

UNA NOTIZIA

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 3 THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS CLUB OF OKLAHOMA APRIL 2010

Racing Karts, Fixing Rear Ends

The busy spring and early summer season kicks off this month with one of the most highly-anticipated events of the Alfa calendar: Kart Racing at JRP Speedway, Sunday April 18 at 3:00 p.m. JRP is located at 5920 W 51, Tulsa. There's nothing like a track full of highly competitive Alfisti to make kart racing fun and exciting. Plans are for pizza afterwards at Joe Momma's in downtown Tulsa. RSVP to Autumn (kuhawk4life@hotmail.com), so we'll have a count. If you aren't going to race, join us for pizza, but let Autumn know, please.

Your rear end might be a little worse for the wear after a session of kart racing, but it's Alfa rear ends that will be the focus of our first tech session, Saturday, April 24 at 1:00 p.m. in David Simmons shop, 922 S 263 W Ave, Sand Springs. If your Alfa's rear end needs work or you want to learn more about what makes an Alfa rear end work or you just want to hang with some Alfa Guys for a few hours, this session is for you.

Be sure to make your reservations for our May event: a fun trip to the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge at the top of the Talimena Trail. We'll stop in Krebs for a great Italian lunch and then shop at Lovera's Italian Grocery for our cookout that evening. Rooms are still available. Call 1-800-264-2477 for reservations.

Alfas and spring were made for each other. Celebrate both with a joyful drive over a wonderful Alfa road!

See you at a Club event soon.



Stonebluff Winery owner Bob McBratney hand labels a bottle of port during the Club's tour March 27. Alfisti purchased several bottles of port.

Events

APRIL

18 Kart Racing,
3:00 p.m. JRP Speed-
way, 5920 W 51, Tulsa.

24 Tech Session,
Alfa rear ends, 1:00
p.m., Simmons. 922
S 263 W Ave, Sand
Springs.

MAY

15 Talimena Drive

JUNE

5 Tech Session
11-13 Sand Springs
Car Show

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Anthony Nigro and Rosie and Karl Schmid listen intently as Bob McBratney explains the process of wine making during the Club tour of Stonebluff Winery near Haskell.

Queen Wilhelmina Reservations

Imagine a perfect Spring day in May, a caravan of Alfas, outstanding Italian food for lunch, grocery shopping for picnic and cookout supplies at an authentic Italian grocery, an exhilarating drive over one of the best sports car roads in the U.S. and then the picnic and cookout while watching the sun set over the southeastern Oklahoma mountains.

You don't have to imagine. You can do it on May 15. Mark your calendar now and call the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge at the top of the Talimena Trail for reservations. Assistant social director Claudia Oswalt reserved a block of ten rooms for us: 1-800-264-2477. Tell them you're with the Alfa Romeo Owners Club.

Spring Fling

The St. Louis Club-hosted Spring Fling is April 30 - May 2 in Washington, MO.

David and I (and Les and Joan Neidell) attended last year and had a great time. We highly recommend it. It was a fun time with the usual Alfa weekend activities: conversation, food, drink, rally, autocross, concours, plus an art show.

We've registered and plan to leave Friday morning for Spring Fling. If you'd like to join us, let us know and we'll drive together. The registration form is on page 7 of this newsletter.

Voting Reminder

April 15 at midnight is the deadline for voting for the AROC National Board of Directors. If you received an email notification, you can vote online. Check the March, 2010 *Alfa Owner* for candidate biographies.

AROC Website Update

The AROC website (www.aroc-usa.org) has been updated with a new General Forum subject

listing.

The new Forum subject, "Alfa Repair and Restore Tips," was created as a place where repair, restoration, or modification tips can be published.

The AROC forum subjects are searchable, so those Alfisti who are looking for help could do a search on the "Alfa Repair & Restore Tips" and possibly find something that would be useful or give them a new idea.

Since the Alfa R&R Tips subject is new, obviously there will be very few items that are available for searching immediately, but we are asking our members, as they come up with a process to fix their Alfa, or find a new supplier of Alfa parts, particularly specialty or seldom needed parts, to add that to the "Alfa Repair & Restore Tips" subject forum.

The first entry is from AROC member Ron Rutter who has found a supplier of 164

headliner repair fabric that matches the existing in style and thickness.

If you have other items that you think will be helpful to Alfisti please go to the AROC website and post your tip. These can be articles you wrote for your local chapter newsletter, the Alfa Owner magazine, or for tips you sent to an online Alfa site.

Thank you for your support and visit the website, we try to keep it up to date with new items of interest.

Caffeine and Gasoline

If spending a Saturday morning with fellow Eurosports enthusiasts sounds like your cup of coffee, then an invitation from the BMWCCA/BMW Motorsports is for you.

The Tulsa version of Cars and Coffee meets the third Saturday of each month at Kingspoint Village, 61st and Yale, from 9:00 11:30 a.m. The monthly event is free and open to any Euro motorsport enthusiast.

The next meeting is this Saturday, April 17.

July 11 in KC

Our friends in our sister club in Kansas City have invited us to be part of an Alfa Romeo 100th Birthday Celebration Car Show, Sunday, July 11. The show is at the Vox Theatre in Kansas City, Kansas 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The KC Maserati dealer, Aris-

trocat Motors, is sponsoring the celebration and will display their cars.

The Kansas City Club would like to have 30 or more cars at the show. There is no charge for showing your Alfa and trailer parking is available.

If enough Alfisti come on Saturday, the KC group will schedule something on Saturday night.

June 11-13 in Sand Springs

Make plans now for our participation in the Fourth Annual EeMoEx Car

Show in Sand Springs, sponsored by the Jaguar Club of Tulsa. The registration form and schedule of events are at www.eumoex.com.

Vintage Racing at Hallett

The Corinthian Vintage Racing group is racing at Hallett this weekend, April 16-18. Racing starts at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday—yet another car event in a busy weekend!

First drives

Alfa Romeo Giulietta 1.4 TB 170 (2010) CAR review

By Chris Chilton

12 April 2010 23:30

<http://www.carmagazine.co.uk/Drives/Search-Results/First-drives/Alfa-Romeo-Giulietta-14-TB-170-2010-CAR-review/>

Alfa Romeo is launching the new 2010 Giulietta to replace its 147 in the heartland mid-sized hatch. So the new Alfa Giulietta faces up to some pretty competent machinery, such as the VW Golf, Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra.

What's going on? I thought Alfas were meant to look great and be terrible to drive. Let's hope this one drives better than it looks...

We assume you're talking about the Giulietta's less than beautiful face on this new C-segment fighter. Granted, it's bland and formless after the chiselled muscularity of the old 147, but we've got modern pedestrian crash legislation to thank for that. The Giulietta's snout is a grower anyway and the rest of the shape makes up for it. The chunky hind quarters mean you need to move up from the basic 16in rims but the rear three-quarter view is swoopingly fantastic to these eyes.

The new 2010 Giulietta looks much bigger than the old 147 It is, but that's because Alfa has replaced the 147 with two [cars](#): the smaller three-door Mito and the five-door-only Giulietta.

The big hatch is fractionally bigger than a Golf with a generous 350-litre boot and a back seat that doesn't quite offer [best in class](#) accommodation (the squab is too low and kneeroom only average) but is at least competitive.

So what's underneath the new Giulietta? A Fiat Bravo chassis? Hardly going to battle for top honours with that arsenal!

That's why Alfa left it in the parts bin, instead developing an all-new lightweight steel platform that will underpin the next wave of Alfa Romeos – plus the next Fiat Bravo. Using high-strength steel means the finished [car](#) weighs 1365kg, little more than the smaller 147 and much less than Vauxhall's porky Astra. It bodes well...

But is the Giulietta any good?

Oh yes. For a start the Giulietta rides with a suppleness that's been sorely lacking in recent Alfas, even on our optioned-out test car with its sportier dampers and 17in wheels. It steers crisply too thanks to a new fully electric twin pinion steering rack whose motor is mounted away from the steering column to minimise artificial sensations through the rim.

With just 2.2 turns between the stops it's fast but never nervous around the straight ahead and with a realistic build-up of weight as the cornering

continued on p. 6

A Day with Wine and Alfas

Any day involving driving Alfas, tasting wine and having delicious food for lunch has to be a good one! Our third annual wine tour was a good day in the rolling hills of northeastern Oklahoma.

Our trip to Stonebluff Winery, southeast of Tulsa near Haskell met all the criteria for a good Alfa day. A drive down the Broken Arrow Expressway, through Coweta and on some country roads and we were soon a Stonebluff. A parking lot full of Thunderbirds greeted us—their owners had the same plans for a Saturday.

Stonebluff owner/vinter Bob McBratney greeted us in the tasting room/gift shop, expressed his admiration for Alfas and led us on a tour of the winery.

If it moves, Alfa Guys want to know how and why, so Bob answered many questions about the

mechanics of his equipment, most of which is Italian. The grape press is German.

Since it is early spring, Bob described the kinds of grapes planted at Stonebluff and the kinds of wine produced there. A question about whether groups could visit during pressing time was answered with a “yes.” Bob mentioned putting a date in the Stonebluff newsletter, so we may have another event to add to our calendar.

After the tour, we went back to the tasting room to sample the wares, choose a bottle of wine to accompany lunch and perhaps several bottles to take home. Then we retired to the dining room to enjoy the food, the scenery and the conversation.

After a leisurely lunch, we left with memories of yet another terrific Alfa Day.



Anthony Nigro checks the lunch menu before placing his order.



Jamie Perlingiere watches as a bottle of Stonebluff wine is uncorked for tasting.



Karl Schmid reflects on a wine he has just tasted as wife Rosie holds the selection form.



Bob McBratney explains how the press works as Karl Schmid and Anthony Nigro watch.



Bob describes another piece of equipment to an attentive audience: Karl Schmid, Anthony Nigro, Scott Fowler and David Simmons.



Scott Fowler pays close attention to the description of the fermenting tanks.



Looking out over the vineyards: Bob McBratney, Anthony Nigro, Karl Schmid, David Simmons.

speeds rise. And they really can rise: the Q2 electronic differential standard on every single model provides a staggering amount of traction, even on rain-drenched tarmac and the body control on our sport-equipped car was good.

Sounds like the new Alfa Giulietta deserves a decent engine to make the most of it. What's under the bonnet?

There are five engines at launch, all turbocharged and featuring direct injection. The bottom rung is a 1.4-litre with 118bhp that does 62mph in less than 10sec and achieves 44mpg. But add Fiat's brilliant Multiair hydraulically operated valvetrain system and power climbs to 168bhp, the 0-62mph sprint drops to 7.8sec, fuel consumption improves by 5mpg and CO2 falls by 15g/km. This is an impressive motor but it's been tuned to work hard in the mid range and doesn't take kindly to you trying to introduce needle to red zone.

If you need more speed there's the 232bhp 1750 TB, a Golf GTI rival that's good for 62mph in 6.8sec and 150mph flat out. Or if 50mpg isn't good enough there are a couple of diesels: a 104bhp 1.6 or 168bhp 2.0 JTDM common-rail diesels, Alfa claiming that the gap between the two isn't as great as the numbers suggest. All are powered by a six-speed manual gearbox but there's a dual-clutch option for most engines too. And every unit bar the 1750 gets start-stop as standard.

Bit flaky inside though I'll bet!

Have you driven an Alfa recently? I'm guessing not because while they're often disappointing to drive, there are rarely letdowns when it comes to fit and finish these days. Perhaps the Giulietta isn't quite up there with the Golf, but it's not far off. There's chunky soft-touch material on the dash top and doors; clear, hooded dials; and rubberised toggle switches instead of boring old pushbuttons. This is a place in which you'd be happy to spend a lot of time.

Gripes? The metal-look but really plastic gearknob feels cheap, uncomfortable and slippery; there's not enough space in the cabin to stash mobile phones wallets and MP3 players; the front seats need more lateral support and

the back seats, while competitive on space, are short on under-thigh support. But the front seat comfort, the range of driving positions available and the boot are a match for the Volkswagen's. It leaves the Golf behind for kit too. Climate control, six airbags, the Q2 diff and the DNA selector are standard across the range which starts at around £17k with the brilliant Multiair driven here costing more like £19k.

Verdict

No more excuses? None needed. The Giulietta is the first Alfa Romeo in a long time that actually drives better than it looks. Of course being an Alfa it's beaten in some areas by less interesting rivals. But the Giulietta is fun to drive, stylish and cleverly engineered – exactly the car Alfa needs. And if the success of the far less accomplished Mito is anything to go by, it's going to be a smash. Place a bet for this to become the European Car of the Year 2011.



Spring Fling 2010

Alfa Owners of St Louis Phil Dean, Pres (636) 795-5015 Norma Urani, Registration (314) 638-9729

Where Washington MO environs, (approxim-
agely 40 miles west of St Louis)

When Friday April 30
Saturday May 1
Sunday May 2

Events Rally/tour thru Missouri wine country
Autocross
Concours
Art Exhibition
Swap Meet
Banquet
Awards Brunch

Registration \$25 per car

Hotel Super 8 Motel
2081 Eckelkamp Court
Washington MO
(636) 390-0088

Contact hotel by Mar 31 for reserva-
tion and mention "Alfa Club"

Friday Night Chats & Drinks: 3 - 6 pm at Motel 8
Dinner: 6 pm Pizza Party at Motel 8
Cost \$10 per person, pay on site

Saturday Banquet
Door prizes and entertainment
Cost \$30 per person

Sunday Awards Brunch
Individual check

Art Exhibition
Theme: *Cento* (100)
Original works in all media are eli-
gible for popular vote judging

Spring Fling 2010 Registration

Make check payable to: Alfa Owners of St Louis
Send registration form and check by April 23 to
Norma Urani
8301 Julia Dr.
St Louis MO 63123
(314) 638-9729

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

CAR DESCRIPTION

EVENTS YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN:

- SATURDAY RALLY
- SATURDAY ART EXHIBITION
- SUNDAY AUTOCROSS
- SUNDAY CONCOURS
- FRIDAY NIGHT PIZZA PARTY
- SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET
- SUNDAY AWARDS BRUNCH

APPROXIMATE ARRIVAL TIME

CAR REGISTRATION (\$25 PER CAR) \$ _____

BANQUET DINNER (\$30 PER PERSON) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

2009 Kart Racing
2010 version: April 18!



JR Purvis is ready to race!

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ email _____

Tell us about your Alfa(s) _____

Dues are \$65.00/year, renewable on anniversary. Send check and application form to June Mustari, 4128 E. 37th Place, Tulsa, OK 74135.

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