

UNA NOTIZIA

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1 THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS CLUB OF OKLAHOMA JANUARY, 2011

Romeo and Giulietta, 2011

It's February! It's Valentine's Day! It's Romeo and Giulietta! Our annual progressive dinner is scheduled for February 12, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Joan and Les Neidell's for appetizers. The Neidell's address is 5526 E 65 Place, Tulsa, 918-481-0227.

Other hosts are:

- Dan and Betty Riddell, 8539 E 33 Street, Tulsa 918-627-2974 (Salad). A garage tour will be essential here in order to see Dan's 2600.
- Anthony and Merrill Nigro, 2012 W Toledo Place, Broken Arrow, 918-258-2148 (Entree)
- James and Julie Perlingiere, 8110 N 170 E Ave, Owasso, 918-289-4334 (Dessert)

RSVP to Claudia Oswalt (rockytop60@aol.com) so we can tell the hosts how much food to prepare. You don't have to commit to all courses. Just let Claudia know which ones you'll attend. You can also RSVP through our website (www.rocok.org) and check it for updates. Trent and Mercedes have set up Facebook and Twitter accounts. Sign up (if you haven't already) and stay in touch!

In this issue of *Una Notizia*, look at at the last few months of 2010 and ahead to another year of Alfa Adventures in 2011. The Club calendar is on page 13 and, as usual, it's a work in progress.

Keep those Alfas warm in this cold weather! See you soon at a Club event.



Left-hander Jeff Lang prepares to throw a bocce ball down the court during the Club's annual tournament.

Events

FEBRUARY

12 Romeo and Giulietta. 4:00 (See page 1 story for details.)

MARCH

26 Rt. 66 Wine Tour and Motorcycle Museum.

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Not ready for Romeo and Giulietta: The Perlingiere Alfas are buried by the 20 inches of snow that fell in Owasso during the Blizzard of 2011. (Photo by James Perlingiere)

Member News

Welcome back to *Jerry Hilliard*, 432 E Village Dr., Fayetteville, AR 72703; (479) 443-0544; hilliard@uark.edu. Our deepest sympathy to *Bob Christian* on the death of his wife, *Meridee Brown-Christian*, Dec. 29. Bob is a member of the Kansas City Club.

Thank you!

Thank you to the many people who made Fall Fling 2010 such a success: *Les and Joan Neidell* for handling registration; *Claudia and Alan Oswalt* for stocking and hosting the Hospitality Room; *The Perlingiere Family* for organizing, setting up and running the autocross; *Jeff Lang* for taking charge of the concours; *Scott Fowler* for his graphic design and production work on the trophies. Thanks also to the people who donated doorprizes, especially *Steve and Sherry Coldewe* of the St. Louis Club for a generous donation of embroidered Alfa-themed merchandise.

Holiday Party

Our annual Holiday Party was held December 4, hosted by the Simmons and the Schmidts.

Dinner and Dirty Santa were held at the Simmons. Eileen made lasagna and Claudia Oswalt brought Alfredo to go with the side dishes brought

November in Choctaw

For the past several years, Tulsa Club members have traveled to the OKC area for our November meeting. Katia and Randy Vissers hosted the November meeting at their home in Choctaw. OKC members Peg Neely, John and Rose DiMaggio and Cliff Whisler joined the Tulsa group for a lovely afternoon and evening of admiring Katia's artwork, eating delicious food, plus the usual Alfa talk and visiting.

We were especially impressed when we discovered that the Vissers were leaving for the airport and a trip to Canada at 5:00 the next morning!

Thanks, Katia and Randy. It was lovely!

Peg Neely and Keith Kelly engage in a before-dinner conversation at the Vissers home in Choctaw Nov. 9.



by Alfisti. Before dinner, David Simmons hosted an intensely competitive slot car race session in the garage and after dinner, participants in Dirty Santa oohed and ahhed over their gifts and groaned when they had to give them up.

The group walked next door to the Schmidts for dessert and more fun. In his basement, Karl

has an amazing train set up which winds from one room to another through three arches. Alfisti, who like anything that has engines and/or wheels were entertained with lights and sound. And then were so many desserts to choose from—all delicious and tempting.

Food, fun, friends—the perfect Holiday Party!

Fall Fling: Friends and Fun in the Ozarks *(and before we got there)*

IN THE QUIKTRIP PARKING LOT

The plan, as usual, was to meet in the parking lot of the QuikTrip at 193rd and 412. And, as usual, we had to negotiate road construction and hang around the parking lot and wait for a while. But Alfisti can always provide their own entertainment and use the time to either admire cars or work on them or both or to visit. Peg Neely called to say that she was at



A couple admires and photographs Scott Fowler's green Spider, nicknamed "Pickle."

Head under the hood of his Citroen, Trent Fowler adjusts and checks parts of his engine at QuikTrip.



Jamie and James Perlingiere make engine adjustments on the gray Spider.



Autumn and Madi Perlingiere viist with Merrill Nigro as Jamie Perlingiere and David Simmons talk about Alfas in the QT parking lot.



Allen Perlingiere and Anthony Nigro get acquainted as Alfisti wait to start the trip to Eureka Springs.

the Sinclair station at the Inola exit, so the group took off to meet her and continue our trip to Eureka Springs.

The route was the usual Alfa road through northeastern Oklahoma, southwestern Missouri and south into Eureka Springs. The roads are curvy and hilly, perfect for a fast, furious and fun drive.

So we were off, driving for the fun of it and enjoying the trip. Then Anthony Nigro's white Spider stopped running. In spite of David Simmons' and Trent Fowler's best efforts, the white Spider wouldn't run. After asking and getting permission, Anthony left his Spider in a farmer's yard for the weekend.

WEATHER GODS SMILE, CAR GODS—NOT SO MUCH

A bit of backstory here. While we were hanging out at Quik-Trip, Alan Oswald called David Simmons to report that, on their way to Eureka Springs Thursday night, their 164 blew a head gasket along Highway 412, so he and Claudia left it there. They drove back home in their second Alfa, the Duetto, to get a non-Alfa and continue their trip. When they passed the forlorn 164, it had already been tagged with one of those bright orange squares that signals that the car is ready to be towed away. The Oswalds removed the tag, but by the time the Alfa Caravan passed the 164 on Friday, the orange square was once again on the windshield.

Friday morning in Eureka Springs, the Duetto refused to start. Oz diagnosed the problem, called David, who called Karl Schmid to ask him to go next door to David's shop and get the needed part, then transfer it to Keith Kelly, who was coming to Eureka Springs Saturday morning.

As *Italian Job* as that sounds, it worked! Part delivered, Alfa fixed. And, after a call to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the 164 was rescued Monday from Highway 412 and returned to its home.

So... although the Alfisti driving to Eureka Springs Saturday morning didn't know it, Anthony's Spider was Alfa No. 3 on the list of Troubled Alfas.

And the weather? The weather forecast for Fall Fling weekend was dismal—rain, rain, rain. But



David Simmons and Trent Fowler inspect Anthony Nigro's Spider along the road near Jay.

except for some small showers, the rain didn't happen.

ON TO EUREKA

Trent and Mercedes offered Anthony and Merrill a ride in the backseat of the Citroen. The Nigros transferred luggage, climbed in the backseat and we were off again. We stopped for lunch in Noel, Missouri, occupying a long table and enjoying not only the food, but also the conversation and the company.

When we pulled into the parking lot of the Inn of the Ozarks, the first thing we saw was the Alfa banner in front of the hospitality suite and Alfa friends talking and enjoying each other's



Trent Fowler begins to remove the fender on his Citroen so that he can change the tire. For much of the weekend, the Citroen fenderless.

company. We soon joined them.

Before long, more parking lot entertainment was happening. Trent needed to change the tire on his Citroen. This is not your ordinary tire change. Trent had to remove the fender. An appreciative audience gathered to watch the process.



Bernie Bennett, Glen Beckerdite, Mercedes Millberry, Darreld and Marilyn Elliis, Scott Fowler and John Justus watch and chat while Trent Fowler changes the tire on the Citroen.

After visiting, hanging out in the Hospitality Room and being entertained, the group headed for dinner. Most of the Oklahoma group went to Ermilio's for excellent Italian food. After dinner, groups gathered for more visiting, snacks and adult beverages in the hospitality room.

SATURDAY: RALLY DAY!

Despite our worries about rain, Saturday morning was dry. Ralliers gathered in the parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to get their instructions and then either leave for the drive or have breakfast and then leave.

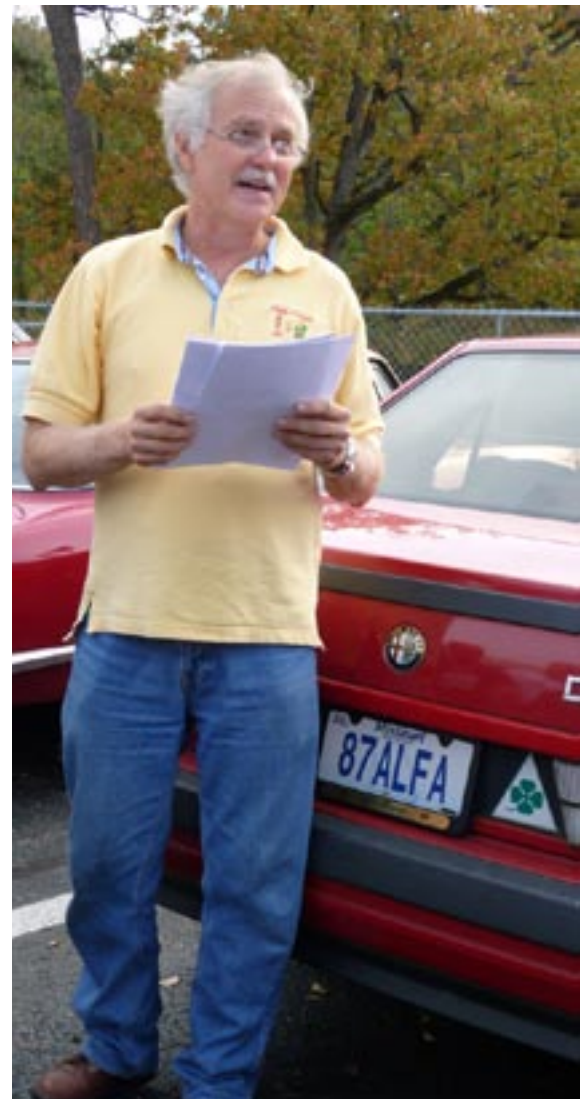
The rally was divided into two parts: a short drive over the Alfa roads around Eureka Springs and then a trolley ride downtown for an architectural tour. That part involved matching architectural detail photos of buildings with the building. Alfisti could earn bonus points by answering additional questions about the building; for example, the year it was built, or by reading an informational plaque.

After giving instructions, David and I joined Trent and Mercedes for breakfast at a restaurant down the highway from the hotel. They left to



Am I my brother's keeper? Well, of the toolbox, anyway. Beer in hand, Scott Fowler helps his brother Trent by finding the proper tools for fender removal and tire replacement.

Grinning with glee, Rallymaster David Simmons reads rally instructions to gathered Alfisti Saturday morning.



Checking out the rally instructions: Dani Perlingiere, Julie and James Perlingiere, Jeff Lang, Greg Lang, Glenn Beckerdite, Keith Kelly, Claudia Oswalt, Alan Oswalt, Bernie Bennett.



run the rally and we went downtown to spend a pleasant day wandering in and out of shops, having lunch and enjoying each other's company—and wondering how the rally was going.

We didn't have to wonder long. Some Alfisti chose to do the architectural part of the rally first, and we met them, rally questions in hand, looking up and then down, closely reading plaques. Important to the rally persons—they looked like they were having fun! Later in the day, we saw more Alfisti, those who had done the driving part of the rally first.

At the end of our leisurely tour of downtown Eureka Springs, we decided to return to the hospitality suite and wait for answer sheets to be turned in by the 5:00 deadline. Light rain began to fall and the rain continued for a while. Ralliers began turning in answer sheets, but even those caught in the rain seemed not to mind getting wet.

The hospitality suite was soon filled with laughter and conversation as ralliers enjoyed pre-banquet snacks and drinks.

Saturday night brought the banquet, doorprizes, and more hospitality suite visiting.

Scott Fowler explains the design and production of the Fall Fling trophies to Janet Hirsch.



Les Neidell gets ready to check his rally sheets after the instruction session in the hotel parking lot Saturday morning.





Peg Neely visits with Gail and Keith Kelly during the banquet.

Bernie Bennett and John Justus check out a banquet doorprize.



Wearing their Russ tribute shirts, Alan and Claudia Oswalt conduct a lively post-banquet discussion.



Back in the hospitality suite after the banquet, Les Neidell, Mercedes Millberry and Trent Fowler visit.



Kansas City members Gene Bruce and Jhon Fitzgerald enjoy an after-banquet visit.

SUNDAY SCENES: AUTOCROSS AND CONCOURS



Two Timing Women: Autumn Perlingiere and Dani Perlingiere are ready to time the autocross.



Ralph Coldewe, Les Neidell and Darrel Ellis walk the autocross course prior to the start of the event.



Diana Bennett talks to her photographer husband, Bernie in the parking lot between the autoross and the concours.



Anthony Nigro checks out a Spider in the auto-cross line.

Concours Guys:
Greg Lang
helps brother
Jeff organize
the concours.



Trent Fowler
talks about
his Citroen
with Gene
Bruce.



Alan
Oswalt
discusses
Alfas
with John
Greason.



Gail Kelly admires Ralph Coldewe's Spider while
Keith talks with Ralph.

AND FINALLY. .

After the autocross and the concours, the group adjourned to the hotel for the Awards Brunch. Another successful Fall Fling was winding down as the group enjoyed more visiting and the trophies being awarded.

We said our goodbys until Fall Fling, 2011, scheduled for October 21-23 and listened to the sounds of Alfa engines pulling out of the parking lot and heading towards their respective homes.

David and I stayed behind so he could take care of business with the hotel, including making next year's reservations.

A mile out of Eureka Springs, the GTV began hiccupping. David quickly diagnosed the problem: the fuel pump. He pulled off the road into a gravel driveway, pulled a fuel pump out of the trunk (doesn't everyone carry an spare?) and changed it.

We weren't very much farther down the road when the problem reoccurred. Once again, but this time on the side of the road instead of in a gravel driveway, David climbed under the GTV and removed the fuel pump. He asked me to call our friends who live near Rogers (and our hosts during rally development time). Linda was soon on her way to take us to an autoparts store in Berryville.

But David diagnosed the problem, fixed it, and we were off again. We met Linda not far out of Eureka Springs. We regretfully turned down her invitation for dinner and staying overnight and headed home, although we stopped in Rogers for another spare fuel pump!

We arrived home to the good news that all Alfas made it home safely. Anthony and Merrill rode with Trent and Mercedes to retrieve his Alfa from the farmer's yard and drove it to Tulsa without incident. Alan and Claudia Oswalt rescued their 164 from the side of Highway 412 on Monday.

Another Alfa Adventure is history and we're looking forward to many more in 2011.



After the GTV trunk has been unloaded, David Simmons searches for the proper tools to change a fuel pump.



Not the most comfortable place to change a fuel pump, but it worked.

Play Bocce!

The Club's annual Bocce Ball tournament brings out Alfisti to eat, play ball and have those always-important conversations about Alfas. The 2010 tournament was Sept. 18 and the both bocce courts were busy with throwing bocce balls, comments about bocce prowess, shouts, groans and encouragement. It was a great afternoon and evening!



James Perlingiere, Dan Riddell, David Simmons, Alan Oswald and Scott Fowler discuss issues with Dan's 2600 before the bocce tournament begins.



Karl Schmid checks the action on the bocce court during the club's annual Tournament.



Jim Fisher and Jamie Perlingiere watch as Maggie reacts to her bocce toss.

Adult beverages in hand, Keith Kelly and Alan Oswalt confer about the progress of the bocce tournament.

Claudia Oswalt plans her next bocce move as Dani Perlingiere reacts to the one she just made.



Team competition: on the upper court: At one end of the bocce court, Katia Vissers watches and Claudia Oswalt prepares to toss her bocce ball. At the other end, Randy Vissers lets go of his bocce ball while Alan Oswalt observes. (Photos by James Perlingiere)



Tape measures are an essential part of every bocce ball tournament. On the lower court, David Simmons measures while Jim Fisher and Jamie Perlingiere watch carefully. On the upper court, Alan Oswalt is apparently allowed to measure without close supervision. (Upper

2011 Calendar

FEBRUARY

12 Romeo and Giulietta Progressive Dinner

MARCH

26 Route 66 Wine Tour and Motor cycle Museum Visit

APRIL

17 Kart Races (Tentative)
23 Tech Session

MAY

21 McAlester Italian Festival

JUNE

10-12 Sand Springs Car Show

JULY

4 David's Fireworks Party

23 New York Pizza

AUGUST

13 Photo Tour

SEPTEMBER

10 Breakfast at Talley's
ItalianCarFest, Grapevine, TX

OCTOBER

1 Bocce Tournament
21-23 Fall Fling, Eureka Springs

NOVEMBER

12 OKC Gathering

DECEMBER

2 Sand Springs Christmas Parade

3 Holiday Party

As always, the annual calendar is a work in progress. Events can and probably will be added as members express interest. Tech sessions this year are Members Request. If you want to work on your Alfa, others probably do, too. If you want to figure out what makes Alfas run (or not), others probably do, too. Contact David Simmons and schedule a tech session. We'll get it on the calendar and the website.

Planning for 2011

Jamie and Autumn Perlingiere hosted the January 22 meeting, which focused on planning Alfa Events for 2011.

Jamie, under Autumn's direction, made chili for the crowd. Members brought desserts and drinks.

Thanks, Jamie and Autumn for your hospitality!

Besides the calendar (on page 13), the group recommended the following officers and members of the 2011 Board of Directors:

- President - David Simmons
- Vice President, Tulsa - James Perlingiere
- Vice Presidents, Arkansas - Robert Bumpas, Jeff Lang
- Secretary - Keith Kelly
- Treasurer - June Mustari
- Director - Trent Fowler
- Director - Alan Oswsalt
- Director - Larry Johnston
- Director - Scott Fowler
- Director - Jamie Perlingiere

Appointed positions:

- Social Directors: Autumn Perlingiere, Claudia Oswalt
- Webmaster: Trent Fowler
- Una Notizia editor - Eileen Simmons



Toly Arutunoff and Scott Fowler pause during an interesting conversation.



In another room, James Perlingiere and David Simmons share a laugh.



Jeff Lang, Jamie Perlingiere and Anthony Nigro gather around the staircase for their conversation.



Alan Oswalt, Claudia Oswalt and Scott Fowler take part in the business meeting.



Contributed by James Perlingiere

New Alfa Romeo 4C GTA sports car

REPORTS SUGGEST ALFA ROMEO WILL REVEAL A MID ENGINED, REAR WHEEL DRIVE SPORTS CAR AT THE 2011 GENEVA MOTOR SHOW

by Stephen Dobie EVO Magazine
February 2, 2011

Alfa Romeo is bringing an all-new sports car to the 2011 Geneva motor show, according to reports online. Dubbed the 4C GTA, it would act as a halo car for the brand, similar to the 8C Competizione supercar, though at a much more affordable price. A Porsche Boxster-like £35,000 price tag is suggested.

Like the Boxster, it will be rear-wheel drive and mid-engined, its structure a development of the hardcore KTM X-Bow. A carbonfibre and aluminium construction could give the 4C GTA a kerb weight as low as 850kg, and with the Alfa Romeo Giulietta Cloverleaf's 1.8-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine in the middle, providing around 250bhp, its performance would rival more powerful (but heavier) rivals from

BMW, Nissan, Audi and Porsche.

Alfa Romeo is said to have teamed up with fellow Italian company Dallara Automobili, who engineered the X-Bow. Dallara has reportedly developed a carbonfibre cockpit for the 4C GTA, featuring front and rear aluminium sub-frames to house the engine and a pushrod suspension setup.

The Geneva show car is likely to be a concept that previews a production 4C GTA, which would be the first Alfa Romeo to wear the Gran Turismo Alleggerita badge since the hot 147 GTA hot hatchback and 156 GTA sports saloon of the early '00s.

Expect the road-ready car to be on sale by late 2012, when it will ideally act as a catalyst to new Alfa Romeo sales – 2010 saw 112,000 new Alfas registered globally. The aim is to shift 500,000

annually by 2014, with a new 159-replacing Giulia sports saloon and an SUV among the next products the 4C GTA will be perched above. It could be sold in America, too.





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.

Snow caps the light fixtures leading to the Simmons' entryway.

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