a Giulia Spider. Although about a year ago I had stopped "looking for another" I volunteered to help him find "a nice driver." To my surprise, I found precious few cars.

A couple of years ago, you could find any number of Giulia or Giulietta Spiders for sale at any time. AlfaOwner had them in their classifieds. Hemmings had several. Online classifieds had even more. And then, there was always ebay, good for a half dozen for sale at any one time. There was always something decent available at a reasonable price. But something has happened. When I started looking for cars, I only turned up a couple. And, what I did find fell into two categories: basket case or concours queen, and priced accordingly. There was really nothing in between. So where have all the Alfas gone?

Well, one thing is for sure, there are an awful lot of vintage Alfas for sale in Europe. Just looking online at ads, you can see many classic Alfas for sale. The Netherlands seems to be where most of them are located. The Netherlands also has an extensive network of spares which is probably no coincidence. Oddly, I haven't seen too many for sale in Germany even though there are some top quality suppliers of spares there, as well. Perhaps it is the weak dollar that has made the United States the world's hunting ground for classic Alfas. Remember when all the cars were going to Japan?

On the other hand, there seems to be no shortage of 105/115 Spiders and GTVs. On any day, you can find several GTVs for sale on ebay and find scores of Spiders on the market, if you're willing to travel. Spiders from the 80's and 90's are particularly plentiful. They are reasonably priced, reliable, fun to drive and stand out amongst the normal cars you see on the road today. But, they probably won't get you in to that vintage rally or event limited to earlier cars. They also won't give you that vintage driving experience with skinny tires and lots of body roll that only cars of that era can deliver. In that case, you'll need to keep hunting.

If you're in a hurry and money is no object, you can always go to any one of several dealers throughout the country that specialize in vintage cars. Fantasy Junction near Berkeley, CA always has vintage Alfas in stock. If you don't mind going overseas, try Luzzago in Italy, Steutel, VSOC or Jan Peters in the Netherlands. Then, there are always auctions. The larger auctions in Monterey or Scottsdale always have an Alfa or two in their inventory. In general, however, finding that special vintage Alfa will likely take some time. It's probably unrealistic to open up the newspaper and find that perfect Alfa immediately. Allow yourself months to regularly scan Hemmings, Collector Car Trader, Alfa Owner, ebay and even Craigslist. Cars.com even has something interesting from time to time. Regularly buy some magazines such as Classic and Sports Car or Vintage Motorsports. Go to a good bookstore and browse other titles. All of these avenues will expand your possibilities. And then, there's good old-fashioned networking.

If you're in the market for a particular classic car, chances are that someone who owns the marque or works on it knows one for sale. Start by contacting local clubs. Then, check out car shows and ask owners. Find out who works on the cars and ask them. As the circle expands, the possibility of finding the right car also expands. Just keep plugging away. Something will come up. And, be assured, that when it rains, it pours. As soon as you close the deal on that perfect car, two or three more will pop up for sale. It never fails.

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 - \$ 40  
  1/2 page - \$ 80  
  full page - \$120

Classified ads are free to DVAROC members.

The DVAROC web address is at: [www.dvaroc.org](http://www.dvaroc.org)

Send La Voce submissions to:

Bob Brady  
631 Harveys Bridge Road  
Coatesville, PA 19320

(610) 486-1132 (eve)  
(302)366-0500x2814(day)  
[rampbrady@verizon.net](mailto:rampbrady@verizon.net)

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></p> <p>3 – Tri-Chapter Alfa Swap Meet and Lunch, York, PA            10 – Italian Car Show – Headhouse Square, PA            19 – Monthly Dinner – Lobster Trap            24 – DVAROC Winery Tour            22-25 – La Belle Macchina</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July</b></p> <p>14 – Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Pittsburgh, PA            15 – Summer Picnic and Rally, Ridley Creek State Park, PA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>August</b></p> <p>1-5 – AROC National Convention – Detroit, MI            4-5 – Das Awksfest – Macungie, PA  <b>12 – New Hope Auto Show, New Hope, PA</b>            21 – Monthly Dinner – Casselli’s – Roxborough, PA</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November</b></p>
<p>1-3 – Vintage Racing Festival – Lime Rock , CT            5-9 – SVRA Vintage Grand Prix – Watkins Glen, NY  <b>8-9 – 100 Cars of Radnor – Radnor, PA</b> <a href="http://www.radnorconcours.org">www.radnorconcours.org</a>  <b>15 – NJAROC Hudson Valley Tour – New York State</b>            16 - Hagley Car Show - Wilmington, DE            16 - Buckingham Auto Show, Holicong, PA (<a href="http://www.buckinghamautoshow.org">www.buckinghamautoshow.org</a>)  <b>18 – Monthly Dinner – Café La Fontana – Hatboro, PA</b></p>	<p><b>TBD – DVAROC Fall Picnic</b>  <b>16 – Monthly Dinner – Location TBD</b></p>	<p><b>TBD – Fall Tour</b>  <b>20 – Monthly Dinner – Location TBD</b></p>



**La Voce**  
 c/o Robert Brady  
 631 Harveys Bridge Road  
 Coatesville, PA 19320

*First Class Mail*