

# Alfa Media Notizia

Newsletter of the FLORIDA ALFA CLUB  
Tampa Bay Area, Florida

September 2004  
-This Month -  
Meeting Sept 9th  
Jimmy Mac's  
Waterside  
Convention Reports  
Sept 12 - Festival de  
San Gennaro, (Sun)  
Safety Harbor  
Oct 17, Tech Session

## Monthly Meeting Thursday Sept. 9th

See you there for a quick bite and meeting. Dont' forget this months meeting is early in the month again - Last month cancelled due to Charley.

## Convention Reports...

David  
Rigall &  
Chip  
reports,



## Upcoming events

Festival de San Gennaro - September 12th has been set for the LIADO event. We plan to have at least 25 Alfa's for this years show. More information is available at their web site listed below. Final details at Thursdays meeting.

<http://www.sangennaro-italian-festival.org/>

\* Tech Session at Chip's - BG cleanings - MOVED to October 17th (Sunday) due to LIADO event date change. Please provide input for other tech class at the meeting. Usual car show, picnic, tech session, pool party. We'll coordinate food w/ Heidi.

\* Lake Mirror Classic - sponsored by Parrish Heacock Oct 15-17th.

\* Georgia Alfa Club - Cheaha Talladega weekend Oct 30-31st.

**The application is included with this newsletter.**

Postage not sponsored ;-(

**FAC Meeting Minutes, August 12, 2004**

Was not attended by anyone! Hurricane Charley decided to attend, so members were preparing their homes and cars the potential event. Tampa and the immediate area were spared the wrath of this viscous storm, but our friends and neighbors to the South of us wer not. As I write this, I am hunckered down (popular phrase this weekend) while hurricane Frances approaches our home right now - litterally. This will most likely arrive later than normal to remind you of the meeting. My apologies, but between a hard drive crash and this summers weather, it's been a rough few weeks!

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET**

About our event this weekend in Safey Harbor. The parade started at 10:30 last year and the main event at 11, so if you want to drive in the parade, be there early! Next up in October is both our tech session at my home, and the Georgia clubs Cheeha weekend. I've included the event flyer in this newsletter. Hopefully all of us and our loved ones are safe, and secondarily our homes and cars undamaged!



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**FOR SALE:** Stock rear exhaust (muffler and tail pipe) for '87 Spider, as new. \$50.00. Carl Young, sorry no #.

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**FOR SALE:** A long list of vehicles and parts are available from David Wilson - St Pete (727) 526-1378 call for \$



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**Meeting Thurs Sept 9th @ 7:30  
Jimmy Mac's,**

Located on the Tampa side of the Gandy bridge at the Imperial Marina. Great spot, be sure to join us for the next meeting.  
Jimmy Macs Waterfront - 5000 West Gandy Blvd. -Tampa, FL 33611 - (813)-839-3449



**List of Officers / Board Members**

- President ..... John Picot ..... (727) 787-0249
- President-Elect ..... Graham Spencer ..... (727) 784-3668
- Co-President-Elect .... Chip Denyko ..... (813) 886-6165
- Secretary / Treasurer . Polly Greene ..... (727) 799-1486
- Recording Secretary . Volunteer Needed
- Director ..... David Rigall ..... (813) 234-1329
- Director ..... John Rady ..... (727) 585-4290
- Legal Aide ..... Delmas Greene ..... (727) 799-1486
- Newsletter Editor ..... Chip Denyko ..... (813) 886-6165
- Web Page ..... <http://floridaalfaclub.tripod.com>

**Monthly meetings are held the SECOND THURSDAY of each month at Jimmy Macs Waterside. Check the web page for the most recet update, or call one of us listed above. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM, but you are always invited to meet there early for dinner or just to chat about your latest Alfa adventure!**



## Two Years before the Mast

(apologies to Richard Henry Dana)

Well, I would highly recommend anyone interested in bettering the Alfa owing experience in the United States to volunteer and run for a board seat. My two years were very rewarding in that I now have a clear picture of the national organization and several chapters which I have observed putting on national conventions. When we were sitting around our local club's dinner table two years ago and someone suggested I accept a nomination to the board I said yes out of a desire to help, blind volunteerism, and a curiosity on how the club was doing and how it could evolve. What I found was a club that has wrestled with the foggy vision of the future caused by having once gained members from the showroom floor of various AR dealerships and now having to depend on people finding and loving old used Alfa Romeos for their unique character and driving experience. Each of us has in some way decided against buying the current crop of boring showroom fashion slaves and to instead, constantly restore, while in use, a fantastic piece of automobile history.

While Alfa Romeo is still an active car maker producing beautiful examples of high-performance cars, the experience in the United States is now forced to be one of owning a collector car, classic or near classic, in its relationship to others.

Challenging this change in our club's vision and need for national leadership for determining how to serve the current Alfa owner, has created some tension in the board. The board decided to elect, in a fashion that would remind you of the 2000 election, (if we had a AR Supreme Court...a tie vote broken with a card draw) a very progressive president in Marc Mosko. While Marc was on the board and the year he was president we had to deal with a festering Alfa Owner magazine publisher problem, and to ask the question, "what is an Alfa owner" over and over until the board, in a since deciding to do a little rather than a lot, orchestrated Marc's un-election. This year we saw several more members standing for board election and in doing so, broke the 50/50 board voting, to Marc's demise.

I wanted my report from the 2004 convention to first let you all know that Marc has worked very hard for the club, as a relatively new board member and one term President and we should all thank him when we see him next, perhaps at Amelia Island, for all that he did in just one year. My observation of the board makes me want more volunteers working for it and term limits so that we can all be asked to, once-in-a-while, contribute to the national club's character. It is really just composed of local chapter members, no super-members, since our personal experience is always local, but AROC-USA could do a lot in guiding and guarding the Alfa experience in the United States.

SO, I have finished my two years, Florida Alfa owners now have Vice President Chip Denyko working very hard with the Alfa Owner Magazine, for which we can all be proud. If the magazine is looking good, it is because Chip has been there through the transition and every month since the new magazine started!

Let's work to make the Florida Alfa Club the kindest, warmest and best group of comrades in greasy arms that the AROC-USA has. We are very close to this goal and we can be an example to many others.

David Rigall (Photos on this page by David Rigall at Time Trial event)



## Giulietta Giubilee a HOT convention!

by Chip Denyko

It was apparently one hot convention. Even the Manchester NH fire truck decided to attend! First things first - Most of these photos, with the exception of a few of Steve P are from the A-One web site. While I did take some, I didn't get enough of each event to cover the story, so thank you A-One!

The week had started out as business for me, I had flown into Manchester NH on Sunday where a local team member took me on a drive to the Maine coast for the day. A very early (3:45 AM) wake-up put me going to fly out at 7 AM from Logan - on the first day of the Democratic Convention!!! What WAS I thinking.

A quick day trip to Toronto to visit an office, and return that very night found me lost in a questionable section of downtown Boston with not even the cops able to get me to a road to get out of there! Tuesday in the Tewksbury office, and Tuesday night I drove to spend with Alfa friends on lake Winnepesaukee (sp). Took a while to relax, but the area is gorgeous. I can't thank them enough.

Lets jump right to the events covered here. First on Wednesday was the unique drag race event. Our own Florida Alfa Racer Steve Piantieri won the event. While I did not attend, the photos below show the apparent fun event! Congratulations Steve!

Next in line was the board meeting Thursday, which consumed by David and my day. It was a productive meeting, and as David indicated the clubs new President is Bill Gillham. This was Shayna Geller's retiring moments also as AROC administrator, and Jolene Justus attended side by side with Shayna for her indoctrination.

Following the board meeting was the Welcoming Party, which is on the next page upper right as it began. A typical social for friends that only see each other once a year. This year was one of the

largest since Portland that I've seen, and was about 750 participants (rough). Everyone deemed it success and I don't think anyone I saw had a bad time. Overall every event was successful, and well attended. The only negative and completely out of control of the club was the Sunday morning weather. Rain forced the concours into the parking garage. :(

Friday brought time trials to the New Hampshire speedway. While I'd never been, the instructors stated it to be one of the most

Photos from A-One web site, Top - Alfa starts a HOT convention!; bottom Steve Piantieri at the drag races - takes 1st place and FTD! Next page, Time Trial photos, except top right - welcoming party.







challenging technically. A few specific turns did appear to make it a challenge. First half of the day I volunteered and worked corner 10 with A-One member Myron Barnett. We both enjoyed the event and our conversations, and during lunch Myron gave me a ride in his recently 3.0 liter upgraded GTV-6. A VERY nice ride and I did get to get a riders view of the track. Difficult - I agree. Again, Steven Piantieri did very well placing 1st in C class, which was very crowded and I think it was 3rd FTD overall.

Saturday brought the Autocross back to NHIS. Sorry, I didn't get one photo there, but I so have a movie of it! I again volunteered and ended up working as announcer up until I got to drive. The Detroit chapters John Hoard, daughter, and Eric and Inez Storhok did an amazing autocross. These folks have their autocross down! First car out was about 9:30 by the time everything was setup and tested, and by 11:45 they had sent every participant through a 5 run event! Amazing - 5 runs for every driver! Let me make it perfectly clear - You Guys Rock!!! After everyone else had make their runs, the workers and others got to take a few. Steve Piantieri allowed me the personal privilege of





driving his Race Spider - WOW. Steve, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. It was absolutely an awesome experience. The

photo on page 6 shows Steve adjusting the gearshift. I actually did a few warm-up drives around the parking lot Friday night. I did some reasonable times, and improved my runs and never hit one cone! FUN FUN FUN.

Friday night also brought a Pinewood Derby which at one point was going to be cancelled, but then turned out to be quite well attended.

Saturday night is of course always banquet. I had asked one of my team members to join me as my dinner guest, and had at the autocross met a young man and his Dad from Oklahoma. We enjoyed a great conversation and company. New President Bill Gillham performed the usual thank yous, advised the club on the events of the board meeting, and George Pezold held our annual meeting (30 seconds)!

Henry Wessels was guest speaker and had some wonderful Alfa photos and stories of his Alfa experiences over his lifetime to share with the group. We also gave a plug for the Amelia Island next year where Alfa is the chosen marque.

Sunday is Concours. This year director and Concours Chair Arno Leskinen saw the fruits of his labor in use for the first time. The new AROC Concours manual and process went very smooth, even given the weather. That was the only sore spot, but had been planned for well. The park located across the street from the hotel was the be the venue, but the parking garage had to be the spot. This worked well given the weather, but really made photography almost impossible. The lighting is just not conducive to a good photo. I was also very disappointed in that the oldest Alfa was only a 1950 6C2500. I had anticipated a very heavy turnout of prewar cars which we know exist in

Photos on top from A-One web site - Left Pinewood Derby, Right Rally drive. Photo bottom from Chip Denyko, Steve P works to adjust gear shift in race Spider.





the Northeast, but not a one showed. These cars do appear at Pebble Beach, and Amelia or such - We'd hoped they would turn out for us.

Following is the awards ceremony, my team member and another with his wife joined us for the Concours and luncheon. I thought it would be good for them to see what kind of nut I really am, and what kind of friends I keep! About that time Bill Harkell with his lovely wife and darling daughter showed up - It was over. Amazingly I only see Bill's wife and daughter at conventions - in other states, even though we only live about 12 miles apart. I expect Bill will be at our tech session this year - he has an adorable wife and daughter to show off!

David and I headed to the Manchester airport to await our flight, and found John and Jolene Justus also waiting, so we had a few drinks and a few bites while we all waited. As usual, I had a great time. I think David did too. We did see Mike and Holly Villani, but only briefly. There were a few other Florida members, but I had expected a few more of us. Maybe next year - It's Seattle and this looks to be a doozy!

With any luck, I'll make it to print and mailing on Monday.... Chip

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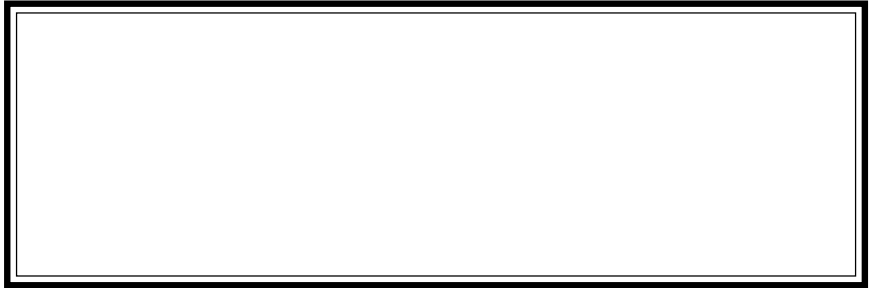
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If you have received this edition of our newsletter and are not currently a member, we have sent you this to peak your interest. The Florida Alfa Club is a group of Alfa Romeo owners or wanna be's that share technical information, skills, experiences, events, fun and commeraderie of our prized possessions, our Alfas! If you would like to join us, or just visit for a meeting or two please feel free. If you have any questions, you can call anyone listed on page 2 for more information.

## Meeting location Jimmy Macs' Waterside



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