

UNA NOTIZIA

VOLUME 22 , NUMBER 1 THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS CLUB OF OKLAHOMA JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2008



Toly Arutunoff checks the line for bowling during Alfa Bowl Jan. 19.

Events

MARCH

13-16 Tulsa Auto Show

APRIL

12 Wine Tour
26/27 Tech Session

MAY

2-4 Spring Fling,
Washington,
MO. St. Louis
Club.

17 Talimena Trip

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Tulsa Auto Show?

For the first time in many years, our participation in the Tulsa Auto Show isn't certain. The Alfa Club display space during past shows has been sold to Scion. (Imagine the reaction when show go-ers head down the ramp, expecting to see Alfas and instead see Scions. . .) Car clubs are assigned as space is available and as soon as David Simmons knows, we'll get the word out. Watch the website and your email for updates.

Our own Les Neidell is running for the AROC National Board of Directors. The biographies and ballots will be included in the April *Alfa Owner*. Encourage your friends in other chapters to vote for him, too!

Plans are in the works to visit Greg and Misty Gordon's Hi-Performance shop in Sapulpa, followed by lunch at an Italian restaurant. Again, watch the website and your email for the date and time.

Our social director, Autumn Perlingiere, is putting together our April 12 Wine Tour. This one will head west from Tulsa toward Stroud, which will make it convenient for OKC Alfisti to join us.

January and February were busy months. We started with our post-Holiday party at Doug and Mary Harris' house, continued with Alfa Bowl and held our traditional drive-and-eat progressive dinner party, Romeo and Giulietta on Feb. 9.

Celebrate Spring (which is surely on its way) on an Alfa Road soon!



Romeo and Giulietta is about food and driving, but no Alfa Guy can resist checking under a hood or two when the need arises. David Simmons and Russ Neely check under the hood of Peg Neely's newly-acquired low-mileage Milano in the Perlingiere driveway during the entree and dessert stop on the Club's annual progressive dinner in honor of Valentine's Day.

Member news

Congratulations to *John and Rose DiMaggio* on their new grandson Leonardo Joseph born Jan. 10. Retirements to celebrate: *Paul Garrosino* from BP and *Keith Kelly* from American Airlines. Both are gainfully employed by other companies now!

Summer Plans

As you're planning your summer calendar, don't forget two important Alfa events. The first is June 14 in Sand Springs—the second annual EuroExtravaganza, co-sponsored by AROCOK and the Jaguar Club of Tulsa.

The second is the AROC National Convention, the 50th anniversary of the Club's founding. The convention runs June 18-22 in Chicago.

Go to www.rocok.org for links to registration for both events.

Top Tech Session

Protect your Spider from those April showers with a new top, installed during the April 26 or 27 tech session. The tech session is in response to members requests. The moral of the story: order your new top now and if you want to learn how to do something about or on your Alfa, request a tech session. We'll get it scheduled.

Test Drive the 8C

Virtually, that is. Thanks to Phyllis Tilden of the Kansas City Club for sending this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jK2h5UMATu4>. It's a kick! Enjoy!

2008 Ballot

The 2008 ballot is included in this newsletter. You can email yours to our secretary Keith Kelly at kgrpkelly@aol.com or mail it to him at 4004 E 88 Street, Tulsa, OK 74137-2667. Don't forget to vote!

Tulsa Auto Show Schedule

If we are part of the Tulsa Auto Show again this year, we'll need volunteers for set-up, working show hours to answer questions and keep an eye on the cars and taking down the display Sunday evening. Much of the fun of the Tulsa Auto Show is talking to people about Alfas. An amazing number have owned an Alfa at some point and wish they had never sold it. And watching parents explain the intricacies of the cutaway engine is worth a couple of hours of volunteer time! S

Tuesday, March 11 - Set up, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12 - Finish setting up, if necessary. VIP Preview Party, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, March 13-14. Show hours 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, March 15 - 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday, March 16 - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Takedown after 6:00 p.m.

SWITZERLAND: ALFA ROMEO 8C SPIDER TO DEBUT

AT GENEVA MOTOR SHOW

By Glenn Brooks 20 February, 2008. Source: Automotive World

The roadster version of the Alfa 8C Competizione is to have its world premiere at the Geneva motor show on 4 March, Alfa Romeo has announced. As was the case with the Competizione, only 500 examples of this convertible version will be built. The new Alfa 8C Spider is powered by the same Ferrari derived 4.7-litre V8 as that fitted to the closed-roof car, while drive is channelled through a six-speed paddle shift gearbox to the rear wheels.



Alfa 8C Spider

Auction Orgy – Scottsdale/Phoenix 2008

by Les Neidell

Out of the blue, a phone call from my son, David. "Dad, would you like to meet me in Phoenix January 16? I'll be there on business but we could hit a couple of the auctions."

A no-brainer.

BY THE TIME I GET TO PHOENIX. . .

For the car guy or girl, auction time in Phoenix is a Mecca. Beginning Monday, January 14, and continuing for two weeks, six auctions are scheduled – about 2500 collector cars in one location to be viewed, touched, sat in, and, for the owners, hopefully sold.

My task – plan the visits, working around his business schedule.

My only experience was several Kruse auctions here in Tulsa, and many years ago in Atlanta. No preparation for what lay ahead.

Where to begin? Fortunately, *Sports Car Market* magazine published a supplement to their last issue. "Insider's Guide to the Arizona Auctions," that provided websites and phone numbers. I decided to prepay bidders' passes for three of the auctions, an expensive, and as it turned out, necessary expense. I DID NOT buy these for Barrett-Jackson; the only advance bidder pass cost \$500 for two persons. While valid for the entire six days of the B-J auction, it didn't appear to be cost effective since we decided to sample as many as we could attend.

BARRETT-JACKSON

We did visit Barrett-Jackson; it's a spectacle and event that should not be missed. Imagine over 1000 collector cars of all types and vintages, displayed under a series of tents. A separate auction hall that's at least as large as the Expo Center. All kinds of auto-related booths, and dozens of food stands – from tacos to fine dining. Consider – ALL CARS ARE NO RESERVE!! It's a feeding orgy as typically hundreds of bidders are present (out of about 5000 registered) at any one time – while there may be 5 or 6000 spectators. Over the week's time about 250,000

total admissions will be sold. It's the place to be if you're buying, perhaps not if you're selling. But you will get maximum exposure to potential buyers, if not maximum effort from the auctioneer. We were there for about six hours Wednesday afternoon, with only about 30 minutes actually watching the auctions. Our impressions, later verified by others, it was a "buyer's market," with prices perhaps 30% less than expected. Of course, there were exceptions, but judicious bidding, especially early afternoon on weekdays, could result in a below "market" purchase.

RUSO & STEELE

From Barrett-Jackson, off to neighboring Russo & Steele for their opening gala. Incredible event – exceptional food, and extraordinary mixture of attendees, from car guys in somewhat greasy overalls to Phoenix's elite, in ball gowns and tuxes.

Thursday was a necessary "sleep-in" day, and we got to Russo & Steele about noon to preview the cars – about 500 in all – mainly American muscle, but with a nice sprinkling of Ferraris, two beautiful Lamborghinis, a number of Jaguars and a couple of Alfas. Russo & Steele is an intimate atmosphere, not like the cavernous Barrett-Jackson. Bidders and viewers swarm around the cars, drinks and food are freely available; the side men and women call people by their first name when they bid. The entire four-day event is orchestrated by Drew Alcazar, the implausible high energy owner of R&S. Unlike B-J, most of the cars have reserves, but watching Drew work on owners to lower their reserves is almost worth the entire admission.

We were so engrossed that we missed the opening gala for the RM Auction, which was our main destination the following day, Friday.

FRIDAY

Friday turned out to be a very busy day, with a business meeting at 7:30, a Corvette breakfast seminar, THREE auctions, and a business dinner meeting. Thankfully, the supplier's salesman with whom we had dinner was formerly a

Corvette owner, and it didn't take much persuasion to get him to accompany us to Russo & Steele for the evening.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

SILVER AUCTIONS: THE BUDGET OPTION

Breakfast at Russo & Steele for the Corvette Seminar. Then to Silver Auctions, about an hour east of Phoenix in Fort McDowell. This is the budget option, bidders' passes are free; admission runs \$25 for the entire four days. The cars reflect the low budget option – generally American street cars, some muscle, and a smattering of others. I was there to bid on lot #1, a 1984 Maserati Quattroporte with 30,000 miles. A real oddball for that auction, and I figured a bid of about \$10 - \$15,000 might do it. (Price guides – a necessary accessory – listed a Q4 in #2 condition to be in the \$9600 - \$12400 range, while a #1 would top at \$19,000.) Boy, was I off-base! The bidding topped at 28K, while the owner held out for \$35K!

AUCTION BUYING AND SELLING

A briefing on auction selling and buying. Sellers pay an entrance fee, generally \$500 - \$1000. Then, if the car sells they pay 7-10% of the selling price, while the winning bidder pays another 9-10%! Figure that on average – the auction company collects 19% of the selling price.

We sat at Silver for another hour or so, and decided our time could be better used elsewhere. But if you're local, it's a great place for unusual daily transportation. Consider a 1984 Cadillac deVille, with 34,000 miles for \$2400.

RM AUCTIONS: FROM BUDGET TO ELITE

Off to RM Auctions – from the budget to the elite. RM's 280 page 4-color catalog is \$75 by itself! This is the high dollar European and American classic car venue. British auctioneer, deluxe surroundings, very refined. The auctioneer would turn to a bidder, "Your turn, sir. Do you need more time?" A number of telephone bidders, especially for the rare and high dollar items.

Top sale was a 1934 Packard with a Dietrich body - \$2.035 million. Or if you wanted American for slightly less, the 1929 Duesenberg

Model J was available: \$1.760 million. A 1966 Ferrari 275 GTB could have been yours if you wanted to bid against the \$1.375 winning bid. You get the general picture. But there were some possibilities for us "common folks."

The opening car was a 1960 MGA coupe – probably one of the best in the world – a "reasonable" \$26,400. All the auctions featured American pick-ups. Here there were a 1948 Mercury, a 1952 Ford, a 1957 Chevy, and a 1941 Dodge (with a "rare Inferno recirculation hot-water heater") ranging 30 - \$50K.

My bids: 1970 Ford Torino Cobra 429 SCJ; the bidding had stalled in the high 20's. Simply the wrong car for this venue. The guides list this as a \$50-60K car; unfortunately everyone has the same guides. It was bought as far as I could tell by a dealer for \$46,750. Gotta be among the best buys of the week. I also bid on the last lot of the day – 1974 Porsche Carrera Targa – average car, listed in the price guides for \$25-35K. Went for \$30,250.

RUSSO & STEELE AGAIN

Back to Russo & Steele for the evening entertainment.. Incredible. A really hot blonde, tattooed ALL OVER, danced next to the cars as they were brought into the arena. Next day's rumor, it was really body paint, and she was hired by Drew.

GOODING

Last day – Saturday – off first to another high dollar auction – Gooding, again \$75 for the catalog. We missed the previous day's viewing and when we arrived found that viewing was basically closed day of the auction. But our compensation was the best champagne breakfast I have ever had! Again, a very British atmosphere, but not as refined as RM. Gooding bills themselves as Ferrari specialists, and they didn't disappoint – 8 of the 72 lots had prancing horses on their sides. And we're not talking Dinos! Top sale of the day, and tops for the weekend, 1959 250 California spider - \$3.3 mil.

ALFAS

Alfas from the ridiculous to the sublime.

Opening was a pretty trashy 1961 Giulietta – decent paint but wrong engine/transmission, rusty underneath. I had wanted to bid but it was scary. Unbelievable winning bid \$30K – someone in audience who thought price was too low and bid from afar. We heard later real buyer remorse. Other Alfa – 1932 6C 1750 spider – only \$1.54 mil. Some cars out of place – and bidding stalled.

I thought about a remarkable 1963 Buick Riviera, but so did a couple of other folks. I bid 28K on a terrific 1966 Olds Toronado (\$28K vs winning \$36K), thought about 1959 Cadillac Coupe de Ville – 25K miles, and lusted after a 1963 Triumph TR4 Surrey Top – national 1st place winner (\$40K). Also bid on a radical custom, based on a 1959 Plymouth Fury – well over \$100,000 in build receipts, incredible paint – numerous awards, that went for 54K. At Russo & Steele this was at least a \$75K item. Finally, a very ordinary TR6 – usually found at British Iron venues for asking price of \$15,000, sold for 24 thousand.

ABOUT THAT CADILLAC

Story about the Cadillac. Absolutely wrong venue – bidding stalled low 20s. Just as I raised my paddle the guy in front of me bid; he eventually was high bidder – 46K. Same guy that bought the 3.3 mil Ferrari!

RUSSO & STEELE FOR THE LAST TIME

Last day – back to Russo & Steele. Two cars slated at plus 11PM that might be possible – 69 Alfa spider, above average repaint, very little chassis rust and no apparent bondo, still with Spica and written instructions how to start & not flood engine! Electronic ignition replaced the distributor, which was in the trunk. Engine generally unkempt – scary without any receipts but I figured \$12K would be reasonable. Other was a 1969 Fiat 2000 spider, 8000 miles. If I couldn't buy the Alfa then a few thousand for a driver – one that Joan could handle easily – would be solace. The boat tail went for \$18K, and the Fiat \$13K.

Only other Alfa out of the couple of thousand cars (I might have missed one) was 88 Spider

Veloce that was no sale (bid of \$7700 vs \$11K reserve). Very average car not prepped at all – dirty/greasy – the kind that's on ebay for 5K. Whatever!

A neat thing about Russo & Steele is that 'no sales' get put back on display, with high bid versus reserve listed. It's possible to negotiate the commissions – almost to the point of no commission. For example, David really lusted after a 1966 Malibu SS 396 convertible, reserve of \$50K vs bid of 34K. Owner/dealer said we would have to go through Russo & Steele since he was regular customer (other no-sales were not so loyal). Told us that R&S knew his minimum was \$33.5, and that R&S would take \$34K from us – just a \$500 fee. Really thought about it – price guide \$44-50K.

Was it tiring? – you bet. Are we going to go back next year? – we're planning on it, hopefully with spouses. Car people NEED to do this – at least once. Dress warmly – it gets cold in the desert, and really comfortable shoes necessary. If you're buying, and can sit for long hours, Barrett-Jackson probably best bet. If you're selling choose your venue and if possible, your time slot to be evenings 6 – 9.

Came within 10 minutes of buying the Malibu. One of the last lots of Saturday night was a 1969 E-type coupe (not 2+2) – all original, not restored except for slight repaint of the bonnet, 55,000 miles. Most everyone too drunk and/or too broke to notice – especially after the \$200,000 Corvettes and Mustangs. Only two dealer bids. It's now on the truck to Tulsa. Anyone know of available tool-kit and owner's manual for this?



It's off the truck and in the Neidell garage. Les and Joan drove their newest addition to Romeo and Giulietta February 9.

Alfa Bowl!

by Eileen Simmons

The Alfa Club has been responsible for much of my adult education. For example, I learned Oklahoma history from our Rallye d' Annos. Rally d' Anno, for newer members, was a year-long rally, during which Alfa owners drove their Alfas to the checkpoints and took photos to prove they'd been there. The Alfa owner who documented the most checkpoints won a prize at the annual Holiday Party—and the privilege of setting up the next Rallye d' Anno.

Somehow bowling had been unaccountably missing from my physical education, even at my advanced age. But, thanks to the Alfa Club, that was changed January 19 at Sheridan Bowl in Tulsa. Alfisti took to the lanes and, for two hours, bowled up a storm.

Since I was the only complete novice there, I did require some coaching, like how to hold the ball (my faulty hold was discovered near the end of our session), and that I had two chances per turn. I also did much better with bumpers than without. My husband also made some comments about my "interesting" form and I probably would have earned the highest scores if gutter balls counted.

After bowling, the group gathered at Richardo's for food and conversation. It was a great way to spend a January evening when it's too cold and dark for bocce. Thanks, Autumn and Jamie, for



Doug Harris follows through, showing the form with which he has the consistently highest scores of the evening.

suggesting it for the calendar and to Autumn for making the arrangements.

I'm looking forward to Alfa Bowl 2!

Ed's note: Below are the scores. My inexperience with bowling extends to scores, so I'm not at all sure that I have the scores in the correct order according to games.

<i>Player</i>	<i>Game</i>	<i>Game</i>	<i>Game</i>
David Simmons	75	110	123
Julie Perlingiere	73	86	98.5
Doug Harris	162	166.5	167
Toly Arutunoff			61
James Perlingiere	103	126	132
Mary Harris	115.5	115.5	151
Autumn Perlingiere	61	71	91
Jamie Perlingiere	89	127	107
Eileen Simmons	45	58.5	89.5
Claudia Oswalt	69	73	77
Alan Oswalt	59	89	141



There's always time for good Alfa converstaion. Between turns at bowling, Alan Oswald, Toly Arutunof and David Simmons talk cars. James and Julie Perlingiere are engrossed in conversation, too

James Perlignere gets ready to release his bowling ball.



She's ready to roll! Claudia Oswald checks the line from behind the bowling ball.



David Simmons focuses intently on following the bowling ball down the lane.



Claudia Oswald watches to see how many pins her ball hit, while husband Alan steadies his bowling ball with both hands.



Romeo and Giulietta, 2008

Alfisti as Galloping (or Driving) Gourmets

Celebrating Valentine's Day with the Romeo and Giulietta Progressive Dinner has become a valued Club tradition and is one of our best-attended events. That didn't change this year.

The appetizer course was hosted by Doug and Mary Harris in Tulsa. We had a great time eating, touring their house, checking out Doug's car collection and talking to each other. We were delighted to have six OKC-area members join us. Mary's appetizers were absolutely wonderful and she didn't have many leftovers when the group left and headed for Jamie and Autumn Perlingiere's house in Broken Arrow.

Getting to Jamie and Autumn's house was more of an adventure than some of us had hoped for. Although most of the group made it without a delay, others missed the exit and ended up in a major construction zone. It took a while and some detours, but we made it to the soup and salad course—a bit late, but we enjoyed the salad and Autumn's homemade tomato soup.

We did lose Wayne and Judy Huntman between these two stops, but we found them again when we arrived in Owasso at James and Julie Perlingiere's for the entree and dessert. Wayne and Judy decided to just head north on 169 to Owasso and, once at the Perlingiere house, found Julie's mother and visited with her.

We were getting full by the time we got to Owasso, but Julie's manicotti and bread were irresistible, so we ate some more. Dessert was catered from ilVecchio's, an Italian restaurant in Owasso. It was wonderful, too.

David Simmons called a short meeting at the end of the evening to get the group's response to some proposed Club events.

Thanks to our hosts for the wonderful food and a double thanks to Autumn for coordinating Romeo and Giulietta and for hosting the soup and salad course.

Bravo to all!



Russ Nelly, David Simmons and Wayne Huntman enjoy appetizers and conversation at the Harris home.



Max Harris talks to his dad, Doug, and Les Neidell at the appetizer table.



Gail Kelly, Bob Golkowski and Chris Holmes visit after enjoying soup and salad at the second stop.



David Simmons, Keith Kelly and Russ Neely hang out in Autumn and Jamie's kitchen during the soup and salad stop on Romeo and Giulietta.



Joan Neidell visits with appetizer chef Mary Harris while Max Harris enjoys some of his Mom's cooking.



Oz must have said something truly terrifying to the newly-retired Keith Kelly.



Garry Stoots and Sherry Evans listen as David Simmons conducts a business meeting.



Where Gail Kelly and Joan Neidell go, fun follows. They share laughs with Claudia Oswalt (left) and Peg Neely (right).



Garry Stotts and Sherry Evans talk to fellow OKC Alfisti Wayne and Judy Huntman.



Les Neidell and Nikki and Chris Holemes exchange Alfa stories.

Autumn Perlingiere, Max Harris and Les Neidell pay close attention during the business meeting.



The siren song of an open garage door and an Alfa with its hood up lure a group of Alfa Guys, including Bob Golkowski and his son Greg Gordon away from the entree course.

PLAN TO ATTEND

The Second Annual

2008 EuroMotor Extravaganza and Charity Benefit

Sponsored By:



ALL BRITISH AND EUROPEAN CARS
Activities Include Car Show and Slalom
Mark your calendars now for

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Sand Springs, OK

More information will be posted on the Jaguar Club web site as it becomes available

www.EuMoEx.com

Remember to mark this date:

June 14, 2008

Be part of this outstanding event showcasing fine British and European Autos

Charity Beneficiaries:

Shriner's Transportation Fund and Sand Springs Home





James directs his bowling ball down the lane during the first Alfa Bowl Jan. 19.

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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