



# La Voce

Winter 2002

*newsletter of the delaware valley alfa romeo owners club*

## A Picnic in Paradise -

**Another  
Fabulous  
Fall Finale**



As summer draws to a close each year, the air turns a little crisper. The smell of mown grass fades as the scents of decaying leaves and fireplaces take over. The trees begin their traditional explosion of color. Farmers complete their harvests. Homeowners prepare their dwellings for winter. Alfisti drive.

For us, the Delaware Valley Alfa Owners, autumn is not only prime driving weather, but also picnic time. In October, we gathered at the Wessells' Brookside Farm, in Paoli for our annual ritual of comradeship and celebration of the cars we hold in such esteem, Alfa Romeos. While every picnic has been a day to remember, this one was particularly special.

As usual, the hosts provided a lovely assortment of Alfas to prime the field, including an elegant 1900 CSS, a Giulietta spider veloce, a well-preserved Alfetta GTV and a nearly new Milano Verde. Neither 6C attended this year, as the 1500GS had a "testa-fissa-ache" and the 3000CM was with its new owner. Filling in for them were some wonderful surprises courtesy of Willem van Huystee.

In the days before the picnic, Willem called to see if the club would allow a non-Alfa to attend. In the past, when Aston Martins and their ilk have joined the fun they were segregated away from the real stars. This year, however, an exception was made for his 1933 Maserati 8C3000 Grand Prix racecar, which took center stage, between his Alfas, a 1933 6C1750 GS and a lovely 2000 Spider. They must've made quite a spectacle as they drove from Lancaster to Paoli, the Maser avoiding low speeds and stops and their resultant fouled plugs. (Continued on page 7)

## **Mark Your Calendars! February 10 - Winter Lunch**

Winter got you down? Going through Alfa withdrawal? Our annual winter lunch is the perfect excuse to charge your Alfa's battery. Join us at La Fontana in Hatboro for a delicious Italian lunch and an afternoon of car talk. See the Events Calendar on Page 2 for details.

# Bob's Babblings

Bob Brady

**Apologies** Before I say anything, let me apologize for the very late notice on the winter lunch. As has become all too common, I found myself scrambling at the last moment to get out a LaVoce. I hope that the late notice has not caused much inconvenience, though I know it has. In the future, I hope to be a bit more organized, but I know that there will be scrambles to come. For what it's worth, those of you who sent me your email addresses get earlier warnings on events. The reality is that sending out a mass email is much more easy than publishing a newsletter, even a truncated one like this one. So, if you haven't been receiving any emails from me, it means you're not on the list. So, if you'd like to get earlier warnings of events, please send your email address to: [mpbrady@bellatlantic.net](mailto:mpbrady@bellatlantic.net).

**Thanks** This year's fall picnic was a great success by any measure. Once again, Henry and Nancy Wessells hosted the event and once again we were all enchanted by their warm hospitality. This year, we even had professional photos taken, many of which appear in these pages. I also want to thank Willem van Huystee for bringing some of his toys, the '33 Maserati and the '33 Alfa in particular, to share with us. The drive from Lancaster must have been a treat. I hope these become fixtures at future picnics. I also want to thank Frank Gil for once again, arranging the winter lunch for us. Finally, I want to thank Arthur Jones, Dan Sclararo and Charlie Crothers for graciously accepting to be on our events committee. Although we have yet to meet, we'll be sharing the organizing duties of the club's events over the year, which is a great relief to me.

**Help** Although it has been, and continues to be one of the most enjoyable tasks in my life, I recognize that I am beginning to fall short of what we need in a newsletter editor. So.... I am officially making the job available to anyone who wishes to take it on. In the interim, I'll continue to publish LaVoces as often as I can, but as my "free" time continues to dwindle, they will continue to be published erratically.

**On (off) The Road** The last few months have been both good and bad with respect to driving. On the positive side, I've managed to log quite a few miles on the Sprint. Some of those were particularly exciting, like the drive I took with my son on Thanksgiving.

After about a half hour of ruining the tranquility of some of Chester county's off the beaten track lanes, I stopped to let a fox hunt cross the road. When I made a cursory look at the gages, at least the few that work, I was alarmed to find the temperature gage above 200F and climbing. Thinking it was just some overheating due to driving harder than usual, I nonetheless pulled into a nearby parking lot to do some investigation. Steam billowed out of the engine bay as I opened the hood. "Not a good sign," I thought. After educating some passers by that I was driving an Alfa Romeo, not an MG, I ignored prudence and opened the still boiling radiator to find steam where coolant had once resided. Fortunately, a somewhat frozen garden hose was found just a few feet from my parking spot. Refreshed with the cold water, my temperature gage was now back to normal and Matthew and I continued on our journey. Almost instantly, the temperature gage began its ascent. Another mandatory stop was needed. This time, our rest stop was without water. So, we settled into what we thought was going to be a long wait. As our impatience grew, I opened the hood again to look for the cause of this new malady. This time, I immediately noticed a shredded piece of rubber where the water pump belt used to be. At least I knew what the problem was. Unfortunately, we were still about five miles from home. After discussing several possibilities, including walking home, we decided to drive home in stages. So, when the gage fell below 200F, we dashed a mile or two up the road and coasted to another rest stop. A couple more of these and we coasted into our

driveway, in plenty of time to begin carving the turkey. You might think finding a replacement belt would have been a pretty simple task. Unfortunately, it was not so. But, that's a story for another time.

Since that day, I've spent several weeks driving the Sprint daily. Overall, it's been a faithful, entertaining drive with only a few hiccups. At least I've managed to keep it on the asphalt, even during a very icy evening, which is more than I can say about the GTV.

The GTV has seen very few miles this year. One reason is that the seats and five-point harnesses I've installed in it don't make getting in and out easy. The other reason is that the shoes I need to wear at work are a bit too wide for the pedals. However, one day, I was headed for an off-site meeting and thought that the perfect opportunity to play.

Heading down my usual route of twisty roads with either ditches or berms I stayed light on the throttle since it was cold and the engine was not yet up to temperature. As the temperature came into range, I started to accelerate a bit. As I turned into a downhill left, I felt my rear go light. Then, expecting it to plant itself firmly to complete the turn, as it normally does, I found myself sliding sideways and heading for a hedgerow. Even a double espresso can't wake you up from your morning fog like an unexpected spin. By the time my "In a spin, both feet in" reflex engaged, my little GTV was being controlled by the ditch that grabbed my left side wheels. Weeds and hedges smeared along my side window. My headlights showed only more weeds to come. A few seconds later, I was stopped. The mud laughed at me as I naively tried to pull out. Crawling out the passenger side, I stared in amazement at my predicament. "How could this happen," I thought, "I wasn't even going fast!" "This is not the way to start a day," I mumbled. Fortunately, my wife of infinite patience and understanding answered my call and packed the sleepy-eyed kids into the Suburban along with a couple of tow straps. A few minutes after their arrival, I pulled the muddy but remarkably undamaged Alfa back on the road.... and headed off to work.

I hope everyone is having a better time of keeping their Alfas on the road than I. See you at the winter lunch, bob.

## Classifieds:

**1988 Milano Verde Parts:** Parting out '88 Verde. Engine, front Recaros and window switches gone. Many good parts left including doors, hood, trunklid, flares/skirts, spoiler, etc [Dan Sclararo](mailto:Dan.Sclararo@215-782-1478), 215-782-1478

**1958 Spider Veloce** Matching numbers. A nice driver, but not a perfect car. Priced appropriately at \$12,500. Also willing to trade for a nice coupe. Dave West 610 240 0264, [dave@shootersinc.com](mailto:dave@shootersinc.com)

**1987 Milano Platinum:** good Blue/Grey paint, no dents, first indication of rear wheel well rust, decent interior (sunroof headliner missing), everything works, 130kmi, tired motor and tired gearbox. Driven daily until recently. \$500 takes it. 610-838-9970 Domenick.

**1974 GTV:** disassembled, custom cage and 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 years. 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

**105/115 Parts:** 2 good BWA wheels \$45 each, a third in poor cond. for \$15. New IAP rear 5/8 sway bar for \$90.00. Mark Berger 610-989-0199

**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

**Multiples:** 1983 gtv/6 19K miles Silver/Blue, 1979 Alfetta 19K miles Ivory/Chocolate. Bill Conway, 973-839-9239 [Bill.Conway@neclease.com](mailto:Bill.Conway@neclease.com)



## Events Calendar: \* Indicates DVAROC Event

### \*\*February 10 - DVAROC Winter Lunch - Cafe La Fontana - Hatboro Pa.

Thanks again to Frank Gil, on February 10 at 2:00pm, the DVAROC will hold our annual winter lunch at Cafe La Fontana in Hatboro, PA. Cafe La Fontana is located at 58 South York Road in Hatboro. Their phone number is 215-672-8118. The luncheon menu is as follows:

Appetizer:	Cozze - Mussels in marinara, white wine and garlic with grilled bread, Gamberoni al cognac - sautéed shrimp w/cognac and light pink sauce, and Mozzarella ala Caprese - Mozzarella and roasted peppers. The appetizers will be served buffet style.
Soup or Salad:	Soup of the day, or a mixed greens salad.
Entree: Your choice of:	Penne Pollo - penne with sautéed chicken, mushrooms, garlic, onions and herbs in a white wine sauce Penne al Salmone - penne with smoked salmon in a light pink sauce, or Penne Puttanesca - penne with diced tomatoes, garlic, olives, capers, herbs, peppers and anchovies.

The cost for the above will be \$23 per person and includes soda, iced tea, or coffee. Desserts, should you still have room, will be available at extra cost. A children's menu will also be available for \$8 per child, consisting of chicken fingers with fries or penne pasta with butter or tomato sauce, soda, and cake. Note that La Fontana now has a liquor license, so beer and wine will be available for purchase. Dress is casual. Parking will be in a lot close by, off the street, behind Gamborg's Furniture. This year, we'll have two special door prizes, courtesy of Frank Gil. We'll also be handing out posters from the Concours d'Elegance at Lehigh, last spring. Please bring any ideas for events you'd like to see with you. RSVP with your selection by February 8th or direct questions to Bob Brady (610)925-1837 or [mpbrady@bellatlantic.net](mailto:mpbrady@bellatlantic.net).

### February 21-24 - Atlantic City Classic Car Auction - Atlantic City, NJ

Need a new toy for the spring? Now is your opportunity to pick one up! The annual Classic Car Auction and Swap Meet will be held at the Atlantic City Convention Center. For more information call: A swap meet and antique market will also be held there. For more information, call 800-227-3868 or see: [www.acclassiccars.com](http://www.acclassiccars.com).

### April 19-21 - SVVSCC Hershey Vintage Hillclimb - Hershey, Pa.

The SVVSCC is bringing back the pageantry of this historic race meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> thru the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002. Participating vehicles will be pre-1973 and tech inspection approved. Drivers must possess a current or previously held competition license. Timed runs will take place on Saturday and Sunday. A Friday evening Welcoming Party will be held during the initial Tech Inspection. A Saturday evening Participant's Reception gala at the Hotel Hershey. An AACA-judged race car show on Saturday, benefiting the AACA Museum project. Open to all vintage and recent race cars representing any type of racing. AACA membership is not required. For car clubs and spectators, a Sports Car & Vintage Corral separate from the general parking area. For more information see: [www.svvsc.org](http://www.svvsc.org) or contact Stan Capenter at: 717-502-1023.

### April 26-27 - CTAROC Driver School and Time Trials - Lime Rock, Ct.

The excellent CTAROC Driver School and Time Trials will be held on April 26-27 this year. Lime Rock is a great, beautiful track. No experience is necessary to enjoy this liberating experience. For more information, contact Bob Brady at 610-925-1837.

### Other Events???

Over the next month, we'll be laying out the calendar of events for the rest of the year. 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](mailto:mpbrady@bellatlantic.net)

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

Commercial Ads should coordinated through Bob Brady.

Rates, per edition, are:

1/8 page - \$ 20
1/2 page - \$ 60
full page - \$100

Classified ads are free to DVAROC members.

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# Fall Picnic (Con't from front page)

Driving the Maserati is clearly not for the faint of heart. In addition to keeping the high strung straight eight happy, the pilot has to keep away from the exposed driveshaft which runs between the pedals and under the seat! In addition to the spinning shaft, the rear wheels, just inches from the driver's shoulder complete the feeling of being an integral part of this mechanical thoroughbred. Stopping is state of the art for 1933, massive finned drums, actuated by cables. Willem has made some concessions to make driving this beast a bit easier. Starting is electric, avoiding the need to use the large crank at the front. It also sports a pair of modern driving lights for those nighttime Mille Miglia stages. The car is truly a time machine, built when very few race drivers lived into retirement.



*The Maserati 8C snorts to life in a cloud of Castrol*

The '33 Alfa is a remarkable contrast. Where the Maser is stark and purposeful, the Alfa is refined and comfortable. Technically, they are similar but were clearly built with different purposes. The Alfa sports complete fenders, a full windshield and a cockpit built with touring in mind. It is the perfect car for a Sunday picnic in the country, or at Brookside Farm. We're glad Willem was able to share this Italian beauty with a field of its cousins and distant relatives and hope to see it, and the Maser, again next year.



*Henry Wessells helps Ruth Wolf figure out what that big crank is for in front of the '33 Maserati 8C*

Among the other notable Alfas, were Wicker Francis' showroom perfect Giulietta Spider Veloce and Jim Itin's Giulia

Sprint. There were also a gaggle of GTVs, a wide selection of Spiders, from Giuliettas, Giulias, a 2000, a 2600, a round tail and many other Kamm tails.

Once again, it was a wonderful afternoon of group therapy, Alfa style, among the majestic autumn leaves and best company. Thank you, Henry and Nancy Wessells for hosting this superb annual event.



*Nancy Wessells, the Gils, and Charlie Crothers above the field of dreams.*



*Wicker Francis shows his concours Spider Veloce to Arthur Jones*



*Arthur Jones, Jack Stoll and company inspect 34 years of Alfas*



In this issue: Fall Picnic  
Photos Galore.... and more



*A Parting Shot from the Fall Picnic..... See You Next Year!*



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*First Class Mail*